

ISSUE 9: DECEMBER 2020

EMERGENCY SOCIAL SAFETY NET (ESSN)

Thanks to European Union funding and a partnership between the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRC), over 1.8 million refugees living in Turkey are receiving humanitarian support through monthly cash assistance.

December snapshots



1,828,788 individuals
reached with cash assistance



225,932,760 TRY
transferred to 322,521
households



31,905 individuals
included through SASF
allowance

Highlights

2020 ends with cash transfer to over 1.8 million individuals

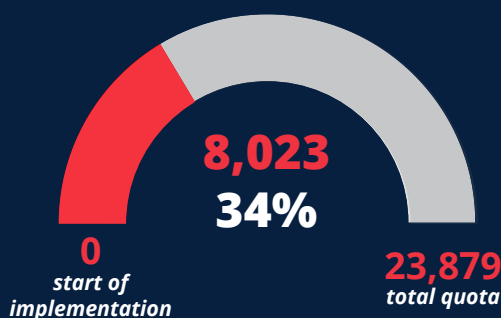
On 31 December, 225,932,760 TRY was transferred to 1,828,788 individuals (322,521 households) living under temporary and international protection in Turkey. The cash transfer included the severe disability top-up of 6,478,200 TRY.

ESSN extended to March 2022

Thanks to the ongoing support of the EU, the phase III of the ESSN programme has been extended to March 2022. Households who fit the demographic criteria will continue to receive the assistance to help them cover their basic needs.

SASF ALLOWANCE

As of December, 8,023 vulnerable households are receiving the ESSN assistance via the SASF allowance. This makes up 34 per cent of the total quota for all SASF offices in the different districts across Turkey.



TOTAL PAYMENTS IN 2020



2,283,618,380 TRY

Total payment



1,905,458,889 TRY

Base payment



322,856,900 TRY

Quarterly top-ups



304,513,000 TRY

Economic top-up



55,302,600 TRY

Severe disability top-up



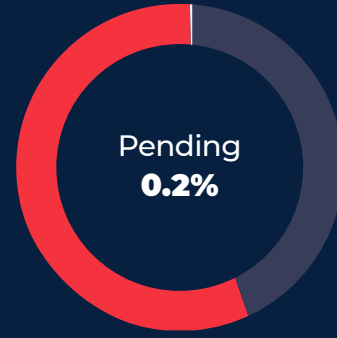
ESSN APPLICATIONS

In December, 2,844 household applications for the ESSN were received at SASF offices and TRC service centres.

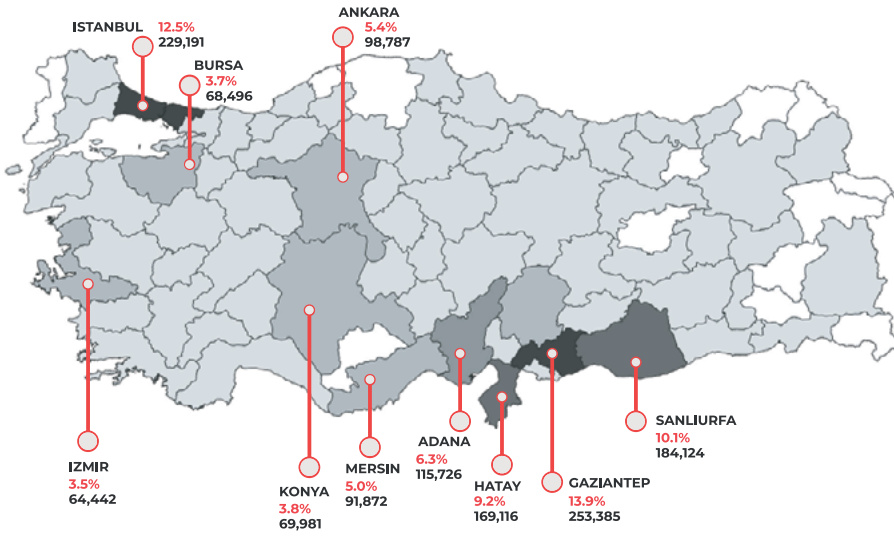
43.8 per cent of December applications were received at TRC service centres and 56.2 per cent at SASF offices.

