



ISSUE 27: JULY 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), over 1.4 million refugees living in Türkiye have been receiving humanitarian support through monthly cash assistance.*

## July snapshots



**1,459,987 individuals**  
reached with cash assistance



**TRY 335,797,010**  
transferred to 239,677 households



**TRY 8,219,705,320**  
transferred since April 2020

## Highlights

### Post Distribution Monitoring Report - 14

The 14<sup>th</sup> round of Post Distribution Monitoring report (PDM-14) has been finalized and published. Findings of the cross-sectional survey conducted for this study show that ESSN applicants' financial struggle continues in parallel with the economic downturn that has been ongoing since the onset of the pandemic. Compared to PDM-13 report, it is seen that household expenditure escalated even further, as did household income; however, this increase did not translate into improved well-being for ESSN recipient and non-recipient households, especially in terms of food consumption. In addition, ESSN recipient households' median debt increased. To view the report and the findings related to food security, debt, income and expenditure levels of ESSN applicants, please click [here](#).

### Targeting criteria adjustment

As part of the ongoing endeavours to further minimize inclusion/exclusion error under programme targeting, the demographic criteria has been changed so that the ESSN can address vulnerabilities depending less on the demographic profile of households. To do so, the three demographic criteria that had been in effect until July 2022 were merged under one single criteria: "gender-adjusted dependency ratio". Kindly refer to page four for more details about this criteria adjustment.

**Sweepbacks:** In July, TRY 868,523.81 was swept back in total, TRY 191,885 being swept back from 203 uncollected cards and TRY 676,638.81 from 1,556 dormant accounts. The total amount of funds swept back since April 2020 is TRY 25,061,801.94



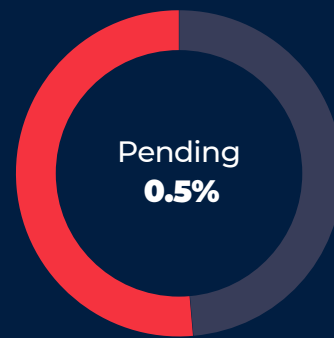
Funded by  
the European Union



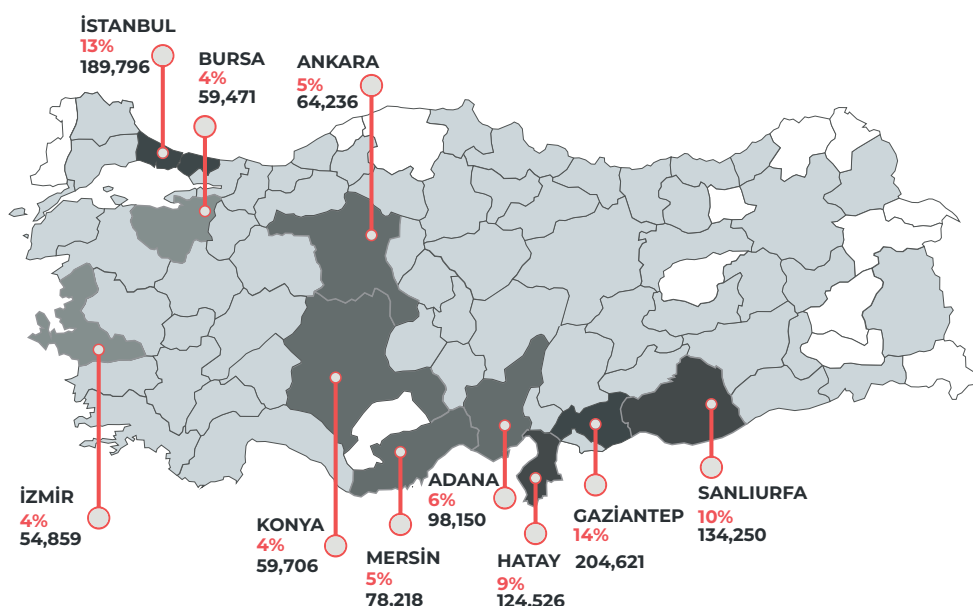
## ESSN APPLICATIONS

- In July 2022, a total of 6,054 household applications were received by the SASF offices and TRC Service Centres.
- While 24.9 per cent of these applications were received by TRC Service Centres and 75.1 per cent at SASF offices.
- The total number of household applications received since the beginning of the ESSN III Programme reached 661.072, with 36.2 per cent of the total application having been received by the TRC Service Centres.

