



World Food Programme

SAVING
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WFP Türkiye Country Brief August 2023

Operational Context

Türkiye hosts the highest number of refugees in the world - four million people. Around 53,000 of the most vulnerable of them live in eight 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.



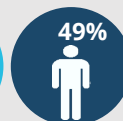
Population: 84.7 million

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

Income Level: Upper middle

Human Development Index 2021: 48 out of 191

In Numbers



613,460 people received cash assistance in August 2023 (estimated).

USD 12.1 million distributed through in-camp & multi-purpose cash programme value vouchers and **USD 0.5 million** through livelihoods cash assistance (estimated)

USD 2.6 m six-month net funding requirements (September 2023 – February 2024)

Operational Updates

Earthquake Emergency Response

- To address the residual post-earthquake humanitarian needs as part of the earthquake emergency response, WFP and the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) distributed one final round of multi-purpose cash in August of TRY 3,000 (USD 111) per household to the existing caseload, corresponding to some 555,270 Turkish and Syrian individuals (111,054 households with an average size of five members per household). Assisting more than half a million people recovering from the massive twin earthquakes of 6 February, this distribution marks the end of WFP's earthquake response.
- Under the e-voucher programme, co-implemented with TRC in eight refugee camps, 52,462 beneficiaries received Turkish Lira (TRY) 300 (USD 11) per person monthly. Beneficiaries also include the earthquake-affected populations who were added to the e-voucher beneficiary caseload in June. During the emergency response, all camp residents received monthly assistance of TRY 2,500 (USD 106) per household for three months, the last of which was transferred in May.
- WFP's livelihoods activities under the umbrella of the Socioeconomic Empowerment and Sustainability (SES) Programme continued in August. So far, around 3,632 people benefited from the programme through the enrolment of 908 participants in vocational training in eight provinces (Adana, Ankara, Bursa, Gaziantep, Kayseri, Konya, Mardin and Mersin). Training courses provided in August included barista, chef assistant, foreign trade, food packaging, front office staff, textile, entry-level IT, machine maintenance and repair, plastic injection and machine operations, pastry chef assistant, scarf knitting, shoe making, welding, as well as the newly-introduced traditional cuisine.
- The SES Programme has been providing vocational and applied training to refugees and members of the host communities with the aim of enhancing livelihoods

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Photo Caption: Aysel, an earthquake survivor, is currently working at a soup kitchen in Arsuz, Hatay as part of the WFP Early Recovery livelihoods initiative. ©ASAM

Country Strategic Plan (January 2023- December 2025)

Total Requirements (USD)	Total Received (USD)
177 m	112 m
2023 Requirements (USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (USD) (September 2023 – February 2024)
108 m	2.6 m

WFP Türkiye 2022 Annual Country Report

Strategic Outcome 2: People have better nutrition, health and education outcomes

Country Strategic Plan Outcome 1: Refugees and other crisis-affected populations can meet their basic needs, including nutritious food, all year round.

Activities:

- **Act 1:** Provide food and non-food assistance to refugees living in camps.
- **Act 5:** Provide emergency food assistance through cash-based or in-kind transfers to shock-affected populations.

Focus area: Crisis Response

Strategic Outcome 3: People have improved and sustainable livelihoods

Country Strategic Plan Outcome 2: Refugees and vulnerable populations have access to labour market opportunities in order to meet their basic needs, all year round

Activities:

- **Act 2:** Provide innovative livelihood trainings, private sector internships, grants and other opportunities to vulnerable refugees and host community members to improve their access to the labour market.

Focus area: Resilience Building

Strategic Outcome 4: National programmes and systems are strengthened

Country Strategic Plan Outcome 3: Vulnerable groups, including schoolchildren, benefit from enhanced national capacities on social protection including school feeding by 2025.

- **Activity 3:** Provide technical assistance and support to the Government to enhance the national school meals programme and other programmes, policies and systems as needed.

Focus area: Resilience Building

Strategic Outcome 5: Humanitarian and development actors are more efficient and effective

Country Strategic Plan Outcome 4: Vulnerable populations in Türkiye benefit from improved humanitarian and development assistance all year round

- **Activity 4:** Provide on-demand common services to partners, including United Nations agencies.

Focus area: Crisis Response

opportunities, fostering economic self-reliance and sustainable development. The Early Recovery component of the programme, co-initiated by WFP and the Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants (ASAM), aims to place 600 earthquake-affected people in jobs by September to help them restore their livelihoods. So far around 2,096 people benefited from the initiative through the placement of 524 participants in jobs.

Assessment

- TRC and WFP teams continue working on comprehensive assessment of the refugees living in camps to identify needs, vulnerability status and the profiles to be likely considered for transitional programmes. Sampling and developed tools were tested during the last week of July. Quantitative data collection was finalized on 18 September.
- To inform WFP's early recovery programme design, which will focus on strengthening capacities of food value chain actors through provision of cash and equipment, field teams conducted Key Informant Interviews with representatives of governorates, chambers, unions, retailers and customers between 21 and 31 August in Adiyaman, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Malatya, and two districts of Gaziantep (Nurdagi and Islahiye), which were severely affected by the earthquake. This assessment aims to identify the needs and intervention opportunities in the selected areas, ensuring evidence-based decision making and enhancing access to diverse and quality food for all by assisting bakeries and container markets.

Monitoring

- The Q2 Market Monitor Bulletin was published in July. Findings showed that while there was a gradual decrease in food inflation from January to April, the national food inflation rate remained stagnant at around 50 to 52 percent between April and June 2023. WFP-contracted markets in camps displayed less price fluctuation compared to non-contracted markets. Nevertheless, camp residents expressed concerns about high prices and lack of diversity in purchased items. Meanwhile, satisfaction with shop services and facilities was recorded at an impressive 84 percent, with the only complaint being overcrowding primarily during the two days following the card uploads.
- WFP field teams continued market and price monitoring activities in eight camps. The food basket cost increased by 20 percent in both contracted markets and non-contracted markets from TRY 677.36 (USD 25.1) in July to TRY 812.93 (USD 30.1) in August, and from TRY 740.77 (USD 27.4) to TRY 889.04 (USD 32.9), respectively.
- The cost of the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) in the earthquake-affected area increased by 10 percent between July and August, reaching TRY 9,776 (USD 362) for a five-person household due to the 10 percent increase in food and rent expenditures, which make up 70 percent of the total basket (40 percent and 31 percent respectively).

Donors

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