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INTER-SECTORAL VULNERABILITY STUDY

SOCIAL SAFETY NET PROGRAMME (SSN)



2025

I N T E R - S E C T O R A L V U L N E R A B I L I T Y S T U D Y

SOCIAL SAFETY NET PROGRAMME (SSN)

2025

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

C-ESSN	Complementary Emergency Social Safety Net
CoHE	Council of Higher Education
DG NEAR	Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations
DG ECHO	Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (European Union)
ECRE	European Council on Refugees and Exiles
ESSN	Emergency Social Safety Net
FCS	Food Consumption Score
HH	Household
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
ILO	International Labour Organization
IVS	Intersectoral Vulnerability Study
LCSI	Livelihood Coping Strategy Index
MEB	Minimum Expenditure Basket
MoFSS	Ministry of Family and Social Services
MoNE	Ministry of National Education
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PDM	Post-Distribution Monitoring
PMM	The Presidency of Migration Management
rCSI	Reduced Coping Strategy Index
SAT	Structured Analytical Technique
TRC	Türk Kızılay (Turkish Red Crescent)
TRY	Turkish lira
TurkStat	Turkish Statistical Institute
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VQA	Vocational Qualifications Authority
WHO	World Health Organization

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>> EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Recognizing the dynamic nature of humanitarian assistance, the Social Safety Net (SSN) Programme conducts rigorous impact assessments to better understand evolving needs.

One key tool in this effort is the Intersectoral Vulnerability Survey (IVS) a research instrument designed to capture nuanced insights into vulnerability in complex migration and humanitarian contexts. The IVS serves as a vital analytical framework for assessing the conditions of affected populations.

IVS is also a significant tool within the SSN Programme in order to monitor and evaluate the impact of the implementation on beneficiaries. The data collection was carried out between February and September 2024. It combined the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) and the Complementary Emergency Social Safety Net (C-ESSN) populations into a single, unified study. This integrated approach allows for a deeper and more comprehensive understanding of vulnerability trends by addressing multiple dimensions of need.

The survey utilizes representative sampling methods across a wide range of refugee groups, using carefully developed methodologies to measure both humanitarian severity and intersectoral vulnerability. Secondary data was also applied in order to ensure and strengthen the findings of the study.

By responding to recent shifts in the humanitarian landscape and adapting to changing migration patterns, the IVS provides actionable insights to support more targeted and effective assistance in a resource-limited environment.

Analysis Component I: Socio-Economic Structure of the Population



Income of households receiving ESSN and C-ESSN support, as well as non-recipient households, has increased significantly since the previous IVS study.¹ Considering labor force participation, C-ESSN households have lower rates compared to ESSN and non-recipient households. This disparity contributes to their lower median labor income of TRY 10,000, compared to TRY 14,000 for ESSN households and TRY 17,000 for non-recipient households.

While ESSN and non-recipient households have similar labour force participation rates, the income disparity is attributed to non-recipient households working more days within a 30-day period and having a higher proportion of multi-earners within the households compared to ESSN households.

Debt is a common issue across all household categories, with more than 50 per cent of ESSN, C-ESSN, and non-recipient households reporting debt. Non-recipient households tend to borrow less frequently (56 per cent) compared to ESSN (65 per cent) and C-ESSN households (62 per cent). However, non-recipient households have slightly higher median debt levels, with a median debt amount of TRY 15,000, compared to TRY 10,000 for ESSN and C-ESSN households.

In addition, the simultaneous rise in incomes and high price inflation leads to substantial increase in household expenditures. As a key socio-economic indicator, expenditure levels reveal that non-recipient households have the highest spending (TRY 6,665 per capita), followed by C-ESSN (TRY 5,329 per capita) and ESSN households (TRY 5,054 per capita). This highlights the poverty of recipient households relative to non-recipient households. Household expenditures show that the majority of income is spent on basic needs, with food and shelter being the largest items. Across ESSN, C-ESSN, and non-recipient households, the top five expenditure categories food, shelter, energy, hygiene, and clothing account for 85 per cent of total expenditures, reflecting a consumption habit based on essential survival needs. Moreover, the majority of recipient households allocate a substantial portion of their limited income to debt repayments, leaving minimal funds for essential living expenses. This financial constraint underscores the profound economic vulnerability of these households, where incomes are barely sufficient to cover fundamental necessities.

¹ Türk Kızılay. (April 27, 2023). Inter-sectoral Vulnerability Study 2 (IVS-2). <https://platform.kizilaykart.org/tr/Doc/rapor/IVS-2-TRC-27042023.pdf>

Analysis Component II: Living Standards

ESSN and C-ESSN households face significant challenges in sustaining acceptable living standards, with only 2 per cent managing to meet all their basic needs, compared to 6 per cent of non-recipient households. Regional analysis shows that all three groups residing in the Anatolia region have higher living standards. On the other hand, standards are low for C-ESSN households in the Aegean and Southeastern regions due to low employment opportunities and fewer working household members. In the İstanbul region, higher incomes are offset by high living costs, limiting access to basic needs. It was observed that 90 per cent of the most vulnerable households can barely afford their basic needs, meaning that the ability to meet basic needs declines sharply as vulnerability increases.



Looking into the housing standards; ESSN, C-ESSN, and non-recipient households predominantly reside in poor-quality housing, though 38 per cent of non-recipient households live in higher quality housing. Housing quality has an apparent inverse relationship with vulnerability. Those households residing in good quality housing have a relatively lower vulnerability. Nearly all households are residing in rental properties with basic amenities such as kitchens, toilets, built-in water and electricity infrastructure.

Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB), another indicator that signifies this distinction in living standards, represents the minimum monthly expenditure needed for a dignified living, used as a measure of absolute poverty. 41 per cent of C-ESSN households fall below the MEB, compared to only 16 per cent of non-recipient households. Consistent with the findings from expenditure indicators, the differences in MEB highlights the greater vulnerability of recipient households compared to non-recipient households.

Analysis Component III: Coping Mechanisms Applied by the Population

Consumption-based coping strategies (rCSI) and livelihoods-based coping strategies (LCSI) both ease the measurement of households' efforts to manage economic challenges that affect their food security and long-term resilience. Coping mechanism findings reveal how refugee households tend to lack enough financial and physical resources to afford basic needs such as shelter, food, health and education, thus forcing them to make difficult compromises. Limited job opportunities and low-income levels push vulnerable households to cut back on non-essential expenditures. Many families prioritize daily needs over long-term investments, such as education, which results in ongoing challenges for their overall well-being.

Food insecurity continues to be a major challenge for vulnerable households, with many resorting to coping strategies like reducing meal portions or borrowing food to have access to adequate nutrition. Both ESSN and C-ESSN households exhibit higher rCSI scores than non-recipient households, reflecting greater reliance on coping strategies. Female-headed C-ESSN households report the highest rCSI scores (17.2), attributed to having lower income-generating members. On the other hand, gender differences in rCSI scores are negligible for ESSN and non-recipient households. Since the last IVS study, LCSI and rCSI scores have had changes with little fluctuations. C-ESSN households relying heavily on coping mechanisms, including reducing adult meals and meal frequency, show only a minor decline.

Despite the assistance, recipient households remain vulnerable to economic fluctuations, with 84 per cent of households less preferred, less expensive food on a weekly basis, and 73 per cent resorting to such dietary compromises on a daily basis. More intense coping strategies, such as reducing adult portions to feed children, are also seen among ESSN and C-ESSN households. Regional differences reveal that Aegean region has the highest rCSI scores, reflecting more intense coping behaviors; while Southeast and Mediterranean regions show lowest scores for C-ESSN, ESSN and non-recipient households, respectively.





Neither the LCSi nor the rCSI trends highlight a shift in household priorities from sustainable livelihood improvements to short-term survival strategies, with an increasing focus on immediate food security rather than long-term stability. Over time, LCSi scores have shown an overall slight increase for ESSN, C-ESSN and non-recipient households, suggesting a growing reliance on coping mechanisms to overcome economic hardships. The upward trend in LCSi scores reversed in early 2024, showing a gradual decline. Despite this improvement, recipient households continue to face significant economic challenges regardless of the assistance. Highlighting the distinct economic vulnerabilities within different household structures, female-headed households report notably higher LCSi scores, indicating more pronounced financial pressures compared to male-headed households.

On the other hand, rCSI scores reflect an escalating reliance on short-term coping strategies, such as reducing meal frequency, consuming less preferred foods, or cutting adult portions to prioritize children. This tendency is particularly marked in the Aegean region, which reports the highest rCSI scores indicating more severe coping behaviors; whereas the Southeast and Mediterranean regions show relatively lower scores.

Recipient households, particularly those receiving ESSN support, often resort to borrowing money, buying food on loan or consuming their savings. These strategies underscore profound economic vulnerability, with households making critical trade-offs between immediate survival and long-term investments in health and education. Hence, reducing expenditure on health and education is another common strategy, particularly for ESSN and C-ESSN households. Such financial strains result in children to drop-out from school to support household income. Consequently, child labor is reported in 7 per cent of ESSN households, 4 per cent of C-ESSN households, and 5 per cent of non-recipients, signaling a serious risk to children's education and contributing to long-term poverty.

The simultaneous decline in Livelihood Coping Strategy Index (LCSi) scores and increase in rCSI scores indicates a fundamental shift towards prioritizing immediate food security over long-term stability, as households are increasingly focusing on short-term survival rather than sustainable livelihood improvements.

Analysis Component IV: Physical and Mental Well-Being

Exposure to unfavorable social, economic, geopolitical and environmental circumstances – including poverty, violence, inequality and environmental deprivation – also increases people's risk of experiencing mental health conditions.² Physical and mental health challenges remain a persistent part for all households. Analysis of individuals with physical and mental health challenges highlights distinct patterns. Physical health problems are the most common type of health issues, particularly among elderly individuals and adult men, which shows higher-than-average prevalence. Conversely, mental health issues are more prevalent among adult women compared to men, as gender-based violence plays a significant role in mental health disorders. Yet, depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) are all common mental health issues among both women and men as a result of trauma, displacement, and difficult living conditions.³

Looking into the recipient groups, 63 per cent of C-ESSN households have at least one member with a disability, compared to 7 per cent of ESSN households. The proportion of individuals experiencing both physical and mental health problems is higher in C-ESSN households than in ESSN and non-recipient households. Refugee communities face high rates of mental health disorders such as depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress caused by exposure to displacement trauma. Older girls report more distress linked to poverty, domestic violence and inadequate coping strategies.

Among the disability types, orthopedic disabilities are the most common (35 per cent), followed by neurological disabilities (15 per cent), chronic diseases and genetic disorders (13 per cent) and complex health problems (8 per cent); while sensory disabilities (7 per cent) and age-related disabilities (6 per cent) are less common. This distribution underlines the prominence of mobility, mental and neurological challenges among refugee households.



2 WHO. (17 June 2022). Mental Health Fact Sheets. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/mental-health-strengthening-our-response>

3 WHO. (31 August 2021). Mental health and forced displacement. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/mental-health-and-forced-displacement>

Analysis Component V: Severity Analysis and Multidimensional Vulnerability



Figure 1 Severity groups by recipient status

Large proportion of ESSN and non-recipient households are in slightly vulnerable category, while most of C-ESSN beneficiaries falls in both slightly and moderate categories. On the other hand, non-recipient households have a better standard of living than ESSN and C-ESSN- households as the summation of the not vulnerable and slightly vulnerable categories non-recipient households is close to 84 per cent as opposed to 73 per cent of ESSN and 53 per cent of C-ESSN households. Minor fluctuations between vulnerability categories are seen across regions.

Specifically, a higher percentage in not vulnerable category was found in the İstanbul region. This can be explained by the different socio-economic indicators in İstanbul such as employment opportunities, income levels and expenditure. Households were observed to be predominantly slightly vulnerable followed by moderately vulnerable in all regions.

In overall, the Inter-Sectoral Vulnerability Study (IVS) offers a comprehensive overview of the socio-economic challenges faced by refugee households in Türkiye. Economic hardship, inflation, limited access to formal employment, and the impacts of the February 2023 earthquake have deepened vulnerabilities, especially in areas affected by displacement and job loss. Households increasingly rely on negative coping strategies such as reducing food intake, borrowing, and selling assets, even among those receiving assistance.

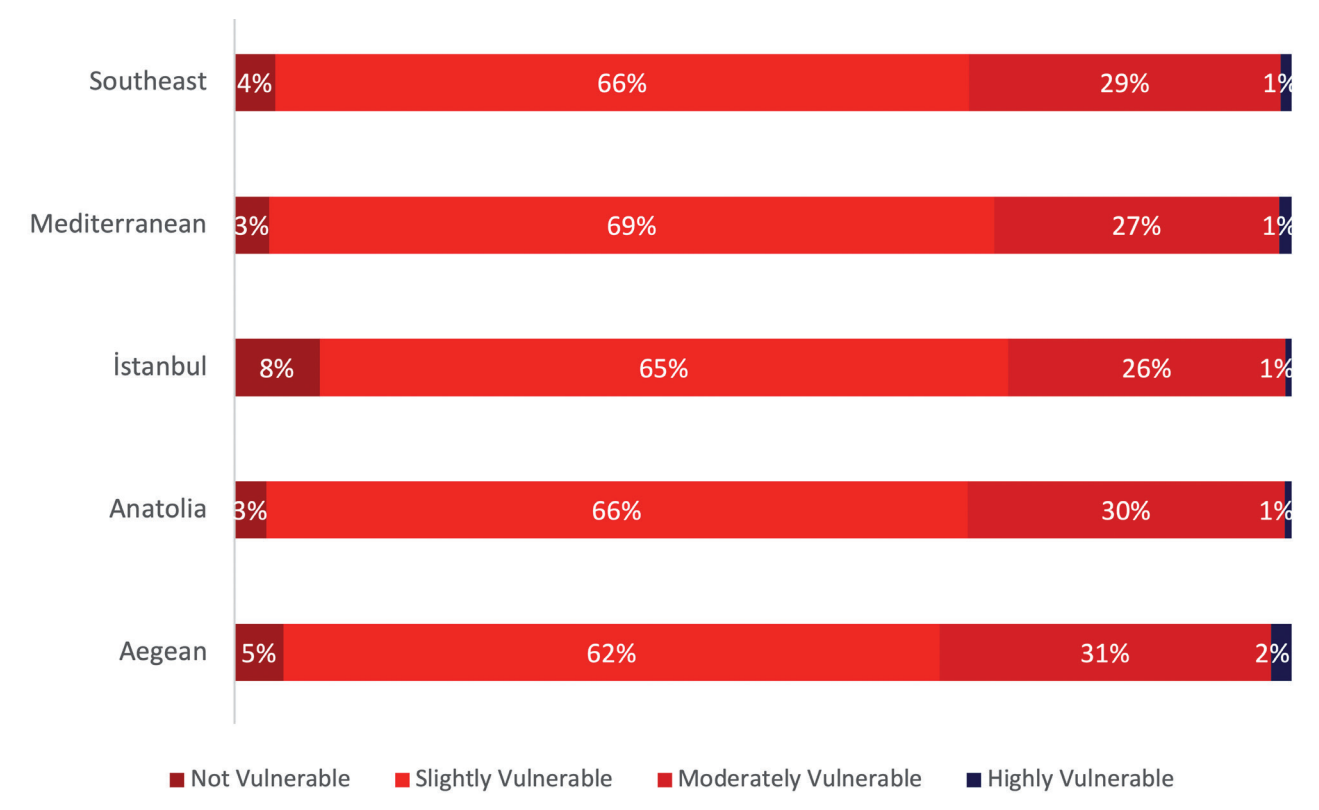


Figure 2 Severity groups by regions

Key challenges include rising housing costs, reliance on informal employment, and limited access to health, education, and protection services particularly for highly vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, female-headed households, and children. Despite some improvements through cash assistance programs, household purchasing power remains under pressure.

To promote resilience and long-term stability, the report recommends 12 strategic actions. These include expanding cash-for-work programs, adjusting assistance to inflation, vocational training with in-kind support, child protection, gender- and disability-sensitive mental health services, enhanced food and nutrition support, and stronger collaboration with civil society. A coordinated and inclusive response is essential to address the evolving needs of refugee communities in Türkiye.

>> 1. INTRODUCTION

About the Social Safety Net (SSN) Programme

The Social Safety Net (SSN) Programme is a comprehensive, cash-based assistance initiative that supports the most vulnerable households in Türkiye, residing under Temporary Protection, International Protection, or holding a Humanitarian Residence Permit. Launched on 17 July 2023, the SSN Programme is funded by the European Union and implemented by the Ministry of Family and Social Services in cooperation with Türk Kızılay (Turkish Red Crescent). The SSN Programme brings together two major humanitarian assistance projects implemented in Türkiye: The Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN), launched in 2016, and the Complementary Emergency Social Safety Net (C-ESSN), launched in 2021. Together, they form the SSN Programme, the world's largest cash-based humanitarian assistance programme, designed to support the basic needs, such as food, shelter and clothing, of vulnerable households with dignity.

Programme eligibility is determined through demographic criteria which was designed based on household vulnerability assessments. The key distinction between the ESSN and C-ESSN Projects lies in these targeting criteria, ensuring that assistance is directed where it is most needed. While the ESSN supports the households based on **“dependency ratios”**, the C-ESSN targets individuals who are among **“the most vulnerable”** and **“unable to be referred into livelihood opportunities”**. Beneficiaries may only receive support from one of the two projects at a time. Eligible households receive monthly cash assistance via KIZILAYKART, a debit card. Beneficiaries can withdraw their assistance from ATMs and/or use it for shopping needs through POS devices.



IVS Objectives

The Intersectoral Vulnerability Study (IVS) is an integral part of the Social Safety Net (SSN) Programme funded by European Union to support vulnerable refugees in Türkiye. The IVS provides annual insights into the intersectoral needs of ESSN recipients, C-ESSN recipients and non-recipient refugees residing across various geographical regions of Türkiye. By addressing below mentioned objectives, the IVS contributes to the future orientations of the SSN Programme by providing evidence-based, targeted, strategic discussions on trends, responsive to the dynamic needs of refugees across Türkiye. The specific objectives are;

- Establishing the key priorities and severity of humanitarian conditions at an intersectoral level
- Identifying sectoral and regional needs of the refugee populations
- Providing evidence to improve the efficiency of the ESSN and C-ESSN Projects and enhancing program accountability to the refugee populations.

Methodology

This section outlines the key activities, tools, and procedures implemented to design, collect, prepare, analyze, and report the SSN IVS 1 data and findings.

Design and Planning

The 1st IVS study under the SNN Programme was designed to be conducted face-to-face. Drawing from previous IVS studies, the survey was crafted with careful attention to operational contexts and emerging field needs, ensuring the preservation of its original research purpose. The question set was carefully prepared in Turkish, English, and Arabic to facilitate broad accessibility.

Following the questionnaire preparation, a workshop was organized for the field staff thoroughly review the questions. This session fostered a two-way communication process, where field staff provided valuable insights on how the questions should be asked in real-world conditions. Based on their feedback, necessary updates were made to ensure clarity and relevance. Once the question set was finalized, the data collection process began, ensuring that the survey was both methodologically sound and practically applicable. The SSN - IVS 1 analytical framework includes:

- Analysis framework including the main dimensions and sub-dimensions of the measured humanitarian conditions (Figure 1)
- Analysis and data collection plan, including a selection of structured analytical techniques (SATs) to mitigate the impact of cognitive biases on the quality of conclusions
- Technical note on the calculation of the severity of humanitarian conditions
- Reporting template

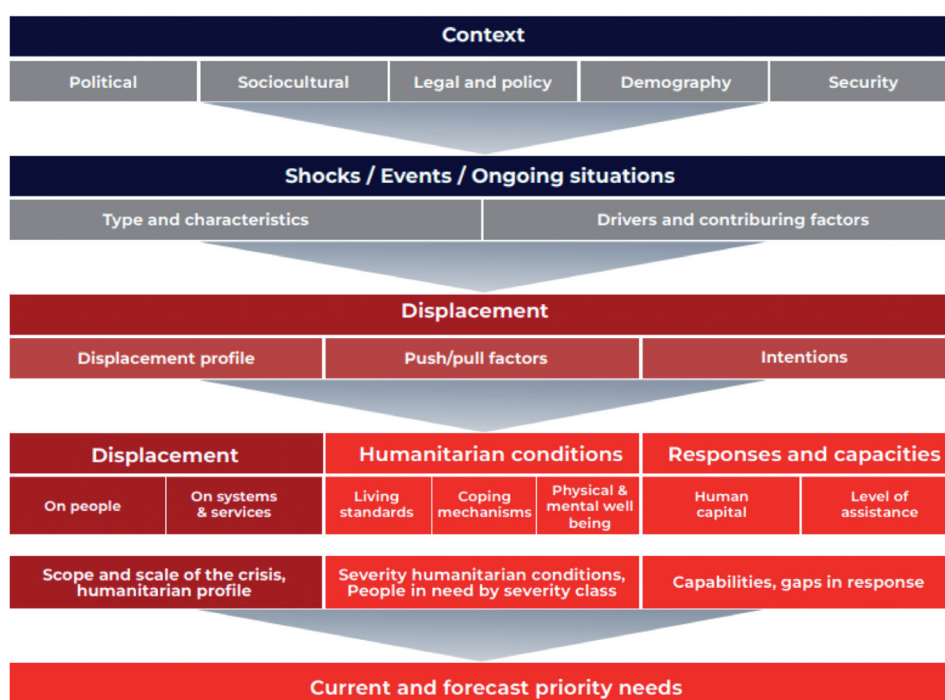


Figure 3 IVS analysis framework



IVS Data Collection and Collation

To ensure that the sample was representative of all applicants (ESSN and C-ESSN), the list of respondents was drawn from the then-current payment list and the list of ineligible households. For geographic distribution, Türkiye was divided into five regions, with stratified random sampling applied in each region to ensure representation at both the regional and group levels. This approach aimed for a 90% confidence level and a $\pm 5\%$ margin of error, covering the three groups: ESSN, C-ESSN recipient households, and ineligible households.

