



Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) Programme

Vulnerability Profiling 2018 - Analysis Results



In Partnership with
Program Ortakları



Coordinated by
Koordinasyonuyla



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Destekleyen



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I. Background & Methodology

The primary objective of this analysis is to inform the technical design of the ESN programme in 2019 and beyond, allowing WFP to conduct evidence-based decision making for the selection of eligible households. The analysis builds upon a large amount of data collected through the ESN and aims to answer core vulnerability questions, namely, how many refugees are vulnerable? Who are they? Where are they? At the same time, this work seeks to provide evidence to refine the targeting criteria used to identify refugees in need of unconditional/unrestricted ESN assistance. Finally, the analysis estimates how many refugee households have the potential to 'graduate' into livelihoods programming.

Methodology

In order to account for the multidimensional and complex nature of vulnerability, three dimensions are used to estimate households' vulnerability:

- **Food consumption:** households are classified as having a poor/borderline/acceptable food consumption based on the results of their Food Consumption Score (FCS);¹
- **Livelihood coping:** households are classified as resorting to high risk coping/lower risk coping based on the maximum severity of livelihood coping strategies adopted;
- **Economic vulnerability:** households are classified as being economically vulnerable/not economically vulnerable if they are, respectively, below or above the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) of 294 TRY monthly per person.

Datasets

The data used for this analysis has been retrieved from several datasets. The first is the Pre-assistance Baseline (PAB) survey, collected from ESN applicants, providing statistically representative data for 1.6 million applicants before any assistance was delivered to the eligible households. The survey was conducted between February – May 2017, with sampling stratified into 5 geographic regions in Turkey (see map below), from 8690 household. Questions regarding the demographic profile of the applicant households, Dietary Diversity, Food Consumption Score, Consumption Coping Strategies, Livelihood Coping Strategies, Income sources, Expenditures, Debt, Poverty are asked to the participants.

The second data source is the Post-distribution Monitoring survey (panel survey / follow-up surveys from 6958 PAB participants). These results were also used in this analysis, particularly within the economic vulnerability section.



¹ For further details please refer to: <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-000007074/download/>

The second round of the Comprehensive Vulnerability Monitoring Exercise (CVME) is a third data set used to develop the vulnerability criteria. The data was collected between September- November 2017 across Turkey. Refugees are included in the survey regardless of their application status to the ESN. Yet, due to the data constraints, i.e. no data about number of non-applicant households, CVME is not representative of the refugee population. However, the composition of the CVME sample in terms of age and gender is very similar to Directorate of General Migration Management (DGMM) data. Therefore, although this does not indicate that all results can be extrapolated to the entire refugee population, it provides validity to the sample and suggests that general patterns in the CVME dataset are likely to be similar with the DGMM registered refugee population. The dataset includes indicators on food security; the quality, frequency and diversity of the consumed food in the households, as well as the livelihood coping strategies implemented by these refugees. The exercise also includes the demographic information on education, health, and disability status of the household members, which is also incorporated into this analysis.

High risk coping strategies are defined as the use of specific emergency livelihood coping strategies; the specific strategies and the logic for their selection is explained on the following page. Households with a lower risk coping level are the ones resorting to other stress/crisis/ emergency strategies.

Lastly, the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) is the calculated monthly cost of basic needs for a refugee household. It has been calculated based on estimations of the essential goods and services required, corroborated by data collected from refugees on their consumption habits and preferences, and adjusted to ensure the food component provides basic nutritional requirements in line with Sphere standards. The calculated cost of the necessary non-food items is also included in the MEB.²

²MEB Guidance Note: <http://www.cashlearning.org/downloads/mpg-toolkit-pdfs/mpg-part1.2.pdf>

Vulnerability Criteria

The interaction between the above-mentioned dimensions can lead to two possible vulnerability classifications (Table 1): Less vulnerable and Highly vulnerable.

As a result of this classification, the highly vulnerability classification is assigned to:

- Households having poor food consumption (regardless of the coping and economic dimensions);
- Households resorting to high risk coping strategies (regardless of the food consumption and economic vulnerability dimensions);
- Households economically vulnerable (regardless of the food consumption and coping dimension);
- Households having borderline food consumption (regardless of coping and economically vulnerability dimensions)

On the opposite end, the *less vulnerable* classification is assigned to:

- Households having an acceptable food consumption, not being economically vulnerable and using lower risk coping strategies;

Table 1: Vulnerability classifications

FOOD CONSUMPTION	HIGH-RISK COPING	ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY	VULNERABILITY CLASSIFICATION
Acceptable	Low	Not Economically Vulnerable	Less Vulnerable
	Low	Economically Vulnerable	Highly Vulnerable
	High	Not Economically Vulnerable	Highly Vulnerable
	High	Economically Vulnerable	Highly Vulnerable
Borderline	Low	Not Economically Vulnerable	Highly Vulnerable
	Low	Economically Vulnerable	Highly Vulnerable
	High	Not Economically Vulnerable	Highly Vulnerable
	High	Economically Vulnerable	Highly Vulnerable
Poor			Highly Vulnerable
			Highly Vulnerable

Table 1 shows the criteria used for classification and illustrates final vulnerability levels according to all possible combinations among the three dimensions.

Livelihood coping strategies are used as indicators of a decrease in the future productive capacities of the households, and their ability to meet their needs (e.g. selling household assets, reducing health expenses). The rationale behind including the livelihood coping dimension in this analysis is 1) the potential long-term consequences of the use of high risk coping (emergency) strategies, and the likely effect on households' vulnerability and 2) protection concerns raised by the use of particular strategies, which can put the most vulnerable members of the household at risk (children in particular). As a result, three livelihood coping strategies are of particular concern and classified as 'high-risk' due to the reasons mentioned above:

- Sent children (under the age of 18) to work in order to generate additional income/resources;
- Sent household members to beg;
- Members of the household returned to Syria to provide resources for the household or to reduce household expenditure.

The Food Consumption Score (FCS) is a standard WFP indicator used globally to measure food security. It measures the diversity of the household diet and how frequently the main food groups (e.g. pulses, dairy) are consumed. The household diets are classified into three groups based on the FCS scores: acceptable, borderline and poor. Regarding economic vulnerability, households are divided into two groups based on their capacity to meet basic food and non-food needs (MEB). Pre-assistance baseline (PAB) data is used as a reference to estimate economic vulnerability, given the absence of any cash assistance provided.

Productive Capacity Criteria

In order to understand the productive capacity of refugee households and to estimate the proportions of refugees who could potentially be transitioned toward livelihoods programming, productive capacity criteria are constructed. These criteria are established based on the working capacity of households³ and the education level of the household head. The rationale behind the selection of these two indicators is that these demographic indicators are easily accessible data in the application information, and considered to be reliable determinants of productive capacity.

The classification based on the productive capacity criteria is made as per below.

<p>Higher productive capacity</p> <p>At least <u>two</u> able-bodied working-aged men or At least <u>one</u> able-bodied working-aged men present + member with high school degree present</p> <p>Some productive capacity</p> <p>At least <u>one</u> able-bodied working-aged men present and <u>no</u> member with high school degree present</p> <p>No/little productive capacity</p> <p><u>No</u> working-aged men present and/or <i>Single caretaker household</i></p>

Table 2: Productive capacity criteria definitions

Working capacity	Educational capacity	Category
More than 2 working age male (without disability)	Completed high school and above	High productive capacity
	Any educational status below high school	High productive capacity
At least 1 working age male (without disability)	Completed high school and above	High productive capacity
	Any educational status below high school	Some productive capacity
0 working age male		No/Little productive capacity
Single parent		No/Little productive capacity

³ Data Source: Comprehensive Vulnerability Monitoring Exercise 2, Sep-Nov 2017

II. Results

1. Vulnerability

As a result of the methodology outlined in the previous section, a vulnerability classification is assigned to all households in the dataset. Table 3 provides the details of the vulnerability classification:

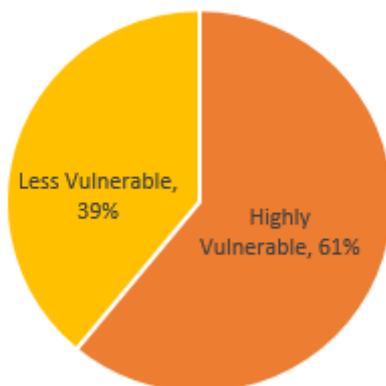
Table 3: Vulnerability ratio by group

Vulnerability category	Applicants	Beneficiaries
Less Vulnerable	29%	22%
Highly Vulnerable	71%	78%

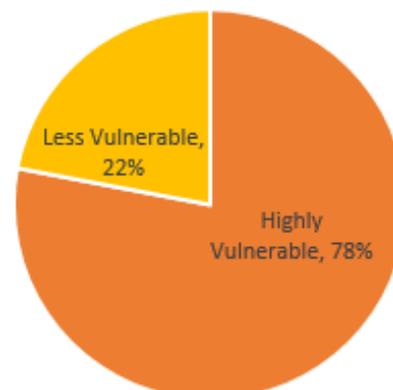
Around 71 percent of the sampled population is found to be highly vulnerable. Therefore, of the total applicants of 2.3 million people in June 2018, 1.633 million people are deemed to be highly vulnerable. The inclusion criteria proposed in this analysis (page 10) would cover 84.9 percent, or 1.386 million people. When considering the current beneficiary figure of 1.3 million, 1 million beneficiaries (78 percent) are considered highly vulnerable.

Chart 1: Distribution of vulnerable population

Non-Eligible (Non-Beneficiary)



Eligible (Beneficiary)

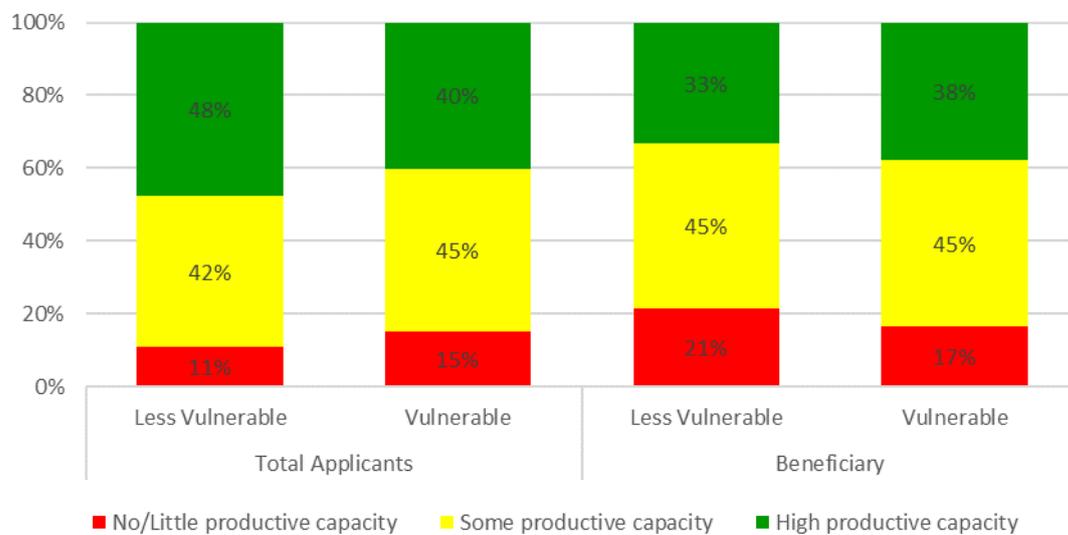


For both applicants and current beneficiaries, the share of highly vulnerable is much higher than the less vulnerable (see Table 3). When comparing the eligible and non-eligible populations, the eligible group has a higher proportion of vulnerable population (78 percent) than the non-eligible (61 percent). However, the fact that 61 percent of the non-eligible households are still found to be highly vulnerable highlights the need to refine the targeting criteria, and increase coverage, in order to address their needs.

2. Productive Capacity

Based on the CVME data, which includes the education and disability information of the surveyed refugee households, household productive capacity was calculated according to the definitions provided in Table 2. The results of the analysis show 43 percent of all applicants with higher capacity, 43 percent with limited capacity, and 13 percent with no/little capacity. Among the ESSN applicant households who are categorized as vulnerable, the data shows 40 percent with higher capacity, 45 percent with limited capacity, and 15 percent with no/little capacity. When considering ESSN beneficiaries only, the results, surprisingly, showed a higher proportion of households with no/little productive capacity⁴ (21 percent) among the less vulnerable group when compared with the vulnerable beneficiary households (17 percent). However, the difference is not statistically significant, likely due to the small samples in the datasets.

Chart 2: Distribution of productive capacity by vulnerability status



⁴ When analysing the CVME data, it should be noted that the economic vulnerability threshold (measured by expenditure per person per month) is adjusted upward for beneficiary households, in order to account for the 120 TL assistance they receive from the ESSN.

3. Results Based on Vulnerability and Productive Capacity Criteria

Based on the vulnerability and productive capacity criteria, each categorical group is estimated for several scenarios: 2.3 million people (actual number of applicants at the time of analysis); 1.86 million people (total applicants in sample dataset analysed); and 1.3 million beneficiaries (actual caseload at time of analysis).

Table 4: Estimates of total applicants under each category

Total applicants ⁵					Total Applicant	Current Total Applicant
Vulnerability	Total Applicants	Potential criteria	% among each vulnerability group	% among all group	2,300,000	1,864,153
Less Vulnerable	29.0%	High capacity	47.6%	13.8%	317,492	257,328
		Some capacity	41.6%	12.1%	277,472	224,891
		No capacity	10.8%	3.1%	72,036	58,385
Vulnerable	71.0%	High capacity	40.3%	28.6%	657,866	533,201
		Some capacity	44.6%	31.6%	727,851	589,925
		No capacity	15.1%	10.8%	247,283	200,423

Table 5: Estimates of total beneficiaries under each category

Beneficiary ⁶					Current Beneficiary
Vulnerability	Beneficiary ratio	Potential criteria	% among each vulnerability group	% among all group	1,300,000
Less Vulnerable	21.7%	High capacity	33.3%	7.2%	94,033
		Some capacity	45.2%	9.8%	127,617
		No capacity	21.4%	4.7%	60,450
Vulnerable	78.3%	High capacity	37.9%	29.7%	385,568
		Some capacity	45.5%	35.6%	462,682
		No capacity	16.7%	13.1%	169,650

⁵The source of potential criteria ratio is Comprehensive Vulnerability Monitoring Exercise 2, Sep-Nov 2017, and all other ratios are from Pre-assistance Baseline (Feb-May 2017).

⁶ibid

4. Effectiveness Analysis of Existing Targeting Criteria

Through this exercise, the existing demographic criteria are reviewed to determine their effectiveness, also considering the introduction of newly proposed vulnerability criteria. In order to validate the targeting approach, the following definitions are used.

<p>Coverage of people in need: eligible cases over cases in need; Correctly excluded: not eligible cases over cases NOT in need; Exclusion error: cases in need that are not considered eligible by the below formula; Inclusion error: cases NOT in need that are considered eligible by the below formula;</p>

The below table summarises the criteria that are used to estimate the accuracy of the current criteria, including the exclusion and inclusion errors based on the constructed vulnerability criteria.

