

ISSUE 26: JUNE 2022

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), around 1.4 million refugees living in Turkey have been receiving humanitarian support through monthly cash assistance.

June snapshots



1,453,086 individuals
reached with cash assistance



TRY 334,209,780
transferred to 234,859 households



TRY 7,879,966,340
transferred since April 2020

Highlights

Increased transfer value

Aiming to address the ongoing economic hardships that have negatively affected the purchasing power, hence the livelihood of most people across Türkiye, the transfer value of the ESSN programme has been changed from TRY 155 per person to TRY 230 per person pursuant to the joint Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) calculations of TRC and IFRC. In addition to the transfer value increase, a one-off top-up payment of TRY 1,400 was made. As an enabler, the ESSN addresses not only existing concerns but also continues to respond to emerging issues.

Joint Monitoring Mission hosted by IFRC

Hosted by IFRC, the Joint Monitoring Mission took place between 20 and 24 June. The JMM aimed to observe the persistent economic challenges faced by ESSN target groups, as well as their employability opportunities and the barriers they may face in different sectors. In its essence, the JMM focused on the sustainability of the efforts to support target groups in Türkiye. Stakeholders involved in the JMM include DG ECHO, DG NEAR, Directorate General for International Labour Fore (DGILF), Directorate General of Population and Citizenship (DGPC), and Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM). Please refer to page four for further details about this mission that was carried out through joint efforts of TRC and IFRC.

Sweepbacks: In June, TRY 1,287,314.68 was swept back in total, TRY 491,120 being swept back from 196 uncollected cards and TRY 796,194.68 from 1,217 dormant accounts). The total amount of funds swept back since April 2020 is TRY 24,263,699.09.



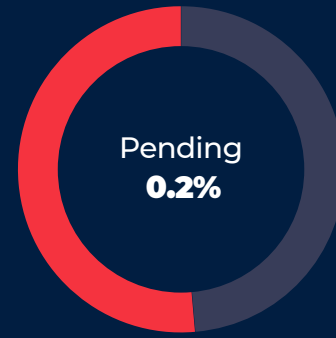
Funded by
the European Union



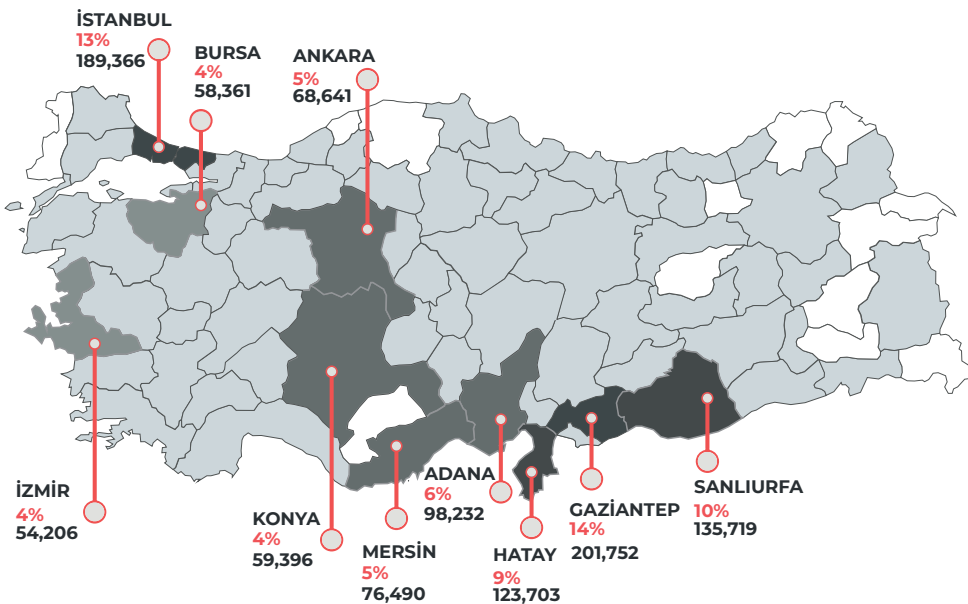
ESSN APPLICATIONS

- In June 2022, a total of 2,709 household applications were received by the SASF offices and TRC Service Centres.
- While 41.3 per cent of these applications were received by TRC Service Centres and 58.7 per cent at SASF offices.
- The total number of household applications received since the beginning of the ESSN III Programme reached 655,018, with 36.3 per cent of the total application having been received by the TRC Service Centres.