The total number of household applications received since the beginning of the ESSN is 602,167 with 36 per cent of total applications received at TRC Service Centres.

Eligible
54.5%

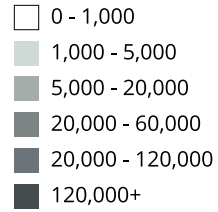


Ineligible
45.3%



Province breakdown of ESSN recipients

Number of individuals



CRITERIA BREAKDOWN ¹



41.6%
households
with four or
more children



26.3%
households
with high
dependency
ratio (≥1.5)



14.3%
households
with single
caregiver and
children (<18)



9.1%
households
with one or
more individual
with a disability



4.9%
single female



1.3%
elderly people
above 60
with no other
adults in the
household

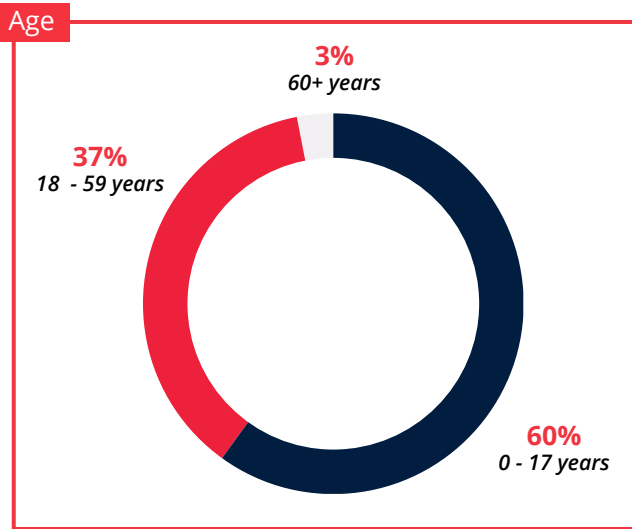
***2.5%** of households (8,023 HHs) receive the ESSN assistance within the scope of SASF allowance.

Sweepbacks: In December, the fifth sweepback of 1,352,277 TRY was realised from 488 uncollected cards (499,450 TRY) and 732 dormant accounts (852,827 TRY). The total amount of sweepback transactions including December is 8,401,077 TRY.

¹ 134,094 households with four or more children; 84,942 households with a dependency ratio equal to or above 1.5; 45,822 households with a single parent with no other adults and at least one child under 18; 29,452 households with at least one individual with a disability rate of 40%; 15,911 single females; 4,277 households with elderly people above 60 with no other adults in the household.

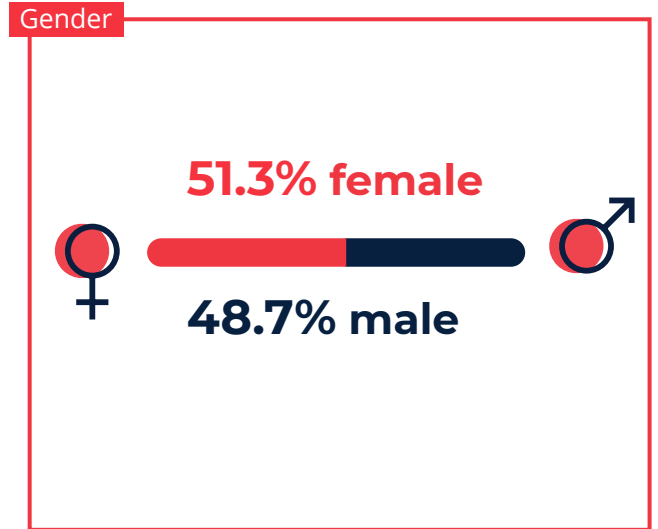


IN NUMBERS: DEMOGRAPHICS OF PEOPLE WE SERVE



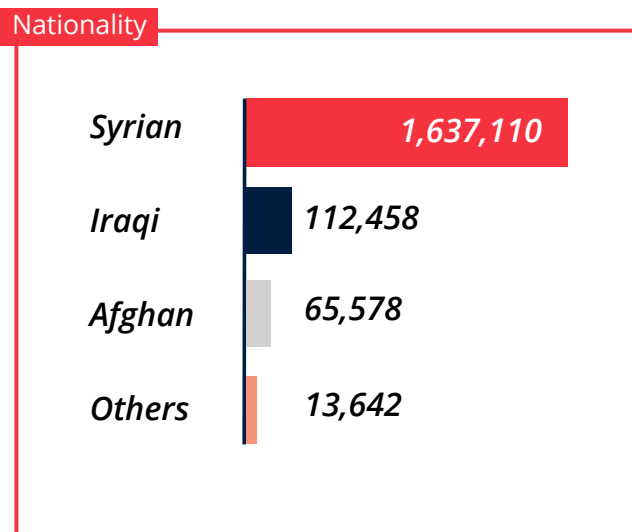
Age breakdown of ESSN recipients:

0 - 17 years: 1,102,064
18 - 59 years: 673,952
60+ years: 52,772



Gender breakdown of ESSN recipients:

Female: 938,712
Male: 890,076



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



Individuals with a valid severe disability health report received an additional top-up of 600 TRY per individual, totalling 6,478,200 TRY.

#powertobe:

Four talented people regaining control of their lives as refugees

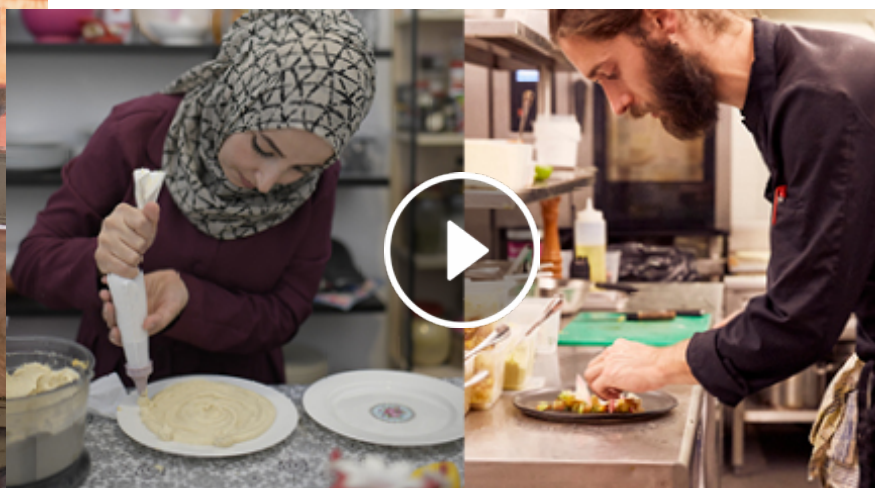


Click the images to follow Bilal's story and his interaction with football player, Hamit Altintop

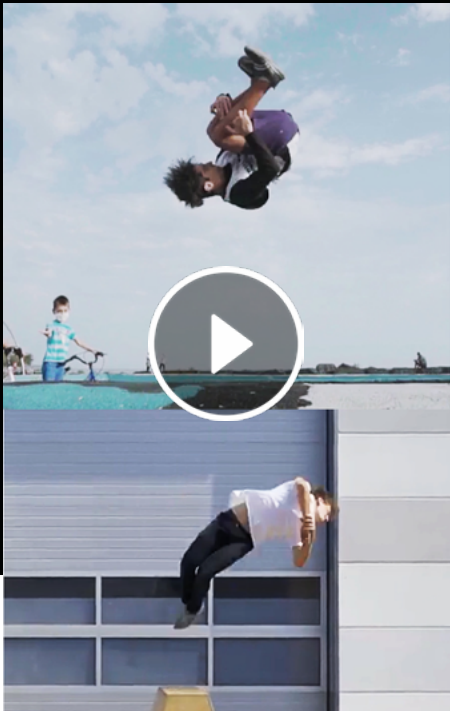
A digital campaign that connects inspiring and talented refugees supported by ESSN with influencers across Europe and Turkey launched in December.

The #powertobe campaign highlights the passions and dreams of four young refugees – a singer, a cook, a football player and a parkour runner – who were uprooted by the war in their home countries but are regaining control of their lives in Turkey through ESSN cash assistance. [Davud](#), [Amal](#), [Bilal](#) and [Hamad](#) talk about their passions, dreams and challenges as they rebuild a new normalcy in Turkey through videos and photos. The four young refugees also met with the influencers in Turkey, Spain, France, Austria and Romania digitally and discuss their common passions in video messages, online calls and eye-level cell phone clips.

