SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

ESSN Post-Distribution Monitoring Report

Cross-Section Round 2 (PDM 5)

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

SUPPORTED BY

WFP
World Food Programme

Introduction

The Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) program was launched across Turkey in November 2016. It provides unrestricted, unconditional cash assistance to people living under different forms of protection in Turkey. For brevity, in this report they will be referred to as refugees. The ESSN cash assistance aims to allow beneficiaries to meet their basic needs. By November 2018, the ESSN was providing monthly assistance to over 1.5 million people.

The ESSN is funded by the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO). The program is implemented through a partnership of the Ministry of Family and Social Policies (MoFSP), the World Food Programme (WFP), and the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) as a complementary program to the national social assistance scheme for Turkish citizens.

The ESSN is the first program of its kind, integrating humanitarian assistance at scale into a national social assistance structure. As a result, monitoring, evaluation and learning is a critical component of the program. This report provides an assessment of the effects of the ESSN assistance on beneficiary households over the course of two years, using data of refugees living off-camp before and after receiving ESSN cash assistance. These results present findings from three surveys: Pre-Assistance Baseline (PAB), Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) Cross Section Round 1 (CS1) and PDM Cross Section Round 2 (CS2).

2. Approach, Methodology & Data

2.1 Method of data collection

The PAB and PDM samples include both eligible and ineligible applicant households, with the ineligible households serving as a comparison group. WFP decided to use phone-based data collection to allow for a large sample size with high confidence intervals, while remaining cost efficient. This method allows for wide geographic coverage over shorter time, but is limited to shorter questionnaires due to higher non-response rates by phone. The data was collected by the Gaziantep-based call centre managed by TRC.

Three core partners were involved in the PAB and PDM CS: TRC, WFP and the World Bank (WB). The response rates to the PAB and PDM surveys were moderate, with approximately 50 to 60 percent of called households successfully completing the phone interviews. Given the modality of data collection, the response rates were within the expected parameters.

TRC was responsible for data collection and data quality control. A team of TRC call centre staff, able to speak five languages (Arabic, Turkish, English, Pashto and Farsi), conducted the interviews. WFP was responsible for designing the questionnaire, sampling, training the TRC enumerators and analysis of the core ESSN indicators. WB was responsible for overall technical guidance, providing critical input on sampling and questionnaire design. The PDM report was written by WFP.

2.2 Sample

The PAB data was collected between February and May 2017 before the distribution of assistance; a total of 8,690 surveys were covered, including 5,297 non-beneficiary households and 3,393 beneficiary households identified as eligible to receive ESSN assistance. The data was drawn from a sample of assessed ESSN applications submitted until May 2017, and was representative of the applicant

population encompassing 1.6 million refugees. The ESSN outcomes were designed to be evaluated primarily through a longitudinal quasi-experimental study, where panel data was collected from the same households that participated in the pre-assistance baseline at regular intervals. So far, four separate rounds of panel data collection has been completed. Periods of panel data collection are summarized below.

Table 1: ESSN Panel Data Collection Periods

Survey	Date	Sample	Data Collection
Pre-Assistance Baseline (PAB)	February – May 2017	8,690	Panel Data
PDM1	August-November 2017	6,958	
PDM2	November 2017 - January 2018	6,542	
PDM4	April - July 2018	6,184	
PDM6	November 2018 - January 2019	4,970	

The PAB sample size was calculated to provide 99 percent confidence and 5 percent margin of error. 99 percent confidence level was used in the design of the longitudinal study to keep the sample size as high as possible, in order to account for attrition in future panel rounds.

On the other hand, it was also essential to collect data from households that applied for the ESSN after May 2017 to have a better understanding of the situation of average ESSN applicants. Thus, the PDM sampling was changed to include data from a random selection of eligible and ineligible households at the time of data collection (a cross-sectional snapshot). Alternating PDMs of panel and cross-sectional data will allow for regular, representative surveys, while also ensuring a solid impact analysis at the end of the ESSN.

Accordingly, the first round of cross-sectional PDM data was collected from 4,834 households between February and April 2018, over one year after the provision of assistance through the ESSN had started. The dataset included 2,491 beneficiary households (receiving ESSN assistance at the time of sampling) and 2,343 non-beneficiary households (who did not receive). The data was collected from a sample of applications drawn at the end of December 2017, when the ESSN was supporting 1.1 million refugees.

The second round of cross sectional PDM data was collected from 4,862 households between August and November 2018. The dataset included 2,418 beneficiary households (receiving ESSN assistance at the time of sampling) and 2,444 non-beneficiary households. The data was collected from a sample of applications drawn at the end of July 2018, when the ESSN was supporting 1.4 million refugees. The PDM Cross Section sample sizes were calculated to provide 95 percent confidence and 5 percent margin of error.

Table 2: Survey Period and Sample Size

Survey	Date	Sample	Data Collection
Pre-Assistance Baseline (PAB)	February – May 2017	8,690	Cross Section
PDM Cross Section Round 1 (PDM3 - CS1)	February – April 2018	4,834	
PDM Cross Section Round 2 (PDM5 - CS2)	August – November 2018	4,862	

All datasets are stratified across five regions of the country. The five strata are:

1. Istanbul
2. Aegean
3. Anatolia/Thrace
4. Mediterranean
5. South-East

Figure 1: Map of Regional Strata

Table 3: Sample Size by Region

REGION	Sample Size (PAB)	Percentage of Sample (PAB)	Sample Size (PDM CS1)	Percentage of Sample (PDM CS1)	Sample Size (PDM CS2)	Percentage of Sample (PDM CS2)
Istanbul	1,759	20.2%	984	20.4%	990	20.4%
Aegean	1,783	20.5%	954	19.7%	963	19.8%
Anatolia/Thrace	1,393	16.0%	960	19.9%	972	20.0%
Mediterranean	1,847	21.3%	965	20.0%	983	20.2%
South-East	1,908	22.0%	971	20.1%	954	19.6%
TOTAL	**8,690**	**100%**	**4,834**	**100%**	**4,862**	**100%**

The cross-sectional approach is an important methodological change from the previous rounds of panel PDM data collection. The panel data is collected from the same households repeatedly, allowing longitudinal insight into the effect of the ESSN cash transfers. By design, this means the sample are earlier applicants to the ESSN – those who applied before May 2017. The panel data beneficiaries, therefore, have been receiving assistance for a relatively long period.

The first and second rounds of cross-sectional data, on the other hand, are collected from a random selection of applicants submitted by a later date: December 2017 and July 2018 for CS1 and CS2 respectively. The sampling has been constructed to ensure the data provides three key benefits:

- A more accurate depiction of ESSN Beneficiaries to date: The first benefit is that the data includes a random sample of all beneficiaries eligible in December 2017/July 2018, regardless of application date. This allows insight into the overall situation of ESSN beneficiaries – some of whom have received cash transfers since December 2016, and others who may have

received only one month of assistance. This broader perspective is a more accurate depiction of the average situation of ESSN beneficiaries.

- Additional data from later applicants: to compensate for the fact that the panel survey design did not include later applicants, the cross section samples were constructed in a way that oversampled later applicants between May and December 2017 for PDM CS1, and May 2017 and July 2018 for PDM CS2. This allowed for a comparison of various outcomes between earlier and later applicants.

- Non-beneficiaries with no assistance: the third key benefit is that the non-beneficiaries who serve as the comparison group within this sample have never received assistance. Some households in the ESSN fluctuate in and out of assistance, whereas the cross-sectional data sample was constructed to ensure all non-beneficiaries had never received an ESSN cash transfer. This non-beneficiary sample therefore provides a more 'pure' comparison group.

A further comparison of the advantages and limitations of the two designs is included below in section 2.3.

2.3 Limitations

While the cross-section datasets provide important benefits, it also presents some limitations. To ensure the non-beneficiaries had never received assistance requires excluding non-beneficiaries who had changed eligibility status during the course of the programme. Therefore, the dataset is not representative of all applicants, as this particular group of households (ineligible when the samples were drawn in December 2017 and July 2018 but had previously received at least one ESSN cash transfer) was not considered within the samples.

In addition, even though the inclusion of an additional sample from later applicants provides a better depiction of the average situation of the ESSN applicants to date, it also places further limitations on the representativeness of the sample, due to the sampling methodology used.

Given the divergence from methodology used in the longitudinal survey design, the cross-sectional PDM results will be presented in comparison to the baseline only, not the panel PDM results.

<table>
<tr><th>Data</th><th>Advantage</th><th>Limitation</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">Panel</td><td>Representative of all applicants until May 2017</td><td>All data is collected from earlier applicants, who may be different from later applicants</td></tr>
<tr><td>Demonstrates effect of assistance over a longer period</td><td rowspan="2">Beneficiary households have received transfers for a longer period; may not depict the situation of average beneficiaries at present</td></tr>
<tr><td>Panel data is foundation of impact analysis</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">Cross Section</td><td>More accurate depiction of situation of later applicants</td><td rowspan="3">Not representative of all applicants (group of non-beneficiaries who have changed status is not included; a larger number of later applicants added for comparison)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Ability to compare the outcomes for earlier applicants with those of later applicants</td></tr>
<tr><td>Non-beneficiaries never received assistance (more 'pure' comparison group)</td></tr>
</table>

3. Results

The cross sectional PDM results compared with the PAB are presented in two sections: demographic profile and vulnerability profile. Moving forward, the PAB and PDM surveys will be indicated with their last month of data collection in charts and tables for ease of reference.

3.1 Demographic Profile

Overall, 78 percent of refugee households in November were male-headed and 22 percent female-headed. The proportion of female-headed households, however, is higher for beneficiaries: for the same period of data collection, 31 percent of beneficiary households were female-headed, compared with only 14 percent of non-beneficiary households. This is most likely due to the fact that single parent households, an ESSN criterion, are more likely to be female-headed. Additionally, being a single female is another criterion for eligibility for the ESSN programme. The results are similar to previous rounds of data collection.

The average beneficiary household has over 6.5 members. Beneficiary households are larger than non-beneficiary households, who have between 4.8 and 5.4 members. This is likely a direct result of the eligibility criteria, which prioritize families with large numbers of children and more dependents. Indeed, the dependency ratio[1] of beneficiary households is over 1.8 across all surveys cross-section rounds (against the ESSN eligibility threshold of 1.5), and one full point above the dependency ratio of non-beneficiary households.

In terms of age distribution, the average non-beneficiary household is skewed toward the 18-59 age group with 60 percent of members in this category. The average beneficiary household, on the other hand, has a higher proportion of younger members, with 59 percent of the members falling in the 0-17 age group in November 2018. These results are also in line with the ESSN eligibility criteria.

Table 4 displays all household composition results.

[1] The dependency ratio is the number of dependents per each adult who is able to work. It is calculated as the number of children and elderly members (ages 0-17 and 60 or more, respectively), divided by the number of working-age members in the household (ages 18-59). For families with no working age members, the dependency ratio is recalculated as household size – 1.

Table 4: Demographic Profile

	May 2017 (PAB)			April 2018 (PDM CS1)			November 2018 (PDM CS2)		
Demographics	Non-Beneficiary	Beneficiary	**Total**	Non-Beneficiary	Beneficiary	**Total**	Non-Beneficiary	Beneficiary	**Total**
Female-Headed Households (%)	20%	48%	**31%**	8%	25%	**16%**	14%	31%	**22%**
Male-Headed Households (%)	80%	52%	**69%**	92%	75%	**84%**	86%	69%	**78%**
Average Number of Household Members	5.39	7.11	**6.06**	4.99	6.67	**5.86**	4.79	6.67	**5.72**
Average Dependency Ratio	1.00	2.07	**1.42**	0.88	1.86	**1.38**	0.84	1.90	**1.37**
Households with 4 members or less (%)	37%	13%	**27%**	51%	10%	**30%**	55%	9%	**32%**
Households with 5-8 members (%)	54%	65%	**58%**	43%	72%	**58%**	39%	73%	**56%**
Households with 9 members or more (%)	9%	22%	**14%**	6%	18%	**12%**	6%	18%	**12%**
Share of members age 0-5 (%)	19%	19%	**19%**	20%	20%	**20%**	19%	19%	**19%**
Share of members age 6-17 (%)	22%	40%	**29%**	18%	38%	**28%**	17%	40%	**29%**
Share of members age 18-59 (%)	55%	36%	**48%**	58%	38%	**48%**	60%	37%	**49%**
Share of members age 60+ (%)	4%	4%	**4%**	4%	4%	**4%**	4%	4%	**4%**

3.2 Vulnerability Analysis

The vulnerability analysis covers six different dimensions: 1) food security, 2) livelihoods coping strategies, 3) expenditure against the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB), 4) debt, 5) income sources, 6) education and 7) comparison of outcomes between older and more recent ESSN beneficiaries. Throughout this section, whenever relevant and interesting, the beneficiary outcomes are disaggregated in the following order: first in terms of beneficiary status, followed by gender of the head of the household, household size and finally different regions.

In conjunction with the project outcomes, it is important to include some context at this point on the country's macroeconomic conjuncture in 2018 as it provides key insights into the resilience of refugees to unexpected shocks and their ability to meet their basic needs. In 2018, the consumer price inflation in Turkey more than doubled its historical trend of the past decade, reaching a peak of 25.24 percent in October. The year-end inflation rate was 20.30 percent[2]. By mid-August, the Turkish Lira had lost 45 percent of its value against the US dollar[3]. The devaluation in the Turkish Lira partially reversed over the months following August, with the TL having lost approximately 28 percent of its value against the US dollar by end-2018[4].

In line with rising inflation and exchange rate volatility, the growth rate of Turkish GDP declined from 7.5 percent in 2017 to 2.6 percent in 2018, and the Turkish economy entered into a recession in Q4 2018 following two consecutive quarters of GDP contraction[5]. The main factor behind the economic contraction was the fall in the private consumption (8.9 percent on a yearly basis) - the main driver of economic growth in the country[6]. Investments also declined by 12.9 percent on an annual basis[7]. Headline unemployment rate rose from 10.8 percent in January to 13.5 percent in December 2018[8].

While the deteriorating macroeconomic trends have negatively affected the purchasing power of the Turkish citizens, the impact on refugees was expected to be more severe, given their limited social capital, savings and resilience to withstand economic shocks. This has potential to lead to increases in debt, use of coping strategies and overall inability to meet basic needs. This is indeed what the survey outcomes corroborate.

[2] Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT) Consumer Price Index data.
[3] Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey, Real Effective Exchange Rate Statistics.
[4] Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey, Real Effective Exchange Rate Statistics.
[5] Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT) Press Release 30886, 11 March 2019, Quarterly Gross Domestic Product, Quarter IV: October-December, 2018, http://www.turkstat.gov.tr/HbGetirHTML.do?id=30886
[6] Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT) Press Release 30886, 11 March 2019, Quarterly Gross Domestic Product, Quarter IV: October-December, 2018, http://www.turkstat.gov.tr/HbGetirHTML.do?id=30886
[7] Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT) Press Release 30886, 11 March 2019, Quarterly Gross Domestic Product, Quarter IV: October-December, 2018, http://www.turkstat.gov.tr/HbGetirHTML.do?id=30886
[8] Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT) Press Release 30677, 25 March 2019, Labour Force Statistics, 2018, http://www.turkstat.gov.tr/HbGetirHTML.do?id=30677

3.2.1. Food Security

Food Consumption Score

The Food Consumption Score (FCS) is a standard WFP indicator used globally to measure food security. It is a frequency-weighted dietary-diversity score that uses a 7-day recall period. Through this indicator, household diets are classified into three groups: acceptable, borderline or poor[9]. Borderline food consumption equates to daily consumption of staples and vegetables, with frequent (4 days/week) consumption of oil and pulses.

Figures 2 and 3 present the proportion of households with acceptable, borderline and poor food consumption. In May 2017, before receiving any assistance, 76.5 percent of beneficiary and 77.3 percent of non-beneficiary households had acceptable food consumption. Between May 2017 and April 2018, the share of households with acceptable food consumption increased by 7.6 percentage points for beneficiaries, much more than the 1.4 percentage points for non-beneficiaries.

However, the trend reversed between April and November 2018. By the end of the second round of data collection, the share of beneficiaries with acceptable food consumption decreased by 2.3 percentage points, falling to 81.8 percent. The decline was much greater for non-beneficiaries on the other hand, falling by nearly 11 percentage points, bringing the outcome below its May 2017 levels. The overall decline in the food consumption scores is mainly attributed to the rapidly rising inflation rates and the slowdown in economic growth that started during the second half of 2018.

Figure 2: Food Consumption Groups (Beneficiaries)

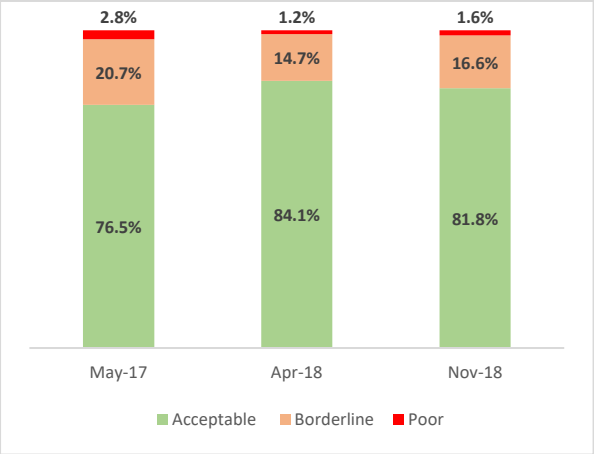
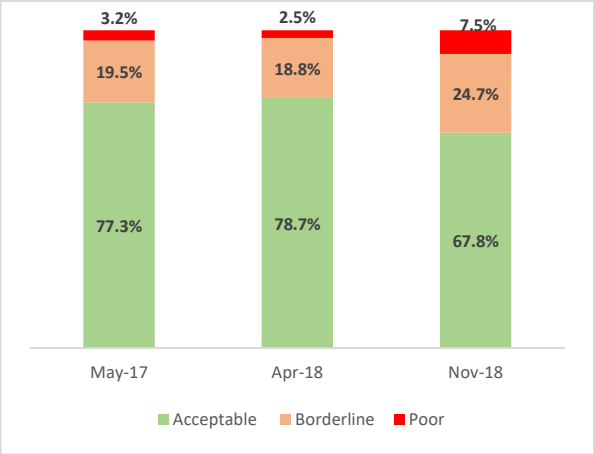


Figure 3: Food Consumption Groups (Non-Beneficiaries)



Figures 4 and 5 depict food consumption groups by beneficiary status and sex of household head. Between May 2017 and November 2018, the share of beneficiary households with acceptable food consumption score increased by approximately 3 and 8 percentage points respectively for male and female-headed households. For beneficiary households, the difference in the food consumption scores of male and female-headed households was not

[9] For more details on the FCS, refer to the WFP Technical Guidance Sheet: Food Consumption Analysis

statistically significant. There was a reduction in the proportion of male-headed households with acceptable FCS between April and November 2018, in line with the change in the average (male and female) figures.

