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# In-camp Post-Distribution Monitoring Report Quarter 1 – 2021 **WFP Turkey Country Office**

July 2021

# WRITERS

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We express our appreciation to all programme assistants of the World Food Programme Turkey Country Office for their efforts in the data collection of In-camp Post Distribution Monitoring Survey-Quarter 1 2021. We would also like to thank our participants for their patience and cooperation in filling out the surveys.

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# Executive Summary

Turkey currently hosts approximately 4 million refugees, most of whom have left Syria due to the crisis in 2011. Although the majority live out-of-camps, about 56,000 people are living within the camps located in south-east of Turkey. WFP supports approximately 51,000 camp residents through a monthly e-voucher.

The in-camp Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) surveys are intended to monitor the well-being of beneficiaries in terms of food consumption, dietary diversity, strategies to cope with a lack of food or money to buy it, and expenditure patterns to support them better and address any concerns they may have.

The data collection for the Q1 2021 PDM was undertaken remotely between January and March 2021 via phone interviews due to the Covid-19 restrictions. A total of 386 surveys were conducted in six camps by 8 WFP field staff.

PDM analysis highlights that even though acceptable food consumption is high in the camp households, they, especially female headed households, rely heavily on coping strategies for their food needs as the food basket cost increases by 8 percent compared to the previous reporting period. Moreover, beneficiaries spent more on food compared in Q3 2020. Indeed, this is in line with the overall situation in the country, since food is the second highest main expenditure group showing an uptrend (TUIK, February 2021). Besides, both female and male-headed families resort to the emergency level of livelihood coping strategies by increased frequency, most probably due no additional income from agriculture and Covid-19 related income loss.

PDM surveys also provide information on whether households in the camps are aware of assistance-related issues as well as know or refer to the official communication channels when needed. The majority of camp residents are aware of the entitlements, in line with the reporting of fewer assistance related problems. Also, they know whom to contact to solve their assistance related problems. It is promising that none of the camp residents reported safety issues because of being a beneficiary of the programme.

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# Highlights

## Demographics

- The majority (87%) of the surveyed households are male-headed.
- 39 percent of the camp population are of a young age (below 18 years old) and additional 40 percent are at productive age. The average household size in the camps is 5.5 people.
- 42 percent have at least one vulnerable family member, who can be either disabled, chronically ill, elderly, pregnant or breast feeding women who need special care.

## Education

- The literacy rate is approximately 5 percent for household heads. Illiteracy is most common, especially among women (18%).
- 25 percent of the household heads, particularly females, have no Turkish language ability.

## Food and Nutrition Security

- The acceptable level of food consumption is found 97 percent.
- The food consumption is high in terms of frequency of consumption and diversity. They have various food groups (i.e., cereal, meat, dietary, etc.) in their diets with the exception of pulses and fruits that are less consumed.

## Household Economic Capacity and Coping

- Beneficiaries' food expenditures have the largest share among total spending and they spend more on food compared to previous reporting period (2% increase).
- Resorting to consumption coping strategies (rCSI) increases among female-headed households more than male-headed households.
- The frequency of resorting to the emergency level of livelihood coping strategies (i.e., child labor, child marriage, begging, etc.) increases among both female and male-headed households.

## Awareness and sensitization

- 98 percent of participants are aware of how much they are entitled to receive through the e-voucher. Almost all participants know the date they receive assistance apart from four households.
- Fewer households (17%) report having assistance related problems compared to previous reporting period (21%).
- The majority of assistance related problems is too high prices in the contracted markets.
- Camp residents generally contact with authorities to solve their problems except Kilis, where only 23% of beneficiaries have communicated with official contact points.

## Safety and protection

- None of the participants reports safety issues and no major problem is reported while accessing to the assistance.

## Utilization of assistance and satisfaction

- Despite the increased transfer value, the proportion of households satisfied with the entitlement decreases from 5 percent to 4 percent in the reporting period.
- Women continue to play a significant role in the decision-making process. In majority of the households (97%), decisions on how to spend the assistance is made either jointly or by solely by women.



# Chapter 1: Introduction

Turkey currently hosts approximately 4 million<sup>1</sup> refugees, the largest refugee population globally. 3.6 million of these people are Syrians displaced due to the conflict that started in Syria in 2011. The latest (May 2021) figures of the Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM) present that 55,972 vulnerable Syrians live in camps located in the South-East region of Turkey. This corresponds to around two percent of the Syrian refugee population in Turkey<sup>2</sup>. It is important to highlight that camp population has been decreasing since 2019<sup>3</sup>.

WFP continues its partnership with the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) to assist the 50,261 in-camp refugees as of May 2021, by means of e-voucher assistance, namely Kizilaykart. The card provides TRY 120 per person per month to cover mainly food needs, but the card may also be used to purchase limited non-food items. The Turkish Government provides containers that include basic household equipment such as electric stoves and utensils for each refugee household, so that they use their assistance to prepare wholesome meals for their families.



