



ISSUE 4: JULY 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 1.7 million refugees living in Turkey are receiving humanitarian support through cash assistance.

July snapshot



1,752,616 people
reached with cash assistance



154,047,500 TRY
economic top-ups to cope with
COVID-19 were delivered



14 remote FGDs
were conducted with female
and male refugees



10,693 calls
were answered in the scope
of ESSN

Highlights

On 31 July the largest single cash-based transfer of 370,441,220 TRY was transferred to 1,752,616 individuals (308,095 households) living under international and temporary protection in Turkey. The transfer included the second instalment of the economic top-up of 500 TRY per household (total 154,047,500 TRY), which aimed to help ESSN recipients cope with the challenges brought on by COVID-19. This monthly transfer along with the top-up coincided with Eid of the Sacrifice, which is an important holiday for the Muslim community.

10,133 of the total individuals received an additional 600 TRY under the severe disability top-up, which is 600 TRY per individual with a severe disability (total 6,070,800 TRY). 30,055 of the total individuals (7,497 households) who do not fit the demographic criteria were included into the programme under the SASF discretionary allowance.

This transfer is the fourth to be made since IFRC took over the ESSN in April in partnership with TRC. The total amount of cash transferred to ESSN recipients since April is 1,259,918,980 TRY.

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT: ACCESS TO SERVICES

Access to services for refugees with protection concerns has increased since the start of the normalization period. TRC and NGOs are offering counselling over the phone and are providing vulnerable refugees with NFIs and food baskets. IFRC and TRC are working on identifying the protection needs of refugees, especially under the current COVID-19 circumstances.



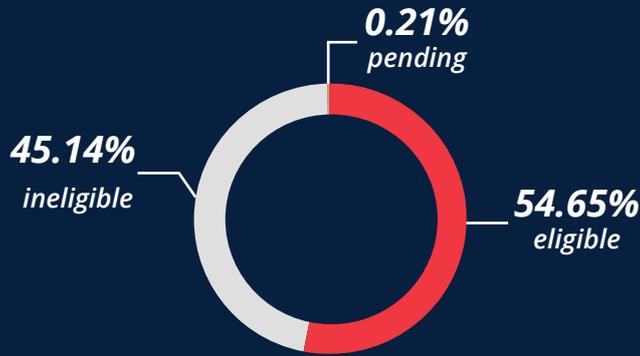
Funded by
European Union
Humanitarian Aid



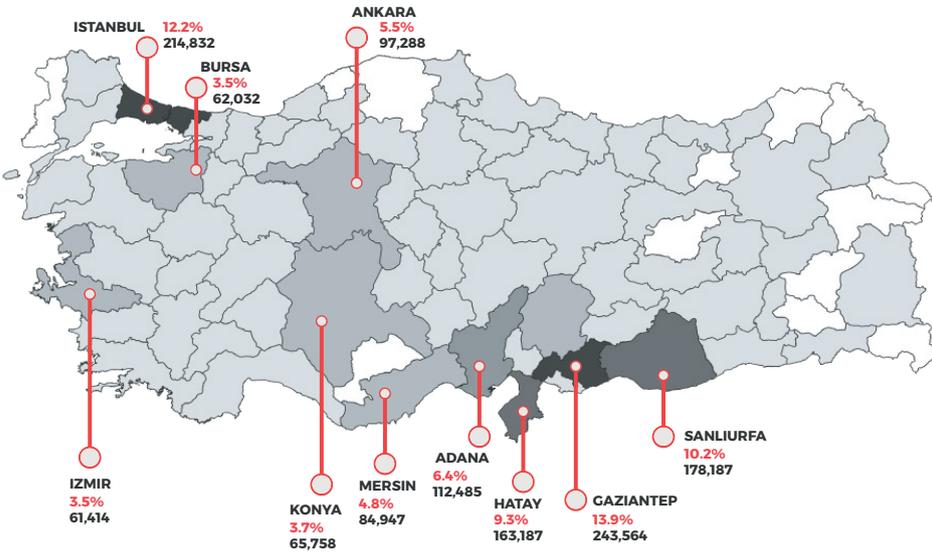
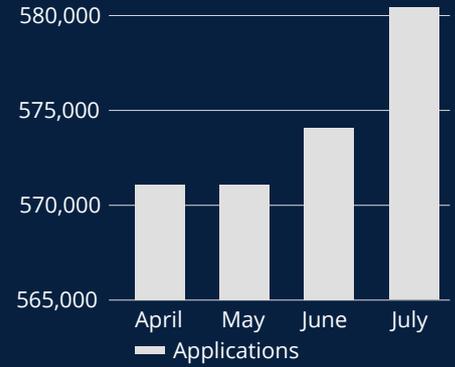
APPLICATIONS