The questionnaire was piloted, revised, translated and made available in Turkish, Arabic and English. During this process, some questions, such as those related to post-earthquake needs and situation, were narrowed down. An open section was added at the end of the interview to allow respondents to address issues not addressed in the questionnaire and analysis framework.

Secondary Data Analysis

In addition to primary data collection, secondary data analysis was conducted to enhance the study's depth and contextual relevance. This involved reviewing existing reports, statistical data, and previous assessments related to refugee populations, economic conditions, and humanitarian interventions in Türkiye. By integrating external sources, the study ensured a more comprehensive understanding of emerging trends, historical patterns, and the broader socio-economic landscape. The triangulation of primary and secondary data strengthened the reliability of findings and facilitated evidence-based recommendations for policy and programmatic interventions.

Data Protection and Study Ethics

Robust data protection measures were implemented to ensure respondent protection, data security and adherence to work ethics. Anonymity was ensured by recording only unique household identifiers in the Open Data Kit (ODK); no personal data was collected in the survey. Trained field staff (fluent in Farsi, Arabic and Turkish) were trained on the IVS questionnaire and conducted face-to-face interviews with households. Each household was assigned a male and a female interviewer during the face-to-face data collection process.

Enumerators underwent an IVS training workshop covering survey objectives, questionnaire content, humanitarian principles, referral mechanisms, safety and security protocols, and data protection considerations. The training emphasized the TRC's core "do no harm" principle, equipping enumerators and team leaders to minimize potential harm during the study.

Interviews were conducted exclusively with individuals aged 18 and above, with efforts to ensure children were not present during the interviews. In cases where this was unavoidable, enumerators were instructed to prioritize sensitivity toward children. Measures to address and prevent sexual harassment during the assessment included targeted training and systematic follow-up with households via phone. Respondents were explicitly informed that their participation would not impact the level of assistance they receive.



Demographics

IVS Sample Characteristics

- **Sample:** A total of 4,130 households, corresponding to 24,492 individuals, were surveyed. The survey groups were made of; 1,371 ESSN, 1,378 C-ESSN, 1,381 non-recipient households. The household interviews took place in five regions between February 2024 and September 2024.

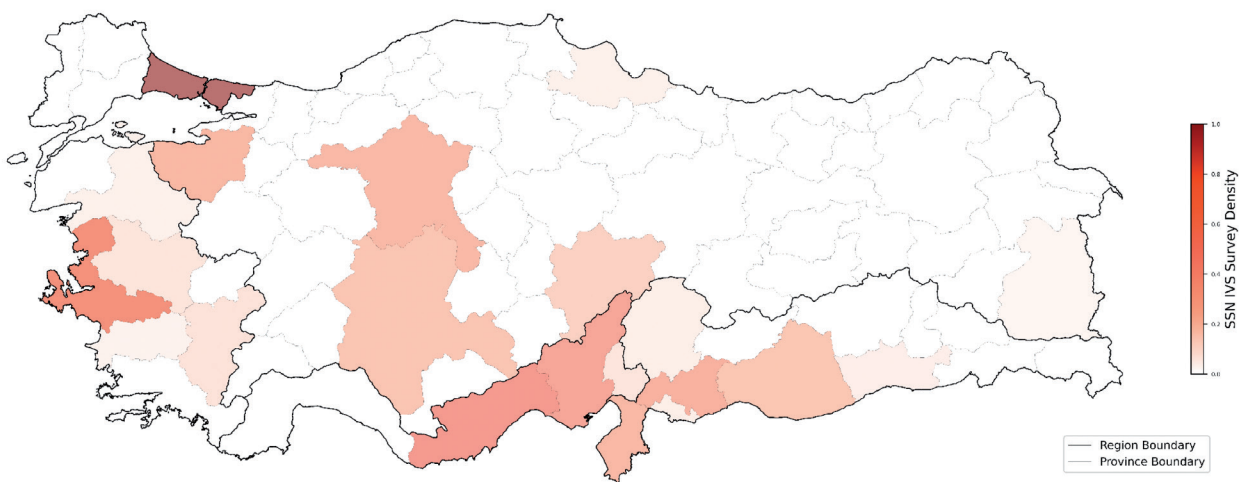


Figure 4 Map of IVS survey density

- **Respondent’s Gender:** The respondents consisted of 56 per cent heads of households, 38 per cent spouses of heads of households, and the remaining percentage comprised other household members. 68 per cent of the total respondents were female, while 32 per cent were male. The average age was 39 for females and 45 for males. Informed consent was obtained from all respondents prior to their participation in the survey, with a clear explanation of the objectives and the intended use of the collected data.
- **Refugee’s Nationalities:** The majority of the surveyed respondents were Syrians. Other nationalities included Iraqis, followed by Afghans, Iranians and Lebanese respectively.
- **Marital Status:** 82 per cent of the respondents were married, 10 per cent were widowed, 3 per cent were divorced, 4 per cent were separated and 2 per cent were single. Among all three recipient groups, most surveyed heads of households were married, followed by widowed. Separated, divorced and single heads of households were very few in numbers.

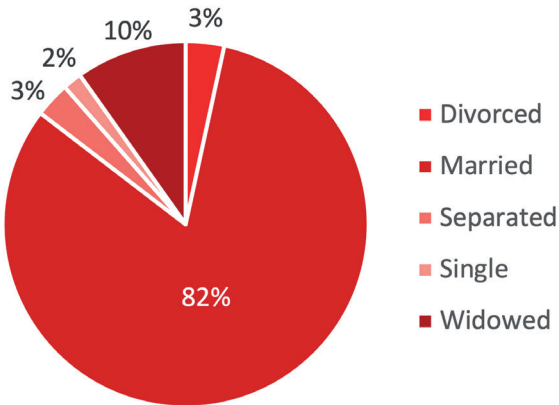


Figure 5 Heads of households' marital status

- **Family Size:** Family size of the ESSN households were bigger compared to the C-ESSN and non-recipient households. The average number of children was 4 in ESSN, 3 in C-ESSN and 2 in non-recipient households.

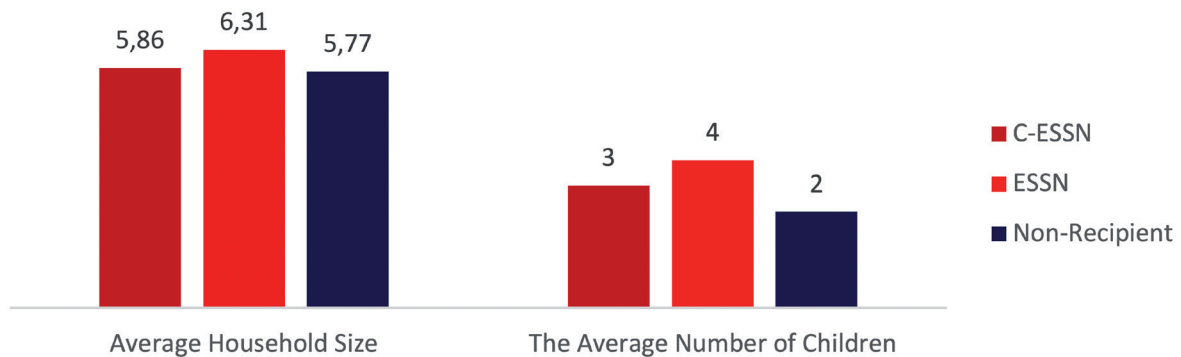


Figure 6 Average household size and number of children according to recipient status

- **People with Specific Needs:** 10 per cent of the overall surveyed refugee population reported being chronically ill without medical report and 3 per cent with medical report. Among the three surveyed groups, the percentage of chronically ill without a medical report was 36 per cent for ESSN, 58 per cent for C-ESSN and 50 per cent for non-recipients; compared to those chronically ill with a medical report which was 7 per cent for ESSN, 39 per cent for C-ESSN and 8 per cent for non-recipient households. 13 per cent of the population were pregnant adults including 0,2 per cent who were pregnant adolescents. 9 per cent were elderly individuals with support needs. In addition, 74 separated children and 10 unaccompanied children were identified during the interviews and referred to related protection mechanisms.
- **Demography:** The majority of the surveyed individuals were male as well as the heads of households. The average age of the heads of households was 40 in ESSN, 46 in C-ESSN and 45 in non-recipient households. While the proportion of elderly people was 12 per cent in ESSN, 35 per cent in C-ESSN and 22 per cent in non-recipient households.

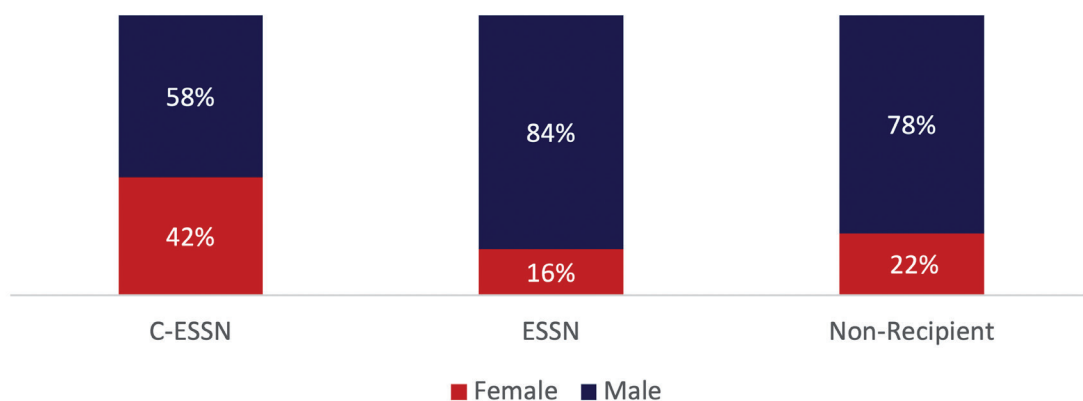


Figure 7 Household gender distribution according to recipient status

- **Education Level:** 3 per cent of the surveyed individuals were illiterate, while 2 per cent were literate despite having no formal education. Majority of the respondents had middle school, primary school and high school diploma respectively. Literacy rates were highest among non-recipient households and lowest among C-ESSN households.

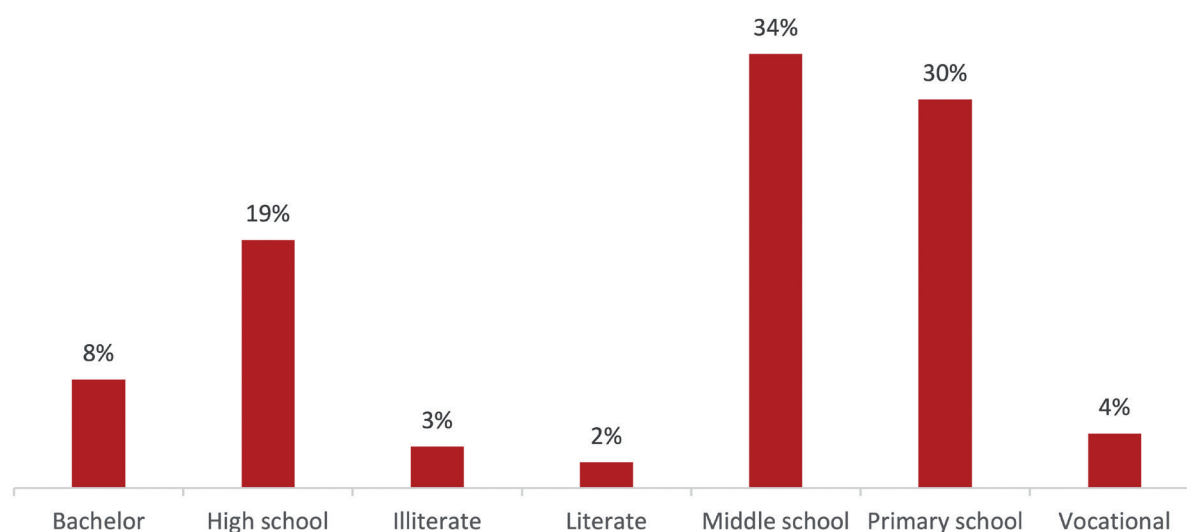


Figure 8 Share of education level

- **Level of Turkish:** Turkish level was analyzed separately between adults and children (aged 6-17). 90 per cent of the children were able to speak Turkish compared to 74 per cent of adults. 10 per cent of school age children did not speak Turkish, while this rate was higher in adults with 26 per cent. It was observed that children had a higher rate of Turkish speaking skills due to their school attendance. In addition, 13 per cent of school age children were out-of-school.

Preparation and Exploration

A total of 45 records were removed from the SSN IVS 1 dataset due to inconsistencies, missing values in critical fields and errors. The final usable sample consists of 4,130 households. The data underwent a systematic cleaning process as part of the data preparation phase. This process encompassed verifying the renaming of variables, computing indicators, and conducting outlier analysis to ensure, identify and address any anomalies or deviations that could potentially skew the results. Data preparation included comprehensive data quality checks, such as constructing the severity index (see technical notes in Annex 2), determining weights, checking binary variables, cross-validating results, duplicate records, applying coding techniques, formatting numeric and character variables. Explanatory graphs were created for each variable of the questionnaire and correlations were conducted to identify the main associated variables. The analysis was made focusing on differences between geographical regions, recipient groups (ESSN, C-ESSN and ineligible) and vulnerability classes. The initial analysis revealed only minor differences between geographic regions; however, these differences were significant enough to merit consideration rather than being entirely disregarded.

Limitations and Mitigation Strategies

The IVS data was collected over an eight-month period in a dynamic and evolving context characterized by inflation, price increases, shifting economic policies, and the ongoing impacts of the earthquake. These factors significantly influenced household income, expenditure, and living standards. Summarizing the results over the entire data collection period has resulted in critical trends, such as inflation and exchange rate fluctuations being less evident in the aggregate analysis. Where applicable, secondary data and previous studies, including PDM and FGD, have been utilized to emphasize key differences and highlight significant findings.

The sampling strategy followed a two-stage approach: first, the provinces with the highest concentration of refugees were selected; then, households in each selected province were randomly selected. As the initial sampling approach had employed purposive selection methodologies, the sampled population was not fully representative. The design ensured that the provinces selected for the survey did not contain more than 70 per cent of the total number of refugees in the region, thus limiting design bias. The number of cities with a small sample was increased based on the central limit theorem. Regional differences could be assessed in this respect.



Outlook

On February 6, 2023, a series of devastating earthquakes struck Türkiye's South-East Anatolia and Eastern Mediterranean regions, impacting 13.5 million people across 11 provinces. The disaster resulted in 50,783 fatalities, 107,000 injuries, and displaced up to 3.3 million individuals.⁴ Approximately 710,000 buildings were damaged or destroyed, including 280,000 that collapsed or sustained severe damage.⁵ Economically, the affected areas accounted for 9 per cent of Türkiye's GDP and 15 per cent of its population.⁶ The World Bank estimated direct physical damage at \$34 billion, equating to 4 per cent of Türkiye's 2021 GDP.⁷

For refugee populations, the combined effects of the earthquake and rising living costs have exacerbated economic hardships, severely limiting household resilience and survival strategies. In response, the Intersectoral Vulnerability Survey (IVS) was adapted to assess the earthquake's household-level impacts, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of these complex economic pressures.

4 World Bank. (June 27 2023). World Bank Approves \$1 Billion for Türkiye to Help Restore Rural Homes and Essential Public Services to People in Earthquake-Hit Areas. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2023/06/27/world-bank-approves-1-billion-for-turkiye-to-help-restore-rural-homes-and-essential-public-services-to-people-in-earthqu>

5 USAID. (July 2024). Türkiye: Assistance overview – July 2024. ReliefWeb. <https://reliefweb.int/report/turkiye/turkiye-assistance-overview-july-2024>

6 OECD. (June 2023). The Territorial Impact of the Earthquakes in Türkiye. https://www.oecd.org/content/dam/oecd/en/publications/reports/2023/06/the-territorial-impact-of-the-earthquakes-in-turkiye_3e1731ee/bb5c07e6-en.pdf

7 World Bank. (June 27 2023). World Bank Approves \$1 Billion for Türkiye to Help Restore Rural Homes and Essential Public Services to People in Earthquake-Hit Areas. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2023/06/27/world-bank-approves-1-billion-for-turkiye-to-help-restore-rural-homes-and-essential-public-services-to-people-in-earthqu>

>> 2. KEY FINDINGS

Context

Economy

Following the elections in May 2023, a comprehensive set of policies had been in place aimed at addressing past macroeconomic imbalances, particularly high inflation. Since then, Türkiye has been progressing toward normalizing its macroeconomic strategies.⁸ The sharp increase in the USD/TRY exchange rate from 28.66 in November 2023 to 34.39 in November 2024 had significantly impacted the Turkish economy.⁹ As a result of the high exchange rate, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased. The rising cost of imported goods and services have been increasing the cost of living and reducing purchasing power. After May 2023, a tighter monetary policy has been adopted in the country to decrease spending.



The inflation saw a decrease in the third quarter of the year with the disinflation announcement of the Ministry of Treasury and Finance. Starting from June, a decreasing trend in annual inflation began, which came down to 49.38 per cent in September.¹⁰ Top three of the highest annual inflation rates were in housing, education, tourism and restaurant sectors. The lowest three sectors were transportation, clothing and shoes, followed by telecommunications. Food prices increased by 43,72 per cent.

In 2024 the cost of the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) per month was calculated as TRY 3,149 per person. Compared to the TRY 1,934 cost in September 2023, it saw an increase of 63 per cent.¹¹ In the aftermath of the devastating earthquake, the MEB cost in the earthquake affected areas was calculated as TRY 3,433 per person with a higher annual increase rate of 65 per cent. This difference signifies the ongoing economic hardships in earthquake affected areas where the demand is higher than supply after a year of its' occurrence.

8 World Bank Group. (23 October 2024). Türkiye Country Overview. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/turkey/overview#3>

9 Türkiye Cumhuriyeti Merkez Bankası. (n.d.). Indicative Exchange Rates. <https://www.tcmb.gov.tr/wps/wcm/connect/en/tcmb+en/main+menu/statistics/exchange+rates/indicative+exchange+rates>

10 Turkstat. (September 2024). Consumer Price Index. <https://data.tuik.gov.tr/Bulten/Index?p=Consumer-Price-Index-September-2024-53618&dil=2#:~:text=TRKSTAT%20Corporate&text=A%20change%20in%20general%20index,by%2063.47%25%20in%20September%202024.>

11 WFP. (30 October 2024). Market Bulletin, Issue No. 31 Q3 2024 (July—September). Reliefweb. <https://reliefweb.int/report/turkiye/turkiye-market-bulletin-issue-no-31-quarter-3-2024-july-september>

Despite an economic slowdown, poverty is projected to decline slowly.¹² The main drivers of this reduction are strong labour market performance and minimum wage increases that outpace inflation. However, minimum wage hikes alone may not be enough to alleviate poverty as it is likely for individuals who are out of the labor force such as the elderly, persons with disability (PwD), parents with no access to childcare or informal workers to be excluded from such improvements. Yet, social protection programs are still essential to ensure that most vulnerable group of individuals receive adequate support through improved targeting and coverage.

The devastating earthquake on 6 February 2023 had profound effects on the economy. The direct physical damage is estimated to be USD 34 billion¹³ and there has been a 16 per cent reduction in the economic activity.¹⁴ As a result of the supply demand imbalances, consumer prices have gone up in various sectors, limiting access to basic needs in earthquake affected areas. The economic growth which has slowed down right in the aftermath of the earthquake, has risen back up to 2.5 per cent in the second quarter of 2024.¹⁵ Almost all sectors including agriculture, construction and real estate has grew, with the exception of the industry sector which has decreased by 1.8 per cent. One and a half year after the earthquake, the economy started to recover yet implications are ongoing.



The unemployment rate in Türkiye decreased significantly by 8.7 per cent in the third quarter of the year¹⁶, reflecting an overall improvement in the labour market. However, youth unemployment, covering ages 15-24, increased by 0.5 per cent, reaching 16.8 per cent.¹⁷ This divergence highlights underlying challenges faced by young individuals, including limited access to job opportunities, a mismatch between skills and market demands, and potential barriers to workforce entry. While the reduction in overall unemployment is a positive development, the rise in youth unemployment underscores the need for targeted policies to address the unique challenges of this critical demographic.

