



## DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL

### PROTECTION REPORT TURKEY

APRIL, 2016

Danish Refugee Council

#### INTRODUCTION:

With funding under ECHO, DRC Turkey is implementing a Protection Monitoring project in 2016. This will include monthly protection reports, of which this is the first. The reports will include data and findings from field monitoring teams, data from other DRC services, and contextual analysis from the previous month. As the Turkey Protection Monitoring system is currently being established, this report contains findings from other DRC services obtained over the past several months, and should be seen as a summary of findings from late-2015 to April 2016. Monitoring and mapping of specific protection threats will be rolled out in subsequent monthly reports.

#### KEY STATISTICS JAN-APRIL :

# registered Syrians in Turkey	2,749,140 (245,591 increase since Jan 2016)
# registered Syrians in Sanliurfa Province	401,102
# registered Syrians in Hatay Province	386,106
# registered Syrians in Kilis Province	129,223
# registered Syrians in Kahramanmaras Province	84, 125
# Syrians in GoT camps	267,837 (10%)
# people returned to Turkey from EU	374
# Syrians returned to Turkey from EU	12 <sup>1</sup>

#### CONTEXT and UPDATES:

Official figures (3RP) for the number of registered Syrians in Turkey has increased by 245,591 since January, despite the Turkish / Syrian border being effectively closed. Whilst an 'open-door' policy still officially exists, the border corridor has been more tightly closed and patrolled since January 2016. **Border crossings** have been opened infrequently on an as-needed basis for medical emergencies and 'humanitarian emergency influxes'. From February – March, Directorate General for Migration Management (DGMM) offices stopped issuing Temporary Protection **registration** cards to Syrians. At the time it was unclear the reason for the stoppage, or longer-term impact on Syrian's right to apply for asylum. However, at the time of writing, DGMM offices in South East Turkey have re-commenced the processing of Temporary Protection registration for Syrians. During this time Amnesty International reported that Turkey was deporting Syrians without registration cards back to Syria. AI reported that hundreds of persons were deported (2). DRC cannot confirm this occurring or this figure.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.dailysabah.com/nation/2016/04/28/syrians-returning-to-turkey-from-greece-under-eu-deal>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.amnesty.org/en/press-releases/2016/04/turkey-illegal-mass-returns-of-syrian-refugees-expose-fatal-flaws-in-eu-turkey-deal/>

<sup>3</sup> [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_MEMO-16-963\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-16-963_en.htm)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.hrw.org/news/2016/05/10/turkey-border-guards-kill-and-injure-asylum-seekers>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/may/16/syrians-returned-to-turkey-after-eu-deal-complain-of-treatment>

Prior to the temporary cease-fire inside Syria in March, there were reports of substantial increases in the number of IDPs amassing near the Turkish border, particularly at the Reyhanli and Kilis areas. However, Turkey has not experienced any significant **influx** of refugees in 2016 so far. Increased Turkish border patrols along the border corridor has dramatically reduced the number of irregular border crossings, with very few (less than 100) reported in DRC field locations. **Access to asylum** for Syrian persons in northern Syria remains limited. There have been reports of police / military excessive use of force, violence and fatal shootings of Syrians trying to cross into Turkey irregularly (4).

The **EU / Turkey agreement** relating to irregular migrants and refugees / asylum seekers came into effect on March 20, 2016. Under the deal, a person entering Greece may be declared 'inadmissible' under two clauses in EU Asylum Rules, and their application for asylum may be rejected:

- 1) **first country of asylum** (Article 35 of the Asylum Procedures Directive): where the person has been already recognised as a refugee in that country or otherwise enjoys sufficient protection there;
- 2) **safe third country** (Article 38 of the Asylum Procedures Directive): where the person has not already received protection in the third country but the third country can guarantee effective access to protection to the readmitted person (3).

Should Syrians be returned to Turkey, it is unclear whether people's asylum claims will be declared inadmissible under the clause of 'first country of asylum' or 'safe third country'.

Should persons be found to be 'inadmissible', they will be returned to Turkey, with a 1:1 'swap' of resettlement of Syrian persons within, and registered in Turkey, to Europe. This initially will be up to the figures of intake commitments previously made by EU member states. Currently there are 18,000 places remaining under these commitments. As previously stated, there are over 2.7million Syrian persons inside Turkey.

