

ISSUE 33: JANUARY 2023

# 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.*

## January snapshots

### Transfers



**1,635,950 individuals**  
reached with cash assistance



**TRY 376,268,500**  
transferred to 279,475 households



**TRY 10,584,183,605**  
transferred since April 2020

### Sweepbacks



**TRY 688,769.92**  
sweptback from 2,003 dormant  
accounts



**TRY 570,020**  
sweptback from 347 uncollected cards



**TRY 30,600,689.24**  
total sweepbacks since April 2020

## Highlights

### The 15<sup>th</sup> round of Post Distribution Monitoring report (PDM-15) published

Aiming to measure the extent to which expenses for basic needs such as food, rent, utilities, non-food items (NFI), health, and education, PDM-15 tracks changes over time and compare the findings with previous rounds of the same study. The objectives of the study include assessing the impact of ESSN assistance on the socio-economic conditions of ESSN applicants, with particular focus on their expenditure levels, coping strategies, food consumption behaviours and debt levels; determining how income, debt and expenditure are critical in understanding households' economic resilience; exploring the severity of the coping strategies households adopt against financial challenges; assessing food security levels, and comparing these findings with those of the preceding studies to further understand how target populations' needs evolve over time. This study also allows IFRC-TRC partnership to make comparisons between recipient and non-recipient populations of the ESSN assistance. Kindly refer to page four for main findings of this study.

### The 7<sup>th</sup> round of Focus Group Discussion (FGD-7) drafted

After thematic rounds of FGDs have been conducted and the results analysed, the report "Housing Experiences and Living Conditions of the Foreigners Living in Türkiye" has been drafted. The report provides insights about the housing conditions of ESSN target populations with information ranging from physical conditions of houses to FGD participants' relationship with their property owners. Full report will be published soon.



Funded by  
the European Union

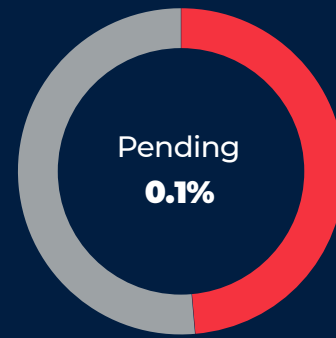


# ESSN APPLICATIONS

- In January 2023, a total of 2,640 household applications were received by the SASF offices and TRC Service Centres.
- While 27.5 per cent of these applications were received by TRC Service Centres, 72.5 per cent were received by SASF offices.
- The total number of household applications received since the beginning of the ESSN III Programme reached 701,508 with 35.2 per cent of the total applications having been received by TRC Service Centres.

Eligible

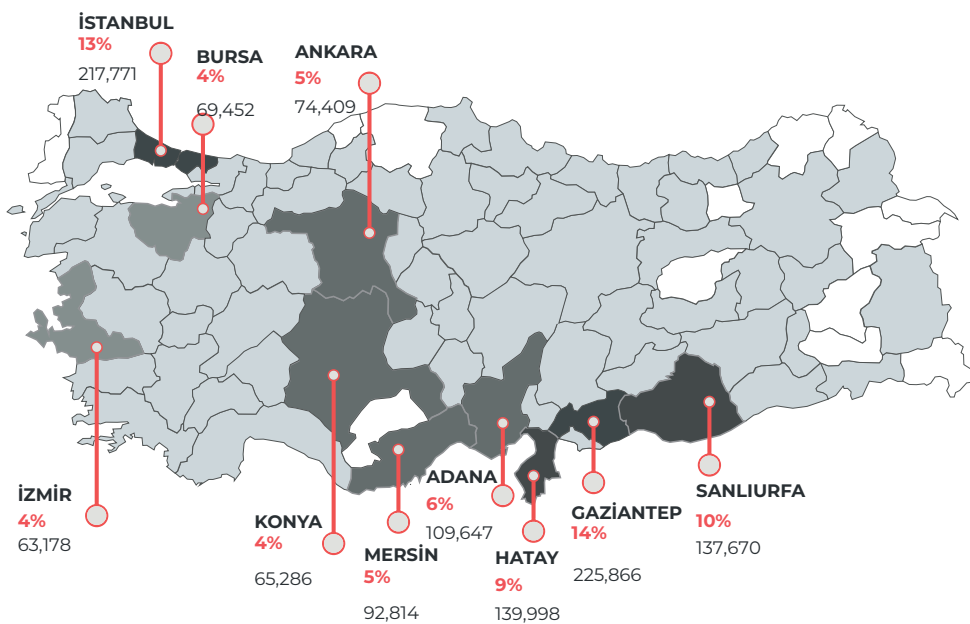
**52.3%**



Ineligible

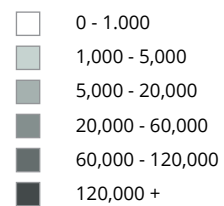
**46.4%**

**Note:** 1.2 per cent of the registered households will no longer receive the cash assistance due to several reasons, including decease of the head of household.



