Operational Context

Türkiye hosts the highest number of refugees in the world - four million people. Around 45,000 of the most vulnerable of them live in seven camps in the southeast, while the majority live in cities and villages throughout the country. The Government of Türkiye has demonstrated leadership and generosity in hosting this large number for close to a decade. Since June 2014, a temporary protection regime has granted Syrian refugees access to basic services such as healthcare and education. Refugees from other countries continue to benefit from International Protection status. WFP re-established a presence in Türkiye in 2012, in response to the Syria crisis. Following the twin earthquakes that struck south-eastern Türkiye on 6 February 2023, WFP stepped up its assistance and launched an emergency response operation to respond to the most urgent needs of affected populations.

WFP Türkiye’s new Country Strategic Plan (CSP 2023-2025) which was approved in November 2022 seeks to assist refugees in camps and provide services to humanitarian and development partners. The CSP expands sustainable livelihood programming to build the self-reliance of vulnerable Turks and refugees alike. The CSP has been revised to integrate the earthquake emergency response including food and multi-purpose cash assistance to refugees and Turks alike, as well as logistics and telecommunications services for partners in the earthquake affected regions.

Türkiye Earthquake Response*

Early Recovery

- Despite the conclusion of the initial emergency response after three months, an extension was considered by the Government and international organizations until mid-August as a transition period to address residual humanitarian needs and engage in early recovery efforts. In response, WFP and the Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants (ASAM) placed 437 earthquake-affected people in six provinces (Adıyaman, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Gaziantep, Malatya and Sanliurfa) in minimum wage jobs, bringing the total number of people supported since the beginning of this initiative to around 600 people.
- WFP’s early recovery interventions fall under the existing livelihoods activities grouped under the Socioeconomic Empowerment and Sustainability (SES) programme. They aim to help the affected populations restore their livelihoods disrupted due to the quakes of 6 February.
- WFP is also discussing with the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) to launch another round of multipurpose cash to the most vulnerable Turkish and Syrian families to ensure no residual humanitarian needs remain unaddressed during the transition period.

Regular Programme Updates

- The e-voucher programme, implemented in partnerships with TRC, resumed in June, reaching 52,765 refugees in seven camps with monthly assistance of Turkish Lira (TRY) 300 (USD 13) per person. The transfer value increased from TRY 230 (USD 10) to TRY 300 (USD 13) in conformity with the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) assistance. Beneficiaries also include the earthquake-affected populations recently added to the e-voucher programme after having received monthly assistance of TRY 2,500 (USD 106) per household throughout the emergency response.

Contact info: turkiye.info@wfp.org
Country Director: Negar Gerami
Further information: Türkiye | World Food Programme (wfp.org)

In Numbers

- 58,118 people received cash assistance in June 2023.
- 1.6 million people received food assistance as part of the emergency response.
- USD 719,163 distributed through value vouchers (camps) and USD 299,653 through cash assistance (livelihoods support)
- USD 26.8 m six-month net funding requirements (July – December 2023)

Photo Caption: Aysenur, a SES project participant, supporting the soup kitchen chefs in food distribution in Kahramanmaraş during the emergency response. ©WFP/Giulio d’Adamo.

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
**WFP Türkiye Country Brief**

**June 2023**

The SES programme continued during the reporting period, benefiting 581 participants in nine provinces who attended vocational trainings covering 13 various vocations. Also, 151 participants attended applied training (Account Assistant, barista, chef assistant, textile, etc). In July, WFP will kickstart trainings in earthquake-affected Adana and Gaziantep which, in turn, will trigger an increase in the number of enrolled participants over the upcoming months.

**Monitoring**

- Monitoring activities implemented under the multi-purpose cash programme showed that the programme reached 84 percent of the redemption rate in the first phase. Even though this figure represents a relatively high ratio given the SMS modality being implemented for the first time in this context, it also associates with access issues faced by the target population such as non-delivered SMS codes, non-operating reference numbers, crowdedness, long waiting cues, insufficient cash balance in automatic teller machines (ATM)/banks and/or non-functioning ATMs. Despite access problems, results showed that beneficiaries are in general satisfied with the cash response and the SMS modality. They also heavily rely on assistance to cover partially their food and non-food needs thus adopting coping strategies to better fulfil their needs. The multi-purpose cash programme was implemented throughout the emergency response in partnership with TRC and the International Federation for Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). It provided around 135,000 households in 12 provinces with TRY 3,000 (USD 127) per household.

- WFP and TRC have agreed to proceed with the needs assessment in camps which was disrupted by the emergency response. This exercise aims to identify actual needs, vulnerability status, as well as the profiles to be likely considered for transitional programmes and therefore inform potential targeting discussions along with transfer value decisions. The data collection is expected to start in July.

**Funding**

- At the outset of the earthquake in February 2023, WFP Türkiye received USD 50 million from WFP’s Immediate Response Account (IRA) revolving fund. The IRA is WFP emergency funding mechanism that enables WFP to kick-start emergency operations when a disaster strikes and donor contributions are not readily available. Thanks to the active engagement with donors, WFP Türkiye succeeded to mobilize resources to repay the full IRA allocation.

**Donors**

Canada, European Union, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Kuwait, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Private Donors, Sweden, UN CERF, United States.

*For further information on the number of beneficiaries reached under WFP response to the earthquakes in Türkiye, please refer to WFP dashboard [here](#).*