This project is funded by the European Union.

Bu proje Avrupa Birliği tarafından finanse edilmektedir.

هذا المشروع تم تمويله من قبل الاتحاد الأوروبي

TÜRK KIZILAY

COMPLEMENTARY EMERGENCY SOCIAL
SAFETY NET (C-ESSN) PROJECT

FINDINGS OF THE PRE-ASSISTANCE BASELINE SURVEY

KIZILAYKART
PROGRAMMES

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACCRONYMS

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

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. THE C-ESSN PROJECT

Türkiye is a host to over 4 million registered refugees[1] and asylum-seeker[2], 3.75 million Syrian nationals, and close to 320.000 international protection[3] status holders and asylum-seekers of other nationalities. Some refugees live in six multicultural camps which are temporary accommodation centers. In response, the Government of Türkiye has granted temporary or international protection to refugees, depending their nationality, and has provided them with free access to services such as education and health once they have registered with the Presidency of Migration Management (PMM). To support the government's efforts, the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) programme was launched in November 2016 to help cover the basic needs of the vulnerable refugees living outside camps under temporary or international protection. It provides beneficiary refugee households with a Kızılaykart giving them access to a fixed amount of money each month. Meanwhile in December 2020 MoFSS and the European Union Delegation signed the agreement of the Complementary Emergency Social Safety Net (C-ESSN) project, which intends to improve the living standards of the most vulnerable refugees under Temporary and International Protection as well as humanitarian residence permitholders and international protection applicants in Türkiye through the provision of regular cash assistance to cover their basic needs. Financed by the EU, the C-ESSN project is implemented by the MoFSS as a lead applicant in partnership with the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) as a co-applicant, and in cooperation with other relevant stakeholders, which have a well-tracked record in the provision of humanitarian aid to the most vulnerable refugees through a coordinated and systematic approach.

C-ESSN project aims to include foreigners who have ID numbers starting with 99, and cannot be referred to livelihoods and have Temporary Protection Status / International Protection Status / International Protection Status Application and Humanitarian Residence Permit. The project is implemented through KIZILAYKART Platform, and supported by the Directorate General of Population and Citizenship Affairs (DGPC) and Presidency of Migration Management (PMM).

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

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

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

1.2. TÜRKİYE's MACRO-ECONOMIC SITUATION

Türkiye is a developing country. Türkiye's impressive economic and social development performance since the early 2000s has increased employment and income levels and made Türkiye an upper-middle-income country. The last annual rate of CPI published in Türkiye was in October of 2021 and it was 19.89 per cent. In terms of the human development index (HDI), used by the United Nations to measure the progress of a country, Türkiye's HDI was 0.82 points in 2019, leaving it in 54th place in the table of 189 countries published.

Based on economic standards, Türkiye is recognized as an emerging market and is one of the world's newly industrialized countries, has earned a place in the Group of Twenty, which is a group consisting of the twenty most important economies in the world. Türkiye's economic significance is partially attributed to the country's growth, especially during the recent global financial recession. While countries around the world struggled to grow, let alone maintain a balanced economy, Türkiye experienced a rather high percentage of gross domestic product growth annually. In particular, as a result of the stagnation of the economy during the pandemic, vaccination studies have gained momentum in order to add vitality to the country's economy and prevent stagnation in the economy.

Countries that have reached a successful level of vaccination started to open up their economies. In Europe, the largest export market for Türkiye, the manufacturing sector had a positive outlook compared to previous periods while the service sector remained limited due to the pandemic. This situation had a positive effect on Türkiye's foreign trade in manufactured goods; compared to March 2020, exports increased by 25.6 per cent in March 2021[4]. The 42.2 per cent increase in the imports in the same period reflects the positive direction of the manufacturing sector in Türkiye; 74.9 per cent of the imports were intermediate goods for manufactural production. However, developments in import and export levels are constantly changing as a result of the difficulties brought by the pandemic and the changing economic conditions5. This change caused sudden increases in food prices due to the negative developments in the last 5 months. The results of the analysis on the relevant subject are also expressed further in the report.

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4   Foreign Trade Statistics, October 2021. Turkish Statistical Institute.

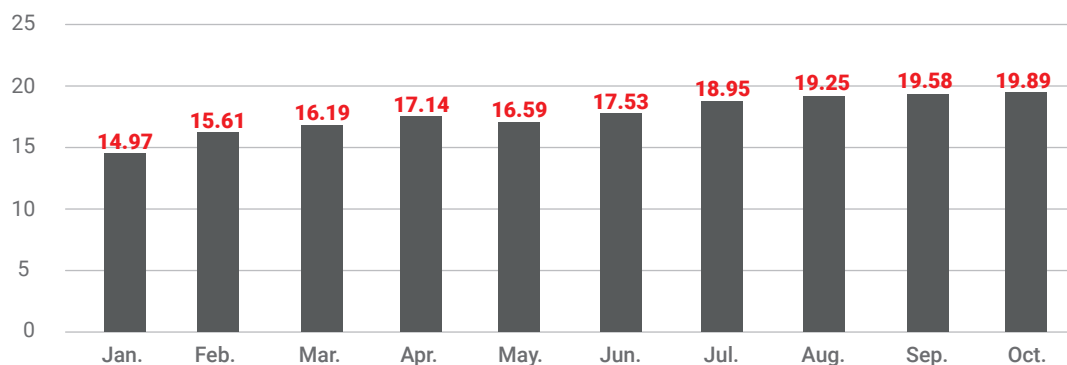5   Monthly Economic Review, October 2021. Isbank Research Division

Figure 1: *Annual Rate of Changes in CPI* [6] *(%) October 2021*

With the effect of the pandemic seen in all areas of the economy, most of the households receiving Kızılaykart assistance were negatively affected by the negative developments in the economy. When the inflation results are examined in general, it is seen that the inflation rate increased both in the previous month (1.08 per cent) and in the same month of the previous year (3.71 per cent). In October 2021, the Inflation rate raised by 2.39 percent and reached 19.89 per cent[7]. This situation can be expressed as that it may cause households to experience difficulties, apply more coping, and deteriorate their balance with debt and expenditure.

