KIZILAYKART
Cash Based Migration Programmes / No:3 November 2018

~2 Million
Emergency Social Safety Net, Conditional Cash Transfer for Education, In Camp Food Assistance Programmes
Beneficiary Numbers

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This programme is funded by the EU.
The reality of this world is that strong crushes the weak, oppresses them, and resorts the brute force when they do not obey. While humanity is becoming more distant to peace each day, unfortunately the number of needy people are increasing gradually. Beyond delivering the fastest and the most effective humanitarian aid to conflict areas, the establishment of a peaceful atmosphere that will prevent the occurrence of conflicts, settling the parties, establishing a healthy communication should be the main target of the international community.

We hope that the stance of the Republic of Turkey in response to the events in the neighboring country Syria and the hospitality will be an example to the world. The amount spent for immigrants from our country's own resources is about $32 billion. I'm proud as a citizen of the Republic of Turkey because of the devoted supports provided by our state.

The responsibilities and the tasks we have undertaken to support the vulnerable, protected groups within the scope of the Kızılaykart Programmes are appreciated. We receive feedbacks in this direction from the institutions/organizations we cooperated with.

We express our gratitude to our project partners who contributed to the implementation processes of Kızılaykart Programmes and the institutions that supported and funded. Although the human-based conflicts are resolved sooner or later, in case of natural disasters, the precautions and the efforts taken can be insufficient. Due to the earthquake and tsunami in Indonesia, 1,300 people have lost their lives, about 1.4 million people have been affected by the disaster. As the Turkish Red Crescent, we have appointed our experts to provide relief after the disaster in Indonesia. Our teams went to Jakarta to draw a disaster response road map and organized the distribution of aid materials. We are grateful for the contribution of the charitable Turkish people in the aid campaign organized by the Turkish Red Crescent.

As Turkish Red Crescent, we continue our work in order to fulfill our responsibilities in the best way possible. From this point of view, we have conducted a new study in order to train the future's Red Crescent teams. Within the scope of the Red Crescent Week, we have implemented 'Kızılay Street' project for the children and the youths in the Turkish Red Crescent Etimesgut Campus. Young people spent a week at 'Kızılay Street' in which they participated in disaster prevention training, student activities in child friendly game tools, Red Crescent presentations and demonstrations.

While we are on the verge of the end of this year that we celebrate our 150'th anniversary, we will continue to look for the relief for the people in need with all of our staff working under the roof of Turkish Red Crescent.

Dr. Kerem Kınık
Turkish Red Crescent
President
KIZILAYKART-ESSN, has presented a brand new implementation with an aim of reaching vulnerable groups. As of 31 August 2018 the first payment of Severe Disability Assistance was completed which provides additional support beside ESSN assistance to the severely disabled, needy-indigent foreigners living in Turkey under International / Temporary Protection.

What is Severe Disability Assistance?
Severe Disability Assistance is a new assistance for the ESSN beneficiaries with a disability level of 50% or higher and who are dependent upon someone else's care. A valid disability health report issued by an authorized state hospital should be submitted to application centers which shows a disability level of 50% or higher and 'severely impaired' section marked as 'Yes'. The applications which will be assessed within 5-9 weeks can be made through Türk Kızılay Service Centres and SASFs operating with over 1000 branches throughout Turkey. The households that meet the programme criteria receives the assistance.

As of 31 August 2018, the first payment of the assistance has been made for the each severely disabled member of the household. Severe Disability Assistance payments are made to KIZILAYKART-ESSN account and the beneficiaries can use the amount at all Point of Sale (POS) and ATM machines across Turkey through Kızılaykart, which is being implemented by the banking infrastructure of Halkbank. As of 31 August 2018, 4289 people benefitted from the first Severe Disability Assistance payment within the scope of ESSN.

An Overview: We started to implement ESSN Severe Disability Assistance within the framework of the KIZILAYKART-ESSN Programme which is implemented jointly by Turkish Red Crescent and World Food Programme; by the resources provided by ECHO, through the infrastructure of the Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Services. Severe Disability Home Care Assistance was a support provided by Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Services for Turkish citizens. Through the one of the fundamental principles of the Turkish Red Crescent, ‘impartiality’; we decided to implement Severe Disability Assistance mainly for the Syrians and the communities living in Turkey under International / Temporary Protection within the scope of ESSN. Impartial humanitarian assistance aspect of Turkey was exemplified with this crucial implementation.

Orhan Hacimehmet
Kızılaykart Cash Based Migration Programmes // Programmes Coordinator
The Emergency Social Safety Net Programme supports people living in Turkey under International/Temporary Protection or humanitarian residency. It has reached around 1.4 million beneficiaries in its second year. We conducted visits to the parties developing and implementing the programme in order to hear their assessment of the two-year process and achievements of the ESSN. The EU’s Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), UN World Food Programme (WFP), Directorate General of Population and Citizenship Affairs, General Directorate of Migration Management, Turkish Red Crescent Service Center, representatives of two different Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundations and Mr. Mustafa Güler, District Governor of Gebze answered our questions.

Claudia Amaral
Head of EU’s Humanitarian Aid Office in Ankara

The ESSN is a clear example of the strong partnership of the EU and Turkey in finding innovative ways to address one of the most important humanitarian challenges of our times. With the commitment and work of our partners, the impact of the programme grows by the day and is making a real difference for refugees in Turkey.

Devrig Velly
ECHO Turkey Country Office // Programme Team Leader

We are working hand in hand with partners including international NGOs, UN agencies, The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the Turkish Government to reach the common objectives of addressing human suffering in emergency and providing relief to affected populations.
How did the ESSN programme implementation begin?
The ESSN was officially launched in September 2016. However, in the months preceding this, ECHO, the Turkish Red Crescent, WFP, UNHCR and the different ministries of Turkish Government had already been discussing a strategic framework for assisting refugees in Turkey. Some discussions started in early 2016 around the idea of providing cash transfers to support the most vulnerable refugees. We received several proposals from a number of international partners to implement the ESSN. WFP submitted the more substantial project which built on the existing partnership with Turkish Red Crescent to shape the project in a country as big as Turkey with a large refugee population needed close coordination between different institutions, such as the Turkish Red Crescent, AFAD, DGMM (Migration Management), Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Services, DGPC (Population and Citizenship), and international NGOs to name just a few. Month by month the beneficiary numbers increased and by September 2017 the ESSN had reached 1 million beneficiaries, a real achievement in such a short period of time. We are now supporting around 1.4 million recipients.

