

ISSUE 36: 1 - 31 JULY 2023

# EMERGENCY SOCIAL SAFETY NET (ESSN)

Thanks to European Union funding and the partnership between the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC), almost two million refugees living in Türkiye received humanitarian support in July 2023.



## All Cash Transfers under the ESSN III

**EUR 1.17 billion**

distributed between **September 2016** and **April 2020** by WFP-TRC partnership.

**EUR 1.1 billion**

distributed between **April 2020** and **July 2023** by IFRC-TRC partnership.

## July Cash Transfers

 **1,497,932** individuals from **274,743** households were reached with assistance

 A total of **TRY 699,395,730** was transferred

 **TRY 449,379,600** transferred as **monthly ESSN payment**

 **TRY 250,016,130** was transferred as **economic top up payment**

## The Last Monthly Cash Transfer under the ESSN, the Largest Humanitarian Cash Assistance Programme in the History

Launched in September 2016 under funding of the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), the ESSN provided monthly unconditional cash assistance to refugees in Türkiye until July 2023. The ESSN consistently supported around 1.5 million refugees with unconditional cash delivery every month so that they can meet their basic needs. The monthly cash transfers were complemented with quarterly regular top-up payments.

The ESSN has gone far beyond a mere cash transfer programme; IFRC-TRC partnership constantly made efforts to ensure that programme implementation **evolved overtime** to address **emerging needs** and **changing priorities**.

**Targeting efforts** were made to ensure the right amount of cash is delivered to the right people. Accordingly, gender-adjusted dependency ratio was introduced as the only selection criteria in July 2022. This involves a ratio of working-age male individuals (providers) to the dependent members (children and the elderly) of the household. Working-age women were no longer considered to be dependent individuals or providers. This adaptation has allowed the ESSN to target a significant number of vulnerabilities.

Moreover, two rounds of **intra-household targeting** were applied (February and July 2023) so that vulnerabilities of households take precedence over household size. Men aged between 30 and 33 for the first round, and men aged between 34 and 36 were removed from the programme. Consequently, a vulnerable household of four started to receive more assistance than a larger, less vulnerable household.

IFRC-TRC teams continuously conducted various studies to monitor the ESSN population and informed the programme decision-making processes. These studies include but not limited to Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) studies, Satisfaction Surveys, Focus Group Discussion (FGD) analyses, Evaluative Learning Study, Shock Responsiveness Study, Global Payment Solutions study, etc. Accordingly, transfer value revisions and top-up decisions were made based on data analyzed through these studies and more.

The ESSN also made efforts to shift the perception on refugees and incentivized empathy; two digital awareness campaigns in 2021 (two rounds of) #powertobe and one in 2022 #powertoshare. The campaigns aimed to provide external audiences with an opportunity to walk in refugees' shoes. Their positive content portraying social cohesion based on shared passions has enabled a positive reaction of over 95 per cent from their audience.

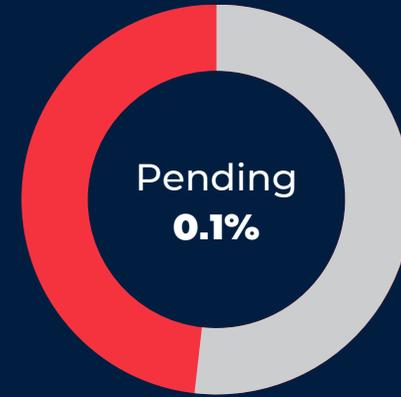
Kindly refer to page four for a timeline showcasing programmatic milestones of ESSN III programme.



## ESSN APPLICATIONS

- In July 2023, a total of **2,224 household applications** were received by the **Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundation (SASF) offices** and **TRC Service Centres**.
- While 25.5 per cent of these applications were received by **TRC Service Centres**, 74.5 per cent were received by **SASF Offices**.
- The **total number** of households applications received since the beginning of the **ESSN III programme** has reached **714,433** with **35 per cent of total applications** having been received by TRC Service Centres