12 World Bank Group. (23 October 2024). Türkiye Country Overview. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/turkey/overview#3>

13 World Bank Group. (27 February 2023). Earthquake Damage in Türkiye Estimated to Exceed \$34 billion: World Bank Disaster Assessment Report. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2023/02/27/earthquake-damage-in-turkiye-estimated-to-exceed-34-billion-world-bank-disaster-assessment-report>

14 ILO. (March 2023). The effects of the February 2023 earthquake on the labour market in Türkiye. <https://reliefweb.int/report/turkiye/effects-february-2023-earthquake-labour-market-turkiye>

15 TÜİK. (June 2024). Dönemsel Gayrisafi Yurt İçi Hasıla, II. Çeyrek: Nisan-Haziran, 2024. <https://data.tuik.gov.tr/Bulten/Index?p=Donemsel-Gayrisafi-Yurt-Ici-Hasila-II.-Ceyrek:-Nisan-Haziran,-2024-53754#:~:text=%C3%9Cretim%20y%C3%B6ntemiyle%20Gayrisafi%20Yurt%20%C4%B0%C3%A7i,milyar%20158%20milyon%20olarak%20ger%C3%A7ekle%C5%9Fti.>

16 Ibid.

17 Ibid.



Settlement and Immigration Policies

After the May 2023 general elections, security-focused migration policies have been reinforced across the country. As a result of the negative public discourse toward registered and irregular migrants, the Turkish government has introduced comprehensive regulatory policies and enhanced security strategies to mitigate irregular migration and to manage the number of Syrians residing inside the country.¹⁸

268 Mobile Migration Points have been established to conduct ID checks, and individuals lacking proper documentation were transferred to removal centers for deportation proceedings.¹⁹ 126,766 irregular migrants were identified and 57,000 Syrians and others were reportedly deported in 2023.²⁰ Address verification procedures have started in September 2023 in order to verify the number of registered Syrians Under Temporary Protection (SuTPs), Persons under International Protection (PuIP) and residence permit holders in Türkiye. More than 700,000 Syrians who could not be found at their registered addresses were given a 90-day notice to update their address, otherwise they might lose their access to public services.²¹

In addition, voluntary, safe, and dignified returns targeting 1 million refugees have been initiated as part of national migration management policy.²² These returns focus on resettling refugees in designated safe zones in Syria such as briquette houses. So far the Turkish government has facilitated the repatriation of approximately 132,288 Syrians in the past year and 687,706 refugees over the last five years.²³

18 European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE). (20 August 2024). Türkiye: Overview of Main Changes - 2024 Report Update. Asylum Information Database. Accessed 19 Nov. 2024, https://asylumineurope.org/reports/country/turkiye/overview-main-changes-previous-report-update/#_ftn46.

19 Presidency of Migration Management (PMM). (14 August 2024). "TAKİPSİZ GÖÇMEN KALMAYACAK". SABAH. <https://www.goc.gov.tr/icisleri-bakani-ali-yerlikaya-gocu-kaynaginda-durdurduk-merkezicerik>

20 Deutsche Welle (DW). (29 June 2024). Syrians in Turkey face deportation into an unknown future. <https://www.dw.com/en/syrians-in-turkey-face-deportation-into-an-unknown-future/a-69491855>

21 Presidency of Migration Management (PMM). (14 August 2024). "TAKİPSİZ GÖÇMEN KALMAYACAK". SABAH. <https://www.goc.gov.tr/icisleri-bakani-ali-yerlikaya-gocu-kaynaginda-durdurduk-merkezicerik>

22 Human Rights Watch. (24 October 2022). Turkey: Hundreds of Refugees Deported to Syria. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/10/24/turkey-hundreds-refugees-deported-syria>

23 Presidency of Migration Management (PMM). (14 August 2024). "TAKİPSİZ GÖÇMEN KALMAYACAK". SABAH. <https://www.goc.gov.tr/icisleri-bakani-ali-yerlikaya-gocu-kaynaginda-durdurduk-merkezicerik>

Refugee Movements in Türkiye and Intentions

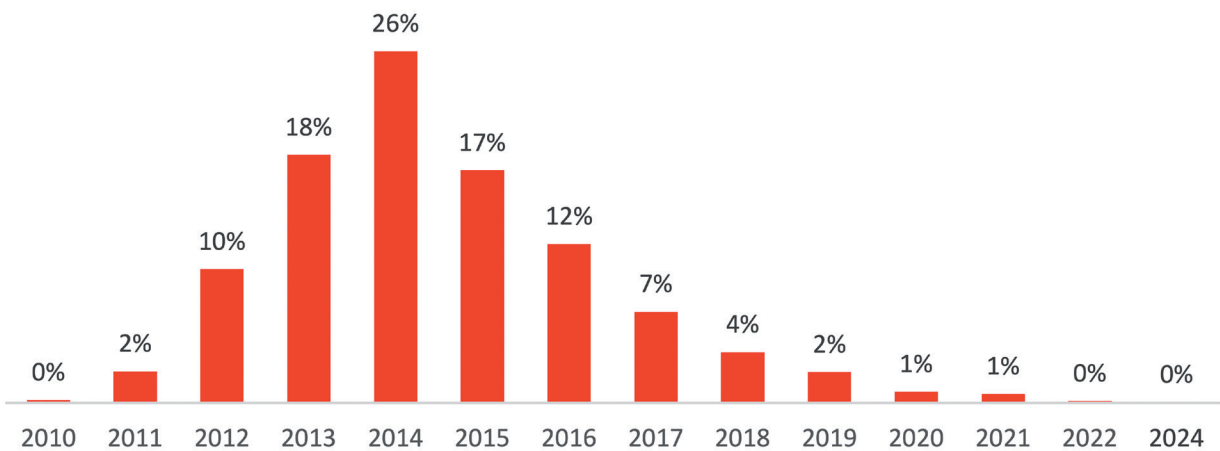


Figure 9 Percentage of households interviewed by year of arrival in Türkiye

Given the escalation of the conflicts in 2014 and 2015, the highest rate of the migration to Türkiye was observed in 2014 with 26 per cent. The increase in the migration wave in certain periods is directly proportional to the increase in the internal conflicts in Syria. From 2016 onwards, there was a decrease in migration rates as 12 per cent of the households reported having arrived in Türkiye in 2016, while in 2017 this rate decreased to 7 per cent. In 2020, migration decreased further due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, with only 1 per cent of households reporting to have arrived in Türkiye. Decline in the refugee population has several different reasons such as third country resettlements, deportations and voluntary return. The total number of refugees in Türkiye was over 3.3 million by August 2024, including Syrians under temporary protection (3,103,606) and people under international protection (224,698).²⁴

In addition, analysis shows that the vast majority of households had to move more than once within Türkiye. Around half of these households have moved two or three times, while 13 per cent of them have moved four times. Notably, 15 per cent of households have moved five times or more, indicating significant mobility patterns. The data demonstrates that 9 out of 10 households have relocated at least once, with the predominant migration pattern flowing from provinces adjacent to the Syrian border toward metropolitan centers.²⁵

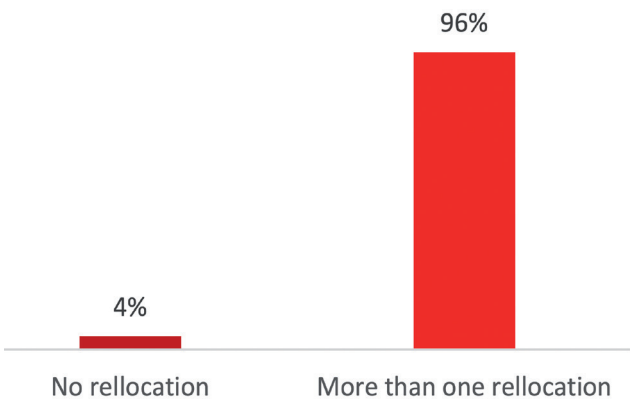


Figure 10 Percentage of households per number of relocations in Türkiye

24 <https://www.goc.gov.tr/icisleri-bakani-ali-yerlikaya-duzensiz-gocle-mucadelede-butun-zamanlarin-en-iyi-sayilarini-yakaladik>

25 Tumen, Semih. (April 2023). The case of Syrian refugees in Türkiye: Successes, challenges, and lessons learned. Background paper to the World Development Report 2023: Migrants, Refugees, and Societies. <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/a007833298df4b9c3735602711dd9289-0050062023/original/WDR2023-Turkey-case-study-FORMATTED.pdf>

These substantial relocation frequencies suggest multiple underlying factors driving household movement. The primary reason for relocation among refugee households was found to be eviction by the landlord, regionally highest in the Mediterranean region (50 per cent). Another prominent reason was search for a better home, highest observed in the Aegean region (35 per cent). The third biggest factor was observed to be economic reasons with highest observed households who had to move in search of cheaper living conditions were in İstanbul and Anatolia regions (16 per cent).

Other reasons include but not limited to; accessing better chances and services, existing social networks, less tensions or relocation due to work. When analyzed by recipient status, a notable difference was observed only in cases where landlords evict households. C-ESSN households face a higher eviction rate of 43 per cent, compared to 35 per cent of non-recipient households. These displacement patterns not only illuminate the challenges of local integration and economic opportunity access but also underscore the substantial barriers preventing households from establishing permanent residence.

	Aegean	Anatolia	İstanbul	Mediterranean	Southeast
Move-out because of landlord	30%	34%	24%	50%	45%
Better house quality	35%	29%	32%	23%	25%
Cheaper	12%	16%	16%	11%	11%
Other	7%	7%	9%	5%	5%
Better chances	3%	5%	4%	4%	3%
Natural disasters	1%	1%	1%	1%	6%
Better service	2%	2%	5%	2%	2%
Social network	4%	3%	3%	1%	1%
Less tensions	5%	3%	2%	2%	1%
Forced relocation for job	1%	2%	2%	2%	0%

Figure 11 Reasons for household moving by region

The February 2023 earthquakes fundamentally transformed the demographic landscape of Southeastern Türkiye and Northern Syria along the Eastern Anatolian Fault Zone, causing extensive destruction and significant loss of life. Natural disasters emerged as another critical factor in population displacement, with the Southeast region experiencing the highest displacement rates (6 per cent) primarily attributed to this devastating event. Between 2018 and 2022, the geographical distribution of Syrian refugees across Turkish provinces had maintained relative stability, but the earthquake triggered substantial internal migration dynamics affecting both local populations and refugee communities. The earthquake's aftermath has precipitated complex demographic shifts, with some refugees opting to return to Syria, potentially reconfiguring regional demographics, economic infrastructure, and future relocation strategies toward less densely populated and lower-risk geographical areas.

Looking into possible plans for relocation; plans to relocate within Türkiye and plans to move to other countries are found as indicators reflecting households' desire to improve their living conditions and seek better opportunities. According to Figure 10, the majority of refugee households prefer to stay within Türkiye. The willingness of refugees to stay can be explained by two migration theories. Social networks are a major support mechanism for refugees according to the Social Networks Theory.²⁶

²⁶ Gurak, D. T., & Caces, F. (1992). Migration Networks and the shaping of Migration Systems. Clarendon Press. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/200820361_Migration_networks_and_the_shaping_of_migration_systems

Therefore, many individuals choose to remain in Türkiye due to the well-established social and economic networks composing of friends and relatives. Thus, the Intervening Opportunities Theory explains migration patterns by the availability of opportunities closer to the migrants' origin country which can influence their destination selection, even if their ultimate goal is a farther location.²⁷ In this context, Türkiye's existing refugee networks and economic opportunities act as intervening opportunities for individuals coming from bordering countries. While some may initially aim for destinations in Europe or beyond, the social support systems and economic prospects in Türkiye present viable alternatives, making it an attractive stopping point or final destination.

	Aegean	Anatolia	İstanbul	Mediterranean	Southeast
Current location	56%	64%	45%	70%	61%
Don't know	25%	23%	31%	15%	22%
Relocation other country	16%	10%	19%	11%	12%
Repatriation to homecountry	2%	1%	3%	1%	2%
Relocation within Türkiye	1%	2%	2%	1%	2%
Other	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%

Figure 12 Relocation plans according to regions

On the other hand, the planning rates to move abroad were remarkably high in İstanbul (24.5 per cent) and the Aegean (19.6 per cent) regions. The high rates indicate that some households seek a new life abroad in search of better opportunities, economic and security conditions. Moving abroad can take place through individual resources or through the resettlement program of UNHCR.²⁸ With limited availability, so far less than 1 per cent of all refugees are resettled through this initiative.²⁹ As for refugees in Türkiye, around 70.000 Syrians under temporary protection have resettled to the third countries.³⁰ Some other households prefer to move back to their home countries because of homesickness, difficulties with integration, sociocultural differences, social networks and economic opportunities.³¹

The Presidency of Migration Management (PMM) supports foreigners under international protection or temporary protection to move back to their home countries through voluntary, safe and dignified return.³² To this day, 687.706 Syrians have moved back to Syria through dignified, safe and voluntary return initiatives facilitated by the Turkish government.³³

This study was conducted before the regime change in Syria that occurred on December 8, 2024. Therefore, opinions on voluntary return and moving to other countries reflect the views of refugee households between February and September 2024.

27 Stouffer, S. A. (1940). Intervening opportunities: A theory relating mobility and distance. *American Sociological Review*, 5(6), 845-867. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2084520>

28 Resettlement to the third countries is available only to the most vulnerable refugees with specific risks or needs in the country of asylum and cannot return to their country of origin in a safe matter.

29 UNHCR. (2001-2025). Resettlement. <https://www.unhcr.org/tr/en/resettlement>

30 Presidency of Migration Management (PMM). (21 November 2024) Resettlement of Syrians in the 3rd Countries within 2016-2024. <https://en.goc.gov.tr/temporary-protection27>

31 Hugo, G. (2005). Migrants in society: Diversity and cohesion. Policy Analysis and Research Programme of the Global Commission on International Migration. University of Adelaide. <https://www.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd12616/files/2018-07/TP6.pdf>

32 The process takes place by individual application to Provincial Directorates of Migration Management (PDMM), approved applicants are directed to the border gate and voluntary return transactions are issued. The operation is supervised by international and non-governmental organizations such as UNHCR and Türk Kızılay.

33 <https://www.goc.gov.tr/icisleri-bakani-ali-yerlikaya-duzensiz-gocle-mucadelede-butun-zamanlarin-en-iyi-sayilarini-yakaladik>

Education

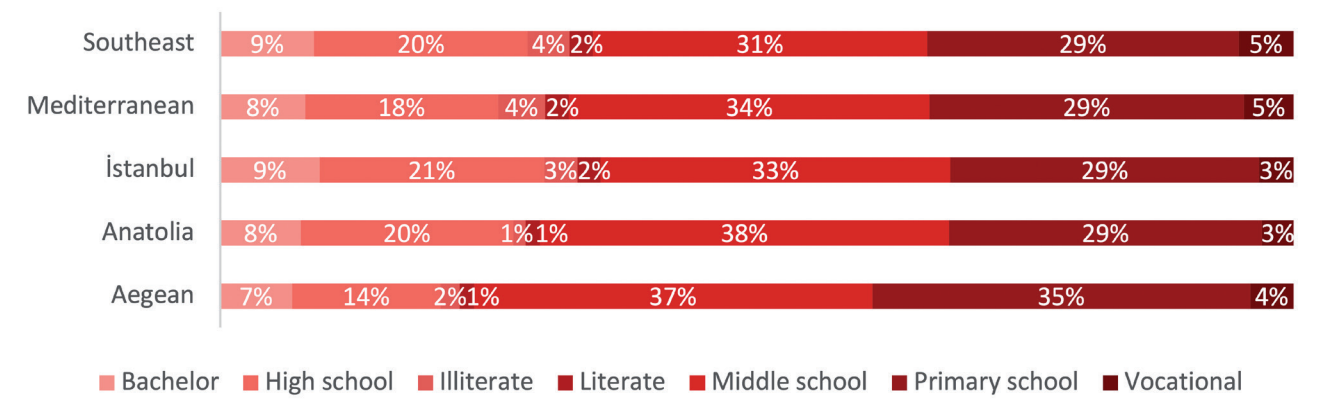


Figure 13 Highest education degree according to regions

The highest level of education attained by individuals within a given household is a primary school diploma. The prevalence of individuals who have completed primary school is notably higher in the Aegean region at 39 per cent, while it stands at 29 per cent across the other regions, including the Mediterranean, İstanbul, Anatolia, and Southeast. It is notable that a considerable proportion of the population in the Anatolia (38 per cent) and Aegean (37 per cent) regions have completed middle education. The proportion of individuals with a high school diploma is higher in İstanbul regions at 20 per cent, while the proportion of individuals with a university diploma was observed to be 8 per cent on the average of all regions. The proportion of individuals with vocational education remains relatively low, with the highest prevalence observed in the Southeast and Mediterranean regions, both at 5 per cent. Furthermore, the prevalence of illiteracy is more pronounced in the Mediterranean and Southeast regions at 4 per cent.

These patterns reflect that the level of education is higher in urban areas, while literacy and vocational education rates remain low in rural and eastern regions. The majority of graduates in Türkiye are at the primary and secondary school level, with a relatively low proportion attaining higher education. This latter group is largely concentrated in the country's major cities, with İstanbul being a notable exception. Conversely, the proportion of individuals lacking literacy or formal education is higher in some regions, though it remained relatively low. These data illustrate regional disparities in educational attainment and the urban-rural dichotomy, underscoring the role of major cities in shaping a population with elevated educational levels.



A review of the data on the availability of the two highest diplomas within households reveals that 68 per cent of households do not possess copies of their diplomas. Whereas, 32 per cent of households have at least one diploma and 13 per cent have copies of at least two diplomas. It is challenging to ascertain the educational attainment of households and verify their educational background, as the absence of diplomas may result from households being unable to retain copies of their certificates when leaving their country or misplacing them while on the move.

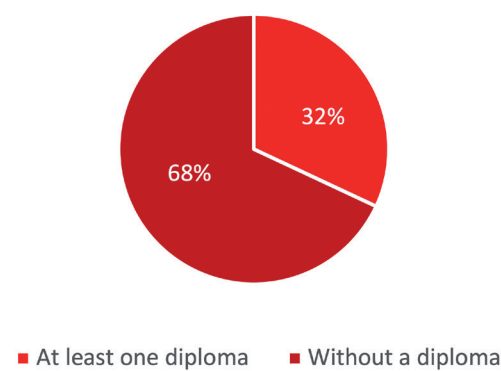


Figure 14 Number of diplomas available in household

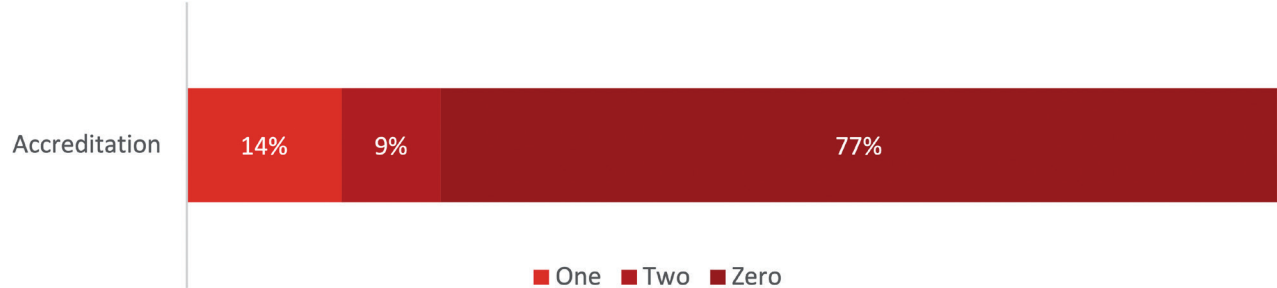


Figure 15 Number of accreditations in household

Looking into accreditation rates, in 77 per cent of households, the two highest degrees were not accredited in Türkiye. Only 14 percent had one degree accredited, while 9 per cent had two. This suggests that households encounter challenges in accessing the accreditation process or ensuring the equivalence of their documents. The ability of refugees to obtain accreditation for their education and professional qualifications in Türkiye is contingent upon the regulations of relevant official institutions and the specific requirements of certain professions.³⁴

While accreditation may not be possible in every areas, it is possible in many, provided that applicants possess education certificates compatible with Türkiye's standards. In fields such as healthcare, law, and teaching, additional exams or competency tests may be required for accreditation. Unaccredited education certificates together with missing diplomas can hinder individuals' access to education and employment opportunities, thereby limiting their social integration and professional development.

34 The Council of Higher Education (CoHE) and the Turkish Ministry of Education (MoNE) are in charge of evaluating the recognition of diplomas, while the Vocational Qualifications Authority (VQA) is in charge of evaluating their technical and vocational qualifications.

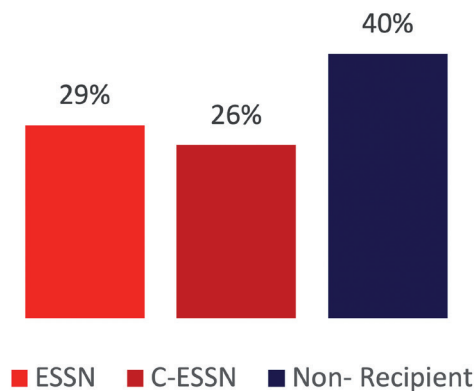


Figure 16 Percentage of education higher than middle school by recipient status

Education levels significantly differ between recipient groups. While 29 per cent of ESSN and 26 per cent of C-ESSN households have an education level higher than secondary school, this rate rises to 40 per cent for non-recipient households.

This indicates that the education level in ESSN and C-ESSN households is usually at secondary school level or below, but there are more individuals with higher education levels in non-recipient households.

