

ISSUE 19: NOVEMBER 2021

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), 1.5 million refugees living in Turkey are receiving humanitarian support through monthly cash assistance.

November snapshots



1,526,573 individuals
reached with cash assistance



310,430,715 TRY
transferred to 244,240 households



5,681,623,220 TRY
transferred since April 2020

Highlights

ESSN and Complementary-ESSN (C-ESSN) operated in harmony

The 7th ESSN - C-ESSN Coordination Meeting was held in November. Consultations on the outputs from the joint monitoring mission (October), as well as other cross-cutting subjects were held.

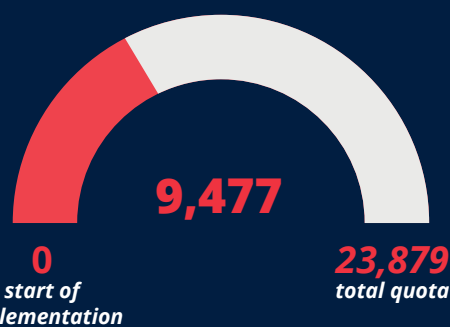
Innovative modalities developed for remote focus group discussions

To ensure that field presence is sustained, TRC and IFRC field teams developed a remote modality to conduct FGDs when it has been increasingly difficult for field teams around the country to stay in touch with target groups as the pandemic has been imposing various restrictions upon people. This innovative modality also enabled a detailed analysis process. For more information, please refer to page 4.

Sweepbacks: In November, 733,273.80 TRY in total was swept back, 187,625.00 TRY being swept back from 249 uncollected cards and 545,648.80 TRY from 946 dormant accounts). The total amount of funds swept back since April 2020 is 18,614,203.95 TRY.

SASF ALLOWANCE

In November 2021, 9,477 households 37,970 individuals received ESSN assistance via the SASF allowance across Turkey. The SASF allowance continues to play an integral role in minimizing exclusion errors and including vulnerable households into the ESSN.