Since the beginning of the ESSN, 578,304 households (2,920,405 individuals) have applied for the cash assistance programme. A total of 4,627 applications were received in July.

Eligibility

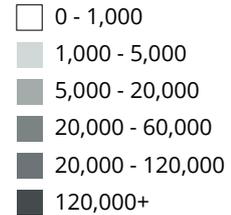


Applications

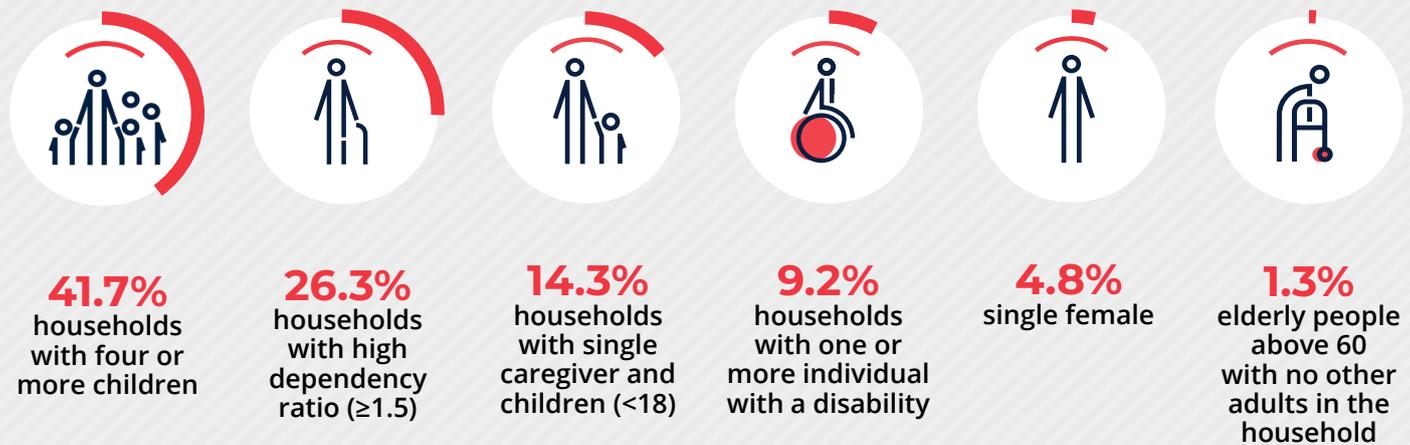


Province breakdown of ESSN recipients

Number of people



CRITERIA BREAKDOWN ¹



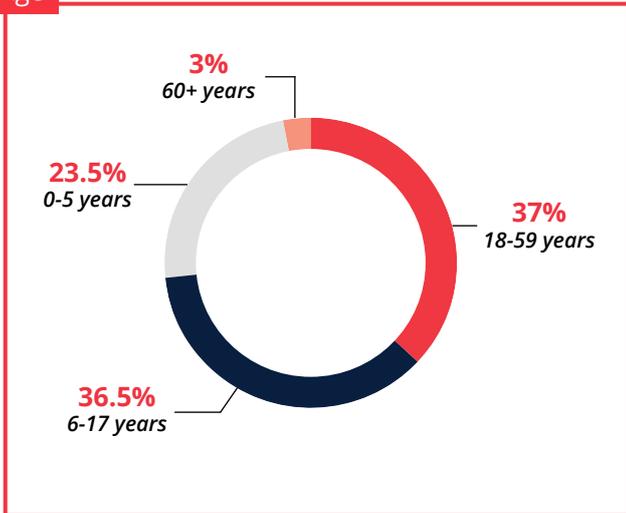
***2.4%** of households (7,497 HHs) receive assistance within the scope of SASF discretionary allowance.