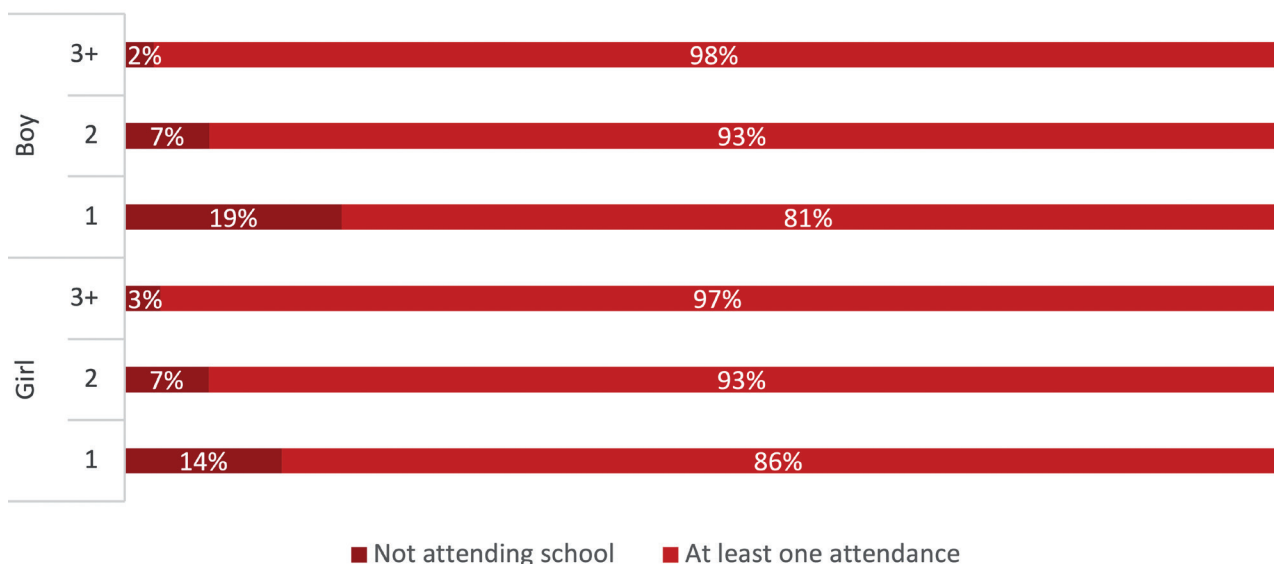


Figure 17 Percentage of school attendance by gender

An analysis of school attendance among school-age children in households, based on the number of children and gender, reveals that 81 per cent of households with only one male child of school age have at least one child attending school. This rate increases to 98 per cent as the number of children rises. However, the attendance rate for all male children differs slightly. In households with three male children of school age, the rate of all three male children attending school is lower with only 69 per cent of them attending school. Similarly, 86 per cent of households with one female child of school age have at least one child attending school, with the rate rising to 97 per cent in households with three girls. Whereas, the attendance rate for all female children in these households is lower, at 68 per cent for those with three girls. In summary, boys and girls generally attend school, especially in households with one or two children. Yet, the number of school-age children increases parallel to the proportion of children not in school.

Recipient group segregations show that the rate of children who are working age and are attending school is higher in non-recipient households (87 per cent) compared to recipient households (83 per cent). Contrary to this data, a 2020 study indicates that the ESSN program has significantly improved school enrollment rates among refugee children. The study found that being part of a recipient household reduced the proportion of children not attending school from 36.2 per cent to 13.7 per cent, largely due to the cash transfers provided by the program.³⁵ The contrast of the current data with the referred study indicates that although cash transfers had a greater effect in the past as financial support alleviated some of the economic burdens associated with education, the effect of the cash support on education has decreased over the years due to economic fluctuations in the country.



These findings suggest that refugee households with a larger number of children may face greater challenges in ensuring access to education for all children due to unequal opportunities. The challenges encountered by school age refugee children can be categorized into four main areas: emotional and behavioral issues, cultural and care disparities within families, communication hurdles between students, teachers, and parents due to language differences, and insufficient school resources and infrastructure.³⁶ In addition, the resources available in a child's household, such as the education level and standard of living of the head of household, are other key factors influencing educational outcomes.³⁷

According to another study, children in female-headed households tend to have better school outcomes compared to those in male-headed households with similar resources.³⁸ Overall, it can be summarized that household resources and demographic structure play an important role in shaping educational opportunities.

35 Bargain, O., Barslund, M., & Hager, A. (2021). Keeping refugee children in school and out of work: Evidence from the world's largest humanitarian cash transfer program (IZA Discussion Paper No. 14513). Institute of Labor Economics (IZA). Retrieved from <https://www.iza.org/en/publications/dp/14513>

36 Kardeş, S. & Akman, B. (2022). Problems encountered in the education of refugees in Turkey. *International Journal of Psychology and Educational Studies*, 9(1), 153-164. <https://dx.doi.org/10.52380/ijpes.2022.9.1.641>

37 Abdulai, A.-G., & Olaniyan, A. (2017). Keeping children in school: Effects of household and context characteristics on school dropout in 363 districts of 30 developing countries. *International Journal of Educational Development*, 56, 43-51. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/283657506_Keeping_Children_in_School_Effects_of_Household_and_Context_Characteristics_on_School_Dropout_in_363_Districts_of_30_Developing_Countries

38 Lloyd, C. B., & Blanc, A. K. (1996). Children's school attendance in sub-Saharan Africa: The role of parental education. *Studies in Family Planning*, 27(4), 253-267. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2137435>

Livelihoods

Refugees in Türkiye face numerous challenges in securing sustainable livelihoods due to a combination of economic, social, and legal barriers such as limited job opportunities, language difficulties, legal restrictions on work permits, and social integration challenges. These obstacles are particularly pronounced in regions with high unemployment rates. Moreover, the economic situation in the country, characterized by high inflation and instability, exacerbates the challenge of finding employment.³⁹

Income and Labor Force Participation Rates

Among recipient households, 99 per cent report having regular and/or irregular income in the last 30 days. On the other hand, 4 per cent of non-recipient households have no regular and /or irregular income. While 92 per cent of ESSN and non-recipient households participated in the labour market and engaged in income generating activities in the last 30 days, this rate is only 73 per cent for C-ESSN households. In ESSN households, the presence of individuals who can work, coupled with the receipt of regular cash assistance, ensures that nearly all households report at least one source of income within the last 30 days. Additionally, over 90 per cent of these households were observed to have an income from labor. When the labour force participation of the labour force eligible population of households above the age of 18 is examined, 40 per cent of C-ESSN households work on average while this rate is 46 per cent for ESSN households. C-ESSN households mostly compose of people with disabilities, elderly people and people under the age of 18 who cannot participate in the labour market. This means that among C-ESSN households, one in every four household has no labour income. Although more than a quarter of C-ESSN households do not participate in the labour force, almost all of them had some form of income in the last 30 days according to the survey.

The main reason for this income is the regular cash assistance received. Due to their social, physical or mental vulnerability C-ESSN households often lack access to adequate income generating activities. Given the consideration that some heads of households in the C-ESSN group are female, child care responsibilities, language deficiencies, and lack of professional experience result in low labor force participation.⁴⁰ On the contrary, especially younger members of the household attend labor force which could be explained by two reasons. Firstly, a significant number of Syrian boys may not attend school, leaving them with little to do. Secondly, the urgent need for income stems from the prevalence of informal employment among Syrians, where earnings typically fall below the minimum wage.⁴¹



39 International Labour Organization. (2023). Social Security Status of Syrians Under Temporary Protection in the Turkish Labour Market and Recommendations for Transition to Formality. <https://www.ilo.org/publications/social-security-status-syrians-under-temporary-protection-turkish-labour>

40 Türk Kızılay. (December 2024). 2nd Round of Focus Group Discussion Series Report of SSN Programme: Participation of ESSN Female Beneficiaries in Employment and Their Challenge. (Unpublished).

41 Pinedo-Caro, L. (2020), "Syrian Refugees in the Turkish Labour Market: A Socio-Economic Analysis", *Sosyoekonomi*, Vol. 28(46), 51-74. <https://dergipark.org.tr/pub/sosyoekonomi/issue/57521/655321>



Regionally, the labor force participation and income rates of ESSN and non-recipient households are mostly similar. However, non-recipient households have lower labor force participation in Anatolia and Southeast regions compared to other regions. While 95 per cent of households in other regions have at least one person in the household participating in the labour market, this rate remains at 90 per cent in Anatolia and Southeast regions. This can be attributed to the limited employment opportunities in Southeast regions, as well as restrictions on travel permits for Syrians under temporary protection, which prevent them from seeking or securing work outside their city of residence.⁴²

ESSN and C-ESSN recipients generally find themselves employed in jobs that pay at or below the minimum wage. Additionally, their employment status tends to be irregular, often characterized by unskilled labor positions. Both recipient groups generally claim that working longer hours, irregular payment of salaries and working for lower wages are mentioned as the most common difficulties encountered by recipients compared to their local colleagues.⁴³

Consequently, another significant challenge is the widespread informality in employment. Many refugees come with limited education and lack technical skills, which are crucial for gaining employment. Additionally, language barrier poses a significant challenge as limited proficiency in Turkish hinders their ability to secure jobs. As a result, vast majority of refugees find themselves in informal work settings, with 99 per cent of married men and 98 per cent of women engaged in such employment, starkly contrasting with the native population where only 19 per cent of men and 38 per cent of women work informally.⁴⁴ A high level of informality results in reliance on social assistance more, and extremely unstable conditions.⁴⁵

Comparing employment of Syrian refugees with the local populations, employment rate of Syrians falls below the local populations according to a 2023 study. Among men, 62 per cent of Syrians were employed, versus 69 per cent of Turkish men. On the contrary, 6 per cent of Syrian women were employed compared to 22 per cent of Turkish women.⁴⁶

42 Türk Kızılay. (December 2024). 3rd Round of Focus Group Discussion Series: Exploring Labor Market Participation and Its Challenges for the SSN Beneficiaries in Türkiye: A Comparative Assessment of Informal Versus Formal Employment. (Unpublished).

43 Ibid.

44 Demirci, M., & Kırdar, M. G. (2021). The labor market integration of Syrian refugees in Turkey (Working Paper No. 2124). Koç University-TÜSİAD Economic Research Forum. https://eaf.ku.edu.tr/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/erf_wp_2124.pdf

45 Carrera Nunez, S., et al. (Eds.). (2025). Global asylum governance and the European Union's role. *International Perspectives on Migration* (Vol. 18). https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-74866-0_9

46 Demirci, M., & Kırdar, M. G. (2023). The labor market integration of Syrian refugees in Turkey. *World Development*, 162, 106138. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2022.106138>

Investigating households that moved for work, it was observed that a small proportion of ESSN, C-ESSN and non-recipient households moved to another town/region to work. While this was 1 per cent for ESSN households, 4 per cent of C-ESSN households and 5 per cent of non-recipient households went elsewhere to work. This shows that, although a small portion, households face difficulties in finding employment where they live, leading them to relocate for work.

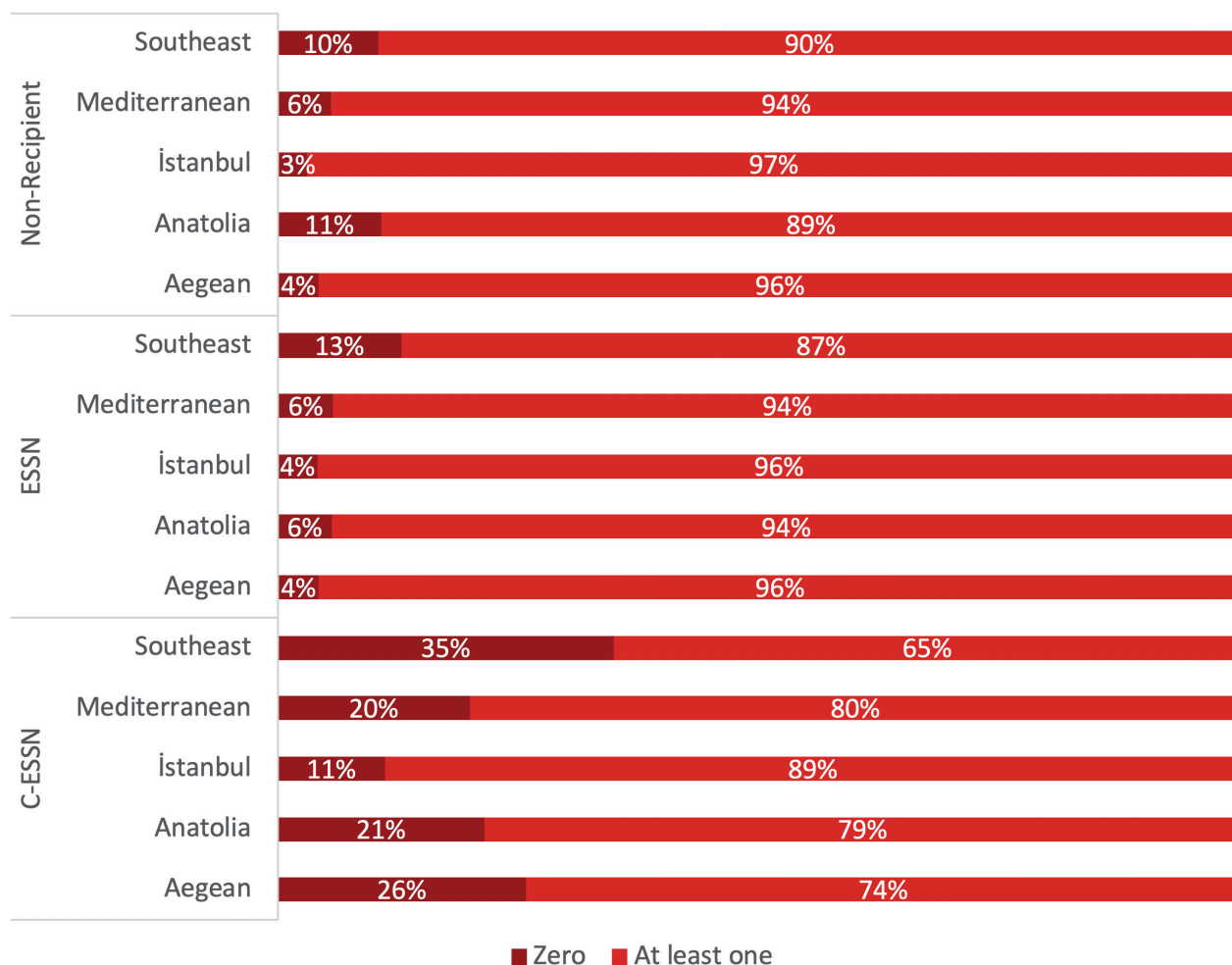


Figure 18 Labour force participation rate according to regions

Five per cent of households with at least one person under the age of 18 participate in the labor force, which qualifies as child labor. Among these cases, 19 per cent involve girls, while 81 per cent involve boys who have engaged in work within the last 30 days. Child labor is more prevalent among boys in recipient households. The high employment rate among recipient households, coupled with low schooling rates among refugee children, indicates a strong attachment to the labor market. In particular, children from lower-income families with multiple dependents; households where the head is younger; has lower education levels, or is female; as well as households in industrialized regions who originate from rural areas in Syria, are more likely to engage in labor.⁴⁷

47 Dayioğlu, M., Kırdar, M. G., & Koç, İ. (2024). The Making of a "Lost Generation": Child Labor among Syrian Refugees in Turkey. *International Migration Review*, 58(3), 1075-1113. <https://doi.org/10.1177/01979183231171551>

Income Level

Refugees often work longer hours than their local counterparts. A study found that refugees in the informal sector worked, on average, five more hours per week than Syrians with work permits and Turkish workers without permits.⁴⁸ Moreover, three out of four Syrians earned less than the minimum wage per hour.⁴⁹ These economic challenges may further intensified by possible social tensions, underscoring the need for comprehensive policies to improve refugees' access to formal employment and economic integration.

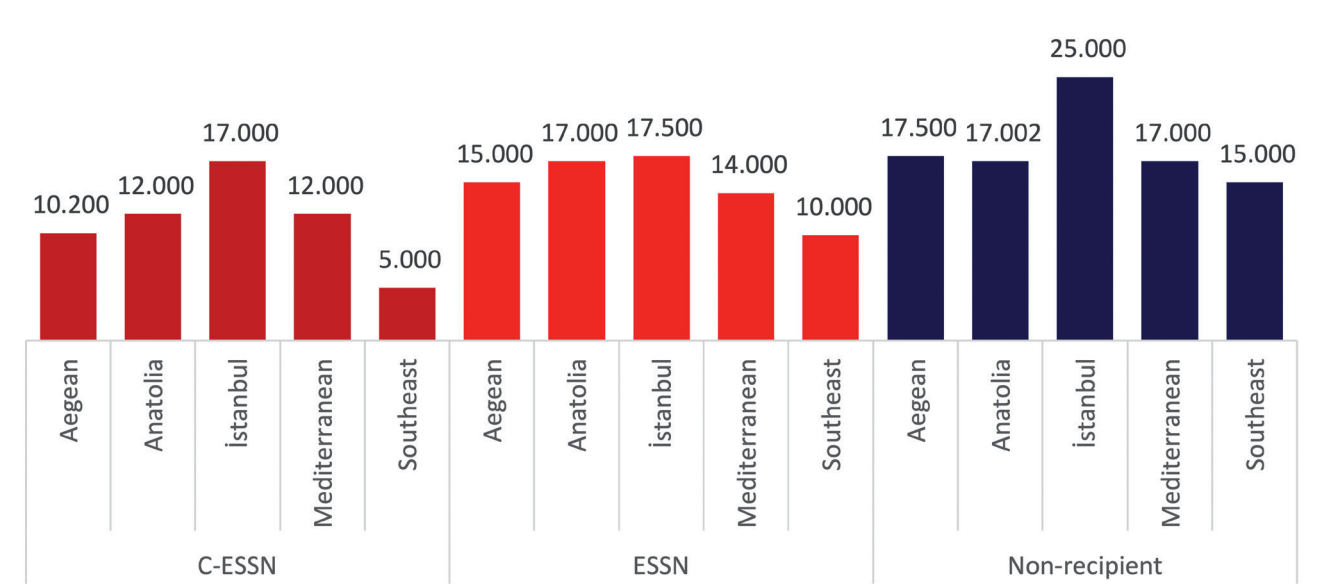


Figure 19 Median labour income by recipient status and regions

The comparatively lower labor force participation rates among C-ESSN households correlate directly with their reduced median labor income levels. According to SSN IVS 1 findings, the median income of C-ESSN households is TRY 10,000, while it is TRY 14,000 for ESSN households and TRY 17,000 for non-recipient households. While diminished labor force participation appears to be the primary factor driving the lower income levels among C-ESSN households, a notable income disparity exists between ESSN and non-recipient households despite their comparable labor force participation rates. This disparity can be attributed to two key factors: non-recipient households maintain higher average working

days within 30-day periods, and they demonstrate more diversified employment patterns, with fewer single-income households and a higher prevalence of multiple employed members compared to ESSN households. Similar results were found in the PDM 1 Report which revealed that the median income level of households enrolled in the C-ESSN Program is lower than those in the ESSN. Specifically, the median income for C-ESSN households stand at 14,500, which is below the minimum wage, whereas for ESSN households, the median income was 17,000, equivalent to the minimum wage. When the income source is investigated it was seen that around 60 per cent of the beneficiaries depend on unskilled labor.⁵⁰

48 Danish Refugee Council. (2020). Syrian Refugees' Perceptions of the (Formal) Labour Market in Southeast Turkey. <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/88119?utm>

49 Ibid.

50 Türk Kızılay. (December 2024). Post-Distribution Monitoring Report (PDM). (Unpublished).

Regionally, the most striking result is found in İstanbul region which has a much higher level of labour income compared to other regions because of the high job opportunities offered in the area with the highest salaries. Whereas, C-ESSN households appear to have the lowest labor income of TRY 5,000 in the Southeast region. As a result of low employment opportunities for refugees in the Southeast region⁵¹ 35 per cent of the households do not have any labour force participation. While agricultural and food sectors provide crucial economic opportunities for Syrian refugees in the Southeast regions such as Adana and Gaziantep with 37 per cent of employed Syrian women participating in agricultural work these positions are predominantly characterized by low-skill requirements and seasonal nature, resulting in income instability.⁵²

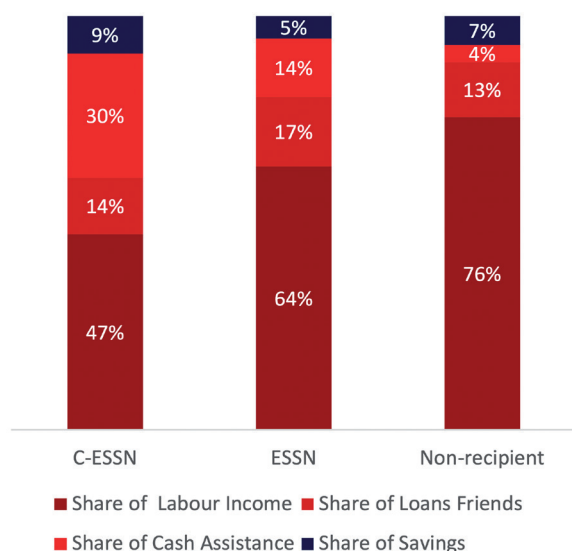


Figure 20 Share of Sources of Income according to recipient

The prevalence of seasonal employment in the Southeast region, coupled with restricted labor force participation, necessitates further comprehensive investigation to understand these structural limitations.

