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TÜRK KIZILAY

COMPLEMENTARY EMERGENCY SOCIAL SAFETY NET (C-ESSN) PROJECT

FINDINGS OF POST DISTRIBUTION MONITORING SURVEY (ROUND 1)

KIZILAYKART
PROGRAMMES

DISCLAIMER

CONTENTS

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACCRONYMS

C-ESSN	COMPLEMENTARY EMERGENCY SOCIAL SAFETY NET
CPI	CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
DGPC	DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF POPULATION AND CITIZENSHIP AFFAIRS
ESSN	EMERGENCY SOCIAL SAFETY NET
EU	EUROPEAN UNION
GDP	GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT
GLM	GENERALIZED LINEAR MODEL
HDI	HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX
LCSI	LIVELIHOOD COPING STRATEGY INDEX
MEB	MINIMUM EXPENDITURE BASKET
MOFSS	MINISTRY OF FAMILY AND SOCIAL SERVICES
NUTS	NOMENCLATURE OF TERRITORIAL UNITS FOR STATISTICS
PAB	PRE-ASSISTANCE BASELINE
PDM	POST DISTRIBUTION MONITORING
PMM	PRESIDENCY OF MIGRATION MANAGEMENT
RCSI	REDUCED COPING STRATEGY INDEX
TRC	TURKISH RED CRESCENT
TRY	TURKISH LIRA
TURKSTAT	TURKISH STATISTICAL INSTITUTE

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INTRODUCTION

THE C-ESSN PROJECT

Türkiye hosts over 4 million registered refugees[1] and asylum-seekers[2], of whom 3.75 million Syrian nationals, and close to 320.000 international protection[3] status holders and asylum-seekers of other nationalities. Some refugees live in six multicultural camps which are temporary accommodation centers. In response, the Government of Türkiye has granted temporary or international protection to refugees, depending on their nationality, and has provided them with free access to services such as health once they have registered with the Presidency of Migration Management (PMM). To support the government's efforts, the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) programme was launched in November 2016 to help to cover the basic needs of the vulnerable refugees living outside camps under temporary or international protection. It provides beneficiary refugee households with a Kızılaykart card giving them access to a fixed amount of money each month. Meanwhile, the Complementary Emergency Social Safety Net (C-ESSN) project was initiated in July 2021 to improve the living standards of the most vulnerable refugees under Temporary and International Protection as well as humanitarian residence permit holders and international protection applicants in Türkiye through the provision of regular cash assistance to cover their basic needs. Financed by the EU, the project is implemented by MoFSS as a lead applicant in partnership with the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) as a co-applicant, and in cooperation with other relevant stakeholders, which has a well-tracked record in the provision of humanitarian aid to the most vulnerable refugees through a coordinated and systematic approach.

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1   According to the Law on Foreigners and International Protection, the refugee refers to foreigners under international protection or temporary protection. Herein the term is used to refer to their legal status.

2   An individual who is seeking international protection. In countries with individualized procedures, an asylum-seeker is someone whose claim has not been finally decided on by the country in which the claim is submitted. Not every asylum-seeker will ultimately be recognized as a refugee, but every refugee was initially an asylum-seeker.

3   The actions by the international community on the basis of international law, aimed at protecting the fundamental rights of a specific category of persons outside their countries of origin, who lack the national protection of their own countries.

TÜRKİYE's MACRO-ECONOMIC SITUATION

With the emergence of the pandemic, a multidimensional systemic crisis was experienced due to the shocks in the supply and demand balances in both the global and national economies. Even though the fact that the pandemic process limited the effectiveness of the policy measures that Türkiye could take against the crisis, the country's economy continued to develop and grow during this pandemic period.

Although it is expected that the growth and anti-inflation policies generally produce opposite results, both growth and high inflation levels were observed in the 2017-2019 period. This period can be briefly explained as a period in which per capita income and eventually the purchasing power decreased depending on the fluctuation in USD, unemployment increased, price stability deteriorated and risk premiums increased. Despite those effects, the spread of vaccination throughout society facilitated the recovery in services, tourism and related sectors that have been adversely affected by the pandemic, and enabled a more balanced path in economic activities.

The recent increase in inflation has been driven by supply-side factors such as a rise in food and import prices, especially energy, and supply constraints, which have caused an increase in administered prices and demand. With the effect of the pandemic seen in all areas of the economy, most of the households receiving Kızılaykart assistance were negatively affected by the adverse developments in the economy. The annual increase in the consumer price index (CPI) was around 48,69 per cent and the monthly increase is 11,10 per cent as of January 2022.
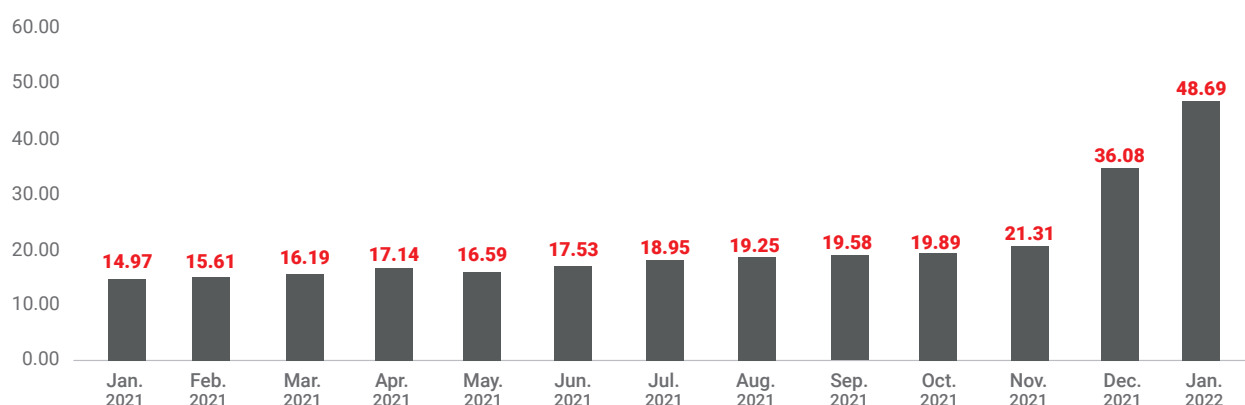

Figure 1: ***Annual Rate of Changes in Consumer Price Index (CPI) (%) January 2022***

Interest and food inflation were also among the factors that tend to increase during the pandemic. As a result of increasing inflation, changes were observed in economic activities. Especially the recent increases in food prices have put refugee households in economic hardship. This position can be expressed as that it may cause households to experience difficulties, apply more negative coping strategies, and deteriorate their balance with debt and expenditure. As stated in the rest of the report, analyses were made on the effectiveness of cash assistance to households by comparing the C-ESSN Pre-Assistance Baseline Survey (PAB)[4] and the Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) Survey -1.

