



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



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Turkey hosts the largest refugee population in the world, with 3.6 million displaced Syrians under Temporary Protection. The impact of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) magnified refugees' and host communities' vulnerability, adversely impacting food security.

Objectives

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is working with partners in the Food Security and Agriculture Sector to:

- Improve the self-reliance of Syrians under Temporary Protection and vulnerable host communities and prevent them from resorting to food-related negative coping.
- Strengthen the resilience of Syrians under Temporary Protection and host community members through self-employment/employment, increased income and financial assets in the food and agriculture sectors.

Activities



Promote skills and knowledge on food and nutrition

trainings and awareness sessions on food and nutrition practices (food consumption, food safety, nutrition, cooking demonstration)



Strengthen livelihoods and resilience

income-generating opportunities in food, agriculture and forestry sectors | modern approaches to business establishment and entrepreneurship | agricultural vocational and livelihoods trainings | cash-based assistance

Turkey

Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan 2021–2022



to assist
58 400 people



FAO requires
USD 7.1 million



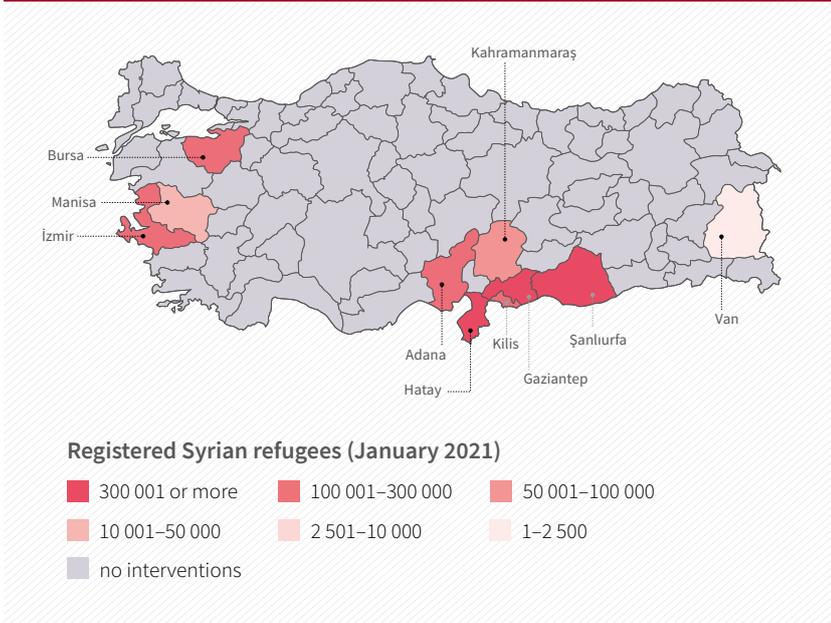
period
January–December 2021



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Improving the self-reliance of Syrians under Temporary Protection and vulnerable host communities is crucial to strengthening their livelihoods and preventing the utilization of negative coping strategies.

Targeted provinces within the Regional Refugee Resilience Plan 2021–2022



Source: The UN Refugee Agency. 2020. *Turkey Food Security and Agriculture Sector Achievements* [online]. Geneva, Switzerland. [Cited 18 February 2021]. <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/84369> modified to visualize data received from FAO Turkey and UNHCR Turkey.

Situation analysis



1.3 million people estimated to be in need of food security and livelihoods assistance



3.6 million Syrians under Temporary Protection in Turkey, **98%** of whom live outside of temporary accommodation centres



94% of refugees have adopted at least one consumption-related negative coping mechanism



2.5 million confirmed COVID-19 cases and **27 284** deaths

Impact on food security

The decade-long conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic forced millions of Syrians to flee their homes and seek safety in Turkey. The country hosts the largest number of persons under temporary and international protection globally, with 3.6 million Syrians under Temporary Protection (more than 4 percent of the country's total population) in addition to approximately 320 000 international protection applicants and status holders. Currently, over 98 percent of Syrians under Temporary Protection live in urban and rural areas, with less than 2 percent residing in temporary accommodation centres. Food security is fragile for many refugee households, and their situation deteriorated in 2020.

During the COVID-19 pandemic domestic food prices increased, incomes declined, and unemployment rates rose, impacting overall food security and access to healthy food. As a result, many vulnerable families, particularly those headed by women, have reduced their dietary diversity and the number of meals they eat each day. Additionally, refugees' vulnerability was compounded by a lack of savings.

The influx of Syrians into Turkey is having a significant impact on the labour market as many Syrians have

become engaged in informal labour, especially in low-skilled, seasonal and part-time work in the agriculture sector, edging out Turkish women who had previously filled these jobs. Competition over employment opportunities has led to growing social tensions between Syrians and local communities as well as to gender inequalities. On top of this, informal work is insecure and poorly paid, but with limited skills and work experience many Syrians and host community members do not have better options.

With developed skills, Syrians and host community members can improve their employment options and even start or enhance their own micro-scale enterprises in the food and agriculture sectors, which have a high potential for growth. Training Syrians in Turkish language and conducting skills and vocational training together with host community members will help build social cohesion. Focusing assistance on the most vulnerable rural communities and women will help empower them to build resilient livelihoods.

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