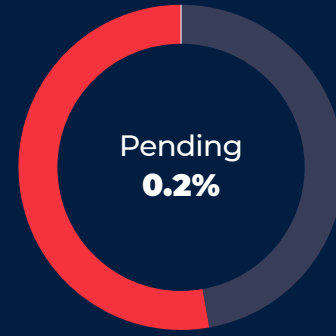
Funded by
the European Union



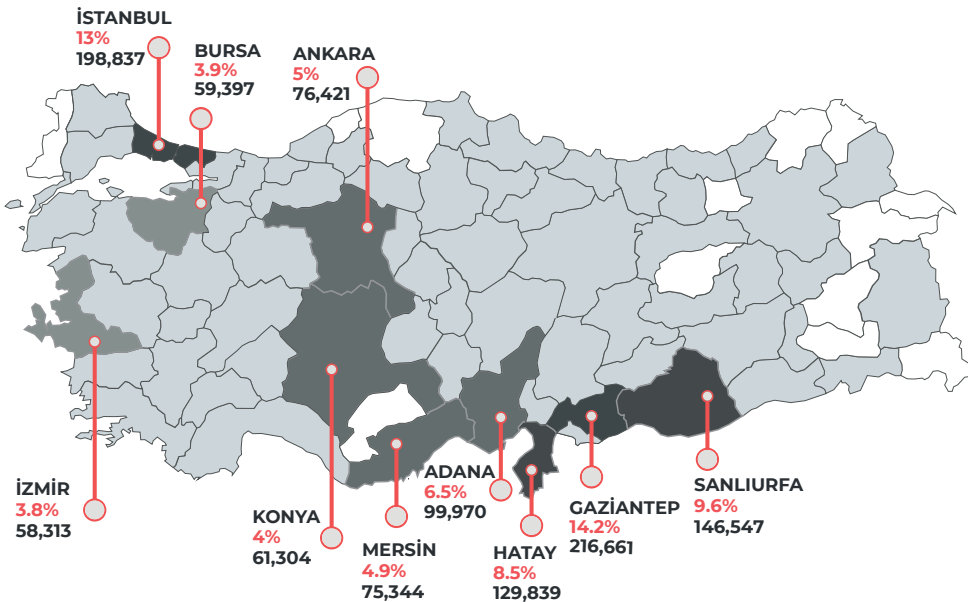
ESSN APPLICATIONS

- In November 2021, a total of 2,866 household applications were received by the SASF offices and TRC Service Centres.
- Of all these applications, 44.8 per cent were received by TRC Service Centres and 55.2 per cent at SASF offices.
- The total number of household applications received since the beginning of the ESSN III Programme reached 636,791, with 36.3 per cent of the total application having been received by the TRC Service Centres

Eligible
52.9%

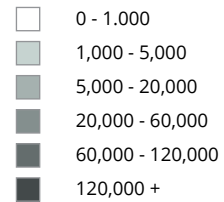


Ineligible
46.9%



Province breakdown of ESSN recipients

Number of individuals



CRITERIA BREAKDOWN ¹



56.0 %
households with four or more children



35.3%
households with high dependency ratio (≥1.5)



4.8%
single female

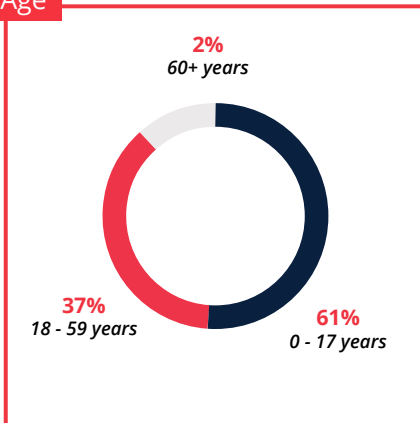
***3.9%** of households (9,477 HHs) receive ESSN assistance within the scope of the SASF allowance.

¹ 137,844 households with four or more children; 86,830 households with a dependency ratio equal to or above 1.5; 11,828 single females.



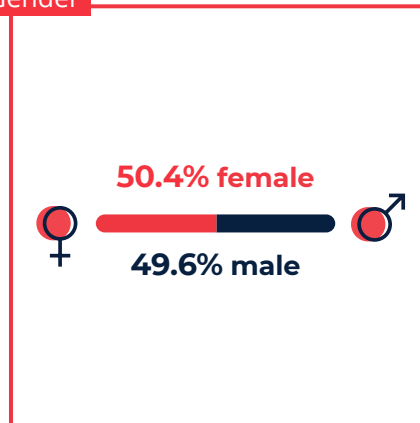
IN NUMBERS: DEMOGRAPHICS OF PEOPLE WE SERVE

Age



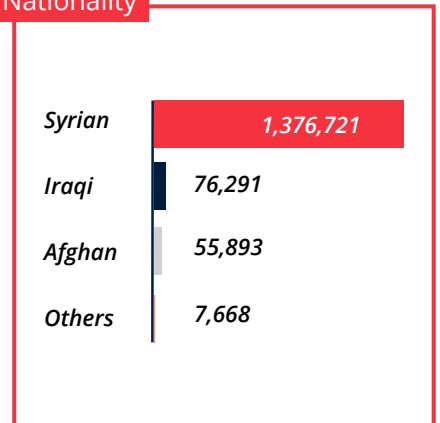
Age breakdown of ESSN recipients:
0 - 17 years: 937,053
18 - 59 years: 564,251
60+ years: 24,269

Gender



Gender breakdown of ESSN recipients:
Female: 769,167
Male: 757,406

Nationality



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



INNOVATIVE MODALITIES EMPLOYED TO PURSUE COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMMING

Remote Focus Group Discussions (rFGD) had been carried out before the COVID-19 pandemic albeit not on a regular basis. In order to tackle the risks of the pandemic, the modality of the FGD was changed entirely to rFGD, as part of our understanding of accountability to affected populations even in the most restricted times. TRC and IFRC maintained presence in the field utilizing innovative modalities as a response to conditions imposed by the pandemic. The necessary assessments with regard to the new developments continue. In addition, the rFGD operations have been enhanced. Between July 2020 and December 2021, six rounds of remote FGDs with distinct themes were completed through a total of 76 sessions moderated. In these sessions, the views of approximately 450 participants were collected to understand the vulnerabilities of the target population in depth.

