

ISSUE 15: JULY 2021

# 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 1.5 million refugees living in Turkey are receiving humanitarian support through monthly cash assistance.

## July snapshots



**1,513,736 individuals**  
reached with cash assistance



**234,629,080 TRY**  
transferred to 243,604 households



**4,597,258,240 TRY**  
transferred since April 2020

## Highlights

### Successful transition to the C-ESSN programme

As of July 2021, the most vulnerable households among the ESSN caseload have been transferred to the "Complementary Emergency Social Safety Net (C-ESSN) Programme" and will receive their assistance from the C-ESSN, funded by the European Union and implemented directly through Kizilaykart in partnership with the Ministry of Family and Social Services. Under the ESSN, the regular cash transfers continued to be provided to 243,604 households (1,513,736 individuals), with a total of 234,629,080.00 TRY transferred.

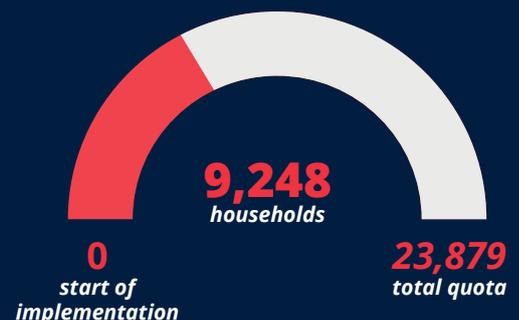
### Launch of the Cash Hub page for Turkey

Learning from the Turkish Red Crescent's comprehensive humanitarian cash programmes in Turkey, a dedicated page on "Cash in Turkey" was launched on the Cash Hub, a platform which enables knowledge sharing and learning exchange among the network of cash practitioners in the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. Read more on page 4.

**Sweepbacks:** In July, 900,713.10TRY in total was swept back in total, 234,495.00TRY being swept back from 419 uncollected cards and 666,218.10TRY from 1012 dormant accounts). The total amount of funds swept back since April 2020 is 15,619,331.70TRY.

## SASF ALLOWANCE

In July 2021, 9,248 households 37,012 individuals received ESSN assistance via the SASF allowance across Turkey. The SASF allowance continues to play an integral role in minimizing exclusion errors and including vulnerable households into the ESSN.



Funded by  
the European Union



# ESSN APPLICATIONS

In July 2021, a total of 3,156 household applications were received by the SASF offices and TRC Service Centres. Out of these, 32.6% per cent were received by TRC Service Centres and 67.4% per cent at SASF offices. After a decrease due to the full pandemic lockdown in May, application numbers reached their usual level in June and show levels similar to the pre-pandemic period with natural fluctuations since the beginning of 2021. Despite the week of national holidays in July, application numbers kept their steady pace reaching above 3,000.

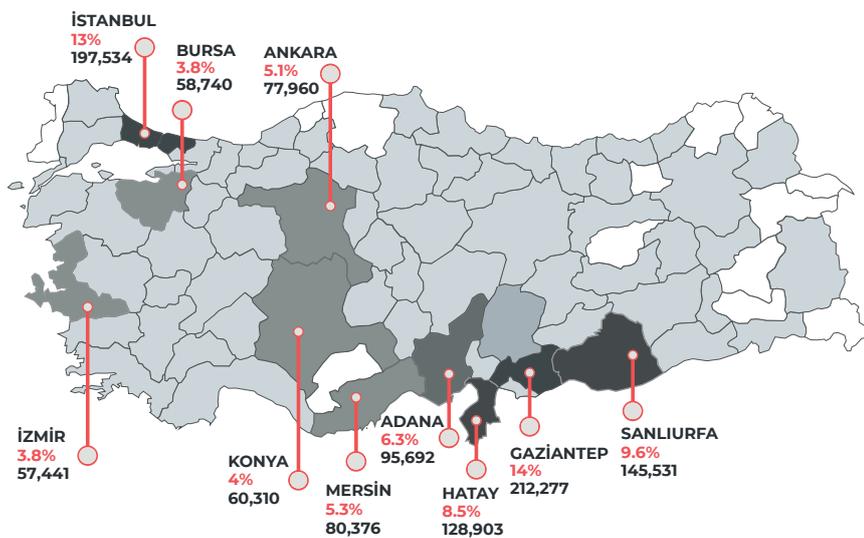
The total number of household applications received since the beginning of the ESSN III Programme reached 623.201, with 36.2 per cent of the total applications having been received by the TRC Service Centres.