<sup>1</sup> UNHCR March 2021 Fact Sheet: <https://www.unhcr.org/tr/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2021/05/UNHCR-Turkey-Operational-Update-February-March-2021.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> DGMM website, <https://www.goc.gov.tr/gecici-koruma5638>

<sup>3</sup> Refugees Association (May 2021), [https://multeciler.org.tr/turkiyedeki-suriyeli-sayisi/?gclid=Cj0KCQjwzYGBhCTARIsAHdMTQwPgqHM3I-mWbydxMk\\_MAm09awIF7VbmPuZgsCwsGLPqdvaq5eHVTYaAo1bEALw\\_wcB](https://multeciler.org.tr/turkiyedeki-suriyeli-sayisi/?gclid=Cj0KCQjwzYGBhCTARIsAHdMTQwPgqHM3I-mWbydxMk_MAm09awIF7VbmPuZgsCwsGLPqdvaq5eHVTYaAo1bEALw_wcB)

# Chapter 2: Objectives and Methodology

Monitoring and evaluation is crucial for continuous improvement of the programme, while ensuring that the assistance reaches those most in need. Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) activities are designed to evaluate the in-camp refugees' abilities to meet their basic needs, assess how their conditions have evolved over time, and how the e-voucher programme has supported the households in ensuring a smooth implementation process. WFP publishes the in-camp PDM report bi-annually.

PDM surveys are designed to collect data on households' food consumption, dietary diversity, consumption coping strategies, livelihoods coping strategies and expenditure patterns in order to determine households' general well-being and promote evidence-based interventions.



The 2021 Q1 in-camp PDM survey was carried out in the six WFP-supported camps in South-East Turkey. It is a cross-sectional survey that uses a single-stage random sample of beneficiary households who receive assistance through e-vouchers. Eight field staff conducted a total of 386 surveys between January and March 2021 through phone calls (see Annex 1). The sample size is determined based on the overall camp population by applying 95 percent confidence level and 5 percent margin of error and then proportionately distributed to each camp. Thus, the results are representative for all in-camp refugees but not at the camp level.



# Chapter 3: Findings

## 3.1. Demographics

Patriarchy is prevalent among Syrian refugee population. High majority of the households (87%) are headed by males. Almost half (40%) of the in-camp residents are children below 18 years old and additional 40 percent are at working age while one fifth are elderly (see Annex 2).

Refugees are given single-room containers which are very close to each other and the average household size is 5.5 individuals. This indicates that in-camp refugees live in crowded conditions.



## 3.2. Education and Turkish Language Ability

Education is one of the leading factors shaping individuals' lives, from building self-confidence to the capacity to earn an income and lead a dignified life. In general, head of households in camps have low education levels. About three quarters of all household heads hold either primary school (35%) or secondary school (38%) degree and only 5 percent graduated from a university. Females are less educated than males. One third of females have not received official training (no degree) while it is only 6 percent among males. More than half of males (59%) have at least secondary degree whereas 30 percent of females completed at least secondary school (see Annex 3). In addition,

percent of camp residents have never taken any technical, vocational or language courses.

Aside from education, ability to speak Turkish is also key for interaction with the host community members, therefore for social cohesion and integration to the society as well as access to the labour market. Overall, one-fourth (25%) of the household heads do not have sufficient Turkish language skills, particularly females (38%) (See Annex 4) suggesting that they would have a harder time finding employment. In contrast, considering their Turkmen ancestry, 19 percent of camp residents speak Turkish as their first language.

## 3.3. Vulnerable Sub-Populations with Special Needs

Although the majority of the refugee population are vulnerable, certain sub-groups are in greater need mainly due to the number of dependents or members with special needs. Vulnerable sub-populations include, but are not limited to, disabled individuals, chronically ill household members, separated children, and pregnant or breast feeding women. Data shows that 14 percent of the households have at least one pregnant or lactating female member, 27 percent have a disabled/chronically ill member with or without a medical report and additional 1 percent have an elderly person who cannot take care of himself (See Annex 5).



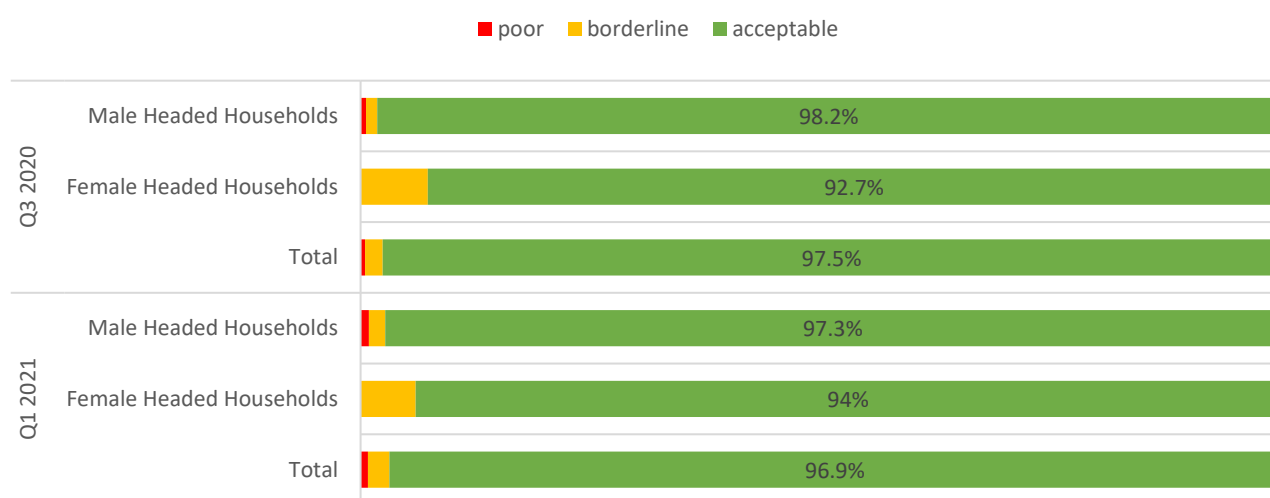


# Chapter 4: Outcomes

## 4.1. Food Consumption and Dietary Diversity

WFP calculates the household Food Consumption Score (FCS) which is linked to the household food access and thus serves as a proxy for household food security. The FCS is used to classify households into three categories based on their food consumption: poor, borderline or acceptable.

