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KINDNESS IN ACTION COLLECTIVE KINDNESS PROJECT PHASE II

Post Distribution Monitoring Report

November 2023



Multi-purpose Cash Intervention for
Earthquake-affected Populations in Türkiye

Acknowledgement

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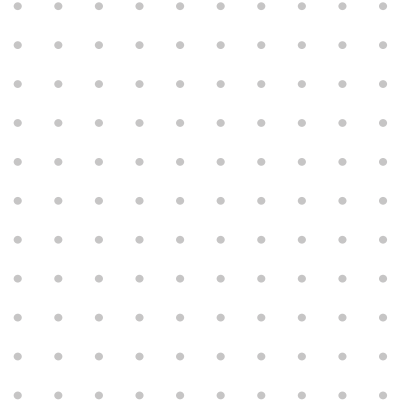


Executive Summary

In the second phase, the Collective Kindness Project targeted 111.000 vulnerable households by providing 2,600 TRY for those who had received the previous two payments, 5,600 TRY for those who had received either one of the previous payments, and 8,600 TRY for households that hadnot received any payment but had reached out to the toll-free 168 Kızılay Call Center.

A large-scale humanitarian assistance effort was initiated after two earthquakes centred in Kahramanmaraş caused great destruction and loss of life in 11 provinces in February 2023. As an extension of this humanitarian effort, the Türk Kızılay KIZILAYKART, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and the World Food Programme (UN WFP) jointly developed the Collective Kindness Project to provide multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) to vulnerable families affected by the earthquake through an integrated cash assistance platform. The Collective Kindness Project aims to support adversely impacted economies and offer households affected by the earthquake the means with which they can meet their prioritized needs with the freedom of choice and dignity. The Project leverages the extensive experience and capacity of Türk Kızılay, IFRC and UN WFP in providing cash support to millions of people in need both in Türkiye and across the world.

In the second phase, the Collective Kindness Project targeted 111.000 vulnerable households by providing 2,600 TRY for those who had received the previous two payments, 5,600 TRY for those who had received either one of the previous payments, and 8,600 TRY for households that hadnot received any payment but had reached out to the toll-free 168 Kızılay Call Center. Targeted households were informed about their eligibility for the Project and their entitlement via Short Message Service (SMS) and were directed to cash out the assistance from Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) through a reference code provided via SMS. Toll-free 168 Kızılay Call Center continued to operate responding to inquiries about the Project, and a website was developed to ensure a two-way communication, enabling the targeted populations to receive information, report any issues including access to assistance, raise complaints and provide feedback. In parallel, Türk Kızılay KIZILAYKART, IFRC and UN WFP M&E teams set up a monitoring plan by defining the minimum monitoring and reporting requirements as well as the information needs which aim to help improve the Project and to consolidate lessons learned for future programming. The second phase was implemented by

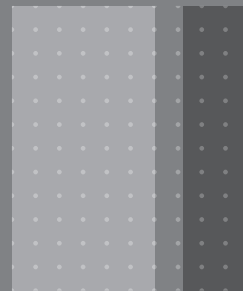


Türk Kızılay KIZILAYKART and UN WFP for which the M&E teams of both organizations planned an outcome monitoring. Complementing the monitoring results of Phase I published in September 2023, this report presents the main findings of the outcome monitoring conducted for Phase II following the third payment to the target population. Therefore, evidence generated for Phase II should be considered and interpreted along with Phase I findings and recommendations for future emergency multipurpose cash Project designed in similar contexts.

The Collective Kindness Project reached 95 percent redemption rate in the second phase, supporting 106.803 households. Tracking the progress made between the two phases, findings overall reveal an improvement therefore a positive effect of the MPC payments on the beneficiary households' conditions between June and September 2023. Progress has been especially noticeable within the first group, which consists of highly vulnerable households. However, despite the overall improvements in food security, income, livelihood, and expenditures, households have continued amass debt and resort to consumption coping strategies, all the while experiencing increased psychological stress.



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– Introduction

This report documents the findings and evidence generated through third round of the post-distribution monitoring activity within the scope of the Collective Kindness Project Phase II. Section 1 explains the objectives and methodology; Section 2 reveals more detailed findings; and Section 3 summarizes and concludes key findings of the third round of outcome monitoring data in comparison to the previous rounds.

Two significant earthquakes, with magnitudes of 7.8 and 7.5, occurred within a nine-hour interval, each on a different fault line, in the southern region of Türkiye and northern Syria on February 6, 2023. In Türkiye, these earthquakes resulted in extensive damage across 11 provinces, where approximately 14.01 million people reside, making up 16.5 percent of Türkiye population. These affected provinces include Adana, Adıyaman, Diyarbakır, Elazığ, Gaziantep, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Kilis, Malatya, Osmaniye, and Şanlıurfa. Following the earthquakes, the Turkish Government issued a level 4 alarm, seeking international assistance due to the extensive destruction of homes and infrastructure in both urban and rural areas across the country.

In response to the emergency situation, the Türk Kızılay, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and the World Food Programme (UN WFP) collaborated to transition to an MPCA program, targeting vulnerable households to address their basic food and non-food needs. The Collective Kindness Project was designed to complement the existing social protection Projects, including those provided by the Turkish Government to support earthquake-affected communities. A joint market assessment was conducted in the earthquake-affected regions to determine the feasibility of this cash project. Furthermore, a Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB)¹ methodology was developed to determine the value of transfers for the emergency response. In Phase I, each household was entitled to receive a total of 3,000 TRY (approximately 149 Euros) per month for two months, based on an average household size of four people and a transfer value of 750 TRY per person per month. In Phase II, households that received the previous two payments were entitled to receive 2,600 TRY (approximately 91 Euros), those who received either one of the previous payments were entitled to receive 5,600 TRY, and those who

- ¹ For details of the MEB methodology and analysis: <https://reliefweb.int/report/turkiye/minimum-expenditure-basket-methodology-and-analysis-turkiye-earthquake-emergency>
- SASF offices are governed by the Ministry of Family and Social Services (MoFSS)

did not receive any payment in Phase I but reached out to the toll-free 168 Kızılay Call Center were provided with 8,600 TRY. The transfer value of Phase II was adjusted based on the MEB analysis, reflecting living cost calculated for the payment period.

Geotargeting was used to identify recipients for the Project by selecting households who had been living in the earthquake region before the earthquake under the condition that they had previously received one of the 15 social assistance Projects provided by the Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundations (SASF²) to ensure that the most vulnerable households were reached. The targeted households included: people with low income, people living with disabilities or chronic illnesses, pregnant and lactating women, widowed women, children who have lost one or both of their parents, and people whose houses were assessed as moderately or heavily damaged by the earthquake Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD).