1.3. AIM OF THE STUDY

The aim of the baseline study is to assess the impact of C-ESSN assistance on the socio-economic conditions of most vulnerable refugee households with particular focus on their level of expenditure, income, debt, and coping strategies. The study aims to evaluate main indicators on C-ESSN households. The objective of the program is to improve the living standards of the most vulnerable refugees under temporary and international protection. Research and sample were designed specifically to answer these questions ahead and to have a better understanding of the target population of the programme This is a baseline study and following PDMs may evaluate the questionnaire set where knowledge gap exists. For now, food expenditure and food prices are increasing due to inflation, following PDM will be focused on that sector which is missing in this baseline assessment.

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6   Consumer Price Index(CPI) is a measure of the average change over time in the prices paid by urban consumers for a market basket of consumer goods and services

7   Consumption Price Index, October 2021. Turkish Statistical Institute.

2. SAMPLING DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

The sampling design of Pre-Assistance Baseline (PAB) and Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) of C-ESSN has been designed considering the minimum required sample size per strata that allows disaggregation of the baseline information by geographical regions and by eligibility criteria of C-ESSN. Since the C-ESSN population is dispersed all over Türkiye, in order to implement a representative survey, which has nationwide coverage, regional stratification is applied. In this respect, four strata have been determined geographically based on the proportion of C-ESSN households. For survey design, operational challenges have always become an issue when conducting a nationally representative survey on a large scale. In order to avoid them, some of the regions were merged, taking into account the proportions of the C-ESSN population and these regions' socio-economic dynamics. Besides, Istanbul is accepted as a stratum by itself because of its peculiarity in socio-economic factors. Therefore, the country was stratified into four regions in accordance with the NUTS-12 region stratification of Türkiye.
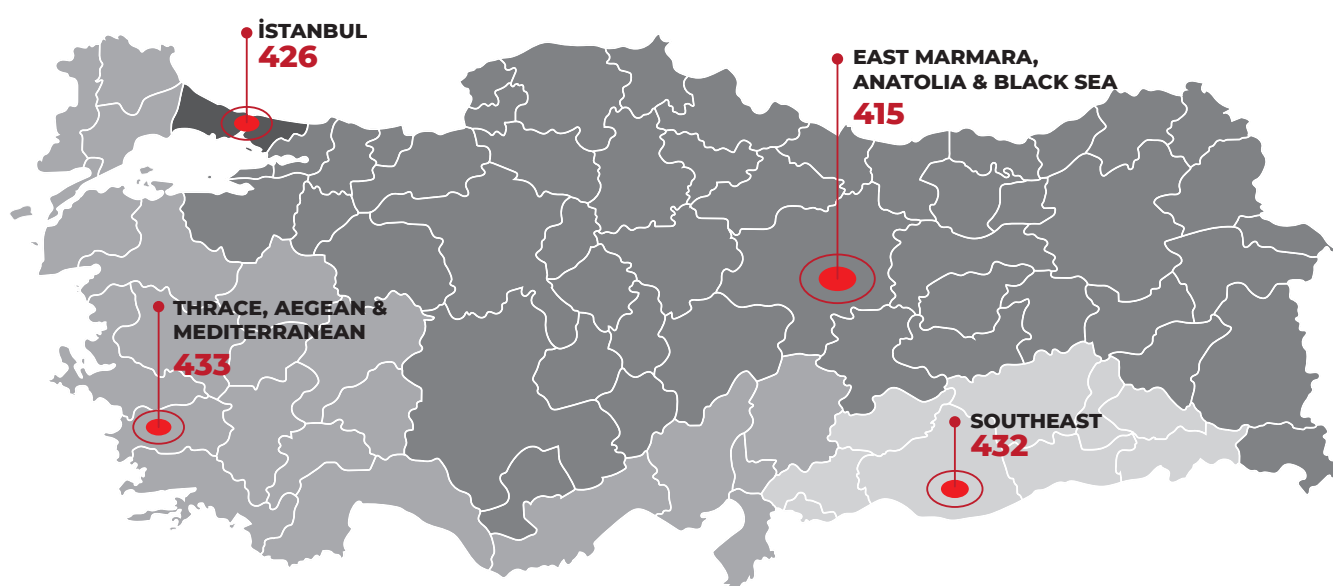

*Figure 2: **Regional Strata***

In each of the stratum identified, the minimum sample size is calculated and selected per strata with the aim of ensuring the representativeness of each C-ESSN eligibility criteria, by covering the criteria that have a small proportion within each strata. Selection of participants has been determined with simple random sampling in each stratum, thereby the location of the respondents is localized in 60 provinces. In this respect, the sample design of C-ESSN PAB has been constructed as stratified random sampling with kish allocation. The data collection period was completed between June and July 2021.

Three factors is needed to be specified to determine the appropriate sample size: the margin of error, the level of confidence or risk, and the degree of variability in the attributes being measured. This sample has been calculated at "95 per cent confidence level, +/- 5 per cent margin of error", hence results will be statistically representative for both each strata and each C-ESSN eligibility criteria. Therefore, the total sample size for PAB is calculated as 1706.

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

Average household size of the sample is 5.45, while this is 4.04 for sampled population. Rootcause of this difference is stemming from the fact that definition of household in PDM study and C-ESSN project differs from each other. Sampled households are dense with 18-59 yo females and this specific age group.

Education and school attendance of the children is another important aspect to be followed. For households with school aged children (defined as 6-17 year olds, stands for 74per cent of the households), school attendance ratio is 69 per cent. For 51 per cent of these households all of the school aged children are attending school and in 17 per cent of them no school aged children are attending school. These are one of the main findings of understanding vulnerability of the households, with respect to MPI pillars.
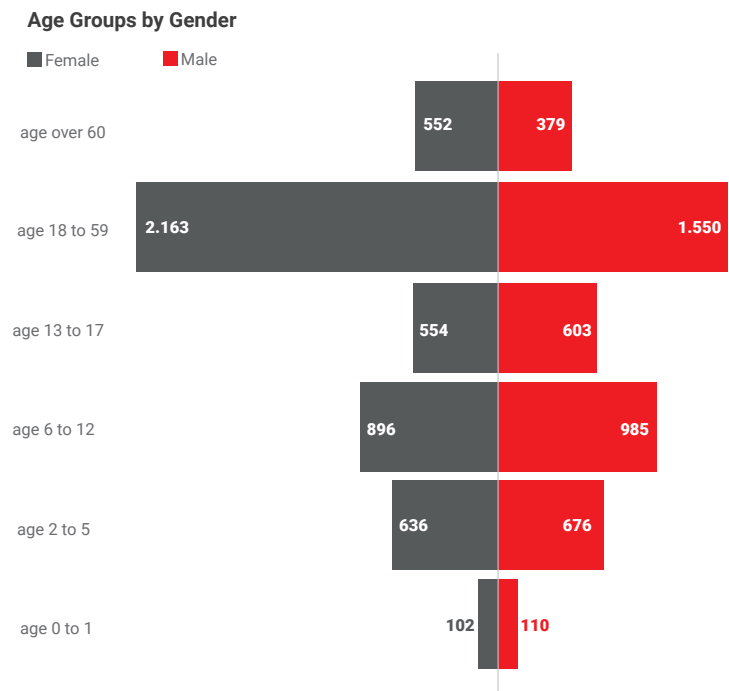
Age Groups by Gender

