

ISSUE 34: APRIL 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 (TRC), over 1.5 million refugees living in Türkiye have been receiving humanitarian support through monthly cash assistance.

Monthly Cash Transfers

February

March

April



1,543,758 individuals 278,586 households	1,541,829 individuals 278,691 households	1,541,349 individuals 278,600 households
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TRY 463,127,400 monthly payment	TRY 462,548,700 monthly payment	TRY 462,404,700 monthly payment
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February quarterly top-up TRY 102,332,500	April Earthquake Top-up TRY 19,392,750 for 14,365 ESSN Households TRY 8,056,500 for 5,371 C-ESSN Households
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TRY 11,149,643,505	TRY 11,612,192,205	TRY 12,102,046,155
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Sweptback since April 2020

Emergency Response Efforts

Following the earthquakes that struck Gaziantep and Kahramanmaraş on 6 February, affecting over 9 million people across 11 provinces, displacing almost 2 million, causing a death toll mounting up to over 50 thousand, IFRC - TRC partnership immediately paused non-essential services under the ESSN programme to channel all possible workforce into the earthquake response efforts, whilst maintaining cash transfers at the core of ESSN assistance. The paused services include sweepbacks, reporting, registration & application, data collection & analysis for ESSN studies such as Post Distribution Monitoring reports and Satisfaction Surveys. Kindly refer to page four and five for more details regarding the extent of IFRC - TRC partnership's efforts under the earthquake response.



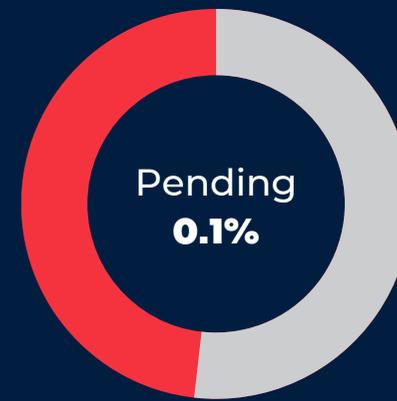
Funded by
European Union
Humanitarian Aid



ESSN APPLICATIONS

- In April 2023, a total of **1.799 household applications** were received by the **Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundation (SASF) offices** and **TRC Service Centres**.
- While 25 per cent of these applications were received by **TRC Service Centres**, 75 per cent were received by **SASF Offices**.
- The **total number** of households applications received since the beginning of the **ESSN III programme** has reached **708,275** with **35.1 per cent** of total applications having been received by **TRC Service Centres**

