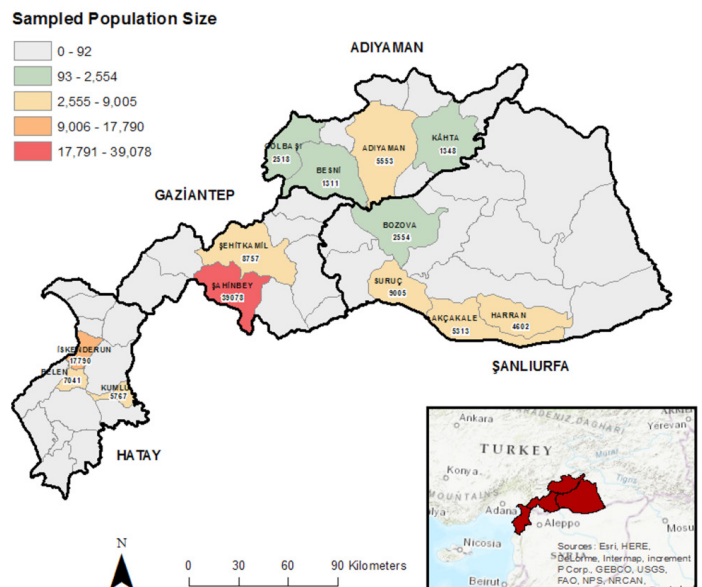




In 2017, the International Organization of Migration (IOM) office in Gaziantep, Turkey undertook a multi-sector needs assessment survey of 19,454 Syrian refugee households (over 100,000 beneficiaries) across four south-eastern provinces: Adiyaman, Gaziantep, Hatay and Şanlıurfa. These locations were determined by the IOM team based on the number of refugees residing in these areas as well as IOM's active presence. The assessment's findings present a population struggling to maintain consistent employment or income, cover basic needs, stay out of debt or pay it off, enrol their children in schools or register with the Turkish government. The assessment included questions related to basic needs, education, livelihoods, protection and shelter.



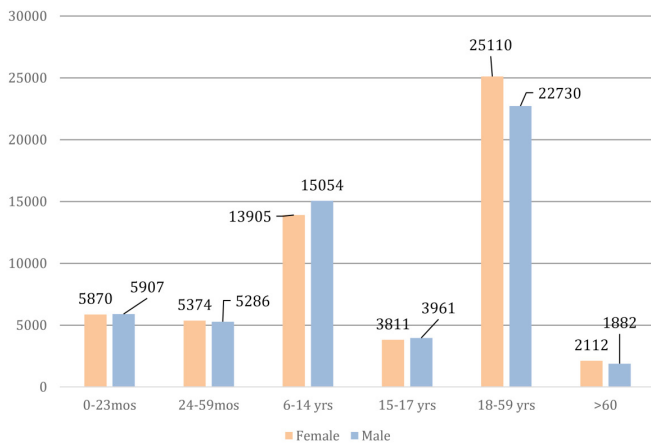
Data source: Administrative boundaries from the Humanitarian Data Exchange. Last updated July 28, 2017; retrieved March 4, 2018.6 Projection:WGS_1984_UTM_Zone_37N

BASIC NEEDS

Findings from the questionnaire indicated that 77 per cent of respondent households (HHs) were unable to cover their basic needs. In every province surveyed, the average monthly income among the refugees surveyed was below Turkey's national minimum wage of 1,404 TL / month in 2017 (354.70 USD). Respondents reported an average income of 908 TL per month (229.39 USD), with 12 per cent reporting 0 TL. Income included earnings from employment, remittances and assistance from aid organizations. Therefore, more than 77 per cent of respondents reported their HH is unable to cover its basic needs. A heavy reliance on borrowing money as a coping mechanism has resulted in 70 per cent of HHs owing an average of 583.37 USD, often to multiple entities.



A majority of the surveyed households were headed by a male, with 15.6 per cent female headed. Ability to cover basic needs varied depending on the gender of the household head, at a statistically significant rate. The largest differences were observed in Gaziantep and Hatay, with female-headed households significantly less likely to be able to cover their basic needs than male-headed households. Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) assistance was reported to be received by 47 per cent of surveyed HHs (9,142). Only about 1 per cent of surveyed HHs reported receiving income from remittances.



Total population in surveyed HHs as reported by respondents, disaggregated by gender;

SHELTER

Household rental costs present another financial concern, with some respondents paying an inordinately high amount of rent relative to their shelter type. For example, some HHs reported paying 300-600 TL/month to live in a garage – a price that could afford them an apartment, according to assessment findings. Additionally, 39 per cent of HHs reported a need for shelter rehabilitation, while 8 per cent reported their HH condition as unhealthy and uninhabitable. The type of shelter in which a HH resided could be related to the date that the family reportedly arrived from Syria, as households that arrived after 2011 were less likely to dwell in an apartment or house. Regardless of shelter type, 24.7 per cent of all HHs reported sharing their accommodation with another family.



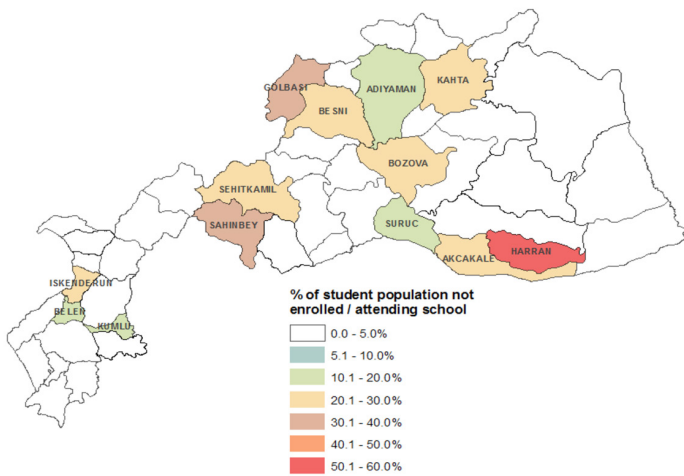
PROTECTION

Additional difficulties may be faced by those not registered by the Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM) – which comprised a total of 6.5 per cent of surveyed HHs. Very small percentages of HHs reported any mental illness or disability (2.4 per cent and 1.1 per cent, respectively), while 8 per cent reported chronic illness and 3.7 per cent reported an unaccompanied migrant child either in their HH or neighbourhood.