¹ 128,326 households with four or more children, 81,029 households with a high dependency ratio, 44,023 households with single caregiver and children below 18 years of age, 28,480 households with one or more individual with a disability, 14,669 single females, 4,071 households with elderly people above 60 with no other adults in the household.



IN NUMBERS: DEMOGRAPHICS OF PEOPLE WE SERVE

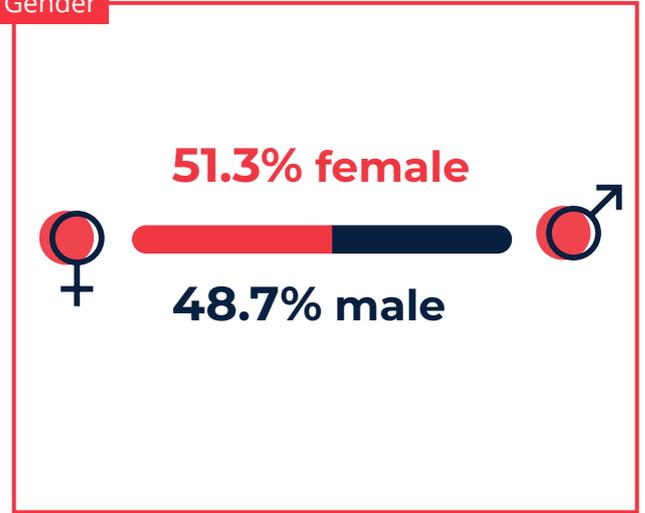
Age



Age breakdown of ESSN recipients for July:

- 0 - 5 years:** 411,497
- 6 - 17 years:** 640,324
- 18 - 59 years:** 649,539
- 60+ years:** 51,256

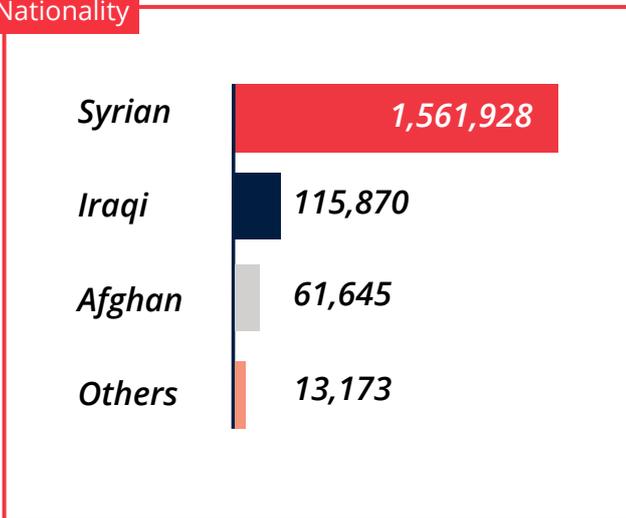
Gender



Gender breakdown of ESSN recipients for July:

- Female:** 900,027
- Male:** 852,589

Nationality



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

Disability



10,133 individuals with a valid severe disability health report received the additional top-up of 600 TRY per individual.

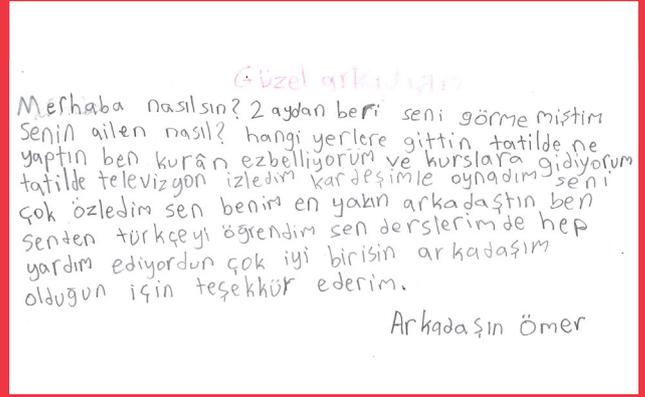
Children share their letters and drawings with the ones they love on #FriendshipDay

On 30 July, Turkish Red Crescent and IFRC celebrated World Friendship Day, asking children in five different cities to connect with their best friend by sending them a drawing or letter. Many of these children are refugees benefitting from the critical cash assistance from the ESSN, which is helping normalize their lives. With COVID-19, many children have not been able to play with their friends due to the restrictions – this was one small way we could help them reconnect.