The targeted households were informed about the amount of money deposited through their Turkish ID number via SMS with a reference code that would enable them to withdraw the cash from the financial service provider, Halkbank and other ATMs which are members of TAM (ATM Center of Türkiye). Recipients were directed to cash out the assistance from ATMs and were instructed to withdraw the full amount on their first attempt.

To ensure accountability to affected populations, the following measures were set in place: i) community sensitization was done through sending SMS that included basic information about the Project, eligibility of the household, and a link to the Project website for additional information; reminder SMSs were sent before the end of the redemption period; and a web page providing recipients and communities with a detailed description of the Project (including detailed information related to selection criteria), FAQs, ATM manual and other relevant information/communication form to receive their feedback/questions/complaints, ii) community feedback mechanism (CFM) was put in place through the toll-free 168 Kızılay Call Center to ensure an effective communication channel that facilitates a safe and dignified way for the target population to directly engage with the Collective Kindness Project.

To ensure effective monitoring, UN WFP, IFRC and Türk Kızılay KIZILAYKART M&E teams set up a monitoring plan which includes the minimum monitoring and reporting requirements, and the information needs which are necessary to help inform programmatic changes and which will be used in the consolidation of lessons learned for future programming. For Phase II the Türk Kızılay KIZILAYKART and UN WFP M&E teams planned an outcome monitoring exercise to track the progress and measure outcome indicators predicting the effect of MPCA on beneficiary households.

Section 1.

Objectives and Methodology

The purpose of this study was to track the progress and measure outcome indicators predicting the effect of MPCA on beneficiary households with a particular focus on their level of expenditure, income, debt, coping mechanisms, and food consumption patterns. It compares and complement previous rounds of outcome monitoring data to detect the differences between mid-term and long-term situation of the households.

Research Design

In the third round of the PDM survey, a cross-sectional research design was utilized. Cross-sectional studies present a snapshot of the current situation at a certain point of time. Data was collected by toll-free 168 Kızılay Call Center e-numerators and round was completed in September 2023. The study addresses both groups of beneficiaries of the Collective Kindness Project, with households as the primary analysis unit. In contrast to prior studies, this one includes empirical observations from both groups.

Sample

The sample size was calculated at a 90 percent confidence level and a 5 percent margin of error. The PDM survey was implemented with a total of 328 households, which consist of 86 households in the first group and 242 households in the second group. Random sampling was applied as the sampling methodology, ensuring that all households were randomly selected, leading to a representative sample.

Geographical Area

In this PDM study, households living in 11 different provinces affected by the Kahramanmaraş Pazarcık earthquake were interviewed as part of the Collective Kindness Pazarcık. The provinces include Adana, Adıyaman, Diyarbakır, Elâzığ, Gaziantep, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Kilis, Malatya, Osmaniye, and Şanlıurfa.

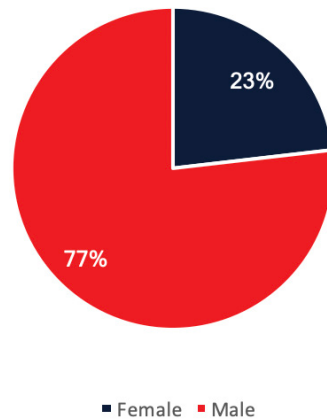


Section 2.

Findings

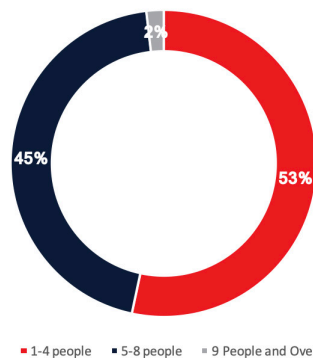
Demographics

Investigating the demographic structure of all interviewed households, the majority of the households (77 percent) were represented by male households. The head of households had an average of 46 years old and average household size is 5.



Graph 1. Gender Distribution of Respondents

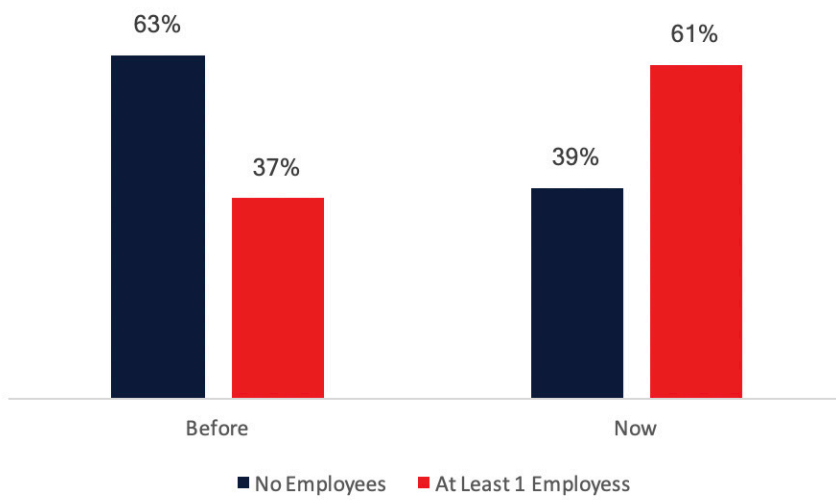
About half of households (53 percent) have 1 to 4 people, while 45 percent have 5 to 8 people, with only a small percentage having 9 people or more. In terms of housing arrangements, it is observed that 22 percent of households live in containers, while 10 percent live in tents. Additionally, 32 percent of households reside in rented apartments, and 14 percent live in damaged residences. It is stated that 79 percent of households affected by the earthquake do not intend to change their accommodation within the next 6 months. However, 54 percent of households currently residing in tents expressed their intention to seek alternative housing arrangements in the near future, rather than continuing to stay in tents.