Eligible
50.2%

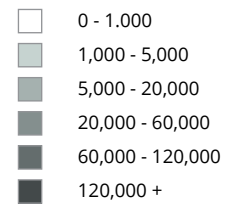


Ineligible
49.7%



Province breakdown of ESSN recipients

Number of individuals



CRITERIA BREAKDOWN



56%
households with four or more children



35%
households with high dependency ratio (≥1.5)



5%
single female

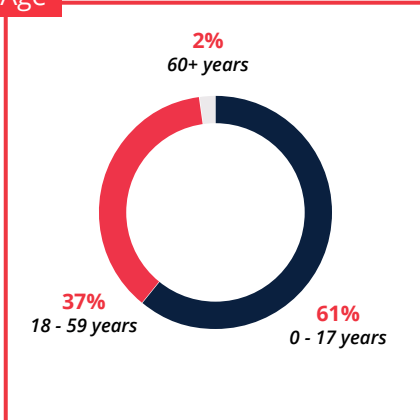
***4%** of households (10,109 HHs) receive ESSN assistance within the scope of the SASF allowance.

¹ 131,714 households with four or more children; 82,359 households with a dependency ratio equal to or above 1.5; 10,677 single females.



IN NUMBERS: DEMOGRAPHICS OF PEOPLE WE SERVE

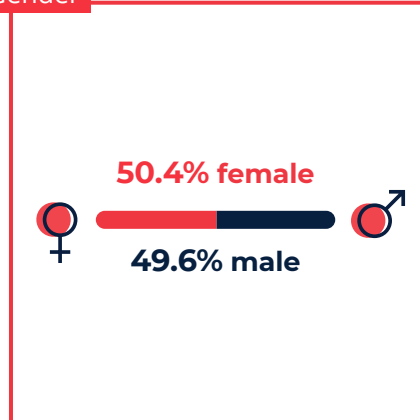
Age



Age breakdown of ESSN recipients:

0 - 17 years: 891,418
18 - 59 years: 539,175
60+ years: 22,493

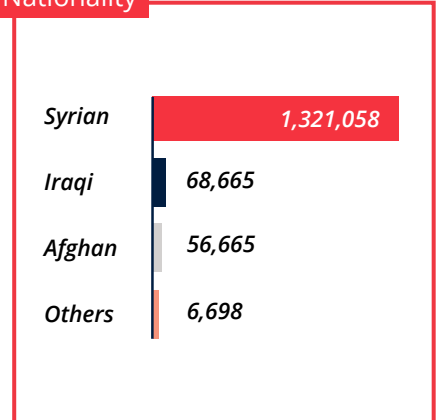
Gender



Gender breakdown of ESSN recipients:

Female: 732,034
Male: 721,052

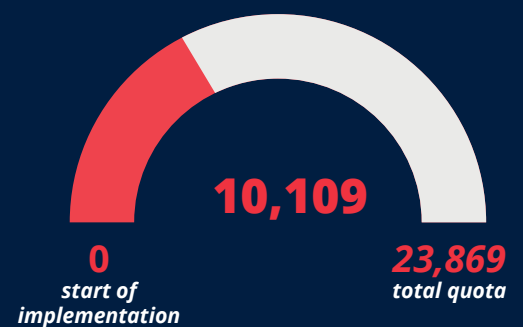
Nationality



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

SASF ALLOWANCE

In June 2022, 10,109 households (40,504 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.





The Joint Monitoring Mission (JMM) focused on the effects of the ESSN programme with a special regard to households included under the ESSN coverage through Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundations Discretionary Allowance (SDA). Other objectives of the JMM include monitoring Socio-Economic Empowerment (SEE) referrals (a component incorporated into the programme in April 2021), the impact of household investigations, population rarefaction practices, coping strategies adopted by the ESSN recipients due to persisting economic challenges, adaptations to the initial ESSN targeting criteria, employability opportunities for the ESSN recipients and the barriers they face in various sectors, as well as the activities carried out by TRC Service Centres and Community Centres.