Eligible  
**51.1%**

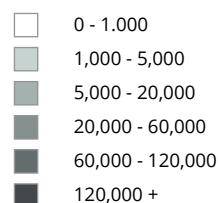


Ineligible  
**48.4%**



### Province breakdown of ESSN recipients

#### Number of individuals



## CRITERIA BREAKDOWN



**0%**

households with four or more children  
\*criteria removed



**98%**

households with high gender-adjusted dependency ratio ( $\geq 1.5$ )



**0%**

single female  
\*Criteria removed

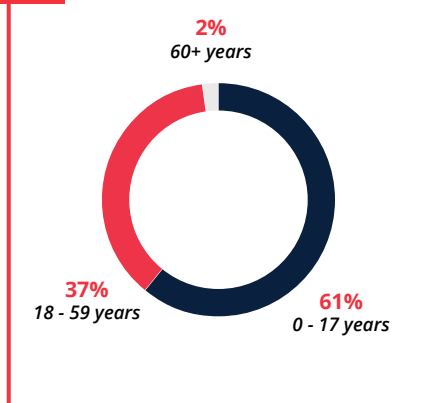
**\*2%** of households (4,416 HHs) receive ESSN assistance within the scope of the SASF discretionary allowance (SDA).

<sup>1</sup> 235,261 households were eligible through the gender-adjusted dependency ratio criteria.



## IN NUMBERS: DEMOGRAPHICS OF PEOPLE WE SERVE

### Age



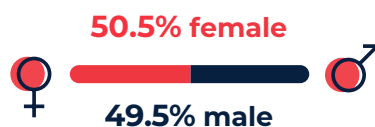
**Age breakdown** of ESSN recipients:

**0 - 17 years:** 895,336

**18 - 59 years:** 541,707

**60+ years:** 22,944

### Gender

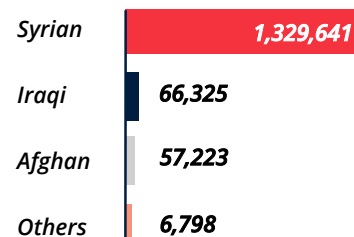


**Gender breakdown** of ESSN recipients:

**Female:** 737,509

**Male:** 722,478

### Nationality



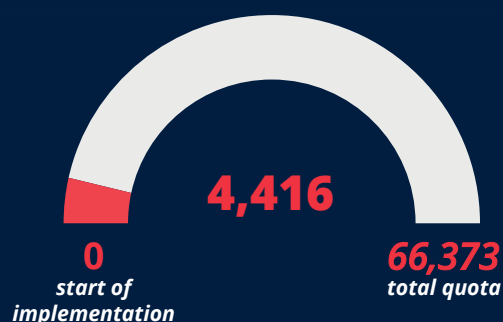
Among the 'others' category are Iranian, Somali, Pakistani, Chinese, Palestinian and other nationals.

## SASF ALLOWANCE

In June 2022, 4,416 households (17,139 individuals) received ESSN assistance via the SASF discretionary allowance (SDA) across Turkey. The SASF allowance continues to play an integral role in minimizing exclusion errors and including vulnerable households into the ESSN.