When considering total regular income as the sum of labor income, cash assistance, and pensions, ESSN household income sums at TRY 16,100. This result closely aligns with the income of non-recipient households and highlighting the impact of assistance in narrowing income gaps.

Barriers in Accessing Work

Evidence-based findings show that ESSN, C-ESSN and non-recipient households all face barriers to finding jobs. The most common barrier faced by ESSN and non-recipient households is the lack of sufficient job opportunities, while for C-ESSN households it is health issues. In other words, C-ESSN households are not able to participate in the labour force due to their health conditions. This is one of the main reasons why C-ESSN households are more vulnerable than other groups and the main reason behind their significantly lower labour force participation rates. Looking into the gender breakdown of health-related issues in C-ESSN households, the analysis reveals that 44 per cent of men and 28 per cent of women are unable to work due to health conditions. For ESSN and non-recipient households, the scarcity of job opportunities in the labor market highlights their active job search efforts despite limited success. In terms of regional analysis, fewer households in Anatolia and İstanbul report a lack of sufficient job opportunities compared to other regions, reemphasizing better job opportunities in İstanbul.

51 Demirci, M., & Kırdar, M. G. (2022). The labor market integration of Syrian refugees in Turkey (ERF Working Papers Series No. 1588). Economic Research Forum. Retrieved from https://erf.org.eg/app/uploads/2022/09/1664279783_410_3028209_1588.pdf

52 FAO. (2022). Türkiye – Syrian Refugee Resilience Plan 2022–2023. Rome. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/73692151-78e4-46a9-99ad-b87f7d6d3ee7/content>

Notably, approximately one in four households identifies (bias or prejudice) as the primary barrier to employment across all three groups. Reported rates on this topic are the highest in the Mediterranean and Southeast regions which is around 27.5 per cent, followed by İstanbul with 18 per cent, the Aegean with 14 per cent and Anatolia with 13 per cent. Although, a slight decline of 5 per cent was observed since the last IVS study which took place in 2022, this issue still remains a significant challenge in securing jobs.

	C-ESSN	ESSN	Non-recipient	Total
Not enough work	31%	41%	36%	36%
Health	33%	21%	18%	24%
Discrimination	21%	25%	21%	22%
Need more skills	17%	21%	17%	19%
Fund	11%	18%	19%	16%
No barriers	9%	13%	20%	14%
Not enough working age members	18%	8%	12%	13%
Not enough Turkish	10%	12%	7%	10%
Other	11%	7%	6%	8%
No work permit	3%	5%	5%	4%
Dont know how to look for job	4%	4%	4%	4%
No information about work permit	2%	3%	4%	3%
Tradition	4%	2%	2%	3%
No diploma	1%	1%	2%	2%

Figure 21 Barriers to finding a job by recipient status

With Syrians often filling low-skilled roles, they are viewed as competition by the local population limiting employment opportunities, further fueling tensions and discriminatory attitudes.⁵³ Finally, analyzing the barriers faced by households according to vulnerability, the rate of households not being able to participate in the labour force due to health reasons increases steeply as vulnerability increases and the rate of households who think that there is no barrier decreases sharply as vulnerability increases.

53 IFRC Turkey Delegation. (2021). Deep Platform IFRC Learning Project Secondary Data Review (SDR) Series, Economic Participation of Refugees In Turkey In Times of Covid-19: Secondary Data Review Report. <https://www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/2075812/Secondary+Data+Review+on+Economic+Participation+of+Refugees+in+Turkey+Report+IFRC+Turkey+August+2021.pdf>

The earthquake in February 2023 caused a substantial drop in income and assets among affected households. 60 per cent of C-ESSN, 43 per cent of ESSN and 71 per cent of non-recipient households reported a decrease in their income while 67 per cent of C-ESSN, 58 per cent of ESSN and 69 per cent of non-recipient households reported a decline in their assets. Additionally, the proportion of households with no employed members has increased across all three groups compared to the pre-earthquake period due to the destruction of livelihood opportunities in the region. In line with this information, registered employment has seen an annual decrease of over 30 per cent in earthquake-affected provinces such as Kahramanmaraş, Hatay, Adiyaman, and Malatya during the first quarter of 2023.⁵⁴

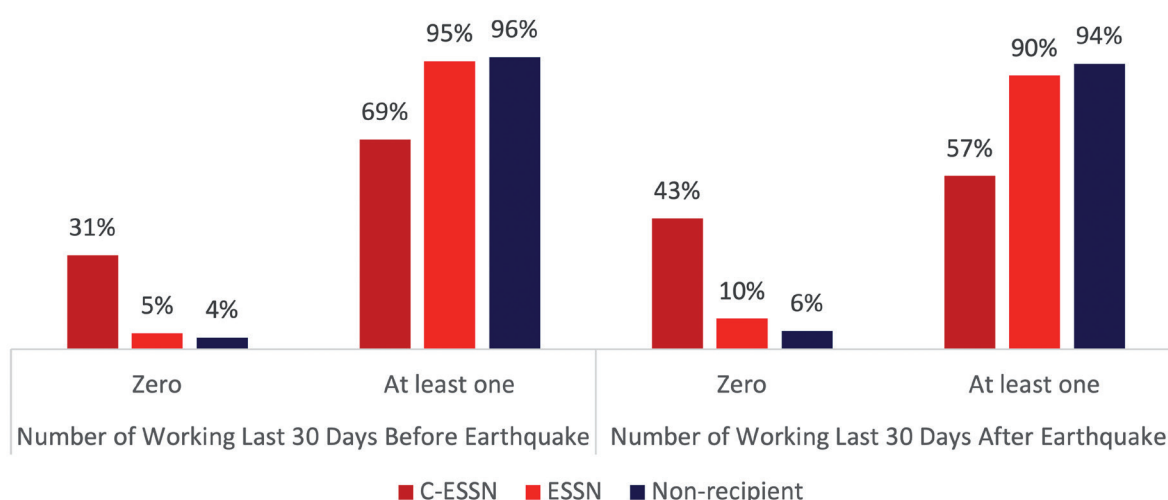


Figure 22 Effect of earthquake on labour force participation

Despite the introduction of work permits for Syrian refugees in 2016, uptake has been minimal due to bureaucratic hurdles and employer reluctance. This has led to widespread informal employment characterized by low wages, poor working conditions, and limited legal protections.⁵⁵ In addition, labor regulations stipulate that the number of foreign workers granted temporary protection in a workplace cannot exceed 10 per cent of the number of Turkish citizens employed at the same workplace.⁵⁶ Such policies exclude refugees from formal employment opportunities with low wages and limited social protections, in an effort to prioritize employment opportunities for Turkish nationals.

54 TEPAV. (2023). Deprem bölgesinde sürdürülebilir iş gücü istihdamı: İhtiyaçlar ve fırsatlar. Turkish Economic Policy Research Foundation. <https://www.tepav.org.tr/tr/haberler/s/10591>

55 Şanlıer, İ. (2025). Navigating the Shadows: Syrians under Temporary Protection, Employment, and Hyper-Precarity in Türkiye. In: Carrera Nunez, S., Karageorgiou, E., Ovacik, G., Tan, N.F. (eds) Global Asylum Governance and the European Union's Role. International Perspectives on Migration, vol 18. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-74866-0_9

56 UNHCR, & T.C. Aile, Çalışma ve Sosyal Hizmetler Bakanlığı. (n.d.). Türkiye'deki uluslararası ve geçici koruma altındaki yabancılar için çalışma izinleri hakkında sıkça sorulan sorular (SSS). Retrieved from <https://data.unhcr.org/es/documents/download/67638>

The asylum seekers and refugees are often confined to certain sectors in the job market in Türkiye. This confinement leads to an oversupply of labor in those sectors, resulting in an increase in unregistered and legally unprotected jobs. Additionally, in countries traditionally receiving immigrants, the inability to control migration flows combined with economic stagnation specifically limits job opportunities for immigrants. This restriction exacerbates tensions between the local population and immigrants, consequently increasing poverty among this group.⁵⁷ Given the unemployment rate in Türkiye (8,6 per cent)⁵⁸, Turkish citizens see Syrians as a threat to employment opportunities. Due to low education levels and younger population, Syrians are employed in low-skilled jobs more frequently compared to local citizens. Especially in southern region in Türkiye, Syrians workers are replacing local workers in various different sectors.⁵⁹

Burden of Debt

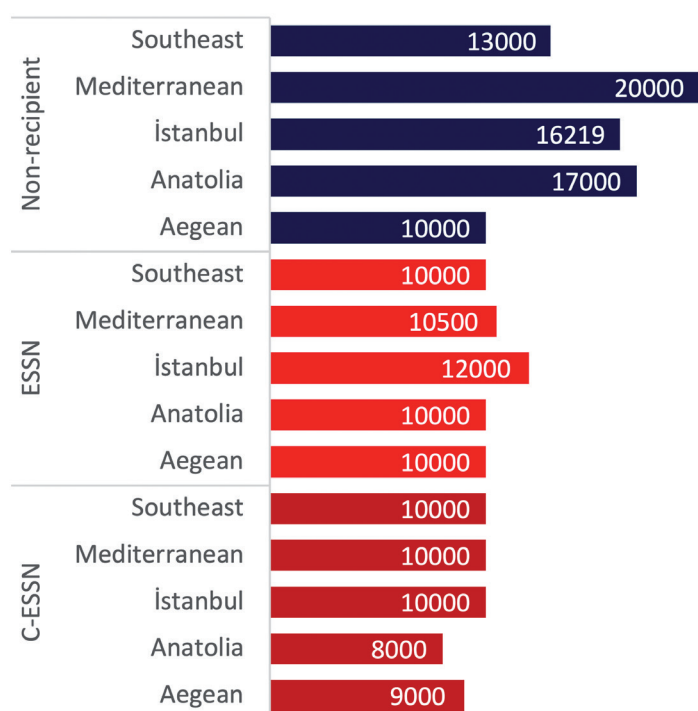


Figure 23 Debt level by recipient status and regions

Debt is defined as; all liabilities of households that require payments of interest or principal by households to the creditors at a fixed date in the future.⁶⁰ Findings of the IVS indicate that more than 50 per cent of all recipient (ESSN, C-ESSN) and non-recipient households have debt. The rate of debt is 56 per cent in non-recipient households, 65 per cent in ESSN households and 62 per cent in C-ESSN households. Hence, non-recipient households prefer to borrow less than ESSN and C-ESSN households. On the other hand, an analysis of the median debt amounts reveals that non-recipient households have fewer levels of debt. While the median debt amount of ESSN and C-ESSN households is TRY 10,000, this amount is TRY 15,000 for non-recipient households.

Findings show that the İstanbul region has a higher debt level than any other region. A similar result is seen in the income levels, except from a minor difference observed in non-recipient households.

Non-recipient households have a higher debt amount of TRY 20,000 in the Mediterranean region, while those living in İstanbul have a relatively lower debt of TRY 16,219. Finally, there is no notable difference in debt levels for ESSN households in regions other than İstanbul, whereas the Aegean and Southeast regions have the lowest debt levels for non-recipient households and the Anatolian region has the lowest debt levels for C-ESSN households.

57 İşcan, İ. H., & Çakır, M. (2019). Türkiye'deki sığınmacı ve mültecilerin Türk işgücü piyasasına etkisi: Bir saha araştırması. Sosyal Politika Çalışma Dergisi, 19(43). <https://dergipark.org.tr/tr/download/article-file/742092>

58 Presidency of Strategy and Budget. (2024). İstihdam [Employment]. Retrieved December 3, 2024, from <https://www.sbb.gov.tr/istihdam/>

59 IFRC Turkey Delegation. (2021). Deep Platform IFRC Learning Project Secondary Data Review (SDR) Series, Economic Participation of Refugees In Turkey In Times of Covid-19: Secondary Data Review Report. <https://www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/2075812/Secondary+Data+Review+on+Economic+Participation+of+Refugees+in+Turkey+Report+IFRC+Turkey+August+2021.pdf>

60 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). (n.d.). Household debt indicators. Retrieved from <https://www.oecd.org/en/data/indicators/household-debt.html>

Savings

Only 4 per cent of all ESSN, C-ESSN and non-recipient households have savings. For savings to occur, a household needs to spend less than their income, which is why both recipient and non-recipient households in the SSN Programme have very low amount of savings.

Expenditure

		Total Expenditure	Expenditure per-capita
C-ESSN	Aegean	19.706	5.612
	Anatolia	19.621	5.061
	İstanbul	24.739	6.536
	Mediterranean	19.986	5.128
	Southeast	17.496	5.101
ESSN	Aegean	21.024	5.381
	Anatolia	21.749	5.316
	İstanbul	25.657	6.321
	Mediterranean	20.292	5.222
	Southeast	18.569	4.577
Non-recipient	Aegean	22.157	6.739
	Anatolia	22.522	6.384
	İstanbul	31.257	8.012
	Mediterranean	24.391	6.555
	Southeast	22.031	6.457

Figure 24 Median total and per-capita expenditure levels by recipient status and regions

Expenditure, like debt and income, is a key determinant of a household's socio-economic status. Analyzing expenditure levels also provides insight into the relative poverty status of different recipient groups ESSN, C-ESSN, and non-recipient households.

Notably, non-recipient households have the highest expenditure, followed by ESSN households, with C-ESSN households having the lowest expenditure. Considering the per capita expenditure of households instead of total expenditure, non-recipient households similarly have the highest expenditure level with TRY 6,665, followed by C-ESSN households with TRY 5,329 and ESSN households with TRY 5,054. As mentioned above, relative poverty can be understood in terms of expenditure, with non-recipient households spending more than recipient groups.

This suggests that recipient households are, on average, poorer than the control group – non-recipient households. Similarly, as in the income and debt indicators, the İstanbul region stands out in terms of expenditure indicator with households spending at significantly higher levels than those in other regions. However, analyzing relative poverty across regions can lead to biased results due to variations in the cost of living, currency value, and income levels. In other words, while households in İstanbul exhibit higher expenditure levels, this does not necessarily indicate greater consumption but rather reflects the region's higher cost of living.

An analysis of household expenditure reveals that food and shelter are the two largest expense categories, indicating that a significant portion of household income is dedicated to basic necessities. In line with Maslow's hierarchy of needs, this suggests that many households are still struggling to meet their most fundamental needs. According to the share of expenditure items, ESSN, C-ESSN and non-recipient households all exhibit similar spending patterns which prioritize basic survival items as they account for 85 per cent of their total expenditures, top 5 purchasing categories being food, shelter, energy, hygiene and clothing.

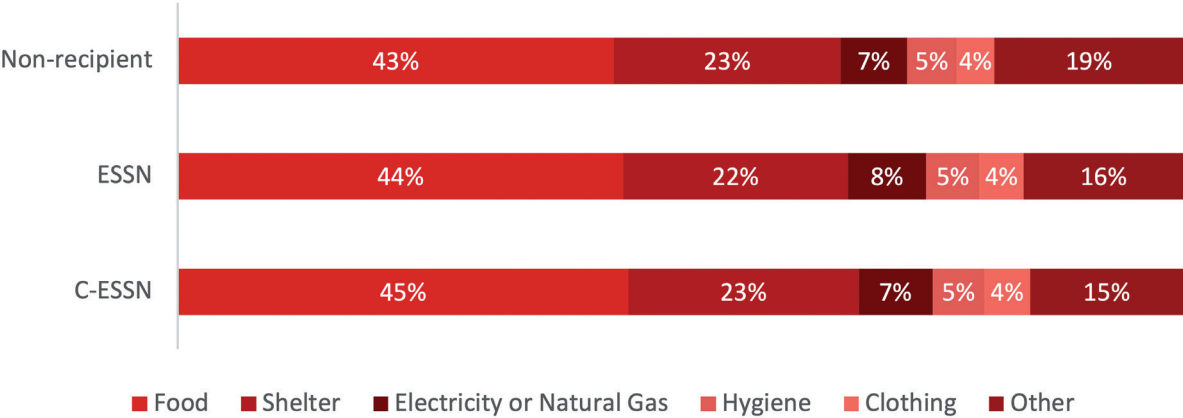


Figure 25 Share of expenditure items by recipient status

Living Standards

Ability to Meet Basic Needs

Survey results indicate that C-ESSN and ESSN households are much more likely than non-recipient households to report limited access to basic needs. Similarly, 6 per cent of non-recipient households stated they could meet all their needs, while this figure drops to just 2 per cent for ESSN and C-ESSN households. Additionally, more than one-third of non-recipient households can meet their basic needs without difficulty, in contrast to only one-quarter of ESSN and C-ESSN households. This highlights the greater financial strain experienced by recipient households. When the ability of households to meet their basic needs is analyzed regionally, it is observed that both recipient and non-recipient households in the Anatolia region are in a better condition than other regions.

Particularly C-ESSN households in the Aegean and Southeastern regions are significantly less able to meet their basic needs compared to other regions. The main reasons for this situation, similar to the socio-economic indicators, can be explained by low employment opportunities in the Aegean and Southeastern regions and the shortage of household members who are able to work in C-ESSN households. Notably, despite having higher income levels, households in the İstanbul region shows no advantage over other regions. The fact that the income level is much higher in the İstanbul region should not be misinterpreted that purchasing power is also high as households' access to basic needs shows that the high cost of living in İstanbul neutralizes the positive income situation in the region.

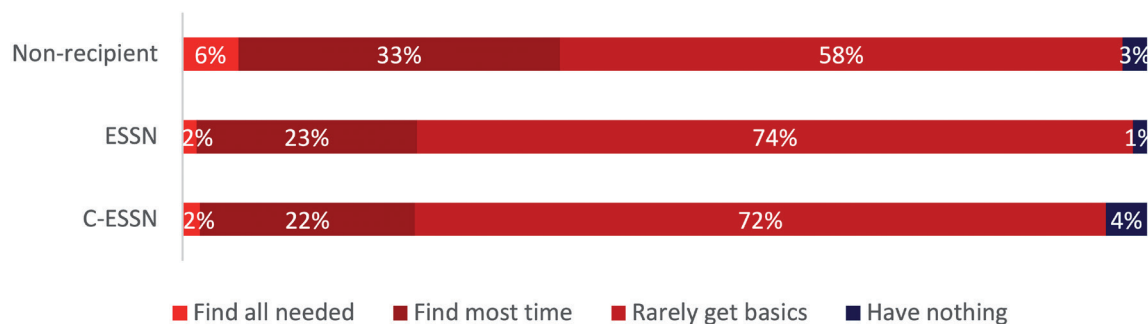


Figure 26 Ability to meet basic needs status by recipient status

In terms of households' access to basic needs according to their vulnerability level, it is remarkable that 26 per cent of the households with the lowest vulnerability level do not have any problem in meeting all their needs, and the proportion of households that meet all of their needs decreases sharply as the vulnerability level increases. In fact, 90 per cent of the most vulnerable households reported that they can rarely meet their basic needs, while 10 per cent stated that they could not meet these needs at all.

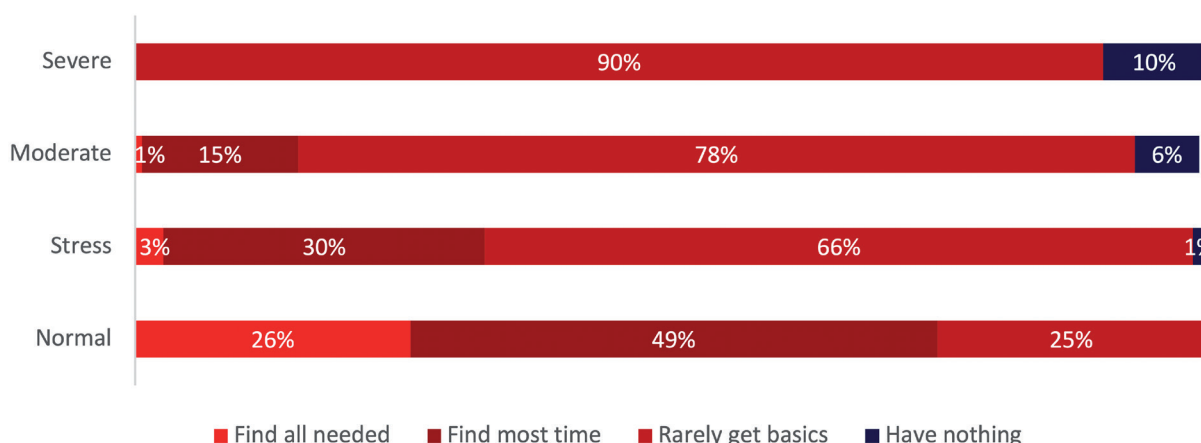


Figure 27 Ability to meet basic needs status by severity index groups

Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB)

While relative poverty is captured in the expenditure component, the MEB serves as a measure of absolute poverty. MEB calculations are made on a monthly basis as price monitoring is also carried out. Absolute poverty status of a household is determined by comparing per capita household expenditure against the MEB threshold. It was identified that 41 per cent of C-ESSN, 24 per cent of ESSN and only 16 per cent of non-recipient households are below the MEB thresholds. Consistent with the expenditure analysis, this finding underscores the heightened vulnerability of recipient households, particularly C-ESSN households, due to their high levels of poverty compared to non-recipient households.