Ineligible
46.6%

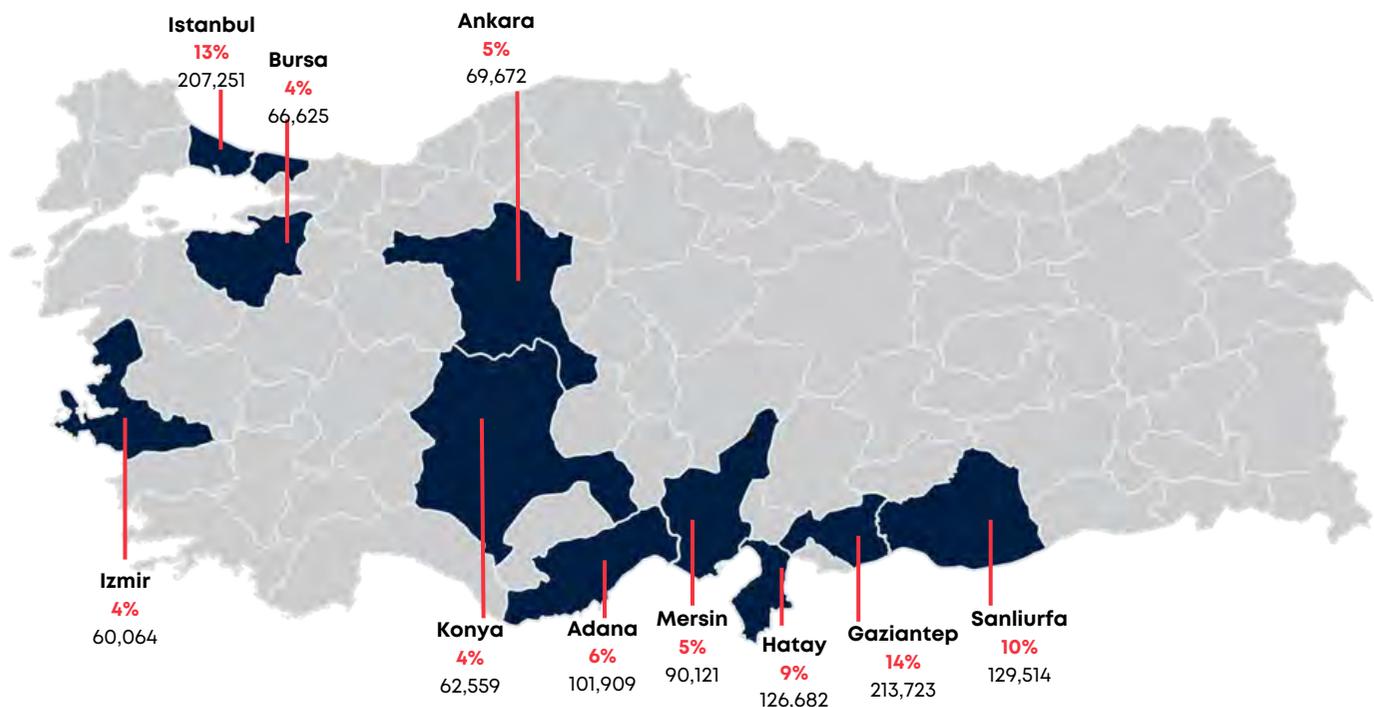


Eligible
51.8%

Note: The remaining 1.5 per cent of all applications made within April 2023 have been completed.

Province breakdown of ESSN recipients

These provinces contain **74%** of ESSN III recipients



96.8%

269,684 households became eligible under **gender-adjusted dependency ratio**

ELIGIBILITY



3.2%

8,916 households received the ESSN assistance within the scope of **SASF Discretionary Allowance**

MOST COMMON FAMILY PROFILES



56,256 (20%) families with **1** adult male, **1** adult female and **3** children



48,891 (16%) families with **1** adult male, **1** adult female and **4** children



27,935 (10%) families with **1** adult male, **1** adult female and **2** children



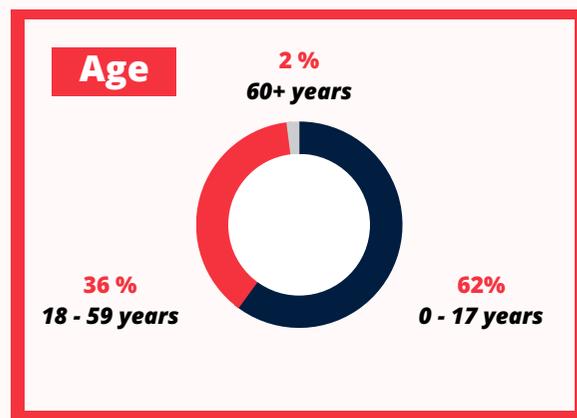
23,171 (8%) families with **1** adult male, **1** adult female and **5** children



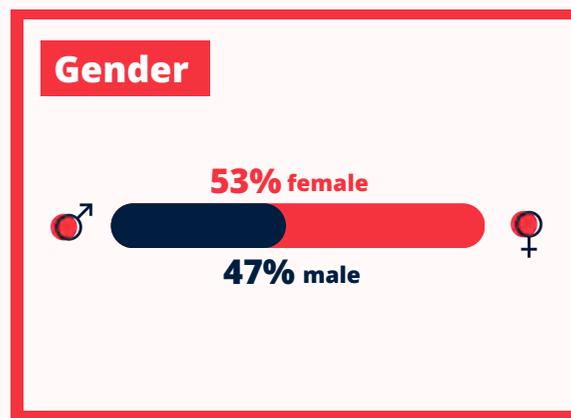
16,381 (6%) families with **1** adult female and **2** children