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4   The data collection of the baseline survey was completed in June-July 2021.

AIM OF THE STUDY

The aim of the study is to assess the impact of C-ESSN assistance on the socio-economic conditions of most vulnerable refugee households with a particular focus on their level of expenditure, income, debt, and coping strategies. Research and sample were designed specifically to answer these questions ahead which is aiming to get a better understanding of the target population's socio-economic conditions.

SAMPLING DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

The sampling design of the Pre-Assistance Baseline (PAB) and Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) of C-ESSN has been designed considering the minimum required sample size per strata that allows disaggregation of the baseline information by geographical regions and by eligibility criteria of C-ESSN. In order to have a nationwide representative survey, regional stratification was applied based on the dispersement the C-ESSN population all over Türkiye. In this respect, four geographical strata have been determined by considering the proportions of the C-ESSN population and regional socio-economic dynamics shaped by the NUTS-12 level stratification of Türkiye. Besides, Istanbul was accepted as a stratum by itself because of its peculiarity in socio-economic factors[5].
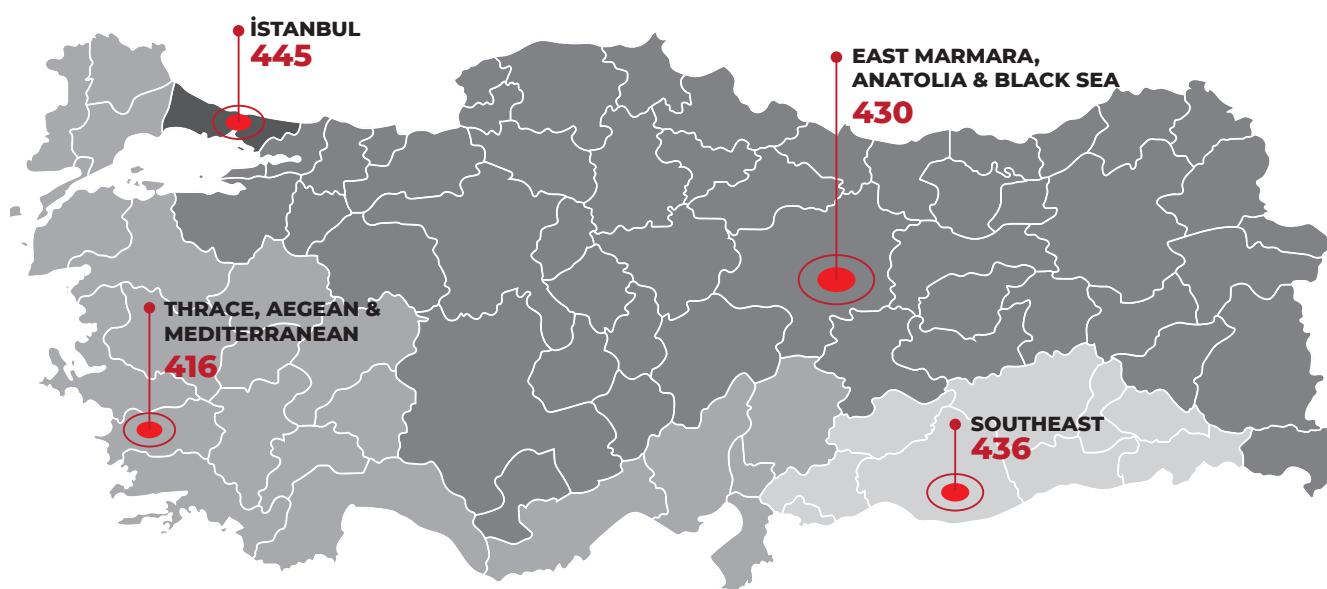

İSTANBUL 445

EAST MARMARA, ANATOLIA & BLACK SEA 430

THRACE, AEGEAN & MEDITERRANEAN 416

SOUTHEAST 436

*Figure 2: **Regional Strata***

The PDM 1 data collection had been carried out from December 2021 to January 2022 with 1727 households through remote phone surveys by enumerators from TRC's M&E unit in Gaziantep with a 39.4 per cent response rate.

The PDM sample has been designed as stratified random sampling with Kish allocation, with a margin of error of 5 per cent and a confidence level of 95 per cent.

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5   As an example for this, please see Figure 5 which shows the density of income level in order to have a better understanding about how regions are differentiated from each other.
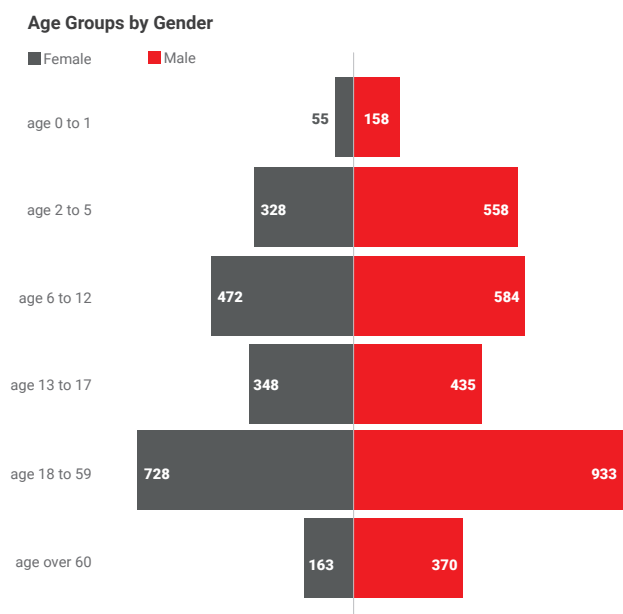
Age Groups by Gender

■ Female ■ Male

Age group	Female	Male
age 0 to 1	55	158
age 2 to 5	328	558
age 6 to 12	472	584
age 13 to 17	348	435
age 18 to 59	728	933
age over 60	163	370

*Figure 3: **Number of Individual Age Group Disaggregation of Sampled Households***

DEMOGRAPHICS

At this step, it would make sense to present the profile of the sampled group for a better understanding of the findings and outcomes of the study. Since the analysis unit is household, and the questionnaire is designed to focus on the households' variables such as expenditure, debt and so on, interviewee profiling does not matter and individual data is not collected. Yet household demography, age disaggregations and highest education level in the household may help to better interpret the findings.