These food consumption groups aggregate households with similar dietary patterns - in terms of frequency of consumption and diversity - and access to food. In general, the proportion of households with acceptable food consumption remains at 97 percent. For female headed households (94%), amount of acceptable food consumption is lower than male headed households (97.3%) in Q1 2021 (Figure 1).

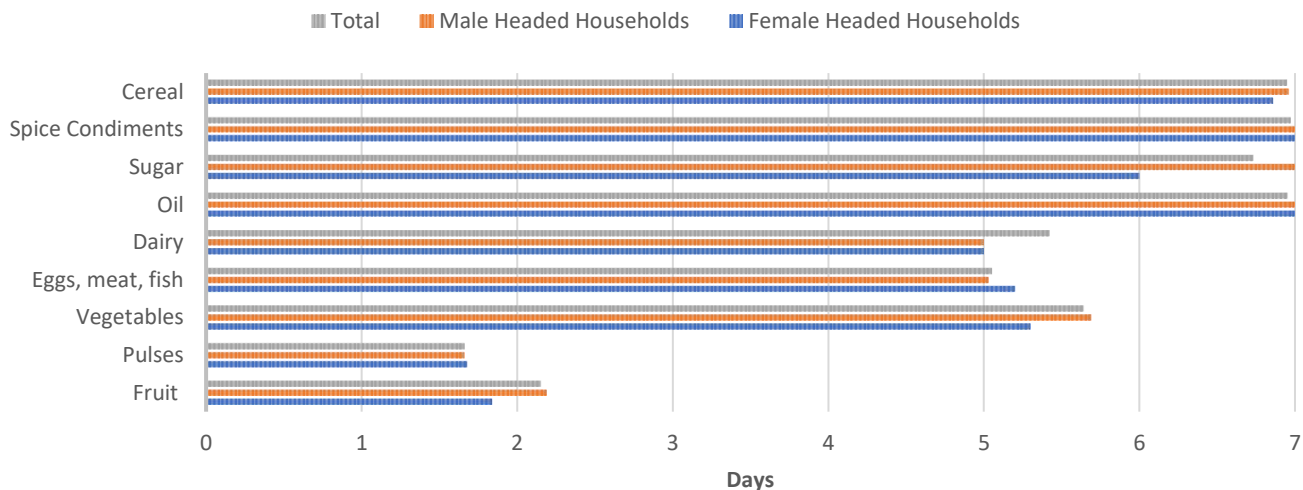


**Figure 1. Food Consumption Groups (Q3 2020 & Q1 2021)**

Despite high level acceptable food consumption, 40 percent says that they are not able to cook as much as they desire mainly due to lack of money to buy food. In line with that finding, 96 percent of the participants, thinks the amount of assistance provided is not enough to cover their basic food needs.

The day before the survey adults have 2 meals on average while children have 3 meals. The dietary diversity analysis shows that

most of the food groups are sufficiently consumed by both male and female-headed households, as seen in Figure 2, with the exception of fruits and pulses that are consumed less than twice a week. The female-headed households have almost the same variety of foods as male headed households with a slightly less frequency in vegetables and fruits consumption.