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

3. FINDINGS

3.1. INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT

3.1.1. INCOME

The median monthly income excluding assistance was used in C-ESSN baseline study. Median estimation gives us robust results when investigating economic indicators. As it is shown in the Figure 4, median total income for C-ESSN recipient household is 1000 TRY and median per capita income is 171 TRY.
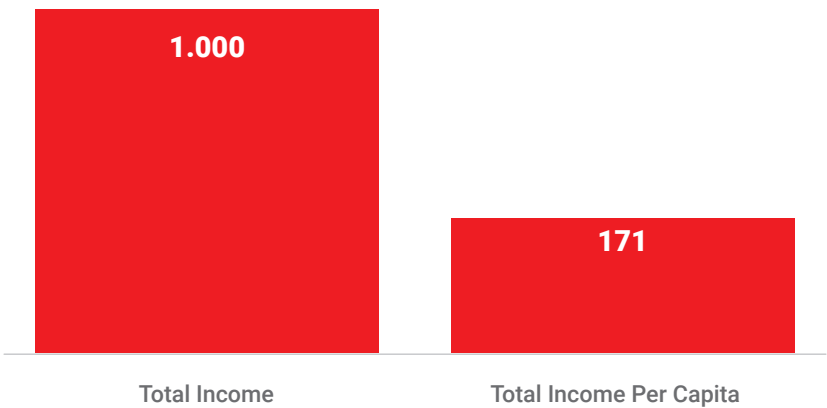

Figure 4: **Income Amounts, Without Assistances**

Although it will be examined in detail in the next sections, the following conclusions can be made regarding the results; the impact of the pandemic (COVID-19) and difficulties in reaching livelihood affects household income. From the monitoring and evaluation perspective, income is one of the core aspects to gain information on households' socio-economic indicators. Close monitoring on this variable will be held in the following evaluation studies. Also it should be noted that gathering income data is hard, both for developing countries and displaced people. Therefore, high variances between different studies may occur.

In Figure 5, The highest total income is 2100 TRY for Istanbul, while the lowest total income is 600 TRY for Anatolia. For income variable, distinctive region is Istanbul. However, the lifting of curfews and restrictions has been experienced throughout the country. Based on this, it is possible to assume that Istanbul may recover faster than other regions.
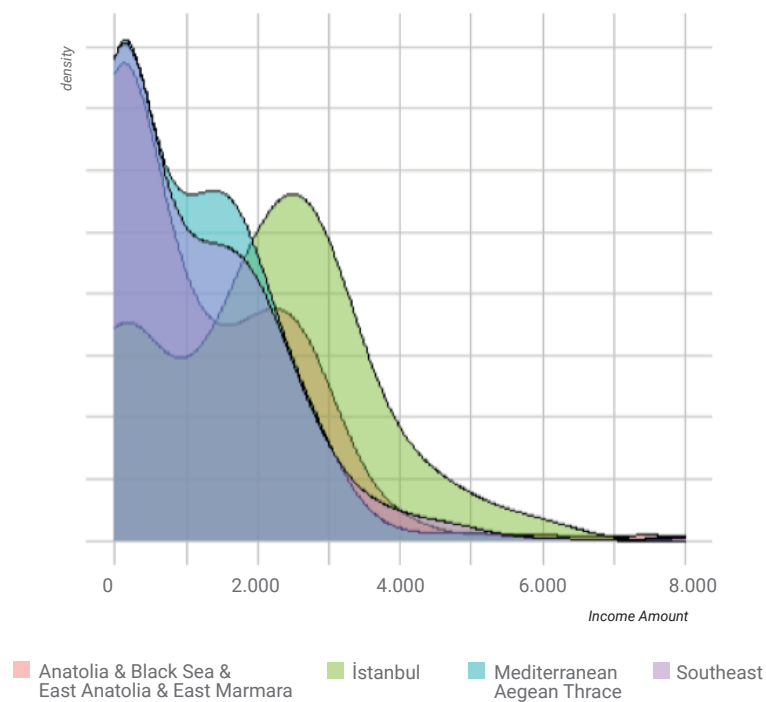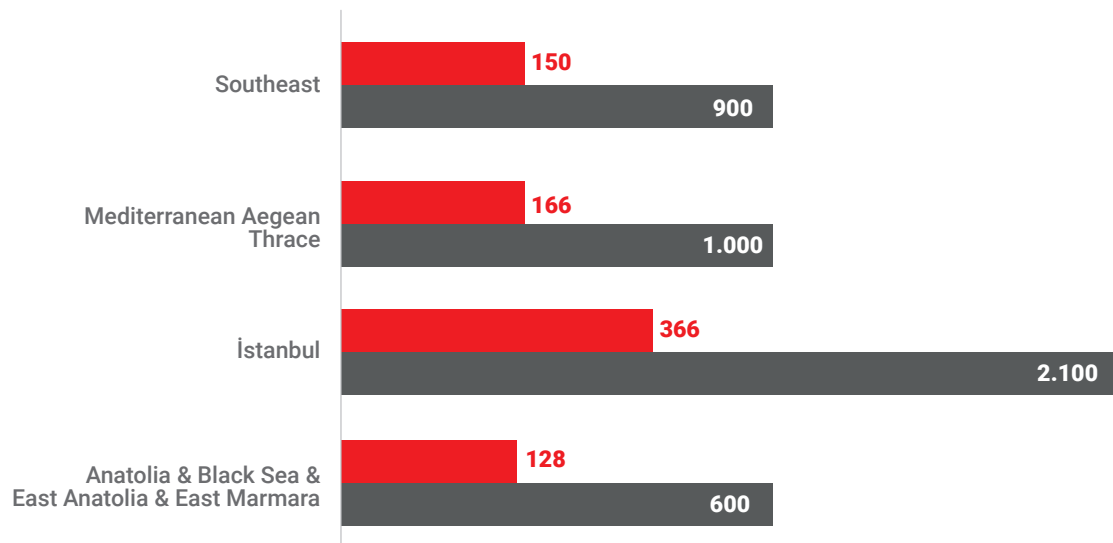