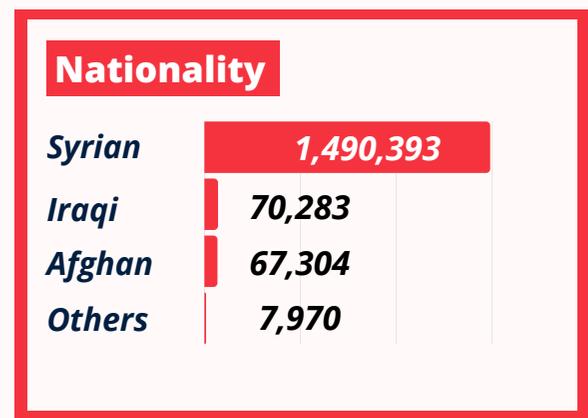
IN NUMBERS: DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE PEOPLE WE SERVE



Age breakdown of ESSN recipients
0 - 17 years: 776,288
18 - 59 years: 555,191
60+ years: 25,675



Gender breakdown of ESSN recipients
Female: 819,111
Male: 722,238



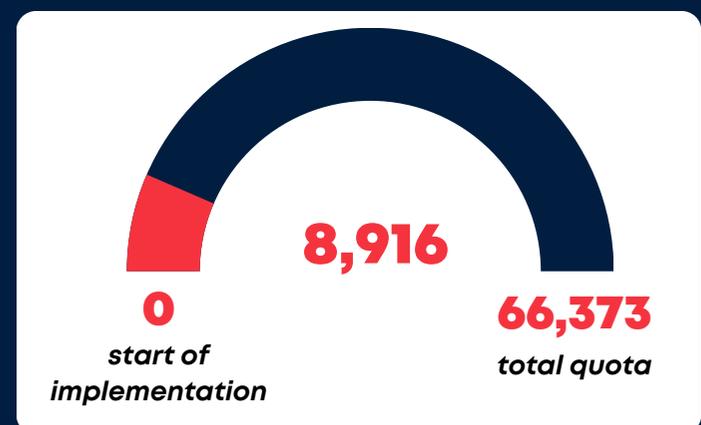
Among the "others" are Iranian, Somalian, Pakistani, Chinese, Palestinian and other nationals

SASF Discretionary Allowance

In April 2023, 8,916 households across Türkiye received the ESSN assistance via SASF Discretionary Allowance (SDA). This SASF allowance continues to play an integral role in minimizing exclusion errors, while including vulnerable households under the ESSN assistance programme.

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 have improved at a significant level. Therefore, many households that used to rely on vulnerabilities to be eligible for the assistance are now directly covered under the new eligibility criteria.



