Operational Context

Turkey hosts the highest number of refugees in the world, 4 million people, of which 3.7 million are from Syria. Around 51,000 refugees reside in 7 camps located in the country’s south-east, while the majority live in cities and villages throughout the country. The Government of Turkey has demonstrated leadership and generosity in providing for the needs of these people. Since June 2014, a temporary protection regime has granted Syrians access to basic services such as healthcare and education. Refugees of other countries continue to benefit from International Protection status. WFP re-established a presence in Turkey in 2012, in response to the Syria crisis.

WFP Turkey’s Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP 2020-2022) seeks to build on WFP’s partnership with the Government of Turkey and other stakeholders to contribute to refugee households’ ability to meet their basic needs, ensuring no vulnerable refugee is left behind. Considering the protracted refugee presence in Turkey, the ICSP includes longer-term activities including direct engagement in resilience programming that creates opportunities for refugees and host communities alike. The current ICSP has been extended to the end of 2022. The CSP (2023-2025) is under development and will be reviewed during the November 2022 Executive Board.

Operational Updates

- Under the e-voucher programme implemented in six camps across Turkey’s southeast, 43,655 beneficiaries received monthly assistance of TRY 150 (USD 11) per person, increasing from TRY 120 (USD 9) as of January 2022. This increase in the transfer value was approved by the Presidency of Migration Management (PMM) in December 2021 amidst a steep devaluation of the Turkish lira and soaring inflation rates that reached highest levels since 2002.
- Given that the food basket cost in contracted markets inside the camps increased from TRY 213 (USD 16) per person in September 2021 to TRY 315 (USD 23) in December 2021, the e-voucher assistance covers around 38 percent of in-camp refugees’ nutritionally balanced food needs and falls short in the absence of additional income.
- Many of the in-camp beneficiaries who left the camps during 2021 to seek job opportunities in urban areas are applying to enter the camps again given the lack of job opportunities and the current economic turmoil in the country.
- As of January 2022, 122 participants were attending chef assistant vocational training in four provinces (Gaziantep, Kayseri, Konya and Sivas) and 220 others were taking part in chef assistant, IT, food packaging, housekeeping and store attendant applied trainings in 12 provinces (Adana, Ankara, Gaziantep, Hatay, Istanbul, Izmir, Kahramanmaras, Kayseri, Konya, Mardin, Mersin and Sanliurfa) across Turkey. These trainings are provided under the Socioeconomic Empowerment and Sustainability (SES) Programme, WFP’s flagship livelihoods programme implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of National Education (MoNE) and the Turkish Employment Agency (ISKUR).
- WFP is engaging with MoNE to carry out a cost-benefit analysis for school meals, as the ministry has ambitions to scale up their school meals programmes.

In Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In Numbers</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>45,461 beneficiaries assisted in January 2022 (estimated)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>517,607 USD distributed through value vouchers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42,184 USD distributed through vocational and on-the-job trainings (estimated)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USD 10.1 m six-month net funding requirements (February 2022 – July 2022)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contact info: turkey.info@wfp.org
Country Director: Nils Grede
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/turkey

Caption: Rehab, a Syrian store attendant training participant, taking part in applied training after completing the vocational training in the province of Sanliurfa. Photo: WFP.
### Events

- Under the scope of WFP SES programme, in coordination with MoNE, WFP organised a learning, evaluation and feedback workshop with school principals from SES 15 target provinces on 11-13 January in Antalya. The workshop was attended by representatives of the Ministry of National Education Directorates General of Vocational and Technical Training and Lifelong Learning, school coordinators in the provinces where SES is implemented, etc.

- A joint event was organized on 31 January in the province of Bursa to mark the collaboration between WFP and the Organization of Bursa Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BUTGEM) as part of SES Programme. Attended by ISKUR Provincial Director and private sector representatives, this event reflects WFP’s plan to widen the scope of its collaborations across the country and reach more potential participants.

### Success Story

SES might have been launched recently but its participants have already started to yield results that reflect their perseverance and love for success. Ezgi, Kezban, Sema and Hava are four SES chef assistant training graduates who took part in the International Istanbul Gastronomy Festival, an event organized by the Cooks and Chefs Federation of Turkey (COCFED) last December and attended by Turkish and international chefs who competed in more than 70 categories. While Ezgi competed in the category of Pasta Dish, Kezban, Sema and Hava competed in the category of Practical Team Competition.

These four participants didn’t leave the competition empty-handed, as Ezgi won the gold medal in the category of Pasta Dish, and Kezban, Sema as well as Hava won the bronze medal in the category of Practical Team Competition.

### Donors

Germany, Ireland, Japan, Norway, the Republic of Korea, USAID/BHA, WPD AGCO Agriculture.

**Caption:** Ezgi, an SES chef assistant training graduate, won the gold medal during the International Istanbul Gastronomy Festival. Photo: WFP.

---

**WFP Country Strategy**

**Interim Country Strategic Plan (2020-2022)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirements (USD)</th>
<th>Total Received (USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>205 m</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Strategic Result 8:** Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs

**Strategic Outcome #1:** Enhance partnerships to support refugees and vulnerable populations, affected by prolonged refugee presence in Turkey to equitably access basic needs assistance and labour market opportunities.

**Focus area:** Resilience Building

- The Network Fresh project, implemented in collaboration with Sisli Municipality in Istanbul, was kicked off in July 2021 and came to a close in December 2021. Under this project, 18,893 meals regularly donated by 22 businesses were distributed to 55 families, which corresponds to approximately 250 beneficiaries.

### Assessment

An income generation survey was conducted by WFP in the refugee camps in December 2021. Findings are following:

- There is at least one working member in 72 percent of the households. Some 3 percent of them do not have any members of working age. Of those who work, 3 percent are children (15 - 18), and females make up only 9 percent of the working refugees.
- Despite the high number of working people in the refugee households, two-thirds of the working refugees have temporary jobs.
- The figure is higher among those between ages 40 - 59 (44 percent) than those who are between 18-39 years old (31 percent). Furthermore, 63 percent of the working refugees work less than 40 hours per week.
- Most of the working refugees work in agriculture (27 percent) and unskilled freelance labor (27 percent) – which refers to porters, carriers, and cleaners – followed by construction sector (16 percent) and factories (8 percent).
- The camps differ from each other in terms of the available work opportunities in the provinces where they are located; while Elbeyli, Altinozu, Cevdetiye and Yayladagi camps stand out with the agricultural fields where the refugees find employment, in Saricam camp, unskilled freelance labor is the most common way to generate income, whereas the construction work, unskilled freelance labor and work in factories are somewhat more evenly distributed in Kahramanmaras camp.

---

**WFP Turkey Country Brief**

January 2022