

ISSUE 24: APRIL 2022

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), 1.5 million refugees living in Turkey are receiving humanitarian support through monthly cash assistance.

April snapshots



1,461,829 individuals
reached with cash assistance



TRY 226,583,495
transferred to 236,775 households



TRY 6,919,899,380
transferred since April 2020

Highlights

The second anniversary of the partnership

1 April 2022 marked **the second anniversary of the partnership** between TRC, IFRC, the Government of Turkey and the European Union for implementation of the largest cash assistance programme of the history of the humanitarian area. The meticulous work that is the product of this partnership has been sustained without any interruption despite various challenging conditions ranging from pandemic lockdowns to inflation rates barreling ahead, reaching near 50-year highs.

3RP task team for referral and transition to livelihood

Established over a year ago to harmonize referrals and transition to livelihoods within the sector, **task team for referral and transition to livelihood opportunities** recently produced a policy brief, addressing the bottlenecks and recommendations on the way forward for transition and referrals to livelihoods. In April, the first physical meeting among the core group of the 3RP Task Team was held on this policy brief which was prepared to be presented to the donors and policymakers in the future and the steps to be taken for the next period.

Sweepbacks: In April, TRY 617,571.55 was swept back in total, TRY 170,820 being swept back from 220 uncollected cards and TRY 446,751.55 from 1,226 dormant accounts). The total amount of funds swept back since April 2020 is TRY 22,358,812.86.



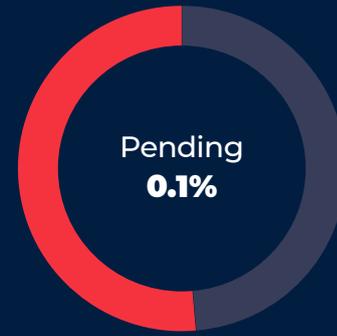
Funded by
the European Union



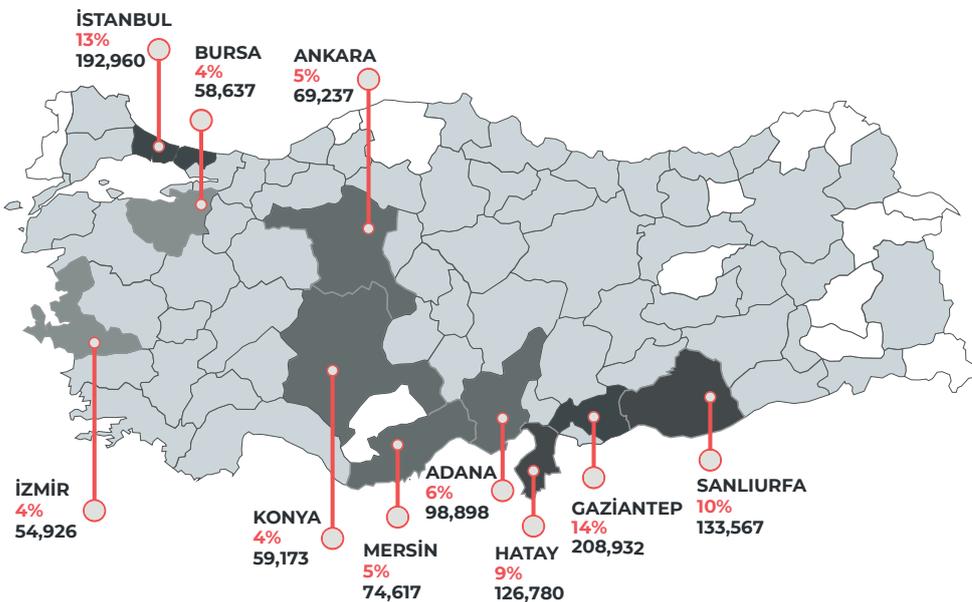
ESSN APPLICATIONS

- In April 2022, a total of (1,976) household applications were received by the SASF offices and TRC Service Centres.
- While (39.2) percent of these applications were received by TRC Service Centres and (60.8) percent at SASF offices.
- The total number of household applications received since the beginning of the ESSN III Programme reached (650,363), with (36.3) percent of the total application having been received by the TRC Service Centres.