## Province breakdown of ESSN recipients

Number of individuals



## ELIGIBILITY



**97.1%**

271,371 households became eligible through gender-adjusted dependency ratio



**2.9%**

8,104 households receive the ESSN assistance within the scope of SASF Discretionary Allowance

## MOST COMMON FAMILY PROFILES



**33,635 (12%)** families with **1** adult male, **1** adult female and **2** children



**72,161 (26%)** families with **1** adult male, **1** adult female and **3** children



**25,028 (9%)** families with **1** adult male, **1** adult female and **5** children



**51,491 (18%)** families with **1** adult male, **1** adult female and **4** children

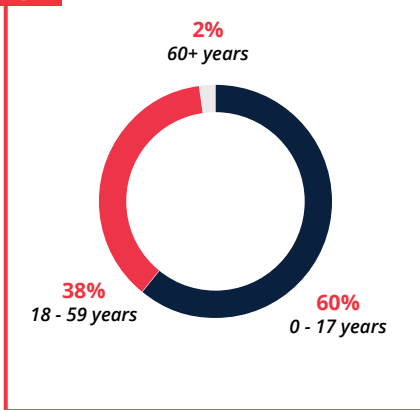


**10,373 (4%)** families with **1** adult female (single female)



## IN NUMBERS: DEMOGRAPHICS OF PEOPLE WE SERVE

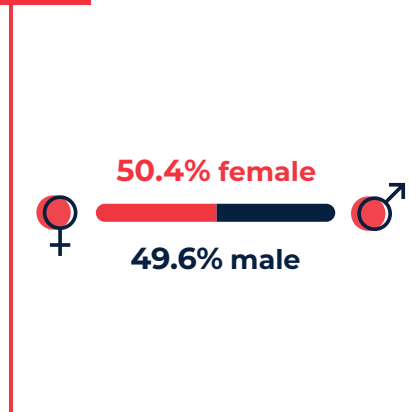
### Age



**Age breakdown** of ESSN recipients:

**0 - 17 years:** 981,646  
**18 - 59 years:** 629,338  
**60+ years:** 24,966

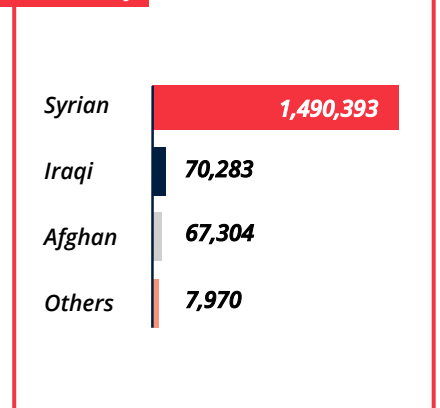
### Gender



**Gender breakdown** of ESSN recipients:

**Female:** 823,750  
**Male:** 812,200

### Nationality



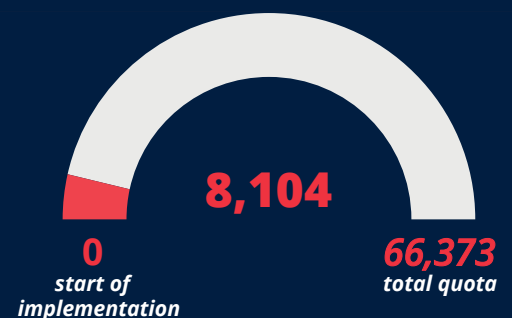
Among the 'others' category are Iranian, Somali, Pakistani, Chinese, Palestinian and other nationals.

## SASF ALLOWANCE

In January 2023, 8,104 households, representing 35,373 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.

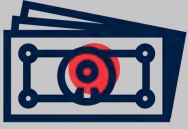


# POST DISTRIBUTION MONITORING (PDM-15)

PDM is a study that aims at evaluating the impact of the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) assistance on the socio-economic condition of its recipient population. The study focuses on four key areas, including level of expenditure, debt, coping strategies, and food consumption, with an aim in mind to track changes over time and make comparisons between recipient and non-recipient households.

Data collection for this study was conducted between June and October 2022, and a total of 4,864 applicants to the ESSN programme were interviewed (2,558 recipients and 2,306 non-recipients). Specific objectives of this study are to measure the extent to which minimum expenses, including food, rent, utilities, non-food items, health, and education are met, and to determine the relationship between income, debt, and expenditure to understand households' economic resilience, assess the severity of coping strategies adopted in financial difficulties, and determine the security of food consumption habits.