Graph 2. Distribution of household sizes

Income

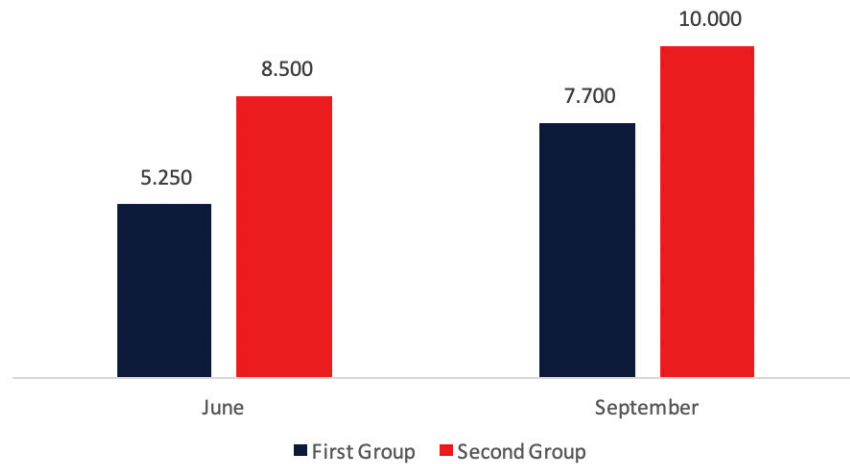
The earthquake that occurred in Kahramanmaraş province affected not only this province but also 10 other provinces around Kahramanmaraş. This earthquake resulted in the displacement of thousands of people living in the affected areas. It also caused many people to lose their jobs. In light of these reasons, the objective was to enhance socio-economic empowerment and mitigate vulnerability through the delivery of humanitarian cash transfers and additional payments to vulnerable households. The results show that while 63 percent of households initially had no working members, this rate is now 39 percent. The percentage of households with an employed member has improved from 37 percent to 61 percent.



Graph 3. Working Status in The Household



The Collective Kindness Project was implemented in two phases. In the first phase, priority was given to households that were considered more vulnerable. In the second phase, the Project aimed to reach both more and less vulnerable households compared to those in the first phase. This difference is evident in the PDM 3 results. On the other hand, a significant improvement in household incomes was observed according to the PDM 3 results³. The median total income of households in the first group increased from 5,250 TRY to 7,700 TRY, while for the second group households, it increased from 8,500 TRY to 10,000 TRY.

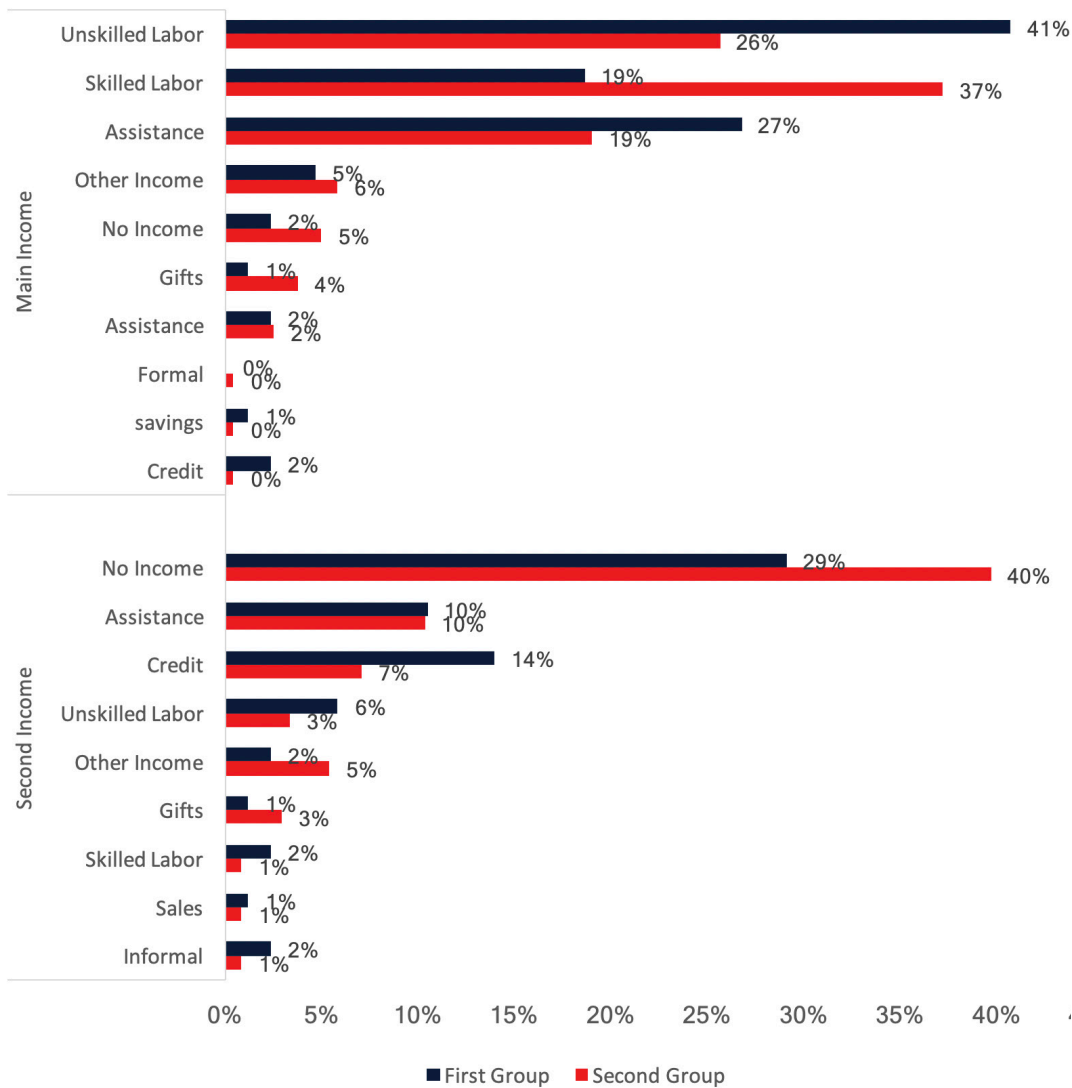


Graph 4. Incomes on Rounds by Months

The primary income sources for most households include unskilled labor (41% in the first group and 26% in the second group) and skilled labor (19% in the first group and 37% in the second group), alongside the cash assistance under the Collective Kindness Project. However, 29 percent of households in the first group and 40 percent of households in the second group do not have any secondary income source. The majority of households do not have a second source of income, leaving them unable to generate extra income. This result implies that the cash assistance under the Collective Kindness Project in the collaboration of UN WFP and Türk Kızılay KIZILAYKART has had a positive influence on the household economy.