FINDINGS

INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT

INCOME

Household income and expenditure are two core indicators that enable understanding the economic behavior and accordingly consumption habits of households which can differ due to individuals' decisions[6]. There are multiple ways of researching household behavior on consumption. Hence, analyzing this complex process requires a comprehensive approach even this study focuses on this issue in a simplified manner.

Compared to C-ESSN baseline, findings point out that the median[7] monthly labor income for C-ESSN recipient household is stable at 1.000 TRY whereas monthly labor income per capita for C-ESSN recipients increased from 171 TRY to 200 TRY[8].

The first round of PDM findings indicates that there is a significant difference in terms of median monthly labor income across study regions[9]. Istanbul is the region with the highest labor income (2.500 TRY) while it was 2.100 TRY in the C-ESSN baseline study, whilst the South-east has the lowest (800 TRY) for C-ESSN recipient households. Median monthly labor income increased by 67 per cent for the ABEEM (Anatolia-Blacksea-EastAnatolia-EastMarmara) region from C-ESSN PAB to C-ESSN PDM-1 whereas it increased by 19 per cent for Istanbul region.

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6   Luisella Goldschmidt-Clermont, "Household Production and Income: Some Preliminary Issues", 2000.

7   Median estimation gives us robust results when investigating economic indicators.

8   According to the result monitoring approach, it is assumed that the income is one of the core aspects to gain information on households' socio-economic indicators. On the other hand, it should be noted that gathering income data is though process since the frequency of generating income and opportunities are changing inconsistently in the country context. Thus, high variances between different studies may occur which is also highly depending on the methodologies of those assessments.

9   The Mood's Median test has the same function as the Kruskal Wallis test but provides a more robust estimation if there is an outlier in the dataset. According to the test results, the null hypothesis is rejected due to the fact that the probability value is less than the 0.05 significance level. It was concluded that the total income status differs in terms of region.
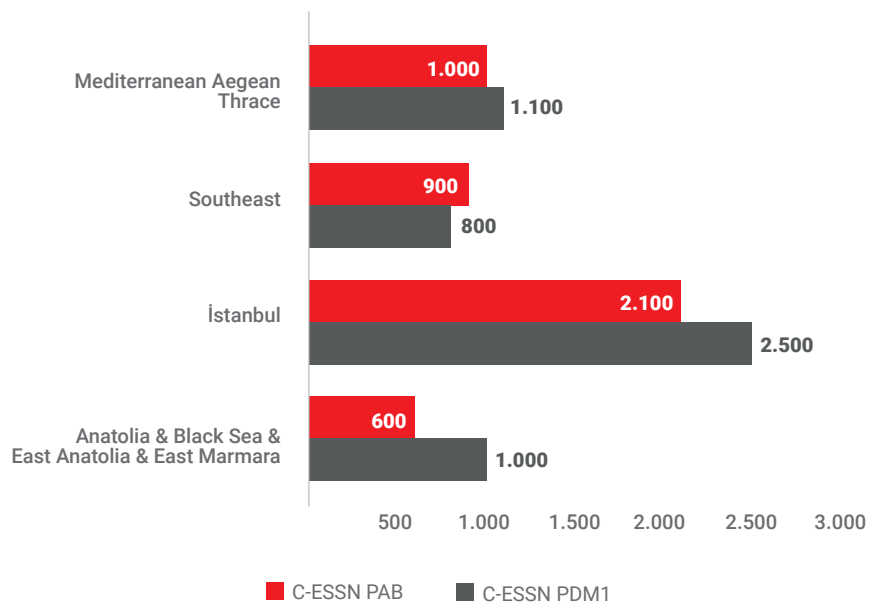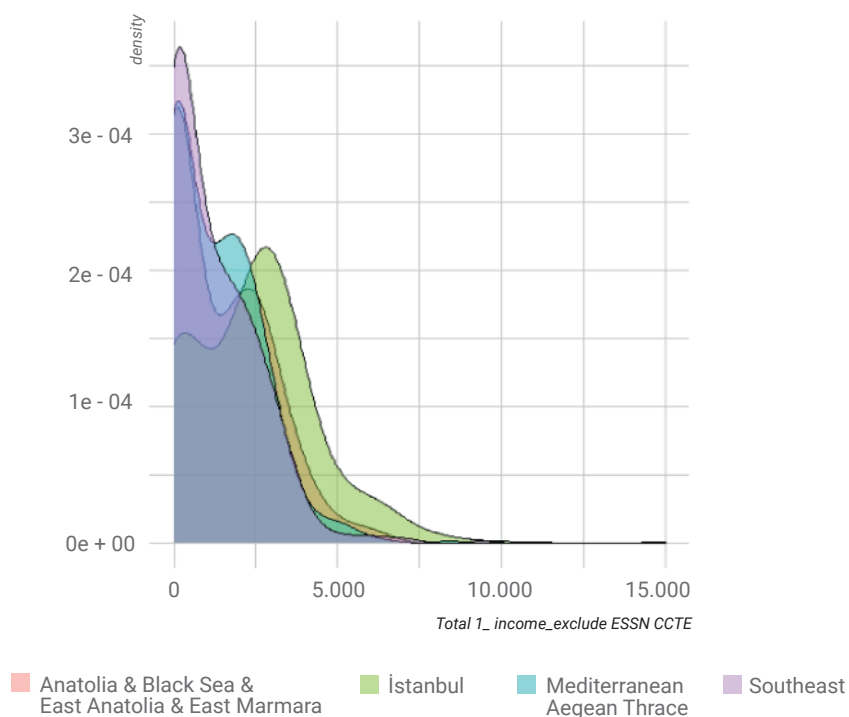
Figure 4: *Labor Income Amounts*