“...The most important thing about this type of assistance is that the beneficiaries are the ones deciding how to spend the money. People are able to use it in the way they think is the best."

Emmanuel Safari (WFP) with a Kızılaykart beneficiary
ESSN cash based assistance is touching the lives of the refugee population in Turkey. How would you evaluate the effects of the assistance?

We are sure that the assistance is well received by the beneficiaries. They understand the criteria that they must fulfill in order to qualify for the ESSN. We closely monitor the situation of the beneficiaries after they receive the assistance. We can see that the beneficiaries are very satisfied with the assistance and how it made a difference in their lives. The assistance doesn’t cover all the needs of the families but aims to cover basic needs such as rent and bills, health, food and non-food and transportation related expenses. Thanks to the ESSN, the very vulnerable families are now able to pay their rent, pay their utility bills or buy food they prefer. It definitely makes a difference in the lives of the people in need. It is a regular, monthly, unconditional and unrestricted cash transfer.

The assistance empowers the family as they know that the amount will be paid to their account on a regular basis and they can decide themselves what is most urgent to purchase. The most important thing about this type of assistance is that the beneficiaries are the ones deciding how to spend the money. People are able to use it in the way they think is the best. According to our monitoring exercises, ESSN beneficiary families have been able to reduce their negative coping mechanisms, such as sending their children to work. They improved the amount and quality of food they buy. These are the major achievements of the ESSN.

The ESSN programme also positively impacts the local economy because people are spending their money in local shops and markets. This contributes to building social cohesion between refugees and the local communities.

“Something that is very important is that the project provides assistance directly to the beneficiaries and it is very cost efficient. More than 85% of the total amount goes directly to the refugees.”
Will you have new projects in Turkey related to the refugee population?

We support projects for refugees where there are identified specific needs. We are not only providing support for the basic needs of the refugee population in Turkey. We are also supporting the Conditional Cash Transfer for Education Programme (CCTE) which is being implemented by UNICEF with the support of Ministry of National Education. It is modelled after a similar Turkish system for children from vulnerable families so they are encouraged to attend school regularly by providing bi-monthly cash transfers. The CCTE programme uses the same platform as the ESSN, which provides the payments directly to refugees through the Kızılaykart. The CCTE programme is based on a national project for Turkish families. We are also supporting specialised health and protection projects in Turkey, assisting refugees who need prostheses or counselling for trauma, supporting women who are victims of violence, specialised education projects for out of school children, and many more besides.

The CCTE programme uses the same platform as the ESSN and using the Kızılaykart. It is the same card where a family receives complementary cash assistance specifically for education.

One of the tiny faces of Kızılaykart
World Food Programme (WFP) is one of the strongest humanitarian assistance organizations in the world which is one of the implementing partners of the ESSN. WFP Country Director and Representative Nils Grede, conveyed his views on ESSN and activities of WFP across the world.

**World Food Programme is the largest humanitarian organization in the world addressing hunger and promoting food security. What are the main activities of WFP in the world?**

WFP have 2 main pillars in the world. One is emergency response; responding to earthquakes, hurricanes, displacement cause by civil war (that is what happened in Syria). The second pillar is development type activities. Working in stable contexts, helping governments in school feeding programmes, improve their policies on food security, helping ministries of health with providing nutrition support. The first pillar, emergency response is 70% of our work.

**Emergency Social Safety Net is the largest cash based assistance programme in the world. How did the programme implementation process begin?**

Previously, I was in Turkey for a refugee programme in the camps. Small percentage of refugees were in the camps. WFP and Turkish Red Crescent jointly started to provide food voucher to these refugee groups. In a small pilot scale we implemented food voucher programme that initially contracted with specific stores only for food supply. The next step was assisting the people who live outside of the camps. As they have needs beyond the food; the food vouchers was probably not the best way to assist them. Therefore, we decided to switch to cash transfers. The programme scaled up very quickly; by the November 2016 Kızılaykart Programmes started. Less than a year time, we have reached 1 million beneficiaries.

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**Would you please tell us about the joint management process with Turkish Red Crescent while implementing ESSN?**

It is a very unique situation in Turkey. Typically, WFP works in contexts where it is difficult to find partners with such strong capacity as Turkish Red Crescent. Because often we work in less developed countries. Turkey is unfortunate to be in this neighborhood next to a major conflict in Syria. But Turkey itself is a stable, very developed country with a strong government and strong civil society. Here in Turkey we could build partnership with Turkish Red Crescent, a very strong organization. Turkish Red Crescent have implemented the programme with some supports from WFP because WFP have similar humanitarian programmes even though not at this scale.
We share our experiences from other contexts. So it is a ‘win-win’ situation; we can benefit from knowledge, expertise and good reputation that Turkish Red Crescent has in Turkey. Usually Turkish people doesn’t know WFP because we don’t have a long history in this country. And also, Turkish Red Crescent can benefit from the decades of the experience of WFP gained from such programmes that assisted affected populations.

**What were the main problems WFP faced during implementing ESSN?**

The big issue in the beginning was the expectations of both Turkish Government and EU to scale up very quickly. To do that, we needed targeting mechanisms. Normally, we would have preferred to visit each household. A household visit is conducted by a social worker to assess their food security and their poverty level. And then decide household by household who needs the assistance most. Because, the sources are not sufficient and ESSN is not for all refugees but for the most vulnerable ones. We did not have the time to do all of the household visits.

So instead of household visits, we used targeting criteria which are largely based on demographics; how many children, old people household have; is there disabled person in the household... The criteria are good but they are not perfect. So, it is necessary to exclude some of the households from the programme and include some new households which may not meet the demographic criteria. SASFs are now visiting each of the households to make sure if the households really need the assistance. This fall we are starting the ‘SASF Allowance’; giving each SASF a small amount of allowance that they can include the households which do not meet the criteria but assessed as extremely poor.

This is a plan B; a second mechanism to deal with those cases where the criteria are not working.