Like beneficiary households, there was a moderate improvement in the share of non-beneficiary households with acceptable food consumption between May 2017 and April 2018, before falling significantly by November 2018. However, over the entire timeline, the share of non-beneficiary households with acceptable food consumption has declined by approximately 1 percentage point for female-headed households and over 10 percentage points for male-headed households. The discrepancy between the average food consumption score of male and female-headed non-beneficiary households was statistically significant.

Figure 4: FCG by Sex of Household Head Beneficiaries

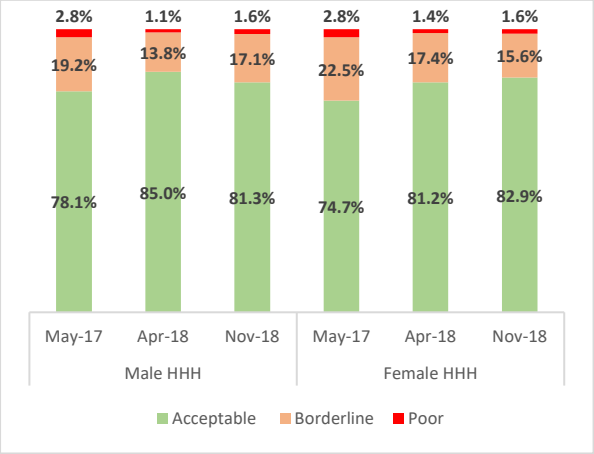
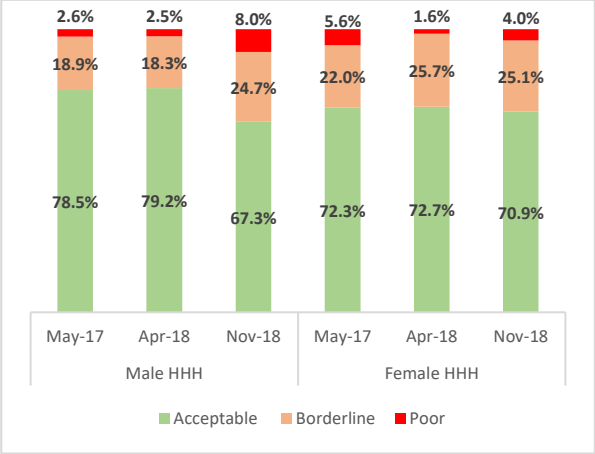


Figure 5: FCG by Sex of Household Head Non-Beneficiaries



Larger beneficiary households have better food security outcomes. For beneficiary households with 1-4 members, the share of households with acceptable food consumption declined by 2 percentage points between May 2017 and November 2018, compared to a 5 percentage point increase for households with 5-8 members, and a 10 percentage point increase for households with 9 or more members. This is likely due to the fact that ESSN assistance is per capita, therefore larger households receive more assistance (120 Turkish Liras for each household member) despite potential economies of scale (which is why the quarterly top-ups are smaller for large families).

Similarly, for non-beneficiary households the deterioration in the food security outcomes was more pronounced for smaller households. For non-beneficiary households with 1-4 members, the percentage of households with acceptable food consumption score declined by 10 percentage points between May 2017 and November 2018. The reduction was 8 percentage points for households with 5-8 members but only 1 percentage point for households with 9 or more members.

There is notable variation between regions in food consumption score trends. For non-beneficiaries, the greatest decline in the share of households with acceptable food consumption was in the South-East, with 16 percentage points between May 2017 and

November 2018. As a result, by November 2018, the South-East region had the lowest share of non-beneficiary households with acceptable food consumption score, at only 58 percent. It also had the highest share of non-beneficiary households with poor consumption scores, some 13%. Only in Istanbul, there was a net increase in the share of non-beneficiary households with acceptable food consumption, with a 1 percentage point increase since the baseline.

For beneficiaries, on the other hand, between May 2017 and November 2018, the share of households with acceptable food consumption rose by 10 percentage points in the South-East. The corresponding increases for Istanbul and Anatolia/Thrace were 2 and 9 percentage points respectively. Declines were observed for Aegean and Mediterranean regions. In the Mediterranean region in particular, the proportion of households with acceptable food consumption rose by 16 percentage points between May 2017 and April 2018, but fell by 20 percentage points between April and November 2018. As of November 2018, 3 regions have the highest proportion of beneficiary households with acceptable food consumption: South-East, Istanbul and Anatolia/Thrace.

Please refer to the **Annex** for more detailed analysis of food consumption groups disaggregated by household size and strata.

Reduced Coping Strategies Index

The reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI) is a standard indicator used to measure the food security conditions of the households. When the households do not have adequate food or the money to buy food, they resort to common consumption coping strategies such as reducing the amount of food consumed, reducing the number of meals, or restricting the food consumption of adults in order for children to eat more. A numeric score, the rCSI, is calculated based on the frequency at which the households employ these coping strategies, each of which has a standard severity weight.[10]

Figures 6 and 7 present the consumption coping strategies for beneficiary and non-beneficiary households. Beneficiaries have decreased frequency of use of all consumption coping strategies from May 2017 to November 2018 with the exception of "relying on cheaper, less preferred food." The proportion of beneficiaries using this strategy increased by 9 percentage points. This is usually the most frequently used of all the food-related strategies, as households are more willing to purchase a cheaper brand, for example, than reduce the amount they consume. The clear decline in use of consumption coping strategies suggests that the ESSN may be supporting households to meet their food needs.

The results demonstrate that non-beneficiaries also reduced reliance on most food-related coping strategies. There was a marginal increase in the use of "relied on less preferred, cheaper food" and a more substantial increase in the use of "reduced portion size of meals." Despite the improvements on the part of beneficiaries, they continue to use all food-related

[10] For more details on the rCSI, refer to the Coping Strategies Index Field Methods Manual

coping strategies more frequently than non-beneficiaries, with the exception of "reducing portion size of meals."

Figure 6: Consumption Coping Strategies, Beneficiaries

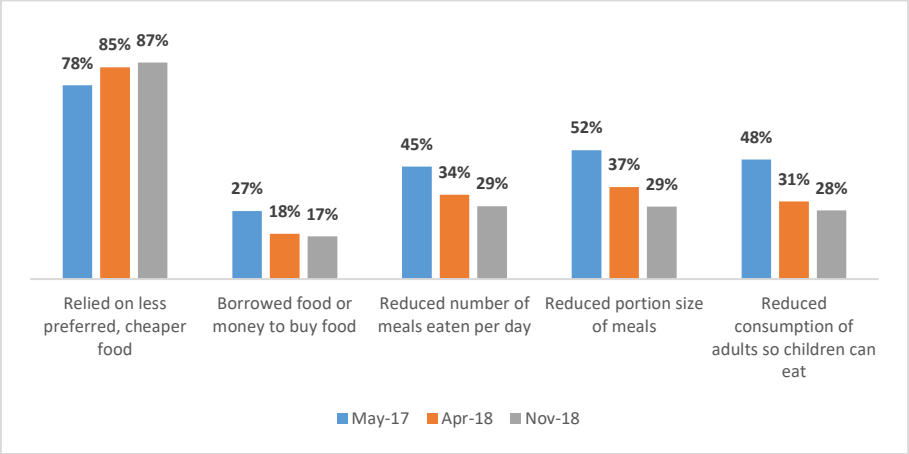
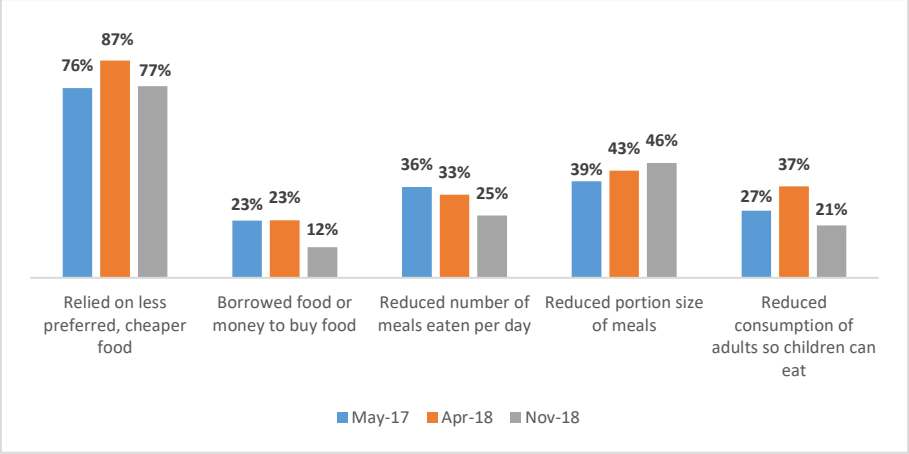


Figure 7: Consumption Coping Strategies, Non-Beneficiaries

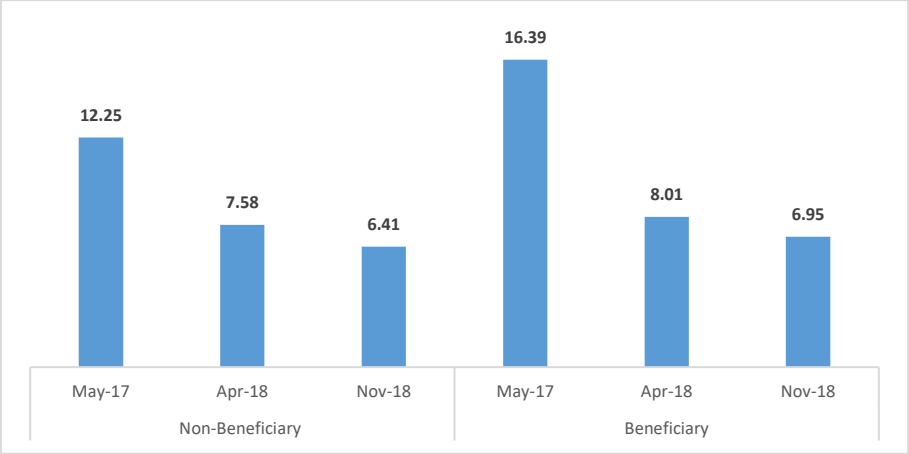


Among the non-beneficiaries, a higher share of female-headed households resorted to "reducing number of meals eaten per day" and "reducing the food consumption of adults" as of November 2018. The use of the other strategies was almost equal between female and male-headed households. For beneficiaries, female-headed households resort to all strategies more frequently, with the exception of "relying on cheaper, less preferred food". This supports the other analysis indicating that female-headed beneficiary households are more vulnerable than male-headed households across the majority of the ESSN outcomes.

Although the results show improvements for beneficiaries in comparison to the baseline, the data also shows that the proportion of households using at least one consumption coping strategy has, unfortunately, increased. In May 2017, 91 percent of beneficiary households and 86 percent of non-beneficiary households engaged in some form of consumption coping mechanism (i.e. used one or more of the five consumption coping strategies). The proportion of households engaging in consumption coping strategies increased by 2 percent from May 2017 to November 2018 for both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries, reaching 93 percent and 88 percent respectively. (Please refer to the **Annex for details**).

The rCSI (reduced Coping Strategies Index) is the weighted sum of the five mentioned consumption coping strategies and is used as proxy indicator of food access. The rCSI results show large improvements between May 2017 and November 2018 for both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries (**Figure 8**). However, the decrease was larger for beneficiaries (58 percent) compared to non-beneficiaries (48 percent). The decrease was also larger for female-headed beneficiary households (59 percent), closely followed by male-headed beneficiary households (56 percent). Corroborating the Food Consumption Score results, the rate of improvement in rCSI slowed down between April and November 2018.

Figure 8: Reduced Consumption Strategies Index (rCSI) by Beneficiary Status

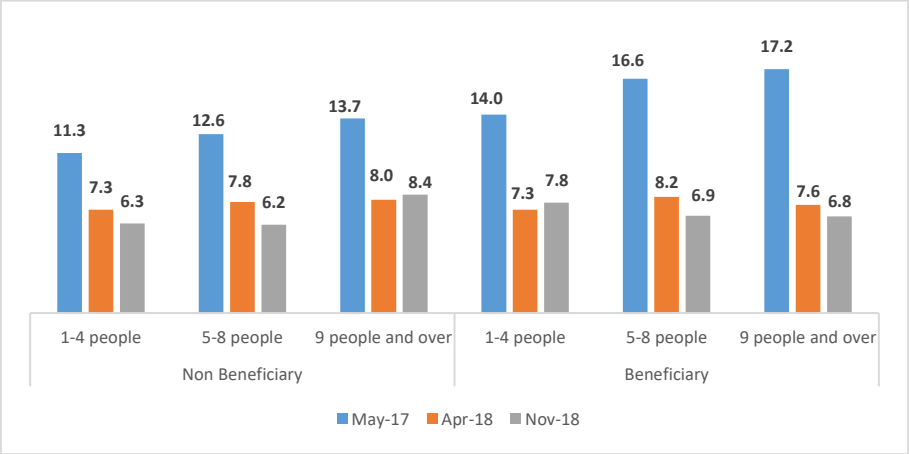


Once again, the data demonstrates that larger households exhibited greater improvements in food security outcomes; beneficiary households with 1-4 members had a 44 percent reduction in the rCSI from May 2017 to November 2018, while households with 5-8 members and 9 or more members had a 58 percent and 60 percent reduction in rCSI respectively (Figure 9). Thus, while the largest beneficiary households had the highest rCSI levels at the baseline, by the end of the second cross section, they were doing the best among the three different household size groups.

On the other hand, among non-beneficiary households the reduction in the rCSI was least for the largest households; while the rCSI decreased by 39 percent for households with 9 more members, the decrease was 44 percent and 58 percent for households with 4 members or less and 5-8 members respectively. The largest non-beneficiary households also continue to have the highest rCSI levels.

These results support the idea that larger beneficiary households tend to be most vulnerable (hence the targeting criteria prioritising larger households), but per capita assistance provides disproportionate support to larger households, enabling faster gains than those in smaller households. It may also indicate that the quarterly household top-ups are insufficient to counterbalance this issue.

Figure 9: rCSI by Beneficiary Status and Household Size



Looking at the regional breakdown, the largest reductions in the reduced coping strategies index for beneficiary households since the baseline were seen in Istanbul and Aegean, with 72 percent and 79 percent respectively. For the non-beneficiaries, the largest reduction was in the South-East with a 79 percent reduction in rCSI from May 2017 to November 2018. As of November 2018, among non-beneficiaries, the Mediterranean region had the highest and the South-East has the lowest average rCSI. Beneficiary households in the Mediterranean region had the highest average rCSI with the rCSI levels nearly doubling between April and November 2018. The most significant rises were seen in the proportion of households resorting to reducing number of meals eaten per day, reducing the portion size of meals, and reducing the food consumption of adults so children can eat. The lowest use of rCSI was recorded in the Aegean region. (Please refer to the **Annex** for details).

3.2.2. Livelihoods Coping

While the food consumption score and rCSI are proxies for the current food security conditions of households, livelihood-based coping strategies (LCS) serve to assess longer-term household coping and productive capacities.

Household vulnerability is calculated based on the severity of the coping strategies they use. Coping strategies are classified into three categories: stress, crisis and emergency. These classifications are based on the severity of the impact of the strategy on household resilience, and the ability to cope with future livelihood shocks. The household is considered more vulnerable if more severe strategies are adopted. The questions used for the ESSN LCS module were validated and weighted based on Focus Group Discussions conducted with the affected population to ensure that they are appropriate and representative for the current context.

The November 2018 data shows a clear reduction in the use of all coping strategies by beneficiary households with respect to the Pre-Assistance Baseline in May 2017. However, beneficiary use of a number of coping strategies (e.g. selling household assets, sending children to work) has increased between April and November 2018, again corroborating the FCS and rCSI results.

In contrast, the non-beneficiary households demonstrate less change, and in fact have increased the use of some strategies in comparison to their baseline results, indicating a deteriorating situation.

In particular, the emergency coping strategies of "moving the household to a different location" and "sending children to work" have seen a significant reduction among beneficiaries when compared with the trends of non-beneficiaries. There have been similar and notable decreases seen in the crisis coping strategies of reducing health and education expenditures. As the ESSN is a multi-purpose cash transfer, this indicates a positive multi-sectoral impact of the cash assistance with important contributions to the human capital of beneficiary households.

