



ISSUE 31: NOVEMBER 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 1.6 million refugees living in Türkiye have been receiving humanitarian support through monthly cash assistance.

November snapshots

Transfers



1,609,765 individuals
reached with cash assistance



TRY 462,363,350
transferred to 273,603 households



TRY 9,834,107,145
transferred since April 2020

Sweepbacks



TRY 585,884.49
sweepback from 1,338 dormant
accounts



TRY 154,920
sweepback from 173 uncollected cards



TRY 28,010,766.6
total sweepbacks since April 2020

Highlights

Field visits by ECHO, TRC and IFRC

Representatives from DG ECHO, IFRC and TRC conducted field visits to Altındağ Community Centre and the Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundation (SASF) office in Mamak on 22 November. The visits aimed to monitor the ESSN implementation, observe the impact of the new eligibility criterion of the ESSN assistance on households in terms of their vulnerability, social lives, livelihoods and coping strategies. Kindly refer to page four for more information.

ESSN Desk Review conducted

ECHO representatives from Ankara and Jordan came together with IFRC and TRC staff for a desk review from 17 to 19 October. The purpose of the review was to reflect on achievements and discuss challenges, as well as a way forward for the next phase of the programme. The reflections from this exercise will contribute to quality programming and more precise coordination and communication. The final desk review report is expected within December 2022.

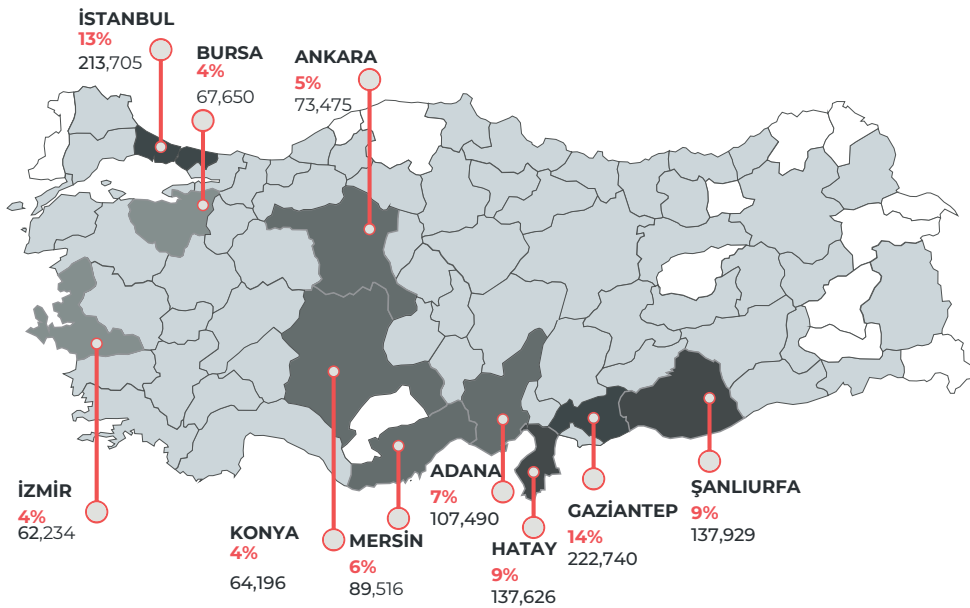
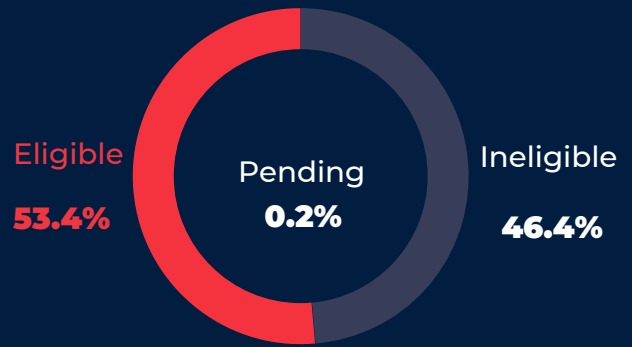


Funded by
European Union
Humanitarian Aid



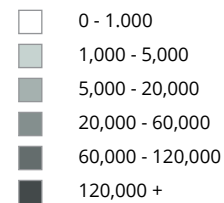
ESSN APPLICATIONS

- In November 2022, a total of 7,981 household applications were received by the SASF offices and TRC Service Centres.
- While 12.1 per cent of these applications were received by TRC Service Centres, 87.9 per cent were received by SASF offices.
- The total number of household applications received since the beginning of the ESSN III Programme reached 687,082 with 35.7 per cent of the total applications having been received by TRC Service Centres.



Province breakdown of ESSN recipients

Number of individuals



ELIGIBILITY



98.6%

263,841 households became eligible through gender-adjusted dependency ratio



1.4%

6,917 households receive the ESSN assistance within the scope of SASF Discretionary Allowance

MOST COMMON FAMILY PROFILES



72,359 (27%)
families with **1** adult male, **1** adult female and **3** children



50,893 (19%)
families with **1** adult male, **1** adult female and **4** children



30,168 (11%)
families with **1** adult male, **1** adult female and **2** children



24,799 (9%)
families with **1** adult male, **1** adult female and **5** children

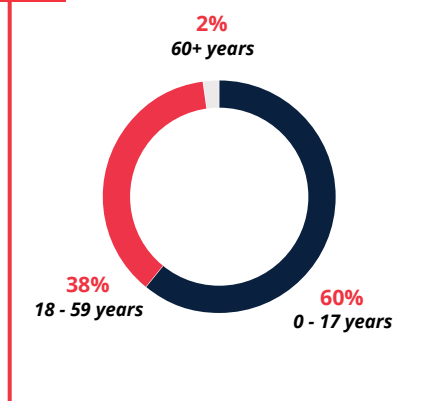


10,523 (4%)
families with **1** adult female (single female)



IN NUMBERS: DEMOGRAPHICS OF PEOPLE WE SERVE

Age



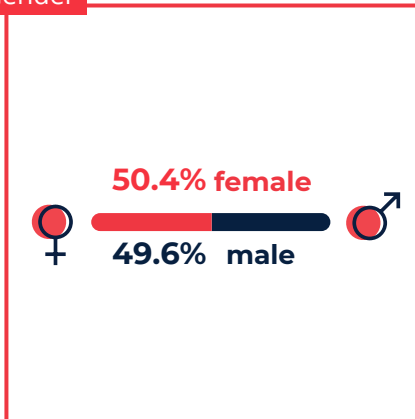
Age breakdown of ESSN recipients:

0 - 17 years: 968,276

18 - 59 years: 616,780

60+ years: 24,709

Gender

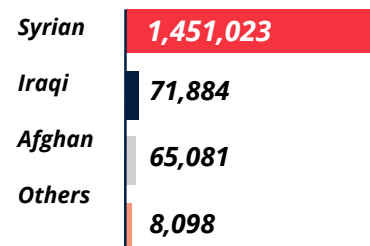


Gender breakdown of ESSN recipients:

Female: 810,944

Male: 798,821

Nationality

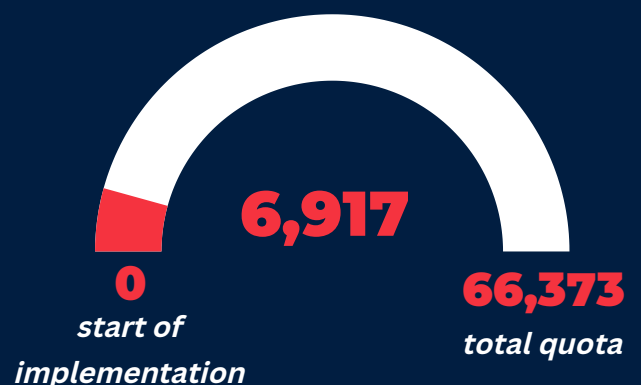


Among the 'others' category are Iranian, Somali, Pakistani, Chinese, Palestinian and other nationals.

SASF DISCRETIONARY ALLOWANCE

In November 2022, 6,917 vulnerable households (30,287 individuals) received ESSN assistance via the SASF discretionary allowance (SDA) across Türkiye. The SASF allowance continues to play an integral role in minimizing exclusion errors and including vulnerable households into the ESSN.

Due to the criteria change, the ESSN's ability to target vulnerable households improved significantly. Therefore, many vulnerable households that used to rely on the SASF quota to receive ESSN assistance are now directly covered via the eligibility criterion.





Field Visit to Mamak SASF Office

Representatives from DG ECHO, TRC and IFRC met Mamak SASF office staff to acquire information about ESSN implementation and recent developments in the SASF office and the district. The main topics discussed during the meeting include the effectiveness of the new eligibility criterion in terms of covering vulnerable households, profiling, the use of SASF Discretionary Allowance (SDA) quota, and SASF household visits.

Field observations show that there is an increase in applications to the ESSN assistance as many vulnerable households that were not included in the ESSN assistance through former selection criteria can now be directly included in the programme under the new eligibility criterion. SASF staff have reported that they are struggling to keep up with the increased workload and are conducting fewer household visits than usual.

As for the use of SDA quota, it is told to be prioritized for households where there are persons who have a disability report indicating a disability level below 40 per cent.



