



DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL

WE ARE THERE

Protection Report

May 2016

IN THIS ISSUE

This report covers the period of May 2016. The information presented has been provided by the focal points present in communities, observed during activities, but also documented by other organizations. The report also provides information gathered in focus group or individual interviews. This report provides a summary of the security situation, population movements and protection threats observed during the month of May. The report geographically covers the provinces of Hatay, Kilis, Sanliurfa and Kahramanmaraş in South East Turkey, as well as information received from partners in North West provinces such as Izmir and Istanbul.

Security Situation - Border with Syria

Since February, the presence of ISIS has increased at the border, impacting on security within the Turkish territory. Turkey Government had strengthened its position vis-à-vis the terrorist group, complicating the movement of ISIS fighters and supporters between Syria and Turkey. Consequently, ISIS has attacked the city of Kilis, in Turkey, several times. Kilis was hosting more than 90,000 Syrians refugees. The attacks were repeated 9 times in April, as well as 9 days of rockets attack in May. Due to the deteriorated security situation, it is estimated that 30,000 Turkish citizens and some Syrians have left Kilis. Most of them went in Gaziantep to seek safety with relatives, or in temporary

accommodations. However, it was observed that most refugees have remained in Kilis, due to economic reasons.

The situation in Syria has also degenerated, creating massive population movements. On the 14 of April, following ISIS attacks in the region of AZAZ, 30,000 civilians were forced to flee from the IDP Camp build along the Turkish border. Abductions and executions were reported in the 2 IDPs camps, although this information was not confirmed. More recently, ISIS has been able to expand their influence in the area. On May 28, massive population movements were reported. It is believed that between 30,000 to 50,000 persons went at the Turkish border, as 80,000 to 120,000 persons have fled near Efrin, in

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LEGEND

TWEET US @lun

Map of international war against so-called Islamic State

Sides of conflict

- Islamic State groups and AQIM(Al-Qaeda in Magreb)
- Iraq government forces, Russia, Iran, China, Hezbollah, Shiite groups from Iraq
- Anti-ISIS coalition, NATO, Turkey, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, UAE
- Rebels forces: FSA, Al-Nusra - Al-Qaeda in Syria, other groups
- Kurds: Peshmerga, YPG, PKK & SDF
- Non-aligned, Nature

Areas control

- ISIS territories
- Kurds: YPG, PKK, Peshmerga, other

May New Comers Registrations

DRC was able to gather formal and informal information regarding new comers in the 3 of the 4 provinces of DRC intervention. Indeed, around 1,560 new comers were registered in Kilis during the month of April and 1,051 in May. Among them, at least 50 have passed the border illegally with the support of smugglers. These individuals were able to get registered with the Turkish authorities. In Urfa, the presence of new comers was reported, but not officially, the same in Hatay provinces. In Kahramanmaraş, the authorities has refused to share information in regard to number of new comers, however they expect to see the number of new arrivals decrease in the future. New comer registration is on hold in Hatay, Gaziantep, Kahramanmaraş and Urfa provinces.ⁱ

Syrians coming from third countries are not able to apply for ID. New comers should go to Emniyet (Police Station) and apply. They will be provided a temporary document for 30 days. Following 30 days they would receive their TP IDs from DGMM in Narlica. During these 30 days they are not able to benefit from any services.

However, not all new registered are new-comers. Some newly registered have been in Turkey for months before taking the decision to register under temporary protection (TP). In Kahramanmaraş, the authorities expect the number of Syrians to decrease in the coming months. When interviewed on the reason for waiting to register, it was explained that options are being evaluated: moving forward in Turkey, trying to reach Europe or settling in their current location were the most common responses. However, appears that the EU Deal is not clearly understood and alternate routes to Europe continue to be perceived as a viable option.

DRC was told that crossing illegally the border between Syria in Kilis can take cost 1,000\$ USD by person, in Urfa 2,000\$ USD by person and in Hatay 1,200\$ USD per person. Human Rights Watch (HRW) has produced a sensitive report about Border Guards violence, reporting Syrians' deaths when trying to illegally the border in Hatay province.ⁱⁱ HRW spent 2 months investigating at the border, observing violence against asylum seekers and smugglers. During that period, they reported 5 persons killed including 1 child, and another 14 injured. Their investigation was based on interview with victims and survivors.

Legal Status of Syrians in Turkey

During the month of April and May, DRC was contacted to support Syrians arrested and detained by Turkish authorities. One of the cases was detained in a crowded school used as a detention center in Batman, all others were arrested in Istanbul. Some of these individuals have their Turkish residency and work permit, but were nonetheless requested to either leave the country in 48hrs or be deported to Syria. When lawyers requested the reason for this, Border Police refused to give details but raised concerns related to terrorism.