Of those returned to Turkey so far, the majority have been non-Syrian. Turkey has committed to process and review claims for international protection by non-Syrians, but the implementation of this commitment is unclear as the process is closed to NGO oversight (including local). DRC is working with a number of local NGOs to provide legal assistance to persons returned, as well as others held in immigration detention, and will provide further updates in subsequent protection reports.

The deal appears to have had a dramatic impact on the number of persons entering Greece via Turkey. Numbers of arrivals in Greece has reduced to several hundred or less per day by April. Syrians returned to Turkey will reportedly be able to apply for Temporary Protection status, with non-penalisation of their previous departure for Greece. The 12 Syrian persons returned to Turkey reportedly did not make claims for asylum in Greece and returned voluntarily to Turkey. However, their legal status in Turkey is unclear, and media have reported that they have been detained in Duzici camp in Osmaniye Province in SE Turkey without access to legal assistance (as is guaranteed under Turkish law (5)).

3 [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_MEMO-16-963\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-16-963_en.htm)

4 <https://www.hrw.org/news/2016/05/10/turkey-border-guards-kill-and-injure-asylum-seekers>

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**PROTECTION FINDINGS:**

Approximately 2.7million Syrian refugees reside inside Turkey, with the majority remaining in the South East, and approximately 85% living outside of Government of Turkey (GoT) run camps. In the past 12 months, DRC has seen an increase in the vulnerability of Syrians inside Turkey. This has resulted from the effects of protracted displacement, worsening economic hardship, and lack of social protection structures among urban refugees. The Temporary Protection regime of the GoT has been in place since 2015, and while guaranteeing significant rights to registered Syrians, implementation and coordination at the local level remains a challenge. Deteriorating economic conditions for Syrians in Turkey has resulted in an increase in negative coping mechanisms; child labour, lack of school enrolment, reduced food intake, participation in dangerous or exploitative labour, and women at risk in the workforce.

The large-scale movement of Syrian and non-Syrian people to Europe through Turkey in 2015 has also influenced the protection environment. DRC has seen an increase in the number of households without males, who in the past often served as breadwinners or protective elements. Likewise the heavy media and political attention paid to the situation has created uncertainty among rights and status of Syrians in Turkey. In some cases, it has led to a reduction in rights of Syrians, such as a restriction in freedom of movement across provincial borders since September 2015.

The major protection threats and abuses that DRC encounters include: restricted access to rights and services; worsening health standards; exploitative labour conditions; worsening mental health, particularly among the male population; child labour; lack of education access for children; early / forced marriage among girls; gender based violence targeting women in the community and workplace. While DRC Turkey initially focussed on emergency response activities and centre-based PSS activities, protracted displacement has required DRC to increase resilience and community protection focussed services.

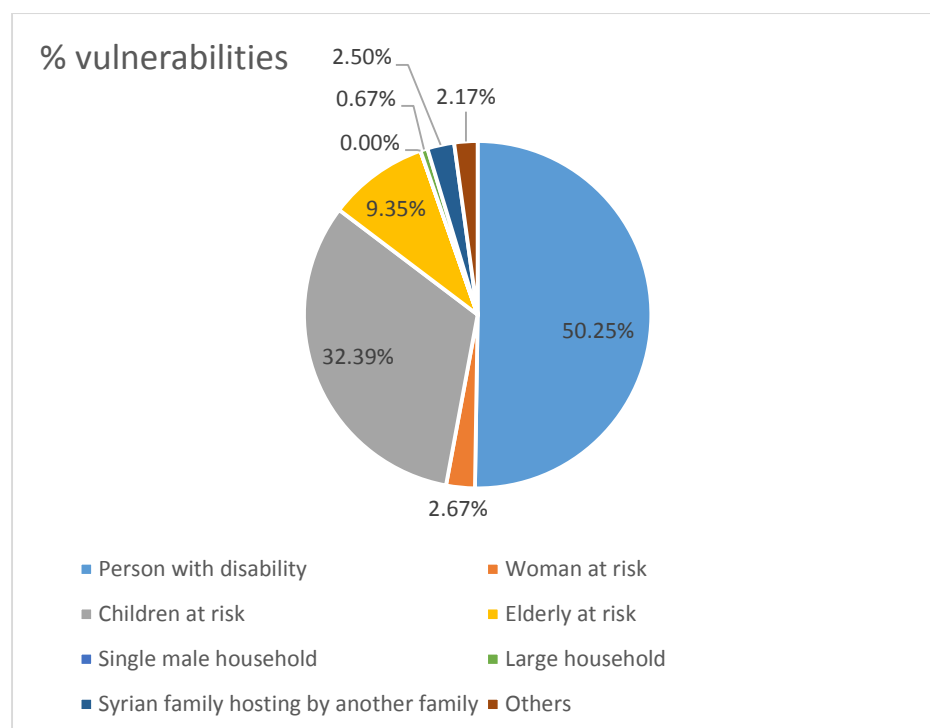
The following key findings have been made through DRC services in South East Turkey, providing insight into the situation and vulnerabilities of Syrians from January – April 2016.