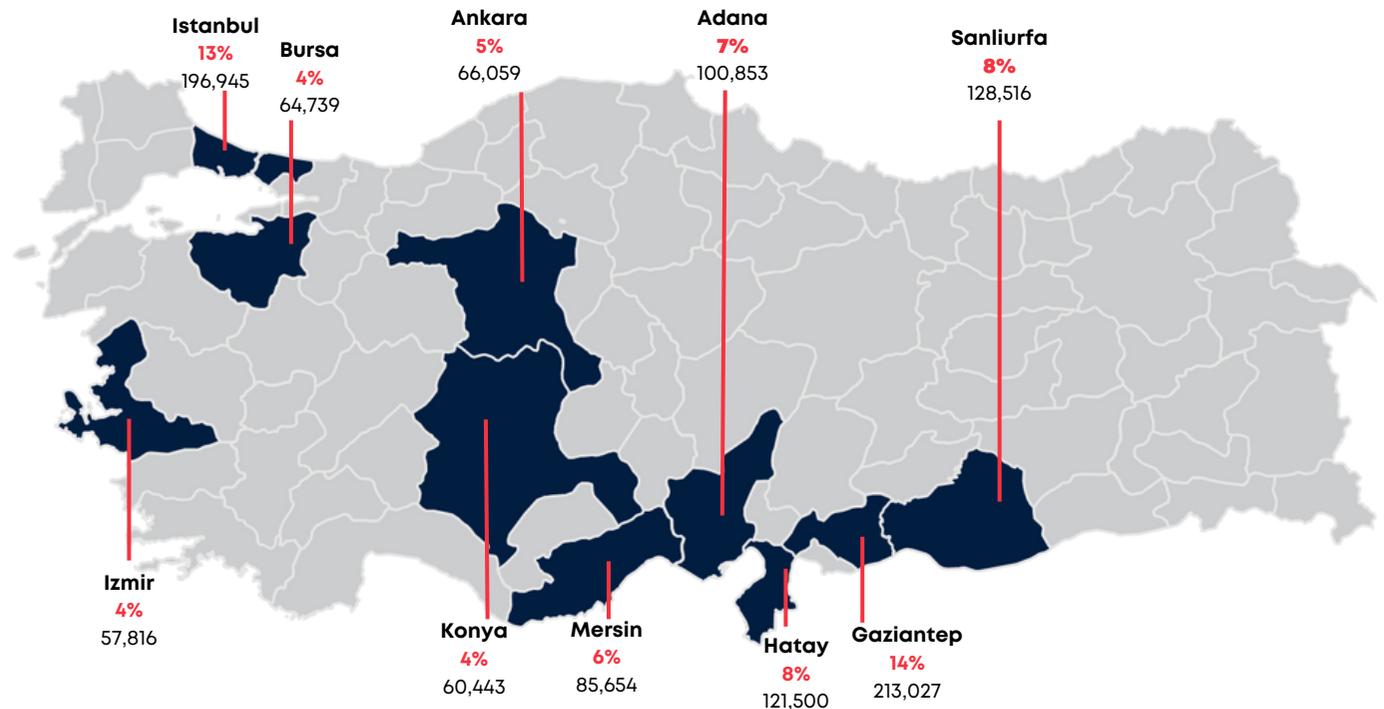
Ineligible  
47.9%



Eligible  
52%

### Province breakdown of ESSN recipients

These provinces contain **74%** of ESSN III recipients



**96.5%**

265,190 households received the assistance through the **gender-adjusted dependency ratio**

### ELIGIBILITY



**3.5%**

9,553 households received the ESSN assistance within the scope of **SASF Discretionary Allowance**

### MOST COMMON FAMILY PROFILES (TOP FIVE)



**47,224 (17%)**  
families with **1 adult male, 1 adult female and 3 children**



**37,964 (14%)**  
families with **1 adult male, 1 adult female and 4 children**



**25,057 (9%)**  
families with **1 adult male, 1 adult female and 2 children**



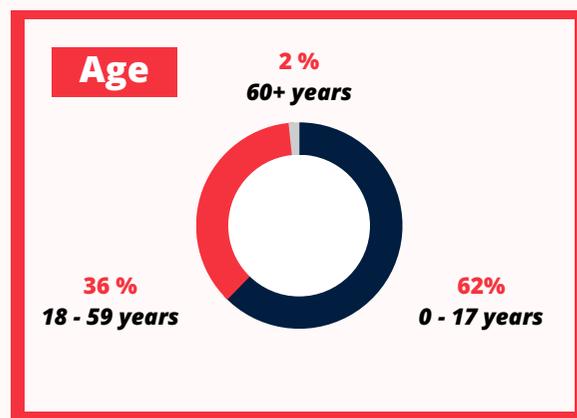
**23,483 (9%)**  
families with **1 adult female and 3 children**