In Izmir, the registration became a real journey for the temporary protection. Only 2 of the 5 registration offices remain open. The access is allowed only on Monday and appointment are given in after a two month waiting period. The new comers are submitted to interviews in order to determine their access the temporary protection.

In Hatay Province, DRC was told that interviews are being conducted by the police department. The police department is responsible for providing new-comers with temporary protection preregistration and all new-comers are under the supervision of the anti-terror department. The department checks the pre-registration information of newcomers on regular basis. New comers cannot change their location without risking rejection. Travel permission for those registered under TP are now being issued by the sub governorate.

In Sanliurfa province, registration has been suspended since January 2015. DRC has been informed several times over the past months that registration will recommence in 2 weeks. DRC continues to track those in need of registration in the event that registration becomes possible.

It was observed that persons carrying Syrian documents not provided by the Regime are more susceptible of being identified as unwanted guests. Suspected links to terrorism are commonly cited as the reason for detainment and can lead to abuse from authorities. Several arrests have been reported regarding illegal entry onto Turkish soil. Since the end of the summer 2015, Mülteci-Der has received several detention claims for protection support, which suggested disturbing deterioration of protection of Syrian refugees in Turkey.

In May, a Syrian national with Swedish residency was reported detained while

Cost for Crossing the Syria-Turkey border - Smugglers

Kilis:	1,000\$ US/person
Sanliurfa:	2,000\$ US/person

Registration Status by Province:

Hatay:	Closed
Kilis:	Open
Sanliurfa:	Closed
Gaziantep:	Closed
Izmir:	2 of 5 Centers open

vacationing and visiting family in Turkey. The individual was arrested after an argument in the street and held in Istanbul for 42 days. The individual's family sought support from the Swedish embassy. The detainee was subsequently released by the authorities without explanation.

Legal support to those arbitrarily detained has proven difficult, as it has been observed that Turkish lawyers are reluctant to represent Syrians in detention claims due to the politicized nature of these cases.

In September 2015, in the cities of Izmir and Bodrum, several Syrians were randomly apprehended in the street and detained. Many of them were transferred to Duzici reception facility near Osmaniye and Adana. Mülteci-Der was contacted by some detainees Duzici. Although they were told by the authorities that they were not detained but accommodated in the camp, they were not allowed to leave the premises. According to testimonies, they were told that they have to stay in camps or go back to Syria.

Protection Concerns

This month the Special Needs Fund assisted 137 vulnerable individuals and households in

Hatay and Sanliurfa provinces. The number one vulnerability identified by the teams are persons with disabilities followed by children at risk. The most common disabilities found amongst the population include cerebral palsy and injuries sustain during the conflict. This is a consistent finding in both Hatay and Sanliurfa.

The assistance delivered is tailored to each protection case and their specified needs after the case file goes through the Special Needs Fund Committee. The assistance is delivered predominantly in an e-card modality. E-card assistance represents 82% of the distributed support, while in-kind support represented only 19% in the month of May. In-kind support is often related to health needs including hearing aids, crutches or hospital fees. In addition, a lot of support is given in the form of bus cards or taxi costs which allow beneficiaries to attend hospital treatment, physiological treatment or psychological sessions. In addition, skill development games are also a popular support for children with developmental delays.

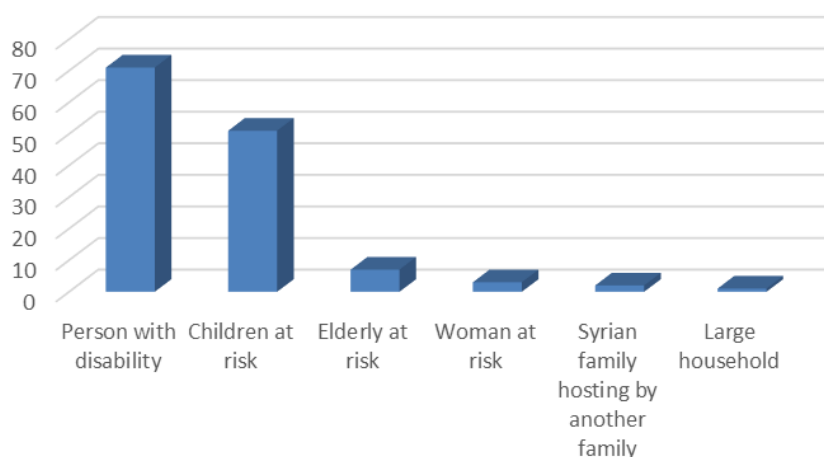
E-card assistance is flexible in the variety of items available, which explains for the limited need to offer in-kind support. This month Food & Hygiene made up 39% of the support distributed, followed by NFIs (29%), clothes (21%) and finally medical items (11%). The high number of food and hygiene support relates to the number of persons with disabilities identified. Nutritionally dense food is often provided to cases of with disabilities, particularly children. In addition, diapers and other consumable hygiene products are often required to improve the basic living conditions of some of these SNF cases.