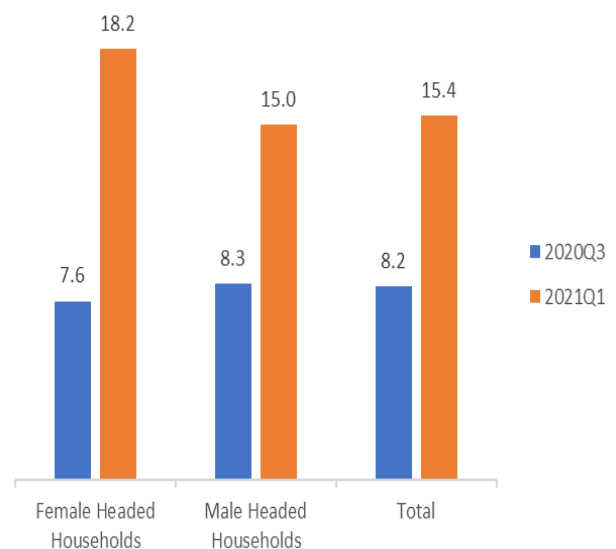


**Figure 2. Dietary Diversity Score**

## 4.2. Consumption Coping Strategies

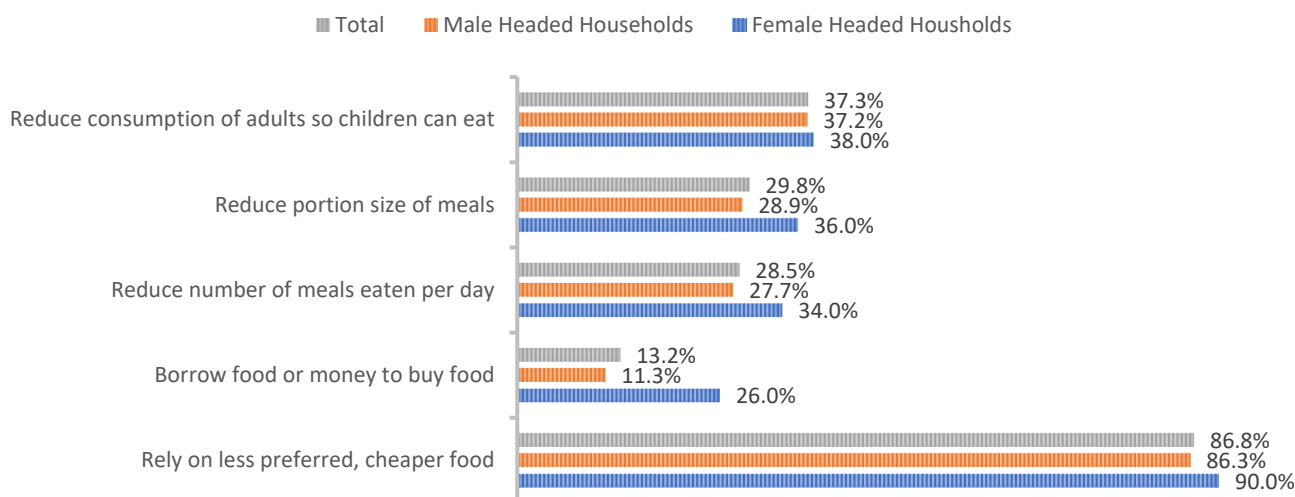
The reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) assess the weekly frequency and intensity of five consumption coping strategies on a weekly basis (i.e. reliance on cheaper or less preferred food, borrowing food, reducing the number of meals, reducing the portion size of meals, or reducing number of meals or quantities for adults to allow small children to eat more). A lower rCSI score indicates that a household can fulfil its food needs without changing its daily food consumption habits.

Beneficiaries more frequently resorts to consumption-based coping behaviors in Q1 2021 as compared to the previous reporting period. The rCSI score increased by 88 percent (from 8.2 in Q3 2020 to 15.4 in Q1 2021) (Figure 3). The rCSI increases more among female-headed households (by 141 %) more than male-headed households (by 81 %). WFP’s analysis on the minimum cost of a nutritionally balanced food basket (WFP—Turkey, Market Bulletin, Q1 2021) demonstrates 8 percent increase since the last reporting period in Turkey. That explains the increase in relying on the consumption coping strategies because although households remains at the same level for acceptable food consumption, they manage it by applying coping strategies.



**Figure 3. Reduced Coping Strategy Index values of Q3 2020 & Q1 2021**

The most frequently used coping strategy is relying on cheaper or less preferred food, applied by 87 percent of the households. Also, one third of the beneficiaries reduce portion size of the meals and the number of meals eaten per day, and adults consume less to ensure children have enough food intake (Figure 4).



**Figure 4. Frequency of Resorting to Consumption Coping Strategies**

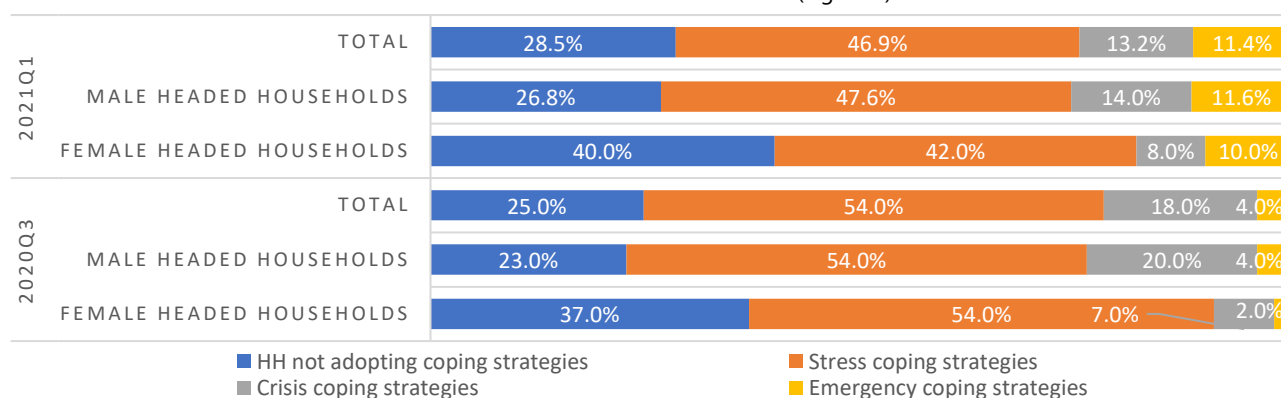
### 4.3. Livelihood Coping Strategies

The use of longer-term household coping mechanisms is measured by livelihood coping strategy index. This also reveals the stability of a household's productive capacity as well as its current and future ability to meet basic needs. Some strategies, such as reducing essential expenditures or sending school-aged children to work are more drastic than others such as selling household assets and have longer term consequences for household resilience. The PDM surveys ask the participants if they have used any of the 13 different livelihoods coping strategies in the previous 30 days, which are classified as stress, crisis and emergency depending on their severity.