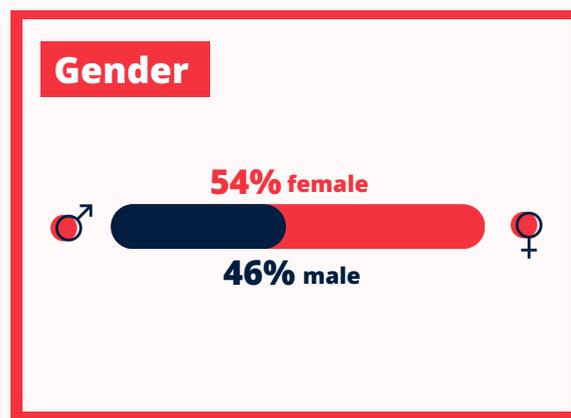
**20,609 (8%)**  
families with **1 adult male, 1 adult female and 5 children**



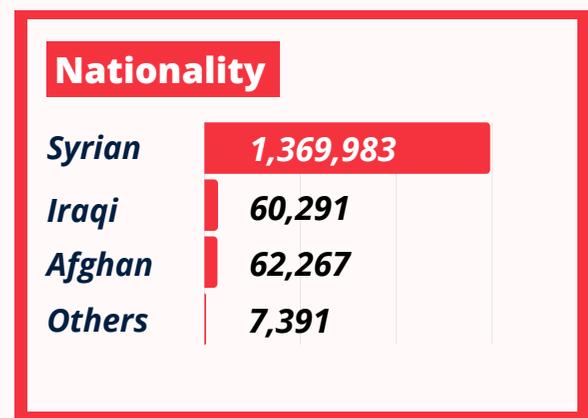
## IN NUMBERS: DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE PEOPLE WE SERVE



**Age breakdown** of ESSN recipients  
**0 - 17 years:** 945,810  
**18 - 59 years:** 526,816  
**60+ years:** 25,306



**Gender breakdown** of ESSN recipients  
**Female:** 810,757  
**Male:** 715,059

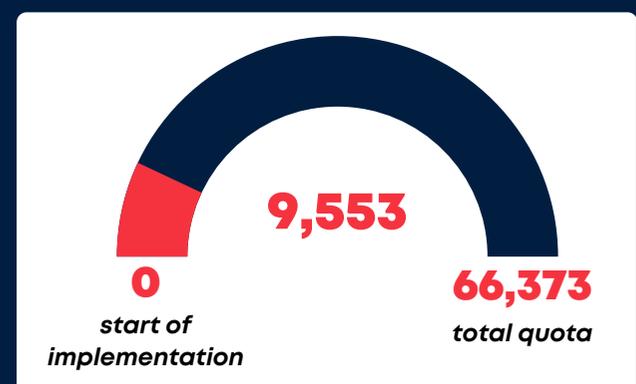


Among the "others" are Iranian, Somalian, Pakistani, Chinese, Palestinian and other nationals

## SASF Discretionary Allowance

In July 2023, 9,553 households across Türkiye received the ESSN assistance via SASF Discretionary Allowance (SDA). This SASF allowance continues to play an integral role in minimizing exclusion errors, while including vulnerable households under the ESSN assistance programme.

To increase the use of this allowance, the SDA quota was increased from 5 per cent to 10 per cent in July 2022.



# ESSN III TIMELINE

**APRIL 2020**

**IFRC takes over from WFP**

IFRC - TRC partnership begins to implement the ESSN III in April 2020

**MARCH 2021**

**Transfer value increased from TRY 120 to TRY 155**

COVID-19 pandemic and the measures taken against it led to rises in the cost of living. The transfer value was updated as a long term solution to address the emerging hardships that the programme population face.

**MAY 2022**

**Economic top-up of TRY 1,400 per HH**

Findings from studies conducted under the ESSN showed evidence around deteriorating food security conditions and vulnerabilities amplified by the winter. This top-up payment was made to help ESSN recipients cope with the economic hardships.

**FEBRUARY 2023**

**Transfer value increases from TRY 230 to TRY 300**

The change was put in effect in the February 2023 payment. This increase was made to help ESSN population cope with the rising inflation rate across the country.

**JULY 2023**

**Economic Top-up of TRY 910 per HH**

In July 2023, an additional top up of around TRY 910 was paid to all ESSN and C- ESSN recipient households to offset the impacts of the inflation in the country. These top-up decisions were coordinated closely with the Ministry of Family and Social Services.