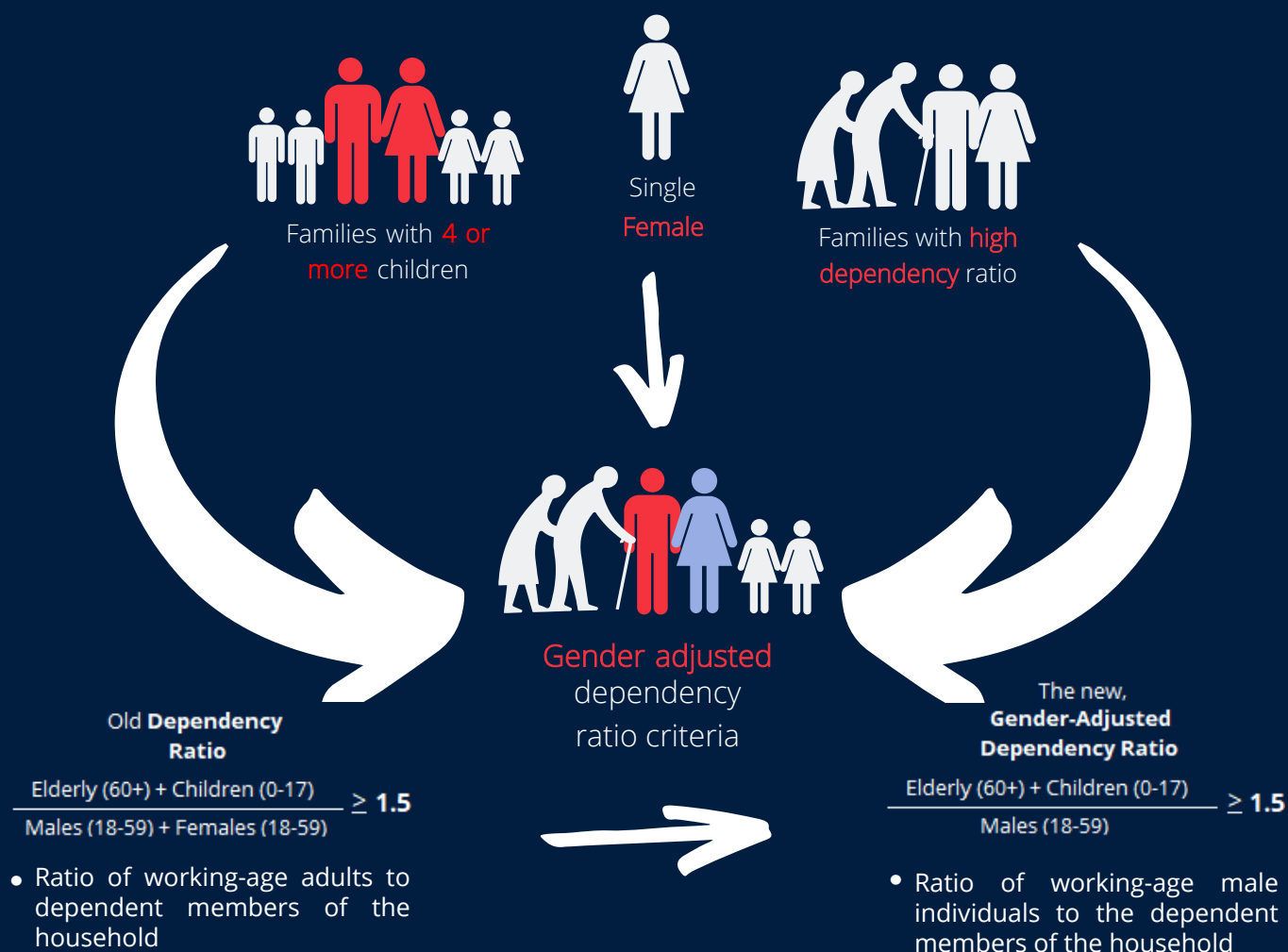
To increase the use of SASF allowance, the quota was increased from 5 per cent to 10 per cent in July.

Due to the criteria change, the ESSN's ability to target vulnerable households improved at a significant level. Therefore, many households that used to receive ESSN assistance under SASF quota are now directly covered via eligibility criteria. A total of 57 per cent of the households that received SDA allowance in June are now directly eligible for the programme; hence the sharp decrease in the number households receiving SDA allowance in July compared with the preceding months.





# TARGETING CRITERIA ADJUSTMENT



**Dependent individuals:** children aged between 0 and 17, and adults aged 60 and above.

## What has changed?

An analysis on Post-Distribution Monitoring survey data suggested that households with a high number of female adults would tend to be more vulnerable. Further analysis on this pattern showed that it was related to the old **dependency ratio** criterion assuming all working-age (18-59) individuals (both male and female) as providers. Under the new criterion, however, working-age women are no longer considered to be dependent individuals or providers. It is thanks to the **Gender-Adjusted Dependency Ratio** that a significantly greater number of vulnerabilities can now be targeted by the ESSN programme.

**For instance,** a household of **two adults** and **two children** would not be able to qualify for the ESSN until July, unless covered under the SASF discretionary allowance. With the new criterion, namely the **gender-adjusted dependency ratio**, such household can now be directly covered under the ESSN because the limitations caused by the old criteria are also removed. Therefore, there is no longer a need for having at least four children, or a household with more than one working-age individual is no longer automatically disqualified from the programme.