In Q1 2021, as in Q3 2020, the camp residents use some livelihood coping strategies. On the other hand, households adapting emergency coping strategies have increased by 7.4 percent. The top three emergency coping strategies applied by households are moving to other provinces, returning to country of origin, and involving children in income generation. The rise

in the number of refugees using emergency coping mechanisms indicates that more refugees are having difficulty meeting their basic needs. Work stability can be compromised as a result of the prolonged Covid-19 crisis and lockdowns. According to the current in-camp PDM analysis, more than half of the households depend on unskilled labor (51 %) like many Syrian refugees and their job security is jeopardized by both Covid-19 and winter season. Although Covid-19 puts a financial burden on many people in Turkey, Syrian refugees are more at risk because of not only being illegal/irregular workers (such as seasonal agriculture worker) who cannot benefit from the economic support provided by the government but also unlikely having savings to sustain their lives during this challenging period.

Further gender analysis shows that male-headed households use all levels of coping strategies (stress, crisis, and emergency) more often (Figure 5).



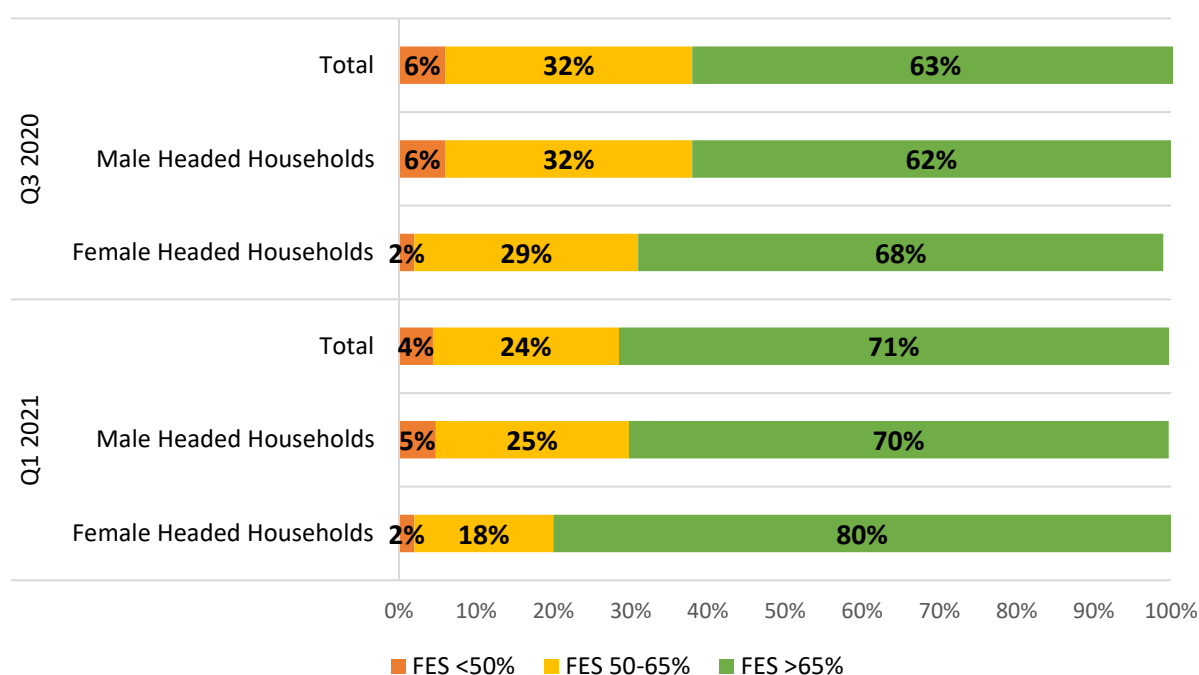
**Figure 5. Application of Livelihood Coping Strategies**

## 4.4. Expenditure

An average household spends approximately TRY1281 on food which equates to TRY233 per person per month (70 % percent of their total household expenditure), increases from 68 percent in Q3 2020. WFP's long-running advocacy efforts culminates in a transfer value increase from 100TRY to 120TRY, which took effect in January 2021. The amount spent on food<sup>4</sup> is significantly higher than the monthly assistance amount of TRY120 per person that confirms the higher rates

of dissatisfaction among the beneficiaries with the entitlement; only 4 percent say the assistance is adequate to meet their basic needs.

Further analysis highlights that households' with more than 65 percent of their expenditure on food is higher for female headed households, a 12 percent increase from Q3 2020, as summarized in Figure 6.



**Figure 6. Food Expenditure Share (FES)**

<sup>4</sup> The food basket cost increased by 11% in the contracted markets compared to Q3 2020 when the transfer value was 100 TRY (WFP, Market Bulletin, Q1 2021).



# Chapter 5: Process Indicators

The PDM surveys gather data on a number of measures related to the implementation process, such as beneficiary expectations and understanding, as well as security concerns. The main results are summarized under three themes in this section: awareness and sensitization, safety and protection, and assistance utilization and satisfaction.

## 5.1. Awareness and Sensitization

### Beneficiary Awareness and Information Channels

Almost all respondents (98%) know how much they are entitled to receive. Except for four beneficiaries, all participants are aware of the date they receive assistance. More than half (55%) say that family, friends and/or neighbors are their primary source of information about the programme. The Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) staff is listed as the primary information source by 22 percent of the participants, while social media is mentioned by 12 percent of the participants. Interestingly, social media is very rare information source in the previous period; nevertheless, it has grown in importance across camps (Figure 7). Overall, males and females have similar preference for access to information.