Eligible
49.9%

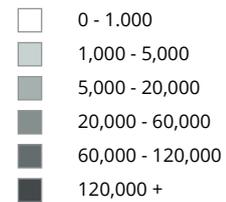


Ineligible
49.9%



Province breakdown of ESSN recipients

Number of individuals



CRITERIA BREAKDOWN*



56%
households with four or more children



35%
households with high dependency ratio (≥1.5)



5%
single female

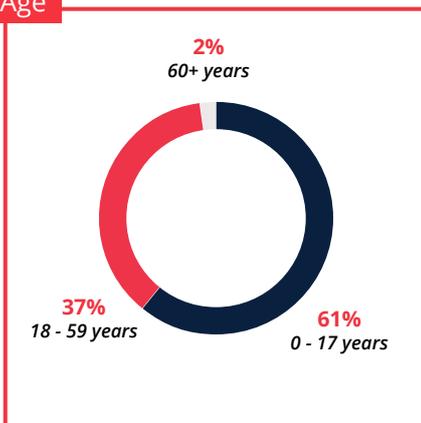
*4% of households (9,885 HHs) receive ESSN assistance within the scope of the SASF allowance.

¹ 132,077 households with four or more children; 83,699 households with a dependency ratio equal to or above 1.5; 11,114 single females.



IN NUMBERS: DEMOGRAPHICS OF PEOPLE WE SERVE

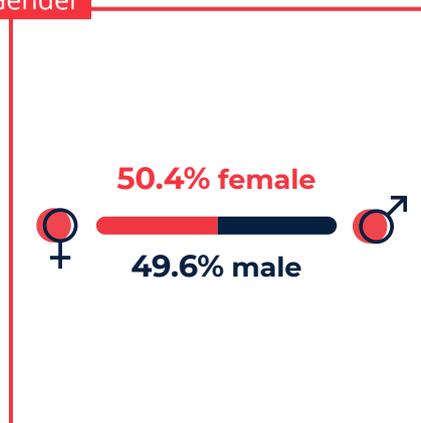
Age



Age breakdown of ESSN recipients:

0 - 17 years: 895,830
18 - 59 years: 543,230
60+ years: 22,769

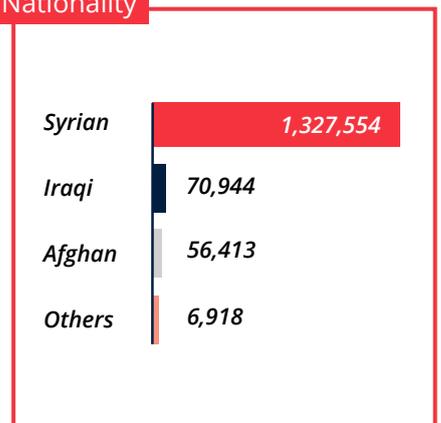
Gender



Gender breakdown of ESSN recipients:

Female: 736,754
Male: 725,075

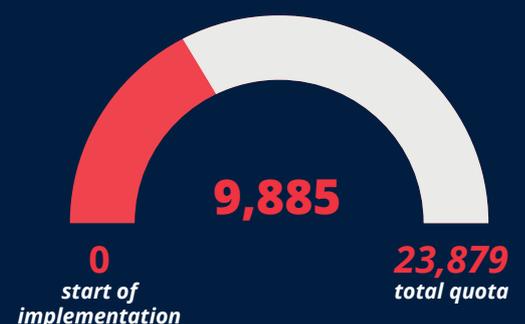
Nationality



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

SASF ALLOWANCE

In April 2022, (9,885) households (39,409) individuals received ESSN assistance via the SASF allowance across Turkey. The SASF allowance continues to play an integral role in minimizing exclusion errors and including vulnerable households into the ESSN.