**JUNE - JULY 2020**

**COVID-19 Top-up of TRY 1,000 per HH**

To mitigate the impact of adverse economic conditions caused by COVID-19 related measures including loss of employment, expenditures increasing and debt levels rising, a top-up payment of TRY 1,000 per HH was made in two instalments (TRY 500 in June and TRY 500 in July).

**JULY 2021**

**C-ESSN Launched**

In July 2021, the most vulnerable households in the ESSN caseload were transferred to the Complementary Emergency Social Safety Net. These households have been receiving cash assistance under the C-ESSN programme implemented by TRC and overseen by DGSA.

**JUNE 2022**

**Transfer value increases from TRY 155 to TRY 230**

As a result of programme's ongoing monitoring, evaluation and accountability reports, internal analyses and studies conducted by third-parties, the transfer value was updated to provide more support against the rising cost of living

**JUNE 2023**

**Earthquake Top-up**

The remaining ESSN funds were repurposed around this top-up. Accordingly, ESSN population, C-ESSN population and the host community members' recovery period was assisted through a top-up payment. The amount of the top-up varied depending on where the recipients reside; TRY 2,300 per HH for those living inside the EQ zone, TRY 1,300 for those who have fled outside the EQ zone.

**JULY 2023**

**The Last Payment under the ESSN**

IFRC - TRC partnership made the last payment under the ESSN III in July 2023. The ESSN caseload will continue to receive unconditional cash transfer under the SSN programme funded by DG Near and implemented by TRC and Directorate General of Social Assistance.

# PROGRAMMATIC HIGHLIGHTS

## Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

### Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) study

PDM study series involve utilization of various indicators such as the reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI), Livelihood Coping Strategy Index (LCSI), Food Consumption Score (FCS), debt, the minimum expenditure basket (MEB), as well as a series of economic indicators. These studies allow IFRC-TRC partnership to make comparisons between the recipient and non-recipient households. The progress made within the reporting period with regard to the PDM studies is as follows:

- **PDM-16** has been finalized and published. The full report is available [here](#).
- Data analysis and report production processes are ongoing for **PDM-17** study.
- Data collection for **PDM-18** has been initiated and ongoing without interruption.

### The Focus Group Discussion (FGD) Study

As a small-scale qualitative study, FGD analysis report is an essential research tool to gather people with similar backgrounds or experiences to discuss and exchange ideas.

The progress made within the reporting period regarding FGD studies are as follows:

- **FGD-9, FGD-10** and **FGD-11** studies have been completed. The FGD-9 focused on the housing conditions of the refugees, as well as their views regarding the increased transfer value. FGD-10, on the other hand, was centred around the extent to which newly eligible recipients were aware of the eligibility criteria, the impact of the ESSN on the recipients' expenditures, as well as their suggestions to improve ESSN implementation.
- On **FGD-11**, the main objective of the study was exploration of the following points regarding the foreigners in Türkiye:
  - changes in their household composition due to the earthquake, as well as the internal movements
  - changes in their living conditions with regard to their access to basic needs such as health and education services, household expenditures, livelihood opportunities, their observations on demographic changes in their respective neighbourhoods, and their perspective of foreigners in the long run.

- Concept note and questionnaire were prepared for **FGD-12** study. FGD-12 is mainly focused on the following:
  - The role of the ESSN on the socioeconomic empowerment of ESSN recipients
  - The needs and expectations of ESSN recipients regarding the efficiency of vocational and skill development interventions, including the information provided by the ESSN communication channels
  - Successful practices and potential areas for improvement that can inform ESSN – IV

## Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)

### Information Sharing (1-31 July)

- **30 posts** were shared on **Facebook** regarding address change, explanation on the eligibility criteria, warning about dormant accounts and uncollected cards and other important information regarding ESSN Programme.
- **240 information requests/complaints/feedback** have been received and responded to through [Kizilaykart programme website](#).
- During the reporting period, a total of **16,263 calls** were received and responded to by **TRC 168 Call Centre**. Also, **713,384 SMSes** were sent out to the target population for information provision.
- **14,000 brochures** and **400 posters** were delivered to application centres and field unites.

## Referral and Outreach (R&O)

### Sensitization visits

- As the time to handover the ESSN continues to come closer, it becomes more and more important to sensitize relevant actors. Accordingly, sensitization visits were carried out within the reporting period to NGOs, as well as sensitization meetings held with representatives from Community Centres, and the Ministry of Family and Social Services.