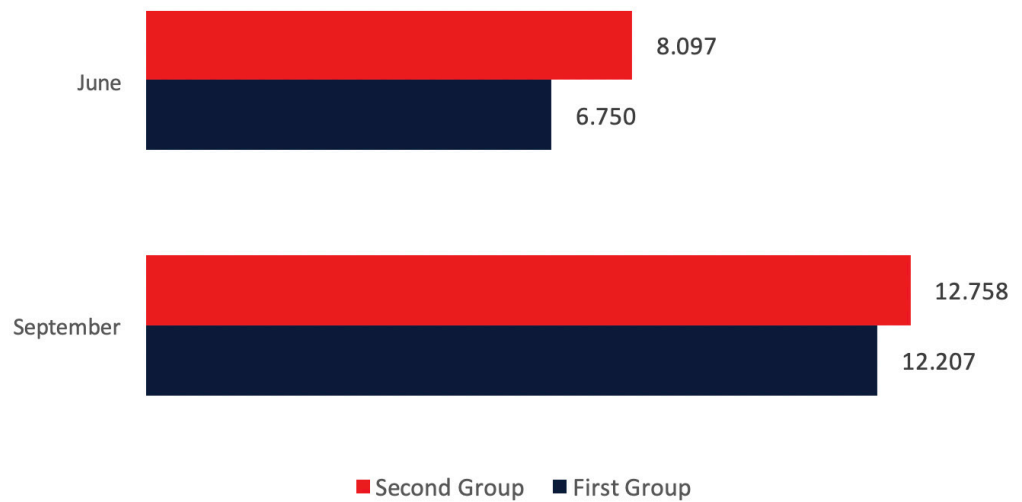
³ The one-way ANOVA for the medians was used to measure whether there was a significant difference in total incomes of households between June and September months. According to test results the null hypothesis is rejected due to the fact that the probability value is less than 0.05 significance level. (F = 14.9769, p-value<0.05).



Graph 5. Primary and Second Income Sources by Groups

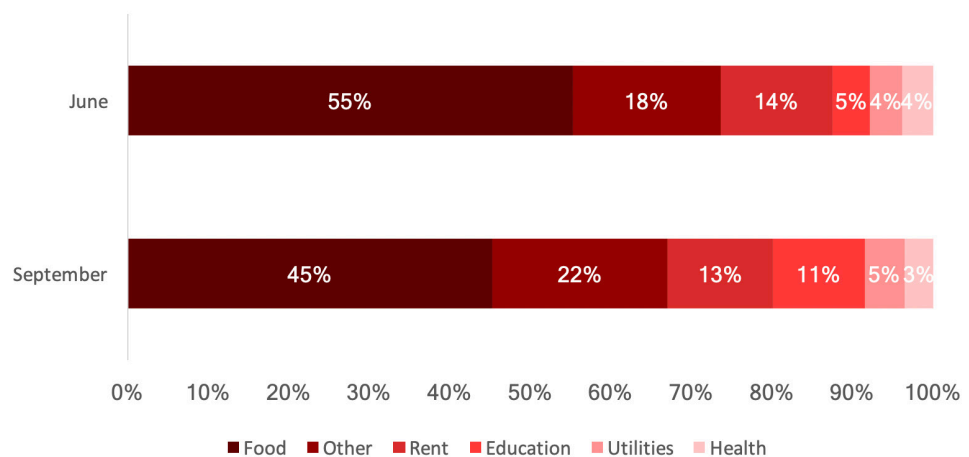
Expenditure

A remarkable finding is that the first group of households had higher expenditures compared to the second group and previous months. To be specific, the median household expenditure in the first group almost doubled and grew significantly, increasing from 6,750 TRY to 12,207 TRY, whilst the second group experienced a similar trend with spending going from 8,097 TRY to 12,758 TRY⁴.



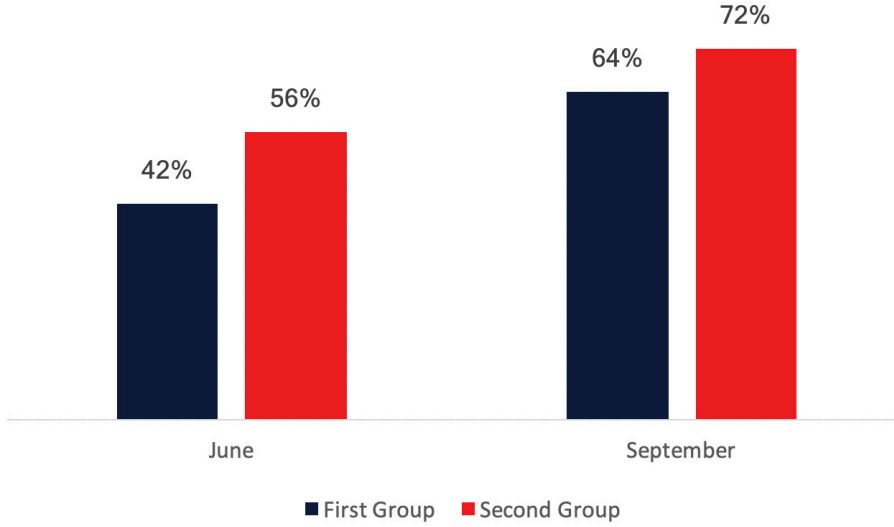
Graph 6. Total Expenditures on Rounds by Months

Regarding expenditure groups, food remains the most important expenditure component. Nevertheless, the share of food expenditures dropped from 55 percent to 45 percent compared to June. On the other hand, in contrast to the reduction in food expenditures, the share of other expenditures rose from 18 percent to 22 percent, with a notable increase in education expenditures. The share of education expenditures moved up from 5 percent to 11 percent. What is the main reason for this increase is the opening of schools and the impact of school expenses on the household economy.



⁴ The one-way ANOVA for the medians was used to measure whether there was a significant difference in total expenditures between June and September months. (F = 89.7471, p-value<0.05).

As a result, the percentage of households able to meet basic needs improved significantly. Notably, households in the first group that were able to meet their basic needs improved by 22 percentage points (from 42 percent to 64 percent), followed by households in the second group, which increased by 12 percentage points (from 56 percent to 72 percent).