3 [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_MEMO-16-963\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-16-963_en.htm)

4 <https://www.hrw.org/news/2016/05/10/turkey-border-guards-kill-and-injure-asylum-seekers>

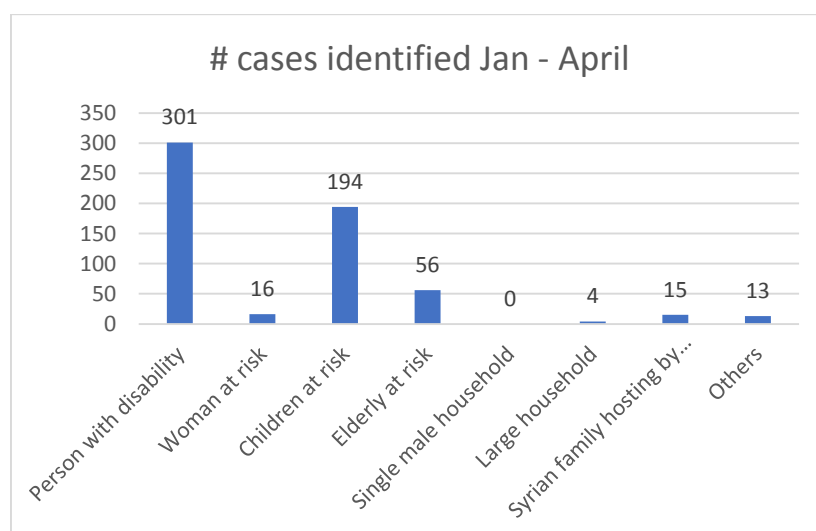
5 <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/may/16/syrians-returned-to-turkey-after-eu-deal-complain-of-treatment>

## DRC TURKEY PROTECTION REPORT – ISSUE 1 JAN – APR 2016



DRC has run the **Special Needs Fund (SNF)** project since 2013. The program operates as a form of emergency case management and material assistance for tailored one-off, direct-need cases. SNF provides an effective overview of the type of protection cases DRC encounters, and the specific needs of vulnerable beneficiaries. Since January DRC has supported 401 cases of individuals and HHs (167 direct female beneficiaries, 35%).

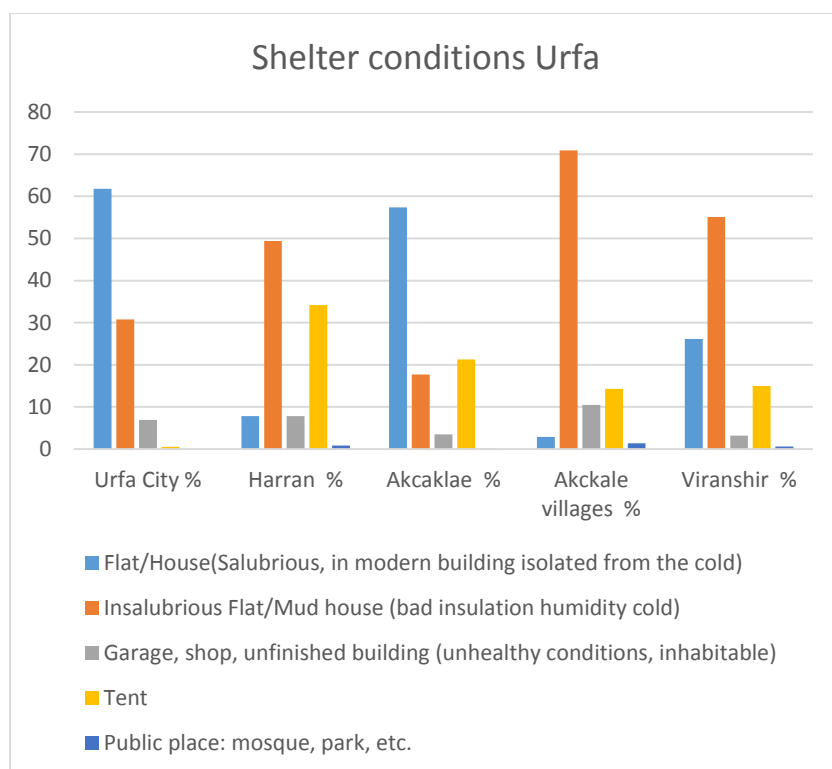
Below are the total number of cases supported by the Special Needs Fund across Hatay and Sanliurfa provinces in 2016, with persons with disability remaining the most common form of vulnerability.