In some of the feedbacks received from field; there were some criticism regarding ESSN criteria. What is the role of criteria in a cash based assistance programme, what is the reasoning behind the criteria? The ideal mechanism was to only start the assistance after household visits. Make the household visits which uses a standard check list to see how poor the household is. However in this case, in a very urgent crisis situation, it would not be appropriate to wait to finish the household visits. So, second best option we had in this case is to use the criteria that are based on some factors such as single parents, disabled family members, household with old people and children... As I said before, they are good criteria but not perfect.
Criteria was the only option we had, in order to start the assistance very quickly for large number of people.

When we say, ‘we have inclusion errors’, we descript the beneficiaries that are not extremely poor. Frankly, we are not talking about the households in middle class who have car; we meant the households barely above the poverty line. We are looking at all Syrian refugees who have arrived in Turkey in last 6-7 years. They are quite homogeneously poor. We should not believe that wealthy households have been included to the assistance. Unfortunately, because of the limited resources, we are trying to discriminate between the poor and very poor. We need to focus on this very poor people.

ESSN has reached 1.4 million beneficiaries with programme updates such as Severe Disability Assistance, SASF Allowance, revisions in criteria. What is the importance of updates when implementing a humanitarian assistance programme?

Turkish Red Crescent and WFP are both learning organizations. Previously, WFP has implemented cash programmes in different countries but every context is different. So we did benefit a lot from the previous experiences and learnt a lot from the mistakes. A good humanitarian assistance programme always means being open to changing as you discover what works and what does not work. For example, the SASF Allowance is a way to ensure that we can include the vulnerable households so that the programme does improve the targeting.

For both Turkish Red Crescent and WFP, we believe that we know the right response to crisis situations however we need to remain open to learn and improve. I am happy to see that all indicators regarding ESSN show that the assistance is working as the poverty level of our beneficiaries is reducing. The poverty level has reduced from 21% to 11%; so this means before they start getting assistance, they were extremely poor but now the situation is better.

And the coping strategies of the beneficiaries such as taking children out of the school, begging on the streets, eating less preferred food; those are coming down. So these are all good results of the programme. In many humanitarian assistance programmes, when you monitor the results of your activities; you realize some indicators are moving in the right directions but others are not... If the programme in the way you have designed is not the deliberant result; you need to change the programme.

“Turkey is hosting the world's largest refugee population. There is something we always need to emphasize that not only Turkish Government but also Turkish people are contributing enormously to cope with the impacts of the crisis that is happening in Syria. Something that the world often in the heat of the politics keeps forgetting that Turkey is an example of how to deal with migration and how to deal with refugee crisis.”
Ministry of Interior, Directorate General of Population and Citizenship Affairs is contributing to the social cohesion process by registering the foreigners living in Turkey under International / Temporary Protection through MERNIS system (Central Civil Registration System) and is concurrently placed among the institutions that support the ESSN. Sinan Güner, Director General of Population and Citizenship Affairs, expressed his opinions...

“...In accordance with the law no. 6458 on Foreigners and International Protection, the ID number is given to the foreigners by Directorate General of Population and Citizenship Affairs within the framework of the 8’th article of the law no. 5490 on Population Services whose personal information are provided through electronic platform by Directorate General of Migration Management. ”

Could you please tell us about the duties of Directorate General of Population and Citizenship Affairs in migration processes?

Directorate General of Population and Citizenship Affairs has no duties and responsibilities directly related to the migration. In accordance with the law no. 6458 on Foreigners and International Protection, the ID number is given to the foreigners by Directorate General of Population and Citizenship Affairs within the framework of the 8’th article of the law no. 5490 on Population Services whose personal information are provided through electronic platform by Directorate General of Migration Management. With reference to the data submitted, foreigners can be classified according to temporary protection status, international protection status, working or residence permit and the nationality. This information is also shared with all public institutions and organizations through the Identity Sharing System. Address registration is made if the foreigners submit their address by applying to the district Directorate General of Population and Citizenship Affairs.
What are your opinions about the social cohesion process of the migrants in Turkey?

It is a case where differences in culture and lifestyle between migrants and the local communities make the adaptation process difficult. The process of acceptance and adaptation of both communities is a two-way process. As a result of holistic exercises carried out by related institutions and organizations in order to push on this process, it is observed that the adaptation phase of the migrants to the economy, social and cultural life is accelerating. We believe that this increase will continue.

The number of Syrian foreigners registered in 2017 was 700,000, and as of today, this number has reached 2,000,000. This is an indicator of social cohesion and participation in social life.

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What do you think about the ESSN?

Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) is of great importance for all foreigners, especially Syrians, in the means of to be socialized and to adapt to the social life. In our opinion, it is an important programme at the point of registration in terms of the institutions. Within the framework of the ESSN, we have achieved a large increase in the number of foreigners who have registered in the system thanks to our joint efforts with AFAD, Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Services, Directorate General of Migration Management and Turkish Red Crescent. We care about this programme as an institution.

How is the coordination between the institutions / organizations involved in the implementation process of the ESSN?

The realization of goals requires close cooperation between relevant institutions. As we have already mentioned, we have worked in cooperation with the ESSN and will continue to work.

In order to increase the number of registered addresses and registered foreigners, we took steps to ensure the integration between the Directorate General of Migration Management / Goc.gov.tr and our systems. We continue our efforts to complete this integration.
Ministry of Interior
Directorate General of Migration Management

Migration is a fact that humanity faces due to the social, political, religious and climatic reasons as compulsory or voluntary. Today, Turkey is an important route for the forced migration movements which are mostly originated from the least developed countries. As well as being a transcontinental bridge, Turkey also attracts attention as a target country that is hosting world's most crowded immigrant population. Many official institutions / organizations and non-governmental organizations undertake different roles in the management and coordination of migration movements directed towards our geography. In our bulletin, we report the evaluations of Abdullah Ayaz, Director General of Migration Management of the Ministry of Interior, on the migration phenomenon and the practices conducted on immigration based issues.

At the present time, 65 million people in the world are looking for a country to live on their own. How do you assess the position of our country in the context of migration movements in the world?

