



ISSUE 8: NOVEMBER 2020

EMERGENCY SOCIAL SAFETY NET (ESSN)

Thanks to European Union funding and a partnership between the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRC), over 1.8 million refugees living in Turkey are receiving humanitarian support through monthly cash assistance.

November snapshots



1,808,312 individuals
reached with cash assistance



334,992,860 TRY
cash transferred to 318,827
households



31,300 individuals
included through SASF
discretionary allowance

Highlights

Cash transfer takes place on 30 November

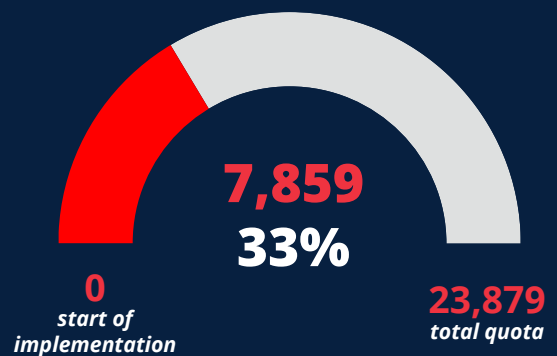
On 30 November, 334,992,860 Turkish lira (TRY) was transferred to 1,808,312 individuals (318,827 households) living under temporary and international protection in Turkey. The cash transfer included the severe disability top-up of 6,404,400 TRY. The total amount of cash transfers since IFRC took over the ESSN in partnership with TRC is 2,364,356,600 TRY.

COVID-19 impacts lessened for ESSN recipients

Results of the post-distribution monitoring (PDM) 10, conducted from June to September 2020, indicate that while COVID-19 has put major stresses on refugees, those who receive ESSN assistance are employing fewer coping strategies compared to ineligible households. Summary of findings are on page 4.

SASF ALLOWANCE

As of November, 7,859 vulnerable households across Turkey are receiving the ESSN assistance via the SASF allowance. This makes up 33 per cent of the total quota for all SASF offices in the different districts across Turkey. New restrictions to curb the spread of COVID-19 have prolonged the hiatus in household visits to the end of January. In order to assess the vulnerability of families and include them in the ESSN, SASFs continue to rely on visits they had conducted prior to the spread of the virus, phone-based verification, muhtars and local networks.



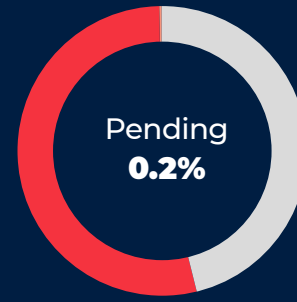
ESSN APPLICATIONS

In November, 3,514 household applications for the ESSN were received at SASF offices and TRC service centres.

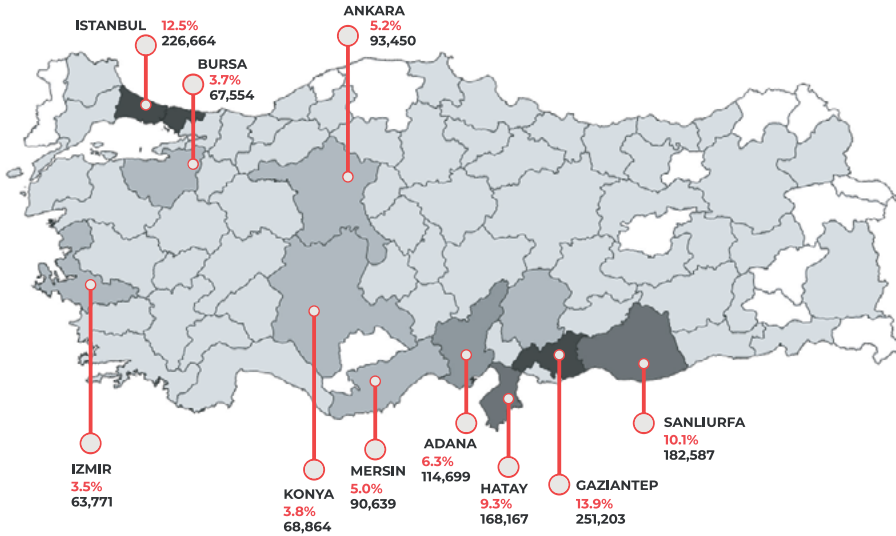
67 per cent of November applications were received at TRC Service Centres and 33 per cent at SASF offices.

The total number of household applications received since the beginning of the ESSN is 599,323 with 64 per cent of total applications received at TRC service centres.