*Figure 6: **Income Levels Density Plot by Region***

3.1.2. EMPLOYMENT

When investigated household working conditions it turned out that, 68 per cent C-ESSN recipients have at least one breadwinner in the household, however, the remaining 32 per cent are not working . Moreover, only 6 per cent C-ESSN recipients stated that they received in kind assistance (e.g. food) in exchange for their work instead of cash salary.
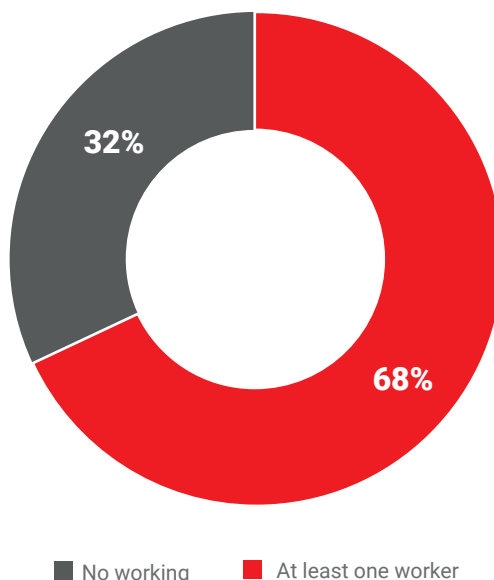

No working   **At least one worker**

*Figure 7: **Percentage of at Least One Bread Winner in the Household***

Most of the refugee households faced unemployment due to pandemic and obstacles accessing livelihoods. For this reason, it has been examined whether the households have found a new job in the last three months in order to meet their basic needs. Accordingly, 93 per cent of the C-ESSN recipients' households declared that they have not started a new job which reflects how households are struggling with livelihoods. Situation will require further monitoring towards household bread-winner potential and their incomes, as well as their socio-economic indicators.
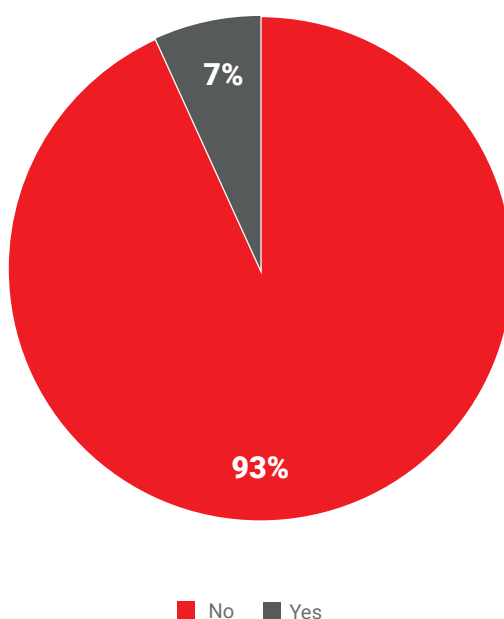

No   **Yes**
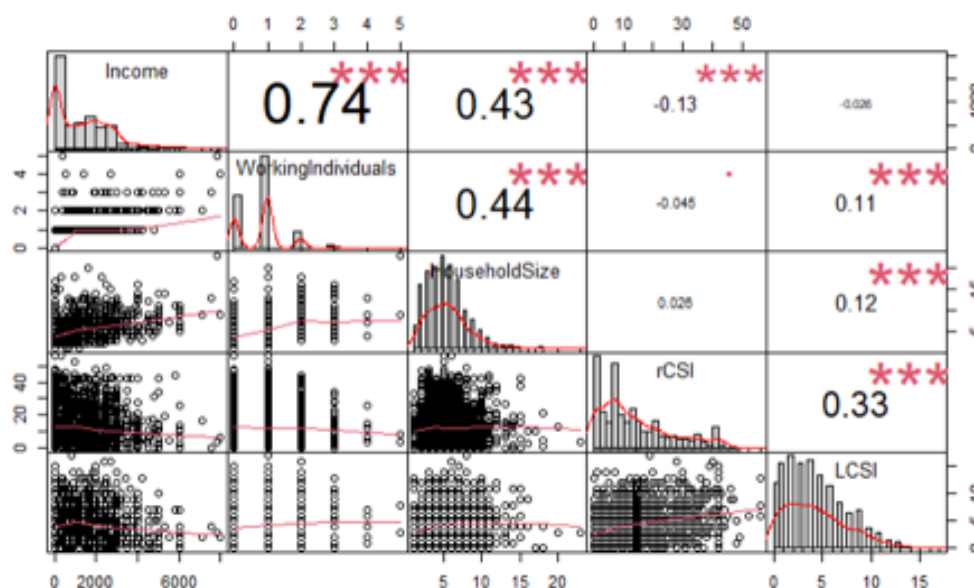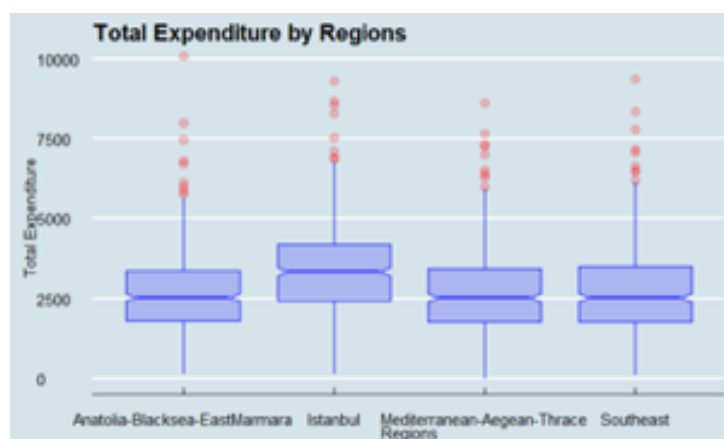
*Figure 8: **New Jobs in the Last Three Months***

Figure 9: *Income Oriented Correlation Matrix*

As expected, income levels are directly linked with the number of working individuals in the household. But in income interpretation, consistency in income earning and livelihood activities are important. As it is known from the TRC livelihoods survey, most of the target population works in irregular jobs. Thus, their income levels variate and even higher variations can be seen due to the COVID-19 impact.

