



WFP Türkiye

Country Brief

September 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.



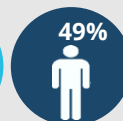
Population: 84.7 million

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



56,553 people received cash assistance in September 2023 (estimated).

USD 0.58 m distributed through in-camp value vouchers and **USD 0.3 m** through livelihoods cash assistance (estimated)

USD 4 m six-month net funding requirements (October 2023 – March 2024)

Operational Updates

- Under the e-voucher programme WFP co-implements with Turkey Red Cross (TRC) in eight refugee camps, 51,902 beneficiaries (11,273 households) received Turkish Lira (TRY) 300 (USD 11) per person monthly. Since 2012, the e-voucher assistance has helped refugees access sufficient food and maintain a healthy and diverse diet, while reducing negative coping behaviours.
- In September, WFP and the Ministry of Industry and Technology (MoIT) discussed the opportunity to collaborate on recovery responses in the earthquake-affected areas. Both entities agreed to explore collaboration on enabling the recovery of food and nutrition systems with the development agencies operating in the southeast of the country.
- WFP's livelihoods activities under the umbrella of the Socioeconomic Empowerment and Sustainability (SES) Programme continued in September in eight provinces (Adana, Ankara, Bursa, Istanbul, Izmir, Kayseri, Konya, and Mersin). Some 2,583 people benefited indirectly from the programme through the participation of 588 trainees in the vocational training courses in a variety of sectors. The SES Programme has been providing vocational and applied training to refugees and members of host communities with the aim of enhancing livelihoods opportunities, fostering economic self-reliance and advancing sustainable development.
- The Early Recovery component of the SES Programme, co-initiated by WFP and the Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants (ASAM), focusing on providing livelihoods opportunities in the earthquake-affected area, was completed on 30 September. 600 participants were placed in jobs in various sectors for three months in 22 workplaces in Adiyaman, Gaziantep, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Malatya and Sanliurfa between April and September. All participants received psychosocial support during the implementation period. 572 participants completed three months of cash-for-work training. Around 23 percent of the participants continued to be employed where they were placed after the completion of the initial three-month period.

Photo Caption: Merve worked as a cleaning worker in Adiyaman as part of the Early Recovery component of the SES Programme. She stated that the programme helped her overcome the psychological and financial difficulties she experienced after the earthquake. ©ASAM

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Further information: [Türkiye | World Food Programme \(wfp.org\)](#)

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) (October 2023 - March 2024)
108 m	4 m

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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

Assessment

- TRC and WFP continued their joint comprehensive assessment of the needs of refugees living in camps, to identify their vulnerability status and profiles to be likely considered for transitional programmes. Quantitative data collection was finalized on 18 September and is being analyzed. Findings will inform the design of the e-voucher programme, targeting options, and exit strategy.

Monitoring

- The Final Monitoring Report of the Collective Kindness Project, implemented with TRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to provide multi-purpose cash to over half a million earthquake-affected people for the three months of April, May and August, was released in September.
 - Around 93 percent of the recipients preferred to receive cash instead of in-kind assistance or vouchers. However, satisfaction with the transfer value of TRY 3,000 (USD 111) per household was low (on average 53 percent). The assistance was cited as the main source of income for half of the beneficiary households.
 - Overall, 79 percent of the households had acceptable food consumption. Only 6 percent of the households reported not having adopted any coping behaviour. The majority preferred cheaper and lower-quality foods (on average 85 percent). While 93 percent of recipients were satisfied with the SMS modality, used for the first time in WFP's programmes in Türkiye, some 16 percent reported access challenges mainly due to issues with SMS codes and long waiting times at ATMs/banks.
- According to the Q2 2023 Livelihood Monitoring Report, 4,457 people were enrolled in the SES Programme and 1,318 of them graduated between August 2021 and Q2 2023. The programme registered an employment rate of 47 percent across various sectors as of Q2 2023. 87 percent of the employed participants secured full-time paid jobs upon graduation.
- WFP field teams and cooperating partners conducted 183 monitoring visits to more than 50 sites in nine provinces in Q2 2023. The SES programme recorded a dropout rate of 29 percent (as of Q2 2023), mainly due to unavoidable reasons, such as health, family-related responsibilities, education or dismissal from the programme due to compliance issues.
- According to WFP market monitoring, the average cost of the food basket in the contracted and non-contracted shops in the seven camps hosting Syrian refugees showed some level of stability in the prices between August and September 2023. The average overall food basket cost has been higher in the non-contacted camps than in the contracted camps for two consecutive months, namely in August and September.

Donors

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