### Experience with the Feedback and Complaint Mechanism

As compared to the previous reporting period, fewer people report having assistance-related issues in Q1 2021 (17%). Similar to Q3 2020, in Q1 2021 the main issue is the high prices in the contracted markets (expressed by 88% of those who reports having problems).

Disaggregated camp data reveals that residents in Kilis are more likely to experience assistance related problems. More than half of the beneficiaries in Kilis (65%) stated that they experience problems in Q1 2021, followed by Adana (11%), Kahramanmaraş (11%), and Osmaniye (6%), respectively (Figure 8). Since their problem is too high prices in the contracted markets, the reason behind why they do not contact regarding their problem is that they think their problem is a nationwide economic issue.

Altinozu and Yayladagi (Hatay) are the leading camps with the most assistance related issues in Q3 2020. During this monitoring period, no problem is reported by those camps, which is a positive development. However, Elbeyli camp (Kilis) has higher complaints on that issue in this reporting period.

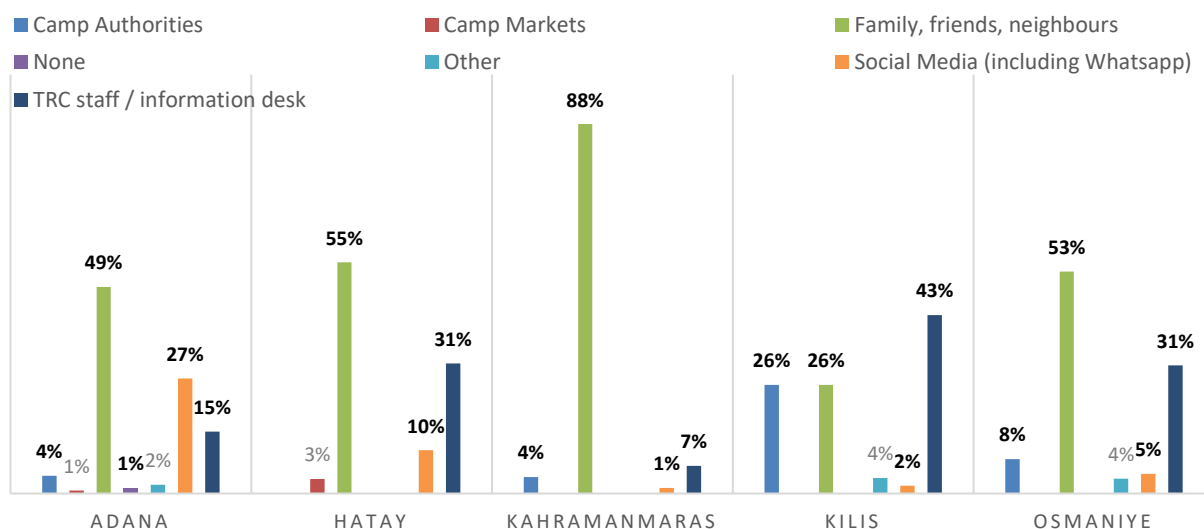
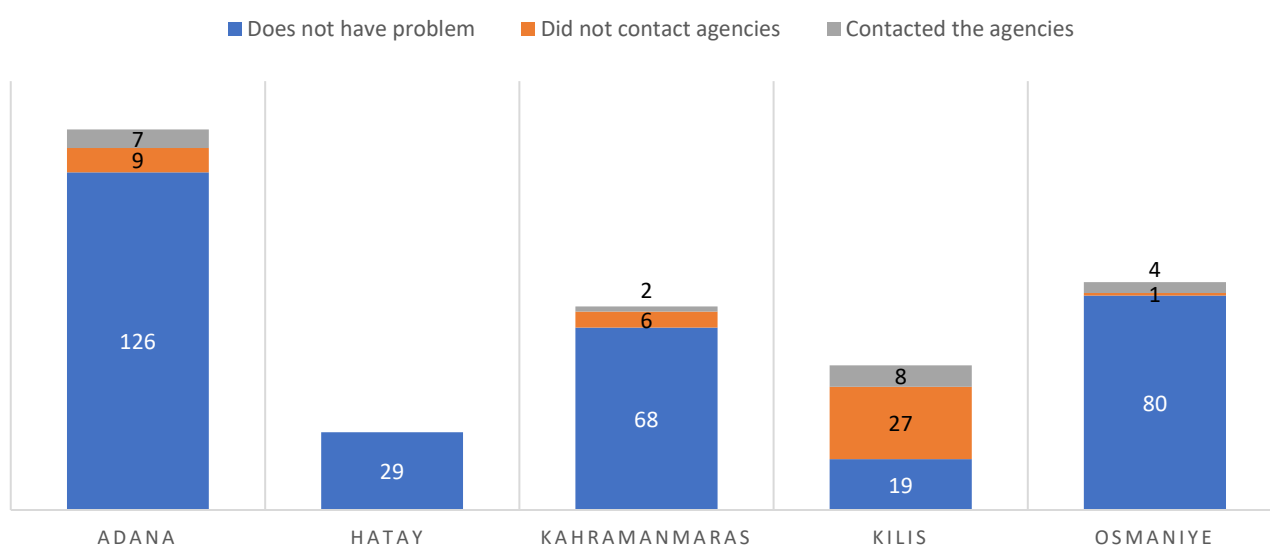


Figure 7. Main information channel by camps



**Figure 8. Complaints according to camps**

The majority of participants know who to contact when they face problems. Even so, only 33 percent of them contact with the official channels, representing a significant decrease compared to Q3 2020 (73%). Female-headed households, especially, are more likely to engage with official contact points to solve their problems (57%). Nevertheless, in Kilis (77%) and Kahramanmaras (75%), camp residents do not share their problems with the authorities because they do not believe in that their problems will be solved as their main problem is high prices in the contracted markets (86% in Kilis; 83% in Kahramanmaras). For many of the households, the most favored contact channel for raising issues is through the TRC staff (78%). When looking at the proportion of solved cases, half of them are addressed.