Field Visit to Ankara Community Centre

A focus group discussion (FGD) was conducted in the community centre with recipients of the ESSN assistance. The discussion was around job opportunities in Türkiye, working conditions, voluntary safe returns, and the barriers they face in their professional or social lives.

It was pointed out that although many refugees seem to have returned to their country of origin, most of them have returned to Türkiye due to safety concerns and lack of job opportunities there.

It was stated that there are limited job opportunities for refugees. Also, participants pointed to a pay gap between refugees and local workers working at the same place and performing the same job. Regarding the pay gap as the most pressing work-related issue was a point around which all participants came to a consensus.

While discussing employment and the ESSN assistance, all participants agreed that they would prefer having a formal job with decent salary over cash assistance despite the ESSN being a great enabler. Also, it was stated that the cash assistance amount was sometimes not enough to cover their basic needs. Finally, participants remarked upon the loss of their purchasing power despite generating more income than they used to which makes them adopt negative coping strategies including cutting down on essential expenses such as nutrition and health.

PROGRAMMATIC HIGHLIGHTS

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

Data analysis completed for 15th round of Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM-15) study. Data collection for PDM-16 is proceeding as planned, without any complications.

The Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) programme uses a range of indicators to assess the situation of households. These include the reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI), the Livelihood Coping Strategy Index (LCSI), the Food Consumption Score (FCS), debt levels, and the minimum expenditure basket (MEB). Most of this information is collected through PDM surveys which allow IFRC-TRC partnership to make comparisons between recipient and non-recipient groups, and make data-driven decisions.

The second round of Intersectoral Vulnerability Survey (IVS-2) has been completed, and a draft report has been created.

The IVS is an integral part of the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) programme funded by the European Union to support refugees in Turkey. It was planned and designed to provide regular analysis of unmet needs and how they evolve over time, across refugee population groups and geographical areas. Assessing and quantifying the humanitarian conditions of the refugee population was especially critical under COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on vulnerable refugee households. IVS is based on a comprehensive analytical framework especially tailored to the Turkish context and providing a methodological toolbox guiding data collection and analysis. The framework design was informed by an in-depth review (2020) of international and regional analytical frameworks aimed at measuring the severity of humanitarian conditions.

FGD sessions on the topic of housing and the impact of transfer value have been completed and a draft report has been prepared.

Focus group discussions are a type of small-scale, qualitative study that brings together people with similar backgrounds or experiences to discuss and share ideas. The aim of the FGD in this case was to understand the housing conditions of refugees and their perceptions of the increased transfer value.

Referral and Outreach (R&O)

Labour Market Analysis Conducted

To be able to add depth to our understanding of the job market and employment potential of the refugee population, IFRC and TRC partnership several in-depth interviews with the Chamber of Commerce and previously profiled individuals that work informally despite their desire to find formal employment.

While the Chamber interviews focused on local job openings and available sectors for the target population, individual interviews covered topics such as job-finding experiences, available opportunities, employer relationships, and opinions on formal work.

Follow up on the visit to Temporary Accommodation Centre (TAC) in Eskişehir

As a response to a request from Eskişehir TAC staff in September, TRC field teams conducted a sensitization activity about the ESSN programme. In November, the teams conducted a follow-up visit and found out that the Ukrainian nationals residing at the Centre obtained their IDs, while Tepebaşı SASF accepted ESSN applications of 54 individuals of Ukrainian origin who will begin receiving the ESSN assistance in January 2023.

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)

Programme website and Facebook

In November, 29 posts were shared on Facebook that provided information about address changes, removal reasons, warnings about dormant accounts, and uncollected cards. Also, 224 information requests/complaints/feedback have been received and responded to. It is important for ESSN programme implementation to ensure that reliable, official communication channels are in place so that programme applicants can be provided with up-to-date and accurate information about the ESSN assistance.

168 TRC Call Centre

The 168 TRC Call Centre is an efficient complaints and feedback platform for the programme target group. The Centre provides information provision services in multiple languages including Turkish, Arabic, Farsi, English, and Pashto. The Centre also receives complaint/feedback of programme target groups and refer them to the related units if necessary. During the reporting period, a total of 15,558 calls were received and responded to. While 48.7 per cent of the calls were made by female applicants to the ESSN, 51.3 per cent received from male callers.

Short Message Service (SMS)

Approximately 586,000 SMSes were sent out to target groups of the ESSN programme. The SMSes are sent to programme applicants regularly to inform them on important updates regarding their programmatic status such as eligibility/ineligibility, exclusion from the programme, monthly uploads, card distribution, etc. Additionally according to latest published satisfaction survey 75 per cent of programme recipients and non-recipients prefer to receive programme related information by SMSes.