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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 humanitarion support through monthly cash assistance.

Cash Transfers

In June 2023, TRC - IFRC partnership made the all-time high monthly cash transfer since the beginning of ESSN programme

1,525,816 individuals from **275,949** households reached with assistance

A total of **TRY 939,830,100** was transferred in June

TRY 458,003,400 was transferred as monthly ESSN payment

A total of **TRY 481,826,700** was transferred as earthquake top up payment

Top-up Breakdowns

TRY 283,113,900 was transferred to **123,093 households** living **in** the EQ zone **(TRY 2,300 per HH)**	**TRY 198,712,800** was transferred to **152,856 households** living **outside** the EQ zone **(TRY 1,300 per HH)**

Technical Monitoring Mission

30 May - 2 June 2023

DG ECHO representatives conducted the last technical monitoring mission in Adana, Hatay and Mersin before the ESSN programme's handover to DG NEAR. The main objective of this mission was making field level observations on two main topics; effects of the recent targeting adaptations introduced to the ESSN, and existing communication and information channels of the programme. In this regard, FGDs and visits to SASF offices and refugee households were conducted to make these observations, focusing on the strengths and areas of improvement for ESSN handover to ensure vulnerabilities sensitivities that have been at the center of such a big scale cash transfer programme are also handed over smoothly.

BACK AT ROCK BOTTOM: REFUGEES ESCAPING YET ANOTHER DISASTER

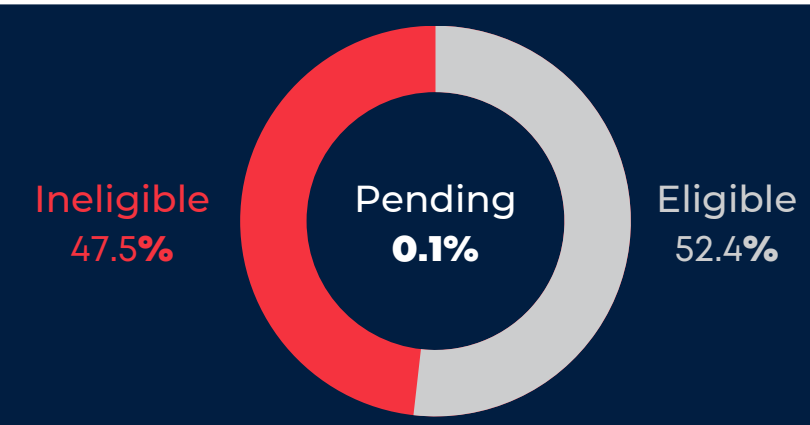
Aiming to further explore the impact of the earthquakes on the ESSN target population, IFRC in partnership with TRC used the 11th round of the FGD analysis to explore the changes in the following areas: household compositions of refugees due to earthquakes and internal movements; living conditions of refugees in terms of access to basic needs such as health and education services, household expenditure and livelihood opportunities; refugees' observations on demographic changes in their neighourhoods, and refugees' perspective on the future of their situation. While the full report is accessible here, kindly refer to page four for more details about the FGD-11 report.