Eligible
54%

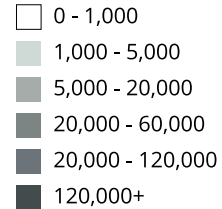


Ineligible
45.9%



Province breakdown of ESSN recipients

Number of individuals



CRITERIA BREAKDOWN ¹



41.6%
households
with four or
more children



26.3%
households
with high
dependency
ratio (≥1.5)



14.3%
households
with single
caregiver and
children (<18)



9.1%
households
with one or
more individual
with a disability



4.9%
single female



1.3%
elderly people
above 60
with no other
adults in the
household

***2.5%** of households (7,859 HHs) receive the ESSN assistance within the scope of SASF allowance.

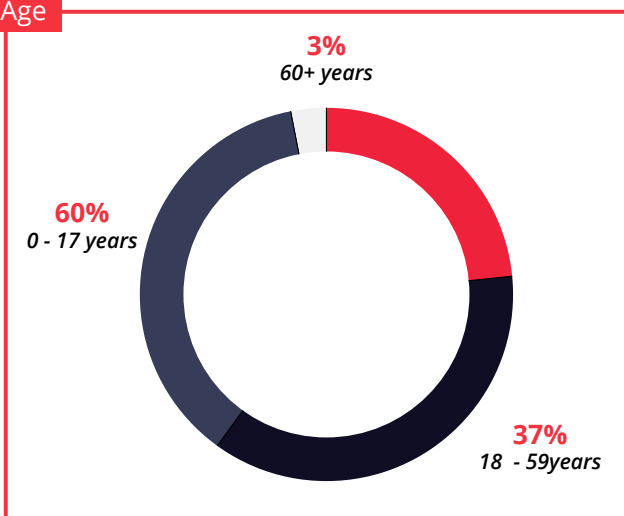
Sweepbacks: In November, the fourth sweepback of 4,594,050 TRY was realised from 476 uncollected cards (254,880 TRY) and 916 dormant accounts (4,339,170 TRY). The total amount of sweepback transactions including November is 7,048,800 TRY.

¹ 132,555 households with four or more children; 83,983 households with a dependency ratio equal to or above 1.5; 45,532 households with a single parent with no other adults and at least one child under 18; 29,142 households with at least one individual with a disability rate of 40%; 15,673 single females; 4,263 households with elderly people above 60 with no other adults in the household.



IN NUMBERS: DEMOGRAPHICS OF PEOPLE WE SERVE

Age



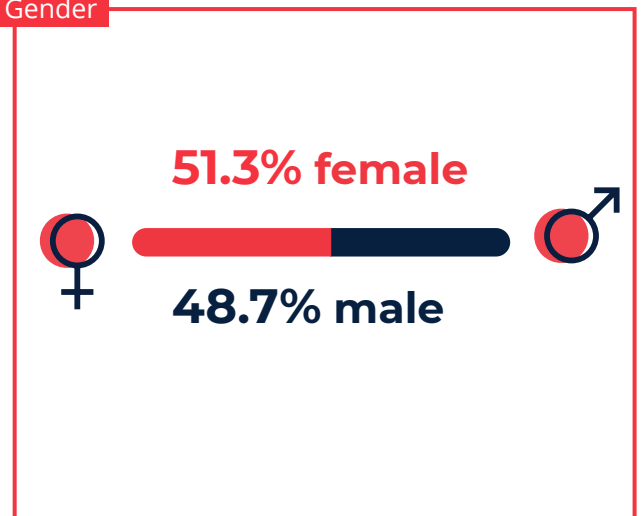
Age breakdown of ESSN recipients for November:

0 - 17 years: 1,088,464

18 - 59 years: 667,417

60+ years: 52,431

Gender

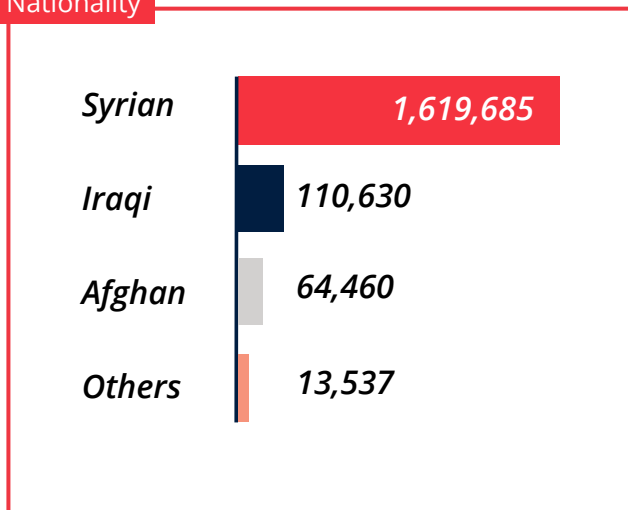


Gender breakdown of ESSN recipients for November:

Female: 928,433

Male: 879,879

Nationality



Among the 'others' category are Iranian, Somali, Pakistani, Chinese and Palestinian nationals.

Disability



Individuals with a valid severe disability health report received an additional top-up of 600 TRY per person, totalling 6,404,400 TRY for November.