Figure 5: *Income Levels Density Plot by Region*

EMPLOYMENT

When assessing households' working status, it turned out that, 67 per cent of C-ESSN recipients have at least one breadwinner (this was 76 per cent in PAB) in the household, however, the remaining 33 per cent; do not have a working individual in last 30 days.
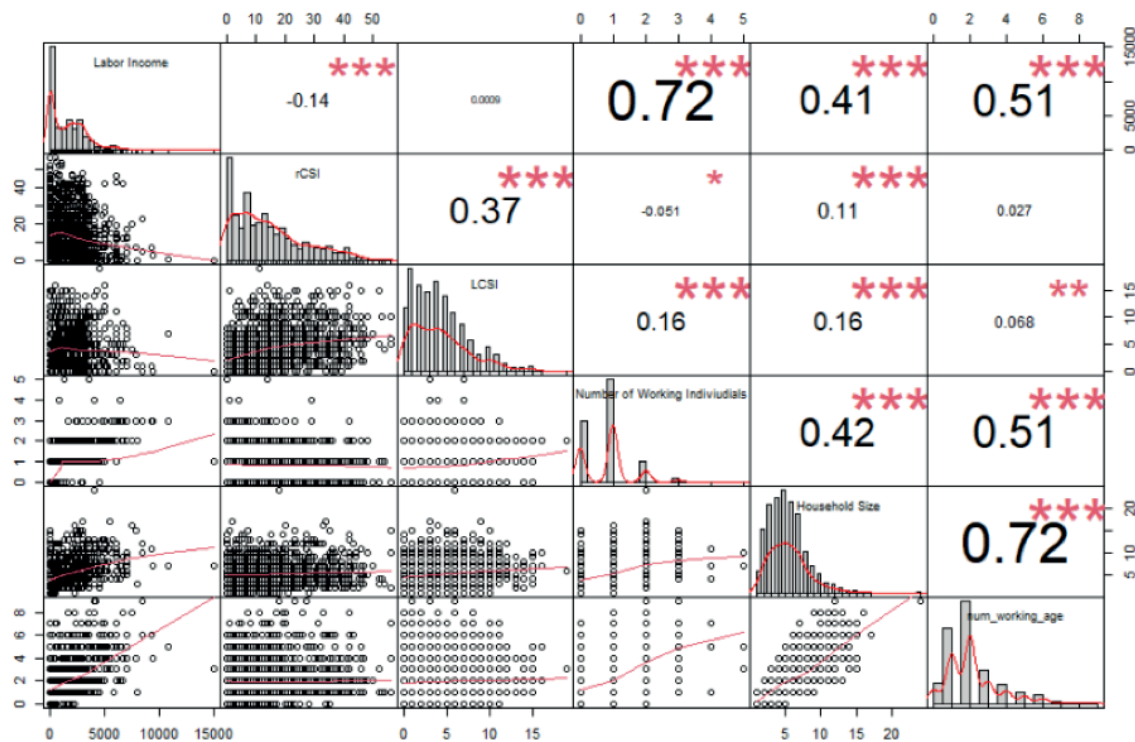
Figure 6: Income Oriented Correlation Matrix

As expected, income levels are directly linked to the number of working individuals. But in income interpretation, consistency in income earning and livelihood activities are important. In the correlation results, it is seen that there is a positive relationship between household size and income. Therefore, an increase in the number of individuals living in a household may lead to an increase in household income. Thus, we can make an assumption that bigger households tend to be less vulnerable due to their income gathering potential yet their expenditure levels are relatively higher. In addition, the correlation between the presence of a person between the ages of 18-59 working in the household and the household size and labor income supports this situation.

EXPENDITURE

Between PAB and PDM-1, median household expenditure increased by 35 per cent for C-ESSN households (from 2.630 to 3.557 TRY). The higher median expenditure can be partially explained with higher consumer item prices, the inflation rate was 48.69 annually and 11,10 per cent monthly in January 2022[10].

In the meantime, the Istanbul region has the highest total expenditure of 4.524 TRY as seen in Figure 7. While the highest median household expenditure increased by 41 per cent in Mediterranean Aegean and Thrace regions, Istanbul was the region with the lowest percentage (33 per cent) from C-ESSN PAB to C-ESSN PDM1.
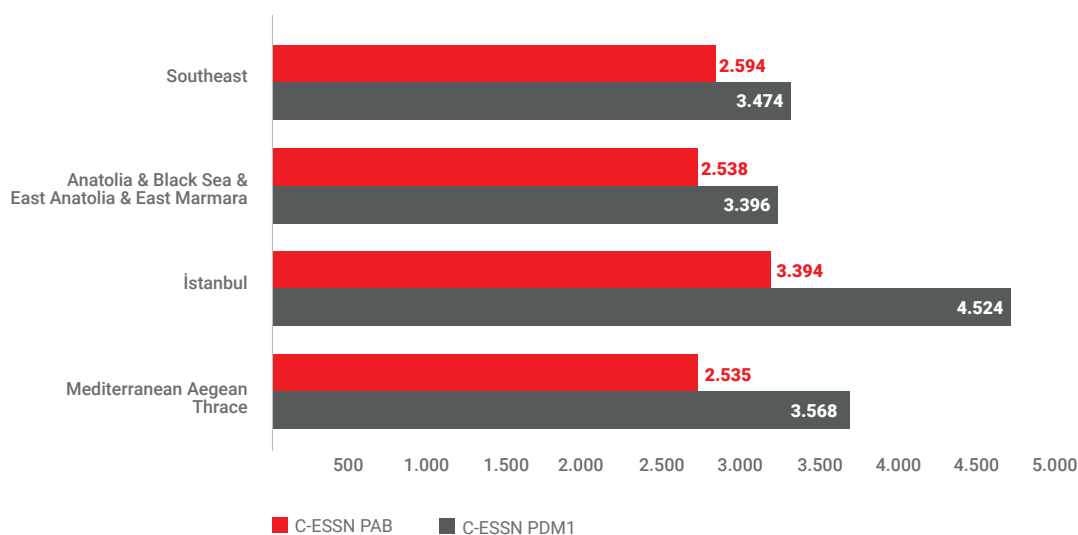