Eligible  
**53.3%**

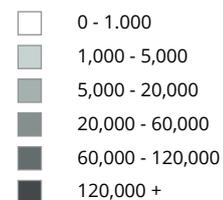


Ineligible  
**46.6%**

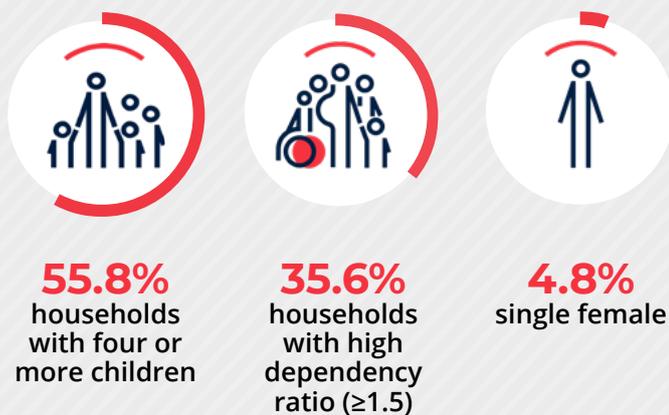
## Province breakdown of ESSN recipients



### Number of individuals



## CRITERIA BREAKDOWN <sup>1</sup>



As of July, three out of six ESSN eligibility criteria are now covered through the C-ESSN programme. The remaining criteria under the ESSN programme are: households with four or more children, households with high dependency ratio, and single female households. Systems were updated accordingly to adjust to the new programme design.

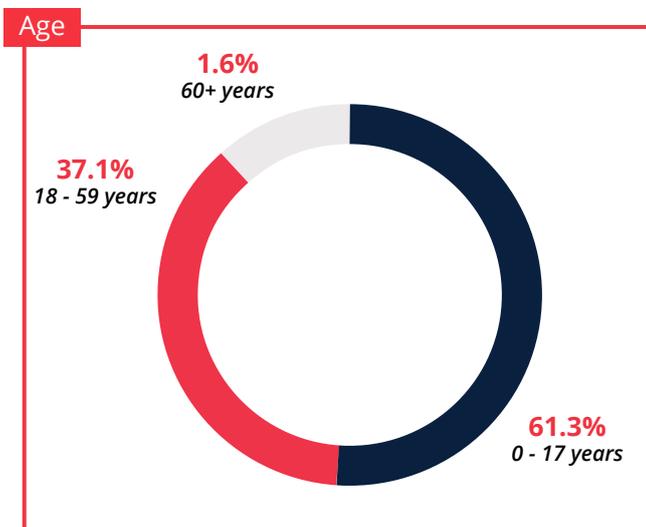
**\*3.8% of households (9,248 HHs) receive ESSN assistance within the scope of the SASF allowance.**

**Sweepbacks:** In July, 900,713.10TRY in total was swept back in total, 234,495.00TRY being swept back from 419 uncollected cards and 666,218.10TRY from 1012 dormant accounts). The total amount of funds swept back since April 2020 is 15,619,331.70TRY.

<sup>1</sup> 136,037 households with four or more children; 86,713 households with a dependency ratio equal to or above 1.5; 11,606 single females; 9,248 households included through the SASF allowance.

