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 1.8 million refugees living in Turkey are receiving humanitarian support through monthly cash assistance.

**December snapshots**

- **1,828,788 individuals** reached with cash assistance
- **225,932,760 TRY** transferred to 322,521 households
- **31,905 individuals** included through SASF allowance

**Highlights**

**2020 ends with cash transfer to over 1.8 million individuals**

On 31 December, 225,932,760 TRY was transferred to 1,828,788 individuals (322,521 households) living under temporary and international protection in Turkey. The cash transfer included the severe disability top-up of 6,478,200 TRY.

**ESSN extended to March 2022**

Thanks to the ongoing support of the EU, the phase III of the ESSN programme has been extended to March 2022. Households who fit the demographic criteria will continue to receive the assistance to help them cover their basic needs.

**SASF ALLOWANCE**

As of December, 8,023 vulnerable households are receiving the ESSN assistance via the SASF allowance. This makes up 34 per cent of the total quota for all SASF offices in the different districts across Turkey.

**TOTAL PAYMENTS IN 2020**

- **2,283,618,380 TRY** Total payment
- **1,905,458,889 TRY** Base payment
- **322,856,900 TRY** Quarterly top-ups
- **304,513,000 TRY** Economic top-up
- **55,302,600 TRY** Severe disability top-up
ESSN APPLICATIONS

In December, 2,844 household applications for the ESSN were received at SASF offices and TRC service centres. 43.8 per cent of December applications were received at TRC service centres and 56.2 per cent at SASF offices.

The total number of household applications received since the beginning of the ESSN is 602,167 with 36 per cent of total applications received at TRC Service Centres.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Households with four or more children</td>
<td>41.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with high dependency ratio (≥1.5)</td>
<td>26.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with single caregiver and children (&lt;18)</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with one or more individual with a disability</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single female</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elderly people above 60 with no other adults in the household</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*2.5% of households (8,023 HHs) receive the ESSN assistance within the scope of SASF allowance.

Sweepbacks: In December, the fifth sweepback of 1,352,277 TRY was realised from 488 uncollected cards (499,450 TRY) and 732 dormant accounts (852,827 TRY). The total amount of sweepback transactions including December is 8,401,077 TRY.
IN NUMBERS: DEMOGRAPHICS OF PEOPLE WE SERVE

Age breakdown of ESSN recipients:
- 0 - 17 years: 1,102,064
- 18 - 59 years: 673,952
- 60+ years: 52,772

Gender breakdown of ESSN recipients:
- Female: 938,712
- Male: 890,076

Nationality:
- Syrian: 1,637,110
- Iraqi: 112,458
- Afghan: 65,578
- Others: 13,642

Among the ‘others’ category are Iranian, Somali, Pakistani, Chinese and Palestinian nationals.

Disability:
- 10,797 received severe disability top-up

Individuals with a valid severe disability health report received an additional top-up of 600 TRY per individual, totalling 6,478,200 TRY.
#powertobe:

Four talented people regaining control of their lives as refugees

A digital campaign that connects inspiring and talented refugees supported by ESSN with influencers across Europe and Turkey launched in December.

The #powertobe campaign highlights the passions and dreams of four young refugees – a singer, a cook, a football player and a parkour runner – who were uprooted by the war in their home countries but are regaining control of their lives in Turkey through ESSN cash assistance. Davud, Amal, Bilal and Hamad talk about their passions, dreams and challenges as they rebuild a new normalcy in Turkey through videos and photos. The four young refugees also met with the influencers in Turkey, Spain, France, Austria and Romania digitally and discuss their common passions in video messages, online calls and eye-level cell phone clips.

The campaign #powertobe kicked off on December 8 in Austria, France, Romania, Spain, and Turkey in six languages.
While the campaign content has been shared on IFRC, Austrian Red Cross, Romanian Red Cross and Turkish Red Crescent Facebook and Instagram accounts, the stories of Amal, Davud, Bilal and Hamad have been disseminated on Twitter, LinkedIn and Youtube social media platforms by six influencers participated in the campaign and IFRC, IFRC Europe, Red Cross EU, Kızılaykart accounts.

The campaign has been very successful with a high reach and engagement rate by reaching and exceeding targets. Within the four weeks into the campaign:

16 million people reached
79 per cent total engagement rate achieved
97 per cent of the sentiment was positive
76 million reached through the media
PROGRAMMATIC HIGHLIGHTS

Monitoring and evaluation:

In December, the monitoring and evaluation teams focused on card-distribution monitoring activities and remote focus group discussions (rFGD). The monitoring activities included visits to five Halkbank branches, two TRC service centers in six different provinces across Turkey including Ankara, Gaziantep, Hatay, Istanbul, Izmir, and Samsun. The rFGDs primarily discussed debt and financial stress to further investigate findings from PDM10 which indicated that the refugee communities have been dealing with increased debt and unemployment. The research questions aimed to gather qualitative data on the impact of debt on the financial stress of households and on the households’ social interactions with the host community.

Card-distribution monitoring activities are essential to identify, analyze, and refer issues observed during the card distribution process, such as challenges related to the capacity of the bank branch, the use of ATMs and PIN codes, and potential problems faced by vulnerable and illiterate people.

Referral and outreach - Field coordination:

As part of the mitigation measures of COVID-19, public offices have reduced their work hours to six hours instead of eight. However, field teams are still able to continue their visits to local stakeholders whilst strictly adhering to the COVID-19 mitigation measures. In December, the IFRC field coordination team and TRC referral and outreach team visited 78 districts in 26 provinces. The main stakeholders visited were SASFs, Provincial Directorate of Migration Management (PDMM), Social Service Centers (SSCs), TRC community centers, TRC service centers and TRC branches. During the field visits to local authorities, the TRC-IFRC teams focused on sensitization about the ESSN programme (including SASF allowance) as well as advocacy and solving outreach issues pertaining to address registration or Disability Health Reports. Finally, IFRC Field Coordinators continue to have (phone) meetings with NGOs and UN organizations in order to share updates and receive important feedback from key partners in each region.

Accountability to affected populations:

In December, the call centre received 14,024 calls from 75 provinces - 93 per cent of the calls were in Arabic. The official ESSN Facebook page reached 93,322 followers and the total number of messages replied to in December is 40,744. A total of 688,857 SMSs were sent including confirmation of receiving the complaint, monthly removal and the reasons, uncollected cards, discrepancies, and dormant account warnings. The total number of messages received and responded to on the website is 178.

Gender and protection:

IFRC protection officer took part as a speaker in a webinar organised by UNDP within the 16 Days of Activism regarding gender-based violence (GBV) against Syrian women in Turkey. The webinar included participants from TRC, NGOs and UN agencies and touched on the legal protection mechanisms available for survivors of GBV whilst IFRC explained how these mechanisms work and the challenges faced by refugees in accessing these mechanisms. Solutions to these challenges were proposed and discussed. IFRC also presented best practices of the ESSN in mitigating the risk of GBV and in protection. Additionally, the effect of COVID-19 on the protection mechanisms was also explained and UNDP presented their project with Bar associations regarding GBV victims.