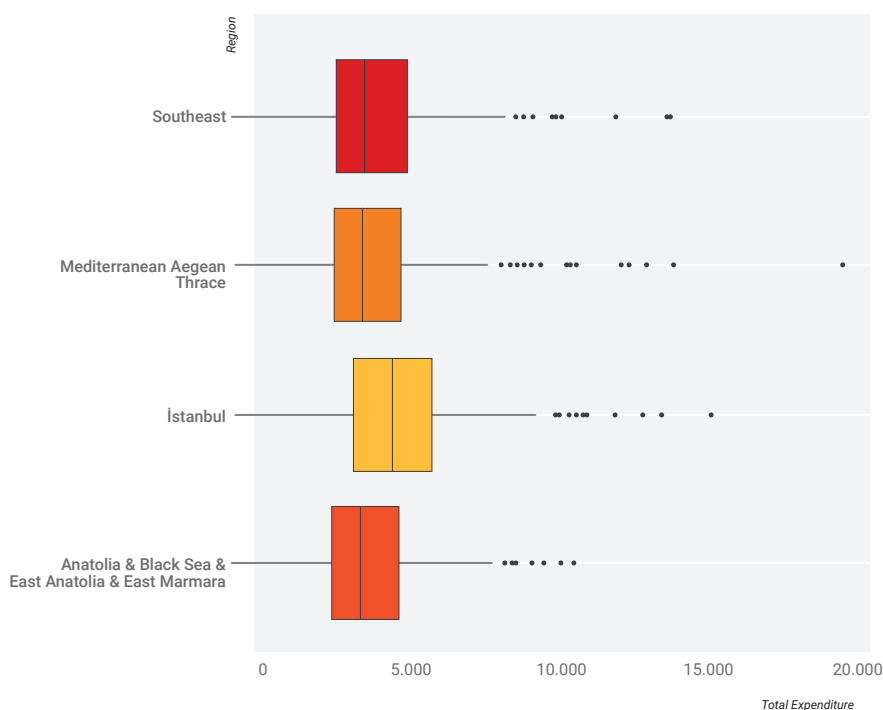
Figure 7: **Expenditure Levels by Regions**

Figure 8: **Expenditure Boxplot by Regions**

10   Please see this for more information: https://data.tuik.gov.tr/Bulten/Index?p=Tuketici-Fiyat-Endeksi-Ocak-2022-45790.

Expenditure basically indicates households' involvement in economic activities. It does not only show the payment amount for specific items, but also gives ideas about the reason behind each socio-economic behavior. There are main items such as food, rent, utilities, hygiene and water which are core basic needs to be covered with regular payments in an ideal scenario. Thus, expenditure is a basis for other proxy indicators such as coping strategies, borrowing, and the ability to meet the share of expenditure items.
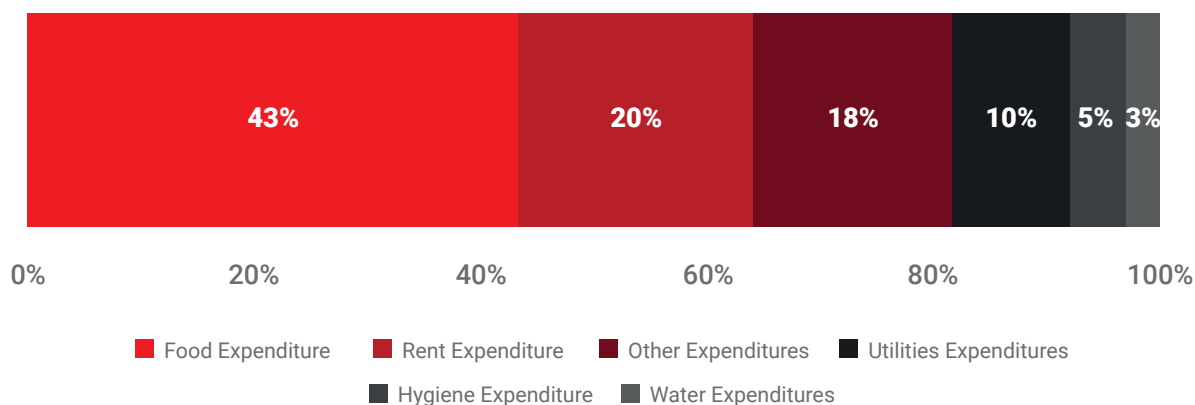

| 43% | 20% | 18% | 10% | 5% | 3% |

Food Expenditure ■ Rent Expenditure ■ Other Expenditures ■ Utilities Expenditures
■ Hygiene Expenditure ■ Water Expenditures

*Figure 9: **Share of Expenditure Items***

Nevertheless, expenditure by itself does not provide a full picture of a household's ability to cover these needs, therefore the ability to meet the cost of the minimum expenditure basket is taken into consideration in order to get a deeper understanding of the economic situation of these households. According to the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB)[11] findings based on the December 2021 and January 2022 results, 75 per cent of households measured are below the threshold value of MEB, which was 992,50 TRY per person whereas 25 per cent of recipient households are above the MEB value.

*Figure 10: **Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB)***

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11   The Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) is defined as what a household requires in order to meet basic needs – on a regular or seasonal basis – and its average cost. The indicator unit of measurement is kept as percentage, it refers to a sample of recipients. The purpose is to calculate the percentage of households receiving the C-ESSN grant who have become more economically independent and more resilient

DEBT

Household debt is defined as the indebtedness of households in relation to their income which is their spending and saving capacity[12]. It means that debt is a tool to find out an equilibrium between income and expenditure when the latter exceeds the purchasing power of the household. However, debt can turn into a devastating crisis itself that people have to cope with if not manageable. High debt ratios are often interpreted as a sign of financial vulnerability[13].

As a result of the assessment on the debt, 80 per cent of C-ESSN households has debt while it is 77 per cent in PAB.

Median of total debt amount increased by 33 per cent comparing to the PAB. (from 1500 TRY to 2000 TRY). Empirical evidence also shows that the Istanbul region has the highest debt among other regions. The higher total debt and expenditure indicate that the regions apart from the Istanbul region are similar to each other[14].

Considering the amount of income and its inconsistency with the level of expenditure, it can be said that debt is a common instrument for most households to sustain their daily lives[15]. While the debt-to-income ratio needs to be read with caution due to the different timeframes (debt was assessed as a cumulative value and income as a monthly value), comparing debt with income is still an important indication of vulnerabilities. This is an indicator of the financial stress that the households are facing[16].

