

ISSUE 1: APRIL 2020

EMERGENCY SOCIAL SAFETY NET (ESSN)

Thanks to European Union funding and a partnership between the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRC), over 1.7 million refugees living in Turkey are receiving humanitarian support through cash assistance.

APRIL SNAPSHOT



€30 million

in cash assistance, providing about €16 per person



1.7 million people

reached with cash assistance



69% of people

reported that they lost their job due to COVID-19

(TRC/IFRC COVID-19 Survey)

HIGHLIGHTS

First cash assistance delivered

The ESSN's first cash transfer took place in April under the new partnership between the TRC and IFRC. A total of €30 million was given to 1.7 million vulnerable refugees to meet their basic needs, like food and rent.

COVID-19's severe impact on the refugee families we serve

Three weeks before taking over the ESSN, Turkey confirmed its first COVID-19 case, affecting refugees and Turkish host communities alike. IFRC and TRC conducted a survey to assess the impacts of COVID-19 on the refugees supported by ESSN. It found that COVID-19 poses a serious threat to refugees we serve.

Where ESSN provides support

TOP 10 PROVINCES WE SUPPORT



Funded by European Union Humanitarian Aid

FIRST CASH TRANSFER UNDER NEW PARTNERSHIP

The first cash transfer took place on 30 April under the new partnership between the TRC and the IFRC. Approximately €30 million (211,205,760.00 TRY) in cash was delivered to some 1.7 million refugees in Turkey to support them in meeting their basic needs. This monthly ESN cash assistance allows vulnerable households to cover their essential needs while promoting their dignity and freedom of choice by enabling them to best tailor the assistance they receive to their priority needs.

WHO RECEIVES SUPPORT?

(APRIL 2020)



= 10,000 PEOPLE

1,711,613 million
people reached

OR



= 10,000 HOUSEHOLDS

300,827
households reached

Criteria breakdown



56%
families with four or more children



23%
families with high dependency ratio (>1.5)



9%
families with single parents and children (<18)

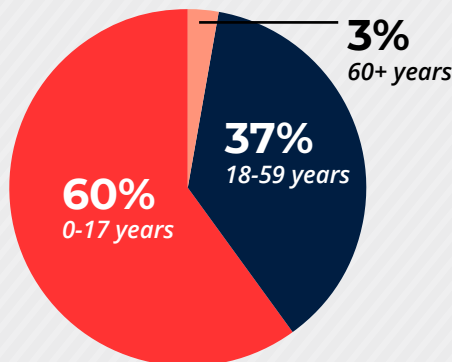


9%
families with one or more people with a disability



0.4%
families with Elderly people above 60 with no other adults in the family.

Age and gender breakdown

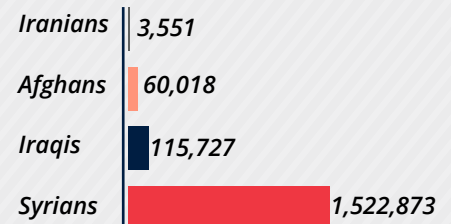


51% female
(879,129)