REFERRAL AND TRANSITION TO LIVELIHOOD TASK TEAM

Task team for referral and transition to livelihood opportunities was set up in December 2020 to provide suggestions on technical level for an informed transition process, as well as for consolidation of lessons learned. Co-chaired by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRC), the task team gathers key technical experts from the 3RP coordination team, CONCERN, FAO, GIZ, IFRC, ILO, IOM, TRC, UNDP, UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP, WHH, WHO, and the World Bank. The Task Team was set up to provide a platform where actors discuss their practical experiences, exchange information and recommendations on the available programmes and tools. The Task Team also aims to address the existing regulative barriers and market challenges to facilitate refugees' access to livelihoods opportunities.

The first phase of its work resulted in an output paper which analyzes the current socio-economic context and policy framework, and reviews livelihoods approaches and existing referral system by outlining a strategy for vulnerable refugees and host communities to access sustainable employment opportunities. In the second phase, the Task Team core group developed a policy brief document based on the findings in the output paper. The policy brief outlines recommendations to policymakers, donors as well as the broader humanitarian sector in Turkey in finding solutions to transitioning vulnerable people under temporary or international protection benefitting from social and humanitarian assistance to become more self reliant.



PROGRAMMATIC HIGHLIGHTS

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E):

- New reporting style is under construction for PDM14 and onwards. It will focus on monitoring results with outcome indicators.
- IVS-2 study is on-going with supportive study which aims to double check the data collected.
- PDM questionnaire will be updated due to remarks in food security.

Referral and Outreach (R&O):

- In April, Referral and Outreach field teams have conducted 551 visits in 39 cities within the context of raising awareness of local institutions such as NGOs, PDMs and carried out advocacy activities through local authority visits to remove barriers of individuals who face challenges during ESSN application.
- The Law Clinics, which were undertaken by the Union of Turkish Bar Associations and UNHCR and established in the field within the scope of supporting the access of IP and TP status holders to justice in Turkey were visited. During these visits, it was learned that Law Clinics provide legal services, psychological support, and legal counselling support to foreign households to access services.
- PIKTES (Promoting Integration of Syrian Kids into the Turkish Education System) project's provincial coordination teams in Samsun organized a 3-day informative meeting for families in different locations. TRC R&O teams along with IFRC have participated in these meetings and informed 170 foreign-national families on the ESSN programme.
- International Protection (IP) and short-term residence identities were given to Ukrainians who came to Turkey as asylum seekers as a result of the crisis in Ukraine. Thereby, first Kizilaykart applications of Ukrainians have started to be received.

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA):

- CEA information provision activities ensure that programme target group/beneficiaries are updated regarding the programmatic issues so that the monthly assistance of beneficiaries is not interrupted as long as they meet the programme criteria. One of the important information provision activities in April was the address inquiry activity. Within the scope of this activity, Facebook posts regarding address change informing the target group has been published to make sure that beneficiaries register/update their new address at the related institutions to prevent removal from the programme.
- In April, 263 questions were responded through Facebook/Programme web site and more than 273 thousand SMSes were sent out to the beneficiaries in 10 different categories. 4,526 SMSes were sent out to 2,258 households which became eligible for the first time for the ESSN Programme. 2,080 SMSes were sent out to the households who are not found eligible and 19,460 monthly removal SMSes to the households excluded from the programme.
- In April, 11,670 calls were received and recorded by toll-free 168 Kizilay Call Center. 5,526 of these calls received from females callers, 6,144 calls are received from the male callers. 93,97 per cent of these calls were in Arabic.

Coordination:

- With IFRC, the coordination unit participated in the National Basic Needs Working Group Meeting. Teams also conducted the Marmara- Aegean Basic needs meeting aligned with that, the first Southeast ESSN task force meeting of 2022 was held in the Gaziantep region on the 8 April, in which teams provided the latest update of all programs of the Kizilaykart platform. To avoid any COVID-19 transmission risk to members, the meeting was held online. In addition to other sector meetings, the coordination unit also attended the Southeast Education Sector Working Meeting and CBI-TW group meeting, in which the chairs provided a brief introduction to the ECHO's new cash policy.