



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Türkiye Country Brief December 2022



In Numbers



46,949 people assisted in December 2022

US\$ 625,529 distributed through value vouchers

US\$ 114,468 distributed through vocational and on-the-job trainings (estimated)

US\$ 5.3 m six-month net funding requirements (January - June 2023)

Operational Context

Türkiye hosts the highest number of refugees in the world, four million people, of whom 3.6 million are from Syria and 322,000 from other nationalities. Around 45,000 refugees reside in seven camps located in the country's south-east, while the majority live in cities and villages throughout the country. The Government of Türkiye has demonstrated leadership and generosity in providing for the needs of these people. Since June 2014, a temporary protection regime has granted Syrian refugees 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 Türkiye in 2012, in response to the Syria crisis.

WFP Türkiye's new [Country Strategic Plan \(CSP 2023-2025\)](#) approved in November 2022 seeks to provide assistance to refugees living in camps and services to humanitarian and development partners in the Republic of Türkiye. The CSP will also expand sustainable livelihood programming that aims to build the self-reliance of vulnerable Turks and refugees alike. Building on WFP's expertise in school feeding, WFP will also venture beyond refugee programming to support Government efforts to enhance the national school meals programme.



Population: 84.7 million

Poverty Rate: 28.7% living below the national poverty line (TUIK)

Income Level: Upper middle

Human Development Index 2021: 48 out of 191

Operational Updates

- Under the e-voucher programme implemented in seven camps in the southeast, WFP and the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) provided 43,897 refugees, including 2,458 Ukrainians, with monthly assistance of TRY 150 (US\$ 8) per person. Around 50 refugees accommodated in the camps while awaiting registration also received the same amount through prepaid cards.
- In December, each refugee household in six camps received a winter top-up of TRY 550 (US\$ 30) to help them manage their food security amidst the economic downturn that eroded their purchasing power. This additional support comes after another top-up of TRY 1300 per household delivered in two instalments during the first quarter of the year. Moreover, WFP and the Government agreed to increase the transfer value from TRY 150 (US\$ 8) to TRY 230 (US\$ 12) per person starting from January 2023.

As part of the Socioeconomic Empowerment and Sustainability (SES) Programme, 471 participants in 14 provinces pursued vocational and applied training. The programme is implemented in partnership with the Ministry of National Education (MoNE), The Turkish Employment Agency, local NGOs and several chambers of commerce and industry. Many trainings were organized throughout the month, including account assistant, barista, chef assistant, computer numerical control operator, shoe making, textile, among others. Introduced in August 2021, the SES programme aims to build the capacities of refugees and members of the host communities to reach long-term employment and become self-reliant.

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2020-2022)

Total Requirements (US\$)		Total Received (US\$)
250 m		208 m
2022 Requirements (US\$)	2023 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (US\$) (January - June 2023)
32 m	26 m	5.33 m

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 Türkiye to equitably access basic needs assistance and labour market opportunities.

Focus area: Resilience Building

[WFP Türkiye 2021 Annual Country Report](#) **New**

Needs Assessment

- WFP finalized the cost benefit analysis launched in June 2022 to evaluate MoNE's existing national school meal programme and shared findings as well as recommendations with the ministry last October. The analysis indicated that the programme in Türkiye had a particularly positive return on investment and showed a strong social protection impact on the local communities, the local economy and beneficiaries' living standards. For every dollar invested in the Government-administered school meals programme, an economic return of USD 6.4 was generated over the lifetime of the beneficiary. This figure represented a higher economic return than the global average ratio of USD 1: USD 5.5. While MoNE is still evaluating WFP's final report, both parties continued to discuss the scope of their collaboration to contribute to the existing programme.
- On 7 December, WFP shared and discussed with TRC the quantitative data collected for the needs assessment launched in October to evaluate the vulnerability status of in-camp refugees and ensure the delivery of assistance to the right people. A qualitative assessment is ongoing and will be finalized in January 2023.

According to the endline surveys conducted between November and December 2022 to assess the result of the SES programme, participants in the IT workstream are coping better with food shortages. Their consumption-based coping strategy index improved compared to the baseline, recording 4.07 overall (against a target of 6.3), with male participants scoring 3.98 and female participants scoring 4.35. Similarly, less households are implementing livelihood-based coping strategies.

However, the economic capacity of participating households to meet essential needs (ECMEN) remained almost the same with the baseline value of around 80 percent. This can be attributed to the high inflation rates and the economic downturn in Türkiye.

Evaluation

WFP commissioned an independent evaluation company to conduct a Decentralized Evaluation (DE), aiming to assess the performance and gather lessons learned from the implementation of WFP's livelihood activities in Türkiye. Main findings along with the recommendations were presented to all stakeholders in December 2022.

The study found that the SES programme demonstrated progress towards helping refugees and Turkish citizens gain vocational skills and find employment. Surveyed beneficiaries reported that the programme made a positive contribution to social cohesion. Also, the evaluation indicated that the programme is achieving results despite challenging conditions including high inflation, stagnant economic growth and the on-going COVID-19 pandemic. The programme adapted to respond to these challenges by expanding the role of the Turkish Employment Agency (ISKUR) in recruiting beneficiaries and matching them with employment opportunities. Also, the evaluation highlighted that there are opportunities to further support WFP's strategic objective of supporting refugees and Turkish citizens to access labour market opportunities if greater accommodations are considered for women and individuals with disabilities.

Donors

Germany, Ireland, Norway, the Republic of Korea, USAID/BHA.