Crowded households and income levels have a positive middle ground correlation, emphasizing that having more individuals in the household may lead to having more income earners in that household. One person or main breadwinner within a household may lose his/her occupancy, but other family members can help them fill the gap by working temporary jobs, so that household may maintain their income activities while less numbered households can struggle if their main bread-winner lose his/her occupation. Thus, making crowded able-bodied households more resilient to occupancy losses of one breadwinner. Also, income have negative and weak correlation with coping-based scoring. Thus having an income above zero or having a breadwinner does not mean that the household wage is enough for them to be categorized as non-vulnerable.

3.2. EXPENDITURE

The Istanbul region has the highest total expenditure of 3394 TRY as seen in Figure 10. With the beginning of the normalization process by lifting the restrictions, people started to work and find job opportunities across the country due to higher economic possibilities. Hence, Istanbul region has higher total income and total expenditure for C-ESSN recipient households.

3.2.1. EXPENDITURE VERSUS OTHER VARIABLES

Household expenditure and its components' amount and types are affected by many factors. In this part of the report, the relationship between the expenditure indicator as dependent and demographic, coping and other economic indicators as independent is examined by considering household expenditure. The main reason for taking the expenditure indicator as dependent variable is that income and debt indicators are constantly changing and more fluctuations are experienced. First of all, the correlations between the variables were examined and regression analysis performed.

In cases where the assumptions required by the regression analysis are not met, alternative methods can be selected. Income and debt variables were normalized and scaled. Thus, a generalized linear model (GLM) was established with indicators approaching the normal distribution. GLM method was used in expenditure analysis, since it is less sensitive to assumption violations and provides more robust results. It was determined whether there was a change in the indicators affecting the expenditure indicator of the household.

Dependent : Total Expenditure

Independent Variables	Coef	Robust Std Err	z	P>|z|
Household Size	0.145	0.025	5.80	0.000
Total Income	0.050	0.076	6.63	0.000
rCSI	0.10	0.000	1.90	0.058
LCSI	-0.005	0.002	-2.65	0.008
Debt Expenditure Income Ratio	0.284	0.301	9.44	0.000
Constant	2.82	0.063	44.57	0.000
R squared	0.23			
AIC	16.34			
RMSE	0.15			
Mean VIF	1.06			

Figure 11 *Regression Outcomes*

One can observe that the increase in the household income increases the household expenditures linearly, while holding constant the other variants. The increase in the household size causes an increase in household expenditures. One question mark is rCSI having a positive coefficient, means that coping score increases alongside with expenditure. With the data available, answering this question is not possible. Further research will shape around this particular topic. These monitoring findings will further feed the evaluation studies such as targeting and transfer value and any focus groups or upcoming studies.

3.3. DEBT

In recent years, borrowing is a frequently applied method for meeting the requirements and easy consumption. Individuals are faced with a choice set in view of the borrowing in different ways depending on from where they can borrow[8]. Borrowing from different sources brings about sharp relief with preferable probabilities between alternatives.

As a result of the examinations on the debt, 77 per cent C-ESSN recipient households have debted while the remaining 23 per cent recipients do not have any debt.

Overall total debt amount of the C-ESSN households are 1500 TRY. Empirical evidence also shows that the Istanbul region have the highest debt among other regions. The higher total debt and expenditure indicates that the regions apart from Istanbul region are similar to each other.

In secondary data reviews on debt, it's been observed that household debt in Türkiye decreased to 17 per cent of GDP in the first quarter of 2021 from 17.50 per cent of GDP in the fourth quarter of 2020[9].

Findings suggest that reliance on debt from friends/relatives and local shops is the main sources of debt for the refugees. When households are in a difficult situation to meet their basic needs, they might prefer to borrow from their friends/relatives or local shop. Borrowing from individuals (family, neighbors, etc.) within the social network is the only legal method among these alternatives. Borrowing from relatives or close circle of friends is quite common, especially in developing countries such as Türkiye, where the traditional structure is preserved[10].
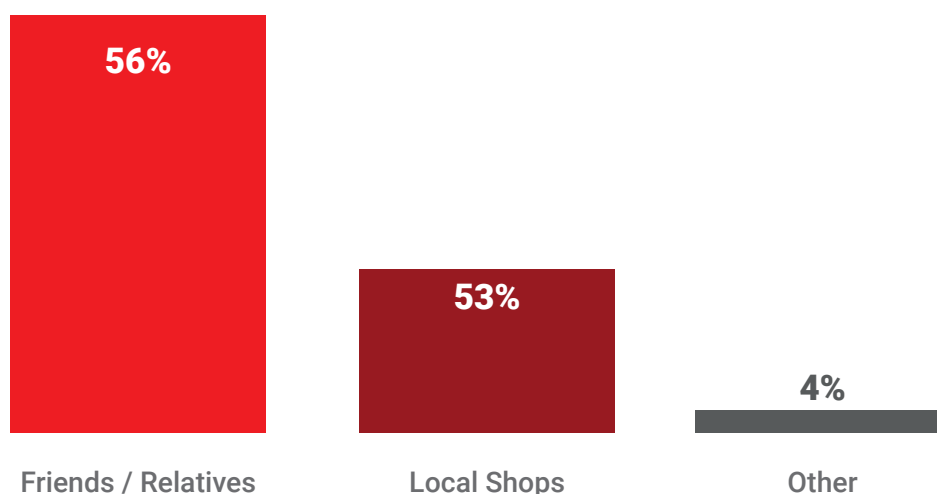

Figure 12: **Households Debt Sources**

In Figure 13, food, rent, utilities were the main reasons for borrowing debt. C-ESSN recipients borrowed to cover their needs. At first, a higher percentage of the C-ESSN recipient's households borrowed for food (63 per cent); second of all, borrowed to pay for their rent (26 per cent); and finally, their utilities (25 per cent) respectively. It can be stated that, households prefer to borrow according to the results given in Figure 13 in order not to fall below certain living standards and to meet their consumption. Especially due to the increase in food prices globally, households borrow the most for food items, which is seen in the expenditure analysis result.

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8   Tagle, J.R.(2006), "Borrowing in Developing Countries:Who can Access Credit and at What Cost?", www.econ.cam.ac.UK.