Funded by European Union Humanitarian Aid

TÜRK KIZILAY IFRC

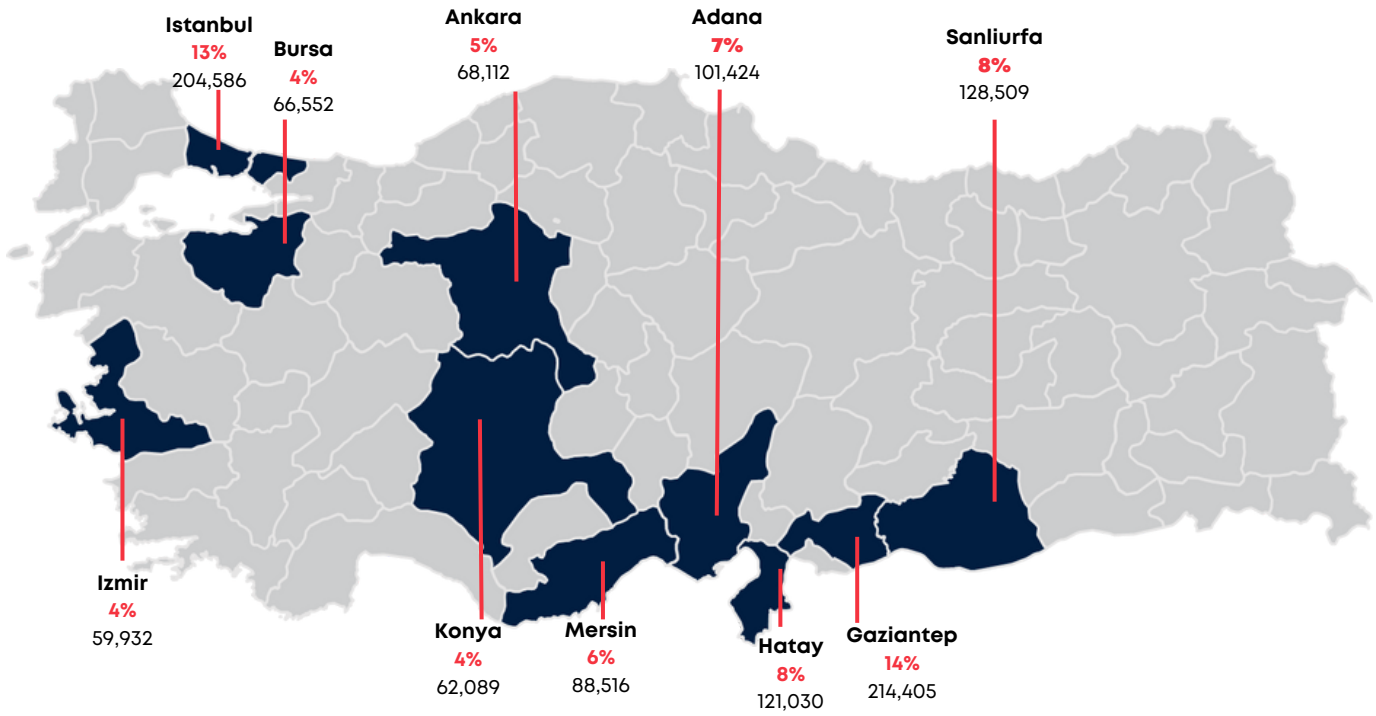
ESSN APPLICATIONS

- In June 2023, a total of **2,069 household applications** were received by the **Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundation (SASF) offices** and **TRC Service Centres**.
- While 19.3 per cent of these applications were received by **TRC Service Centres**, 80.7 per cent were received by **SASF Offices.**
- The **total number** of households applications received since the beginning of the **ESSN** III programme has reached **712,209 with 35 per cent of total applications having been received by TRC Service Centres**



Province breakdown of ESSN recipients

These provinces contain 74% of ESSN III recipients



ELIGIBILITY

96.6 %

266,504 households received the assistance through the **gender-adjusted dependency ratio**

3.4%

9,445 households received the ESSN assistance within the scope of **SASF Discretionary Allowance**

MOST COMMON FAMILY PROFILES (TOP FIVE)

55,440 (20%) families with **1** adult male, **1** adult female and **3** children

43,492 (15%) families with **1** adult male, **1** adult female and **4** children

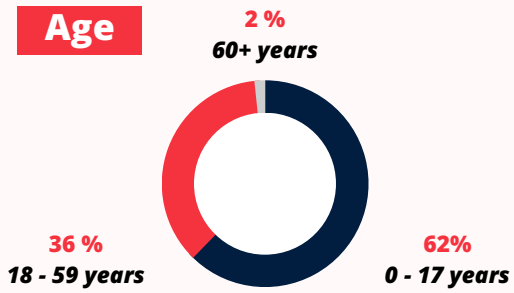
28,071 (10%) families with **1** adult male, **1** adult female and **2** children

23,049 (8%) families with **1** adult male, **1** adult female and **5** children

15,905 (6%) families with **1** adult female and **3** children

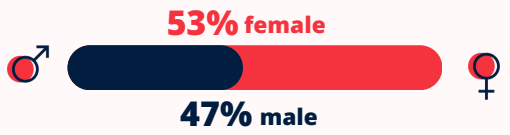
IN NUMBERS: DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE PEOPLE WE SERVE

Age



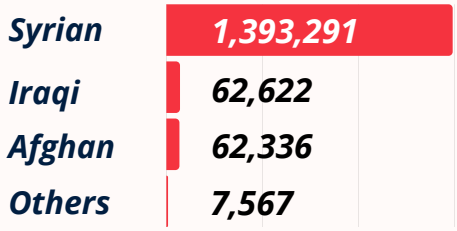
Age breakdown of ESSN recipients
0 - 17 years: 949,927
18 - 59 years: 550,487
60+ years: 25,402

Gender



Gender breakdown of ESSN recipients
Female: 810,757
Male: 715,059

Nationality

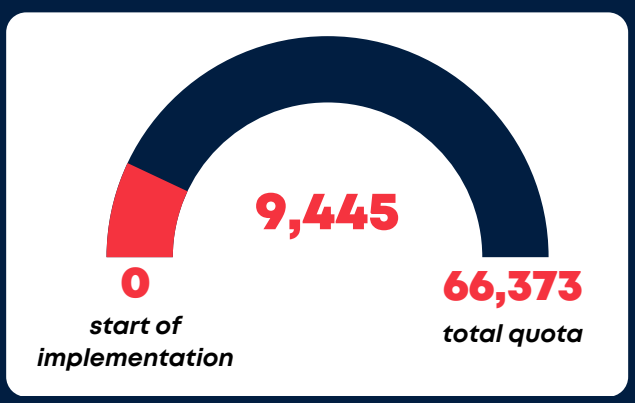


Among the "others" are Iranian, Somalian, Pakistani, Chinese, Palestinian and other nationals

SASF Discretionary Allowance

In June 2023, 9,445 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 this allowance, the SDA quota was increased from 5 per cent to 10 per cent in July 2022.