3 [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_MEMO-16-963\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-16-963_en.htm)

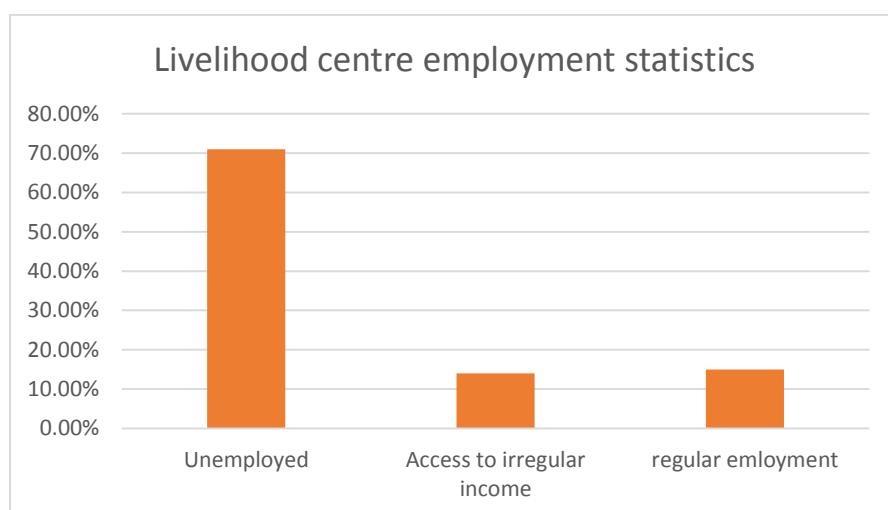
4 <https://www.hrw.org/news/2016/05/10/turkey-border-guards-kill-and-injure-asylum-seekers>

5 <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/may/16/syrians-returned-to-turkey-after-eu-deal-complain-of-treatment>

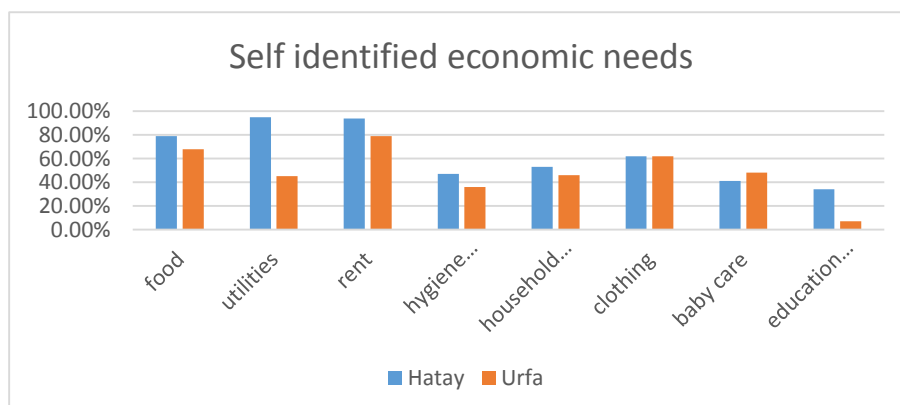


In early 2016 DRC conducted shelter assessments across 2292 households in five areas across Sanliurfa province. As demonstrated left, a high number of HHs reside in poor quality shelter. An alarming number reside in either tents or garage-type accommodation. Rent ranks as a high expense for Syrian families. This further illustrates the need of linking protection cases to DRC livelihoods development.