Table 6: Classification summary table

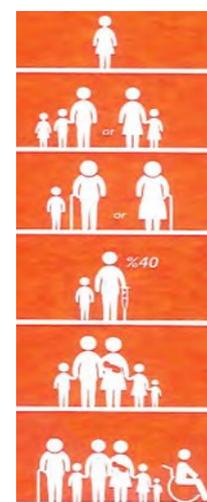
		Classification based on Vulnerability classification based on PAB data		
		Highly vulnerable	Less vulnerable	Total
Classification based on formula Prediction	Eligible	(A)	(B)	(A + B)
	Non-eligible	(C)	(D)	(C + D)
	Total	(A + C)	(B + D)	(A + B + C + D)

Correct classification		Errors		Inclusion error
Coverage of people in need	$\frac{A}{(A + C)}$	Inclusion error	$\frac{B}{(A + B)}$	$\frac{\text{(Wrongly included Less Vulnerable)}}{\text{(Total number meeting this criteria)}}$
	$\frac{D}{(B + D)}$		Exclusion error	$\frac{C}{(C + D)}$

The below table shows the results of the effectiveness analysis for the existing targeting criteria of the ESSN. The results show that the existing targeting criteria cover 68.6 percent of the highly vulnerable population (# highly vulnerable included / total highly vulnerable), whereas 31.4 percent of the highly vulnerable population have been excluded from the programme. The inclusion error is 20.9 percent, which means that around 21 percent of the current beneficiaries are less vulnerable and wrongly included into the programme. It is noteworthy that the ESSN targeting criteria were determined based on different vulnerability criteria than those presented in this report. The previous vulnerability criteria were only based on economic vulnerability, whereas the vulnerability criteria in this report are based on food security, economic vulnerability and high risk coping strategies. The revision of the vulnerability criteria was possible due to increased availability of data collected through multiple assessments, which was not available in the initial design phase of the ESSN. This data allows for evaluation of multiple dimensions of household vulnerability.

Table 7: Effectiveness analysis of the existing targeting criteria

Rank	Targeting criteria ⁷	Cumulative Coverage	Cumulative Inclusion Error	Cumulative Exclusion Error
1	Household with 4 or more children	48.4%	11.5%	51.6%
2	Household with more than 1.5 dependency ratio	64.1%	18.7%	35.9%
3	Single parent with no other adults in the family and at least one child under 18	64.3%	19.1%	35.7%
4	Household consisting of one female	64.4%	19.2%	35.6%
5	Elderly people with no other adults in their family	64.4%	19.2%	35.6%
6	Household with more than 1 certified disable person	68.6%	20.9%	31.4%
	Household meeting above criteria	68.6%	20.9%	31.4%



⁷Data Sources: ESSN Pre-Assistance Baseline, Feb-May 2017 and Comprehensive Vulnerability Monitoring Exercise 2, Sep-Nov 2017

5. Recommendation for Updated Targeting Criteria

The analysis aims to identify targeting criteria which maximise the correct inclusion of vulnerable households into the ESSN programme. Based on this analysis, the following criteria are suggested. In order to sustain ongoing operational efforts, and minimise the operational burden, the existing criteria are kept, while one new demographic criterion is suggested in order to increase the precision of the targeting. By including one additional criterion (household with 5 or more members) the ESSN programme can cover 84.9 percent of highly vulnerable refugees. This would slightly increase the inclusion error (20.9% to 22.6%) and drastically decrease the exclusion error (31.4% to 15.1%)

