

ISSUE 29: SEPTEMBER 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), over 1.5 million refugees living in Türkiye have been receiving humanitarian support through monthly cash assistance.

September snapshots

Transfers



1,573,526 individuals
reached with cash assistance

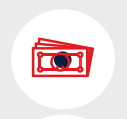


TRY 361,910,980
transferred to 264,646 households



TRY 9.004.644.015
transferred since April 2020

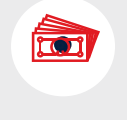
Sweepbacks



TRY 577,241.44
sweepback from 1,398 dormant
accounts



TRY 308,180
sweepback from 189 uncollected cards



TRY 26,647,348.58
total sweepbacks since April 2020

Highlights

Another Round of Media Campaign is around the corner

#PowerToBe III, as the largest media campaign of IFRC history, is ready to be launched on 11 October. #PowerToBe aims to influence a positive perception of migrant flows and promote the impact of the ESSN. Reaching all European countries, #PowerToBe III, will potentially reach 42 million people through TikTok and META. Our main target countries are Spain, Italy, Germany and the rest of Europe.

Learning how to fish!

Due to the protracted nature of the refugee crisis, the ESSN must be supplemented by sustainable solutions to ensure wellbeing of its target groups. Therefore, humanitarian assistance is gradually shifting its focus on increasing refugees' employability with the goal of boosting their self-reliance and facilitating their integration into the labour market. At this point, it is essential that a diverse referral system be in place. As part of IFRC and TRC partnership to explore ways to establish external referral mechanisms, a *Livelihoods Pathway Study* is underway. Please refer to page four for further information about this study.



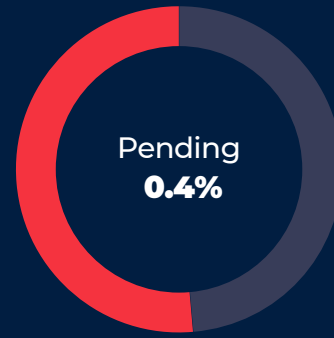
Funded by
the European Union



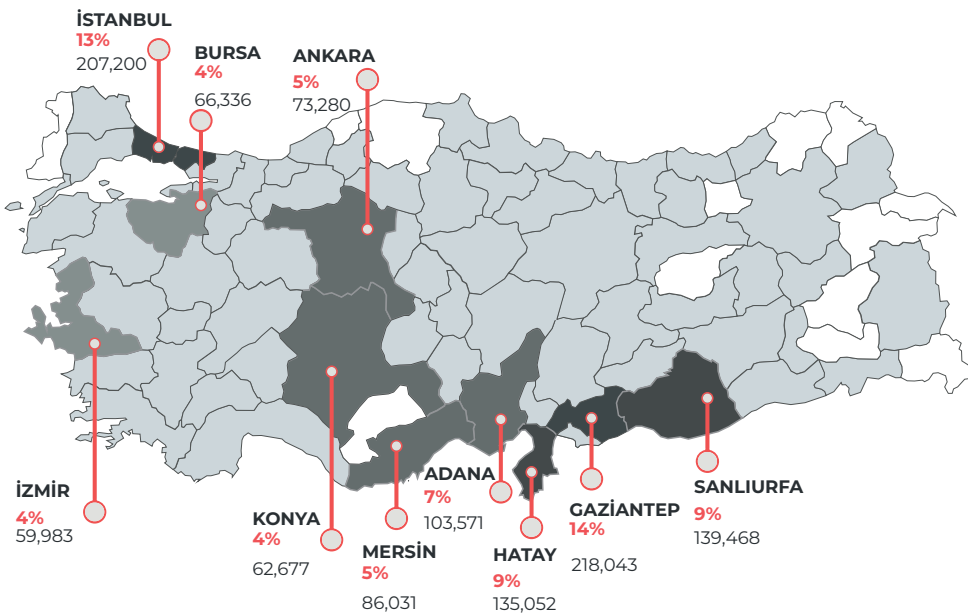
ESSN APPLICATIONS

- In September 2022, a total of 5,847 household applications were received by the SASF offices and TRC Service Centres.
- While 26.3 per cent of these applications were received by TRC Service Centres, 73.7 per cent were received by SASF offices.
- The total number of household applications received since the beginning of the ESSN III Programme reached 675,444 with 36 per cent of the total applications having been received by TRC Service Centres.