The IFRC and Turkish Red Crescent produced and shared a video, reading their letters aloud (available in Arabic, Turkish, Russian and English) and a gallery of their drawings and letters were posted on the ESSN's dedicated page. In one week, the videos have received over 3,900 impressions.



"We used to play games and spend good time together. I hope coronavirus goes away and we go back to our school. I love you my dear friend."
- Rüyanaz



"You have been my best friend. I learned Turkish from you. You always helped me with classes at school. You are a very good person." - Omar



"Even if we weren't born in the same territories, we don't speak the same language, we smile together under the same sky and the same sun with our eyes full of love." - Zeyneb



"I miss you so much. You are also our brothers and sisters. We love you so much." - Mohammed

From April to July, the ESSN has received over 6.5 million impressions across digital channels and 651 media and social media mentions. Despite the restrictions during COVID-19, which has impacted abilities to collect stories in the field, the team has managed to still reach or exceed (120% for July) the Above Standard Visibility Plan monthly targets. Plans are now ramping up for the digital awareness campaign with Berlin-based company, Social Social, which will launch in five countries in November: Austria, France, Romania, Spain and Turkey. It will showcase five refugee "creators" who will connect with influencers and audiences in each country.



PROGRAMMATIC HIGHLIGHTS

Referral and outreach:

Outreach and Referral teams are carrying out field activities following the normalization process through visits and advocacy with local authorities to better understand the working modalities under this new process, which may affect access to ESSN and possibly impact ESSN operations. The activity was implemented from mid-June until the end of July through field visits and questionnaires and aimed to capture a clearer insight on operations related to ESSN post the peak of the pandemic to inform and refer ESSN recipients accordingly. It has been observed that the institutions and government offices including SASF offices, Provincial Directorate of Migration Management (PDMM) and Provincial Directorate of Population and Citizenship Affairs (DGPC) continue their activities under safety measures. The intensity of their processes and transactions related to ESSN have decreased compared to the previous period. Additionally, TRC conducts continuous advocacy efforts and collaborates on different levels with relevant stakeholders to ensure equal opportunities for all refugees and to overcome any access issues.

Monitoring and evaluation:

TRC and IFRC teams continue focused Monitoring and Evaluation activities to monitor the implementation of the programme and evaluate its effectiveness in reaching specified objectives. In this scope, the teams have completed the setup and operational processes of the “Turkey Vulnerability Framework” (TVF) which is a methodological toolbox aiming at enhancing the identification and analysis of the humanitarian conditions and needs of the refugee population in Turkey. The data collection process of TVF is expected to start on 10 August. Additionally, the 10th round of Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) is ongoing

and its results will be ready in September to provide better understanding of the current needs and living conditions of ESSN recipients.

Coordination:

ESSN recipient cross-checks are regularly conducted to avoid duplication of assistance and enhance coordination among humanitarian actors:

TRC is providing support to the coordination structure in Turkey through the “ESSN recipient cross-checking mechanism” which is enabled through the Göçmen system. In order to avoid duplication of assistance and ensure that the excluded and most vulnerable are reached, TRC collaborates with humanitarian actors on the field by crosschecking their recipient list against ESSN eligibility list. This aims to ensure that the response is coherent and inclusive while enhancing targeting. Up to date, TRC has conducted the ESSN eligibility verification process for nearly 10 million records (1.3 million unique individuals) received from 10 different organizations. In July 2020, 156,531 records were verified.

Communication with refugees:

Remote FGDs continue to better understand the impact of COVID-19 and the normalization process on the lives of the people we serve. A total of 14 FGDs were conducted with female and male participants in Ankara, Gaziantep, and Istanbul. The participants included ESSN recipients and non-recipients.

In July, 10,693 calls were made to TRC 168 ESSN call centre. Of these calls, 8,890 were to request information, 1,264 to inquire about the ESSN debit card, 482 for updates (update contact information etc.), and 57 were about complaints. 5,025 of the calls were made by females and 5,667 by males.