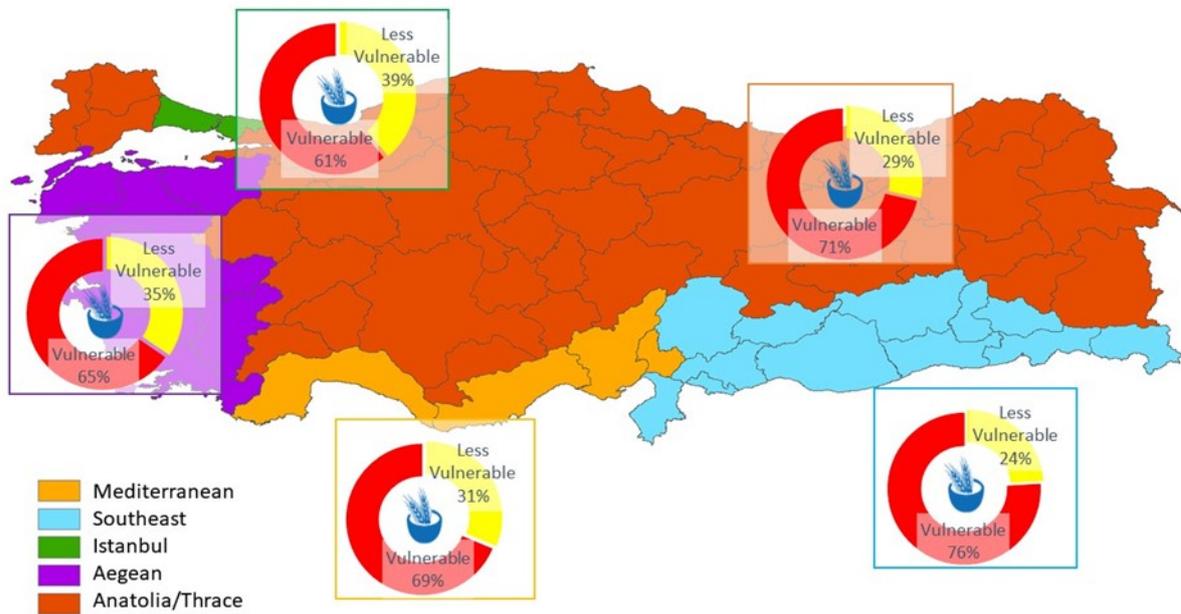
It should be noted that although the additional criterion decreases the exclusion error, it increases the total coverage of the applicants from 68.6% to 84.9%. Of 2.3 million applicants, the 84.9% coverage equates to 1.96 million beneficiaries. This analysis therefore demonstrates the high level of needs among the refugee population, however operationalisation of the recommendation must be further discussed considering funding availability, social cohesion and longer-term sustainability.

Table 8: Recommended inclusion criteria for targeting based on 2.3 million applicants