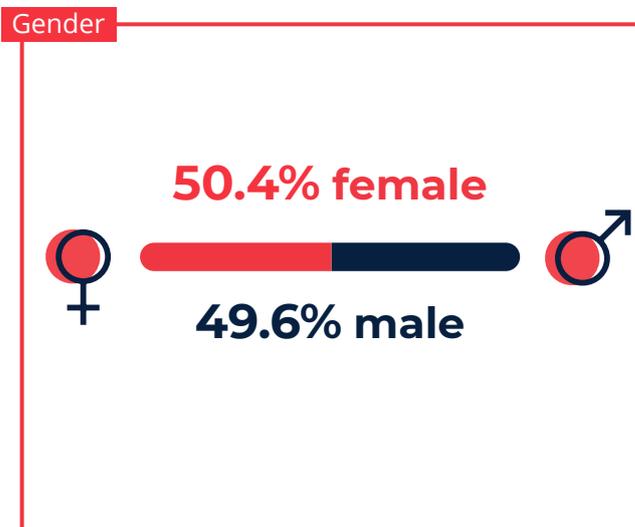


## IN NUMBERS: DEMOGRAPHICS OF PEOPLE WE SERVE



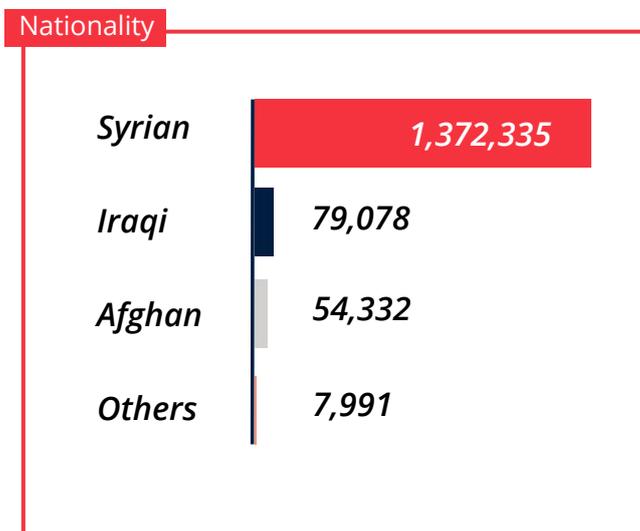
**Age breakdown** of ESSN recipients:

**0 - 17 years:** 927,098  
**18 - 59 years:** 561,929  
**60+ years:** 24,709



**Gender breakdown** of ESSN recipients:

**Female:** 763,019  
**Male:** 750,717



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

# CASH IN TURKEY – LAUNCH OF THE ESSN TURKEY PAGE ON THE CASHHUB

Cash in Turkey page went live on the **CashHub** Page! The Cash Hub, hosted by the British Red Cross (BRC), aims to accelerate the use and increase the scale-up of cash assistance in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in order to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian action.

The Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) will

use this page to share their resources and learnings with the rest of the RCRC Movement and the broader cash community to improve cash programmes worldwide. The hub also provides a platform for learning from ESSN to be disseminated to the broader humanitarian and cash communities. TRC, IFRC and BRC are promoting the page on their respective social media platforms.



## **Vulnerability and targeting:**

Identifying the various vulnerabilities within a population that requires assistance is key to proper targeting and ensuring the right people are reached with our assistance. In this section, we highlight approaches, lessons and successes in vulnerability assessments, targeting approaches and vulnerability monitoring.



## **Livelihood and social cohesion:**

Turkey plays a vital role as a transit and receiving country for international migrants due to its location at the crossroads of Europe, the Middle East and Africa (particularly for Syrians since the crisis broke out in 2011). For the success of humanitarian cash assistance programmes and for ensuring we do no harm, it is important to understand the impact that refugees have on social, cultural and economic aspects of Turkish society and include programmes that enhance social cohesion with host communities as well as livelihood opportunities for refugees.



## **Data management – coming soon:**

In our humanitarian cash assistance programmes, we collect and also generate a lot of data that is key to informing the course of our programming. In this section, we focus on how we build data management systems to improve our programmes and on the ways we implement these systems in real life.



## **Impact and effectiveness of cash:**

Our goal is to positively change the situation of people affected by crisis or displacement. For this reason, we are constantly monitoring and evaluating our activities to ensure that they result in the desired impact. This section focuses on the effectiveness and impact of humanitarian cash assistance programmes, including findings from these processes, best practices and lessons learned.