9   For more detail please visit the link in below;

10   https://www.tcmb.gov.tr/wps/wcm/connect/blog/en/main+menu/analyses/household_indebtedness_level
     Özkoç, H and Üçdoğruk, Ş. (2008). "Determination of debt choice of household with Nested Logit Model". İktisat / İşletme ve Finans Dergisi.
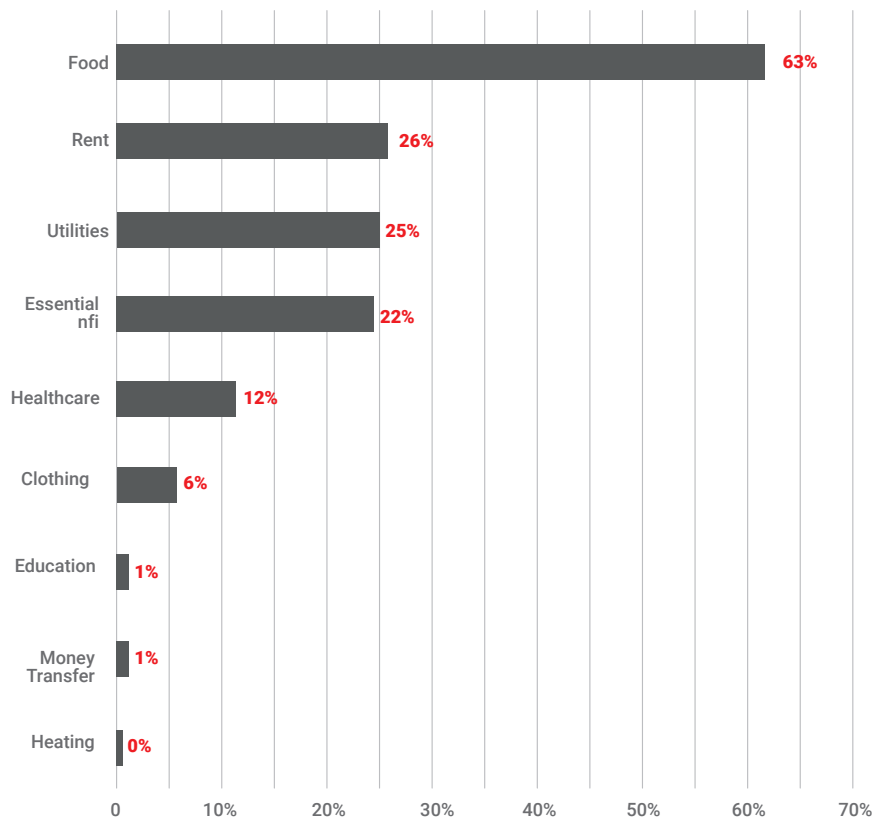
Figure 13: *Regression Outcomes*

Main borrowing reasons are food, rent and utilities as shown in Figure 13. Households are borrowing to be able to consume comfortably throughout their life (Lifecycle), to meet unexpected financial crises when they are encountered, and to finance some of their subsidiaries[11]. Therefore, it can be said that they do not want to go below the living standards they live in. In addition, households may be in debt to meet their basic needs or stock up in order not to experience the difficult situations experienced in the past. For this reason, it could be said that they are getting debt to meet food, rent and utility items according to results. 73 per cent of the households did not state repaying the debt within their expenditure basket, which means that, they do not or unable to pay their debts at all. This is a concerning situation where psychological impacts may occur within the household dynamics.

3.4. COPING STRATEGIES

3.4.1. LIVELIHOOD COPING STRATEGIES (LCSI)

Understanding the behaviors households engage in to adapt to recent crises provides insights into the difficulty of their situation, and how likely they will be able to meet challenges in the future. Households were asked if anyone in their household had to engage in any of the 13 coping strategies because there was not enough food or money to buy food during the past 30 days.

According to results, LCSI score is 4.66 for the C-ESSN recipients. When LCSI score is examined based on criteria and regions, it can be seen that single-parent households (5.09) and ABEEM[12] (5.13) is the highest score according to criteria and regions, respectively, while the remaining criteria and region are slightly lower for C-ESSN recipients. As shown in Figure 14, the households are more inclined to adopt coping strategies except Istanbul.

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11 Tagle, J.R.(2006), Ibid.

12 ABEEM meaning is that Anatolia, Blacksea, East Anatolia, East Marmara

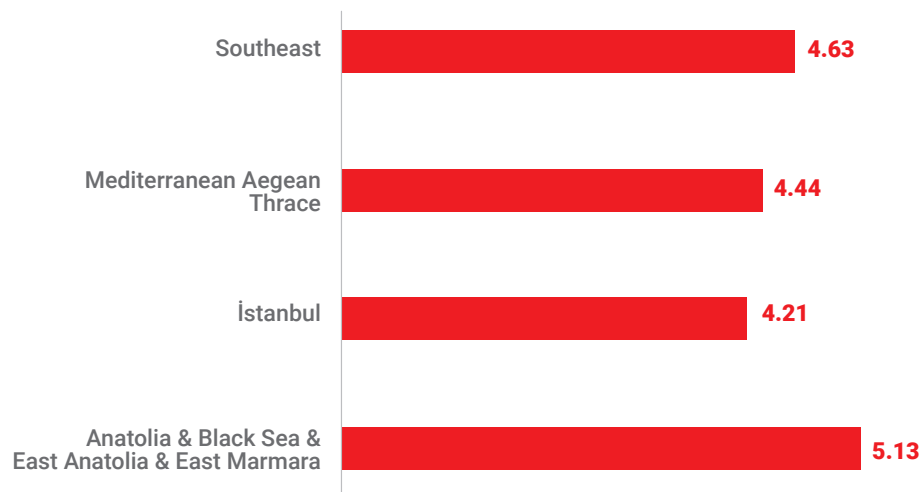| Region	LCSI
Southeast	4.63
Mediterranean Aegean Thrace	4.44
İstanbul	4.21
Anatolia & Black Sea & East Anatolia & East Marmara	5.13

*Figure 14: **Livelihood Coping Strategies (LCSI) by Region***

The livelihood coping strategies are categorised in three sections including stress, crisis and emergency coping strategies. Each component represents sets of behaviour with different degrees of severity[13].

The most frequently adopted **stress coping strategy** is spending savings, (22 per cent), followed by purchasing food on credit (65 per cent), borrowing money from non-relatives to cover basic needs (52 per cent).