Figure 10: Stress Coping Strategies Beneficiaries

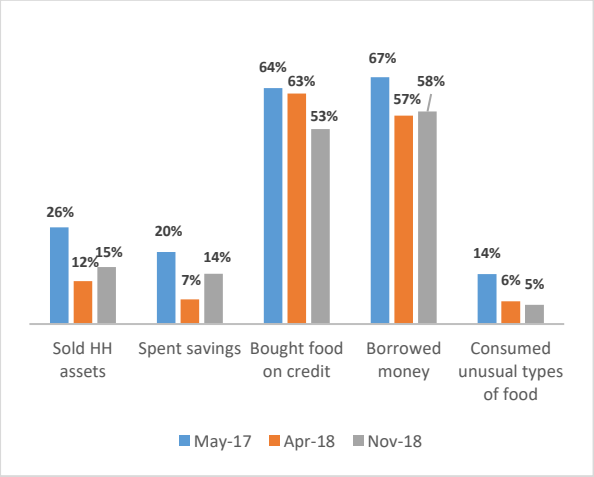


Figure 11: Stress Coping Strategies Non-Beneficiaries

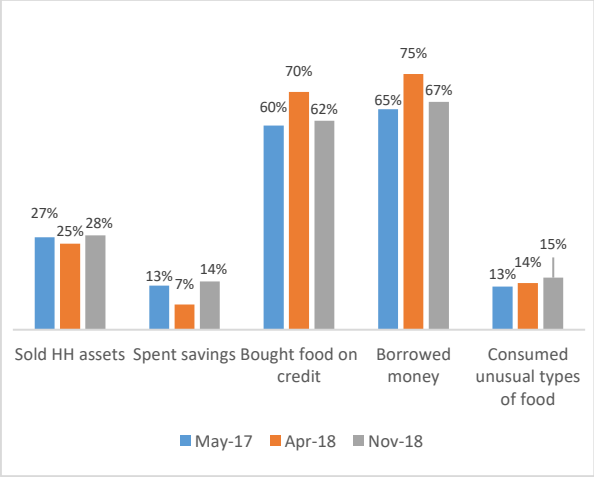


Figure 12: Crisis Coping Strategies Beneficiaries

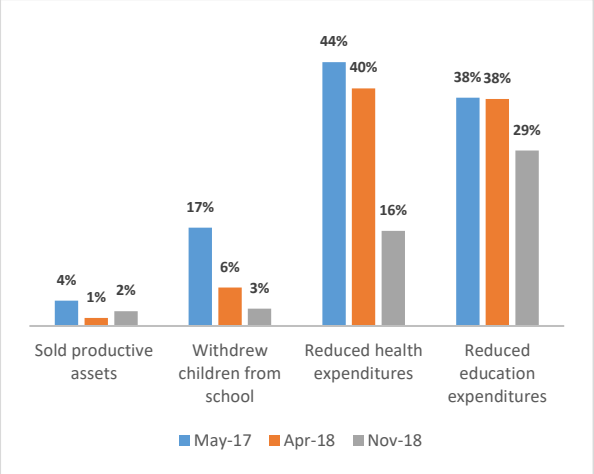


Figure 13: Crisis Coping Strategies Non-Beneficiaries

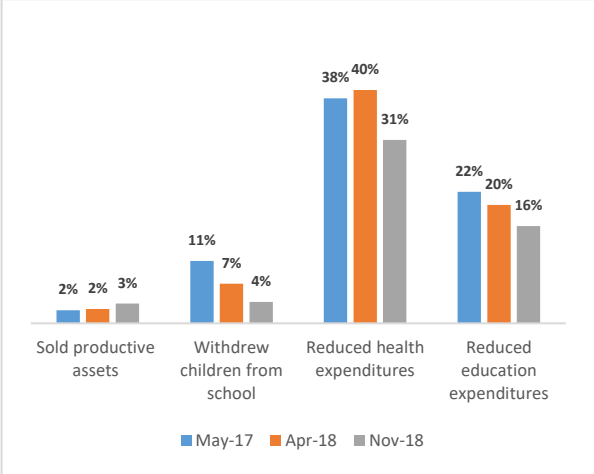


Figure 14: Emergency Coping Strategies Beneficiaries

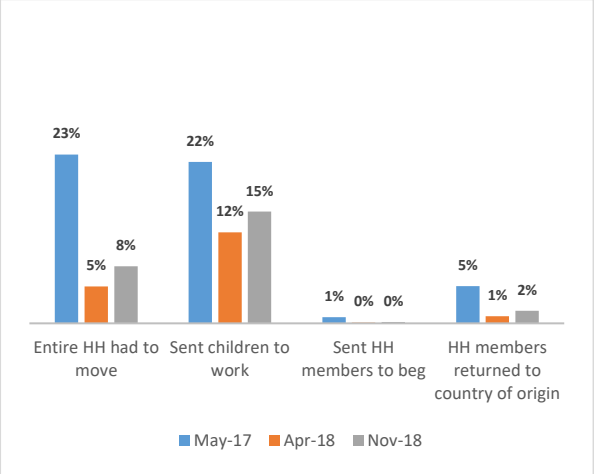
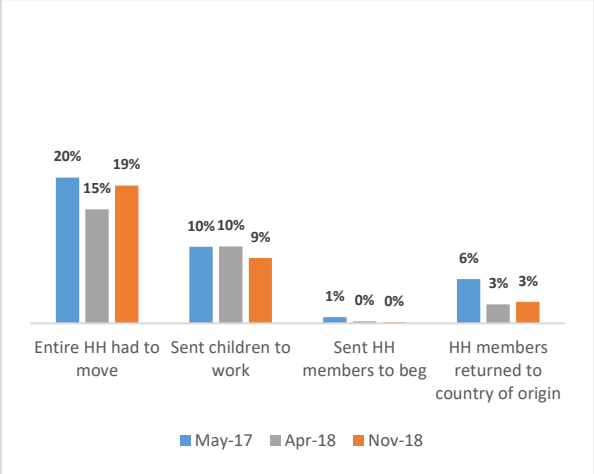


Figure 15: Emergency Coping Strategies Non-Beneficiaries

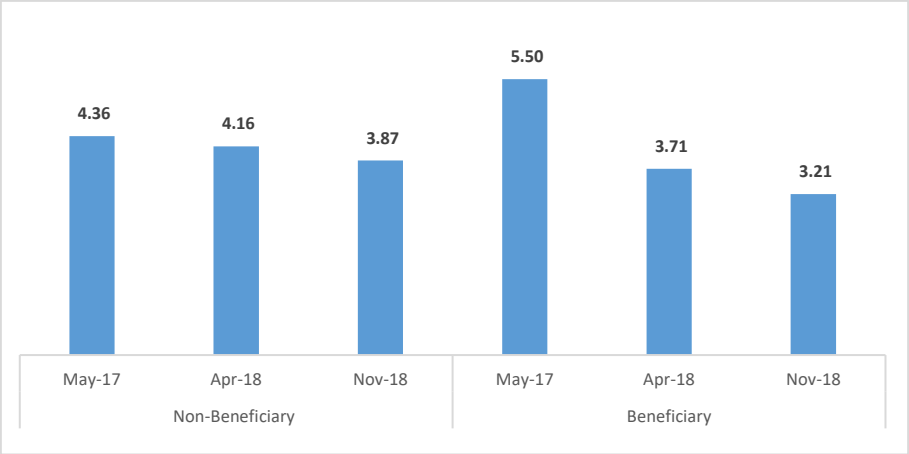


By November 2018, the most common coping strategies for beneficiary households were borrowing money (58 percent) and buying food on credit (53 percent). For non-beneficiaries, the share of households resorting to these coping strategies were 67 and 62 percent respectively. In May 2017, before receiving any assistance, the share of beneficiary households resorting to stress, crisis and emergency strategies was higher than that of non-beneficiaries. However, by November 2018 the beneficiaries were less likely to resort to all categories of coping strategies. While the comparison indicates the positive benefits of the ESSN assistance, some results are still concerning. For example, 23 percent of beneficiaries and 28 percent of non-beneficiaries used at least one emergency coping strategy in November 2018; such coping strategies are harder to reverse and more likely to reduce future productivity and resilience to shocks.

Looking at the data disaggregated by sex of household head, the use of coping strategies was more prevalent among female-headed beneficiary households across 9 of the 13 strategies. In particular, 7 percent more female-headed beneficiary households reported spending their savings (18.5 percent) compared to male-headed households (11.4 percent) by November 2018. On the other hand, between May 2017 and November 2018, the share of households resorting to all 13 livelihoods strategies declined for both beneficiary and non-beneficiary households. No specific trend was observed for non-beneficiary households, which displayed wide variation across the changes in the use of livelihoods coping strategies for male and female-headed households.

Similarly, the use of livelihoods coping strategies declined for all size groups of beneficiary households. Similar to the FCS and rCSI results, the decreases were particularly more pronounced for larger households – those with 5-8 members and 9 members or more. (Please refer to the **Annex** for details).

Figure 16: LCSI by Beneficiary Status



The LCS Index (LCSI) is the weighted sum of the livelihoods coping strategies. Overall, the LCSI decreased by 42 percent for beneficiaries (5.50 to 3.21) from May 2017 to November 2018, with a slightly larger decrease for male-headed households. As with the other results, the decrease was higher for larger households (37 percent decrease for households with 1-4 members and 42 percent decrease for households with 5-8 members and 9 or more members). The LCSI decreased by 11 percent overall for non-beneficiaries (from 4.36 to 3.87), with a 14 percent decrease for male-headed households and 7 percent increase for female-headed households. By November 2018, the livelihoods coping strategies index for beneficiary households had fallen below that of non-beneficiaries, despite having started at a higher baseline. This again suggests that the ESSN assistance is having a very positive effect on beneficiary households, though poses the risk that beneficiaries may start to surpass non-beneficiaries in many measures. (Please refer to the **Annex** for details on LCSI disaggregated on the household size and head of household level).

3.2.3. Expenditure

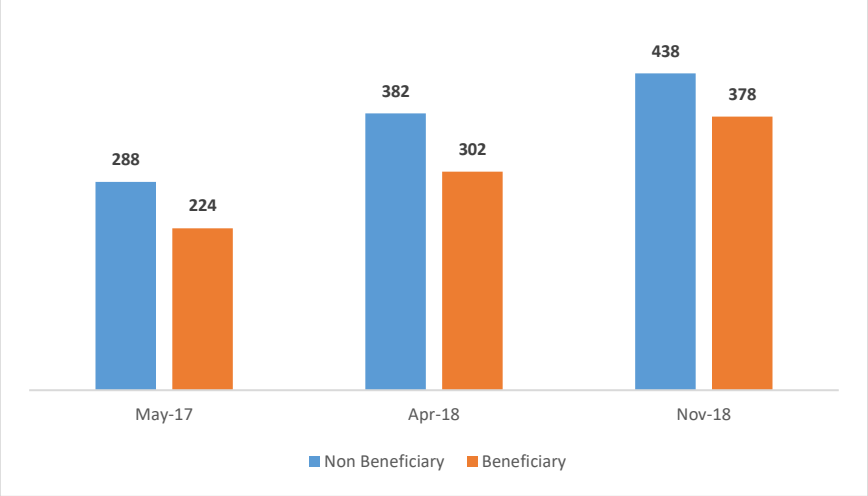
Per Capita Expenditure

Income tends to be an unreliable measure of household welfare, due to the irregular nature of refugee income and underreporting. As such, expenditure is used as a proxy measure of welfare, indicating the ability of a household to meet their needs. From May 2017 to November 2018, the median per capita monthly expenditure increased for beneficiaries by 69 percent (224 TL to 378 TL) and for non-beneficiaries by 52 percent (288 TL to 378 TL). While at the baseline, non-beneficiary households were spending on average 30 percent more than the beneficiaries, this had declined to 16 percent by November 2018. The closing of the gap between beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries may be partially driven by the monthly ESSN cash transfers, which allow beneficiaries to spend more.

The sharp increase in the per capita expenditure is also partially due to the increasing cost of living across Turkey; inflation began to rise in the second half of 2018. By the end of Q3 2018, according to official data from the Turkish Statistical Institute, the headline Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation in the country had reached 25 percent and food inflation edged higher

at 28 percent. While the overall expenditure levels have seen a sustained increase across the country, the larger increase in per capita expenditure seen in beneficiary households may be due to the ESSN assistance.

Figure 17: Median Expenditure per Capita[11]



Gender disaggregated data did not reveal significant differences between the spending levels of male and female-headed households, with the exception of beneficiary households in November 2018, when the median per-capita spending of female-headed households was notably greater than male-headed households. Larger households were able to benefit from economies of scale and had lower levels of expenditure per capita compared to smaller households, in line with expectations. Looking at different regions, the expenditure in Istanbul was the highest for both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries, even when adjusted for regional differences in cost of living. Expenditure levels in the South-East were the lowest for beneficiary households, although they were on average higher than Mediterranean and Anatolia/Thrace for non-beneficiaries, when adjusted for regional price differences[12]. (Please refer to the **Annex** for details).

Expenditure Shares

The total share of household expenditure devoted to food is a standard indicator used to measure vulnerability. The higher the proportion devoted to food, the less a household has available for other expenses, in particular, unexpected costs such as medical bills or urgent transportation needs. Between May 2017 and November 2018, the food expenditure share has increased, pointing to decreasing levels of resilience in the face of future economic shocks. For both beneficiary and non-beneficiary households, the food expenditure share was 43 percent by November 2018, having risen from 36 and 38 percent respectively in May 2017. In addition, the absolute amount spent on food per month increased by 86 percent for ESSN beneficiaries and 71 percent for non-beneficiaries. This was substantially higher than the corresponding increase in the overall per capita expenditure for both groups. This can be

[11] According to standard World Bank methodology, debt repayments, remittances and entertainment are excluded from the consumption aggregate figures. The consumption aggregate is adjusted for regional price differences using data from the Turkish Statistical Institute.
[12] Expenditure data is adjusted for using annually published, province-based "Price level indices for consumption expenditures" to account for regional disparities in purchasing power parity.

partially explained by the fact that food inflation has been over the headline inflation rate throughout the second half of 2018.

As a result of rising food expenditure, the share of rent and utilities within the total expenditure declined subsequently. Despite a decrease in the expenditure share, the absolute amount spent continued to increase (albeit at a slower rate than food expenditure increases). For beneficiary households, the absolute amount spent on rent per month rose by 28 percent and utilities expenditure rose by 34 percent. The shares of other expenditure items remained relatively constant throughout different periods of data collection. By November 2018, beneficiary households spent nearly 70 percent of their expenditure on food, rent and utilities combined.

Figure 18: Share in Total Expenditure – Beneficiaries

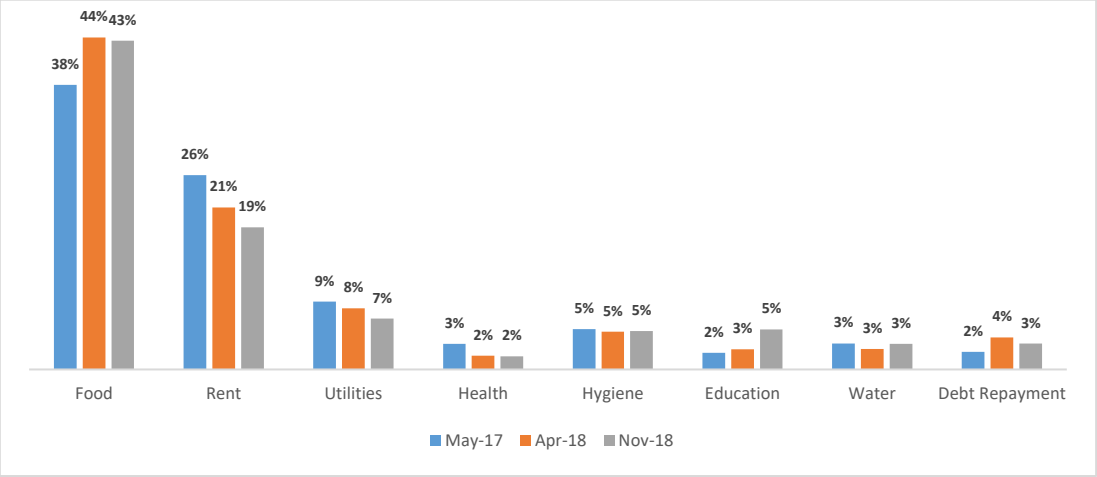
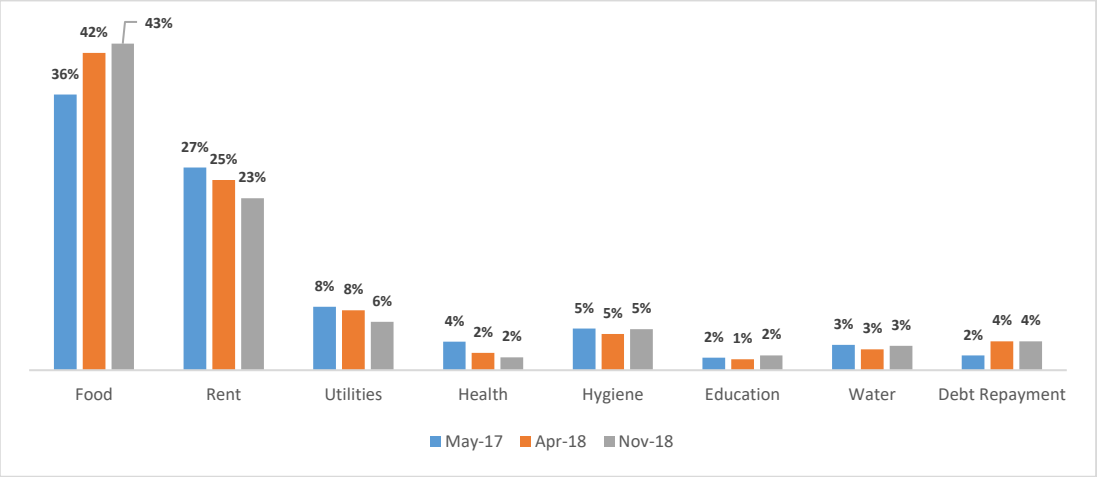


Figure 19: Share in Total Expenditure – Non-Beneficiaries



Rent and food expenditure shares varied across the regions in November 2018, with the lowest food share in Istanbul (40 percent for beneficiaries) and the highest food share in the South-East (45 percent for beneficiaries). Conversely, households in Istanbul have the highest rent share in their total expenditure (24 percent), while the households in the South-East have the lowest (16 percent). This reflects the fact that rents are significantly higher in Istanbul and lower in the South-East, and households are therefore forced to adjust their

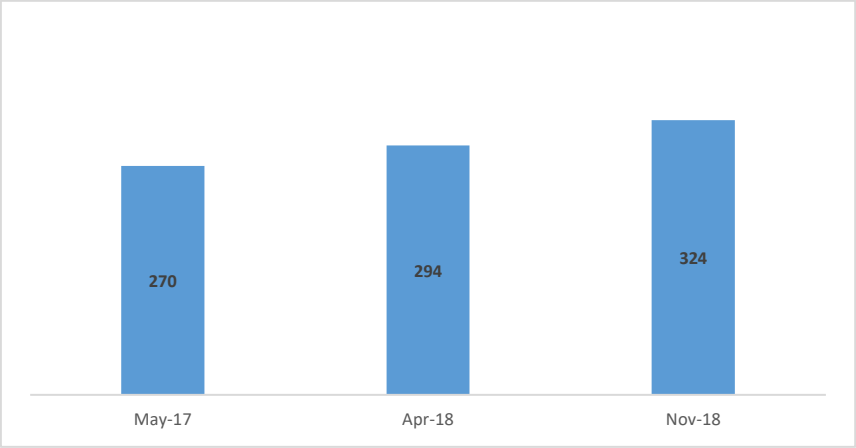
budgets accordingly. In addition, non-beneficiaries spent a greater proportion of their expenditure on rent, and a lower proportion on food compared to beneficiaries. This might indicate that the beneficiaries may be more vulnerable to economic shocks in the future, despite improvements in the use of coping strategies.