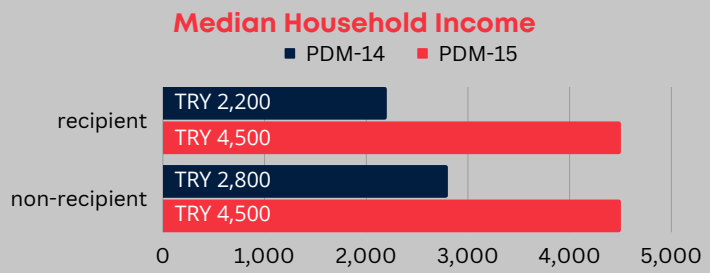
## INCOME



Comparison between PDM-14 and PDM-15 results shows that there is a substantial increase in the median household income levels for both recipient and non-recipient populations, reaching TRY 4,500 from TRY 2,220 and TRY 2,800 respectively.

In terms of regional breakdown, it is seen that applicants residing in Istanbul region have the highest income levels, as opposed to those in Southeast region who live on the lowest income level.

As for the income sources, unskilled labour stands out as the main one for both recipient and non-recipient populations.

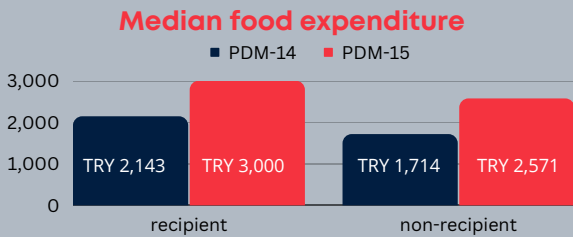


## EXPENDITURE

Median household expenditure has reached TRY 8,367 and 7,094 for recipient and non-recipient households respectively. While the top three regions with the highest median expenditure was Istanbul, Aegean and Anatolia, the five main expenditure items of households are food, rent, clothing, utilities and hygiene.



In terms of regional breakdown, it is seen that applicants residing in Istanbul region have the highest income levels, as opposed to those in Southeast region who live on the lowest income level.



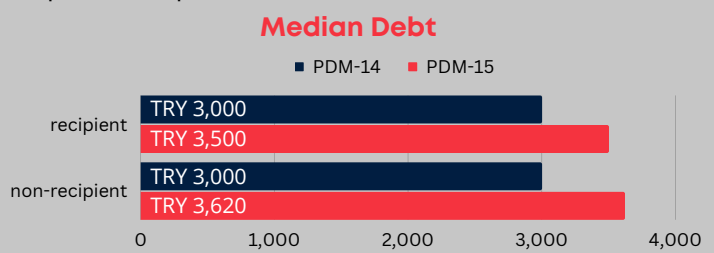
Majority of ESSN applicant population had per capita expenditure levels above the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB). Most prominent expenses increases were energy (88 per cent), electricity (27 per cent), food (25 per cent), clothing & shoes (18 per cent), and water (12 per cent).

## DEBT



PDM-15 results show that 81 per cent of the ESSN recipient households are in debt. As for the sources from where ESSN applicants incur debt, survey results show that main source of debt for ESSN recipients (65 per cent) is local shops, whereas it is friends and relatives for non-recipients (58 per cent) of the ESSN assistance.

Another debt-related topic that PDM-15 analyses is the reason behind individuals incurring debt. Study results reveal that both recipient and non-recipient households borrowed money to meet their most basic needs such as food, rent, utilities, essential non-food items, and healthcare.

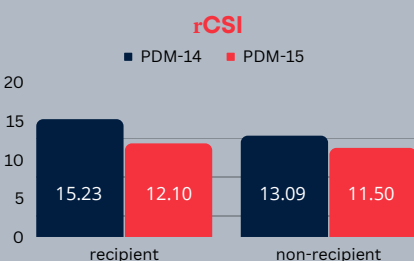


## COPING STRATEGIES

### Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI)

Comparison between rCSI scores of PDM 14 and PDM-15 shows that the scores are on a downward trend. This score has dropped from 15.23 to 12.10 for ESSN recipients, while the drop is from 13.09 to 11.50 for non-recipient households.

The most widely adopted coping strategy for ESSN applicant households is resorting to less preferred or cheap food for both recipients (80 per cent) and non-recipients (76 per cent).



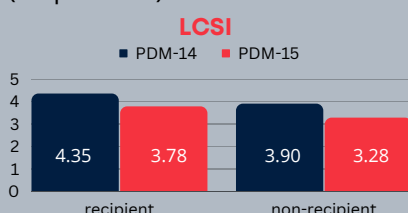
### Livelihood Coping Strategy Index (LCSI)

LCSI scores under PDM-15 are slightly lower compared with those under PDM 14 for both recipient (from 4.35 to 3.78) and non-recipient (from 3.90 to 3.28) households.