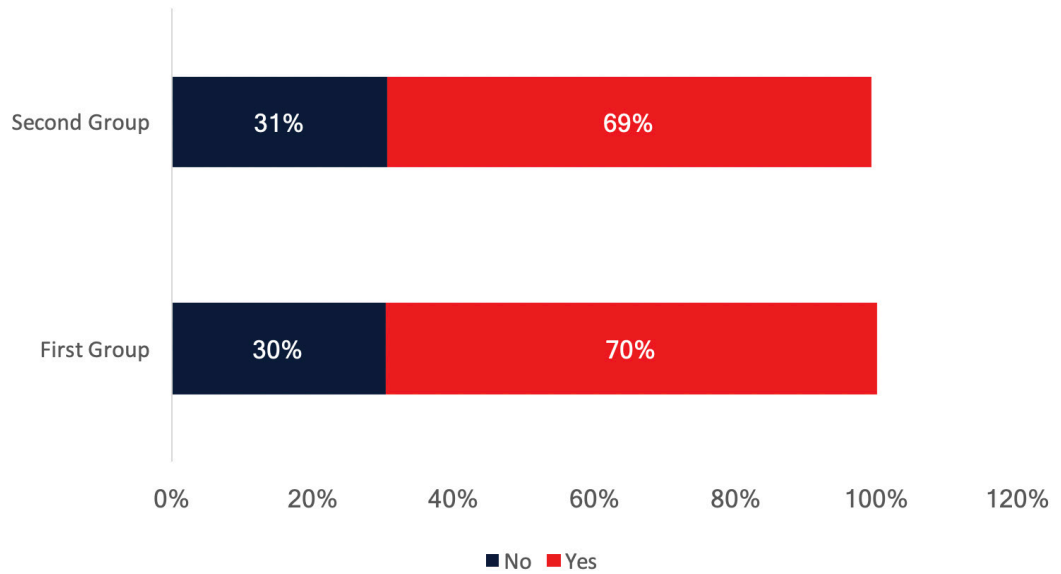


Graph 8. MEB Above Ratio on Rounds by Months



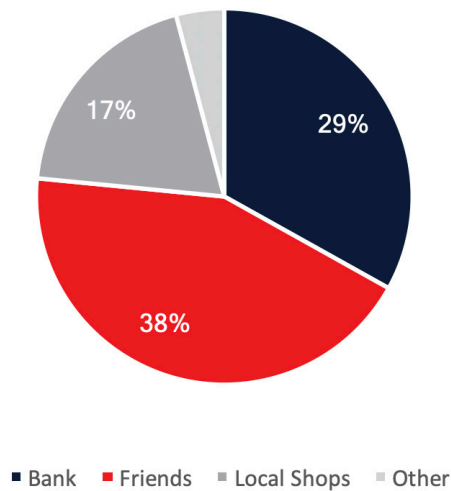
Debt

According to the PDM 3 results, there is a gap between expenditures and incomes for the households affected by the earthquake, leading to an increased ratio of households in debt. Therefore, people often prefer to borrow money when their income cannot meet their expenditures. In previous PDM studies, the percentage of households with debt was 64 and 66 percent for the first and second groups, respectively. Now, these ratios have risen to 70 and 69 percent, respectively.



Graph 9. Debt Ratios by Groups

As for the median debt reported by respondents, it is 16,500 TRY for the first group and 30,000 TRY for the second group. In terms of preferred sources for borrowing money, 38 percent of households indicated that they would turn to friends, 29 percent to banks and 17 percent to local shops.

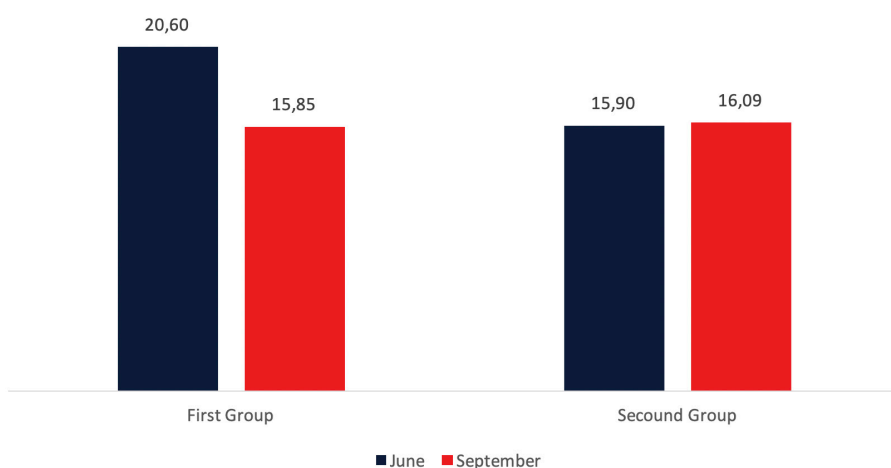


Graph 10. Ratios by Debt Sources

Food Security and Livelihood

Reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI)

The Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) is frequently used as a proxy indicator for household food insecurity. Coping strategies encompass turning to less preferable or more affordable food options, borrowing food or seeking assistance from friends or family, reducing the number of daily meals, decreasing meal portion sizes, and limiting the quantities consumed by adults to ensure children have enough to eat. A higher rCSI score indicates deteriorating food security within the household. An analysis reveals a notable reduction in the average rCSI score for the first group, comprising more vulnerable households, when compared to the second group. Conversely, there is a slight increase in the rCSI score for second group from June to September 2023. While this may suggest a positive impact of the MPCA assistance on the food security of the most vulnerable subset of the target group, it's noteworthy that the majority of the interviewed households (90.5%) still adopt at least one form of consumption coping strategy in September 2023.



Graph 11. rCSI Scores on Groups by Months

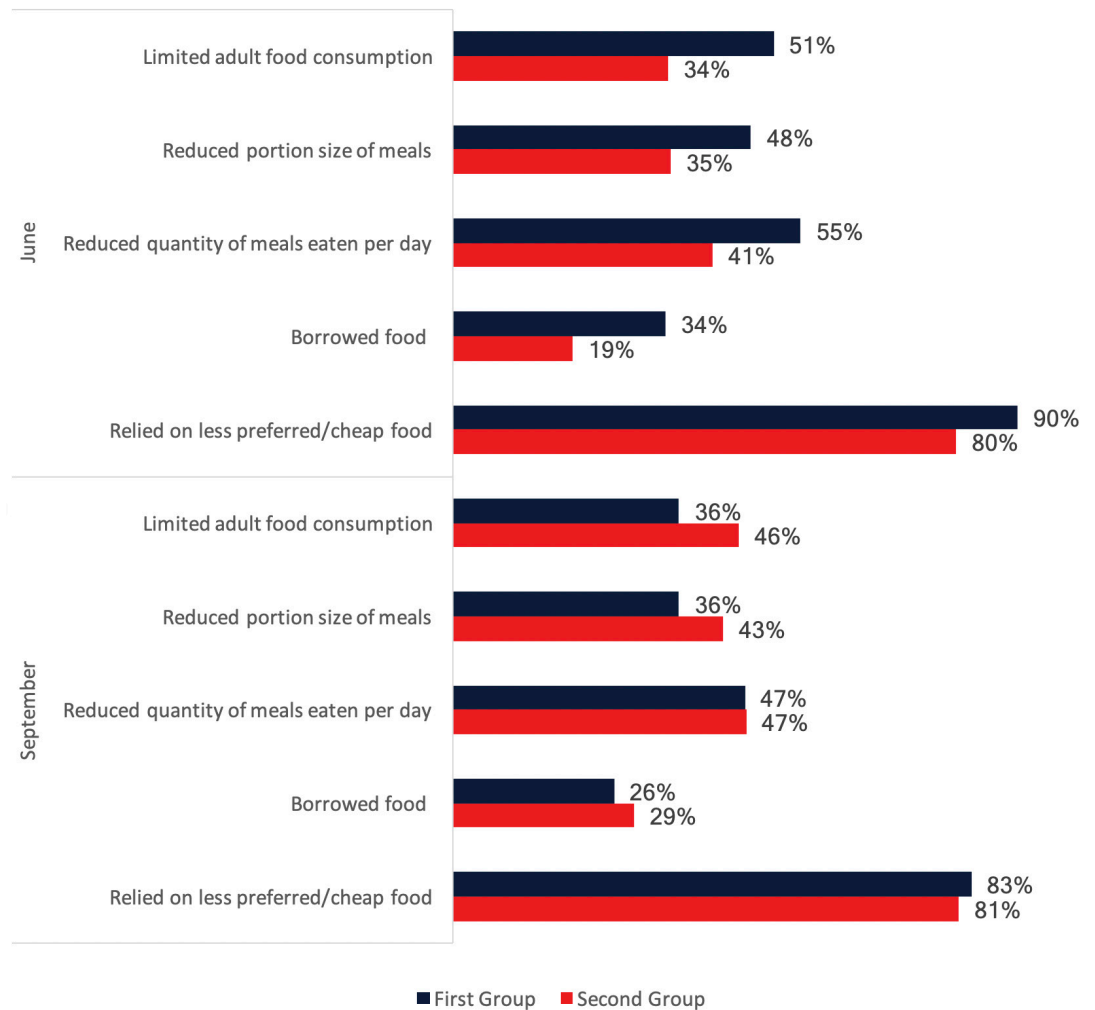




World Food Programme



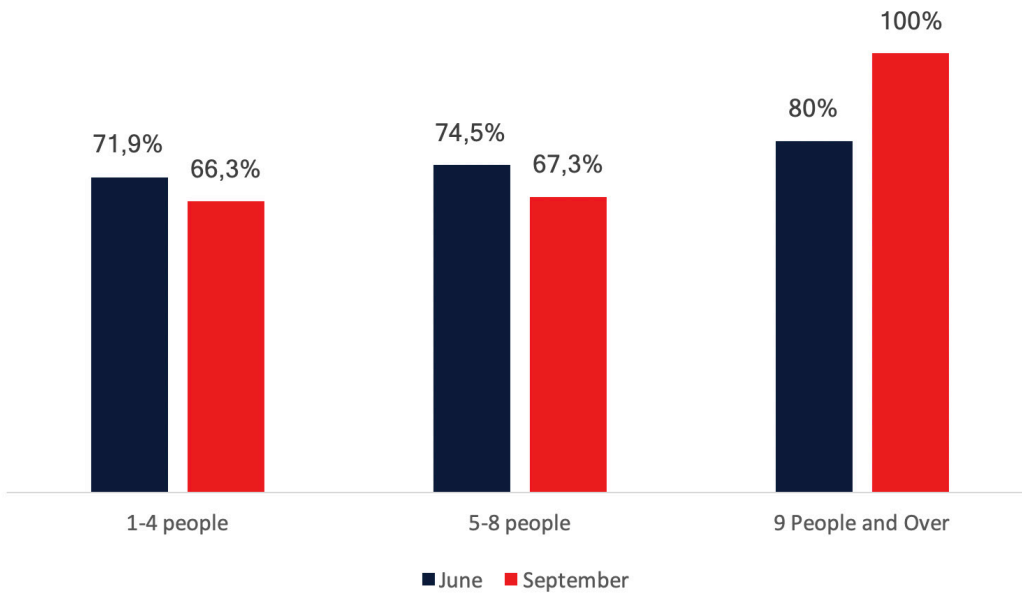
Households persist in depending on less preferred and/or more affordable food options more often than the other four coping strategies. This approach was embraced by 82.6 percent of first group households and 80.6 percent of second group households in September 2023. When we delve into more detailed data, we observe that first group households have reduced the utilization of all types of consumption coping behaviours since June 2023. However, it is notable that the expected improvement in consumption coping strategies for second group households after the assistance payment has not materialized as anticipated.