## 5.2. Safety and Protection

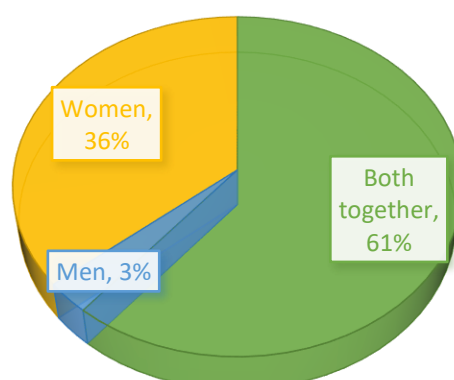
None of the participants report that their household member(s) experience safety/protection problems as a result of being a beneficiary of the TRC-WFP programme within the last 2 months prior to the survey in this reporting period. However, 11 participants (out of 386) indicate that they or members of their households have not been treated with respect.

## 5.3. Utilization of Assistance and Satisfaction

Despite the increase in transfer value, only 4 percent of the households believe that the monthly assistance amount is

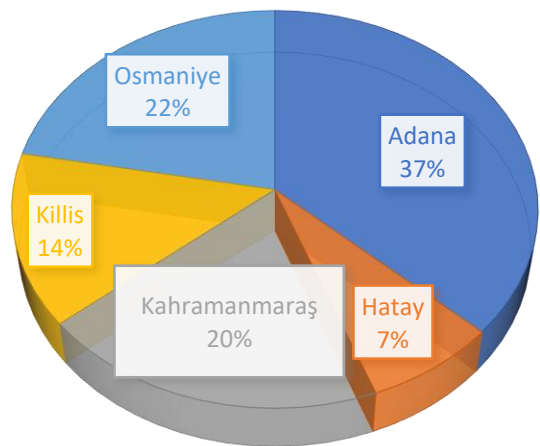
enough to cover their needs (See Annex 6). The figure goes down from 7 percent in pre-Covid period, most likely due to both negative effect of Covid-19 on economy and the deteriorating purchasing power triggered by high inflation rates nationwide.

The decision on how to use the assistance is made by men and women together in 61 percent of the households. Women make the decision to utilize the assistance alone in 36 percent of the households, showing that in high majority of the households (97%) women are involved in the decision-making process (Figure 9).



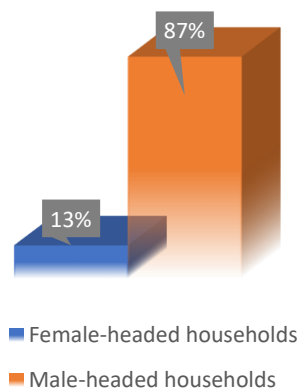
**Figure 9. Who decides about the use of e-voucher**