Some of the key findings from the mission include the following:

- **As an enabler, the ESSN helps its recipients cover their basic needs.** However, it may also influence people's decisions on serious matters ranging from willingness to find formal employment to citizenship-related decisions. It is thought that if adapted, the ESSN can support transition to formal employment.
- **Positive sentiment towards the programme remains high;** in a context where there are more job seekers than jobs, there was a consensus on the idea that the ESSN is of vital importance.
- **Continuing to aim for a better life;** majority of the Syrian participants to group discussions stated that they would like to live in countries with better economic stability such as European countries and Canada.

PROGRAMMATIC HIGHLIGHTS

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E):

- Second round of the Intersectoral Vulnerability Survey (IVS-2) is ongoing; 744 surveys were conducted within June.
- 14th round of the Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM-14) report has been finalized. The report will be published and disseminated with relevant parties soon.
- Data collection process for PDM-15 is ongoing smoothly. In this regard, 1,552 surveys were completed.
- Card Distribution Monitoring was conducted. 15 Halkbank branches were visited in seven provinces. Card distribution process continued uninterrupted.

Referral and Outreach (R&O):

- In June, Referral and Outreach field teams conducted 454 visits in 43 cities within the context of raising awareness of local institutions such as NGOs and PDMMs, and carried out advocacy activities through local authority visits to remove barriers that individuals may face during their ESSN application processes.
- With regard to the current situation of the Ukrainian nationals in Türkiye, it was learned during a visit to Mersin PDMM that so far 200 individuals applied to the PDMM. While 40 of those applicants were granted International Protection status, others hold short-term residence permit. In another visit to Eskişehir PDMM, it was reported that Ukrainian nationals who reside in four pilot provinces, namely Eskişehir, Yalova, Bursa, and Edirne mostly consisted of Crimean Turks.
- It was found out during a visit to Hatay PDMM in June that as of 6 June 2022, individuals without ID card will be transferred to temporary accommodation centres. Since there are three temporary accommodation centres in Hatay, it was recommended that all actors and stakeholders in the area be prepared for a possibly sharp increase in the need for their services throughout the province. Particularly, the officials expect an increase in the need for diapers and staple food products.
- In June, R&O teams attended Multi-Stakeholder Coordination Meeting in Istanbul. Other participants to this meeting include representatives from Esenyurt Municipality and several NGOs. In this meeting, issues such as the social tension between refugee and host communities and the negative impacts of this tension on refugee women and children were discussed. Another issue discussed within the context of this meeting was related to bringing possible solutions to the hardships that individuals face in terms of accessing health and education services.

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA):

- Regular up-to-date information provision about important updates to the programme is crucial in terms of accountability of the programme's target group. Within this context, ESSN recipients are informed regularly regarding important issues through SMSes, social media posts, as well as services provided by 168 Kızılay Call Centre. In June, the most important information provision activity was related to informing programme recipients about the updated ESSN monthly transfer amount. The information provision was provided in five languages namely Arabic, Turkish, Farsi, English and Pashto (services in Pashto are provided only by 168 Kızılay Call Centre).
- In June, 267,650 SMSes were sent out within the scope of the ESSN programme. Throughout the reporting period, ESSN recipients were sensitized regarding the increased transfer amount.
- During June, 1,430 households became eligible and received their first-time eligibility SMSes including information about the bank branch address where they can pick up their cards. Also, 2,412 households were informed about their application to the ESSN resulting in ineligibility. In addition, ESSN recipients who were removed from the coverage of the programme are regularly informed via SMSes.

Coordination:

- IFRC and TRC participated in the National Basic Needs Working Group Meeting in three regions; Marmara, Aegean and SET. Between 28 June and 1 July, teams also conducted the Marmara-Aegean ESSN task force, in coordination with the corresponding activity in the Southeast region. During the task force meetings, the latest updates on all programmes were provided by the teams.
- On 23 June, the coordination unit participated in the Syria task force meeting held at national level in which UNHCR shared protection updates related to the new policy on registering Syrian nationals. The coordination teams also attended the Southeast Education Sector Working Group Meeting.