



ISSUE 32: DECEMBER 2022

EMERGENCY SOCIAL SAFETY NET (ESSN)

Thanks to European Union funding and the 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.

December snapshots

Transfers



1,625,252 individuals
reached with cash assistance

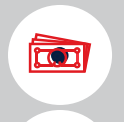


TRY 373,807,960
transferred to 277,046 households



TRY 10,207,915,105
transferred since April 2020

Sweepbacks



TRY 758,232.71
sweepback from 1,537 dormant
accounts



TRY 572,900
sweepback from 266 uncollected cards



TRY 27,978,481.29
total sweepbacks since April 2020

Highlights

The second round of Intersectoral Vulnerability Survey (IVS-2) has been finalized to be published by mid-February

The IVS plays a crucial role in the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) programme, which is funded by the European Union and helps refugees in Turkey. Its purpose is to regularly examine the unfulfilled needs of refugees and how they change over time, across different groups and regions. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on vulnerable refugee households, evaluating and determining the humanitarian conditions of the refugee population is especially important. The IVS is based on a thorough analytical framework that is specifically created for the Turkish context and includes a set of guidelines for collecting and analysing data. The design of the framework was influenced by an extensive review of various international and regional frameworks that are used to measure the severity of humanitarian conditions.

Also, kindly visit page four for a timeline of some of the brightest achievements of IFRC-TRC partnership across 2022.

IFRC GO Platform

The GO platform is a Red Cross Red Crescent platform to connect information on emergency needs with the right response. It is also the online platform where all the publicly available data is located from IFRC's operations around the globe. Kindly click here to navigate to the platform to see detailed numbers and trends on the ESSN programme and IFRC Türkiye operations.



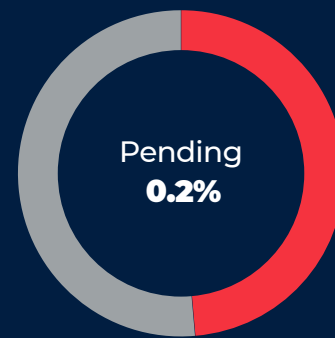
Funded by
the European Union



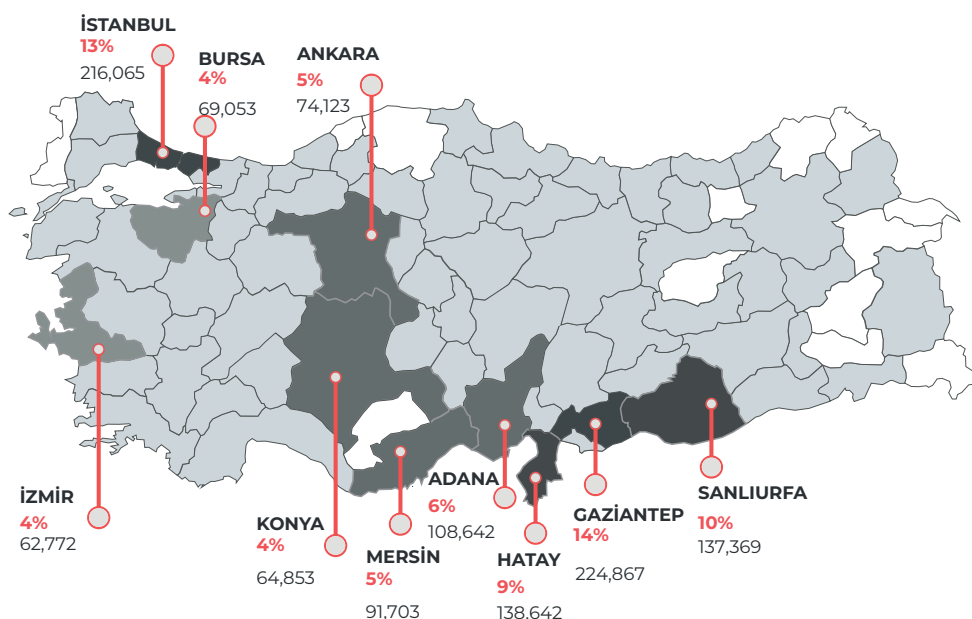
ESSN APPLICATIONS

- In December 2022, a total of 7,981 household applications were received by the SASF offices and TRC Service Centres.
- While 7.3 per cent of these applications were received by TRC Service Centres, 92.7 per cent were received by SASF offices.
- The total number of household applications received since the beginning of the ESSN III Programme reached 698,868 with 35.3 per cent of the total applications having been received by TRC Service Centres.

Eligible
53.4%



Ineligible
46.4%



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



32,234 (12%)
families with **1** adult male, **1** adult female and **2** children



72,288 (26%)
families with **1** adult male, **1** adult female and **3** children



24,908 (9%)
families with **1** adult male, **1** adult female and **5** children



51,181 (18%)
families with **1** adult male, **1** adult female and **4** children

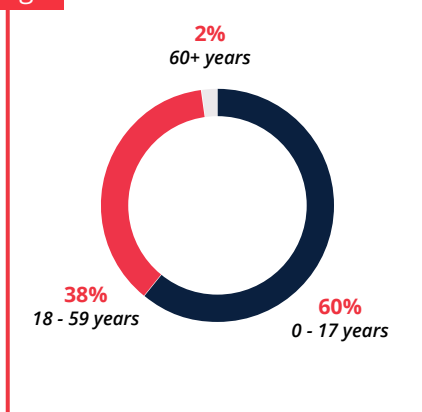


10,425 (4%)
families with **1** adult female (single female)



IN NUMBERS: DEMOGRAPHICS OF PEOPLE WE SERVE

Age



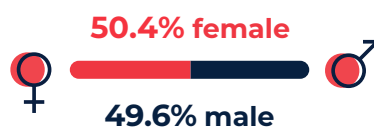
Age breakdown of ESSN recipients:

0 - 17 years: 976,111

18 - 59 years: 624,296

60+ years: 24,845

Gender

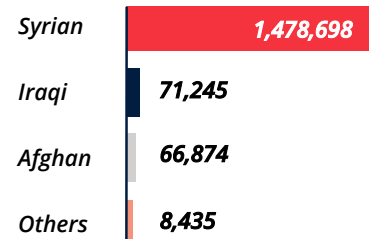


Gender breakdown of ESSN recipients:

Female: 818,516

Male: 806,736

Nationality



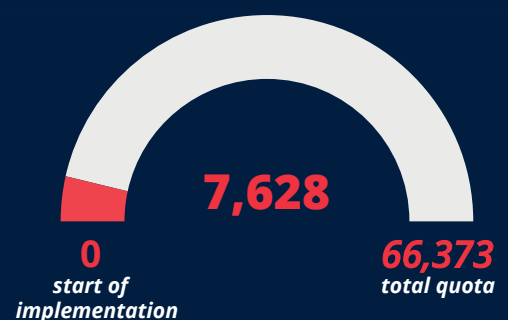
Among the 'others' category are Iranian, Somali, Pakistani, Chinese, Palestinian and other nationals.

SASF ALLOWANCE

In December 2022, 7,628 households, representing 33,389 individuals across Türkiye received the ESSN assistance via SASF discretionary allowance (SDA). 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 2022.

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 LOOK BACK AT 2022

JANUARY

#powertobe digital media campaign

Building on its success from the previous year, #PowerToBe once again sets out to promote unity and solidarity by portraying four talented refugees as who they really are: Hiba, a musician; Eslam, an illustrator; Ibrahim, a swimmer, and Mohammed, a coffee enthusiast.



30 million
people
reached



1.3%
active engagement
rate



99%
positive
sentiment

MARCH

Rotational Delegate Scheme (RDS)

Focuses on contextual application of the ESSN learning, the use of Kizilaykart data management system to inform programmes, organizational development, cash and voucher assistance, data collection tools, vulnerability analysis and targeting, data visualization, community engagement and accountability, protection mainstreaming, referral to livelihoods, information management and reporting. RDS is to facilitate learning exchange based on learning from the three rotational cycles implemented

MAY

Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) Updated

As an operational tool to calculate the cost of basic needs, MEB is considered as a monetary threshold called a poverty line. Households below this line are considered to be poor. On this update, impact of COVID-19 on socio-economic life was taken into consideration and key changes were made



Coverage of the old MEB is improved considering how dispersed the ESSN applicant population is to ensure comparison of expenditure-based MEB and right-based MEB.



Reduction in calculation of refugee MEB is out of the equation as new analysis indicate that the reduction no longer provides valid results to calculate the MEB

JULY

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, gender-adjusted dependency ratio has been introduced as the sole criterion.

$$\frac{\text{Elderly (60+) + Children (0-17)}}{\text{Male individuals (18-59)}} \geq 1.5$$

SEPTEMBER

Livelihood Pathway Study

The overall purpose of this study which focuses on establishing and enhancing livelihood referral pathways is to improve the capacity of refugees seeking employment, as well as analysing employability opportunities among refugee population through primary data collection at field level. This is to contribute to the current strengthening of livelihood internal referral mechanisms under the ESSN and to develop synergies between the IFRC and TRC's various programmes to strengthen the targeting and identification of ESSN recipients willing and able to work.

NOVEMBER

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 are to contribute to quality programming and more precise coordination and communication.

FEBRUARY

13th round of Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM-13) report published

The study involves a comparison between recipient and non-recipient households of the ESSN, covering topics regarding level of expenditure and coping strategies that applicants have adopted to meet their basic needs. Comparison between PDM-13 findings and those of the previous round reveals the following



More income but less
purchasing power



Debt as the most common
practice to help manage
finances. Compared with
non-recipients, it is easier
to both incur and pay debts
for ESSN recipients



Both recipient and non-
recipient groups are found to
reduce both quality and
quantity of the food they
consume to manage their
finances

APRIL

Referral and Transition to Livelihood Task Team

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.

JUNE

Transfer Value Increased

Aiming to address the ongoing economic hardships that have negatively affected the purchasing power, hence the livelihood of most people across Türkiye, the transfer value of the ESSN programme has been increased from TRY 155 per person to TRY 230 per person pursuant to the joint Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) calculations of TRC and IFRC.

AUGUST

Evaluative Learning Study

As a secondary data review product, Evaluative Learning Study combines quantitative data from PDM reports and qualitative data from FGD reports, as well as adopting a comparative perspective to see the differences between livelihood conditions of ESSN applicants before and through the COVID-19 pandemic.

OCTOBER

Skills Share Event

IFRC Europe and Central Asia Region Communications and Fundraising Skills Share event took place in Istanbul. With over 160 participants from 45 National Societies, the event was rated as an innovation hub aimed to guide the Movement's roadmap for digitalization and people-centred communication, as well as innovative fundraising. In addition to their role as event coordinators, IFRC Türkiye and TRC showcased their best practices in storytelling as the core of people-centred communication; community-based engagement; positive campaigning; philanthropic fundraising, and corporate communications.

DECEMBER

Intersectoral Vulnerability Survey (IVS-2) Underway!

As 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.

PROGRAMMATIC HIGHLIGHTS

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

Data analysis and reporting phases completed for 15th round of Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM-15) study. The report to be published late January.

Within the context of the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) programme, IFRC-TRC partnership uses a range of indicators to assess the situation of households. These assessments 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. Also, data collection for PDM-16 is proceeding as smoothly as planned.

Focus Group Discussion (FGD) sessions on the topic of housing and the impact of transfer value have been completed. The report to be published late January.

Focus Group Discussion is a research method that involves gathering a small group of individuals with similar backgrounds or experiences together to communicate and exchange ideas. The goal of the focus group discussion in this case was to gain insight into the living situations of refugees and their thoughts on the increased transfer value.

Referral and Outreach (R&O)

3RP Task Team December meeting, a first time for face-to-face modality

The ultimate goal behind the Task Team is related to involving government authorities as leading partners to advocate more efficiently. This meeting is critical in terms of achieving this goal. Task Team co-chairs had an official meeting with authorized staff from the General Directorate of International Labour Force. Representatives from the Ministry stated willingness to be actively involved in Task Team meetings, as well as collaborate with the Task Team on nation-wide projects. Task Team's policy brief has been shared with the Ministry to present feedback about addressed issues and presented suggestions. Proactive involvement of the Ministry is expected to facilitate achieving goals stated in the Task Team's road map.

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)

Advisory Committee meeting held in Kayseri – Presentation made on the ESSN programme and Q&A session held

The advisory committee is formed through mobilizing migrant and host community members who are familiar with the local social construct and can contribute to strengthening harmonization in the community. Committee members are selected based on their willingness to represent the local and/or refugee communities; ability to disseminate key information among local and/or refugee communities; ability to participate regularly and voluntarily.

The goals of the ESSN presentation include:

- raising awareness among community members regarding the ESSN programme especially the latest updates
- engaging the community and collect feedback from them and the host community
- informing communities about the existing channels for providing their feedback and raising their complaints/concerns about the ESSN programme.

Programme website and Facebook

In December 2022, 29 posts were shared on Facebook that provided information about address changes, removal reasons, notification about dormant accounts, and uncollected cards. Also, 199 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 complaints/feedback of programme target groups and refer them to the related units if necessary. During the reporting period, a total of 13,064 calls were received and responded to. While 49.6 per cent of the calls were made by female applicants to the ESSN, 50.4 per cent received from male callers.

Short Message Service (SMS)

Approximately 313,292 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.

Coordination

Coordination unit participated in 3RP sectoral and sub-sectoral meetings, as well as the Syrian taskforce meeting and the CBI-mapping meeting conducted on 9 December. Simultaneously, the Unit conducted ESSN taskforce meetings at three different locations. While the ESSN Marmara-Aegean region taskforce meeting was held on the 8th of December, and the SET taskforce and national meeting were conducted on 15-16 December, respectively. These meetings play an essential role in broadening recognition of the accomplishments achieved under the ESSN programme.

While the ESSN taskforce meetings aim to share the most up-to-date data about the ESSN programme, the newly-launched project supporting Ukrainian people in the accommodation centre was raised as a thematic issue.