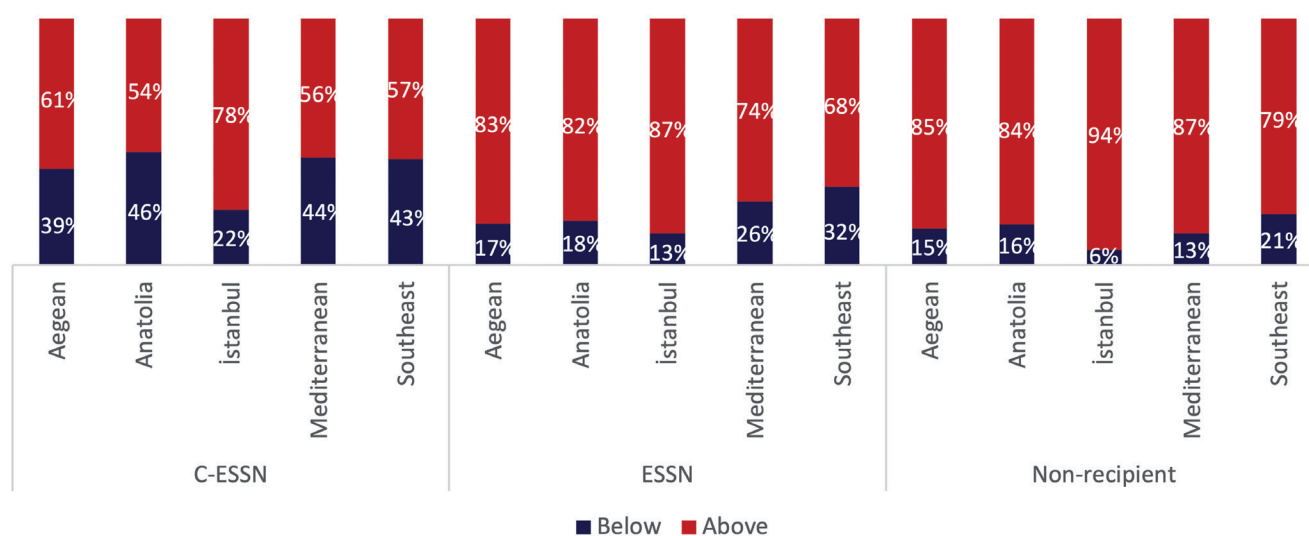


Figure 28 MEB status by recipient status and regions

Housing

The majority of ESSN, C-ESSN and non-recipient households reside in poor quality housing units. Comparing the vulnerability of households, it is observed that only the majority of the least vulnerable households accommodate in good quality housing units. However, non-recipient households are less likely to stay in poor quality units, with 38 per cent living in good quality conditions. This highlights that while ESSN, C-ESSN, and non-recipient households all face vulnerability, non-recipient households are relatively better off in terms of housing conditions.

	Normal	Stress	Moderate	Severe	Total
Bad quality	32%	62%	71%	81%	63%
Barns	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%
Container	0%	1%	2%	0%	1%
Good	59%	34%	20%	6%	31%
Lux quality	8%	1%	1%	0%	2%
Other	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%
Store	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%
Tent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Unfinished	0%	1%	3%	12%	1%

Figure 29 Housing condition by severity index groups

Analyzing the details of the shelter conditions, almost all of the housing units have kitchens, toilets, as well as water and energy connections. Additionally, the majority of the households reside in rental units. Finally, approximately 16 per cent of all households share their housing units with another households. Communal living conditions are common among all recipient groups, as refugee households may share their housing with their relatives or friends.

Coping Mechanisms

Coping Strategy Index functions as a sub-index of the comprehensive SSN IVS 1 severity index which categorizes the severity and vulnerability of refugee households in Türkiye. A combination of two key measures; Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) and Livelihood Coping Strategy Index (LCSI) is used to evaluate household resilience in managing shortages of essential goods and services.

Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI)

Food insecurity remains a pressing issue, with many households adopting various coping strategies to manage scarcity such as reducing meals or borrowing food. The Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) is an essential tool to measure how often and intensely households engage in certain coping behaviors within a 7-day period in response to urgent food shortages or financial limitations impacting their ability to access food.

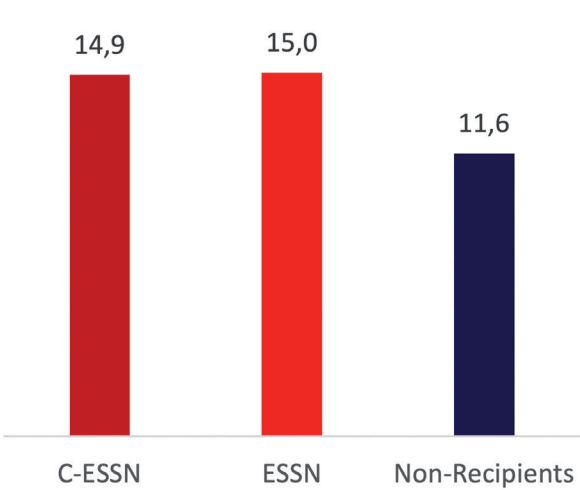


Figure 30 rCSI score by recipient status

Recipient households are more prone to use coping strategies for food consumption compared to non-recipient households which are relatively more stable than the recipient groups.

As shown in the graph ESSN and C-ESSN households have higher rCSI scores than non-recipient households. ESSN and C-ESSN households show almost similar rates of reduced coping strategies.

Analyzing rCSI scores based on the gender of the head of household, reveals a distinction in C-ESSN household groups. Female headed C-ESSN households have an rCSI score of 17.2, the highest among all categories. This can be explained by the lack of income generating individuals within C-ESSN households. As a result, female headed C-ESSN households depend more on negative coping strategies for accessing food. No meaningful difference was found for ESSN and non-recipient households when female and male headed households were compared.

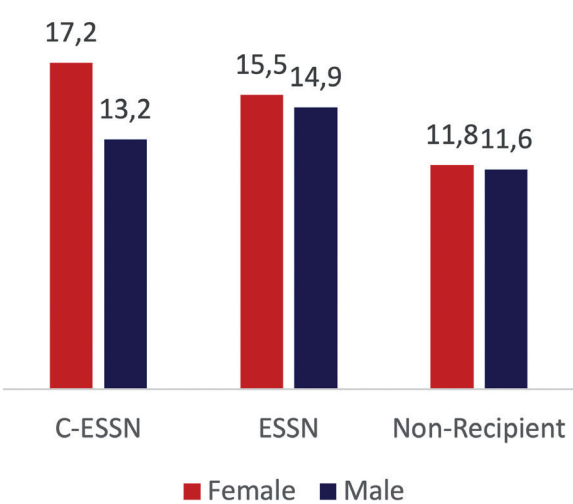


Figure 31 rCSI scores by gender

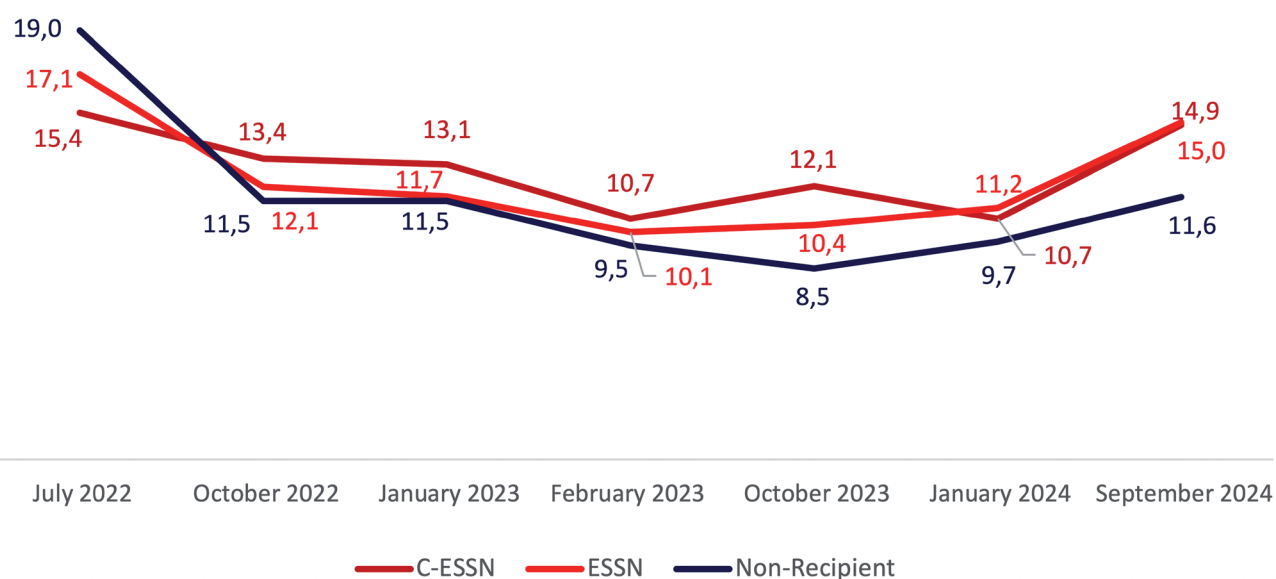


Figure 32 Evolution of rCSI scores from 2022 to 2024

Across all household groups, a relative decline in rCSI scores was observed since 2022, indicating a reduction in the frequency of coping strategies used. Most significant decrease in the rCSI scores was seen in the non-recipient households followed by ESSN households. However, in C-ESSN households has only been minor change in the rCSI scores meaning that compared to the other two groups, they rely on coping strategies the most. Since the beginning of 2024, it is observed that ESSN and C-ESSN households rely more on food related reduced coping strategies. Despite the assistance, recipient households remain susceptible to economic fluctuations and food security challenges over time. This pattern underscores the need for continued and possibly enhanced support for vulnerable households.

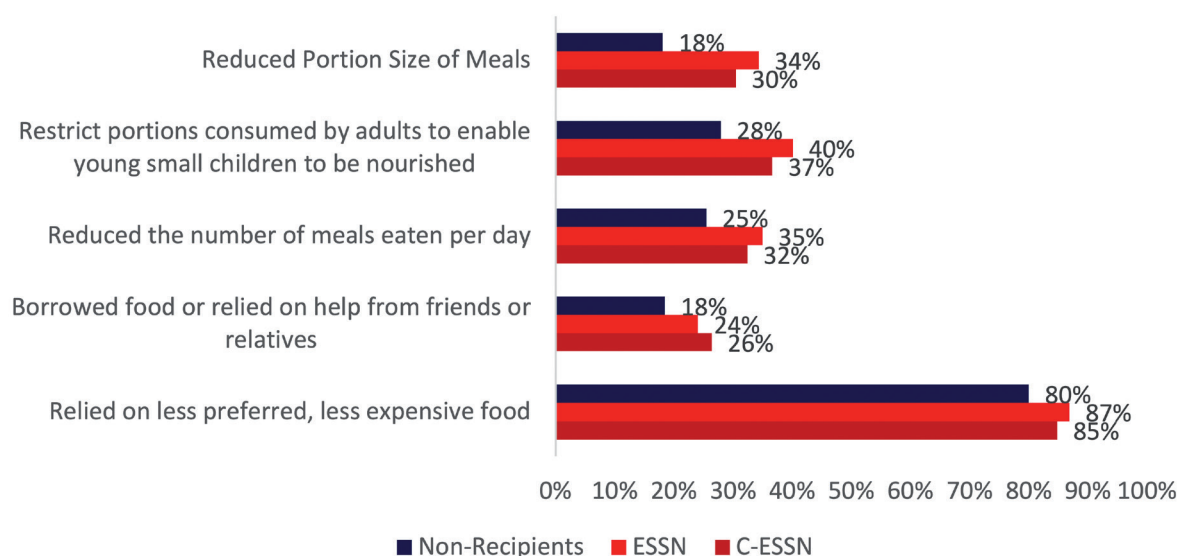


Figure 33 rCSI components by recipient status

Relying on less preferred/less expensive food is the most commonly used strategy across all groups. This high prevalence highlights that both recipient and non-recipient households are significantly affected by food insecurity. Yet, ESSN and C-ESSN households are more likely to use intense strategies, such as reducing adult food and meal frequency, indicating a higher level of vulnerability.

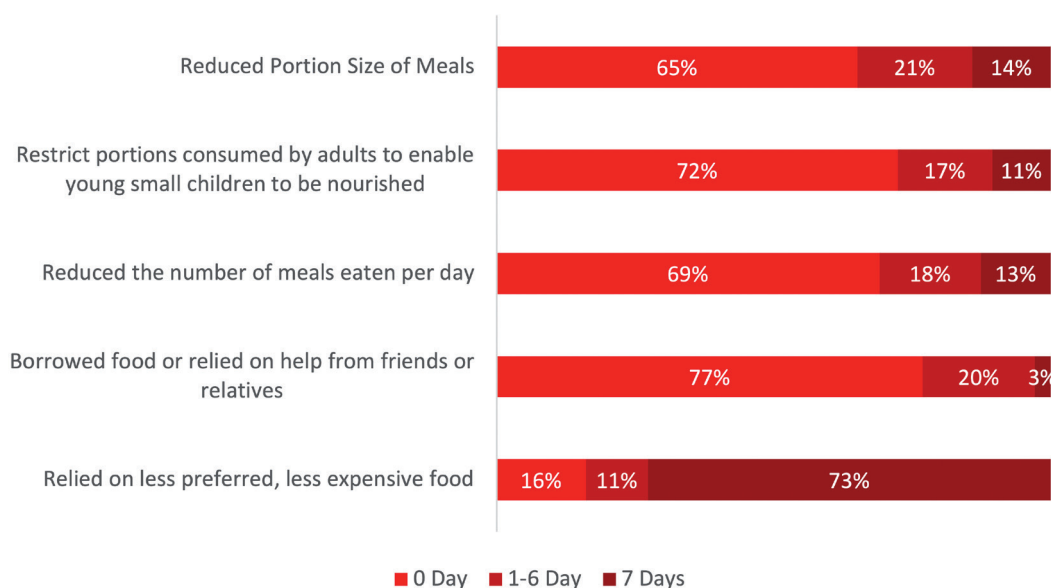


Figure 34 rCSI components by number of days per week

Among the strategies, 14 per cent of households reduced the portion size of meals for seven days a week while 21 per cent did so between one to six days. In 28 per cent of households, adults had to reduce their portions at least one day a week in order to feed their children. Buying food on credit or relying on the help of friends or relatives is the least used strategy among all strategies with 23 per cent. Whereas, preferring less preferred/less expensive food is the most frequently used strategy, with 84 per cent of households resorts at least once per week, and 73 per cent using it every day of the week.

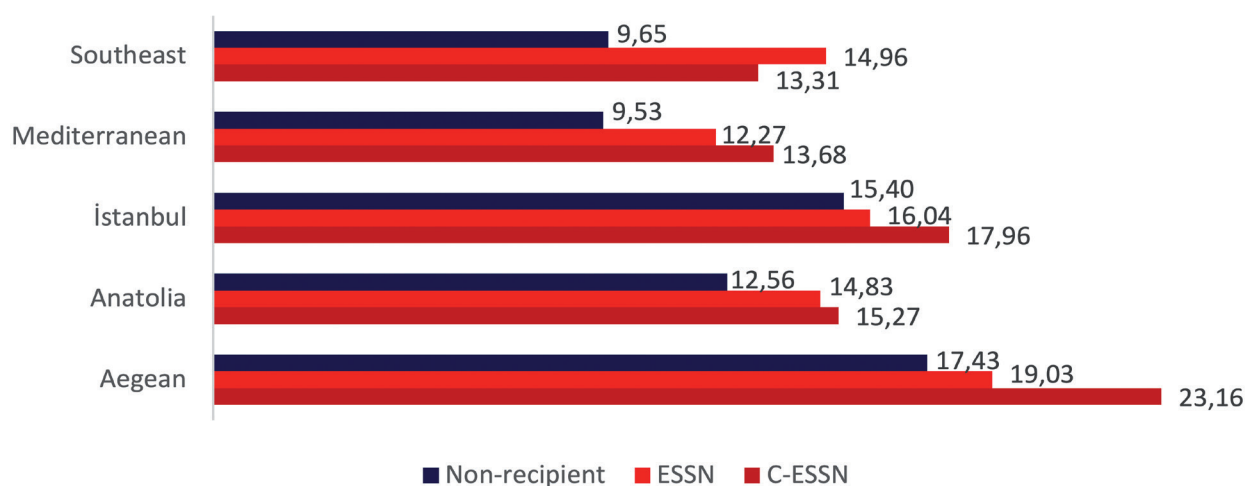


Figure 35 rCSI score by region and status

In the Aegean region, all households exhibit the highest rCSI score suggesting a higher intensity of coping behaviors while Southeast region has the lowest rCSI score for C-ESSN and Mediterranean region for ESSN and non-recipient households, indicating that the two regions have the least reliance on coping strategies among the regions. The differences in rCSI scores across regions in Türkiye, Aegean, İstanbul and Southeast regions for example, may associated with urbanization, higher cost of living, and competitive job markets. These factors could drive individuals to adopt more intensive coping strategies compared to other regions. In the other hand regions with strong family or community networks may show lower rCSI scores because residents rely on collective support rather than individual coping mechanisms.

Livelihood Coping Strategies

The Livelihood Coping Strategy Index (LCSI) assesses households' capacity to navigate economic challenges that affect their income and the sustainability of their long-term livelihoods.

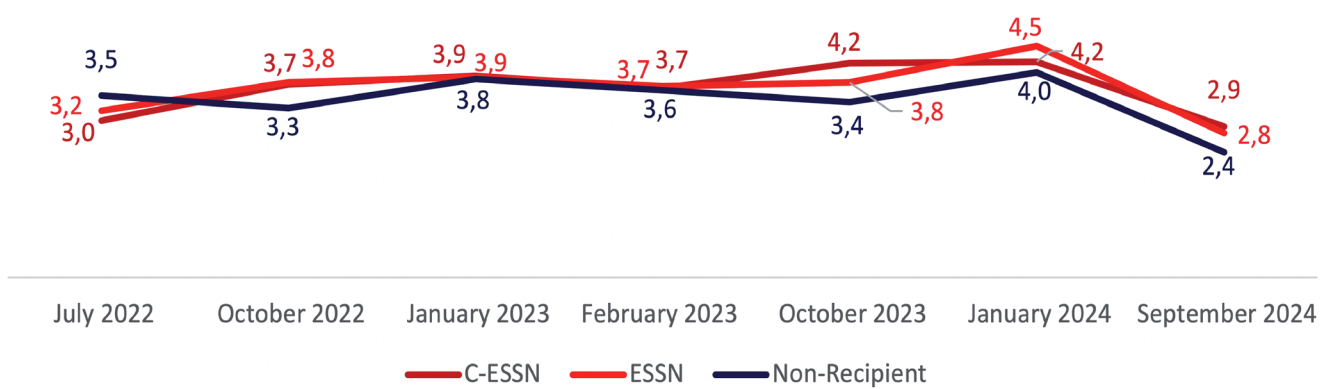


Figure 36 Evolution of LCSI scores from 2022 to 2024

A gradual increase in LCSI scores for ESSN and C-ESSN households was observed since 2022, with non-recipient households showing slightly lower scores than recipient households. This suggests that recipient households variably rely more on coping strategies. In the beginning of 2024, LCSI scores reach a peak for all households. However, the fact that non-recipient households have a slightly lower score suggests that they are less impacted by the economical circumstances compared to the recipient households.

The contrast between the decrease in LCSI scores and the increase in rCSI scores indicates a shift in the types of coping strategies households are employing and a change in the nature of their needs. This rise in rCSI scores indicates that financial issues are having a more direct impact on food security, prompting households to prioritize immediate food access over protecting their longer-term livelihood stability.



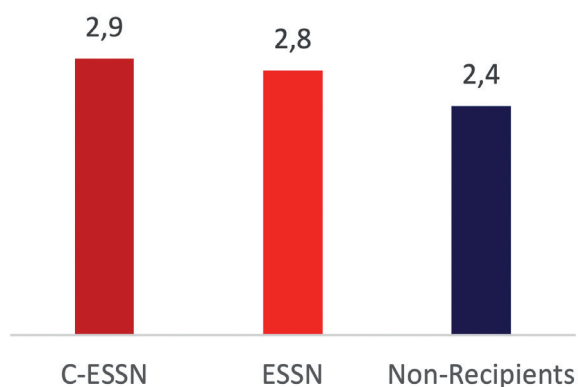


Figure 37 LCSI score by recipient status

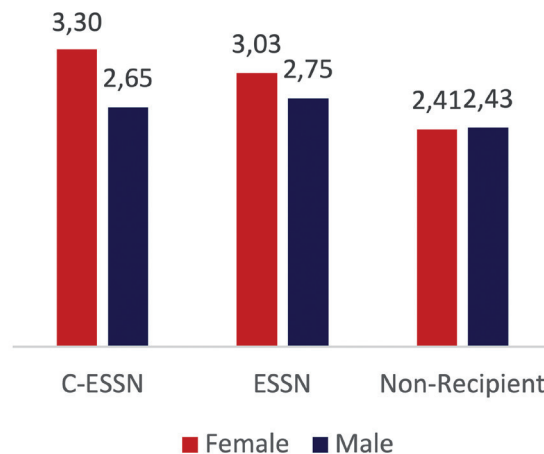


Figure 38 LCSI score by gender

As seen in the graph, C-ESSN and ESSN households had higher LCSI scores than non-recipients. This may suggest that ESSN and C-ESSN households, despite receiving support, face greater economic challenges or need to employ more coping strategies.