Findings suggest that reliance on debt from local shops is the main source of debt for the refugees. When households are in a difficult situation to meet their basic needs, they might prefer to borrow from their friends/ relatives or local shops. It is important to make a point in here, while the borrowing from friends decreased by 2 per cent, it is seen that borrowing from local shops increased by 4 per cent.
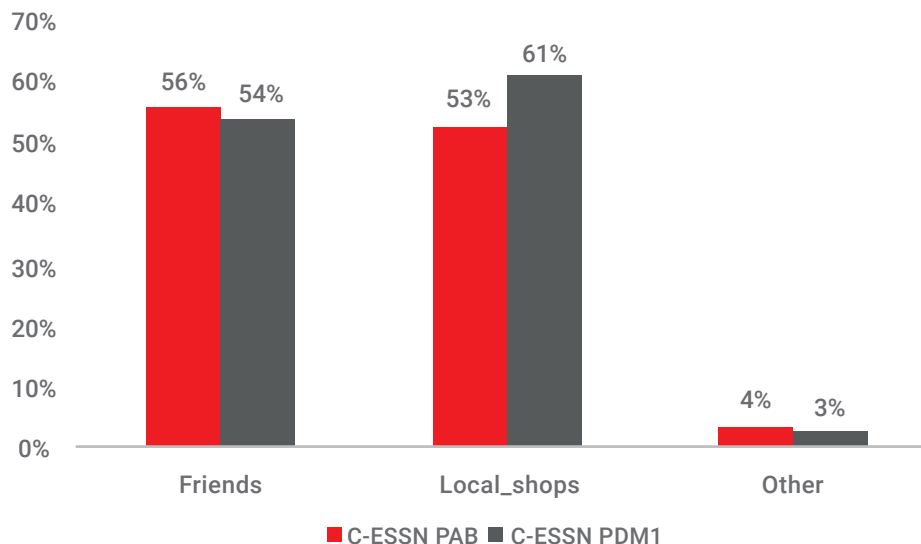

*Figure 11: **Households Debt Sources***

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12 OECD, Household Debt, OECD Factbook 2016-2015: Economic, Environmental and Social Statistics, OECD Publishing, Paris, 2016. 14 https://dx.doi.org/10.1787/factbook-23-2015-en

13 Jane Wheelock and Age Mariussen, "Households, Work and Economic Change: A Comparative Institutional Perspective", Springer, 1997.

14 The Moods Medians Test was applied to whether understand there are any differences between total debt and regions. According to the results, total debt status does not differ in terms of region.

15 Dag Henning Jacobsen, "What influences the growth of household debt?", https://norges-bank.brage.unit.no/norges-bank-xmlui/bitstream/handle/2504442/11250/jacobsen.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y (accessed February 28,2022).

16 Fatma Pınar Arslan, "Public Debt and Income Inequality in Türkiye", Journal of Research in Economics, Volume: 3, Issue: 2019,2.).

In Figure 11, food, utilities, and rent were the main reasons to take on debt. Therefore, it seems that C-ESSN households borrowed to cover their needs. At first when comparing PAB and PDM1, the increase of 24 per cent points to the fact that, those who took on debt for food is fairly remarkable. This result can be explained by the recently increased food prices. When we look at the socio-economic indicators in the report in general, the increase in income, expenditure and debt levels are noticeable. Therefore, it is possible to come up with a conclusion food inflation plays critical role. For example, food and non-alcoholic beverage prices increased by 10.90 per cent in January, while annual inflation increased by 11.81 points to 55.61 per cent.
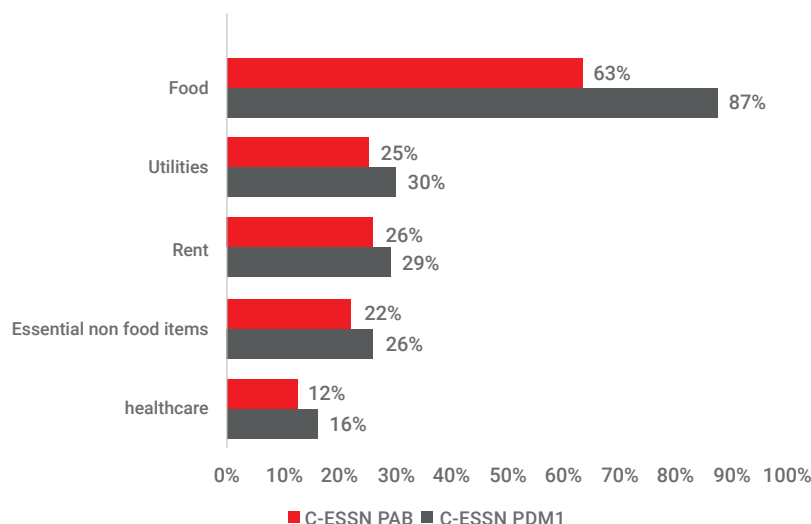

*Figure 12: **Household Debt Components***

COPING STRATEGIES

LIVELIHOOD COPING STRATEGIES (LCSI)

Understanding the behaviors of households engaged in to adapt to recent crises provides insights into the difficulty of their situation, and how likely they will be able to meet challenges in the future. Households were asked if anyone in their household had to engage in any of the 13 coping strategies due to the lack of food or financial resource during the past 30 days.

According to the results, the LCSI score has decreased from PAB to PDM1 (from 4.66 to 4.51) for the C-ESSN households. When the LCSI score is examined based on regions, it can be seen that the results do not differ substantially.

The livelihood coping strategies are categorised into three sections including stress, crisis and emergency coping strategies. Each component represents sets of behaviour with different degrees of severity[17].
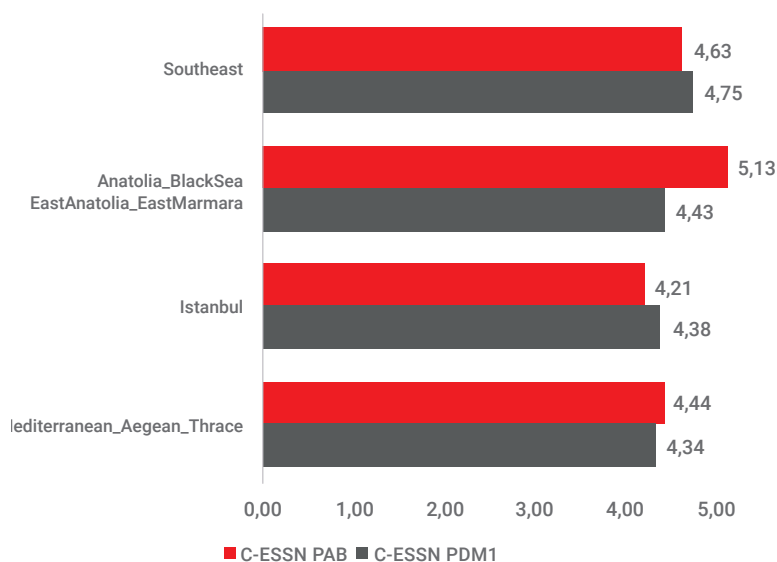

*Figure 13: **Livelihood Coping Strategies (LCSI) by Region***

The most frequently adopted **stress coping strategies** are purchasing food on credit (68 per cent), borrowing money from non-relatives to cover basic needs (45 per cent) followed by spending savings (19 per cent).

