



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Türkiye Country Brief May 2024

### Operational Context

Türkiye hosts the highest number of refugees in the world – 3.7 million people. Around 60,000 of the most vulnerable refugees 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. Asylum seekers 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 and transitioned its programmes from purely basic needs assistance to include more livelihoods support as the needs of the target population evolved over time. WFP Türkiye's [Country Strategic Plan \(CSP 2023-2025\)](#) seeks to continue assisting refugees in camps, provide services to humanitarian and development partners, and implement sustainable livelihood programming to build the self-reliance of vulnerable refugees. [The CSP has been revised](#) to integrate recovery efforts following the devastating earthquakes of February 2023, focusing on restoring and revitalising the food value chain in the earthquake-affected regions that will benefit vulnerable Turks and refugees alike.



Population: 85.3 million

Poverty Rate: 29.7% living below the national poverty line (Turkstat)

Income Level: Upper middle

Human Development Index 2022: 45 out of 193

### In Numbers



**35,945 people** received cash assistance in May 2024 (estimated).

**USD 0.31 million** distributed through in-camp value vouchers and **USD 0.15 million** through livelihoods cash assistance (estimated)

**USD 7.7 m** six-month net funding requirements (June - November 2024)

### Operational Updates

- In May, under the **In-camp E-voucher Programme**, WFP and the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) assisted 33,801 beneficiaries in six refugee camps with an e-voucher of Turkish lira (TRY) 300 (USD 9) per person per month.
  - WFP and the Governorate of Antakya in Hatay are planning to provide multi-purpose cash assistance to Hilalkent camp established after last year's earthquake, housing around 8,000 Syrian refugees. The transfer value of the assistance will be TRY 700 (USD 21) in line with the Social Safety Net (SSN) Programme transfer value. The SSN programme is currently led by the Government of Türkiye to assist refugees living in urban areas to meet their basic needs.
- WFP's Earthquake Recovery Programme currently consists of six projects, five of which are implemented by NGO partners, and one is implemented by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). In May, all five NGO partners initiated their beneficiary identification and enrolment processes.
  - In line with the scale-up plan of the programme, WFP has been working with both the Ipekyolu Development Agency in Adiyaman, and the Firat Development Agency in Malatya on project concept notes.
    - Following detailed field visits and focus group discussions, the concept note for the Ipekyolu Development Agency, to provide cold chain support for dairy farmers in Adiyaman, has been completed. The agreement is expected to be signed in June following endorsement of the partnership framework by both the Ministry of Industry and Technology, and WFP.
    - Similarly, significant steps were made in the development of a project concept note to support affected wheat value chain actors in Malatya in May. The note is set to be finalized in June.

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Photo Caption: Representatives of local government bodies, NGOs and UN agencies attended the introductory meeting of the Earthquake Recovery Programme in Kahramanmaraş. ©WFP

## Country Strategic Plan (January 2023- December 2025)

Total Requirements (USD)	Total Received (USD)
<b>187 m</b>	<b>114 m</b>
2024 Requirements (USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (USD) (June – November 2024)
<b>41 m</b>	<b>7.7 m</b>

### 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.

- **Activity 1:** Provide food and non-food assistance to refugees living in camps.
- **Activity 5:** Provide emergency food assistance through food or cash-based transfers to crisis affected populations.
- **Activity 8:** Provide transfers, assets and/or technical support to food value chain actors in crisis-affected areas.

**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

- **Activity 2:** Provide innovative livelihood trainings, private sector internships, grants and other opportunities to stimulate the local economy and enable 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.
- **Activity 6:** Provide coordination, information management and logistic services in support to the Government of Türkiye and humanitarian actors to strengthen their capacity to support crisis-affected populations.
- **Activity 7:** Provide emergency telecommunication services to the humanitarian community to enhance their support to crisis-affected populations.

**Focus area:** Crisis Response

## WFP Türkiye 2023 Annual Country Report

- Under WFP's **Socioeconomic Empowerment and Sustainability (SES) Programme**, 536 participants attended vocational training (VT) and applied training (ATP) in May, enabling some 2,144 people (members of the participant's household) to benefit from the Programme indirectly. Participants were enrolled in food packaging, machine maintenance and repair, soft skills and textile courses in Adiyaman, Gaziantep, Malatya and

Kahramanmaras. WFP's partners for the SES Programme are the Turkish Employment Agency (ISKUR), Support to Life (STL), UGDD and chambers of commerce and industry in the targeted provinces.

- The programme team visited programme locations in Adana, Mersin, Gaziantep, Sanliurfa, Malatya, Adiyaman and Kahramanmaras to monitor ISKUR service centres, training centres and discuss with cooperating partners, employers and participants in order to ensure that activities are being implemented in line with the planned calendar.

## Partnerships

- WFP's Regional Director Corinne Fleischer conducted a mission to Türkiye in May to meet with several Turkish entities including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, the Turkish Red Crescent, Embassy of the United Arab Emirates and the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges to foster cooperation with the Government, NGO and private partners.
- The Regional Director also attended a Food Security Event hosted by the embassies of Belgium and Ukraine as a panel speaker. She highlighted the need to respond to emergencies more swiftly, and ensure an emergency preparedness plan in place for partners to lead the transfer and use of WFP supplies.

## Monitoring

- WFP's Quarter 1 2024 In-camp Post Distribution Monitoring Report was published in May. According to the findings, economic factors remain the primary determinants of food security among refugees with 23 percent of households classified as food insecure and 74 percent as vulnerable to food insecurity. Gender disparities persist with 88 percent of households reporting that women do not contribute to the household income. WFP's assistance is no longer the primary income source for the majority of beneficiary households (it still is for 12 percent).
- The report also found that 54 percent of households rely on casual unskilled wage labour, indicating a shift towards self-reliance. 75 percent of households report WFP assistance as their secondary income source. Considering the high percentage of households which rely on at least one type of coping behaviour (84%), this emphasizes the ongoing importance of external support. Finally, positive trends were observed in accountability and program awareness, with 98 percent of beneficiaries reporting respectful treatment and 58 percent stating that they are adequately informed about WFP's programme.
- In Quarter 1 of 2024, the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) cost was TRY 2,436 (USD 76) per person per month for a household of six people and the food basket cost reached TRY 989 (USD 30). The annual inflation rate reached 68.5 percent and food inflation 70.4 percent in March, compared to 64.8 percent and 71.3 percent in December 2023 respectively. According to the Quarter 4 2023 Market Bulletin, the Turkish economy grew by 4.5 percent in 2023 and the unemployment rate was 8.8 percent in December 2023.

## Donors

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