Eligible
53.5%

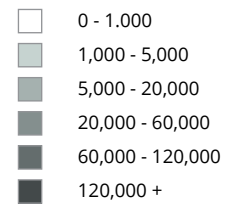


Ineligible
46.1%



Province breakdown of ESSN recipients

Number of individuals



ELIGIBILITY

Gender-Adjusted Dependency Ratio

Because of low employment rate among adult women in the target population (due to cultural implications, domestic responsibilities, caregiving, etc.), they have been excluded from the calculation of dependency ratio as of July 2022 to minimize inclusion/exclusion error. This criterion is based on the ratio of only working-age¹ men to dependent individuals² within a household.



97.8%

258,895 households with high gender-adjusted dependency ratio (≥ 1.5)

SASF Discretionary Allowance (SDA Quota)

Vulnerable households that do not meet the gender-adjusted dependency ratio criterion are included under the programme through SDA quota.



2.2%

5,751 households receive the ESSN assistance within the scope of SASF Discretionary Allowance

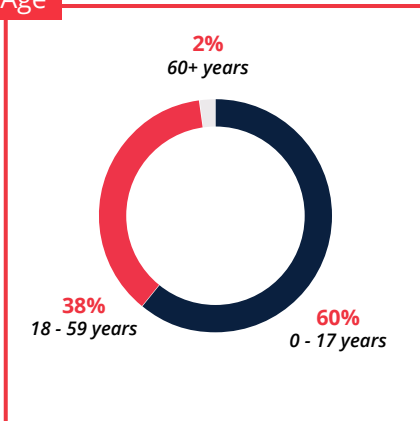
¹ working-age: adults aged between 18 and 59.

² dependent individuals: children below 18, and the elderly aged 60 and above.



IN NUMBERS: DEMOGRAPHICS OF PEOPLE WE SERVE

Age



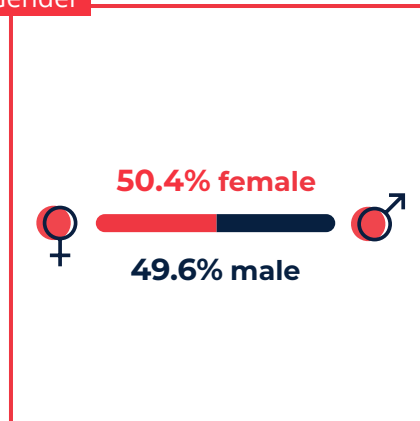
Age breakdown of ESSN recipients:

0 - 17 years: 952,264

18 - 59 years: 596,882

60+ years: 24,380

Gender

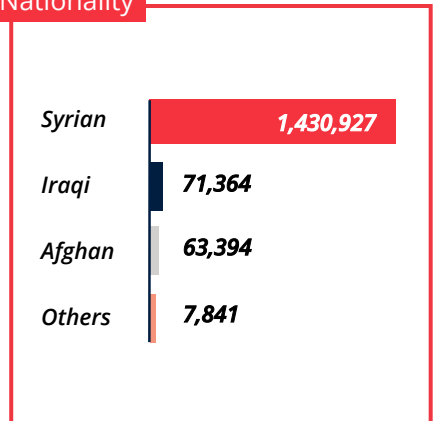


Gender breakdown of ESSN recipients:

Female: 793,572

Male: 779,954

Nationality



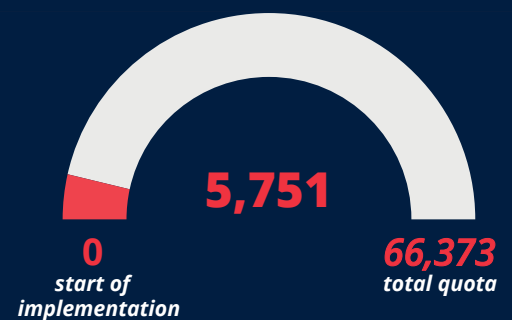
Among the 'others' category are Iranian, Somali, Pakistani, Chinese, Palestinian and other nationals.

SASF ALLOWANCE

In September 2022, 5,751 households (24,662 individuals) received ESSN assistance via the SASF discretionary allowance (SDA) across Türkiye. The SASF allowance continues to play an integral role in minimizing exclusion errors and including vulnerable households into the ESSN.

To increase the use of SASF allowance, the quota was increased from 5 per cent to 10 per cent in July.

Due to the criteria change, the ESSN's ability to target vulnerable households improved at a significant level. Therefore, many households that used to receive ESSN assistance under SASF quota are now directly covered via eligibility criteria.