Information Needs

In Hatay and Altinozu, DRC has 2 information desks running in the community centers. During the reporting period 250 inquiries were made to these desks.

By and large the most commonly requested inquiry was regarding Temporary Protection (72%). It appears getting the "kimlit" or identification card continues to be problematic for many Syrians. Although Syrians theoretically have access to essential services, the application of the temporary protection regime is very difficult to navigate and the application of

SNF Cases Assisted in Urfa & Hatay, May 2016



TP is uneven across the country as noted above. This situation leaves many able to register.

Second and third ranking inquiries include family reunification and 3rd country resettlement. The remaining questions were related to TP but referred to the details of specific sectors. For example education questions revolved around education fees, registration to higher education, scholarship availability and Turkish courses. Mobility included topics such as visas and local travel permission. Civil Status included questions about residency, citizenship, marriage registration and birth registration. Health refers to access to medicines and health care center access.

Facilitating Access to Services

A translation hotline is provided by DRC, which offers a translation services from Arabic to Turkish and vice versa. The hotline is immensely popular, receiving 1529 calls during the month of May from 53 cities across

Turkey. The top 15 cities represent 78% all phone calls placed to the service during the reporting period.

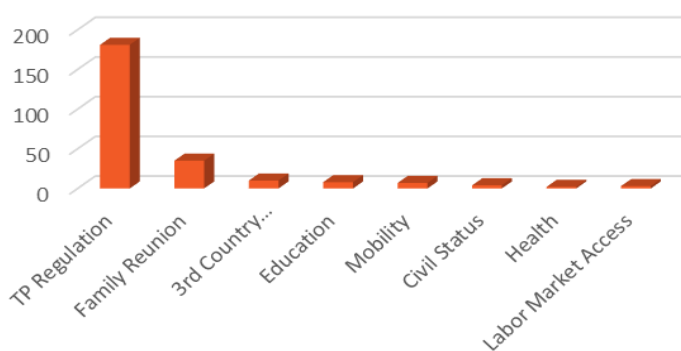
The highest volume of phone calls came from Ordu followed by Ankara and Istanbul. The 259 calls from Ordu is a large portion of the population given that the city of Ordu city home to 147 913ⁱⁱⁱ inhabitants, while Ankara and Istanbul have city populations of 4.5 million^{iv} and 14 million^v respectively.

On March 16 2016 Ordu Provincial DGMM announced 2154 foreigner people are living under international protection law in Ordu^{vi}. Of these foreigners, 1974 are Iraqis, 87 are Iranians and 47 are Afghans, while the remainder are from a variety of other countries. In addition, 506 Syrians are living in Ordu under Temporary Protection. The proportion of phone calls emanating from this city is even more significant when we consider that officially 593 Arabic speakers live in Ordu.

The volume of calls to hotline from this city on the Black Sea suggests that there is very little support for Iraqis and Syrians in the region. Because the local population doesn't speak Arabic, Iraqis and Syrians are calling the service to communication with authorities, health and education services among others required in daily life.

It does not appear that many INGOs or CBO are working to support the people of concern in Ordu. Those that are working in the area are not able to communicate with beneficiaries. The Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundation offers a food service and conducts outreach. The foundation is using the hotline

Information Desk Inquiries in Hatay, May 2016

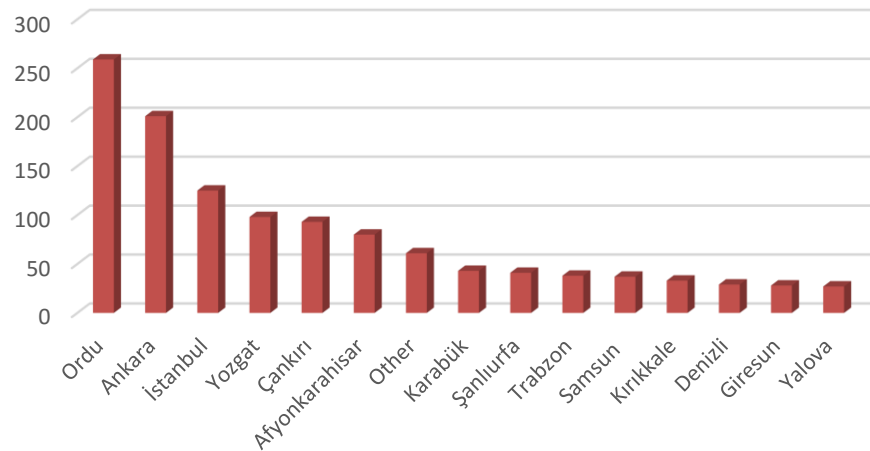


to inform their beneficiaries of these activities. Support to Life also implemented a small project in Ordu in 2015 (216 000 EUR). This project addressed Child Labor in the hazel nut plantations^{vii}.

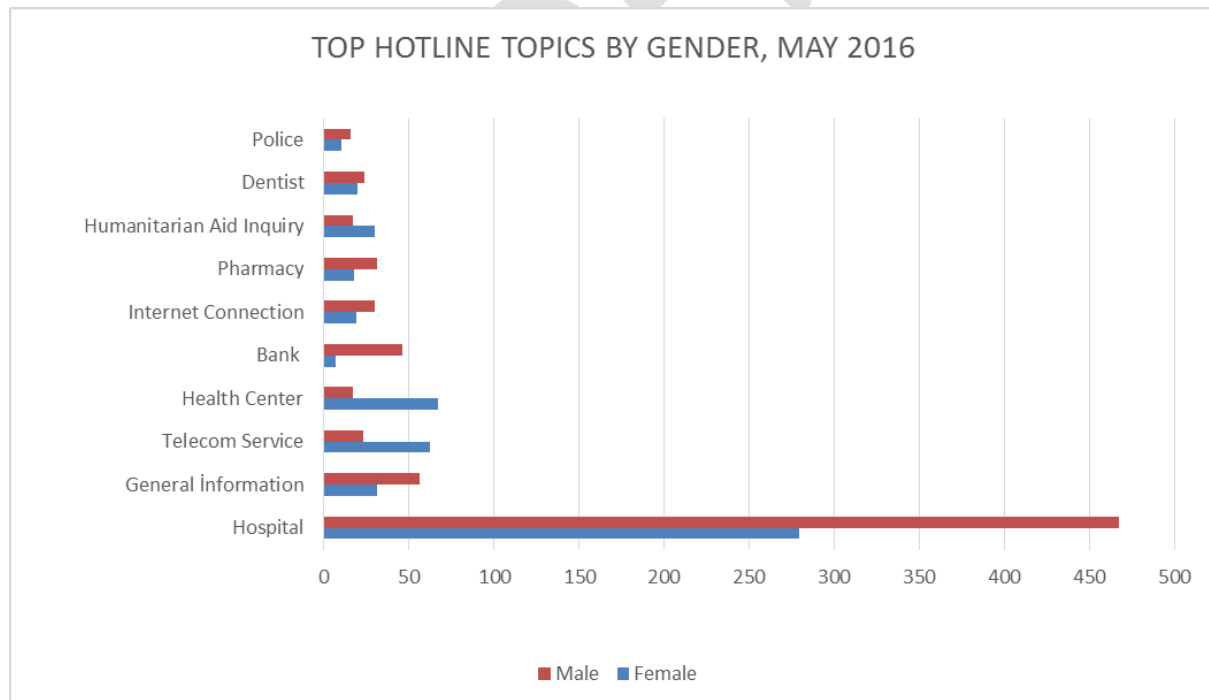
Both men and women are using the translation hotline, however men are calling more frequently than the women. Men's calls outnumber the women's in all topics with the exception of calls related to telecom services and inquiries into humanitarian aid. Although women are using the service more often than men at health centers, when all health data is aggregated men are using the service more often (58%) than women (42%).

The hotline is used overwhelmingly during visits to health facilities, which includes hospitals, health care centers, pharmacies and dentists. The call log indicates that 60% of the calls in May were health related.

TRANSLATION HOTLINE USE BY CITY, MAY 2016



TOP HOTLINE TOPICS BY GENDER, MAY 2016



ⁱ UNHCR Turkey confirmed having received the same information from AFAD and GDMM.

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

ⁱⁱⁱ Population of province/district centers and towns/villages by districts - 2012". Address Based Population Registration System (ABPRS) Database. Turkish Statistical Institute. Retrieved 2013-02-27.

^{iv} "Turkey: Major cities and provinces". citypopulation.de. Retrieved 2015-02-08.

^v "Turkey: Provinces and Major Cities". www.citypopulation.de. Citypopulation. 31 December 2014. Retrieved 26 June 2015. The population of the Turkish cities and provinces according to census results and latest register-based tabulations

^{vi} KILIÇ: "ORDU'DA EN ÇOK IRAKLI YAŞIYOR" (2016, March 7). Retrieved from <http://m.milliyet.com.tr/Local/Article?ID=1251676>.

^{vii} http://www.hayatadestek.org/media/files/HDD_Faaliyet_Raporu_EN_2015.pdf