

Turkey

Fast Facts

- **Life Expectancy:** 76.5 years
- **Income Classification:** Upper-Middle
- **Population Below Poverty Line:** 14.4%
- **Region:** Middle East
- **Drinking Water Source:** 99%
- **Sanitation Facility Access:** 99.6%



National Action

Turkey faces both successes and significant challenges when it comes to supplying drinking water. They have managed to achieve clean drinking water universally, even in their taps, allowing their people access to clean drinking water wherever they may be within the country. However, droughts due to climate change pose a significant risk to Turkey's water supply, which is already $\frac{1}{3}$ per capita of the water available in water-rich countries like America and Western Europe. Wildfires and record-breaking heat waves have resulted in groundwater levels being at an all-time low, which puts a major strain on clean water access for major cities along with increased challenges for farmers who depend on freshwater sources to grow crops. Cash crops exported from Turkey include cotton, corn, wheat, and fruit- all require a significant amount of water to grow. In addition to droughts, Turkey experienced a major earthquake in February of 2023, causing significant damage to the country's water and sanitation infrastructure. Many people were displaced, as their homes were destroyed, and sanitation and hygiene stations at stadium camps were not sufficient for the amount of people who needed assistance. With the destruction of sanitation infrastructure, one of the major focuses after the Earthquake was making sure that people remained disease-free, offering hygiene kits and tetanus shots to citizens. Turkey is working to combat impacts of major drought and increased temperatures by building dams and reservoirs to save water in regions where the rainfall season is brief so the freshwater can be used year-round. The need for water will only increase with growing urbanization, industrialization and population in Turkey, where droughts and temperature are also predicted to increase.

International Action

The EU, in particular, has helped build up and invest into infrastructure for the wastewater facilities in Turkey, as Turkey has close affiliations with the EU. The UN has worked with Turkey to create Sustainable Development Goals to address global water issues, however Turkey has historically prioritized economic growth over environmental concerns and has yet to ratify the 2015 Paris agreement on climate change. Organizations based in Turkey have helped improve **water management** in Africa, South Asia, and the Middle East by building a significant amount of wells, providing communities with access to clean water.

Image: [Wikipedia- Turkey](#)

Fast Facts: CIA World Factbook, World Bank

National Action: [Turkey drought/ Turkey Faces a Future Without Water/ Turkey faces post-quake water shortage/ Türkiye's Policy on Water](#)

International Action: [UN Clean Water and Sanitation Turkey helps millions get access to clean water](#)

Edited by JDiLeo, 1/24