Turkey, due to its geographical and strategic position throughout the history, has experienced the most intense human movements including the mass asylum and hosting of millions of refugees. In the first years of our Republic's history, our country has embraced those coming from the geographies that have linguistic, religious and kinship relations that were detached from the Ottoman Empire. Turkey, since the 1960's in particular has been a country of emigration in the framework of labor migration; became a bridge owing to its geographical structure between the source and the target countries that has functioned as a transit country. In recent years, as a consequence of economic, social and political facts, Turkey has become a target country and transformed into a country that has developed its experiences.

Abdullah Ayaz
Director General of Migration Management

“Turkey is still seen as transit and destination country by migrants.”

While a temporary ID was being produced in Migration Management office
Turkey is still seen as transit and destination country by migrants. Our country is a bridge between the Middle East, the Asian countries which are engaged in conflicts, instability and the European countries with the high level of welfare and the human rights standards. In addition to this, Turkey’s eastern hilly border regions which are hard to control and the irregular geographic structure of Aegean, Mediterranean that makes transiting suitable are the main facts that make Turkey transit destination for the refugees towards European Union nations. Especially in recent years, Turkey has become a center of attraction for regular and irregular migration movements with its increasing economic and political power and stable structure. Considering all these factors, it is seen that migration deeply affect Turkey’s economic, socio-cultural and demographic structure besides the public order and security.

This fact has led to the need for a new approach to migration management. With this new approach, it is aimed to balance the public security and the needs to assure individual rights and freedoms. The legislative and infrastructural works for human rights-based, manageable and institutional structuring, where strategies in the field of immigration and international protection (asylum) are determined, are carried out and updated in accordance with the examples in the world. Turkey's migration and international protection (asylum) commitment to becoming a model country in the world, to improve the qualifications and rights-based conservation areas in Turkey is crowned by the Law on Foreigners and International Protection.

Would you tell us about the duties of the Directorate General of Migration Management in the migration movements towards our country?

With the Law on Foreigners and International Protection, the basis of our national policies in the area of migration and international protection (asylum) has been established and the legal framework for the rights of the refugees and asylum seekers has been adapted to international standards and obligations.
Directorate General of Migration Management was established which is based on a holistic approach that is covering all stages of the phenomenon of migration and is built of strong migration management that enables effective cooperation between institutions by taking into account the individual rights & freedoms of foreigners and having sufficient personnel & expertise in order to conclude all the necessary procedures related to the migration process as soon as possible, to determine the migration policies by political will in accordance with the foreseeable objectives.

Although the section on the organization of the Directorate General of Migration Management of the Foreigners and International Protection Law was interrogated by the Decree Law No. 703, it continues to work with the same duties as the No. 4 Presidential Decree. Pursuant to the relevant Presidential Decree, the duties and authorities assigned to the Directorate General of Migration Management consist of the following headings: “Developing legislation and administrative capacity for migration, conducting studies on the determination of policies and strategies, carrying out processes and procedures on migration; carrying out processes and procedures on protection of the victims of human trafficking, social cohesion, temporary protection; identifying stateless individuals living in Turkey and carrying out related processes, conducting the duties of Ministry of Interior assigned on the Settlement Law, facilitating the coordination between governmental institutions and law enforcement officers in order to struggle against irregular migration, developing precautions against irregular migration and following the implementation of these precautions, assisting public institutions in programming and projecting migration related duties, evaluating and approving project proposals, monitoring ongoing works & projects and assisting these projects in order to be carried out in international standards.”

**What are the positive effects of migration on Turkey?**

Migration is a social fact that has emerged in the trigger of the demands and the needs of the dynamic existence of humanity. From the past to the present day, the mobility of people on the earth has caused social, economic and political changes in terms of the target countries; as well as the emigrant countries and the transit countries along the migration routes. In this respect, migration is considered as a factor that cannot be ignored in the strategic priorities and policies of the states and the internal codes of societies. Migration is closely related with politics, economy, social and cultural life. In particular, international migration affects many states at the same time. Most of the time, it provides labor force to the settled country, brings different skills and new ideas, and on the other hand it can cause loss of skilled labor in the source countries. Therefore, immigration also concerns countries that migrants leave behind as well as the countries they settle in and shape the interaction between these countries and leave permanent traces.

![A temporary accommodation center established for refugees within the scope of Syria Humanitarian Aid Operation](image-url)
How do you evaluate Emergency Social Safety Net Programme? How is the implementation process of the programme proceeding?

Emergency Social Safety Net Programme is implemented to provide the basic needs of the foreigners with dignity who are living outside the camps in Turkey under International / Temporary Protection and humanitarian residency. According to the programme; individuals receive 120 TL monthly cash assistance and periodic top-ups which is funded by ECHO and is jointly implemented by World Food Programme and our institutions. Programme aims to provide the basic needs of the beneficiaries and to prevent the external risks against them. Within the scope of the ESSN, 2,299,000 applications have been received since November 2016 and as of 2018 November, 1,447,000 people continue to receive assistance regularly. When we monitor beneficiaries’ profile, 60% of the beneficiaries are consisted of children, under 18 age. To reach and to inform this target group various communication channels are being used. SMS, official social media accounts and 168 Call Center are among these channels.

What are the challenges you face as an institution?
Migration is an interdisciplinary phenomenon and therefore many actors have an active role in the migration process. Cooperation and coordination among these actors is one of the most important issues for migration management, but also it is one of the challenges. In order to meet the education needs of foreigners, it is necessary to work in coordination with the Ministry of Education; in order to make arrangements for working it is necessary to work in coordination with the Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Services. Similar studies are carried out with all relevant institutions and organizations, NGOs and international organizations at different levels and intensity. Another problem we encounter is that foreigners want to live in metropolis with similar reasons as Turkish citizens. Istanbul is one of the most preferred cities for the foreigners with the residence permit. Istanbul is the most preferred city for foreigners due to reasons such as education, health and access to employment. The number of Syrians under Temporary Protection is the highest in Istanbul and the number is more than 562 thousand. The number of registration we received in Istanbul is more than the total number of some provinces in Anatolia. This increases our work density.
Mustafa Güler, the Governor of Gebze, evaluated the impact of the ESSN Programme and migration movements in the district.

“Gebze is a rapidly growing district with 368 thousand inhabitants and contributing to the national economy with industrial investments. Our district has an employment-oriented population; a residential unit with continuous migration. More than 30,000 migrants are living in the districts of Çayırova, Dilovası and Gebze which can be defined as Gebze Region. There has been no major problems regarding foreigners living in Gebze in the context of International / Temporary Protection. Immigrants were not found as strangers; there was a smooth transition in terms of social cohesion. Our people has adopted and supported the migrants coming to our district with a sense of mercy. There are 1400 households benefiting from the ESSN in our district. When we evaluate the impact of the ESSN in our district, we can say that it is the right implementation.

The Republic of Turkey was faced with a major migratory movements, has brought its facilities into the service. The Turkish people also supported the migrants within the framework of their opportunities. It was necessary to receive support from other countries and from the organizations & institutions such as UN, EU. This support has been provided but from my point of view, the supports should be increased. This problem is not only Syria’s or Turkey’s or the Middle East’s problem; it is the problem of the whole world and humanity. A representative office of the Migration Management is needed in our region.

“Our people has adopted and supported the migrants coming to our district with a sense of mercy.”

This issue is important both in terms of public order and in terms of monitoring the situation of people in social life. According to us; it is important that people who have the ability to work in the migrant population should be referred to employment. It is important to support refugees with 120 TL per person per month, this can continue till a specific date. On the other hand; we consider that the exclusion of the immigrants from the ESSN who are being employed in a formal job, would have negative effects as this may lead people to work without social security.”

A Good Practice: The Governorship of Kocaeli has developed a project for children working on the street; As the Gebze District Governorship, we are implementing this project too. When our mobile team that consists of; civilian police, municipal police, social service center staff and SASF officials detected a child working or begging on the street, they interfere this incident. We get in touch with the parents of the child and particular sanctions are applied at different levels. As a result of sanctions such as warnings and fines, the number of children forced to work on the street was greatly reduced; you can't see children begging or working on the streets of Gebze. On the other hand, by investigating the causes of the child labor; we support the family if they need help.
Would you please tell us the socio-economic and the cultural structure of Gebze?

Gebze, which is located next to Istanbul, was a small town with low level of industry, economy and population until 1980’s. In the 90’s, Gebze is becoming a rapidly growing and migration receiving district. Today, Gebze is the field of migration originated from different provinces of Turkey due to different reasons; but a significant portion of the migration is based on employment. After the Syrian crisis, we started to host immigrants from abroad.

How is the social cohesion between the foreign immigrants who came to Gebze after the Syrian crisis and the local community?

In Gebze, there has not been a big problem between the local community and the immigrants. Small scaled events took place, but there has been no mass reactions, no incidents. There are no offices of Directorate General of Migration Management, Turkish Red Crescent or the UN agencies in Gebze. Therefore, foreigners living under International / Temporary Protection in our region are visiting SASF on every question they encounter. For example, people who have problems with the landlord, who have problems at work, who have problems with identity come to our foundation.

A Suggestion: The employers with whom we had discussions in the region are not aware of under what conditions refugees can be employed. Employers do not know what to do to employ a foreigner. Registration of employees; both in terms of the economy of the country as well as employee health and social security are important. In our opinion, our employers should be informed about foreign employment procedures.

A Request: In the districts such as Gebze, where migrant population is dense; we want to have representative offices of Turkish Red Crescent, United Nations and DGMM. Let me explain with an example; a new immigrant family... Going to Kocaeli to register for the DGMM, it is about 45 km away. People are going to take an appointment from the relevant institution; then visiting the institution again on the appointment date. In case of a failure, they must go to Kocaeli again. National and international institutions / organizations who are supporting or implementing the ESSN Programme, should be visible in Gebze.

An Example: There was an incident in the years when we started to receive immigration. There was a refugee girl from Syria, who has her neck and her face burned under a bomb attack. She had to undergo some aesthetic operations. We referred the case to Gebze District Health Directorate and directed the little girl, İslam to the Derince Training and Research Hospital. There, a female doctor was closely interested in Islam. Then the doctor was appointed to Istanbul Haydarpaşa Hospital. There she continued the treatment of Islam. Nowadays, Islam is in a very good position compared to the previous times and we are very happy about this case.
Şanlıurfa Eyyübiye Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundation

Şanlıurfa Eyyübiye Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundation is one of the institutions that have the densest contact with the refugee population living in the region under International / Temporary Protection. We obtained information from the manager Mehmet Hamcan, regarding the duties of Eyyübiye SASF which is directly in contact with the beneficiaries and applicants through the household visits.

Can you tell us about the impact of household visits on the implementation of the ESSN Programme? What are the contributions of the household visits to the programme?

Within the scope of the Emergency Social Safety Net, we conduct visits to households that are benefiting from the programme. These visits are important to determine the social situation of the households and to measure the impact of the assistance on the household. The assistance is provided to families who meet demographic criteria. We have already visited 60% of the 7,000 families who are beneficiaries.

What are your views on the SASF Allowance?

This initiative, defined as ‘Decision of the Board of Trustees’ for Turkish Nationals in SASFs; within the scope of the ESSN, it is known as the Discretionary Right – SASF Allowance. According to the procedure we have implemented since the past; a citizen applies for assistance. The SASF social scrutiny officer conducts a visit to the household. Through these questions, household is examined: How much is the income, what is the job of the head of the household; is there a disabled, sick, children, women, elderly, pregnant and victims of violence. And also information is obtained from neighborhood tradesmen, neighbors and mukhtas. The social scrutiny officer submits the impression and information to the Board of Trustees.

When the Board of Trustees reads the report, they determine the status of the family and the assistance to be made. SASF Allowance, in terms of immigrants in Turkey; is crucial for the households who cannot benefit from the programme due to the demographic criteria. It is a step that can prevent some of the inconveniences of our experts faces in the field. As Eyyübiye SASF, we are keeping this issue on our agenda since two years and we exchange views on this issue with relevant institutions. There is a Syrian woman who was coming to our foundation; lives with her 6 daughters, she lost her husband in the war. Only one of the girls is under the age of 18 and does not meet the programme criteria. In Şanlıurfa, there is not a suitable working environment for this women and her daughters. SASF Allowance is of vital importance for this kind of people.

Should a scale be used during the implementation of the SASF Allowance? There are over 1000 SASFs in Turkey, how the consistency can be achieved?

We would like to thank the funding organization and the implementing institutions of the programme for this step.
I would like to state that; when you evaluate the households, for example when you grade on household’s electronic equipment, you are not measuring the living conditions of the family in a realistic way. Did the family buy it, or did someone else donate it? For me, such a scale would be a factor that could lead people to poor living conditions.

**So what do you suggest within the context of accountability?** Will the result be more consistent if the vulnerability assessment of the household is on the initiative of the social scrutiny officer?

The expert in the field takes a picture of the scene encountered in the household and reports it. He doesn't favor anybody, he doesn't misuse his duties. We will check the families again and again through different experts who start to benefit from the SASF Allowance. The SASF Allowance will be carried out for 5% of all applications made through related SASF; for our foundation, this means 50 families. We can visit them every month. I applied the SASF Allowance; I was directed by social scrutiny officer correctly or I was directed wrongly; we will be able to detect it through the multiple visits. The social scrutiny officer prepares the report and submits it to the delegation; the board of trustees will make the decision.

**Can you give information about the coordination / cooperation between Eyyübiye SASF and the cooperated institutions during the implementation process of ESSN Programme?**

We are in cooperation with the Turkish Red Crescent during the ESSN Programme implementation process. We receive support from Turkish Red Crescent in the means of logistics, human resources and implementation processes. Turkish Red Crescent Service Center, which is active in our district, plays very important roles. If the Red Crescent Service Center, which is active here, closes, it will be very difficult to carry out this work. WFP employees also organize routine visits to our foundation; take notes and exchange views. We have a healthy communication with them.

**What were the problems you encountered?**

We did not encounter major problems in the implementation phase of the programme. Our problems have been with the lack of vehicle and staff; but by the time it has been solved. In the implementation process of the programme, the positive sides militate.
Turkish Red Crescent Haliliye Service Center

Turkish Red Crescent Haliliye Service Center carries out the tasks such as receiving applications for Emergency Social Safety Net Programme, organization of card distribution, and conducting household visits. Hüseyin Çiftçi, a social assistance and scrutiny officer who visited over 4500 households, shared his impressions from the field.

We met an elderly lady during the household visits. She asked us that, what we were doing; we stated that we conduct visits to the households for the ESSN Programme. The lady invited us to her house. Together with her two daughters and 5 orphaned grandchildren, we witnessed the struggle of her for survival in very difficult conditions. We contacted the Turkish Red Crescent Service Center to examine her situation. Due to a problem with Mernis registration, we have learned that they have never benefited from the ESSN. We applied to the relevant institutions to solve the problem. As a result of the application procedures, the ESSN cash assistance was provided to the household. This elderly lady we have visited in the following dates, was thanking us; expressed her gratitude to the programme.

“The majority of families who benefit from the ESSN in our city are vulnerable Syrians.”
The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), drawing the attention for the world’s children by their significant works. Philippe Duamelle, the UNICEF Representative to Turkey has shared the UNICEF’s Turkey and Worldwide projects.

UNICEF has remarkable works for children. Can you tell us about your activities in the world?
UNICEF is the United Nation’s agency for children. UNICEF works on development and humanitarian issues. The original name of UNICEF when it was founded in 1946 was The United Nations International Children Emergency Fund. Sometimes this question is being asked; ‘Why does the letters of UNICEF not match with the ‘United Nations Children’s Fund’. We changed the name because the mandate of UNICEF evolved over time.
UNICEF was created to response to the humanitarian needs of the children in Europe. It was the end of World War II and Europe had been devastated by the war. There were millions of children in need of assistance and so that is how UNICEF started: bringing humanitarian assistance to the children of Europe. Later on, UNICEF became also a development agency that works before, during and after conflicts in the same locations.

In Turkey, UNICEF has been present since 1951: A long term partnership that has prevailed between Turkey and UNICEF.

“We only have one planet and need to the find ways to make sure we can all live together in peace and protect this home; the only home of human beings.”

UNICEF’s mandate is the promotion and protection of child rights around the world. A very important element of UNICEF work is the Convention on the Rights of the Child. For the first time in history, an international convention was quickly adopted by the largest number of countries in the world. The UN has 193 member states, 192 have adopted this convention. For the first time children were specifically defined as human beings with rights to be respected and protected, defining them as right holders.
Those rights are defined in many different ways such as: the rights to have a name, the rights to recreation and play, the rights to health, to education and to protection. These are the fundamental rights we all have the duty to promote and to protect.
We develop and implement programmes related to child protection; protection of children from abuses, protection from child labor and protection from child marriage and any type of abuses and exploitation that can happen around the world. We have large education programmes. We have programmes related to water and sanitation so making sure that (especially in emergency context) children and their family have access to clean water and access to proper sanitation. We have programmes related to health. Immunization campaigns, usually in cooperation with World Health Organization (WHO). And also we are implementing programmes related to mother and child health; to make sure women remain healthy before, during and after pregnancy. Nutrition is also a very important aspect of our programmes around the world to make sure pregnant and lactating women and children do have good nutritional status. We have programmes on social protection and also have specific programmes for adolescents and young people. As you can see, the spectrum of interventions is very large; from water and sanitation to immunization... It is not a one size fit all approach; those programmes are adapted to the needs of children, mothers and young people in a given context.

**Millions of children in the world are struggling in camps, on war zones and in very difficult conditions. What is the role of the international community in supporting children?**

The role of the international community must be to prevent such situations from happening; conflicts should be prevented. It costs so many innocent human lives and children are always the first victims of such situations. And that’s the very important role of the United Nations in gathering the nations around the negotiation table. Negotiate and find a solution before the conflicts occur, before the killings happened. What we see in Syria today, is a human tragedy that should never have happened. When the international community fails to prevent a conflict, then its responsibility is to make sure this conflict is stopped as soon as possible, and help people who are victimized by the conflict.

People have rights; to live, to have health services, to have education. The universal declaration of human rights, is fundamental and clearly specified that we all are equal and have the same rights. That is the important and crucial responsibility of the international community to protect those rights.

The international community has to preserve platforms, spaces for getting people, countries, together and discussing what tend to bring them apart. We only have one planet and need to find ways to make sure we can all live together in peace and protect this home; the only home of human beings.
What do you think about referring the children to the formal education? Can we get information about UNICEF’s work on this issue?

The Convention on the Rights of the Child defines the education as a fundamental right. We should guarantee the continuing of education, from pre-school to university. Turkey made a very good decision to make the one year of pre-school as a mandatory. Why is it important? Because early education gives better chances, and equips children to be successful with the rest of their education.

I would like to underline that, not all children will go to university or get PhD degrees. But the important thing is to guarantee an access to quality education and let the children develop to their full potential. The world also needs good mechanics, chefs, tailors; with a good quality education children will be able to choose their way.

Some children have special needs, they do not fit into mainstream education systems. These children should be able to access different forms of education more adapted to their specific needs; it could be vocational training or apprenticeship...

80% of the families benefiting from the Conditional Cash Transfer for Education (CCTE) Programme, are also benefiting from the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) Programme. So we have this wonderful complimentarity and synergy between these two programmes.

There are hundreds of thousands of beneficiaries of CCTE in Turkey. In your opinion, what effect did the CCTE Programme have on the life of beneficiary families and children?

I regularly visit refugee families to understand their reality. Many families have the desire to send their children to school because they know the importance of education for the future of their children. Many of them were saying that, ‘We left our lives behind in Syria. Here we are trying to start a new life. Through education, our children will have a better life than we have...’ For many of them it is a heart-breaking decision to send their children to work instead of sending them to school.
When I ask them, ‘What if you had a financial assistance, would you send your children to school’? They answer: ‘Of course I would, this assistance would help me to send my children to school’. Sure, CCTE Programme does not cover all the needs of a family because the amount is not big enough for that. However 80% of the families benefiting from CCTE, are also benefiting from ESSN. So we have this wonderful complementarity and synergy between these two programmes. The ESSN covers some of the basic needs of the family such as the rent and the food expenditures; and CCTE focuses on educational costs.

The CCTE is helping the families to register and keep their children at school. As of September 2018, 376,326 students; 188,595 girls, 187,731 boys received CCTE assistance at least once. There is also a child protection component attached to the CCTE. The Turkish Red Crescent outreach teams are working closely with UNICEF in 15 provinces of Turkey. The teams are looking at the families at risk: for instance children who dropped out of the school, or with a child not going school for a while... Detecting these issues through the school attendance of the children.

We work at policy level, we support our government partners and make the global expertise and experience of UNICEF available to them with the aim of making this world a better place for children. We work in more than 190 countries around the world.

We also work with civil society organizations, because they play a very complimentary role. I would like to say how important is the role of Turkish Red Crescent in Turkey and in many operations outside of Turkey. Turkish Red Crescent is a very important and close partner of UNICEF. This is an excellent partnership and we are exploring ways to project this partnership beyond Turkey in humanitarian settings. It is a long-lasting partnership that will continue to evolve.

**Do you have any other projects in addition to CCTE for the refugee children in Turkey?**

We have a large programme in Turkey. Our presence is for the children ‘in Turkey’. It started for Turkish children in Turkey but after the arrival of refugees it has also extended to these children. That’s why UNICEF is in Turkey; for the children in Turkey.

We are looking at the most vulnerable children in Turkey. Our activities focus on vulnerable Turkish and non-Turkish children. We have programmes in areas including education, child protection, juvenile justice, health, social protection. We shall continue supporting Turkey’s efforts for children in the country. Turkey has been very generous in extending its remarkable hospitality to almost 4 million refugees; 3.6 million Syrians and 400,000 non-Syrian refugees, the largest number of refugees in the world. And more than 1.7 million are children. Our role is to support Turkey in caring for these children.

We all hope for a sustainable political solution to the Syria conflict, the sooner the better so that refugees can go back home as many of them would like to do. However until this day comes, we all need to remain mobilized to help them and continue sharing the burden with Turkey.
Wais family has migrated to Bursa and then started to benefit from the ESSN Programme. In the first period of their new life in Turkey, Wais family had difficulties in the means of adjustment to Turkey and tried to survive with the support of the ESSN Programme. Bassam, benefitted from the ESSN for a while, then attended Turkish language course at Turkish Red Crescent Bursa Community Center. In addition to full participation in Turkish language courses along with other immigrants, Bassam was employed as a worker in a textile factory with the guidance of the Turkish Red Crescent Bursa Community Center. While Bassam was in Aleppo, he had operated a textile factory; his knowledge and talent in textile originated from his previous experiences. In the pre-war period in Syria, Aleppo was the textile center of the country. After few years, he has been promoted to assistant foreman in the factory and increased his earnings. He is master of his work, however, he says that he should be patient to step up. Bassam is now responsible for over 200 machines; over 150 decibel of noise is echoed in the factory where he is working hard. As soon as Bassam began working formally in the factory, his ESSN basic needs assistance was cut to make sure the resources became available to other vulnerable families; hence the assistance is programmed to support the most vulnerable people living in Turkey under International / Temporary Protection. Ömer, who is the eldest son of hard working Wais family, realizes an Arabic-speaking customer in a boiler mechanics shop in Yıldırım, Bursa.
The children of Wais family speaks Turkish fluently as they grew up with Turkish children. It has been clearly observed that, the children of Wais family succeeded to adapt to the Turkey’s socio-cultural structure.

The storeowner cannot communicate with the customer because he cannot speak Arabic. Ömer notices the situation, and supports the storeowner by Arabic translation with his basic level of Turkish. The storeowner Mr. Nazim is pleased with this situation and employs Ömer as an apprentice. From that day on, the storeowner, Mr. Nazim, has started providing services to the Arabic-speaking customers who came to the shop through Ömer. Mr. Nazim, who loves Ömer, provides supports to the family. After working in a boiler mechanics for one year, Ömer started working at an automotive spare parts shop. As of today, it has been three years that Ömer started to work for automotive spare parts shop. The owner of the shop has entrusted the warehouse inventory system to Ömer. Today, he speaks Turkish fluently. When we ask "Ömer what is your dream? The answer came from his father: I-phone". The younger son of the family is Muhammed Nur. Just like his brother Ömer, he is working hard and speaks Turkish fluently. After settling in Bursa, Muhammed Nur starts his first job as an apprentice in a restaurant. His first weekly wage was 80 TL; six months later he begins to work in a larger restaurant. Today Muhammed Nur earns 65 TL per day. The family's three younger children are still continuing their education.

Bassam Wais and her family showcases one of the best examples of social cohesion targeted in Kızılaykart Programmes. In the first stage, the family benefited from the ESSN and tried to give direction to their lives. Today, they have enough income to sustain their lives in Turkey and they have hopes for the future…
NEWS

Turkish Red Crescent and Kızılaykart Managers attended to ‘Cash Conference’

Turkish Red Crescent Deputy Director General Alper Küçük, Kızılaykart Cash Based Migration Programmes Coordinator Orhan Hacımehmet and Deputy Programme Coordinator Bülent Öztürk attended ‘Cash Conference’ in London which was hosted by British Red Cross. Cash Conference was held in London, England on 13 September 2018 with the participation of humanitarian aid, private sector, government and university representatives. On behalf of Turkish Red Crescent, Deputy Director General Alper Küçük made a presentation with the attendance of Kızılaykart Cash Based Migration Programmes Coordinator Orhan Hacımehmet and Deputy Programme Coordinator Bülent Öztürk. During the activity, which Turkish Red Crescent Deputy Director General Alper Küçük has participated as a panelist in the session of cash assistance and social protection; the experiences regarding Kızılaykart, world’s biggest cash-based assistance programme, were shared with the attendees.

PECT Training Held in Istanbul

PECT Training (Practical Emergency Cash Transfer Programming) hosted by Turkish Red Crescent, was held in Istanbul with the participation of 5 different Red Cross / Red Crescent societies and IFRC, ICRC representatives. Experienced participants in the fields of livelihood, logistics, cash assistance, disaster management, finance, shelter and health have shared their knowledge with each other at the training which was held between 17-22 September, 2018. During the PECT training, a programme was arranged with an aim to apply generalizing the cash based programmes on intervention in urgent situations/disasters with the qualified staff, appropriate instruments and systems.
The trainings have been completed in the ESSN Colors of Hope Project which was organized by WFP Corporate Communications department with the contributions of Kızılaykart communication and data verification teams.

16 participants have attended ESSN Colors of Hope Project, which was held for the Syrian beneficiaries of the ESSN, who resided in the Ankara Altındağ district. The project aimed to contribute to the personal development of the participants by giving art trainings in specific branches.

The art works of the beneficiaries will be exhibited at the event to be held on 28 November in Ankara with the participation of Turkish Red Crescent and WFP representatives.
UNICEF Representative to Turkey, Philippe Duamelle’s overview on the issue as follows:

“The Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) has been developed through a partnership between the Ministry of National Education and UNICEF. The aim of the programme is to provide an alternative form of education to vulnerable, hard to reach children and adolescents (10-18 years of age) who have been out of school for an extended period of time. The ALP is a condensed way of equipping children with essential learning, necessary knowledge and skills. The children, girls and boys, will be able to transition into mainstream formal education or another relevant form of learning such as vocational training or apprenticeship programmes from the ALP. The Accelerated Learning Programme is implemented in several locations. The goal is to demonstrate the impact of this innovative approach and then based on the first phase experience scale up across Turkey to serve a large number of children.”
Turkish Red Crescent Migration, Refugees and Humanitarian Assistance Summer School

Turkish Red Crescent held the “Migration, Refugee, Humanitarian Aid Summer School” at the Head Quarters Conference Hall in Ankara. 65 undergraduate / graduate students out of 500 applicants from different disciplines who want to pursue an academic or professional career in international migration, refugee and humanitarian assistance fields came together with academicians and experts from different disciplines. The academicians have proposed a holistic perspective to the attendees through their studies on current developments in the management of international migration, the political economy of international migration, Turkey's migration management history, integration, coexistence, cohesion, media, and civil society within the scope of summer school which began with the opening statements of Turkish Red Crescent Deputy Director of Migration Services, Bayram Selvi. The President of the Turkish Red Crescent, Kerem Kınık who has attended the summer school certificate ceremony, emphasized the need for academic studies on migration and stated that Turkish Red Crescent is ready to provide all kinds of support to young researchers.

Turkish Red Crescent was in Indonesia to Provide Relief

The Turkish Red Crescent supported Indonesia, which was effected by the earthquake with 7.7 magnitude and then surrendered to the tsunami.

The Turkish Red Crescent carried out a multi-dimensional humanitarian aid operation to Sulawesi Island, Indonesia, which was destroyed due to the earthquake that caused thousands of lives. Acting in order to ease the suffering after the earthquake, Turkish Red Crescent pioneered the organization of the road map of the disaster response and the distribution of aid materials. In addition to the assistance provided in the earthquake zone, the Turkish Red Crescent organized an aid campaign through SMS and website for the contributions of the Turkish people.
**KIZILAYKART-ESSN and CCTE Programmes Regional Update Workshops Completed**

ESSN and CCTE Programmes regional update workshops have been completed which were organized by Turkish Red Crescent and World Food Programme (WFP). Programme stakeholder institutions / organizations and NGO’s exchanged informations while the latest KIZILAYKART programme updates were evaluated during the workshops that were held in Ankara, İstanbul, İzmir and Gaziantep.

The works carried out by SASFs operating in different regions of Turkey, Provincial Directorate of Migration Management and Provincial Directorate of Population and Citizenship within the framework of Kızılaykart, were in the heart of the workshops.

During the workshops; the status of KIZILAYKART Programs, updates to the programmes and their future projections were evaluated. Representatives from Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Services, Ministry of National Education, Directorate General of Migration Management, Directorate General of Population and Citizenship, Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundations, Turkish Red Crescent, UNICEF, WFP and non-governmental organizations participated in the workshops.
ESSN Programme

Number of Beneficiaries Reached
1 Million 486 Thousand People

Number of Household Reached
255 Thousand

Total Payment Amount*
703 Million $

* Assistance amounts are provided by international funds.

CCTE Programme

Number of Beneficiaries Reached
314 Thousand Child*

Number of Household Reached
167 Thousand

Total Payment Amount*
47 Million $

* Assistance amounts are provided by international funds.

* Number of children who received payment as of November 2018
Turkish Red Crescent, the honor of Turkey and the humanity now celebrating it's 150'th anniversary.

29 October - 4 November
#TurkishRedCrescentWeek