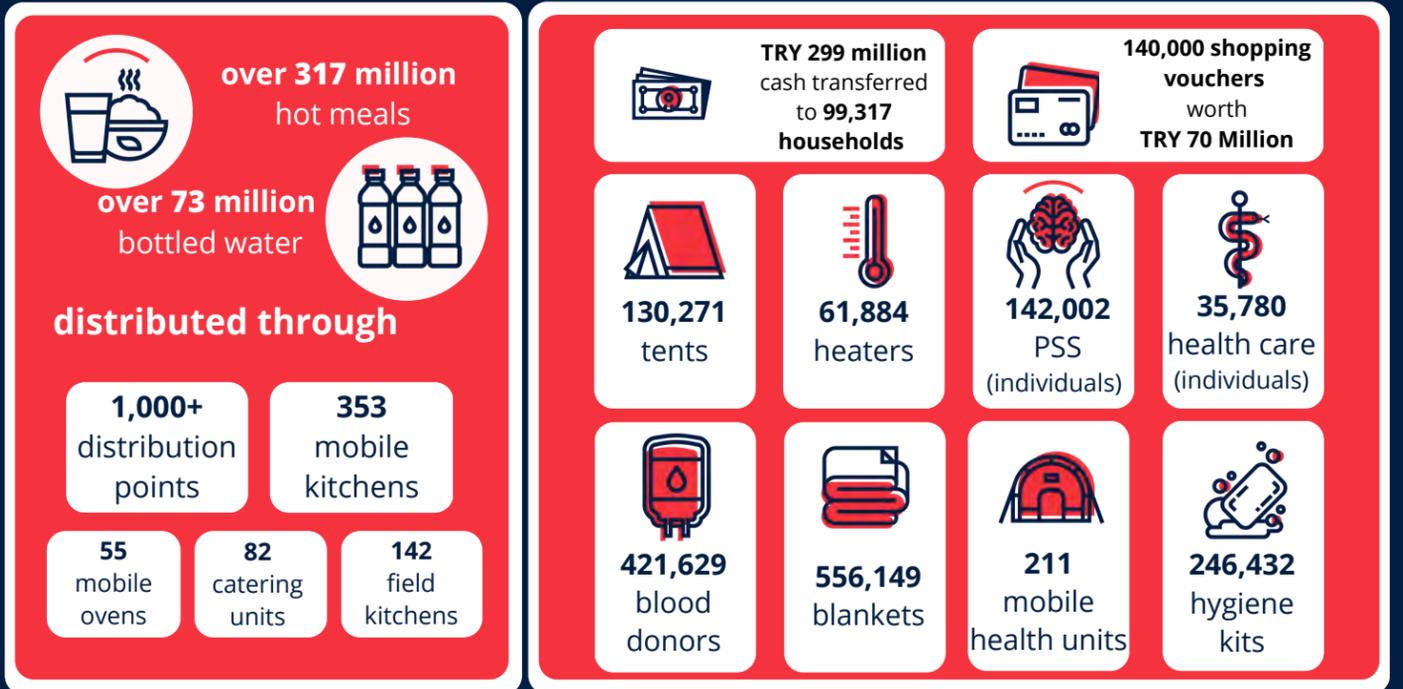
EMERGENCY RESPONSE EFFORTS

Turkish Red Crescent Response

timeline of activities within the first five hours

- 04:17** ((●)) **Kahramanmaraş Pazarcık EQ (7.7)**
- 04:23** ● TRC Director General for Disaster Management deploys to Kızılay Disaster Operations Centre
- 04:39** ● The first TRC DM Emergency Response team en route to the affected area
- 05:00** ● TRC opens its first community kitchen to provide hot meals
- 05:30** ● TRC opens its first food truck to provide hot meals
- 05:46** ● TRC has 10 disaster response teams en route to the affected area
- 06:00** ● TRC starts serving hot soup in the affected area
- 08:45** ● TRC has 10 trucks loaded with tents en route to the affected area

Extent of TRC's Reach in the Affected Area (as of 9 May 2023)



The Turkish authorities, under the umbrella of **Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD)**, have been leading the overall coordination and management of the earthquake response. As the only National Society to be active in the affected area, **Turkish Red Crescent** leads in mass feeding, psychosocial support, relief distribution (blankets, sleeping bags, heaters, hygiene kits, beds and other non-food items) and blood services. TRC continues to deliver aid materials, especially to the hard-to-reach areas and villages, using off-road vehicles and other available transport means. overall coordination of mass feeding services in the disaster-affected areas.

TRC's response is channeled through its disaster response centres and respective branches. Overall, **1,038** staff and **1,512** volunteers are on the field. On a rotational basis, the cumulative total of deployed staff is over **4,000**, while approximately **150,000** volunteers are engaged to implement the response.



EARTHQUAKE IMPACT ON ESSN IMPLEMENTATION

Community Engagement and Accountability

CEA teams utilized five dissemination channels to share relevant information under the earthquake response including TRC 168 call centre, KIZILAYKART website and Facebook page, SMSes and face to face. 150,777 SMSes were sent on the day of the EQ to raise awareness on what to do, as well as providing relevant phone maps. Kızılaykart Facebook page was used to share several important updates and announcements from various government institutions which were translated into Arabic, Farsi and English by the CEA teams. There was a special focus on rumour tracking through manual social media monitoring and collection of rumours from field observations through staff deployed in the field as well. The IFRC CEA team actively took part and continues to take part in inter-agency working groups. Several bilateral meetings took place between UN agencies on messaging and trainings created by IFRC, and IFRC CEA team provided inputs and support on the development of messaging materials to be used by a wide inter-agency group.