Reducing health (41 per cent) and reducing education (38 per cent) expenditures were the most frequently applied **crisis coping strategies.**

Another most frequently adopted **emergency coping strategies** are moving entire household to a different location (12 per cent) and involving children in income generation (16 per cent).

In the PAB study[18], analysis of livelihood copings was reflecting that reducing education expenses and selling household assets were the concerning coping strategies. Although the results are almost similar, it is seen in the PDM-1 study that whilst selling household assets are decreasing, households are still reducing education expenses.
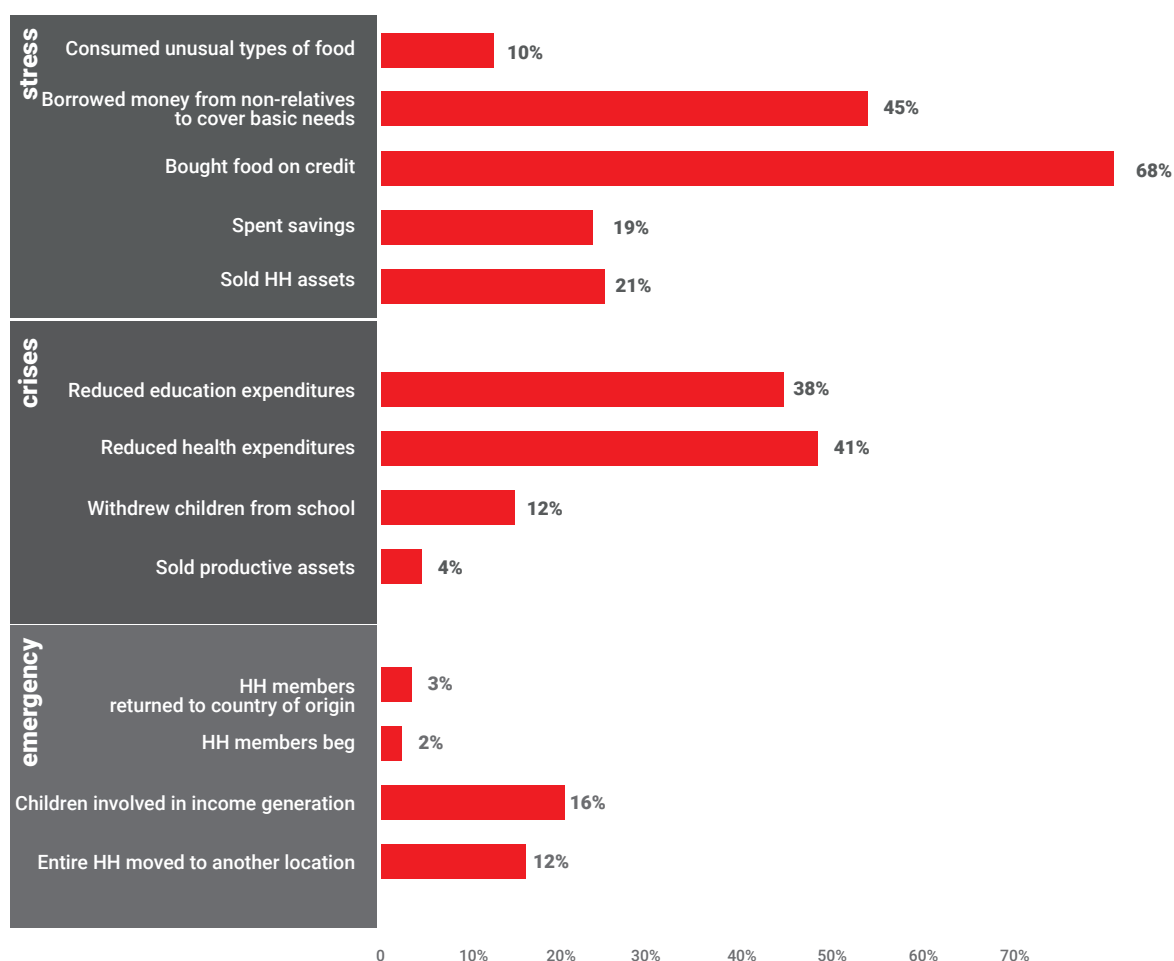

stress
- Consumed unusual types of food — 10%
- Borrowed money from non-relatives to cover basic needs — 45%
- Bought food on credit — 68%
- Spent savings — 19%
- Sold HH assets — 21%

crises
- Reduced education expenditures — 38%
- Reduced health expenditures — 41%
- Withdrew children from school — 12%
- Sold productive assets — 4%

emergency
- HH members returned to country of origin — 3%
- HH members beg — 2%
- Children involved in income generation — 16%
- Entire HH moved to another location — 12%

*Figure 14: **Livelihood Coping Strategies (LCSI) Components***

REDUCED COPING STRATEGIES (RCSI)

When livelihoods are negatively affected by a shock, households may adopt various strategies which are not adopted in normal day to day life, to cope with reduced or declining access to food. Reduced Coping Strategy Index (RCSI) is often used as a proxy indicator of household food insecurity. It includes five specific consumption coping strategies, each given a standard severity weight, and aggregated into an index. Strategies include; relying on less preferred or

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17   The severity weights are: (1) for stress coping strategies, (2) for crisis coping strategies, and (3) for emergency coping strategies. The weighted sum of this variable is then calculated to obtain the LCSI score. A higher value of LCSI is an indication that the results household experiencing food and economic insecurity.