Graph 12. Adopted Consumption Coping Strategies Over Time

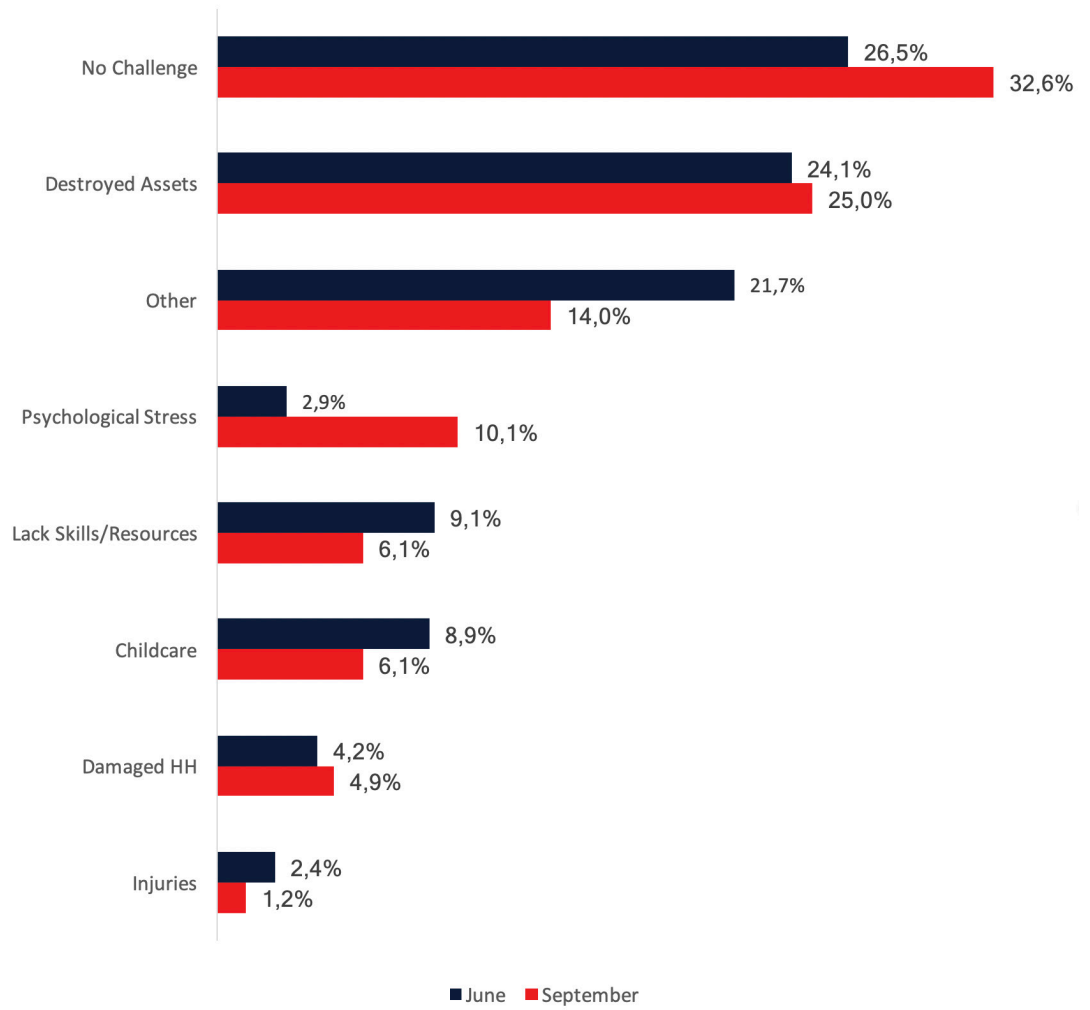
Household Livelihood

In general, the data indicates that the percentage of households reporting no difficulties in accessing labour market opportunities has risen from 26 percent in June to 33 percent in September. Nevertheless, certain households continue to encounter obstacles in accessing the labour market in the aftermath of the earthquake, as the recovery and reconstruction of the region are ongoing and take time following the extensive devastation. The data further suggests that the access challenges are particularly prevalent among larger households with at least nine members. Preliminary data suggests that smaller and medium-sized households have reported fewer access challenges between June and September 2023, whereas larger households have experienced more pronounced issues since June 2023.



Graph 13. Those with Challenges by HH Size Groups

An analysis of the reasons for access problems reported by surveyed households reveals that as time passes, people begin to experience psychological stress. The percentage of households citing psychological stress as the primary barrier to accessing labour market opportunities has risen from 3 percent in June to 10 percent in September 2023.



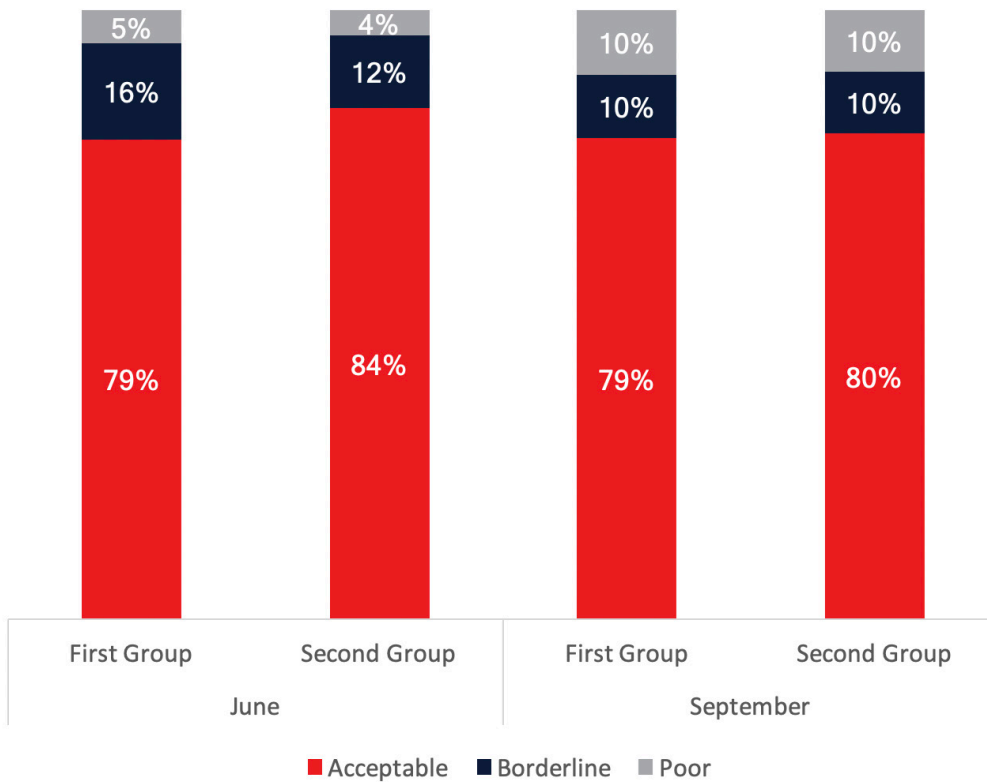
Graph 14. Challenges after the Earthquake



Food Consumption

Food security is a foundational concept that signifies a state in which all individuals have both the physical and economic means to access an adequate amount of food for a healthy and productive life. The Food Consumption Score (FCS) serves as an indicator for categorizing household food insecurity into three options: acceptable, borderline, and poor food consumption. The prevalence of households with poor and borderline food consumption offers crucial insights into the current dietary patterns of people, aiding in the decision-making process for the most suitable type and scale of food security interventions and the right target group for assistance.