Minimum Expenditure Basket

The Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) represents the monthly cost per capita to allow refugees to live a dignified life, including full access to all rights. Essential/basic needs are defined as essential goods, utilities and services required by households to ensure survival and minimum living standards. The households whose expenditures fall below this threshold are defined as households who cannot meet their essential needs. Figure 28 depicts the cost of the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) during the appropriate time period for each PAB/PDM data collection[13].

The figures show that the MEB cost for refugee households has risen by 20 percent between May 2017 and November 2018. The fact that the level of increase is lower than the CPI inflation rate (27 percent between May 2017 and November 2018) is in line with expectations, as the MEB includes a limited number of basic goods and services to lead a dignified life, while the CPI basket is much more comprehensive in breadth, reflecting price levels across all goods and services in the country.

Figure 20: Refugee Minimum Expenditure Basket Cost per Capita

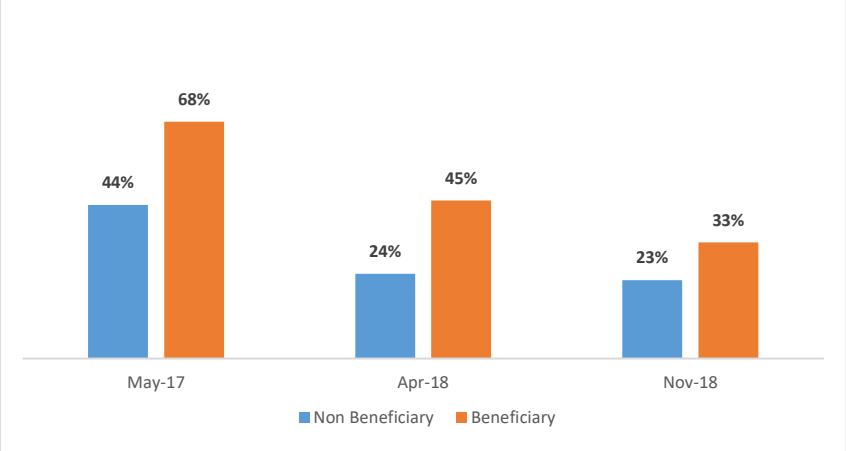


The data shows that the share of the households below the MEB has declined both for beneficiary and non-beneficiary households. The rate of decline was slightly higher for beneficiary households (51 vs. 49 percent). That said, despite receiving the cash assistance, beneficiary expenditure (and therefore the proportion of households below the MEB) has not improved substantially more than non-beneficiary expenditure. This is likely linked to the reduction in beneficiaries' use of livelihoods coping strategies, namely lower use of borrowing, depletion of savings and selling of assets. Essentially, a minimum amount of expenditure is necessary to meet basic needs, and prior to receiving assistance, beneficiaries were forced to meet their needs through the use of negative coping strategies. Thus, the data

[13] WFP uses TurkStat prices to construct the MEB. Refer to the Q1 2018 ESSN Market Bulletin for details on the construction of the MEB.

indicates that rather than substantially increasing beneficiary expenditure, the ESSN has allowed beneficiaries to maintain their expenditure levels with lower use of negative coping mechanisms.

Figure 21: Share of Households with per Capita Expenditure below the Refugee MEB



There were also no significant differences in expenditure when comparing between the sex of the household head, with the exception of beneficiary households in the latest round of data collection, which showed that the share of male-headed households below the MEB was 9 percent greater than the female-headed households. This was in line with the gender disaggregated median per capita expenditure mentioned above. This may be linked to the fact that female-headed households used coping strategies more often, enabling some increases in expenditure.

Looking at regional data, Istanbul has shown the greatest decrease in the percentage of beneficiary households below the MEB. For non-beneficiaries the sharpest decrease was in Istanbul and Mediterranean regions. Istanbul region also had the lowest overall share of households below the MEB for both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries, although its share was also the lowest at the baseline. By November 2018, the highest share of households below the MEB was registered in the South-East for non-beneficiaries, and Anatolia/Thrace for beneficiaries. This was in line with the fact that the regionally adjusted median expenditure per capita was the lowest for beneficiaries in the Anatolia/Thrace region and for non-beneficiaries in the South-East. Similarly, the fact that the highest median expenditure levels were seen in Istanbul also corroborates this regional disparity. (Please refer to the **Annex** for details).

3.2.3. Debt

The trends in total amount of debt were notably different between beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries. Between May 2017 and April 2018, the accumulated median debt of beneficiary households from 700 TL to 400 TL. Between April and November 2018, the total debt increased to 500 TL. The total rate of decrease in accumulated debt was 29 percent. For non-beneficiary households on the other hand, median debt levels displayed a sustained increase, reaching 800 TL from 690 TL at the baseline. This indicates that the ESSN assistance

may be allowing households to pay back some of their debt. During the second half of the 2018, accumulated debt of both non-beneficiary and beneficiary households increased, possibly as a negative repercussion of high inflation. The increase was more pronounced for beneficiary households.

Figure 22: Median Debt by Beneficiary Status

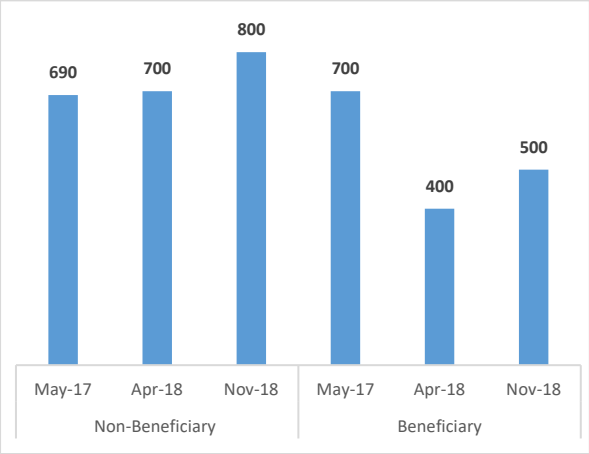
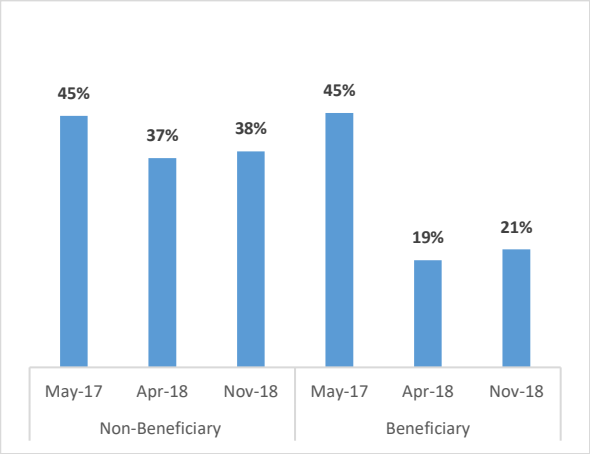


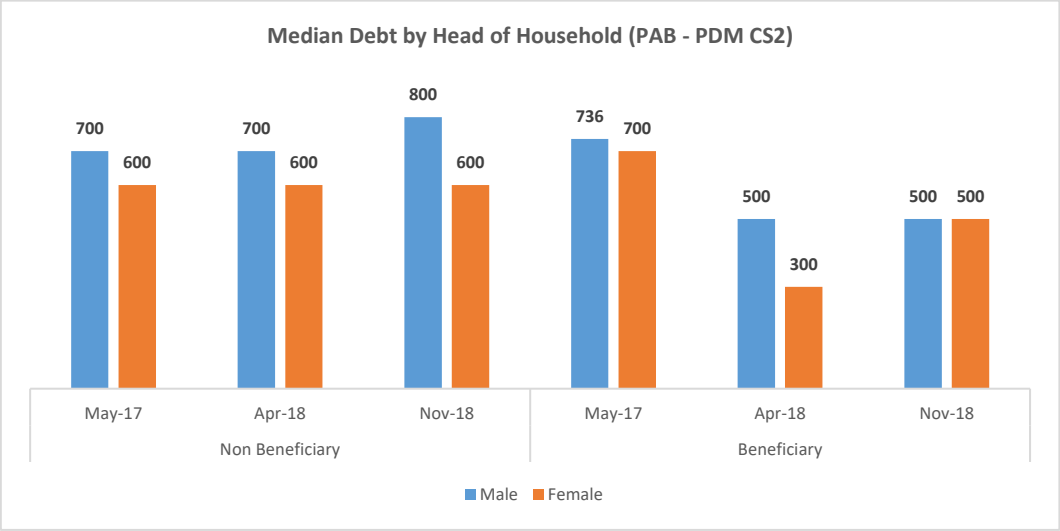
Figure 23: Median Debt as a Percentage of Monthly Expenditure



Total debt as a percentage of total monthly expenditure decreased for both beneficiary and non-beneficiary households, due to the fact that the overall increases in expenditure levels were greater than the changes in total amount of debt. However, the decrease was much sharper in beneficiary households.

Overall, male-headed households had greater accumulated debt when compared to female-headed households. However, in November 2018, the median debt of male and female-headed beneficiary households was equal; the debt levels of female-headed households increased substantially between April and November 2018. While the debt levels of female-headed households remained constant for non-beneficiaries, among beneficiary households, it has demonstrated volatility, with an initial reduction from 700 TL to 300 TL, followed by an increase up to 500 TL, likely due to high rates of inflation. Male-headed non-beneficiary households have seen an increase in their overall accumulated debt levels, from 700 to 800 TL. The trend was the opposite for male-headed beneficiary households, whose median debt declined from 736 TL to 500 TL.

Figure 24: Median Debt by Sex of Household Head



Household debt in November 2018 is lower for beneficiaries than non-beneficiaries in Istanbul, Aegean and South-East regions and equal in Mediterranean and Anatolia/Thrace. This stemmed from the fact that the median household debt increased for beneficiaries in Mediterranean and Anatolia/Thrace since the baseline, while it declined for beneficiaries in other regions. The Mediterranean region in particular has seen the sharpest increase in household debt between April and November 2018. This was in line with the fall in the acceptable food consumption and rise in the use of consumption coping strategies for the beneficiary households. Istanbul region, on the other hand, had a sharp decrease in median debt levels which have more than halved since the baseline.

For non-beneficiaries, the debt levels increased with respect to the baseline in all regions except for Istanbul. Like the beneficiary households, there was a sharp increase in the debt levels for non-beneficiary households in the Mediterranean region between April and November 2018.

3.2.5. Sources of Income

The surveys collected data on the households' three most important sources of cash/income. Income from unskilled labour remained the primary income source for beneficiary households in Turkey from May 2017 to November 2018, with over 70 percent of households generating their primary source of income through unskilled labour. For non-beneficiary households on the other hand, skilled labour surpassed unskilled labour as the main source of income in November 2018; the share of non-beneficiary households reporting unskilled labour as their primary source of income was 74 percent in April 2018 but unexpectedly this had experienced a significant reduction to 46 percent within the following 6 months. The trend in the main source of income of non-beneficiaries needs will be tracked closely to observe any fluctuations or deviations from the expected trend in the following quarters.

In May 2017, before the distribution of first ESSN assistance, households selected for ESSN assistance reported unskilled labour as their most common primary source of income,

followed by skilled labour and borrowing money. 8 percent of beneficiaries reported generating their main sources of income through "other" means, which included a variety of sources of cash, including sale of assets, borrowing money, begging, savings and aid from relatives. By April 2018, the ESSN assistance has become the second most important source of income for beneficiaries, replacing skilled labour.

However, by the end of second round of data collection, the share of beneficiary households who reported ESSN assistance as their main source of income fell from 21.4 percent to 9.9 percent, while the share of households reporting unskilled labour as their main source of income rose by 13 percentage points. . By November 2018, skilled labour had regained its place as the second most commonly cited primary source of income for beneficiary households (15 percent), followed by ESSN assistance (10 percent). These changes may be partially explained by the unchanged transfer values in the second half of 2018 despite the high inflation, reducing the significance of the ESSN income for most beneficiary families, and increasing the relative importance of their own income.

Figure 25: Primary Income Source: Beneficiaries

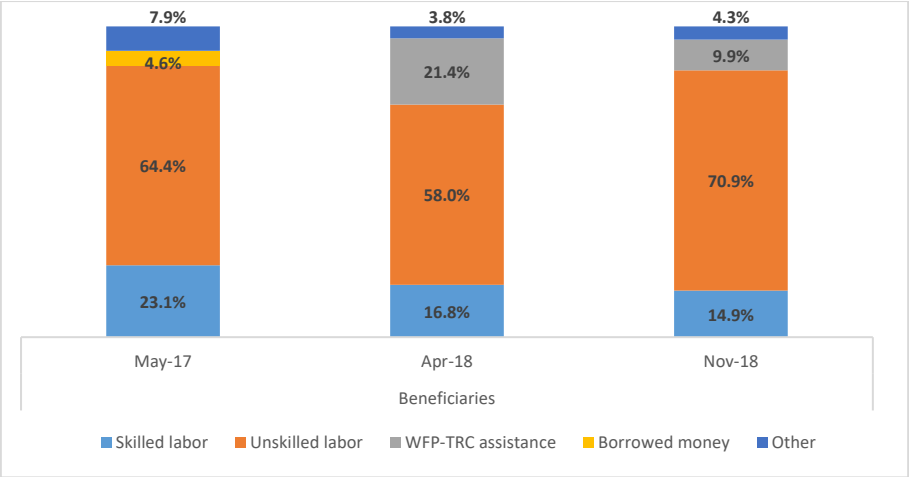
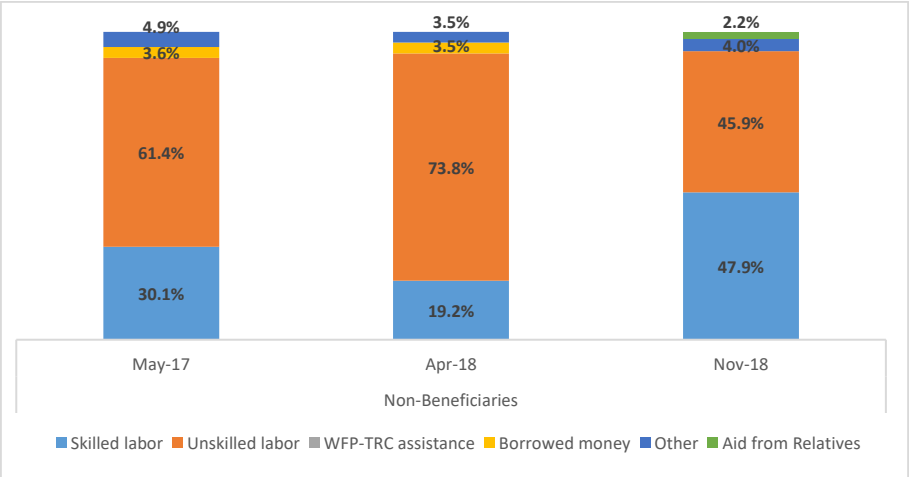


Figure 26: Primary Income Source: Non-Beneficiaries



3.2.6. Education

The Conditional Cash Transfer for Education (CCTE) project implemented by UNICEF and TRC aims to increase the number of refugee children regularly attending school in Turkey. Since May 2017, the CCTE provides vulnerable refugee families whose children meet the minimum school attendance requirements with bi-monthly cash transfers; 35 TL for each boy and 40 TL for each girl attending primary school, and 50TL for each boy and 60 TL for each girl attending secondary school.

The data allows analysis of four different groups: ESSN and CCTE beneficiaries; ESSN beneficiaries only; CCTE beneficiaries only; and non-beneficiaries.[14]

	CCTE Non-Beneficiary (PAB)	CCTE Beneficiary (PAB)	CCTE Non-Beneficiary (PDM CS1)	CCTE Beneficiary (PDM CS1)	CCTE Non-Beneficiary (PDM CS 2)	CCTE Beneficiary (PDM CS2)
ESSN Non-Beneficiary (PAB – PDM CS2)	1521	1596	682	603	738	553
ESSN Beneficiary (PAB – PDM CS2)	936	1929	687	1503	654	1524

In all surveys, all respondents were asked about the number of school age children that regularly attend school in their household. When combined with the questions on the household demographic profile, this made it possible to identify households where none or all of the school-aged children were regularly attending school. Regular attendance was defined as four out of five days per week.

PAB and PDM data shows that while the school attendance rates of the children in beneficiary and non-beneficiary households were equal (52 percent) at the baseline, ESSN beneficiaries showed a larger increase in school attendance rates between May 2017 and November 2018.

In general, the children in male-headed households had higher school attendance compared to female-headed households across both beneficiary and non-beneficiaries. Among beneficiary households, male-headed households showed high increases in school attendance. By November 2018, 68 percent of children in male-headed households were regularly attending school, versus 59 percent in female-headed households. This was corroborated by the fact that a higher proportion of female-headed households reported withdrawing children from school or sending children to work as a livelihoods based coping strategy.