## **Community engagement and accountability in cash:**

Putting communities at the centre is at the core of our humanitarian work. Therefore, we take a community engagement approach to better understand the needs of the affected population, design relevant interventions and ensure our accountability to them. This section looks at our CEA approach, its impact on humanitarian cash assistance programmes, and lessons learned from using this approach.



## **Shock-responsive programming:**

Due to the changing context in and out of Turkey and emerging hazards, we strive for high adaptability and preparedness in our cash assistance programmes to continuously meet the needs of affected communities.



## PROGRAMMATIC HIGHLIGHTS

### Monitoring and evaluation:

In July, the monitoring and evaluation teams visited local institutions (SASFs, DGPCs, Halkbank Branches, TRC Service Centres and PDMM) to observe the implementation of the programme under the circumstances of COVID-19. In general, the language barriers do not cause much of a problem according to the Social Assistance Solidarity Foundations (SASFs) due to the fact that most of the applicants' children or one of the family members can speak Turkish. Card distribution monitoring was also carried out in the last week of July at the Halkbank branches and the TRC Service Centers (TRC SCs). The distribution process continued to run smoothly in all visited institutions.

The Third-Party Monitoring (TPM) made significant progress in July, completing data collection in Ankara, Istanbul, and Izmir. Data collection will begin in Sanliurfa and Gaziantep in the first and second weeks of August, respectively. The data collection should be completed by the second week of August.

### Referral and Outreach:

In regards to livelihoods and socio-economic empowerment referrals, a sensitization module for TRC staff has been completed and shared with staff.

In July, no field visits to local institutions were undertaken during the period of 15-25 July due to national holidays in Turkey. Nevertheless, the Referral and Outreach (R&O) field teams visited more than 250 local institutions in 26 cities in July within the scope of sensitization and advocacy activities. As of this month, more detailed sensitization visits to local authorities, especially SASFs, have been conducted regarding the newly launched C-ESSN programme. Upcoming visits are planned taking into consideration the potential density at the application points due to the commencement of the C-ESSN programme. Furthermore, the necessary systematic developments were implemented to distinguish between the ESSN and C-ESSN programmes in coordination with the IT department in order to be able to disaggregate the field visits, outbound calls, access issues and cases within the Case Tracking System.

During the visits, it was also explained that refugees, just as with Turkish citizens, are able to receive the vaccine at

hospitals by making an appointment through the same appointment system. Therefore, with the acceleration of vaccination against COVID-19, Provincial Directorates of Migration Management (PDMM) started to resume their attention on International Protection (IP) status interviews, which is an important development given that individuals under IP are a segment of the ESSN target group and people require the official status in order to apply for the ESSN.

### Accountability to affected populations:

With the start of Complementary Emergency Social Safety Net (C-ESSN) Project, the most vulnerable households were sent SMSs informing them that they have been transferred to the C-ESSN Project. In this regard, more than 85,000 SMSs have been sent. Almost 300,000 informative SMSs sent within the ESSN Programme included confirmation of receiving the complaint, monthly removal for different reasons, eligibility and card distribution, discrepancy, dormant account warning. 168 Kızılay Call Center continued responding calls in 5 languages (Turkish, English, Arabic, Farsi and Pashto). In July 2021, 12,094 calls were responded and recorded. During the month of July (01-31) Call Center received 12,089 calls and 11,935 of them (%99) were closed, and responses shared with the callers. 11,515 (%95) of the calls were received in the Arabic language from a total of 75 different provinces. Total number of Facebook followers is 96,269, where the total number of replied questions on Facebook is 43,054. Total number of messages received on the website is 48, all messages were responded to accordingly in a timely manner.

### Coordination:

TRC was invited to the Inter-agency Coordination Group (IACG)'s meeting in Adana with the theme 'Accessible Life for Everyone' to present the Kızılaykart services and activities available for individuals with disabilities within the scope of the ESSN Programme. TRC and IFRC also attended the 3RP Cash Based Interventions Technical Working Group (CBI-TWG) meeting, during which TRC and IFRC M&E colleagues gave a comprehensive overview of the components of the ESSN Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB).