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NGOS INTERVENTIONS TO SUPPORT SYRIAN WOMEN REFUGEES IN TURKEY

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SYRIAN REFUGEES IN TURKEY

THE OVERVIEW

Total Persons of Concern

[.CSV](#) [JSON](#)

5,722,050

Last updated 09 Jun 2022

Source - UNHCR, Government of Turkey

Total Persons of Concern by Country of Asylum

[JSON](#)

Location name	Source	Data date	Population
Turkey	Government of Turkey	9 Jun 2022	65.8% 3,764,193
Lebanon	UNHCR	31 Mar 2022	14.7% 839,086
Jordan	UNHCR	31 May 2022	11.8% 675,040
Iraq	UNHCR	31 May 2022	4.6% 260,686
Egypt	UNHCR	30 Apr 2022	2.5% 141,303
Other (North Africa)	UNHCR	31 Dec 2021	0.7% 41,742



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SPEAK UP

Registered Syrian Refugees

JSON

3,764,193

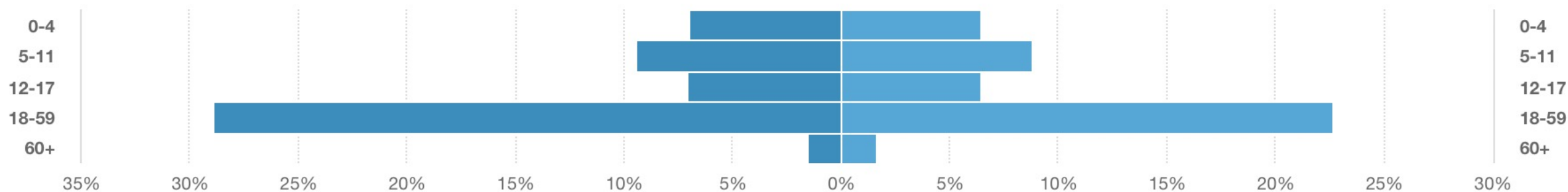
Last updated 09 Jun 2022

Source - Government of Turkey

Population

JSON

Male Female



Source - Government of Turkey



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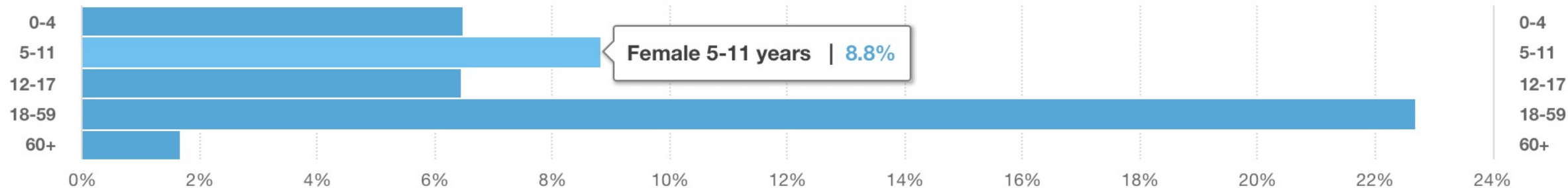


FEMALE REFUGEEES

Population

JSON

Male Female



Source - Government of Turkey



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VULNERABILITY AND WOMEN

SYRIAN WOMEN IN TURKEY

THE VULNERABLE REFUGEE

- Humanitarian policies for ‘vulnerable refugees’ were systematized, tested and implemented for the first time for Syrian refugees in host countries such as Jordan (UNHCR 2015), Egypt (UNHCR 2016), Lebanon (VASYR 2017) and the United Kingdom (CSJ 2017).
- local branches of international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), national non-governmental organizations (NGOs), national and local faith-based NGOs and Syrian refugees’ NGOs. Each category of these actors has displayed some dynamism inside.
- The state’s policymaking in some significant areas has been after the fact (e.g. official registration, health and education policies); (ministerial or municipal) public actors have been in powerplay within and between each other in some provinces (e.g. Gaziantep)
- Sözer (2021)
- UNHCR’s Vulnerability Assessment Framework include not refugee women, but single women, single-parent women and gender based violence-victim women refugees.



NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF SYRIAN WOMEN AND GIRLS UNDER TEMPORARY PROTECTION STATUS IN TURKEY –UN WOMEN ASAM 2018

- Main findings of the need assessment
- Language barrier is a major obstacle that stands in the way of Syrian women to access rights and services.
- Housing is one of the main problems.
- 87% of Syrian women claimed that they feel safe at home, and 73% feel safe in their neighborhood.
- Only 15% of women work in income-generating jobs.
- 73% do not know where to seek assistance related to violence or harassment.
- 74% do not know where to seek assistance for their children.
- Syrian women are unaware of various support services: 68% do not know about free legal counselling; 63% about home care, 59% about psychosocial support and 57% about childcare services.
- Syrian women in Turkey appear particularly satisfied with their access to medical services. 86% report being able to access free primary health care in the cities where they live.



LANGUAGE

- The language barrier is a major obstacle that stands in the way of Syrians to access rights and services. Syrians in Turkey may enroll in free state supported Turkish language courses, but the study found that 70% of Syrian women do not speak any Turkish.
 - This has an immediate effect on their access to services and employment. According to the data collected, only 15% of women work in income-generating jobs. UN Women-ASAM
 - In January 2016, a law regarding work permits took effect, which allowed refugees to apply for work permits but the number of refugees with granted work permits was below 5 per cent of the overall Syrian workforce due to the lack of inspections and regulations. Sunata, Ulaş, and Salih Tosun. 2019.
- *Continue supporting and expanding Syrian women's access to Turkish language courses. Ensure that women can participate in these courses by providing child care for their children, and when applicable to provide women's-only classes.*



HOUSING

- The poor quality of many Syrian women's housing exacerbates their vulnerability. Women reported living in overcrowded conditions over half of the women said that they were sharing their accommodations with at least one other family.
- Overcrowding puts additional care burdens on women and generally increases the risk of sexual and gender based violence.
 - only 28% of women reported that they leave their houses daily, 39.8 percent of women saying that they go out once a week or less. UN Women-ASAM
- The Syrian community are found to congregate in Syrian dominant neighborhoods which further risks creating obstacles to cultural assimilation between different communities.
 - Local rules on rent areas (from fact to policy)
- Despite their housing problems, 87% of Syrian women claimed that they feel safe at home, and 73% feel safe in their neighborhood.
 - *Devise additional ways to support Syrian women's access to safe housing, possibly through the further extension of the ESSN and other cash allocations. Enforce the regulation of short term rental provision, provide information on tenant's rights and responsibilities, consider innovative public housing projects (possibly for host community members and Syrians) and reduce legal obstacles to property ownership for Syrians.*



HEALTH

- Syrian women in Turkey appear particularly satisfied with their access to medical services. 86% report being able to access free primary health care in the cities where they live.
 - About 14% claim facing discriminatory attitudes, prejudices, and language and/or cultural barriers, resulting in low-quality or a lack of services. UN Women-ASAM
- Almost all women said that they were well informed about the general medical services available to them but when it came to sexual and reproductive health issues, they were much less aware
 - *Further expand public information campaigns in Turkish and Arabic, on platforms used by women, on the services available to Syrian women, including related to family planning, the availability of free legal aid and the new e-government work permit procedures. Focus on awareness generation using mass media tools familiarize host community with the situation of the Syrian community at large, and women and other vulnerable communities in particular to break the myths about Syrian population adversely affecting the country's development and obtaining benefits beyond what Turkish citizens' have access to.*
 - *Amongst Syrian women there is also a perception that welfare benefits and services are not provided in an equitable manner. Outreach services (home visits) could be a central way towards eliminating this perception and addressing any real disparities.*



EDUCATION NATIONAL CONDITIONAL CASH TRANSFER FOR EDUCATION (CCTE) PROGRAMME

- The programme incentivises the school attendance of older girls to ensure retention in schools (existing from 2003). Implemented by the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services with the support of the EU in mid-2017.
 - Payments to beneficiaries are made on bi-monthly basis (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov) on the condition of regular school attendance. At least 80% monthly school attendance is required for payment eligibility in any month. The amounts paid depend on the gender and grades of the school-going children.
 - November 2021 as follows: students in high school receive 90 TRY for girls and 70 TRY for boys. Similarly, kindergarten and primary school children receive 60 TRY for girls and 55 TRY for boys.
- This is extremely important because the study found that the dropout rate for Syrian girls rises with age. 60% of those aged 12 to 14 are attending school, compared to only 23% of those aged 15 to 17.
- The main reasons for the drop are child marriage, family pressure, work, household and care responsibilities.
- Only a small number of women (7%) have taken part in vocational training, and when they do take part the most popular areas of study are hairdressing (30%) and needlework (27%), which are closely related to traditional gender roles and provide limited opportunity for formal employment.
 - *Continue efforts to enroll and retain Syrian children in school, including through the provision of education stipends to families through the CCTE and other similar programs. Develop interventions to reach young women who are not in school to help them re-integrate the formal education system, to enter Turkish language courses and/or vocational training.*
 - *Further develop women's access to vocational training, not only in traditional women's fields of work (sewing, cooking, hair dressing) but also in areas where there are opportunities for regular employment.*
 - *Include men and boys in efforts to support women's empowerment and gender equality. Carry out more efforts to build up men and boys' awareness of women's rights, gender norms and the positive effects of women's empowerment.*



THE ROLE OF NGOS

- As far as the situation in Turkey is concerned, due to the some **mismatching features of the legal framework** and significant but insufficient policy support, and the actual reality of refugees, activities of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have a **prominent role** within the context of Syrian refugees. Sunata, Ulaş, and Salih Tosun. 2019.
- Moreover, this trend of NGOs in respect of refugees' emergencies has contributed to the rise of the civil society sector in Turkey thanks to partnerships, granting **projects** by international actors and donations for the refugee-related organizations.
 - there is a kind of transformation in both privatization and decentralization materialized by openness towards civil society in order to increase transparency, accountability and participation
- Mackreath and Sağniç, (2017: 29) presented the data obtained from official government records showing that the number of registered NGOs has **increased** from 88,646 in 2011 to 111,307 in 2017.
- Different institutional and political entities have exhibited arguments **against** NGOs to maintain more effective supervision and control over them (Ambrosini 2018: 115).



TYPES OF NGOS

- IGOs
 - UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM, DRC
- NGOs
 - Local CSO and specific NGO-R
 - Large small-scale funding
 - Local or National scope / Cross-border
 - Refugee participation in activities NGO-Rs operated by migrants



TWO APPROACHES IN THE DYNAMICS OF THE SYRIAN CRISIS

- humanitarian aid, safety or welfare services
- developing the capacities of migrants

- Various studies noted that participation in civil society activities was somewhat related to the **middle** class



SYRIAN WOMEN IN TURKISH SOCIETY

- Syrian women do not constitute a homogenous group.
 - Research shows that newly-married women and widows are the ones less free in terms of their movement and employability.
 - In SET region, common examples are separating women and men spaces for an activity to ensure active participation of women who cannot participate in mixed gender activities; promoting traditionally female fields of work which women feel more confident and comfortable with; supporting women's home-based business ideas which enable women continue meeting their care work at home.
 - These activities work around gender norms to make sure women's access to resources and support, which otherwise would not be accessible to some women. However, it is important for humanitarian staff to be aware that this kind of activities are reproducing gender norms on some level. (Ugur,
- Women need to be supported throughout the value chain as they (especially the ones working at home) generally do not have required networks to keep their businesses sustainable.
- Support / Develop / Change



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