[14] No beneficiaries had received the CCTE at the time of the PAB. Responses to the first panel PDM are used to classify their PAB status as CCTE or non-CCTE beneficiary. Note that all numbers only include households with school-aged children.

This was the opposite among non-beneficiaries, where female-headed households showed a marginally larger improvement. By November 2018, 58 percent of children in both male and female-headed non-beneficiary households were regularly attending school.

Figure 27: Proportion of Children Regularly Attending School

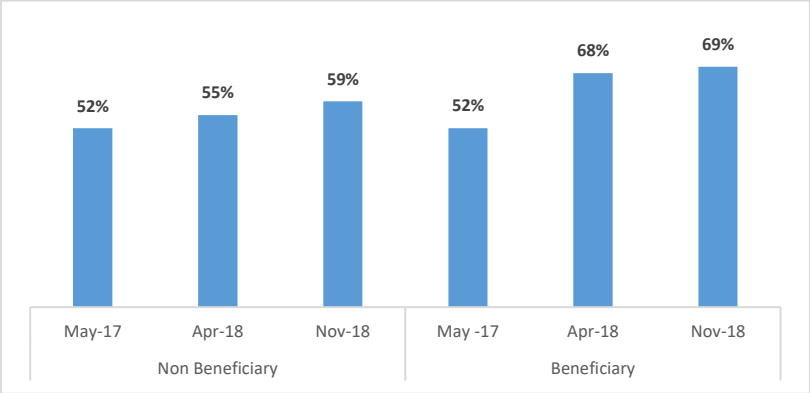
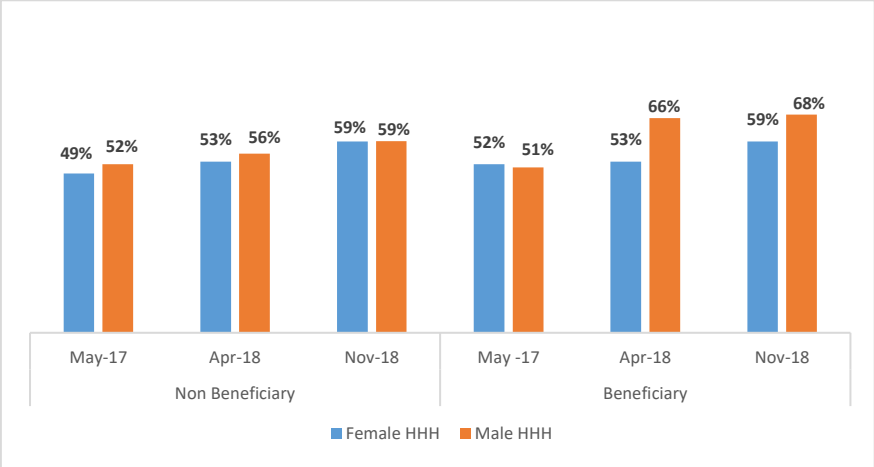


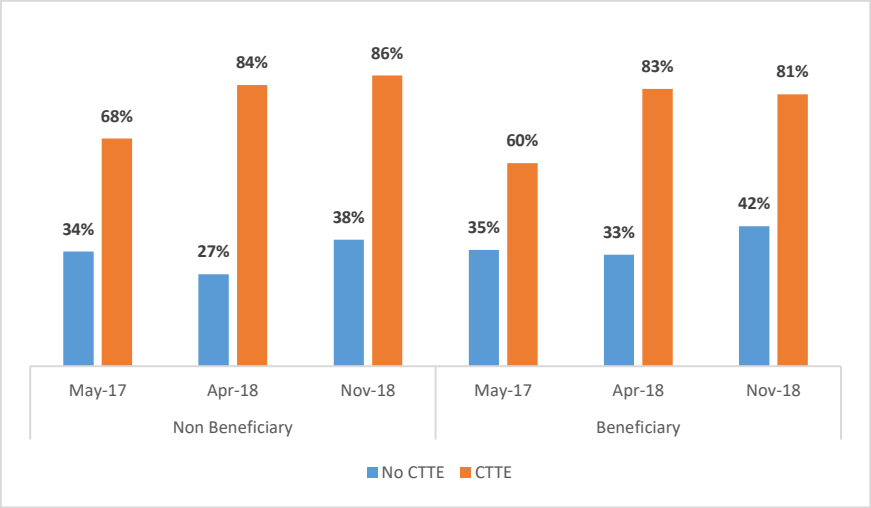
Figure 28: Proportion of Children Regularly Attending School by Sex of Household Head



The PAB data showed the highest school attendance for CCTE beneficiaries. Thus, even at baseline, when no assistance was provided, it seems evident that CCTE applicant households were prioritizing school attendance more than non-CCTE applicants. In addition, across all rounds of data collection, those who received only the CCTE assistance had the highest headline school attendance rates.

The PDM data shows the largest increase in regular school attendance was among households who receive both ESSN and CCTE transfers (34 percent between May 2017 and November 2018). The corresponding increase in school attendance was 10 percent for households who received no assistance, 20 percent for those who received ESSN only, and 28 percent for those who received CCTE only. These results suggest that the combination of the ESSN and CCTE is likely most effective at increasing school attendance. They also indicate that ESSN beneficiary households, who tend to have more children than non-beneficiary households, are more likely to have at least one child engaged in another activity (e.g. 15 percent of beneficiary households reported sending a child to work, versus only 9 percent of non-beneficiary households).

Figure 29: Proportion of School Attendance based on ESSN and CCTE Status



The datasets also provided information about the share of households where all or none of the school-aged children in the household attended school. The proportion of households in which all school-aged children attended school was higher for beneficiary households compared to non-beneficiaries. The proportion of households in which all school-aged children attended school exhibited the greatest increase for households that received both ESSN and CCTE assistance. Similar results were seen in terms of the proportion of households where none of the school-aged children attended school. While at the baseline, this rate was already lower for beneficiary households, it more than halved by the end of CS 2. The decrease was more restrained for non-beneficiaries. The proportion of households in which none of the school-aged children attended school showed the greatest decline for beneficiaries of both CCTE and ESSN (99 percent decrease between PAB and PDM CS2). (See **Annex** for details).

The findings show that even though the CCTE beneficiaries that did not receive ESSN assistance had the highest overall headline school attendance, the greatest improvements were observed in households that received both ESSN and CCTE assistance. The CCTE applicants at the pre-assistance baseline already had high school attendance rates, indicating they prioritized their children's school attendance even without receiving assistance. The results suggest that the CCTE alone was not able to influence school attendance to the same extent as receiving both CTTE and ESSN assistance. In order to understand better the trends in school attendance, disaggregated results will be re-examined using panel data.

3.2.7. Comparison of Outcomes by Duration of Assistance

When the beneficiary outcomes on Food Consumption Groups, rCSI, LCSI, Debt and Percentage of Households below the MEB, were disaggregated based on duration of ESSN assistance, the findings did not lead to conclusive results. While this is contrary to expectation (it would be logical that more months of assistance could lead to improved outcomes), there could be several possible factors contributing to this. Firstly, there may be inherent differences between early applicants to the ESSN, and more recent applicants. These differences can span many factors, including levels of debt, literacy, income, access to social capital, access to other assistance, etc. In addition, because the households sampled in each cross section are different, i.e. we are not observing the same households over time, it is not possible to estimate the impact of the length of the assistance on household outcomes.

While the results do not demonstrate a clear association between duration of assistance and outcomes, this does not mean there is no relationship between the two. Instead, the panel data must be used for this purpose. This data examines the same households over an extended period; this analysis will be forthcoming.

4. Discussion

The overall results indicate that while the situation for beneficiary households has improved much more than for non-beneficiary households since the start of the programme, beneficiary households were also more sensitive to changes in the macroeconomic conjuncture, pointing to higher levels of vulnerability.

For the food consumption, consumption coping and livelihoods coping outcomes, the improvement since the baseline was much more pronounced for beneficiaries compared to non-beneficiaries. While in some cases, non-beneficiaries started off and ended with better outcomes (for instance lower rCSI levels both at the baseline and November 2018), in other cases, the beneficiary outcomes surpassed those of non-beneficiaries despite having started at a worse point (such as the reductions seen in LCSI levels). The multi-sectoral benefits of the unrestricted ESSN assistance were also evident in beneficiary outcomes, with the share of households resorting to some crisis or emergency coping strategies, such as sending children to work or reducing health/education expenditures, declining since the baseline.

While the beneficiary outcomes showed a significant improvement between the baseline and April 2018, the trend reversed during the second half of 2018, with deteriorating results brought on by the economic recession and eroding purchasing power. All food consumption, coping strategy, debt and expenditure results deteriorated for beneficiaries between April and November 2018. Some results, for instance, the increase in the share of households resorting to at least one emergency coping strategy, have more serious implications on household welfare than others, as they are more likely to reduce productivity and resilience to shocks. Similar deterioration was also seen in non-beneficiary outcomes.

Moreover, beneficiary households reacted more sensitively to the deterioration in the economic conditions across certain outcomes. For instance, the share of household

expenditure devoted to food increased both for beneficiary and non-beneficiary households, but the rate of increase was greater for beneficiaries. This was particularly important as the higher the proportion of expenditure spent on food, the less a household has for other expenses including emergencies such as unexpected medical costs. Similarly, while the median debt per household had nearly halved for beneficiaries between the baseline and April 2018, the reversal in the trend was also more pronounced for beneficiary households, which exhibited a 25% increase in the median debt levels during the second half of the year when the negative impact of rising inflation was felt most strongly.

The results also showed that the larger beneficiary households have seen bigger improvements than smaller households thanks to the positive effects of economies of scale. Despite being worse off than smaller households at the baseline, larger households displayed better food security outcomes, showed the greatest improvement in terms of reducing livelihood-based and consumption coping strategies, and had bigger reductions in overall household debt. This was likely since the larger households received more assistance in volume, as the ESSN programme provides 120 TL per household member. While the quarterly top-up assistance was larger for smaller households, the results indicated that these top-ups were likely insufficient to counterbalance the economies of scale benefitting large households.

Gender disaggregated results were less conclusive for the cross-section data. While female-headed households exhibited greater improvements across some outcomes, such as food consumption groups, and had a lower proportion of households with expenditure below the minimum expenditure basket (primarily due to increased spending in female-headed households during the second half of the year), they also resorted to consumption coping strategies more frequently, increased their use of livelihoods coping strategies and their debt levels had risen more than male-headed households. Female-headed households also had a lower rate of regular school attendance for their children. However, the general evidence from this cross-section data, in particular with regard to using coping strategies, highlighted that female-headed households remained more vulnerable than male-headed households, which was further corroborated by the results of the panel data.

The disaggregation of regional data produced the least conclusive results. The clearest results were seen in the expenditure data, where Istanbul had the highest cost of living and the highest share of expenditure spent on rent. The South-East on the other hand had the highest share of expenditure devoted to food and the lowest share devoted to rent. Regionally adjusted per capita expenditure was also the highest in Istanbul, and accordingly, Istanbul had the lowest share of households with expenditure below the minimum expenditure basket. Per capita expenditure was the lowest in Anatolia. On the other hand, debt levels of both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries were the lowest in Istanbul, and particularly for beneficiaries, debt levels had displayed a sustained decrease during the second half of the year, decreasing by almost 60% since the baseline. Non-expenditure outcomes were mixed among different regions. Food consumption improved the most in the South-East and declined in the Mediterranean and Aegean regions. rCSI and LCSI declined across all regions with Istanbul showing the greatest decrease. Overall, while being the most expensive region to live in, the generally improved outcomes for Istanbul

indicate that the beneficiary households may be more resilient to shocks in that region due to better availability of job opportunities or the probable existence of higher social capital.

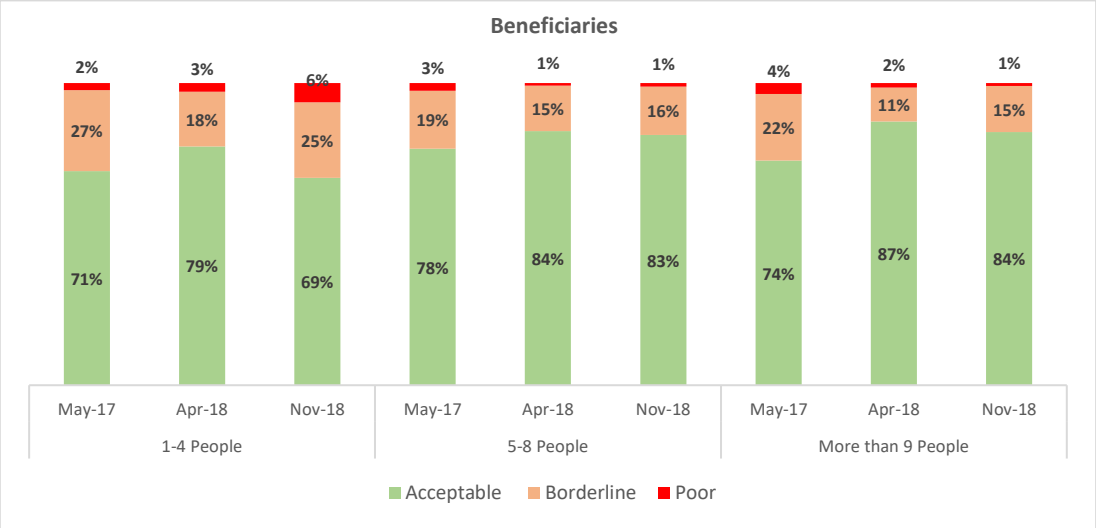
School attendance outcomes were the highest among households that received the CCTE assistance only. On the other hand, the greatest improvement in school attendance rates was seen in households that benefited from both the ESSN and the CCTE assistance. This was an indication that while the households that applied for the CCTE assistance prioritised their children's school attendance, the CCTE assistance alone might not be sufficient to alter school attendance outcomes.

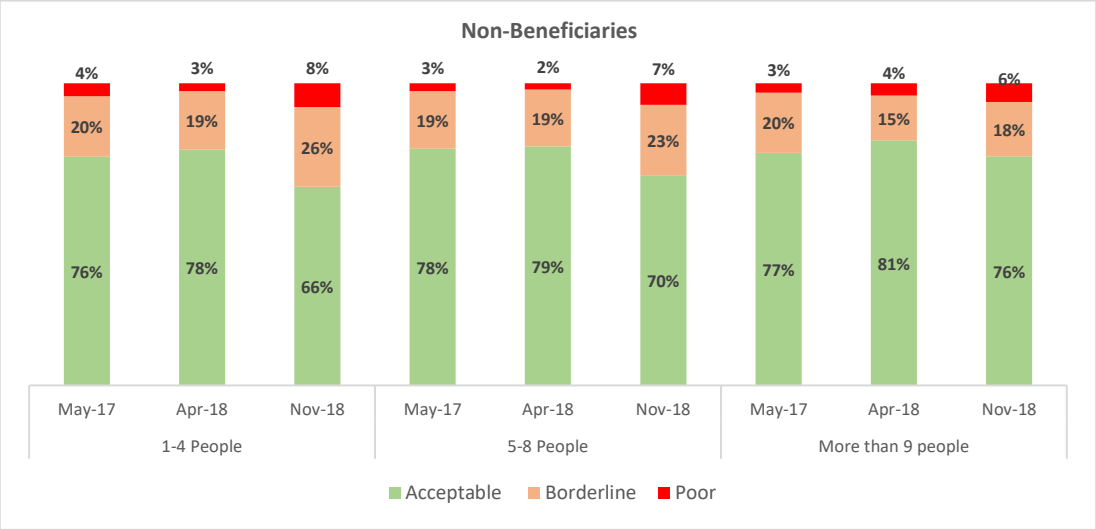
Finally, contrary to expectations, there was no statistically significant relation between the months of assistance received and beneficiary outcomes. This might be due to the cross-sectional design and the sampling method used; more analysis is necessary to track changes in beneficiary outcomes using panel data.

Overall, there was a deterioration in most beneficiary outcomes over the second half of the year, when the Turkish economy experienced a recession and consumer prices increased. While beneficiary outcomes have improved more than those of non-beneficiaries and the results are still better when compared with baseline levels, an increase in the transfer value would be ideal to prevent further deterioration in beneficiary outcomes caused by the erosion of purchasing power. This is particularly important to prevent longer-term ramifications on the refugee households' wellbeing, reducing their productivity and diminishing their resilience to shocks.