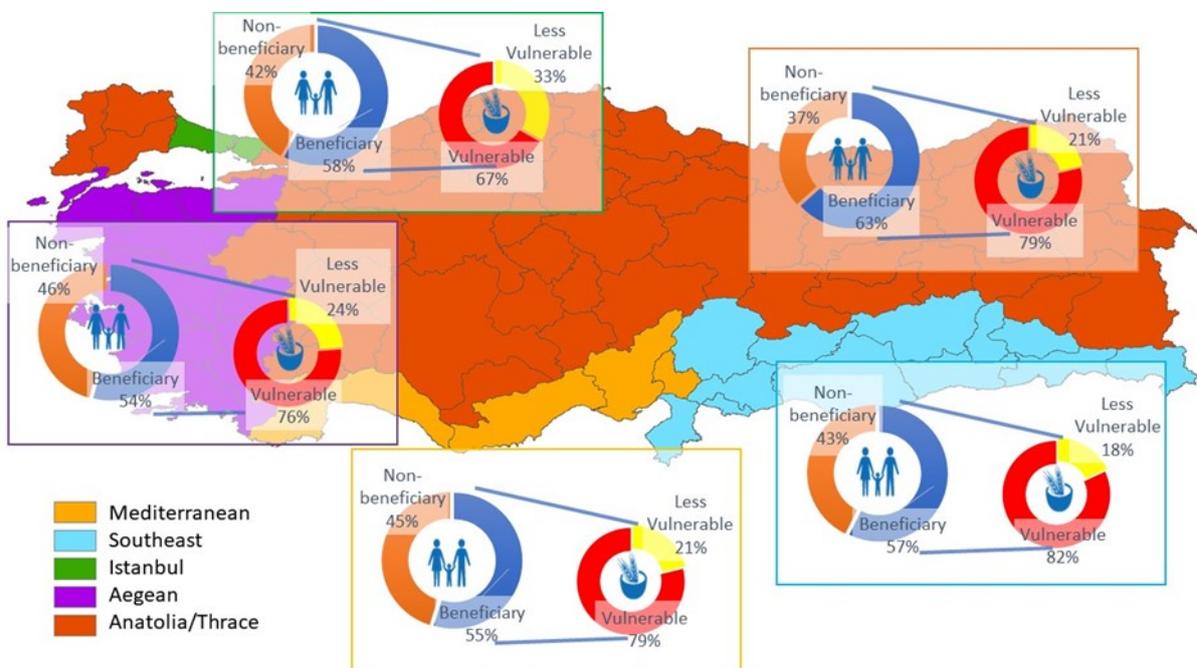
	Rank	Targeting criteria	Cumulative # of vulnerable individuals meeting criteria	Cumulative Coverage	Cumulative Inclusion Error	Cumulative Exclusion Error
Existing	1	Household with 4 or more children	790,427	48.4%	11.5%	51.6%
NEW	2	Household with 5 or more members	1,333,246	81.6%	20.1%	18.4%
Existing	3	Single parent with no other adults in the family and at least one child under 18	1,362,398	83.4%	20.8%	16.6%
Existing	4	Household with more than 1.5 dependency ratio	1,376,241	84.3%	21.1%	15.7%
Existing	5	Household with more than 1 certified disable person	1,384,490	84.8%	22.6%	15.2%
Existing	6	Household consisting of one female	1,386,640	84.9%	22.6%	15.1%
Existing	7	Elderly people with no other adults in their family	1,386,640	84.9%	22.6%	15.1%
		Household meeting above criteria	1,386,640	84.9%	22.6%	15.1%

Annex: Maps

1. Proportion of vulnerable applicants by region.



2. Proportion of vulnerable beneficiary by region.





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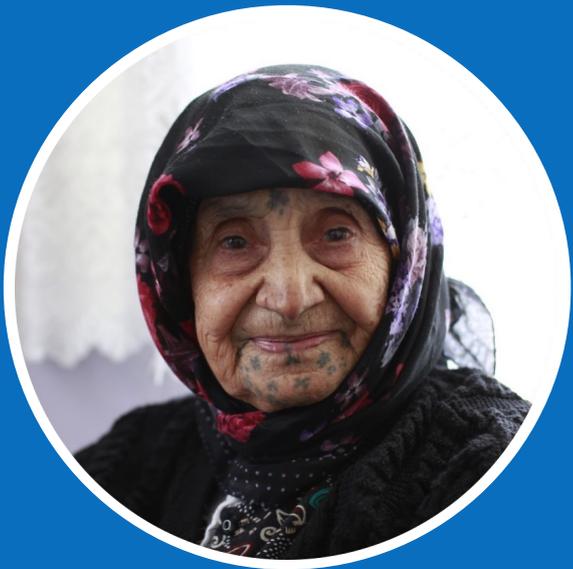
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Analysis was undertaken by the Assessment team in the VAM unit, WFP Headquarters /Rome in June 2018. For any information, please contact following team:

Ms. Claudia Ah Poe (claudia.ahpoe@wfp.org), Head of the Assessment team

Mr. Takahiro Utsumi (takahiro.utsumi@wfp.org), Food Security Analyst

Mr. Espedito Nastro (espedito.nastro@wfp.org), Food Security Analyst



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