

Turkey

Statistical profile

Information not available for Turkey.

Policy framework and Institutional setting of rural development

Rural Definition

- ❖ The population threshold criterion (definition of rural-urban area by TURKSTAT) defines “urban” to settlements with a population of 20,001 and above and “rural” to those with a population of 20,000 or less. Less than 2,000 settlements are defined as “villages”, 2,000 to 20,000 settlements as “towns” and more than 20,000 settlements as “cities”. According to the administrative status criteria (the definition of village-city), provincial and district centres are defined as “city”, while small towns and villages are accepted as “villages”. Turkey has begun to develop a new rural definition that won’t affect any administrative change. The new definition will include the criteria of population and demographic structure, population density, distance to urban centre, production and employment structure, natural environment and cultural life style. The rural statistics will be produced accordingly to this definition. Overall, the definition acknowledge mixed rural/urban areas, rural areas close to cities and remote rural areas.

National rural policy

- ❖ Turkey has a national rural policy defined by the National Rural Development Strategy 2014-2020. The strategy is renewed every 2 years (revised in 2016 and 2018). The main purpose of Turkey’s rural development strategy is to make the rural society compatible with the urban areas and make rural areas sustainable in order to bring rural quality of life closer to the country average. This strategy contains four objectives: i) reduce development disparities between rural and urban areas, ii) combat the negative effects of migration on rural areas, iii) strengthen rural policy governance at central and local level and iv) prepare the policies for the EU agriculture and rural development acquis in the pre-accession process.

Lead ministry(ies) and other co-ordination bodies in charge

Table 1. Main institutions in charge of rural development policies at the national level

Ministries/Committees (most important first)	Role
Presidency of Strategy and Budget	Planning, funding, evaluation
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	planning, funding, implementation, evaluation
Ministry of Environment and Urbanization	planning, funding, implementation, evaluation
IPARD Monitoring Committee	Monitoring of IPARD Programme in Turkey
National Agriculture and Rural Development Action Plan Monitoring Committee	Evaluation and monitoring of rural development actions in Turkey

Table 2. Main institutions in charge of rural development policies at the sub-national level

Institutions	Role
Deconcentrated national agencies	Implementation
Autonomous regional agencies	Implementation

Key objectives in rural policy and delivery mechanisms

- ❖ Turkey rural development policy allocates a high relevance to economic areas (Table 3). Table 4 shows the main priorities of rural policy.
- ❖ The main delivery mechanisms of the rural development policy in Turkey is the Annual Investment Programme as sectoral base (every sector has rural focus) from the National General Budget Account. Dedicated grants programmes, and contracts and agreements with local communities are also used as implementation mechanisms.

Table 3. Relevance of sectors in rural development policy

Policy areas	Weight on rural policy	Average OECD
Economic	40%	40%
Social	40%	30%
Environment	20%	30%

Note: Self-reported responses from country delegate to the question: "Please grade from 1 to 10 the importance rural development policies in your country assigns to economic, social and environmental areas".

Source: OECD (2018), "Responses to the institutional survey on rural policy in OECD countries".

Table 4. Relevant objectives in rural development policy

Top objectives	Programmes	Main financial mechanisms to support the strategy
Agricultural production	Agriculture sector covered in National Plan, Annual Programme and Annual Investment Programme: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry provides agricultural subsidies in different agricultural sectors (husbandry, fisheries), IPARD Programme, Rural Development Support Programme and other national agricultural funds and programmes.	Government Investment Programmes, Agricultural Subsidies in different agricultural sectors. Direct grants to small peasants Loans to agricultural production unions and cooperatives

Land occupation, resilience and landscape preservation	Annual Investment Programme, IPARD Programme and others	Annual Investment Programme, IPARD Programme and others
Environmental sustainability	Presidency Office of Strategy and Budget Office coordinates all environmental issues as sectoral base.	Annual Investment Programme of Turkey, National General Budget
Service delivery	KOYDES Programme, Annual Investment Programme of Turkey. Rural Development Support Programme. Presidency Office of Strategy and Budget Office, Ministry of Treasury and Finance, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Family and Social Services are responsible from rural service delivery in Turkey	National General Budget Annual Investment Programme of Turkey
Accessibility- via transport/ broadband	KOYDES Programme (covers the delivering of road, clean water, sewerage, social services), Annual Investment Programme of Turkey. Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, Ministry of Transportation, Ministry of Interior are responsible from land use/resilience/ landscape preservation in Turkey.	National General Budget Annual Investment Programme of Turkey National General Budget
Ageing and outmigration	National Rural Strategy and Action Plan	Government Investment Programmes, National General Budget

Note: Objectives presented are the objectives with higher scores in the survey responses.

Source: OECD (2018), "Responses to the institutional survey on rural policy in OECD countries".