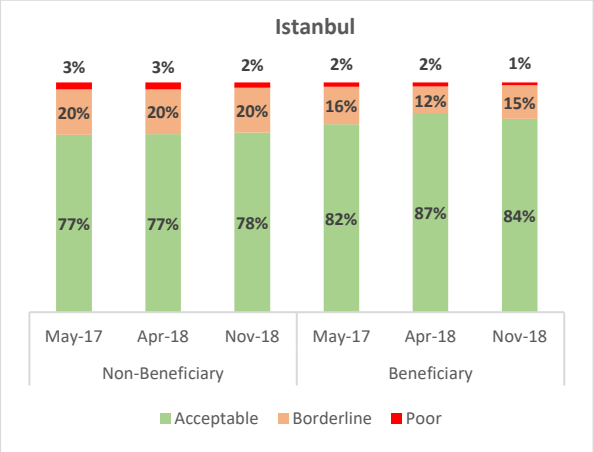
ANNEX:

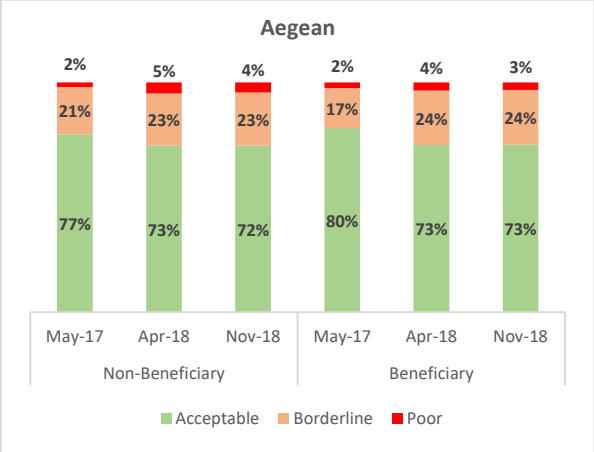
Food Consumption Groups by Household Size

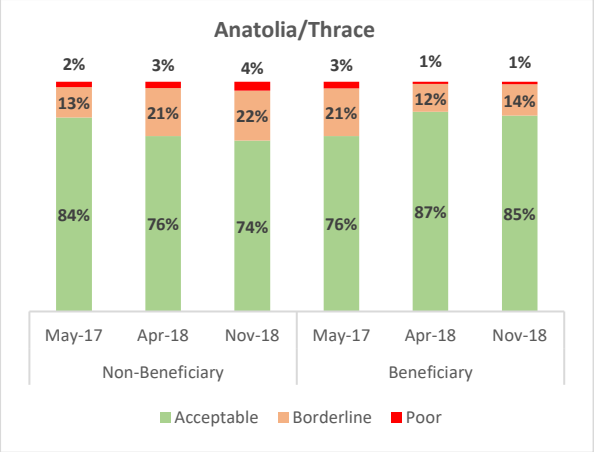


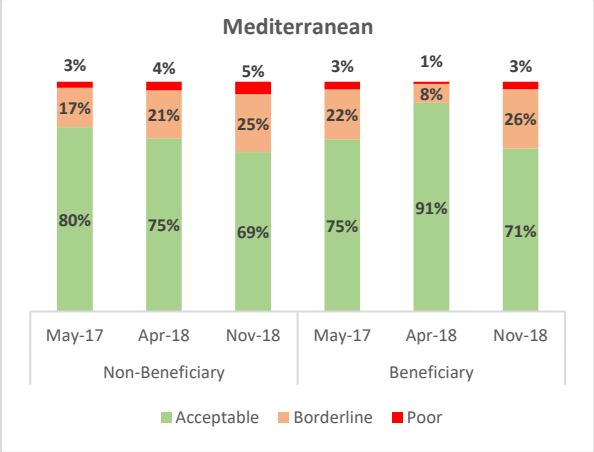


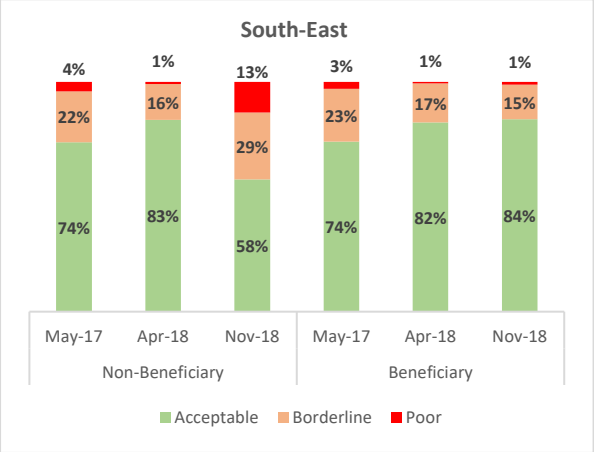
Food Consumption Groups by Strata



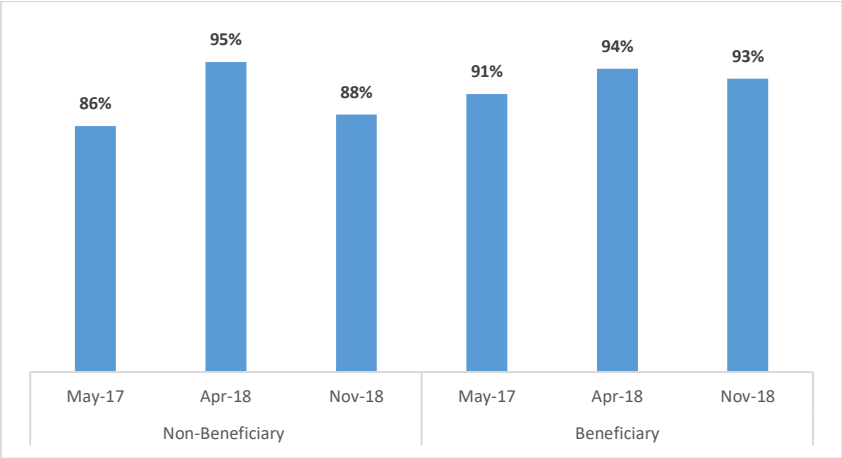








Share of Households Engaging in Consumption Coping Strategies by Beneficiary Status



Share of Households Engaging in Consumption Coping Strategies by Beneficiary Status and Sex of Household Head

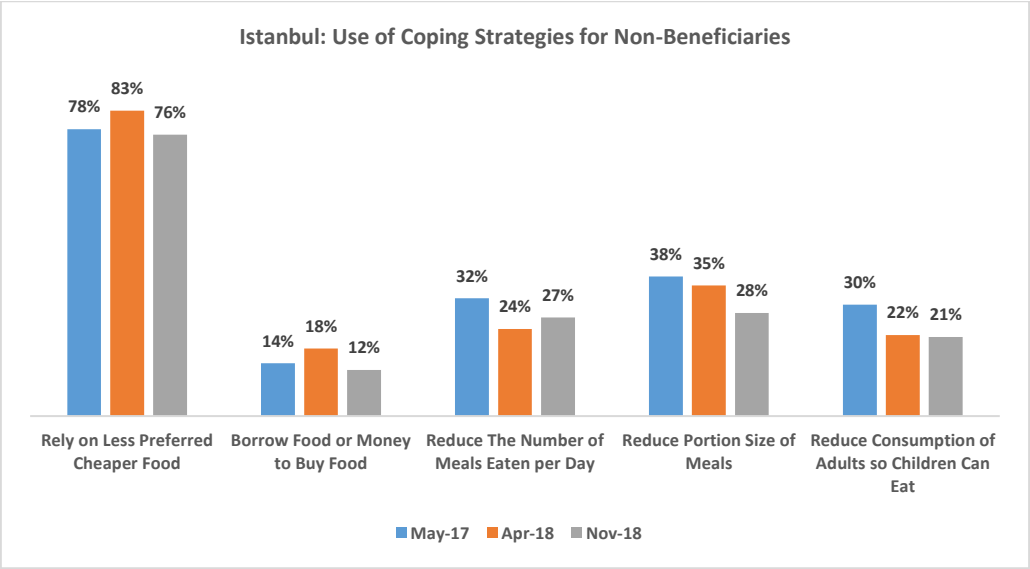
	Non-Beneficiary						Beneficiary					
	Male HHH			Female HHH			Male HHH			Female HHH		
	May-17	Apr-18	Nov-18	May-17	Apr-18	Nov-18	May-17	Apr-18	Nov-18	May-17	Apr-18	Nov-18
Relied on less preferred, cheaper food	77%	87%	77%	73%	85%	77%	76%	88%	87%	79%	77%	86%
Borrowed food or money to buy food	21%	24%	12%	31%	17%	12%	26%	17%	14%	29%	23%	24%
Reduced number of meals eaten per day	35%	33%	24%	42%	35%	33%	43%	29%	27%	47%	49%	35%
Reduced portion size of meals	39%	43%	46%	38%	47%	46%	50%	34%	27%	53%	45%	34%
Reduced consumption of adults so children can eat	27%	36%	20%	26%	39%	27%	49%	28%	25%	47%	42%	32%

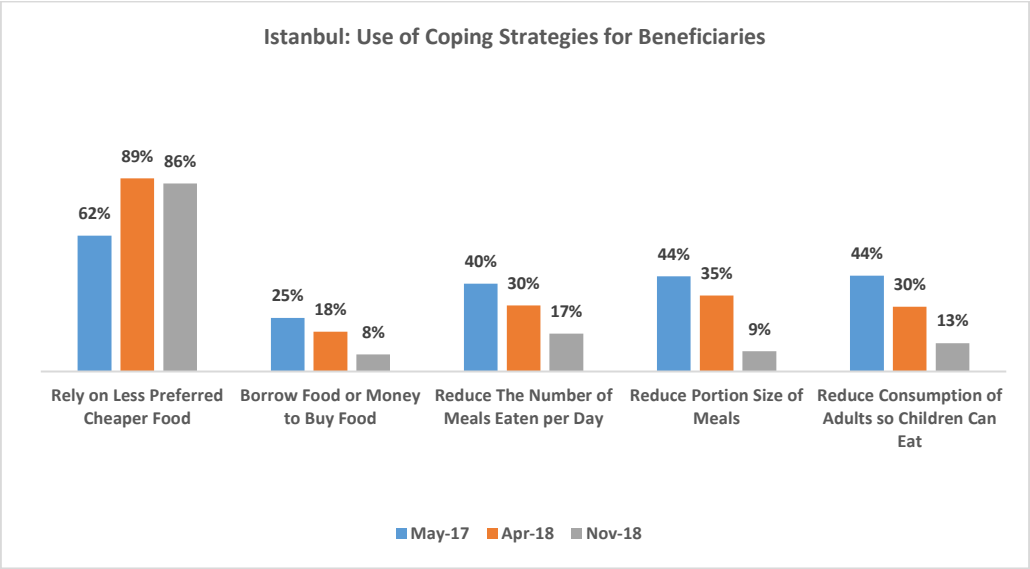
Share of Households Engaging in Consumption Coping Strategies by Beneficiary Status and Household Size

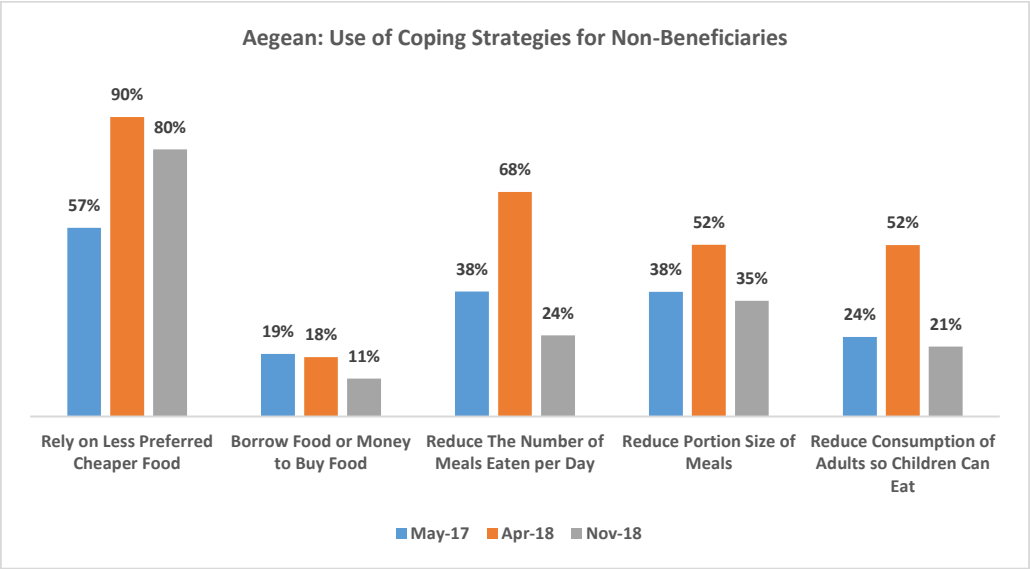
Non-Beneficiary									
	May-17			Apr-18			Nov-18		
	1-4 people	5-8 people	More than 9 people	1-4 people	5-8 people	More than 9 people	1-4 people	5-8 people	More than 9 people
Relied on less preferred, cheaper food	74%	77%	80%	86%	88%	90%	75%	78%	81%
Borrowed food or money to buy food	24%	22%	21%	24%	23%	16%	14%	11%	10%
Reduced number of meals eaten per day	37%	36%	34%	33%	34%	33%	26%	23%	29%
Reduced portion size of meals	37%	39%	42%	42%	44%	43%	49%	42%	38%
Reduced consumption of adults so children can eat	20%	30%	34%	34%	40%	38%	19%	22%	33%

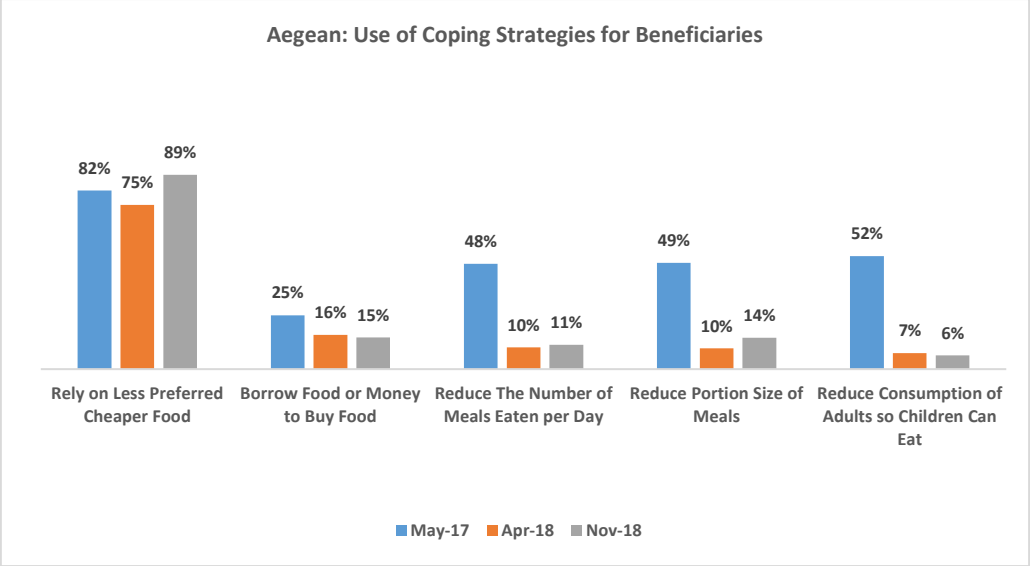
Beneficiary									
	May-17			Apr-18			Nov-18		
	1-4 people	5-8 people	More than 9 people	1-4 people	5-8 people	More than 9 people	1-4 people	5-8 people	More than 9 people
Relied on less preferred, cheaper food	76%	78%	78%	85%	84%	88%	81%	87%	88%
Borrowed food or money to buy food	28%	27%	28%	23%	18%	15%	25%	17%	15%
Reduced number of meals eaten per day	46%	44%	47%	34%	34%	31%	30%	30%	27%
Reduced portion size of meals	45%	52%	55%	37%	38%	34%	37%	28%	29%
Reduced consumption of adults so children can eat	30%	50%	52%	25%	32%	31%	25%	27%	32%

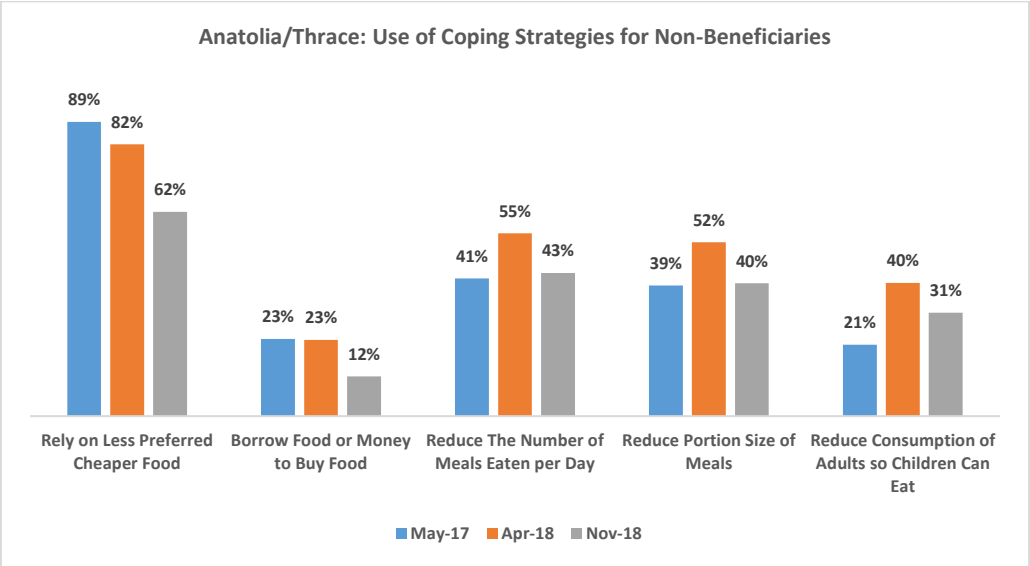
Share of Beneficiary Households Engaging in Consumption Coping Strategies by Beneficiary Status and Stratum