**Stress coping strategies** buying food on credit (68 per cent) and incurring debt from non-relatives (44 per cent) for all ESSN applicants.

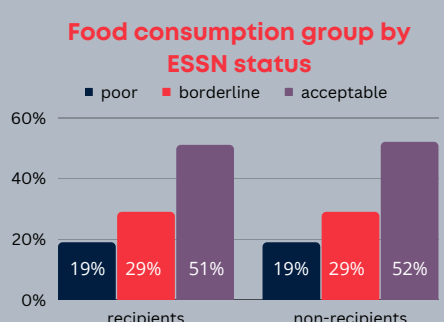
**Crisis coping strategies** applicant households cut down on education and health related expenses. In total, children from 7 per cent of recipients and 5 per cent of non-recipients dropped out of school.

**Emergency coping strategies** for recipients, child labor is the most common emergency coping strategy (11 per cent), while for non-recipients it is moving the household to another location (11 per cent).



### Food Security

This area is based on Food Consumption Score (FCS) and Household Food Insecurity Access Scale (HFIAS). Both these scores indicate a high level of food insecurity for ESSN applicants. The degree of food security of a household is calculated using a US Household Food Security Survey Module which consists of 18 questions. While 70 per cent of recipient households can be categorized as food insecure under PDM-15, the ratio for non-recipient households is 68 per cent. Similarly, half of both ESSN recipient (51.5 per cent) and non-recipient households (52.1 per cent) have acceptable food consumption scores. Percentage of households with acceptable FCS has increased for both ESSN recipient and non-recipient households compared to PDM 14.



# 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 has been published.**

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. For PDM-16, data analysis is ongoing, preliminary results have been produced.

**Focus Group Discussion (FGD) report on "Housing and the Impact of Transfer Value" has been prepared, awaiting finalization for publication.**

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 in a thematic environment. The main objective of the FGD practice in this case was to gain insight into the living situations of refugees and their opinions on the increased transfer value.

**The second round of Intersectoral Vulnerability Survey (IVS-2) on draft reporting stage. Analysis results have been produced and compared with IVS-1 in terms of financial conditions of target populations.**

As an integral part of the ESSN programme, IVS was planned to regularly analyze the unmet needs and monitor the changes in them over time, taking into account geographical areas and the differences among the refugee population groups. Given the context of this round of the IVS, it was particularly important to assess the humanitarian conditions of refugees under the impact of COVID-19 pandemic. IVS was designed based on a comprehensive analytical framework, which was specifically tailored to the context in Türkiye, and it provides a systematic approach to data collection and analysis. The framework was developed by thoroughly reviewing existing international and regional analytical frameworks for measuring the severity of humanitarian conditions in 2020.

## Referral and Outreach (R&O)

**Sensitization visits to SASFs on the usage of discretionary allowance (SDA quota)**

Since the change on eligibility criteria of the ESSN assistance, there has been a notable decrease in the number of individuals receiving the assistance under SASF discretionary allowance. Field teams have been conducting sensitization visits to SASFs across Türkiye about the use of SDA quota. In January, field teams identified a case where a household consisting of a single mother of two; an adult male and a girl under 18 was not included under the ESSN assistance due to not meeting the new selection criterion. So, the teams sensitized the local SASF office at the area and advocated to grant this family the ESSN assistance through the SDA quota. Consequently, the family was accepted under the SDA quota and will soon start to receive the ESSN assistance.

## Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)

### Programme website and Facebook

In January 2023, 34 posts were shared on Facebook that provided information about address changes, removal reasons, notification about dormant accounts, and uncollected cards. Also, 178 information requests/complaints/feedback have been received and responded to (corresponding to a 100 per cent response rate). 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.

### Short Message Service (SMS)

Approximately 304,483 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. Also, SMS is one of the most important communication tools to provide information to the target group as they are short and precise messages being directly delivered to individuals.

## Coordination

**3RP coordination structure launched its working group meetings at the end of January 2023**

Programme Coordination and Partnership team participated in sectoral and sub-sectoral meetings. Teams attended the Southeast education sector working meeting and participated in the newly launched Economic Empowerment Sector (EES) Meeting. As part of the Basic Need Working Group agenda item, the teams also attended the Joint Basic Need Working Group Meeting, which is conducted to cover nationwide, along with the CBI-TW Group.

Teams participate in these meetings to follow up on achievements in relevant sectors, showing the progress of the Kizilaykart platform to all sectors as Kizilaykart approach involves a multisectoral assistance programming.