For female-headed households, hardships are compounded: they were less likely to have all HH members registered with the DGMM, meaning they have less access to vital state services. The women were also more likely to be divorced, widowed or have a missing spouse, and they were less likely to be able to cover all of their HH's basic needs. One of the reasons could be that female-headed households aren't fully aware of the registration processes or rules, and therefore less likely to be registered themselves or have HH members registered.

EDUCATION

36,731 school-age children were reported to be in the care of the surveyed HHs. Out of these, 26 per cent were reportedly not enrolled in or attending a school, with another 31 per cent not attending regularly. The top three reasons cited for non-attendance, in descending order, were “child is employed,” “cannot afford school” and “issues with enrolment.” Although public schools in Turkey are free to attend, some families may face constraints purchasing school uniforms, materials or affording transport. Significantly, 94 per cent of those who stated their HH “cannot afford school” reported earning less than the monthly minimum wage. A large majority stated that the school is up to 2 km away from their home, with about 5 per cent traveling at least 6 km to school.



Per centage of Syrian refugee school aged children not enrolled in or attending school by district; n=36,731



LIVELIHOODS

Approximately 91 per cent of HHs reported to have at least one adult member capable of working, with only 80 per cent reporting an adult HH member having worked in the last 30 days and only 71 per cent reporting they were working at the time of the survey. The construction industry was the top employer of respondents in Adiyaman and Hatay, while the top employers in Gaziantep and Şanlıurfa were the textile and agriculture industries, respectively. Feedback from respondents indicated that the construction industry has the highest rate of retention, and was the most accessible occupation.



In total, 53.6 per cent of respondents were willing to open a business if necessary tools/equipment were provided. It also appears that those working were more interested in opening their own business. The survey showed that 7,472 respondents met the criteria of being sufficiently experienced (at least 5 years), willing and in the ideal age range (18-60) to start up a business. Of those, only 16 per cent reported being unemployed at the time of the survey.

RECOMMENDATIONS	EXPLANATION
BASIC NEEDS	
Continue to support cash assistance for basic needs	With significant number of HHs earning less than the national minimum wage, and more than 77% of respondents reporting their HH is unable to purchase its basic needs, related cash assistance is one of the most significant interventions for refugees in Turkey's south-eastern provinces.
Provide unrestricted cash assistance	70% of HHs reported an average debt of 2,309.14 TL, or 583.37 USD. With unrestricted cash assistance, they may find flexibility to begin to repay some of their debt.
SHELTER	
Consider cash for shelter assistance	Some of the most vulnerable HHs not only owe debt to their landlord, but also pay a high amount of rent relative to their shelter type. For example, most respondents residing in commercial buildings reported paying an average of 300 TL/ month – the same as those living in independent homes. Considering the differences in condition and comfort between the types of shelters, targeted rent subsidization could alleviate housing pressure and stress and have a very positive impact on refugee standards of living in south-eastern Turkey.
Employ refugees with past construction experience to rehabilitate shelters	Many former construction workers indicated their willingness to start their own construction business. Employing these individuals in HH rehabilitation projects could provide suitable livelihood opportunities. In Gaziantep alone, there are 10 HHs in need of rehabilitation per experienced construction worker. This strategy also positively contributes to economic growth in the area and therefore indirectly supports host communities.
LIVELIHOODS	
Continue supporting the set-up and expansion of small business owned or co-owned by, and/or employing refugees	A total of 7,472 individuals in nearly all major industries expressed their desire to start their own business provided they have the tools and resources to do so.
EDUCATION	
Support school transportation	In accordance with objectives shared by the Government of Turkey and donors, it is important to continue school transport in order to facilitate enrolment of refugee children of school age that otherwise would be left unattended.
Consider in-kind support for school supplies, uniforms, materials, etc	In three out of the four surveyed provinces, the primary reason for school-age children to be out of school was "child is employed." The second most commonly cited reason was that the HH "cannot afford school." Although enrolling in and attending school is free in Turkey, the cost of transport, books, bags, uniforms and other school materials may form a barrier to education for many students.
PROTECTION	
Ensure rapid and accurate information dissemination service for DGMM registration	6.5 per cent of HHs reported that not all of their members were registered with the DGMM, including some HHs with physically or mentally disabled or ill members. Assisting them in registration could grant them access to vital support services provided by the state. This could also be helpful for those reporting students not enrolled in school due to "issues with enrolment."
Support access to existing service mechanisms for Syrian refugees	Of the 15,285 surveyed HHs eligible for ESSN assistance, 45 per cent did not report receiving ESSN assistance. Humanitarian actors can assist in closing this gap by referring these HHs to the World Food Programme (WFP) for ESSN assistance.
Address social tensions among refugee and host communities	While not a focus of this assessment, the need for enhanced action promoting social cohesion among refugee and host communities continues to be highlighted in numerous assessments and statements by the GoT, donors, UN agencies and partner organizations. A cross-cutting approach appears recommended that mitigates risks, alleviates existing tensions and includes contingency planning, which could exacerbate existing challenges beyond manageable levels.