Reducing health (37 per cent) and reducing education (29 per cent) expenditures were the most frequently applied **crisis coping strategies.**

Another most frequently adopted **emergency coping strategy** is moving entire household to a different location (20 per cent) and involving children in income generation (16 per cent).

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13   The severity weights are: (1) for stress coping strategies, (2) for crisis coping strategies, (3) for emergency coping strategies. The weighted sum of this variable is then calculated to obtain the LCSI score. A higher value of LCSI is an indication that the household is experiencing food and economic insecurity.
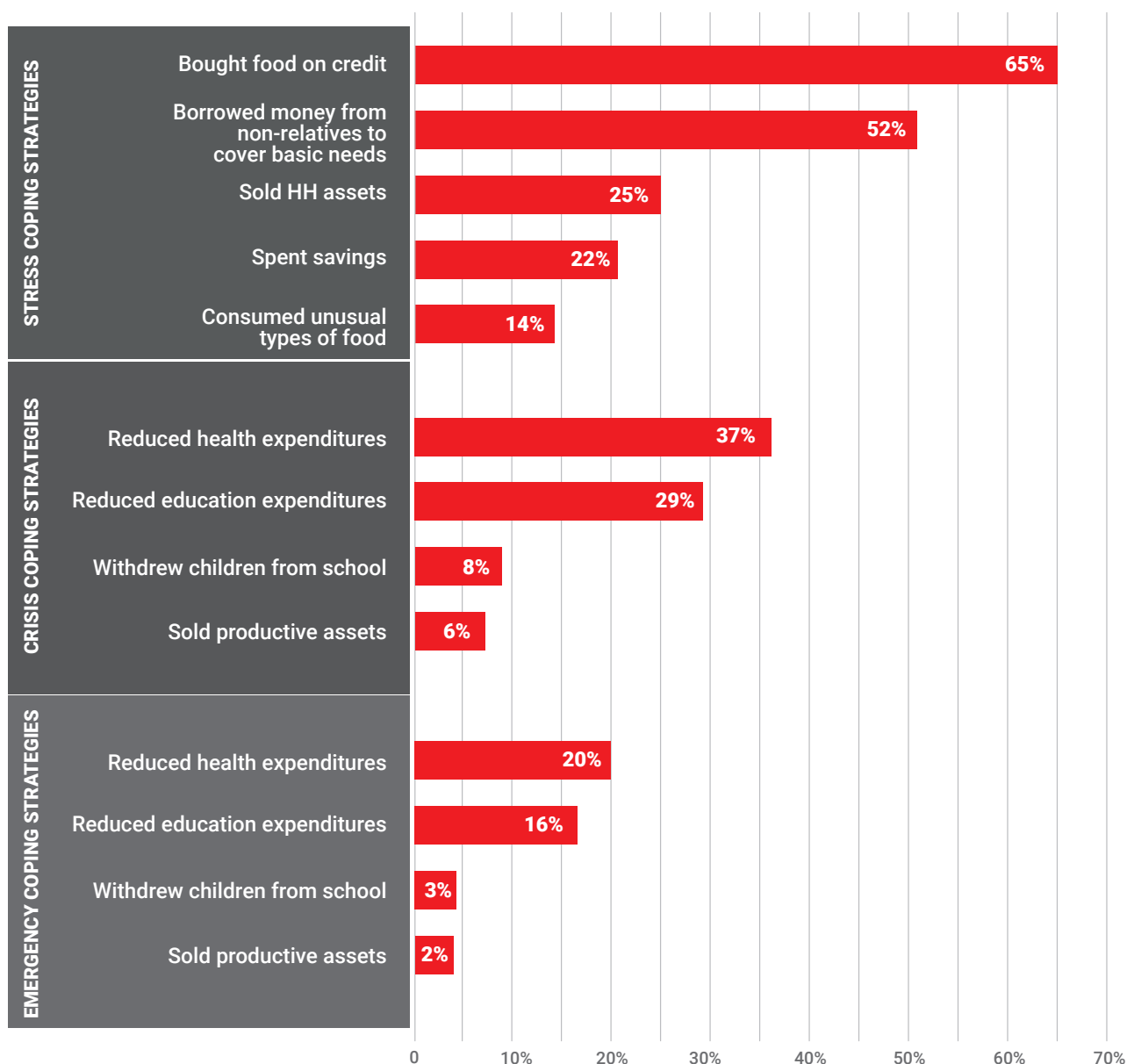
*Figure 15: **Livelihood Coping Strategies (LCSI) Components***

3.4.2. REDUCED COPING STRATEGIES (RCSI)

When livelihoods are negatively affected by a shock, households may adopt various strategies which are not adopted in a normal day to day life, to cope with reduced or declining access to food. Reduced Coping Strategy Index (RCSI) is often used as a proxy indicator of household food insecurity. It includes five specific consumption coping strategies, each given a standard severity weight, and aggregated into an index. Strategies include; relying on less preferred or cheaper food, borrowing food or relying on help from friends or relatives, reducing the number of meals eaten per day, reducing the portion size of meals and reducing the quantities consumed by adults so children can eat. A higher score of rCSI is an indication of worsening food security standards for the households and vice versa[14].