Assessments and Analyses

The monitoring and evaluation unit operated as a dynamic think tank, providing compelling evidence of the earthquake's impact on the host community, ESSN and CESSN population (Shaken to the Core and Portrayal of pre-disaster livelihoods). Their influential efforts shaped decision-making, including the inter-agency Multi-sectoral Initial Rapid Market Assessment (MIRA). Through consultations with more than 2,000 community leaders (Consultation with Communities), M&E identified critical needs and province-specific severity categorization. Their market assessments acted as beacons, guiding targeted strategies of cash injection (Market assessment - dire humanitarian situation), while immersing themselves in two subsequent rounds of empathetic engagement with affected consumers and suppliers. The M&E comprehensive approach, backed by evidence-based insights, significantly shaped the earthquake response and delivered tailored support to affected communities.

Furthermore, analysis on bank transactions of ESSN and C-ESSN recipients in the affected area helped facilitate the efficient execution of cash assistance programmes planned under the earthquake response. Secondary data review was also undertaken to support and inform decision making. As an IFRC emergency reporting tool, Situation Reports were prepared on a biweekly basis and circulated externally to share up to date information within Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, as well as with relevant stakeholders. These reports provide information based on sectors and were shared on [IFRC GO platform](#).

PROGRAMMATIC HIGHLIGHTS

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

- **Data analysis and reporting phases completed for 16th round of Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM-16) study. The report is being finalized for publication.**

Data collection for PDM-17 is planned to be initiated within May 2023.

- **Focus Group Discussion (FGD) reports on the way:**

Housing and the Impact of Transfer Value: finalized to be published soon.

Perspectives and Experiences on Gender-adjusted Dependency Ratio and Newly Eligible Recipients: data collection and analysis completed. Awaiting finalization to be published.

Adapting to New Realities: A Study of Changes in Refugee Household Compositions and Living Conditions after the Kahramanmaraş Earthquake: data collection started. The collected data will be analysed to produce this study.

- **The second round of Intersectoral Vulnerability Survey (IVS-2) finalized. Analysis results have been produced and compared with IVS-1 in terms of financial conditions of target populations. This product has been published in late April.**

Referral and Outreach (R&O)

- **Market vouchers distributed by field teams in Temporary Accommodation Centres (TACs) to EQ-affected people.**

Market vouchers have been distributed across seven TACs to the affected population to help them meet their basic needs in the aftermath of the EQ across seven TACs.

- **The Collective Kindness (CK) project being implemented successfully.**

Being a part of EQ response efforts, Collective Kindness is designed to provide cash assistance to vulnerable households affected by the EQ. Households with residents moderately or severely affected by the EQ are provided with this assistance to help them meet their basic needs. The know-how pool, accumulated through ESSN implementation has been essential within both design and implementation of this intervention.

Coordination

- The focus of the 3RP coordination meetings have shifted to food security meetings in various provinces. Kizilaykart coordination team attend these meetings, as well as protection meetings on the needs of the affected population, weekly cash-based intervention working group (CBI-WG) meetings (chaired by UNHCR-TRC) held to lead other institutions that are planning on cash programmes/projects. The Food Security Livelihood (FSL) meeting in Adiyaman, Kahramanmaraş, Malatya, Hatay, and Gaziantep are held weekly to meet the emergency needs at the field level

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)

- **The fourth round of ESSN Satisfaction Survey (SS-4) published.**

- **Programme website and Facebook**

In April 2023, **35 posts** were shared on **Facebook** to provide information about address changes, removal reasons, notification about dormant accounts and uncollected cards. Also, **200 information requests/complaints/feedback** have been received and responded to (corresponding to a 100 per cent response rate).

- **168 TRC Call Centre**

During the reporting period, a total of **10,524** calls were received and responded to. While **49** per cent of the calls were received from female individuals, **51** per cent came from male callers.

- **Short Message Service (SMS)**

Approximately 308,069 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.