Thanks to rFGDs, participants residing in different regions were able to attend same FGD sessions simultaneously. Upon approval and consent from

household members who were reached via TRC 168 Call Centre for participating in remote FGD sessions ensuring their anonymity, field teams visit households and deliver the required devices (phones or tablets) to the participants' doorstep. During these visits, utmost attention was paid to ensure that hygiene and physical distancing rules are applied on a meticulous manner.

The FGD sessions are conducted by expert moderators and reporters and are observed online by IFRC and TRC. Based on the participants' consent, video recordings of these sessions are taken which are used to cross check the notes taken live during sessions. Those recordings are transcribed and translated by the TRC field staff, using masked identity codes. These transcripts constitute a rich source of information, which are then coded systematically using software by IFRC and TRC monitoring and evaluation teams who jointly conduct detailed analysis and turn them into sound reports that are complementary to other monitoring reports such as PDMs and IVSs.



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“We receive this assistance early every month and we pay the rent and bills with it. It’s so expensive these days. Thank God we have this assistance.”

– Eligible, Female



PROGRAMMATIC HIGHLIGHTS

Monitoring and evaluation:

Operations with regard to the Intersectoral Vulnerability Study (IVS 2) have begun. The questionnaire, sample design, framework and the operational plan have been completed.

The Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) update is ongoing. The transfer value and GAP analysis are currently being carried out.

The Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM 12) report has been completed. As for the 13th round of the PDM study, data collection and cleaning have been finalized. The sample for the PDM 14 was also designed.

Referral and outreach:

In November, Referral and Outreach (R&O) field teams conducted 300 visits in 29 cities aiming to raise awareness and carry out advocacy activities.

Aiming to improve self-resilience of potential ESSN recipients with sustainable income resources, the Socio-economic Empowerment (SEE) referral mechanism was established internally within TRC. ESSN recipients that are capable and eager to work have been referred to SEE opportunities in TRC Community Based Migration Programmes (CBMP). These referrals aim to make it easier for participants to benefit from livelihood opportunities, and to ensure self-sufficiency without the need for social assistance.

R&O Unit, CBMP, and IFRC were together in the field in six provinces, visiting eight Community Centres under the SEE Technical Mission in November. This technical mission aimed to not only have a comprehensive understanding of the mechanism of SEE referrals, but also enhance effective socio-economic empowerment referrals within the current ESSN referral mechanism through strategies and adaptations for efficient implementation.

Accountability to affected populations:

For effective communication and programme implementation, it is essential that the rights, dignity, and safety of the affected population are respected, and it is ensured that accurate information regarding those rights and the programme is disseminated. Accordingly, ESSN beneficiaries were informed about the important programme updates on multiple official communication channels. One of these was about changes in the programme criteria. The criteria for transferring to the C-ESSN were communicated through official ESSN channels, and these households were also informed via SMS.

In November, 14,448 calls were received and recorded through 168 TRC Call Centre. Of these calls, 48.91 per cent were from female individuals, while 51.08 per cent were male individuals. In addition, all questions received online (325 questions via Facebook and over 100 questions via the website) were responded to on a timely manner. Finally, a total of 518,440 SMSs were sent to ESSN recipients, of which 245,000 of them regarded information on additional payments

Coordination:

November was the last month for most of the 3RP coordination meetings for the year with the holiday season around the corner. The 3RP Basic Needs Working Group, as well, organised its last meeting cycle for Gaziantep-Istanbul (Field Meeting), Ankara (National Meeting) and launched its first meeting for the Aegean region. Co-led by UNHCR and IOM, the Aegean Basic Needs Working Group will meet every three months to cover the basic needs issues of the region. The Coordination Team took its seat in those three meetings and presented the ESSN periodic figures and field updates to a total group of almost 100 participants from different humanitarian organisations.