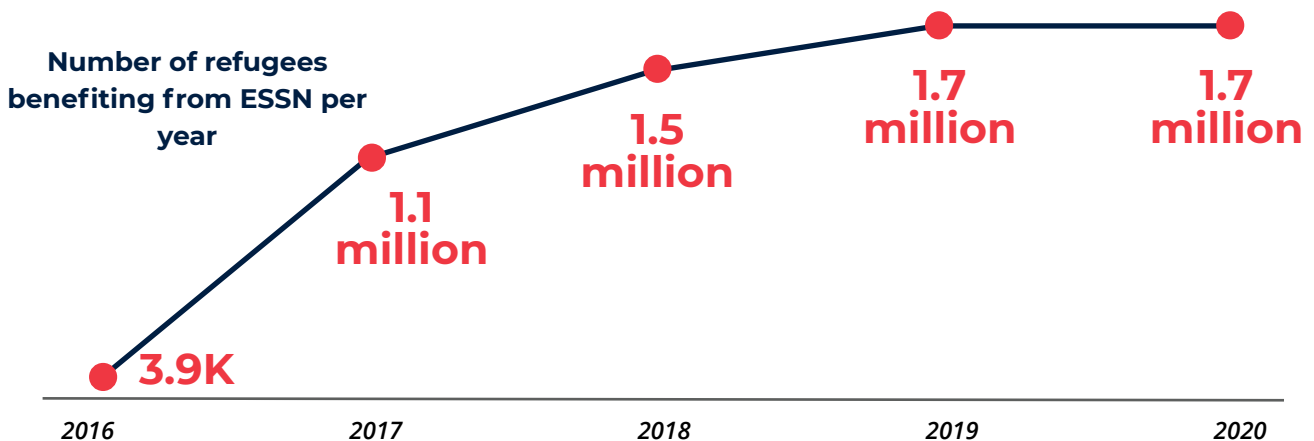


49% male
(832,489)

Nationality



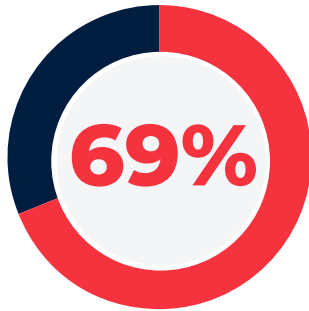
AN INCREASE IN REFUGEES RECEIVING SUPPORT



IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON REFUGEES WE SERVE

TRC and IFRC designed and conducted a rapid ad-hoc assessment survey to better understand the impact of COVID-19 on the affected population: Despite the challenging conditions COVID-19 has imposed, TRC was able to remotely conduct a survey to gather data on the impact of the pandemic on the socio-economic aspects of the lives of ESSN recipients. TRC operators gathered data from 468 households via phone calls over a period of six days. The rapid assessment collected data on income, employment conditions, access to basic services and ability to use the Kızılaykart.

KEY FINDINGS

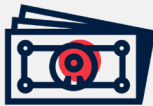


of households reported **loss of employment** due to COVID-19



78%

of households reported **facing an increase in expenses** to cover additional costs like food and hygiene items.



82% of households have increased debt



31% of children enrolled in school cannot access online curriculum



22% of households have members who need regular medical care



61% of households reported that COVID-19 has impacted their ability to access hospitals

MAIN PRIORITIES



Food



Rent



Bills



Non-food items



Hygiene

HAS IT IMPACTED OUR ABILITY TO GIVE CASH?



96% of households indicated **no difficulties** in using the Kızılaykart



81% of households **do not face difficulties** in accessing markets

[CLICK HERE FOR THE FULL REPORT](#)



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FIELD

Outreach and referral activities:

Despite the challenging circumstances prevailing due to the constraints brought on by COVID-19, the ESSN continues to run smoothly. TRC outreach and referral teams have put plans in place to help individuals above the age of 65 and between the ages of 18 and 20 to receive their cards.

Through outbound calls to beneficiaries, local authorities etc. TRC's referral and outreach teams continue to remotely provide support and referral to beneficiaries where possible to remove barriers to entering the programme or enabling them to start benefiting from the assistance. The teams have made a total of 6,958 phone calls to elderly households or households with disabilities and no other adults. TRC teams are referring these individuals to government-led social support platforms and to TRC community centres for hygiene kits and in-kind assistance.

Registration and application:

TRC has prioritized continuity of its operations where possible after introducing strict measures, such as physical distancing, to protect staff and visitors. Nine

service centers across six provinces continue to operate and provide services including taking new applications, re-applications, card distributions, information dissemination and referral to local authorities where needed.

Accountability to affected populations:

TRC has adapted measures to ensure that communication with the affected population is maintained under the current restrictive circumstances which do not allow face-to-face communication. The measures include sharing information and promoting hygiene through SMS text messages and the social media, as well as orientating the 168 call centre operators to respond to COVID-19 related concerns. The call centre also refers callers to the government social assistance services and the COVID-19 emergency hotline.

TRC is currently using its different communication tools to ensure that ESSN recipients are well sensitized about the social distancing and safety measures they should undertake. In this scope, informative SMSs have been sent and inquiries have been responded to through the 168 call center, Facebook and the ESSN website.



22,347

calls received through TRC's call centre in April
1.2 million total



1,003

Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundations (SASF) and 9 service centres are available to provide support to refugees



411

applications in April
2.7 million total