THE SITUATION FOR REFUGEES: NEW CHALLENGES DURING COVID-19 AND THE IMPACT OF THE ESSN

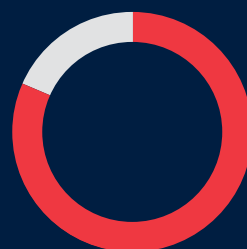
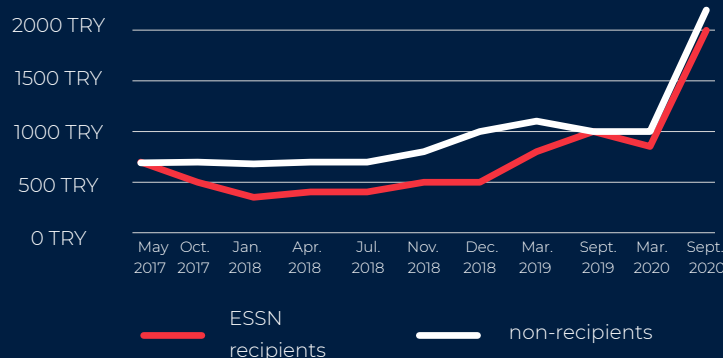
About the research

2020 has been a challenging year for many, particularly refugees, with the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 continuing to worsen globally, and in Turkey. The TRC and IFRC conducted research (Post-Distribution Monitoring Round 10) from June to September 2020 to better understand the current situation for refugee populations in Turkey as well as those receiving ESSN support. More than 5,000 households (2,582 receiving ESSN and 2,566 not receiving ESSN) were surveyed across the country.

Findings: Sharp increase in debt levels and challenges with unemployment

There has been a dramatic rise in the debt level among refugee households, doubling in the past year. Job losses, inability to pay for food, utilities and rent, as well as fear of evictions have all contributed to refugees resorting to borrowing money in order to meet their basic needs. Families in hard-to-reach areas are more likely to use severe coping strategies, such as withdrawing children from school or reducing essential expenditures like health or education.

Debt rises among refugees



more than 80%

reported that at least one person of their household had become unemployed due to COVID-19

How is the ESSN helping?



1 in 2 people

confirm that the cash assistance has helped them manage their debt



Less reliance

on negative coping strategies by people receiving cash assistance than those who do not.²



77% of people

who receive cash assistance have an acceptable food consumption³

¹ Between September 2019 under PDM 8 and September 2020 under PDM 10.

² This is based on the calculations for the reduced Coping Strategy Index as well as Livelihood Coping Strategy index. The Livelihood Coping Strategy Index measures reliance on livelihood-based coping mechanisms to cope with lack of food. Changes in the score indicate household livelihoods coping strategies, wherein a lower value means households have better conditions to make a living. Reduced Coping Strategy is a proxy indicator for food insecurity. Based on a list of behaviours (coping strategies), a higher score indicates a worse food security situation and vice versa. For both measurements, ESSN recipient households show a lower score (rCSI: 9,19; LCSl: 3,56) compared to non-recipients (rCSI: 12,3; LCSl: 4,49).

³ The Food Consumption Score (FCS) is calculated using the frequency of consumption of different food groups consumed by a household during the seven days before the survey. There are standard weights for each of the food groups that comprise the food consumption score. The FCS is used to classify household as having either poor, borderline, or acceptable food consumption



PROGRAMMATIC HIGHLIGHTS

Referral and outreach (R&O):

R&O continues its activities to remove barriers faced by the affected populations. In November, R&O conducted 317 visits to institutions in 33 provinces. Additionally, the teams continue with outbound calls to sensitize eligible households who have not collected their cards or have not used the money in their accounts. These outbound calls also help the teams to identify vulnerable individuals who cannot pick up their cards due to a disability or old age and to deliver their cards to their homes. Outreach provided a protection-focused perspective in the activities and took effective action against the difficulties faced.

Field coordination:

Despite the newly announced COVID-19 measures, IFRC remains actively engaged with local stakeholders in all regions, technical support to TRC field teams and oversight of ESSN field activities. TRC and IFRC have established close coordination in jointly preparing and conducting field activities.

In November, IFRC field coordination and TRC R&O visited stakeholders in 57 districts (18 provinces). This includes SASF offices, PDMM offices, Social Service Centres, DGPC offices, municipalities, and Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centres (Şönim). These field visits are crucial for sensitization, and barriers and solving issues.

Accountability to affected populations:

Visual content in four languages was created to inform refugee communities of the new measures taken to

curb the spread of COVID-19. The content will be shared periodically on Facebook.

In Izmir, following the earthquake at the end of October, teams provided critical and urgent information to affected refugees who also receive the ESSN. It provided an opportunity to engage and answering questions to those impacts. FAQs and SMSs were also created to respond. All relevant field teams were in coordination with DGMM and Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) in Izmir and outputs of this coordination were disseminated among the humanitarian actors and target groups.

In November, the call centre received 8,643 calls from 70 provinces - 83 per cent of which were in Arabic. The official ESSN Facebook page reached 92,455 followers and the total number of messages replied to in October was 40,313. A total of 17,038 SMSs were sent including confirmation of receiving complaints, monthly removal and the reasons, uncollected cards, discrepancies, and dormant account warnings; messages were also received and responded to via the website.

Communication:

The digital awareness campaign, #powertobe, went live on 8 December in Austria, France, Romania, Spain and Turkey, showcasing four talented refugees with passions in cooking, singing, parkour and football, who receive ESSN support.

Content shared this month include: [Rim's story](#) for Children's Day (80,000 video views) and a [webstory about the Semmo family](#).