Economic and income generation options remain limited for Syrians inside Turkey. Despite changes to Turkish legislation permitting a legal pathway for Syrians to work, employment remains very low. As the war has become more protracted, DRC has seen a rise in negative coping mechanisms as described below.



Self-identified needs across households, identified through vulnerability assessments, in Urfa and Hatay provinces are as follows:

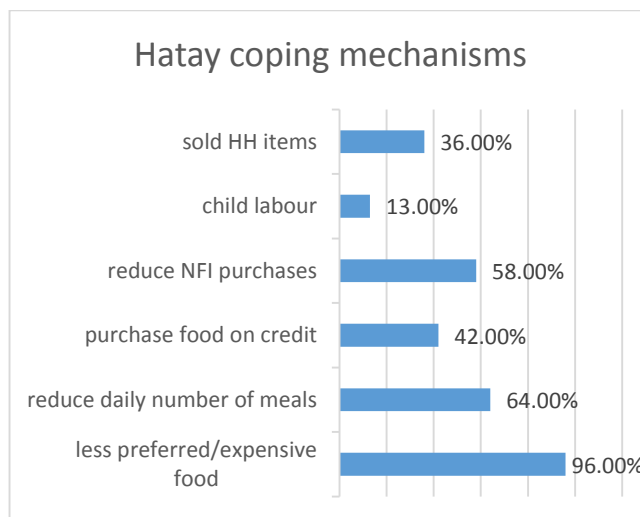
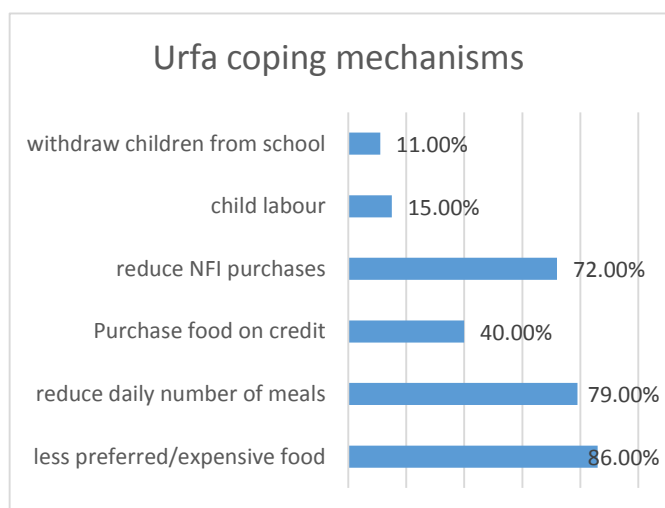
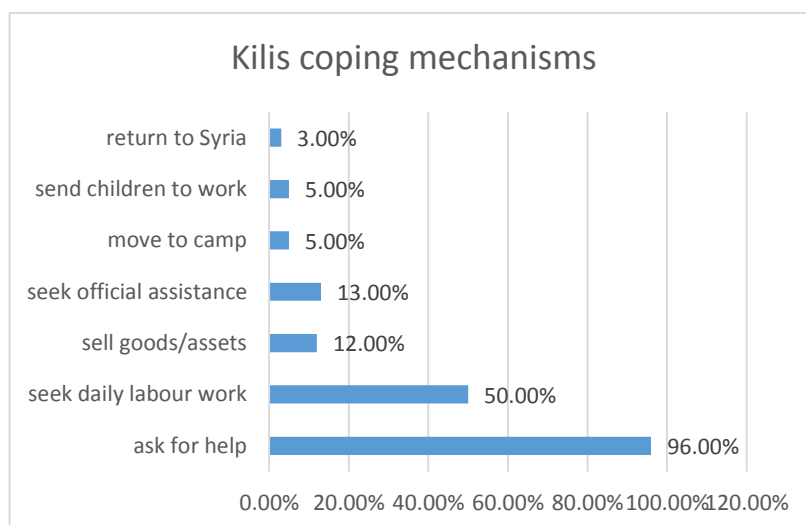


3 [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_MEMO-16-963\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-16-963_en.htm)

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Protection issues are increasingly linked to coping mechanisms in response to economic distress. The following represents coping mechanisms identified by Syrian refugees inside Turkey through assessments and focus group discussions.



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