The campaign #powertobe kicked off on December 8 in [Austria](#), [France](#), [Romania](#), [Spain](#), and [Turkey](#) in six languages.



Click the images to follow Amal's story and her interaction with French chef, Ryan.



Click the images to follow Davud's story and his interactions with Austrian parkour runner Alex and Spanish parkour runner Phosky.

While the campaign content has been shared on IFRC, Austrian Red Cross, Romanian Red Cross and Turkish Red Crescent Facebook and Instagram accounts, the stories of Amal, Davud, Bilal and Hamad have been disseminated on Twitter, LinkedIn and Youtube social media platforms by six influencers participated in the campaign and IFRC, IFRC Europe, Red Cross EU, Kizilaykart accounts.

The campaign has been very successful with a high reach and engagement rate by reaching and exceeding targets. Within the four weeks into the campaign:

- 16 million** people reached
- 79 per cent** total engagement rate achieved
- 97 per cent** of the sentiment was positive
- 76 million** reached through the media



Click the images to follow Hamad's story and his interaction with Romanian singer Feli and Spanish musician Antonio Orozco.





PROGRAMMATIC HIGHLIGHTS

Monitoring and evaluation:

In December, the monitoring and evaluation teams focused on card-distribution monitoring activities and remote focus group discussions (rFGD). The monitoring activities included visits to five Halkbank branches, two TRC service centers in six different provinces across Turkey including Ankara, Gaziantep, Hatay, Istanbul, Izmir, and Samsun. The rFGDs primarily discussed debt and financial stress to further investigate findings from PDM10 which indicated that the refugee communities have been dealing with increased debt and unemployment. The research questions aimed to gather qualitative data on the impact of debt on the financial stress of households and on the households' social interactions with the host community.

Card-distribution monitoring activities are essential to identify, analyze, and refer issues observed during the card distribution process, such as challenges related to the capacity of the bank branch, the use of ATM's and PIN codes, and potential problems faced by vulnerable and illiterate people.

Referral and outreach - Field coordination:

As part of the mitigation measures of COVID-19, public offices have reduced their work hours to six hours instead of eight. However, field teams are still able to continue their visits to local stakeholders whilst strictly adhering to the COVID-19 mitigation measures. In December, the IFRC field coordination team and TRC referral and outreach team visited 78 districts in 26 provinces. The main stakeholders visited were SASFs, Provincial Directorate of Migration Management (PDMM), Social Service Centers (SSCs), TRC community centers, TRC service centers and TRC branches. During the field visits to local authorities, the TRC-IFRC teams focused on sensitization about the ESSN programme

(including SASF allowance) as well as advocacy and solving outreach issues pertaining to address registration or Disability Health Reports. Finally, IFRC Field Coordinators continue to have (phone) meetings with NGOs and UN organizations in order to share updates and receive important feedback from key partners in each region.

Accountability to affected populations:

In December, the call centre received 14,024 calls from 75 provinces - 93 per cent of the calls were in Arabic. The official ESSN Facebook page reached 93,322 followers and the total number of messages replied to in December is 40,744. A total of 688,857 SMSs were sent including confirmation of receiving the complaint, monthly removal and the reasons, uncollected cards, discrepancies, and dormant account warnings. The total number of messages received and responded to on the website is 178.

Gender and protection:

IFRC protection officer took part as a speaker in a webinar organised by UNDP within the 16 Days of Activism regarding gender-based violence (GBV) against Syrian women in Turkey. The webinar included participants from TRC, NGOs and UN agencies and touched on the legal protection mechanisms available for survivors of GBV whilst IFRC explained how these mechanisms work and the challenges faced by refugees in accessing these mechanisms. Solutions to these challenges were proposed and discussed. IFRC also presented best practices of the ESSN in mitigating the risk of GBV and in protection. Additionally, the effect of COVID-19 on the protection mechanisms was also explained and UNDP presented their project with Bar associations regarding GBV victims.