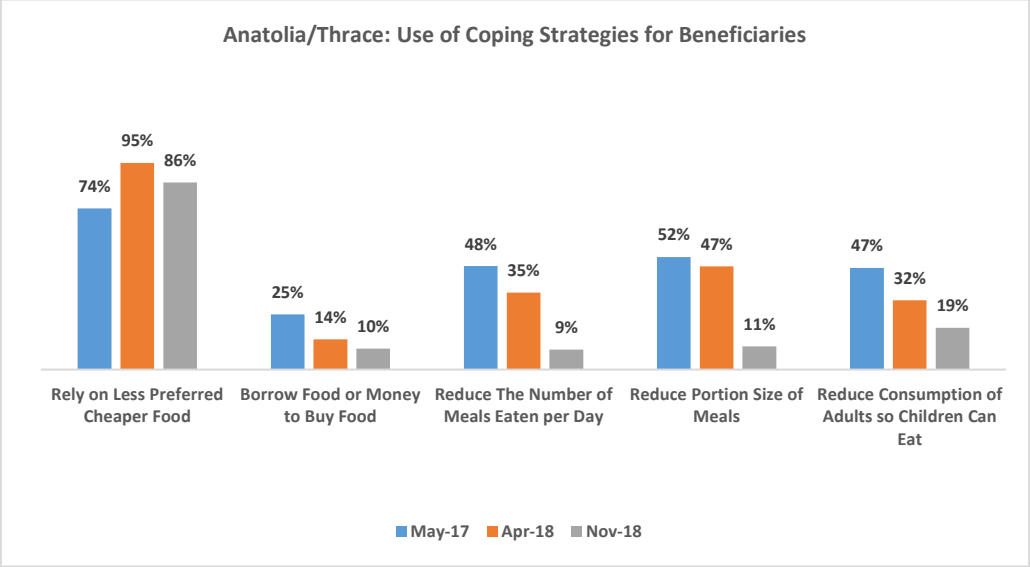


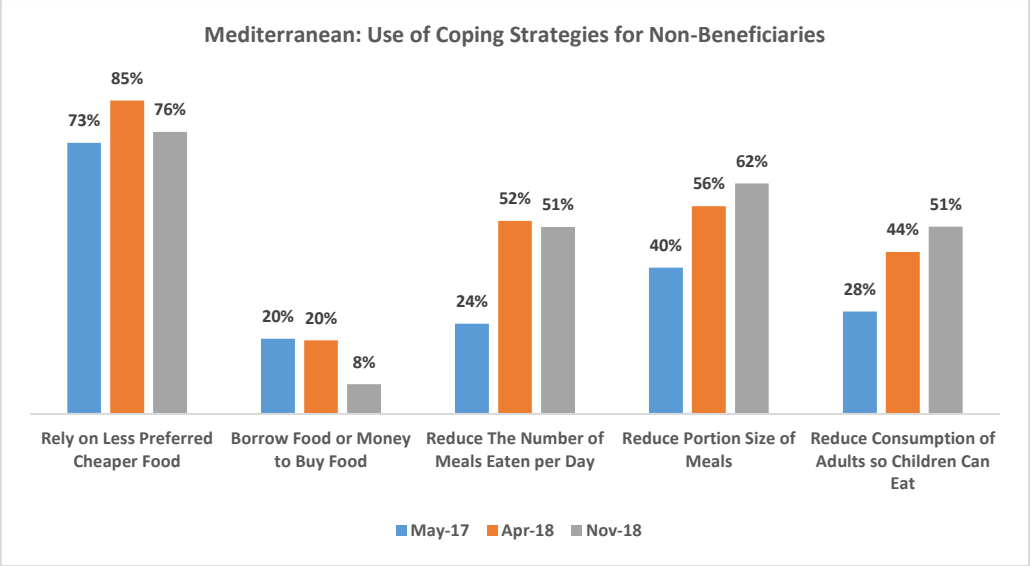


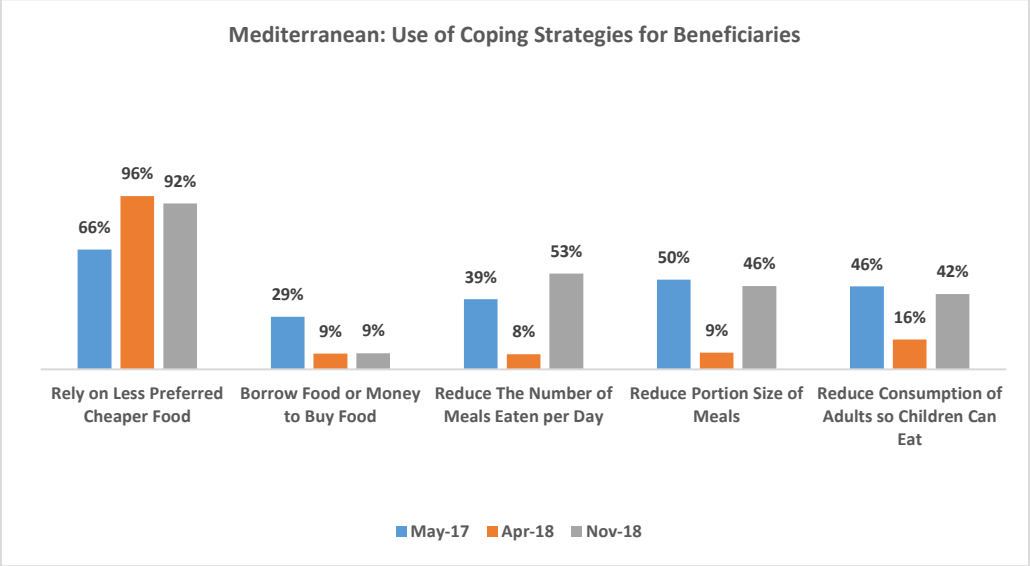


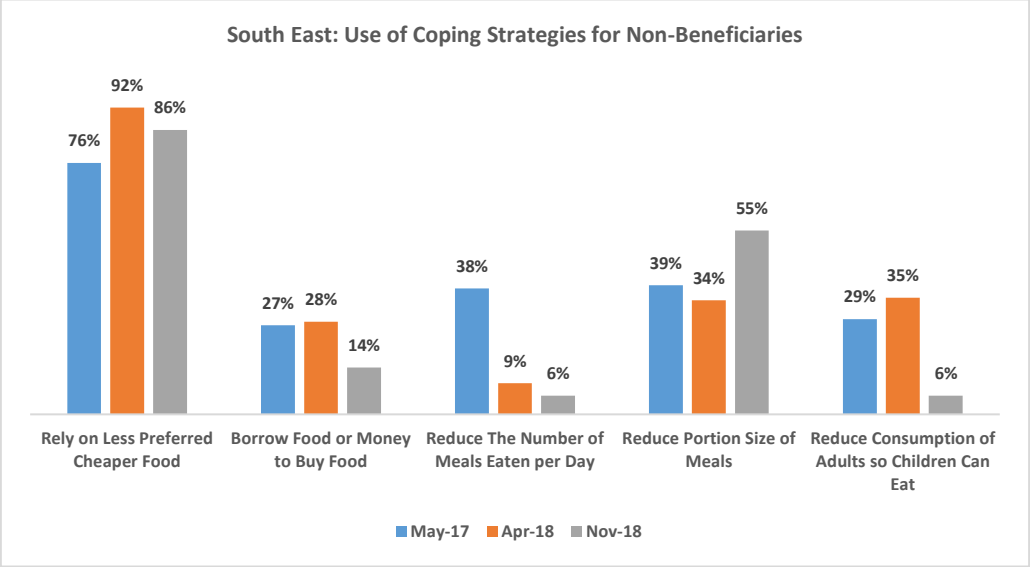

Aegean: Use of Coping Strategies for Beneficiaries
82%
75%
89%
25%
16%
15%
48%
10%
11%
49%
10%
14%
52%
7%
6%
Rely on Less Preferred Cheaper Food
Borrow Food or Money to Buy Food
Reduce The Number of Meals Eaten per Day
Reduce Portion Size of Meals
Reduce Consumption of Adults so Children Can Eat
May-17
Apr-18
Nov-18

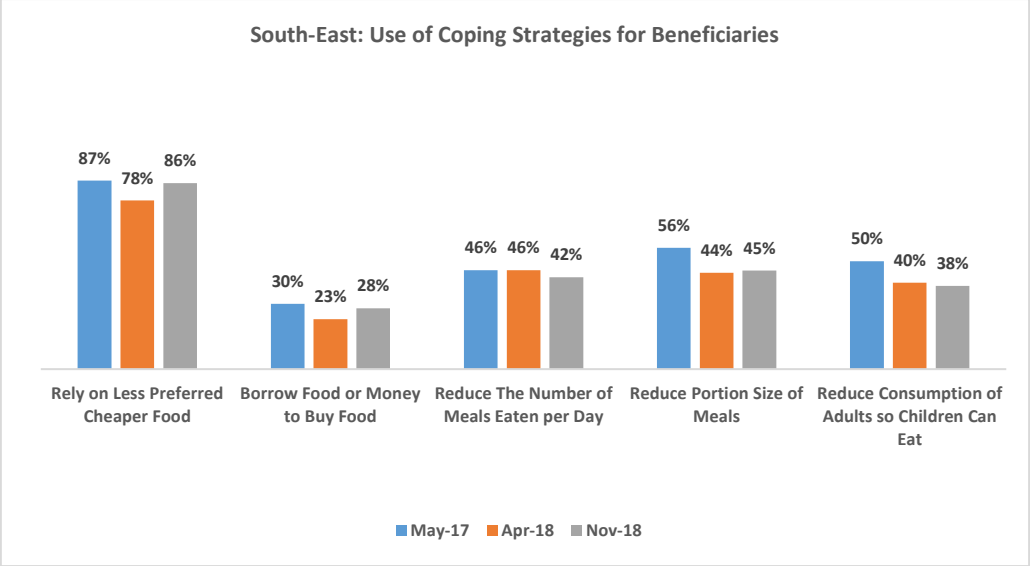

Anatolia/Thrace: Use of Coping Strategies for Non-Beneficiaries
89%
82%
62%
23%
23%
12%
41%
55%
43%
39%
52%
40%
21%
40%
31%
Rely on Less Preferred Cheaper Food
Borrow Food or Money to Buy Food
Reduce The Number of Meals Eaten per Day
Reduce Portion Size of Meals
Reduce Consumption of Adults so Children Can Eat
May-17
Apr-18
Nov-18


Anatolia/Thrace: Use of Coping Strategies for Beneficiaries
74%
95%
86%
25%
14%
10%
48%
35%
9%
52%
47%
11%
47%
32%
19%
Rely on Less Preferred Cheaper Food
Borrow Food or Money to Buy Food
Reduce The Number of Meals Eaten per Day
Reduce Portion Size of Meals
Reduce Consumption of Adults so Children Can Eat
May-17
Apr-18
Nov-18

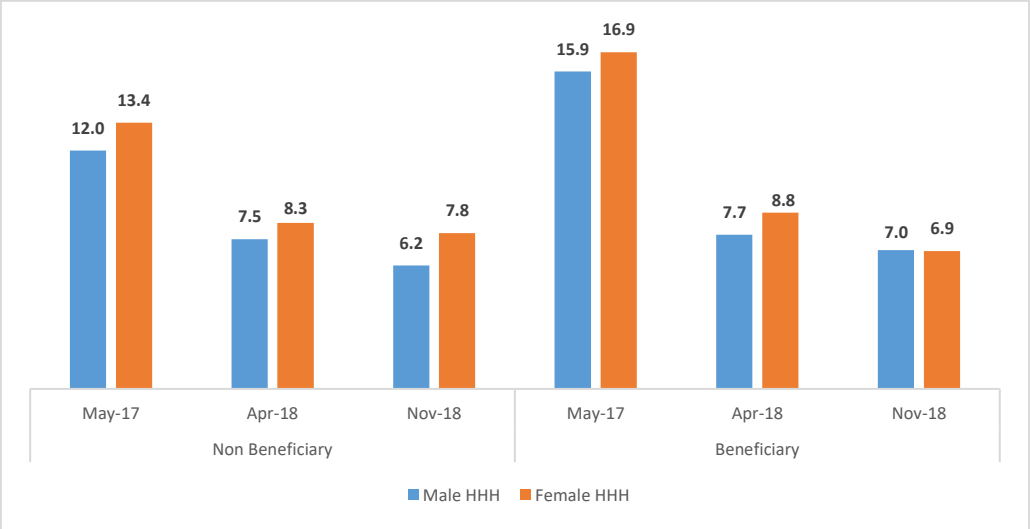

Mediterranean: Use of Coping Strategies for Non-Beneficiaries
73%
85%
76%
20%
20%
8%
24%
52%
51%
40%
56%
62%
28%
44%
51%
Rely on Less Preferred Cheaper Food
Borrow Food or Money to Buy Food
Reduce The Number of Meals Eaten per Day
Reduce Portion Size of Meals
Reduce Consumption of Adults so Children Can Eat
May-17
Apr-18
Nov-18


Mediterranean: Use of Coping Strategies for Beneficiaries
66%
96%
92%
29%
9%
9%
39%
8%
53%
50%
9%
46%
46%
16%
42%
Rely on Less Preferred Cheaper Food
Borrow Food or Money to Buy Food
Reduce The Number of Meals Eaten per Day
Reduce Portion Size of Meals
Reduce Consumption of Adults so Children Can Eat
May-17
Apr-18
Nov-18

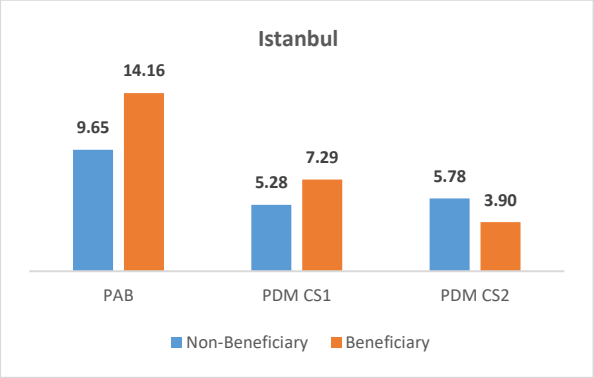

South East: Use of Coping Strategies for Non-Beneficiaries
76%
92%
86%
27%
28%
14%
38%
9%
6%
39%
34%
55%
29%
35%
6%
Rely on Less Preferred Cheaper Food
Borrow Food or Money to Buy Food
Reduce The Number of Meals Eaten per Day
Reduce Portion Size of Meals
Reduce Consumption of Adults so Children Can Eat
May-17
Apr-18
Nov-18

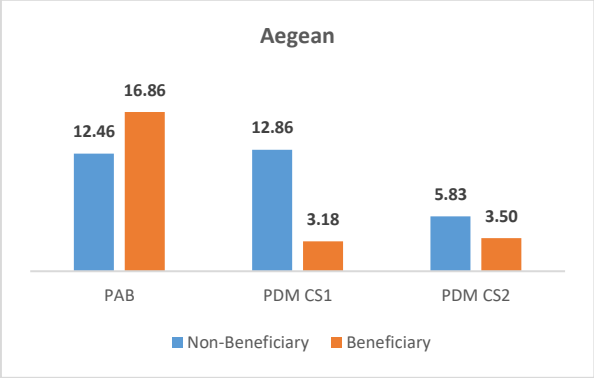


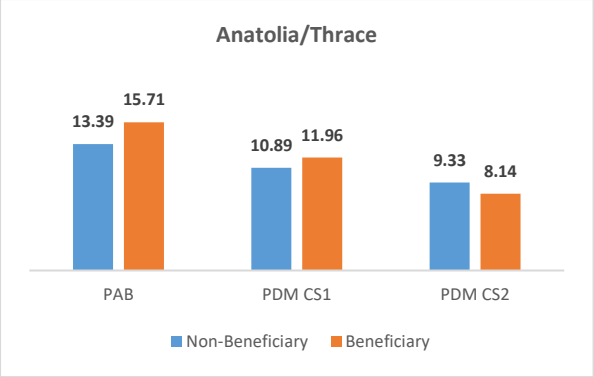
Reduced Consumption Strategies Index (rCSI) by Sex of Household Head

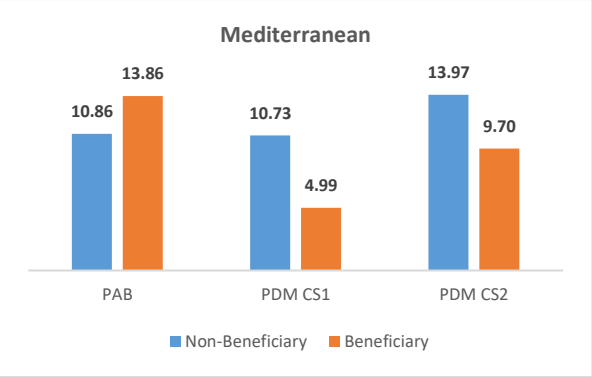


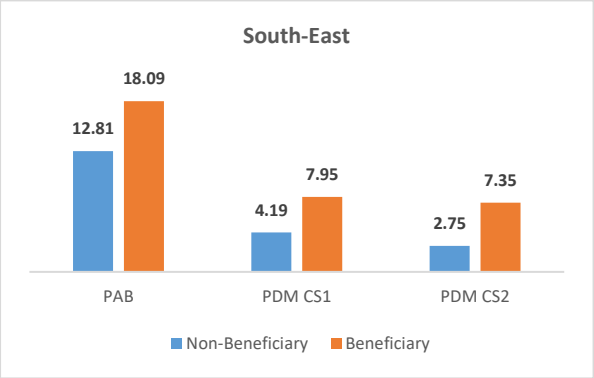
Reduced Consumption Strategies Index (rCSI) by Strata



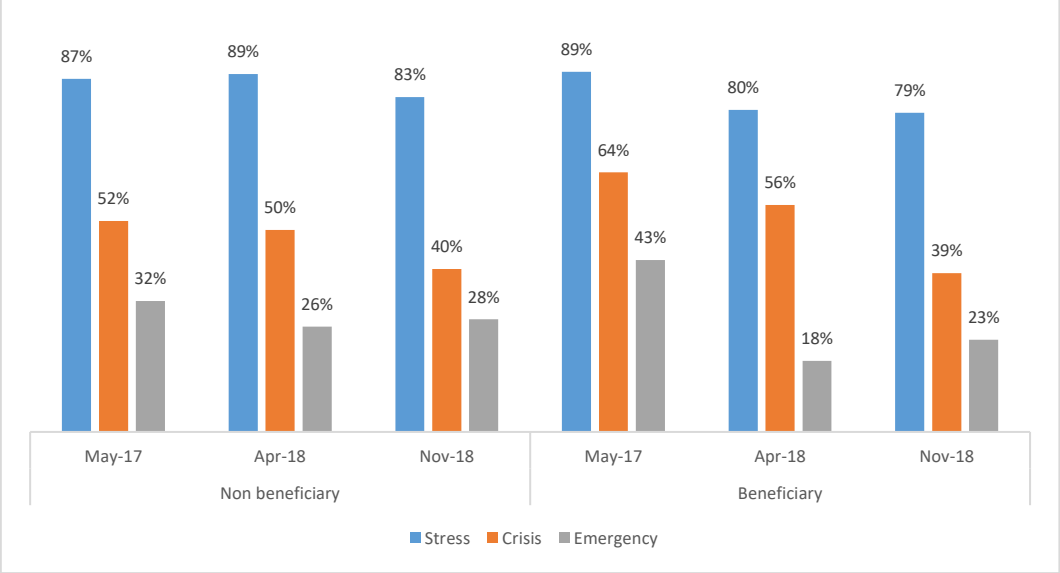








Share of Households Engaging in Livelihood Coping Strategies by Beneficiary Status