According to findings, rCSI score is 14.66 for the C-ESSN recipients. When rCSI score is examined based on criteria and regions, it can be seen that single-parent households (15.90) and ABEEM (15.83) is the highest score according to regions, while the remaining region is slightly lower for C-ESSN households. As shown in Figure16, the households adopted more coping strategies except Istanbul.
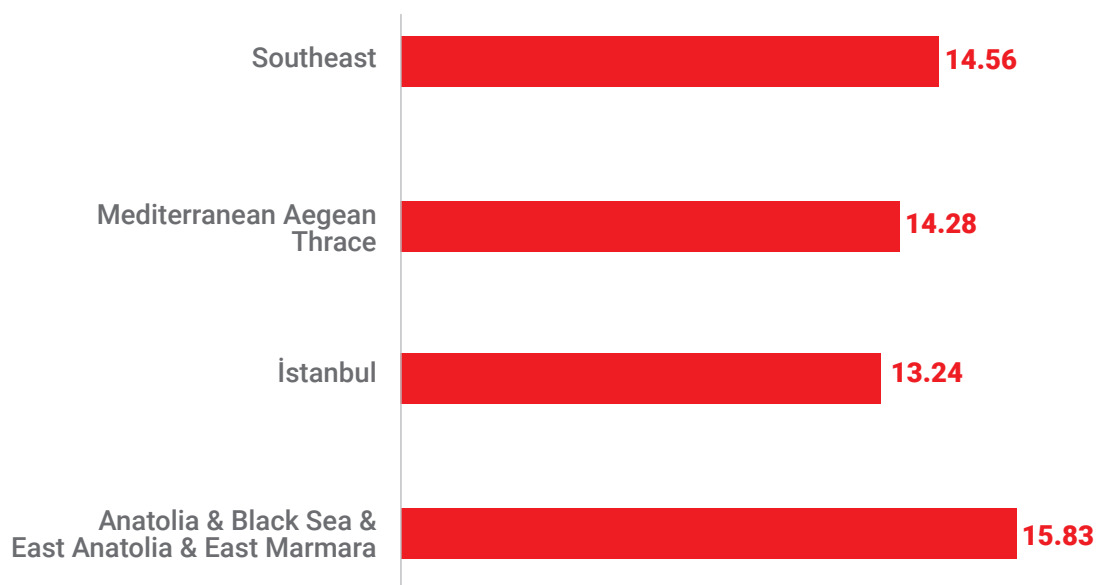
*Figure 16: **Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) by Region***

In Figure 17, the primary adopted strategy is relying on less preferred/ less expensive food (80 per cent); secondly, reducing consumption of adults so children can eat (47 per cent); finally, reducing portion size of meals (43 per cent).

*Figure 17: **Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) Components***

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

3.5. ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS

Study held by Nur Duygu Keten of Kizilaykart monitoring and evaluation analysis unit, where coping strategies are compared with a different perspective in order to understand which of the coping strategy steps up in terms of importance, applicability and usage for the households. This research will further feed following studies.

Coping strategies are one of the obscurities that are difficult to understand. Various indices are used to describe how households respond to a particular shock and what methods they use to cope with an impact in their lives. Key knowledge here is to understand the amount of impact of which type of coping strategy is a dilemma on household's life, on their future and its effect.

In order to understand, measure, evaluate and report the phenomena, it can be useful to reflect their projections in the numerical field of analysis for these set of coping strategies. Yet there will be a lot of information loss, gap of understanding. Thus, deeper qualitative and in-depth studies should be held by the analysts. But this aspect also reveals an area where one may analyze the humanitarian data and investigate it with various different methods. In this aspect a Jenga (game) style analysis conducted over the structure of the livelihood copings, explained in the LCSI section. This variable, LCSI is the combination of over 13 different copings such as selling household assets, reducing health expenditures, moving and so on.

As mentioned above, to understand this phenomenon in a broader way, in-depth qualitative analysis is required. But there are always constraints such as workforce, time and cost. In this analysis study, we tried to understand which of these copings have a higher impact on the calculated LCSI score; making its effect higher on the target households, which may lead to open a door for future actions.

In this concept, the most frequent livelihood coping style is removed from the regression where LCSI index is the dependent variable. With the removal, weights of these each copings variates, highest increase in the specific coping will be our target, and we will mark it as the most impactful one. The following findings will feed FGD questionnaires, lessons learned, and future programme data collection tools and reports.

Alongside with regression, density (frequency density over LCSI) and decision tree variable importance methods were used. Each strategy is numbered according to their importance with three different aspects, where the sum of these ranks are lowest, the most impactful coping is.

LCSI components	LCSI	Regression	Density	Variable Importance	Difference	∑ Sum
Sold HH assets (ST)	1	1	5	6	-0,300	12
Reduced education expenditure (CR)	2	2	6	4	-0,218	12
Sold productive assets (CR)	2	3	1	10	-0,166	14
Reduced health expenditure (CR)	2	4	9	2	-0,112	15
Entire HH moved to another location (EM)	3	5	8	1	-0,099	14
HH members returned (EM)	3	6	10	9	-0,073	25
Children involved in income generation (EM)	3	7	7	3	-0,048	17
Consumed unusual types of food (ST)	1	8	4	8	-0,046	20
Withdrew children from school (CR)	2	9	2	5	0,007	16
HH members beg (EM)	3	10	3	11	0,114	24
Spent savings (ST)	1	11	11	12	0,126	34

As a result of the above analysis, first of all, according to regression and density results, it can be seen that the selling household assets and the reducing education expenditure have most effective ones and should be a track for further PDMs alongside with in-depth analysis of other studies.

4. CONCLUSION

Türkiye has experienced unprecedented shocks in its food security over the past one year as a result of successive years of pandemic followed by economic slowdown. On the other hand, these shocks greatly increased food prices, debt and expenditure of many refugee households, seriously effecting their access to food, payment of debts and meeting expenses, particularly the households switching from ESSN to C-ESSN which include at least one disabled, single-parents and elderly person.

Many households living in the Anatolia Blacksea East Anatolia East Marmara (ABEEM) region seems to be chronically poor in terms of their economic situation. We can state that the household income is insufficient to meet the needs as a result of the fact that the C-ESSN recipients, especially due to the elderly headed household criterion, do not have a working member, their income is not sufficient.

Food, rent and utilities are three main items with the largest share in household expenditureover other household needs, even water, transport, and debt supplies. It can be said that households generally follow two types of strategies. The first is to borrow money, the second is to save from the weekly wages they earn. Thus, households try to pay their debts by installments. Moreover, these expenditure items are also the reason for borrowing debts for the households. Households borrow mostly to pay their food, rent and utility needs. Based on the analysis, about 56 per cent of households borrow from friends/relatives, while 53 per cent borrow from local shops.

The most common consumption-related coping mechanism adopted among the refugee population is buying less preferred food, eating fewer meals per day, restricting the adult consumption so children can eat. Reducing food consumption (including quality, quantity, and number of meals) is one of the main coping strategies that C-ESSN recipient households adopt. Coping based analysis holds great importance. Data gathered through PDMs are not sufficient to understand and there are gaps in our knowledge. Further studies will be conducted over C-ESSN target population for feeding evaluative based studies.

The reflections of findings from the food oriented copings are becoming a source of concern. Following monitoring studies will include food-based indicators to report.

In-depth analysis of Nur Duygu Keten over livelihood copings also reflects that reducing education expenditures and selling household assets are the concerning copings, which requires further monitoring activities.

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This project is funded by the European Union.
Bu proje Avrupa Birliği tarafından finanse edilmektedir.
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