Moreover, the ESSN can target households **with no working-age male individuals**, provided that the following conditions are met:

- there are not more than two working-age female individuals
- total number of household members is not greater than six

# PROGRAMMATIC HIGHLIGHTS

## Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E):

- To assess the socio-economic impact of ESSN assistance on its recipients, IFRC - TRC partnership regularly conducts Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) studies. Results of these studies are used to compare recipient and non-recipient households, as well as to observe changes that took place over time. While the 14th round of PDM report was published within July, the findings suggest the following:
  - non-recipient households have higher scores in terms of economic variables (e.g. income, debt, expenditure) except for total expenditure.
  - recipient households have better scores on coping-oriented indicators (rCSI and LCSI).
- The fifth round of Focus Group Discussion (FGD) report has been published via Kizilaykart platform. While this FGD study focuses on spending and coping strategies, the main finding of the study include the following:
  - To overcome their ongoing financial struggle, both recipient and non-recipient households adopt coping strategies which include borrowing resources, cutting down on food and other expenses, and child labour.
  - FGD participants share positive feelings about the transfer value increase, however, they also share that it did not change much in their lives under heavy inflation.

## Referral and Outreach (R&O):

- In July, Referral and Outreach field teams conducted 187 visits across 19 cities within the context of raising awareness of local authorities and institutions such as PDMMs, PDPCs, SASFs, and I/NGOs. The teams carried out advocacy activities to remove barriers for individuals who face challenges during ESSN application processes.
- Visited institutions were sensitized through provision of up-to-date information on the assistance amounts and the selection criteria within the ESSN programme. The positive feedback received from these programmatic updates suggest that these visits contribute to the financial support that ESSN recipients are provided with. During the SASF visits, the new changes in both criteria and SASF allowance received positive responses from the local staff.
- In addition, R&O field teams conducted face-to-face interviews with selected ESSN recipients in Service Centres and Community Centres regarding the household verification exercise. This exercise is to ensure the programme's transparency and accountability, while also allowing for evaluations to be made from recipients' perspective."

## ESSN IV Transition Planning

- To review priorities for the ESSN III to ESSN IV transition, a set of stakeholder meetings have been initiated, and an initial session was held with ECHO and DG NEAR in early July. Discussions were centred around expectations for the handover of the donor role from ECHO to DG NEAR, how priorities for ESSN IV should guide or influence the transition planning, and the need for joint governance for the transition process. A similar session with DGSA and TRC is to take place in early August.

- Within its programme management role, IFRC, in consultation with TRC and DGSA counterparts, has started to review which activities should be retained in the ESSN IV; which activities could be transitioned to TRC or DGSA as part of their implementation roles and capacities; which activities still benefit significantly from external programme management support, and which new activities may be required for ESSN IV.

## Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA):

- Most important update regarding the ESSN Programme in July was the criteria change of the programme. CEA Teams worked diligently to communicate this change to programme target groups through the four most common languages (Turkish, Arabic, Farsi and English) in the area of humanitarian response. The content under these communication efforts will be documented and published in programme communication channels in early-August.
- Regular information provision to programme recipients regarding the existing programme communication channels is crucial in terms of accountability to the programme target groups. Within this context, information regarding the programme's official communication channels (web site, Facebook and Call Center) are shared with recipients through SMSes.
- During the reporting period, 279,561 SMSes were sent out within the scope of the ESSN Programme. In July, 1,858 households became eligible and received their first-time eligibility SMSes including the bank branch address where they can pick up their cards. 2,438 households were notified regarding their ineligibility to the programme. Additionally, beneficiaries, who were removed from the programme due to reasons such as address change and ceasing to meet the programme criteria were informed through SMSes.
- Through Facebook and Kizilaykart website, 1,933 questions were responded to regarding the Programme-related issues.

168 Kizilay Call Center continues to provide its services in five languages. Within the scope of the ESSN Programme, 16,688 calls were responded to and recorded in June. While 47.84 per cent of the calls were received from female applicants, 52.15 per cent were received from male callers. Finally, 95.66 per cent of the calls were in Arabic.

## Coordination:

- Participation in the 3RP meetings was ensured. Held periodically and regularly, these meetings are namely Cash Based Interventions, Education, Basic Needs and Livelihoods Sectors, respectively.
- Presentations on the ESSN and the C-ESSN programmes were made at BNWG meetings. After the presentations, questions from the participants about ESSN and C-ESSN were answered. Most of the questions were about the criteria and transfer values that varied under the ESSN Programme.
- Within the scope of the BNWG sector, mid-year evaluations were entered in Activity Info.
- On July 1, ESSN Task Force meeting was held within the scope of Southeastern Anatolia Region. In this context, detailed presentations were made on both ESSN, C-ESSN and CTE programmes.