BACK AT ROCK BOTTOM: REFUGEES ESCAPING YET ANOTHER DISASTER

Focus Group Discussion Analysis Report

The Study

For the 11th round of FGD analysis under the ESSN programme, respondents were selected from groups that have been hosting a family displaced by the EQ, or displaced families that have been staying with another family outside the EQ zone. The FGD sessions were face-to-face and were held in May 2023. The questions and topics to be used in FGDs were designed by Monitoring and Evaluation teams from IFRC and TRC partnership, and the sessions were held and facilitated by Field Coordination teams.

Sample Demographic Characteristics

39
Participants

15 male
24 female

11 participants hosting displaced individuals
28 displaced individuals staying as guests at other families' houses

36 ESSN recipients
3 non-recipients

Main Findings

Dramatic changes in living condition: Participants to the FGD sessions have gone through a dramatic change in terms of their living conditions and household compositions. Individuals displaced by the earthquake sought refuge in their relatives' and friends' houses outside the EQ zone. This has resulted in overcrowded houses where there is risk for issues such as lack of privacy, excessive household chores, and increased expenditures especially for households with pre-existing financial vulnerabilities.

Amplified vulnerabilities: In the aftermath of the EQ, expenditures increased drastically which adds to the vulnerability of refugees. As a result of the overall increase in prices and, moreover, the doubling of the number of people living in households, meeting basic needs has become even more challenging. Participants stated resorting to negative coping strategies such as borrowing money, cutting down on some expenses, and relying on lower quality, cheaper food. Finally, rent is regarded by participants as the biggest obstacle preventing them from managing their finances.

Uncertainty and unemployment: Participants expressed that unemployment is a serious issue in the areas they have fled to; they either cannot find jobs matching their sets of skills, or they are uncertain about what will happen when their travel permits expire.

Children's fears and education: Some participants stated that they were unable to enrol their children to school in their new provinces due to issues about documentation or the physical distance being too big an issue to deal with on a regular basis. However, children's reluctance constitutes one of the biggest obstacles in this matter; they were still haunted by their traumatic experiences and refuse to be separated from their families, fearing that they might be struck by another earthquake while they are away.

Overall, discussions revealed that the earthquakes have compelled individuals to leave their homes and seek refuge with family and friends, resulting in overcrowding in two-to-three-bedroom flats. In some cases, over 20 people shared these living arrangements. The lack of privacy and inadequate conditions worsened the earthquake-related challenges and strained vulnerable individuals further, emphasizing the urgent requirement for sustainable housing solutions post-earthquake. Additionally, changes in household compositions may impact participants' eligibility for the ESSN programme, necessitating further investigation and close monitoring.

PROGRAMMATIC HIGHLIGHTS

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

- **Data collection phase for the 17th round of Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM-17) study has been completed to be followed by data analysis and report production.**

  PDM study series involve utilization of various indicators such as the reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI), Livelihood Coping Strategy Index (LCSI), Food Consumption Score (FCS), debt, the minimum expenditure basket (MEB), as well as a series of economic indicators. These studies allow IFRC-TRC partnership to make comparisons between the recipient and non-recipient households, while enabling ESSN programming decisions to be based on data. PDM-17 is designed to be the panel study of the preceding study in this series; PDM-16.

Referral and Outreach (R&O)

- **Advocacy efforts for earthquake survivors**

  Following the earthquakes in February in Türkiye, numerous individuals affected by the disaster were compelled to relocate to provinces outside the designated disaster area, thereby moving away from their registered provinces. This displacement created significant challenges for these individuals as they encountered difficulties in applying for necessary documentation in provinces where they were not officially registered. Consequently, this hindered their access to vital assistance and services essential for their recovery and well-being. R&O conducted advocacy activities targeting local institutions, aiming to facilitate an environment where field teams and the institutions come up with solutions regarding documentation and other access-related issues.

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)

- **Information Sharing (1-30 June)**

  33 posts were shared on **Facebook** regarding address change, explanation on the eligibility criteria, warning about dormant accounts and uncollected cards and other important information regarding ESSN Programme.
  110 information requests/complaints/feedback have been received and responded to through **Kızılaykart programme website**.

  During the reporting period, a total of **4,639 calls** were received and responded to by **TRC 168 Call Centre**. Also, almost **561,502** SMSes were sent out to the target population, which includes the information provision SMSes regarding the earthquake top-up payment.

  ESSN brochures and posters have been updated and delivered to the application centers and field units. In this context, around **14,000 brochures** and **400 posters** were delivered to provide programme target group with up-to-date information on Programme criteria, application procedures and official communication channels in a written format in the four most commonly spoken languages among the target group.