18   C-ESSN Baseline (Pre-Assistance Baseline Survey) Report Additional Analysis Results

cheaper food, borrowing food or relying on help from friends or relatives, reducing the number of meals eaten per day, reducing the portion size of meals and reducing the quantities consumed by adults so children can eat. A higher score of rCSI is an indication of worsening food security standards for the households and vice versa[19].

According to findings, the rCSI score increased comparing to the PDM1 (from 14.66 to 15.47). When the rCSI score is examined based on regions, it can be seen that Southeast (17.83) has the highest score.
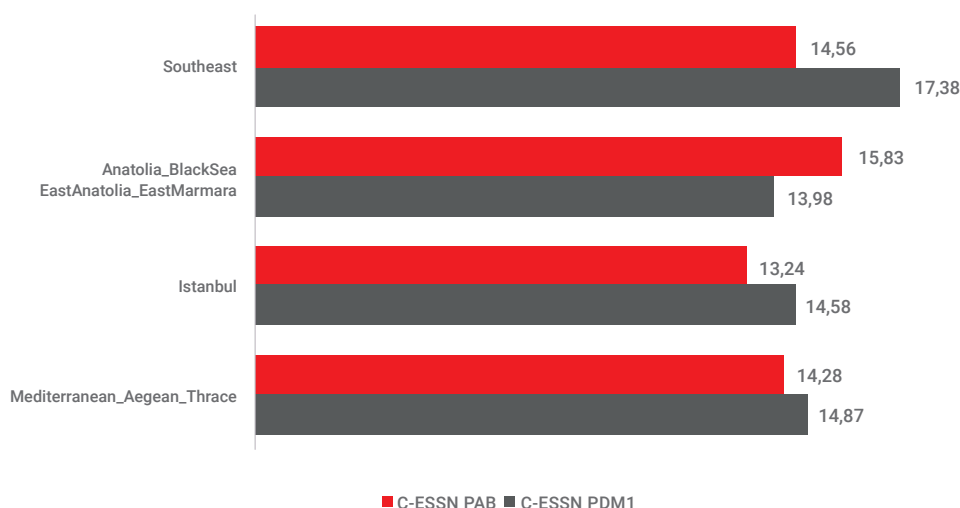

Figure 15: **Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) by Region**

In Figure 15, the primary adopted strategy is relying on less preferred/ less expensive food (79 per cent); secondly, reducing the number of meals per day (58 per cent); finally, reducing the portion size of meals (56 per cent). Moreover, it can be seen that between PAB and PDM1, there is a notable increase on households' tendency to apply reducing the number of meals and portion size.
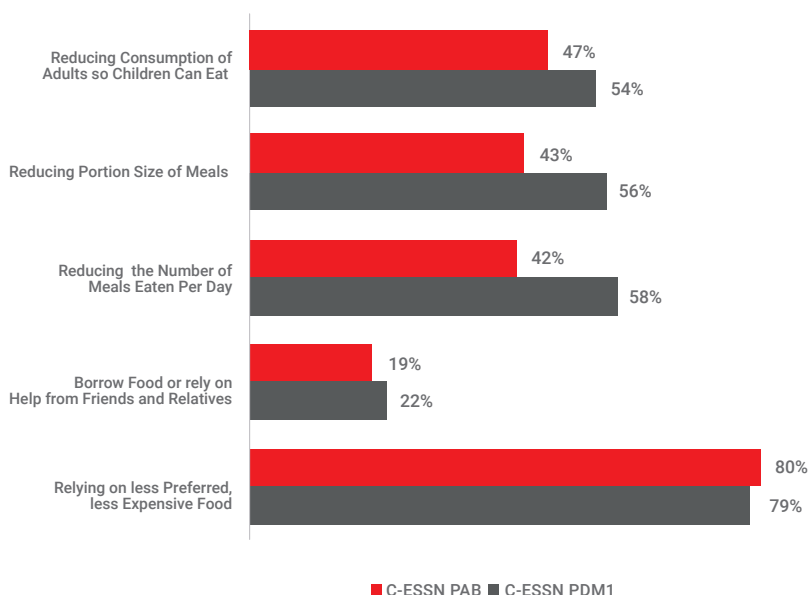

Figure 16: **Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) Components**

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19   Maxwell et al. (2003). "The Coping Strategies Index: A Tool for Rapid Measurement of Household Food Security and the Impact of Food Aid Programs in Humanitarian Emergencies". Field Methods Manual. Developed for CARE Eastern and Central Africa Regional Management Unit (CARE-EARMU) and World Food Programme Vulnerability Assessment and Mapping (VAM) Unit. For more detail information; http://www.fao.org/3/ae513e/ae513e.pdf

CONCLUSION

The ongoing COVID pandemic has a clear impact on the livelihoods of the targeted households. Thus, this impact made income variable values more volatile, considering most of the households' breadwinners are working informally and irregularly. This situation, alongside the winter, raised a dilemma – eat or heat. For food security, additional analysis has been conducted[20]. The results of this analysis reflect that there is a situation where households are having a hard time meeting their basic needs, especially food. Food expenditure in their total expenditure is increasing which states that households are pinching their other expenditure components to meet their food in-takes.

Having additional top-ups for solving this dilemma and making households heal faster after COVID-19 and winter impact can be one of the options to cope with these two negative effects.

Most of the socio-economic indicators reflect that even if the income value increases, these indicators are not getting any better. The core root cause of this finding is the inflation rate, which is around 48,69 per cent as of January 2022.

Secondary data now is more important. TRC monitoring and evaluation unit will keep track of this secondary data as it affects the C-ESSN target group population and project objectives.

KEY FINDINGS

Socio-economic indicators

- Labor income is stabled whilst overall debt and expenditure are increased.

- Bigger households tend to be less vulnerable because of their income gathering potential.

- Median household expenditure increased by 35 per cent for C-ESSN households.

- Households are spending much in Istanbul province according to total expenditure result.

- Food, rent and utilities are the main three items for debt reasons as well as share of food expenditures, respectively.

COPING STRATEGIES

- Families are struggling to cover their basic needs.

- Many households have reduced the amount of meals and portion size components at home.

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20   The report of this study will be published soon.

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COMPLEMENTARY EMERGENCY SOCIAL
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FINDINGS OF POST DISTRIBUTION MONITORING SURVEY (ROUND 1)

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