LIVELIHOOD PATHWAY STUDY

Aiming to explore ways for establishing external referral mechanisms, Livelihoods Pathway Study is underway as part of the ESSN. The overall purpose of this study which focuses on establishing and enhancing livelihood referral pathways is to improve the capacity of refugees seeking employment, as well as analysing employability opportunities among refugee population through primary data collection at field level. This will contribute to the current strengthening of livelihood internal referral mechanisms under the ESSN and to develop synergies between the IFRC and TRC's various programmes to strengthen the targeting and identification of ESSN recipients willing and able to work. Further, the study will contribute to enrich Socio-Economic Empowerment components of Community-based Migration Programme, as well as policy-level discussions around job formalization and limitations/challenges for accessing formal jobs.

To achieve the goals mentioned above, literature review and primary data collection activities were carried out. Data collection activities were divided into three sub-categories. These categories and the activities are as follows:

- **With people seeking employment:** In-depth interviews with ESSN applicants (both recipients and applicants)
- **With employment-related representatives:** In-depth interviews with representatives from chambers to get a wider perspective of the employers,
- **Livelihood and Socio-Economic Empowerment programmes/partnerships:** Key Informant Interviews with livelihood practitioners and province-level policy makers (e.g., municipalities and chambers of commerce) to better understand their priorities and perspectives on integrating refugees into the Turkish labour market

Also, analyses to be conducted towards objectives will include areas such as labour market potential; labour market opportunities vis-à-vis socio-economic profiles of ESSN caseload; factors affecting ESSN recipients' access to formal employment; potential incentivization models to support transition from basic needs support to livelihood opportunities, and ways to strengthen external referral pathways to formal employment.

The study is to provide an opportunity to identify the needs of both supply & demand sides of the labour market, and to create sustainable solutions by considering the priorities of public authorities. The findings will feed and give a stronger direction to the SEE strategies of the ESSN Programme.

PROGRAMMATIC HIGHLIGHTS

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

Focus Group Discussions (FGD) looking at Housing and Impact of the Transfer Value theme have been conducted.

Focus group discussion as a small-scale qualitative study is a crucial research tool to gather people from similar backgrounds or experiences to discuss and exchange ideas among selected participants. The aim of FGD was to understand the housing condition of the refugees and the perception of the recipients on the increased transfer value of the ESSN.

The data collection process has been completed and the analysis process is ongoing.

Referral and Outreach (R&O)

Field observations conducted by Referral and Outreach (R&O) teams revealed that some seasonal workers had been facing potential protection risks. These observations were confirmed through interviews with seasonal workers and their supervisors. Although this situation was brought up to the Provincial Directorate of Migration Management (PDMM) and Social Service Centre (SSC), follow-up visits revealed that the situation persisted. Upon these developments, the situation was brought to the attention of the Ministry of Family and Social Services (MoFSS). In response to this situation, a coordination meeting was conducted in the Istanbul Region with the participation of local SASFs, Provincial Directorate of the MoFSS, Doctors of the World Turkey, TRC İzmir Community Center and IFRC Istanbul Field Staff. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss mitigation measures to take for the prevention of potential protection risks experienced by seasonal workers in the region. R&O field teams facilitated information dissemination and coordination among the actors who will continue to monitor the developments in the region.

ESSN IV Transition Planning

For the ESSN IV Transition Planning, a Joint Stakeholder Session with DGSA, TRC, ECHO, DG NEAR, and the IFRC was held to review key topics in the transition. The feedback and findings will be integrated into the transition roadmap. The ToR for a Transition Committee as a forum for ongoing technical discussion and planning for the transition was also agreed, and that committee will meet next on 1 November.

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)

ESSN up-to-date brochures and posters which includes new criteria and monthly upload amount were prepared to be distributed. This is to provide up-to-date information to the programme target group on application procedures, payment amount, criteria, and programme official information channels, as the criteria change is one of the most important programmatic changes which will include the individuals who were not found eligible for the programme before.

In September, 294 questions/information requests/feedback/complaints were received and responded to through [facebook](#) and [programme website](#), in addition to 31,795 calls having been received through 168 call centre.

Coordination

During the reporting period, the coordination unit conducted quarterly ESSN taskforce meetings to ensure all sectors receive the latest updates about the programme. Besides, the unit participated in 3RP sectoral meetings, and conducted field activities including visits to UN agencies, I/NGOs, and other relevant actors. The ESSN taskforce meeting for Marmara-Aegean region was held on 7 September, and the SET taskforce meeting took place on 15 September. Periodic organization of ESSN Task Force meetings and participation in sectoral meetings help all sectors have the latest figures of the programmes so that actions taken by different actors do not overlap with one another. Moreover, it also helps to understand OCHA's principles of Who is Doing What Where (3W). Therefore, these meetings are of great importance in ensuring unity across Türkiye regions and taking corrective actions.