# Annex

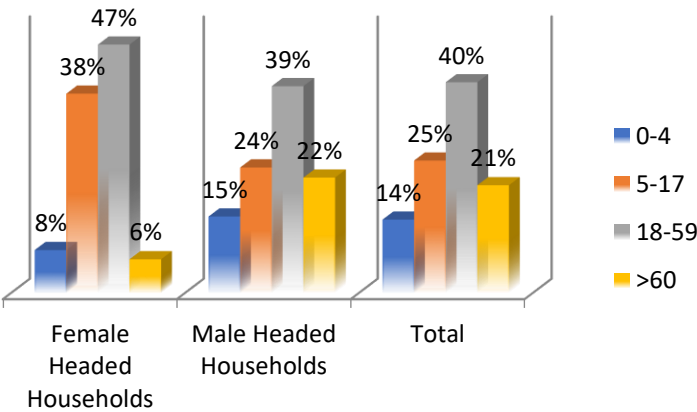


Annex 1. PDMs per Province

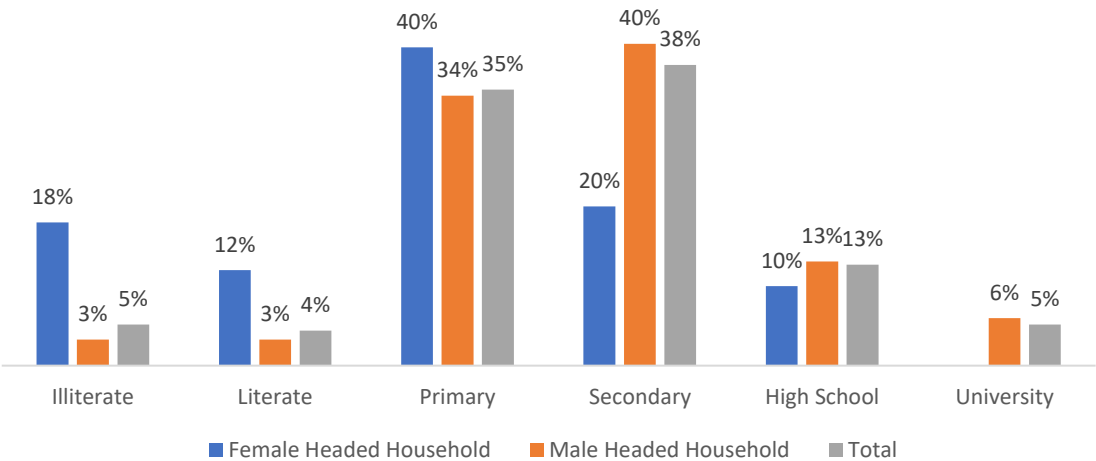
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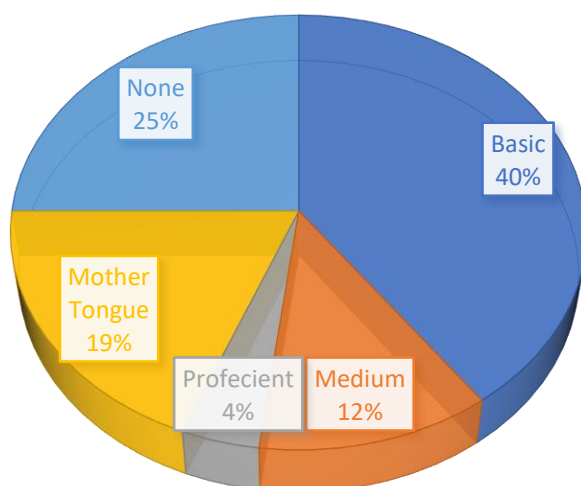
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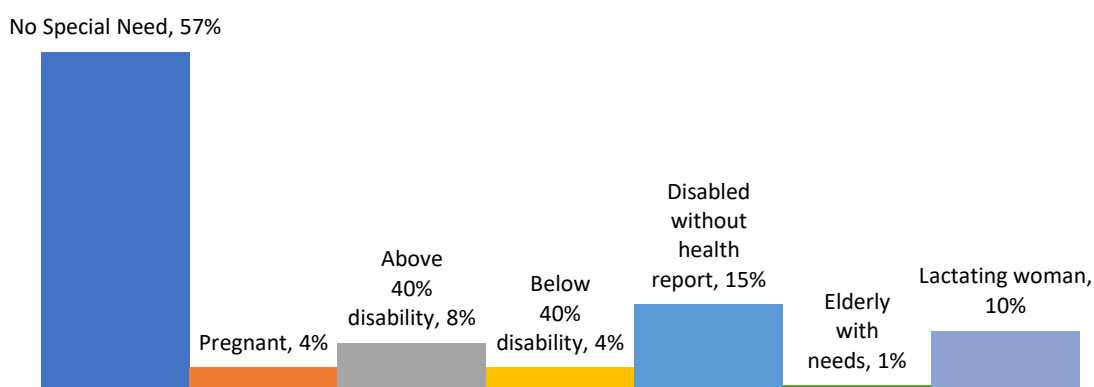
Annex 2. In-camp population by gender of household head (a) and age (b)



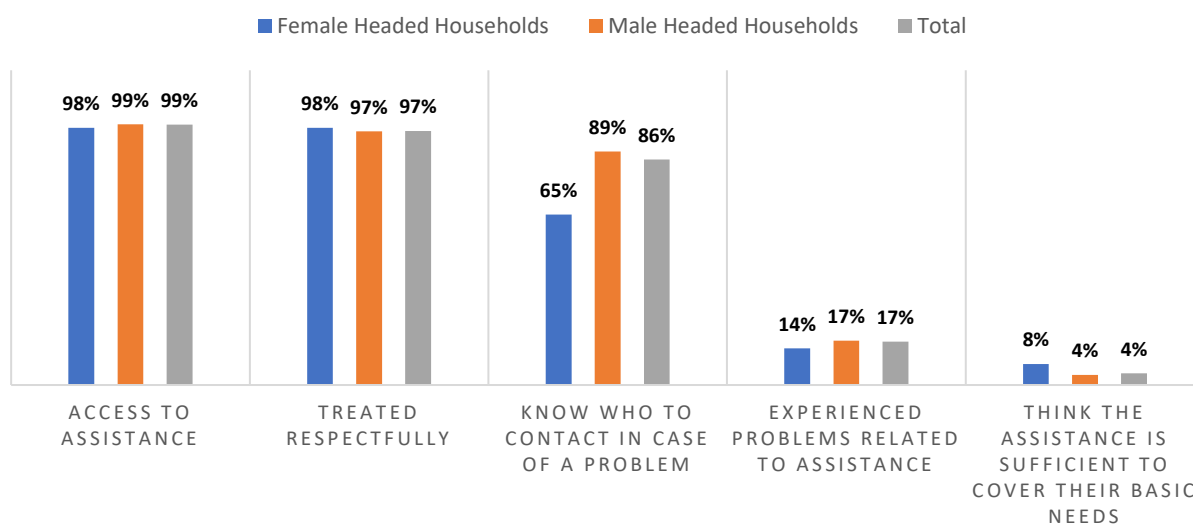
Annex 3. Education level of the head of households



**Annex 4. Turkish language ability of household heads**



**Annex 5. Households members with special needs**



**Annex 6. Beneficiary feedback**





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