Across both C-ESSN and ESSN groups, females exhibit higher LCSI scores than males, suggesting that women in these groups face greater economic challenges or employ more strategies to manage them. Among non-recipients, the gender disparity is minimal, with both males and females having nearly identical LCSI scores.

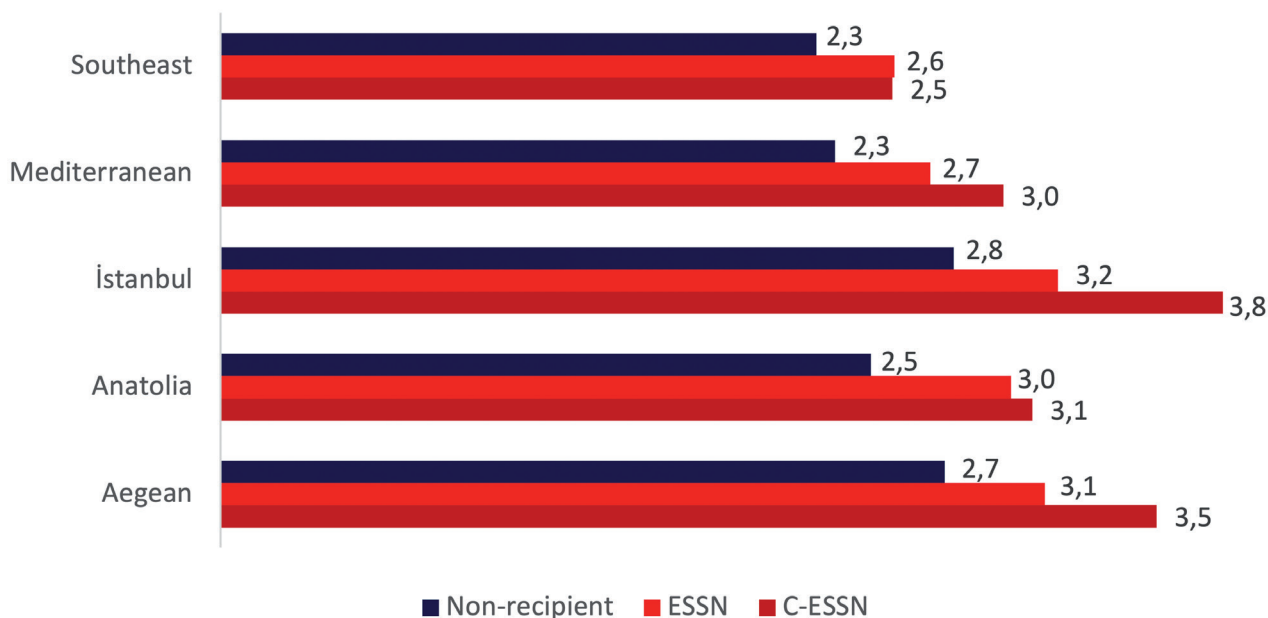


Figure 39 LCSI score by region and status

- In both ESSN and C-ESSN groups females have higher LCSI scores than males, suggesting greater economic stress or strategy use among women.
- C-ESSN households report the highest average LCSI scores in all regions except the southeast, indicating greater use of coping strategies and potentially harder living conditions.

Households receiving C-ESSN support outside the Southeast region, have higher LCSI scores than in other regions. In the Istanbul region, C-ESSN households report the highest average LCSI score, indicating a greater reliance on coping strategies. In the Southeast, however, ESSN households rely slightly more on coping strategies than C-ESSN households, while non-recipient households report the lowest score across all regions.

Among households under stress, ESSN households exhibiting the highest percentage while the most commonly used coping mechanisms consist of; borrowing money and taking food on credit. Additionally, spending savings is found to be a significant strategy adopted almost equally by all households.

In terms of crisis strategies, reducing health and educational spending is a key strategy, with both C-ESSN and ESSN households reporting a high percentage compared to non-recipient households. Sending children to work is one of the most severe coping strategies households may resort to in response to extreme economic hardship.

In the emergency category, child labor is observed among 7 per cent of ESSN households, followed by 5 per cent of non-recipient households and 4 per cent of C-ESSN households. This approach signals a critical level of vulnerability, where families have exhausted less harmful options such as spending savings or borrowing. Such actions can have long-term negative consequences for children, as they may be forced to leave school or struggle to focus on their education, potentially limiting their future career opportunities and sustain cycles of poverty.

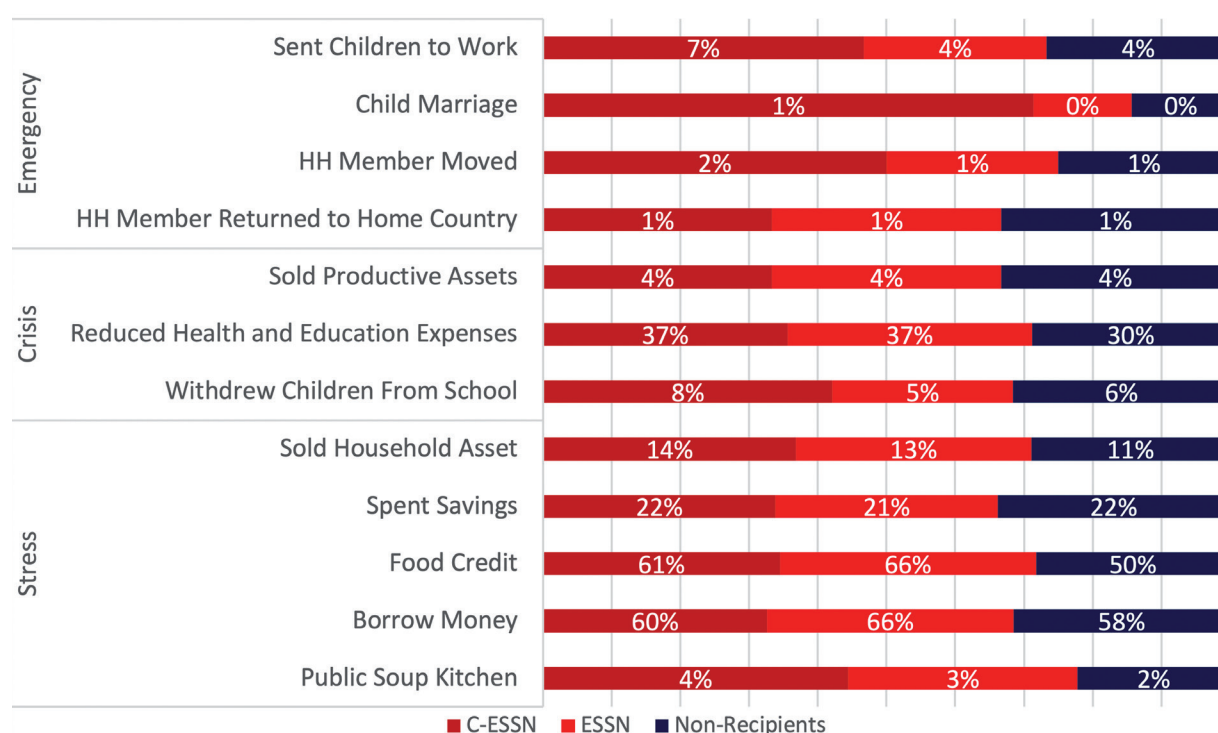


Figure 40 LCSI Components by Recipient Status

Physical and Mental Well-Being

Physical and Mental Disability

The examination of individuals with physical and mental health challenges, categorized by age, reveals distinct patterns in the prevalence of these issues. Physical health problems are identified as the most common type of disability, with notably higher incidences observed among elderly people and adult men, both of whom surpass average prevalence rates. Conversely, mental health issues are observed more frequently among adult women. However, it is important to note that the variation of physical disabilities across age groups may not be significantly influenced by age and gender alone, but rather by broader human conditions.

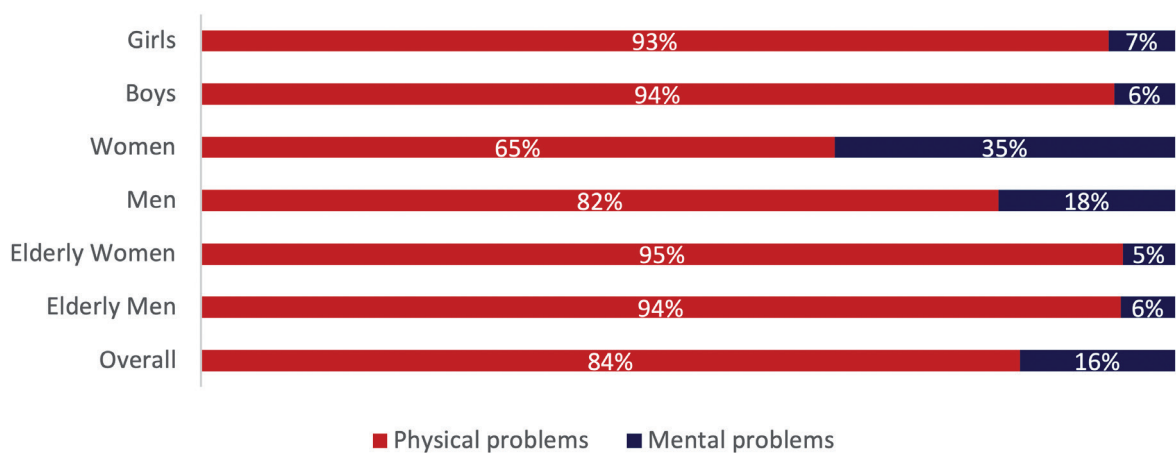


Figure 41 Physical and mental health rates according to age and gender

Significant regional and programmatic variations are found examining the presence of disabled individuals in refugee households. Individuals who hold a disability report are counted under the individuals with disability. Disaggregating persons with disabilities on recipient status, 63 per cent of C-ESSN households include at least one disabled member, as opposed to around 7 per cent of ESSN households. Which means that, C-ESSN households have a higher proportion of individuals experiencing both physical and mental health problems compared to ESSN. The formal data of disability reports could not be obtained from non-recipient households therefore were not included in this comparison.

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) defines disability as; "Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairments which, in interaction with various barriers, may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others."⁶¹ In the IVS survey, disability is assessed based on the presence of official disability reports. The data on mental and physical health issues were gathered through individual self-reports, and as a result, the categories were consolidated to the maximum extent possible for classification.

61 United Nations. (n.d.). Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), Article 1. Retrieved from <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities.html>



Mental Health Problems

Mental health issues are observed the highest among adult women (aged between 18-59) with 35 per cent among all gender and age groups, whereas adult men come second with 18 per cent. Similar mental health issues such as depression, anxiety, post-traumatic-stress disorder (PTSD) are experienced by refugee men and women as a result of exposure to trauma, displacement, and adverse living conditions.⁶² Strikingly, all gender and age groups have reported mental problems, with children and elderly having similar rates of approximately 6 per cent. It is important to note that, psychosocial distress is experienced by all refugees affected by crisis, emergencies or displacement, however not all individuals may have reported their mental health issues in the survey as some may not be aware of them.

Refugee children exhibit disproportionately high rates of mental health disorders, including depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress, as a result of exposure to traumatic events loss of home and community, and environmental disasters during and after the displacement process.⁶³ Although some studies report no significant gender differences, likely due to shared trauma experiences,⁶⁴ enhanced psychosocial support programs are essential for meeting the protection needs of refugee boys and girls alike.

Physical Problems

The analysis reveals that orthopedic disabilities are the most prevalent, affecting 35 per cent of the surveyed individuals, followed by neurological disabilities at 15 per cent. Other significant categories include chronic diseases and genetic disorders, which account for 13 per cent, while complex health issues impact 8 per cent, sensory disabilities affect 7 per cent, and age-related physical disabilities are reported by 6 per cent. This distribution highlights the prominence of mobility, neurological, and mental health challenges among refugee households.

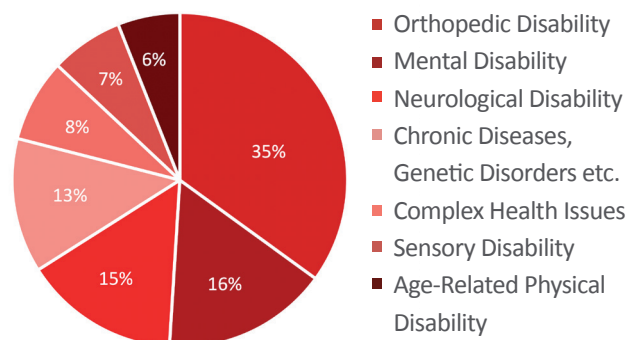


Figure 42 Reasons for physical health problems

62 WHO. (31 August 2021). Mental health and forced displacement. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/mental-health-and-forced-displacement>

63 UNFPA. (June 2024). UNFPA report: Are the most marginalized left behind or pushed behind? <https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/news/unfpa-report-are-most-marginalized-left-behind-or-pushed-behind>

64 UNICEF. (September 2023). Mental Health in Displaced Child and Youth Populations: A Developmental and Family Systems Lens. <https://www.unicef.org/innocenti/media/3741/file/UNICEF-Mental-Health-Displacement-2023.pdf>

Vulnerability and Disability

The relationship between disability and vulnerability is deeply intertwined, as individuals with disabilities often face heightened risks and challenges that exacerbate their overall vulnerability.

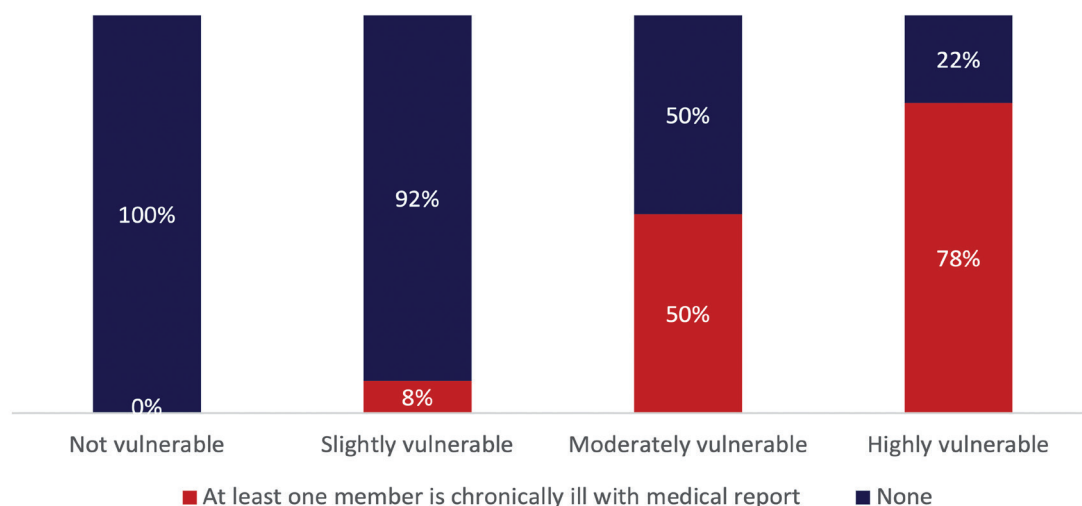


Figure 43 Households with chronically ill with medical report, disaggregated by severity groups

According to the severity groups illustrated in figure 41, the distribution of households with at least one member with medical report highlights a significant trend. In households with high vulnerability, the proportion at least one individual with medical report is approximately 78 per cent. Conversely, in households with no vulnerability, there are no individuals with medical reports. This suggests a strong correlation between the presence of individuals with medical reports and household vulnerability. Disability, in particular, emerges as a powerful indicator of vulnerability, underscoring the critical need for targeted humanitarian assistance to these households.

Disability can make it difficult for individuals and households to achieve economic stability, access education, employment and health services. Compared to their able-bodied counterparts, men with disabilities are significantly less engaged in paid employment.⁶⁵ In addition, vulnerable populations with disabilities are also more likely to experience social isolation, and barriers to essential services, further compounding their hardships.

Pregnant Women

Furthermore, at least 20 per cent of households have at least one pregnant woman regardless of their recipient status. The survey results indicate that in 0.4 per cent of the households, there are under the age of 18 pregnancies, which is equivalent to 11 out of the 4,130 surveyed households. This finding is a concerning issue due to its potential psychosocial and health risks.

⁶⁵ Polack S, Scherer N, Yonso H, Volkan S, Pivato I, Shaikhani A, et al. (2021) Disability among Syrian refugees living in Sultanbeyli, Istanbul: Results from a population-based survey. PLoS ONE 16(11): e0259249. <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0259249>

Separated Children and Families

Overall, 74 separated children and 10 unaccompanied children were identified during the survey. The proportion of children separated from their parents is around 1 per cent in C-ESSN and non-recipient households, whereas it is 0.3 per thousand in ESSN households.

Conversely, the notably lower rate of unaccompanied children in ESSN and non-recipient households reflects a different demographic pattern. These households typically maintain more complete family structures, with at least one parent present. This characteristic might be attributed to the ESSN program's broader targeting criteria, which often captures families that, while economically vulnerable, maintain their core family unit intact. Ensuring the safety and well-being of unaccompanied and separated children remains a critical protection priority which requires sustained support mechanisms, targeted interventions, and continuous monitoring.

Elderly

The rate of elderly individuals who are over 59 years of age who struggle with daily tasks is 11 per cent in C-ESSN households, and 9 per cent in ESSN households while it drops to 5 per cent in non-recipient households. In summary, approximately 1 in 10 elderly individuals in both C-ESSN and ESSN households face difficulties in meeting their basic needs which directly correlates with the extent of vulnerability.

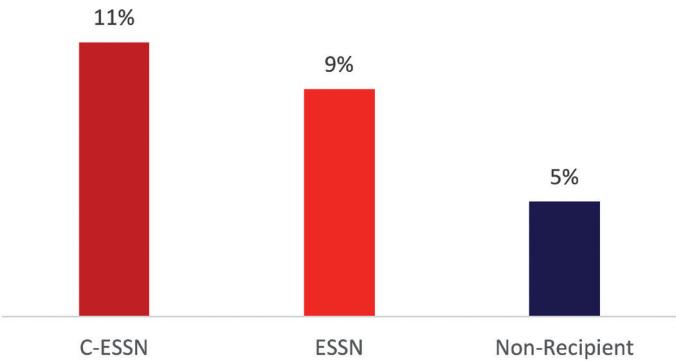


Figure 44 Ratio of elderly with support needs among the total elderly survey participants

Verbal and Physical Assaults

Minor tensions between local and refugee populations have been reported, though the majority of individuals have not experienced frequent tensions with the locals in the last three months. Tensions with local communities may emerge from cultural differences, competition for resources, and social cohesion challenges, further complicating integration efforts. Overall, 94 per cent of individuals reported no tensions, while 4 per cent experienced rare instances, and only 2 per cent reported occasional or frequent tensions. These findings make it imminent that tensions between regions are minimal and most individuals do not face significant problems.

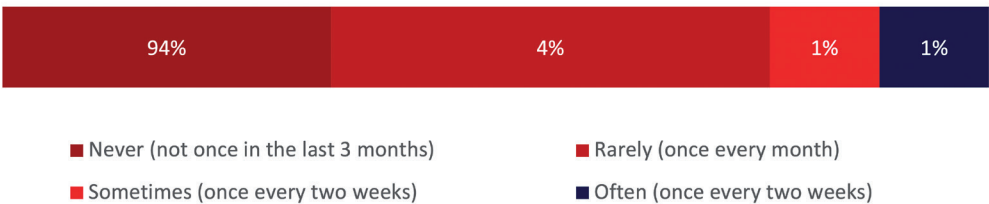


Figure 45 Duration of households which experienced local tension

Among the households that experienced local tensions in the last three months (only 5 per cent), 55 per cent reported verbal assault, making it the most common type of tension. 23 per cent experienced physical assault, while 22 per cent reported both verbal and physical assaults. Verbal and physical assault is a significant concern in interactions with host communities. These findings highlight that verbal tensions are more prevalent, but a significant portion of households also face physical or combined forms of tension. Such behavior negatively impacts the mental and emotional well-being of all household members, particularly children, who are more vulnerable to the long-term effects of exposure to violence.⁶⁶

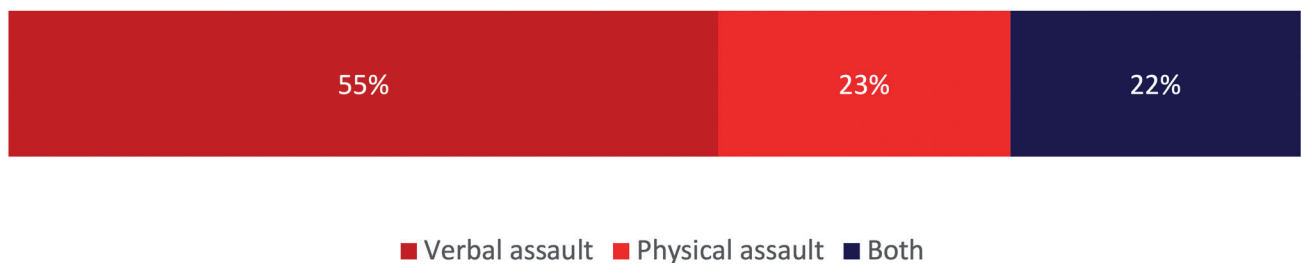


Figure 46 Rate of households which have experienced local tension in the last three months

The data indicates that 98 per cent of households have not experienced any tensions with their landlords in the last three months. Only 1 per cent experienced occasional issues whereas 2 per cent reported rare instances of tension. However, no households reported frequent or very frequent tensions. The high percentage of households not experiencing tensions with landlords suggests that issues such as rent, maintenance, and other common landlord-tenant disputes are either relatively rare or being managed effectively. Typically, households with a significant disparity between income and expenditure are anticipated to encounter difficulties with rent payments. However, while households may defer other essential needs, such as food, by borrowing or employing various coping strategies, they lack the option to delay rent payments. This may be attributed to the prioritization of rent payments to the greatest extent possible.

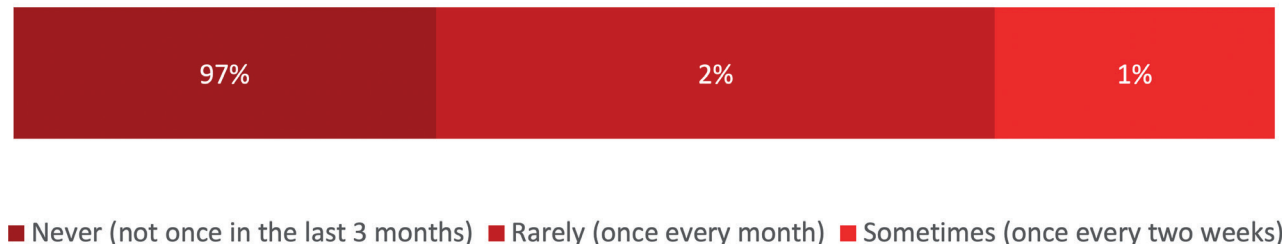


Figure 47 Duration of households which experienced tension with landlord

66 UNICEF, (2024). Focus: Ending violence against children 2024. United Nations Children's Fund. <https://www.unicef.org/eca/reports/focus-ending-violence-against-children-2024>



Among the households (3 per cent) that experienced tensions with their land lords in the last three months, the majority (76 per cent) reported verbal assault as the primary issue. Additionally, 13 per cent of households experienced both verbal and physical assaults, while 11 per cent reported physical assault alone. This distribution highlights that verbal conflicts dominate the tensions between households and their hosts, with a smaller but notable proportion facing physical or combined forms of assault. Compared to tensions experienced locally, households report significantly fewer instances of physical assault in their interactions with their landlords.

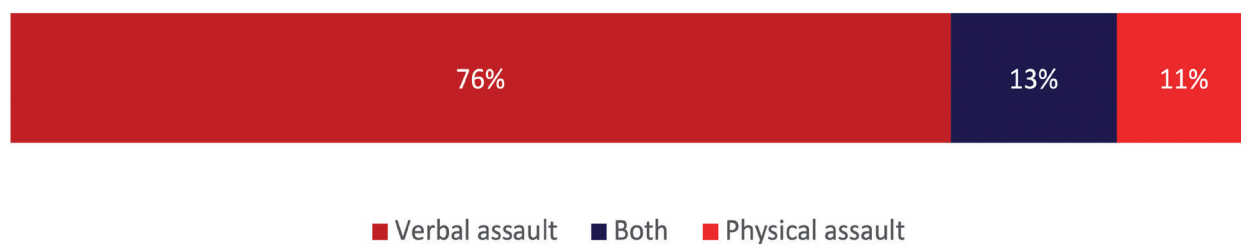


Figure 48 Rate of households experienced tension with landlord in the last three months

» 3. PRIORITY NEEDS AND PREFERRED INTERVENTIONS

Understanding the priority needs of households is essential for providing appropriate assistance. When households were asked to identify their top three prioritized basic needs, shelter emerged as the most critical, with 71 per cent referring it as their primary need. Regionally, İstanbul reported the highest prioritization of shelter, which is expected given the high cost of living and the significant burden of rent as a primary expense in the region. In contrast, the Southeast region reported a below-average need for shelter as a primary concern. This is likely because many households are residing in temporary accommodations, such as tents or containers, following the earthquake. These regional differences highlight the importance of tailoring assistance to the specific circumstances and challenges faced by households in each area. Despite housing being their most fundamental need, rent payments impose a significant financial burden on households. While disputes with landlords are relatively infrequent, further research is necessary to better understand the long-term implications for households.

		Aegean	Anatolia	İstanbul	Mediterranean	Southeast	Overall
First Priority Needs	Shelter	75%	70%	82%	80%	65%	71%
	Food	10%	19%	8%	8%	17%	14%
	Bills	9%	6%	3%	8%	11%	8%
Second Priority Needs	Bills	70%	53%	68%	64%	54%	58%
	Food	10%	22%	14%	17%	18%	18%
	Shelter	14%	18%	10%	9%	14%	13%
Third Priority Needs	Food	55%	46%	48%	50%	44%	46%
	Bills	14%	31%	17%	17%	18%	20%
	Shelter	6%	5%	4%	3%	9%	6%

Table 1 Priority needs according to regions

Bills are the second most commonly reported need, with İstanbul surpassing the overall average of 58 per cent at 68 per cent, while the Aegean region reports the highest rate at 70 per cent. In contrast, the Southeast region falls below the average at 54 per cent, which is notable given the financial challenges often associated with the region. Additionally, the Southeast consistently shows a slightly higher prioritization of food across all priority levels, with 18 per cent for second priority needs and 44 per cent for third priority needs, compared to the overall averages of 18 per cent and 46 per cent, respectively. This suggests that food remains a more pressing concern in the Southeast, likely due to economic vulnerabilities and regional disparities.



Assistance Other Than the SSN Programme Support

Support for vulnerable populations is provided in various ways, tailored to meet their specific needs and circumstances. Based on the data, cash assistance is the primary support type, received by 93 per cent of all households. In-kind assistance and services are less common representing 3 per cent and 4 per cent, respectively.

For the second preferred assistance type, in-kind assistance is predominant, accounting for 66 per cent of the total, followed by services at 16 per cent and cash at 18 per cent. This indicates a shift in preference towards in-kind support as a secondary form of aid.

The third preferred assistance type focuses primarily on services, which account for 68 per cent of the total, followed by in-kind assistance at 20 per cent. This highlights the importance of ongoing support through services beyond immediate cash or in-kind aid.

		Grand Total
First Assistance Type	Cash	93%
	In-kind	3%
	Services	4%
Second Assistance Type	In-kind	66%
	Services	16%
	Cash	18%
Third Assistance Type	Services	68%
	In-kind	20%
	Cash	12%

Table 2 Household aid preferences

Conclusion

The Inter-Sectoral Vulnerability Study (IVS) provides a detailed picture of the socio-economic conditions, coping strategies, and overall well-being of refugee households in Türkiye. Amid ongoing economic challenges and structural barriers to self-reliance, many refugee families continue to face vulnerabilities that differ by location. The impact of the February 2023 earthquake has added complexity, leading to displacement, job disruptions, and increased reliance on humanitarian assistance.



Economic pressures remain a central issue, with inflation particularly in food, energy, and housing affecting purchasing power. While government-led minimum wage increases and cash assistance (ESSN and C-ESSN) have contributed to improved household incomes, rising costs continue to place strain on family budgets. Many households report spending the majority of their income on essential needs, leaving limited capacity for savings or investment.

Access to formal employment remains limited, and many refugees engage in informal work under challenging conditions. A significant number of highly vulnerable households report obstacles to employment, highlighting the importance of localized and inclusive policy responses.

Housing remains a key concern, with many families living in modest or shared accommodations. Increasing rental prices have made it difficult for some households to maintain stable living conditions and meet other essential needs. Frequent relocations in search of affordable and safe housing have been reported by many.

Coping strategies such as reducing food consumption, borrowing money, or selling assets are common, including among those receiving assistance an indication of the ongoing pressure on household resilience. The most vulnerable households, comprising about 10% of the surveyed population, often include individuals with specific needs and face additional challenges related to language, education, and access to services.

The earthquake has had a notable impact on employment and economic stability in affected areas. For some households, health-related limitations remain a key barrier to work, while others report limited job opportunities. Children's education is generally prioritized, though economic pressures have led to occasional school withdrawals.

Although community relations are mostly stable, concerns related to public discourse and restrictive policies have affected the sense of security for some refugee households. Reports of verbal or physical incidents, though limited, underline the continued need to promote social cohesion.

Physical and mental health needs vary across households, with physical disabilities more common among elderly men and mental health concerns more frequently reported by adult women. The combined effects of displacement, economic hardship, and past trauma continue to shape the well-being of refugee communities.

A comprehensive and coordinated approach including enhanced social protection, livelihood support, better housing solutions, and mental health services will be key to promoting long-term stability and resilience for refugee populations in Türkiye.



Recommendations

To strengthen the resilience and self-sufficiency of refugee populations in Türkiye, the following 12 Strategic Actions are recommended:

- 1. Adjust Cash Assistance to Meet Rising Needs:** Due to the gradual erosion of the purchasing power of cash assistance in an inflationary economy and the increasing gap between the MEB level, which is calculated as the minimum level of households' needs, and their income, it should be planned to increase the transfer amounts of households and/or make top-up payments.
- 2. Promote Employment through Cash-for-Work Initiatives:** Employment initiatives supported with cash for work to ensure self-supporting and sustainable income generation opportunities.
- 3. Address the Prevalence of Informal Employment:** The IVS study has shown that both recipient and non-recipient households tend to rely heavily on informal employment. In order to resolve this situation, actions should be taken and additional studies should be carried out in this direction.
- 4. Implement Vocational Training with In-Kind Support:** Short-term vocational programs followed by in-kind equipment distribution for self-sustaining households-based income generation.
- 5. Strengthen Protection for Separated and Unaccompanied Children:** Enhanced protection mechanisms and targeted interventions for separated and unaccompanied children including mental health support, family reunification efforts, and access to safe, nurturing environments.
- 6. Deliver Comprehensive Psychosocial Support:** Comprehensive psychosocial support services, specifically based on gender, age and special needs, to ensure the mental wellbeing of refugee women, men, boys, girls, elderly, persons with disability or with chronic illness.
- 7. Investigate Root Causes of Disability:** Additional research carried out for identifying the underlying causes of physical and mental disability with the aim of responding to the needs of the disabled target groups.
- 8. Enhance Food Security Strategies:** Developing food specific cash and voucher modalities and in-kind food distribution to minimize negative coping strategies.
- 9. Promote Nutrition Awareness:** Nutrition awareness raising trainings in place for supporting the nutrition and food security of vulnerable households.
- 10. Foster Collaboration with Civil Society:** Increased collaboration and cooperation with local and national NGOs for comprehensive and wholistic support initiatives.
- 11. Support Education for Large Households:** Provision of targeted education support for households with more than one school-age child.
- 12. Empower Female-Headed Households:** Gender-specific livelihood initiatives designed to empower female-headed households with sustainable income opportunities.

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» SSN IVS-1 Severity and Vulnerability Index Technical Note

The process from the original variables to the final severity index is detailed in this annex. The Severity Index is a hierarchically constructed composite that combines sub-indices of Living Standards (LS), Coping Strategies (CS) and Well-Being (WB). The index builds on nine indicators, distributed across the three pillars as follows:

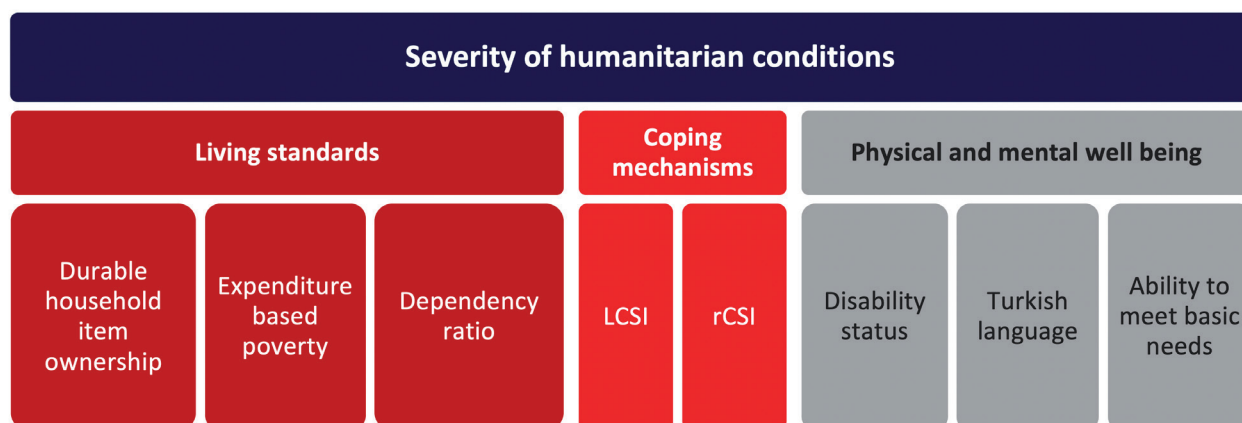


Figure 49 IVS severity index structure and indicators

Transformations of Individual Variables Into Base-Level Indicators

There were several types of transformations, depending on whether the variables to be transformed were numerical (positive continuous, counts, proportions) or categorical (dichotomous or ordinal). All transformed variables were given a negative orientation, i.e. higher values would contribute more to the severity of the households' situation.

Transformations used include:

- Amounts and rates were scaled to the range [0,1) with a bias towards the median and adjusted for household size.
- Ordinal variables (e.g. language skills, ability to meet basic needs) were transformed into numerical scores, inverted where necessary and scaled to [0,1].
- Expenditure-based poverty status was transformed into a binary variable and inverted to fit the severity orientation.
- Coping strategy indices were rescaled to [0,1] by dividing by their maximum observed values.
- Durable household goods: The 21 items comprising the durable household goods index were recoded (absent = 1, present = 0) and combined using an index-forming function known as the Desai-Shah method (Desai and Shah, 1988).

Aggregation Into Sub-Indices

The three indicators that make up the LS (Living Standards) sub-index were aggregated with equal weights using the `mdepriv` command (available in Stata and R) (Alperin and Van Kerm, 2009). Durable household goods (24 reversed items indicating the absence of functional goods) were aggregated using the Desai-Shah method (Desai and Shah, 1988), which assigns higher weights to items that are absent in fewer households, as their absence signals greater deprivation. Redundancy control was not applied due to instability caused by extreme prevalence rates of certain items (e.g. smartphones and trucks).

For the CS (Coping Strategies) sub-index, two re-scaled indicators - the Livelihoods Coping Strategies Index (LCSI) and the Reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI) - were aggregated using `mdepriv` with a method that ensures equal contributions to counteract the disproportionate dominance of the rCSI under the Desai-Shah weighting. This adjustment was necessary to balance their different scopes (broad vs. food-specific coping strategies).

The WB (well-being) sub-index combines three indicators: disability status, Turkish language skills, and ability to meet basic needs. The `mdepriv` function with the Desai-Shah option was used, with weights equally divided between the physical and socio-mental dimensions. Within each pair, higher weights were given to indicators with lower prevalence, helping to balance their contributions despite different scales.

Aggregation Into The Final Severity Score

The overall severity score was calculated as the arithmetic mean of the three sub-index scores (LS, CS, and WB). No additional weighting scheme was applied across sub-indices, making their contributions proportional to their means. This method ensures that the severity index distribution directly reflects the simple average of the sub-index scores.

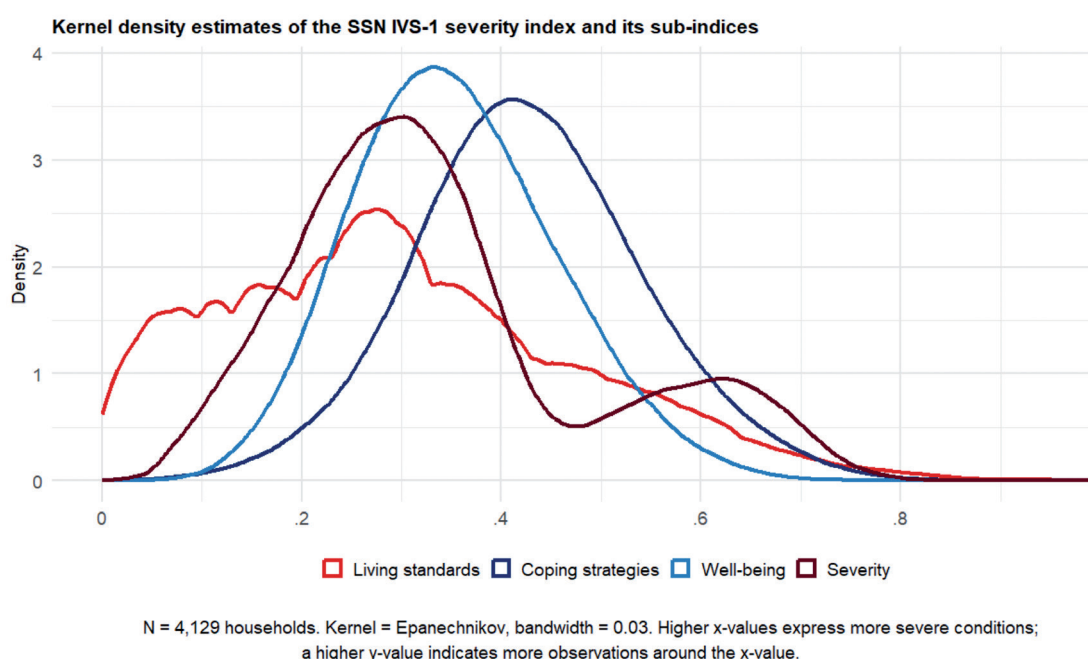


Figure 50 Kernel density estimates of the SSN IVS-1 severity index and its sub-indices

Severity Scale

The final index values range from 0 to 1. A five-level categorization was created by dividing each index value by the observed maximum, multiplying by 5, and rounding up to the nearest integer. These five severity classes are defined as: 1 (None), 2 (Stressed), 3 (Moderate), 4 (Severe), and 5 (Critical). Each class corresponds to an interval of 0.2 points on the index scale, following the categorization framework adapted from the joint intersectoral analysis.

Households classified as moderate, severe, or critical are regarded as requiring external support. The severity index serves as a useful tool for comparing outcomes across different IVS assessments.

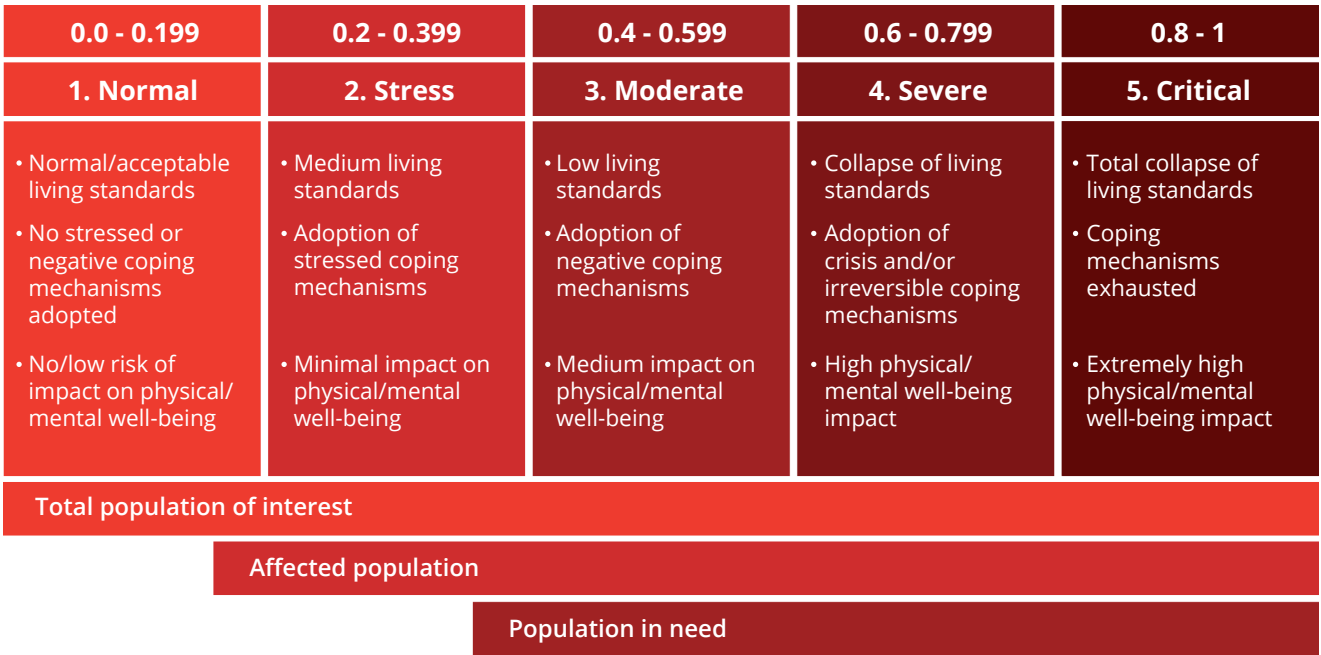


Figure 51 SSN-1 severity scale

I N T E R - S E C T O R A L V U L N E R A B I L I T Y S T U D Y

SOCIAL SAFETY NET PROGRAMME (SSN)

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