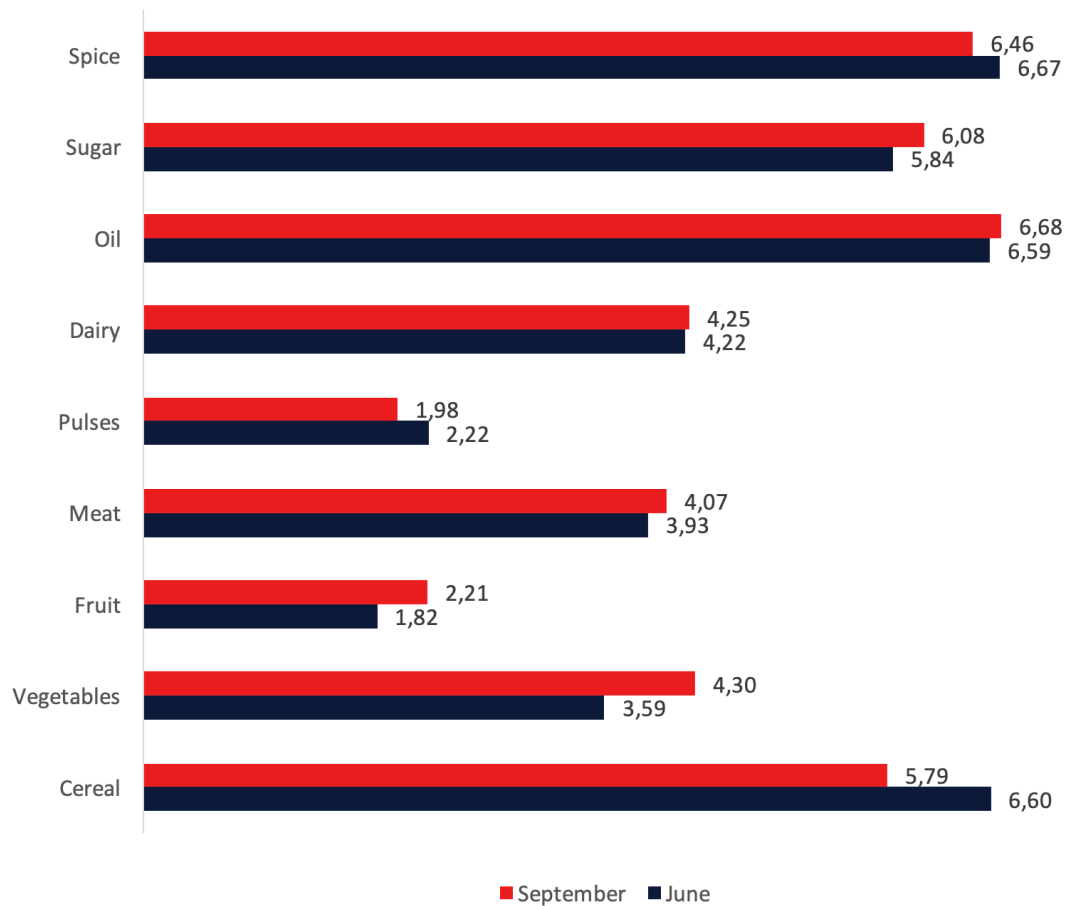
The analysis reveals that first group households have enhanced their food consumption from June to September. The percentage of households with an acceptable level of food consumption increased from 79 percent to 84 percent in those respective months. Meanwhile, the food consumption status for second group households has remained consistent over time.



Graph 15. Food Consumption Groups over time

A more detailed analysis reveals that the consumption of oil, spices, sugar, and cereal closely aligns with expected cultural and regional eating habits, with these items being consumed nearly daily. This can be attributed to both regional culinary traditions and a generally high level of acceptable food consumption. While the consumption of vegetables, legumes, and daily protein intake remained relatively consistent, the consumption of fruits appeared to be notably low. The most significant difference in the consumption frequency of the main food groups between June and September is a more frequent consumption of vegetables and less frequent consumption of cereals. This shift may be linked to the availability and affordability of these items in the market at the time of data collection.

Upon considering the joint interpretation of the FCS and rCSI analyses, it is evident that both results point towards an improvement for first group households, which are more vulnerable, and stability for Group 2 households concerning food security between June and September 2023.



Graph 16. Households Concerning Food Security between June and September 2023





World Food Programme



Section 3.

Conclusion

The Collective Kindness Project is conducted in two phases to provide assistance to two distinct groups: Highly vulnerable (first group) and vulnerable households (second group). In Phase I the targeted households received two monthly payments while in Phase II a third payment was made to the beneficiary households. For Phase II the Türk Kızılay KIZILAYKART M&E team with UN WFP conducted the third round PDM exercise to track the progress and measure main outcome indicators predicting the effect of MPCA on beneficiary households. Findings of the third round PDM is presented in this report in comparison with the previous rounds which were conducted following the respective Phase I payments.

Overall findings demonstrate an improvement therefore a positive effect of the MPC payments on the beneficiary households' conditions between June and September 2023. A progress has been particularly apparent among the first group, highly vulnerable households. Both groups have shown significant progress in their income, expenditure, and livelihood status whereas food security related indicators have mainly remained stable for the second group yet indicated an increase for the first group households. Despite the overall improvement, households continued to accumulate debts, adopt consumption coping behaviours and developed psychological stress.

Demographics and housing

- Three quarters (77%) of the surveyed households were headed by male with an average age of 46 and average size of 5.
- In terms of housing arrangements, 32 percent of households live in rented apartments, 22 percent in containers, 14 percent in damaged residences, and 10 percent in tents.
- About 79 percent of the surveyed households reported no desire to change their accommodation in the next 6 months. Having considered this prevalence among those currently living in tents, data indicates that half of them wish to improve their shelter situation.

Food consumption

- The first group households have enhanced their food consumption from June to September. The percentage of households with an acceptable level of food consumption increased from 79 percent to 84 percent in those respective months. Meanwhile, the food consumption status for second group households has remained consistent over time.
- The most significant difference in the consumption frequency of the main food groups between June and September is a more frequent consumption of vegetables and less frequent consumption of cereals.

Coping behaviours

- The first group households have reduced the utilization of all types of consumption coping behaviours since June 2023. However, the expected improvement in consumption coping strategies for second group households after the assistance payment has not materialized as anticipated.
- Most of the interviewed households (90.5%) still adopted at least one form of consumption coping strategy in September 2023.

Income and Livelihood

- The prevalence of having at least one employed member in the household has increased from 37 percent to 61 percent between June and September.
- The percentage of households reporting no difficulties in accessing labour market opportunities has risen from 26 percent in June to 33 percent in September.
- As time passes, people begin to experience psychological stress. The percentage of households citing psychological stress as the primary barrier to accessing labour market opportunities has risen from 3 percent in June to 10 percent in September 2023.
- The median total income of households in the first group increased from 5,250 TRY to 7,700 TRY, while for the second group households, it increased from 8,500 TRY to 10,000 TRY.

Expenditure and economic capacity to meet basic needs

- In line with the increase in income, households' expenditure has increased between June and September: the median expenditure increasing from 6,750 TRY to 12,207 TRY among the first group households and from 8,097 TRY to 12,758 TRY among the second group households.
- Food expenditure within the overall household expenditure decreased from 55 percent in June to 45 percent in September.
- There has been a significant increase in education expenditures, with the percentage of education expenses rising from 5 percent to 11 percent between the two phases.
- Households economic capacity to meet their basic needs has improved over time. Households reporting improved economic capacity increased from 42 percent to 64 percent for the first group and from 56 percent to 72 percent for the second group between June and September.
- Households continue to fill the gap between income and expenditure partially through debt. Households with debt increased from 64 percent to 70 percent among the first group, and from 66 percent to 69 percent among the second group between the phases.



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