Share of Households Engaging in Livelihood Coping Strategies by Beneficiary Status and Sex of Household Head

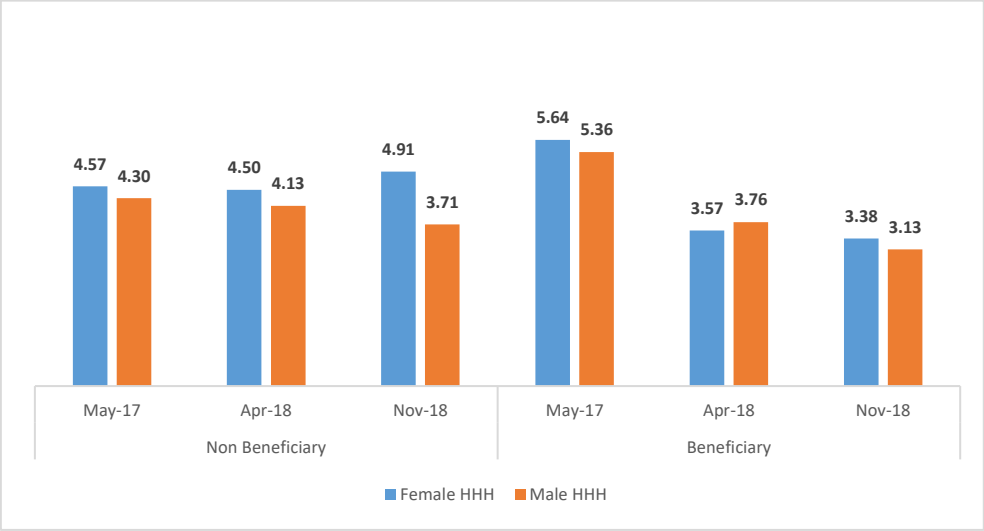
	Non-beneficiary						Beneficiary					
	Male HHH			Female HHH			Male HHH			Female HHH		
	May-17	Apr-18	Nov-18	May-17	Apr-18	Nov-18	May-17	Apr-18	Nov-18	May-17	Apr-18	Nov-18
Sold HH assets	27%	26%	28%	26%	22%	28%	26%	12%	15%	26%	10%	17%
Spent savings	14%	7%	14%	11%	10%	19%	21%	6%	11%	19%	9%	19%
Bought food on credit	60%	70%	62%	61%	70%	62%	64%	61%	53%	64%	67%	53%
Borrowed money	66%	75%	67%	63%	77%	65%	66%	57%	58%	68%	55%	57%
Consumed unusual types of food	12%	14%	14%	15%	11%	25%	13%	6%	5%	15%	7%	6%
Sold productive assets	2%	2%	3%	2%	2%	4%	5%	1%	3%	4%	2%	1%
Withdrew children from school	10%	7%	3%	13%	8%	5%	16%	7%	2%	17%	6%	4%
Reduced health expenditures	38%	39%	30%	40%	43%	39%	42%	41%	17%	47%	35%	15%
Reduced education expenditures	21%	19%	16%	27%	27%	21%	39%	40%	29%	38%	33%	30%
Entire HH had to move	20%	16%	16%	18%	13%	33%	22%	6%	6%	24%	2%	11%
Sent children to work	10%	10%	8%	12%	19%	13%	21%	11%	15%	22%	15%	16%
Sent HH members to beg	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%
HH members returned to country of origin	6%	3%	1%	7%	2%	2%	4%	1%	1%	6%	1%	2%

Share of Households Engaging in Livelihood Coping Strategies by Beneficiary Status and Household Size

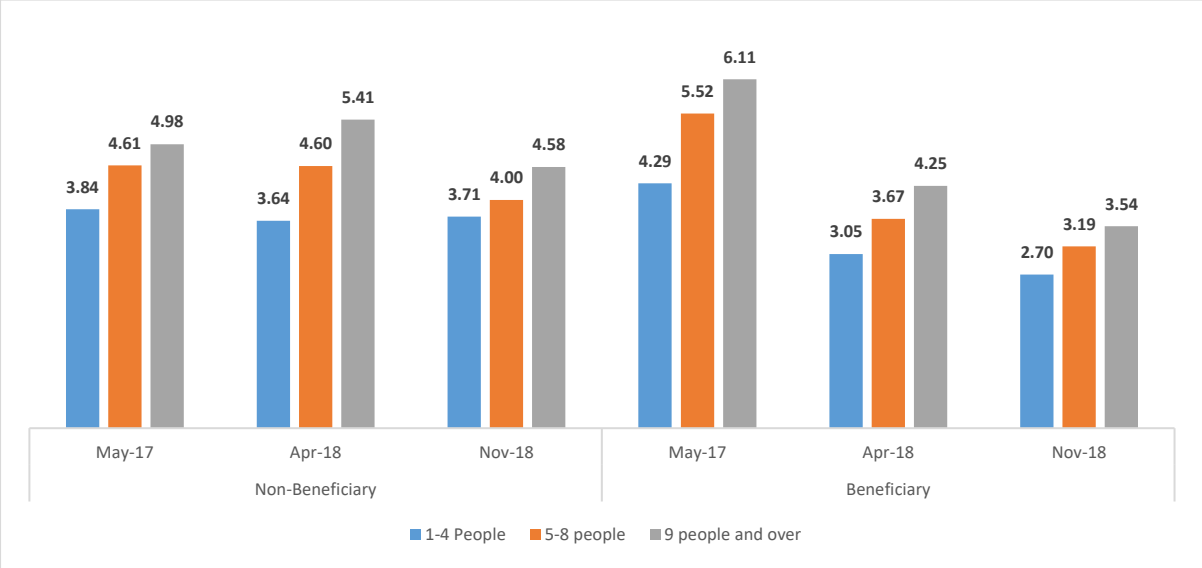
Non-beneficiary									
	1-4 People			5-8 People			9 people and over		
	May-17	Apr-18	Nov-18	May-17	Apr-18	Nov-18	May-17	Apr-18	Nov-18
Sold HH assets	29%	26%	30%	26%	25%	26%	30%	24%	17%
Spent savings	16%	8%	13%	11%	7%	14%	12%	10%	24%
Bought food on credit	58%	70%	64%	62%	70%	58%	61%	71%	59%
Borrowed money	65%	78%	71%	65%	72%	63%	62%	73%	60%
Consumed unusual types of food	11%	13%	16%	14%	14%	14%	12%	20%	18%
Sold productive assets	2%	2%	3%	2%	3%	3%	3%	6%	6%
Withdrew children from school	5%	3%	2%	13%	11%	5%	18%	12%	9%
Reduced health expenditures	37%	38%	31%	38%	41%	31%	42%	43%	38%
Reduced education expenditures	9%	13%	13%	31%	27%	21%	25%	28%	22%
Entire HH had to move	21%	14%	19%	18%	16%	18%	22%	28%	23%
Sent children to work	4%	3%	4%	13%	17%	14%	19%	22%	19%
Sent HH members to beg	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%
HH members returned to country of origin	7%	2%	3%	6%	3%	3%	6%	4%	2%

Beneficiary									
	1-4 People			5-8 People			9 people and over		
	May-17	Apr-18	Nov-18	May-17	Apr-18	Nov-18	May-17	Apr-18	Nov-18
Sold HH assets	25%	11%	15%	26%	12%	16%	29%	10%	14%
Spent savings	21%	7%	12%	19%	7%	13%	19%	7%	16%
Bought food on credit	57%	52%	46%	66%	63%	54%	63%	68%	52%
Borrowed money	64%	50%	57%	69%	57%	58%	64%	59%	58%
Consumed unusual types of food	12%	5%	5%	13%	6%	5%	15%	7%	7%
Sold productive assets	3%	0%	1%	3%	1%	3%	8%	2%	3%
Withdrew children from school	8%	5%	2%	16%	5%	3%	23%	11%	4%
Reduced health expenditures	42%	45%	20%	44%	39%	16%	45%	42%	16%
Reduced education expenditures	18%	19%	16%	42%	40%	31%	40%	42%	29%
Entire HH had to move	21%	3%	8%	23%	5%	8%	24%	4%	9%
Sent children to work	9%	10%	9%	21%	10%	13%	32%	22%	25%
Sent HH members to beg	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%
HH members returned to country of origin	6%	1%	1%	5%	1%	2%	5%	1%	1%

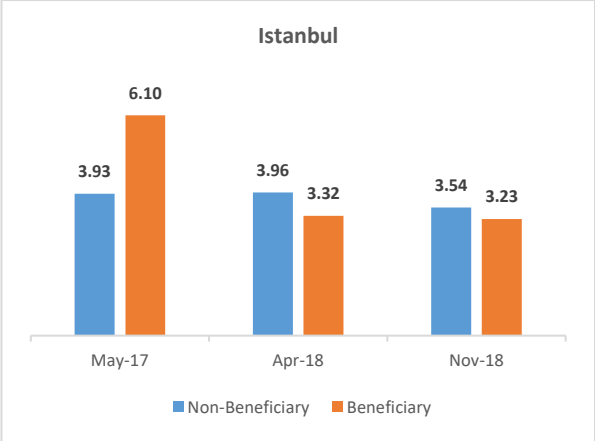
Livelihoods Coping Strategies Index (LCSI) by Sex of Household Head

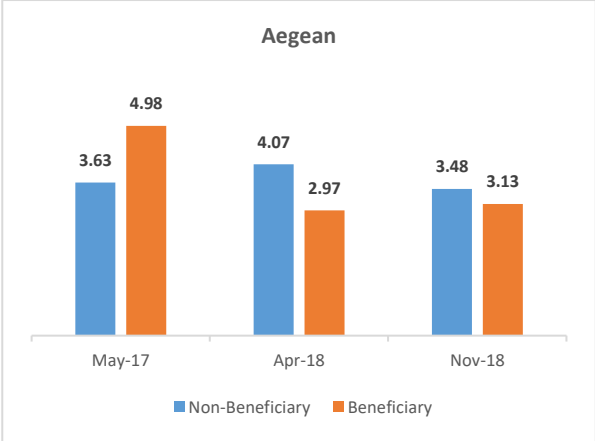


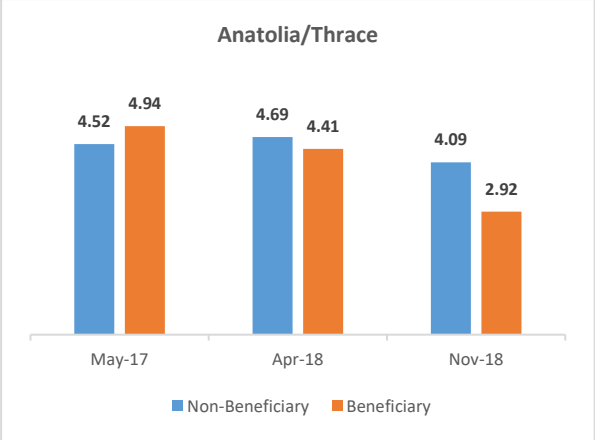
Livelihoods Coping Strategies Index (LCSI) by Household Size

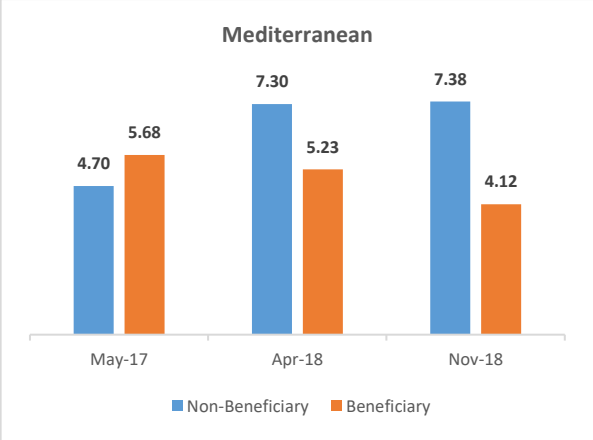


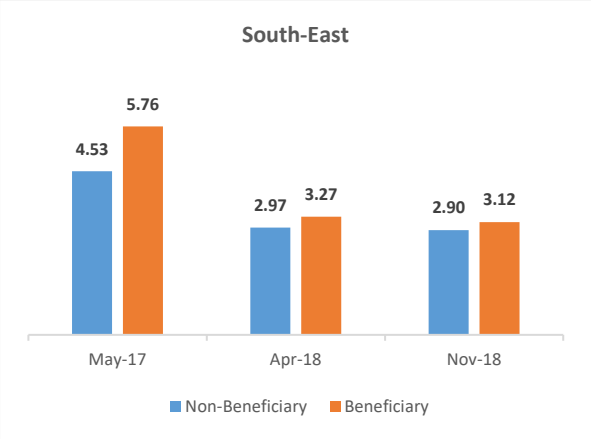
LCSI by Strata



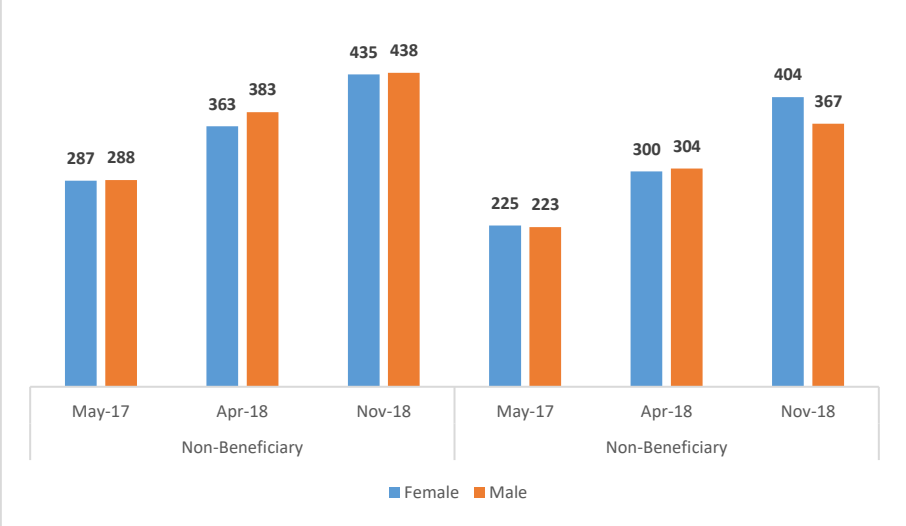




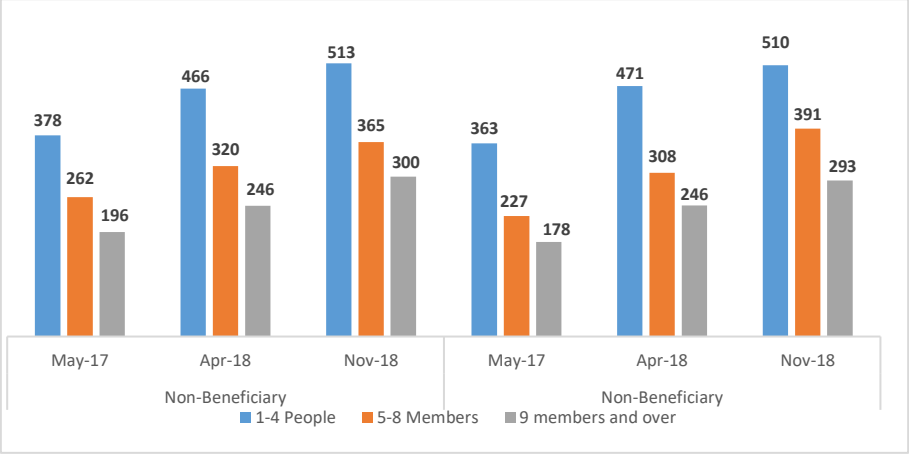




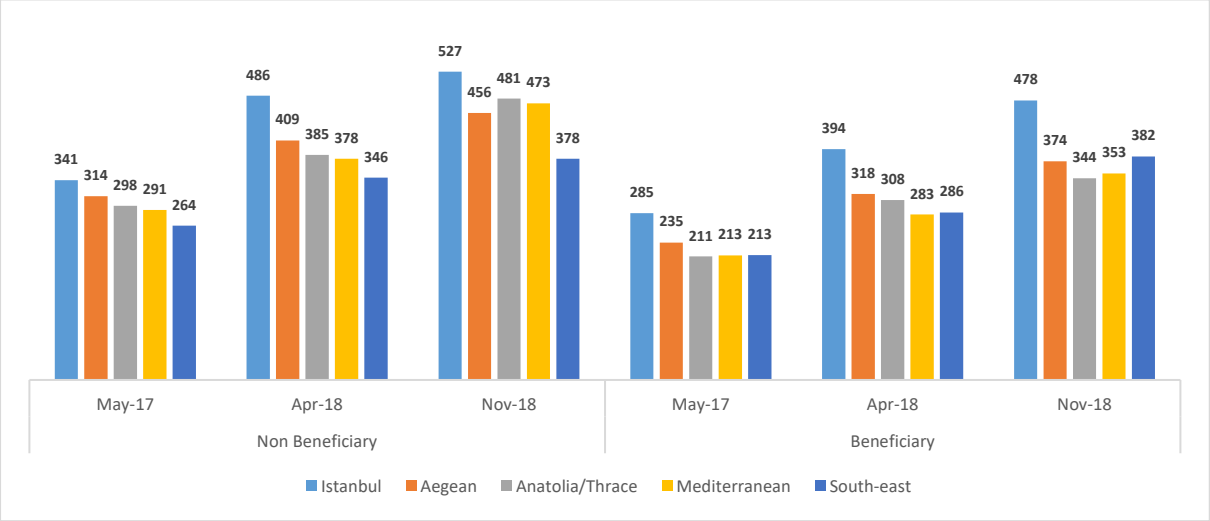
Regionally Adjusted Median Expenditure per Capita (Excluding Debt Repayments, Remittances and Entertainment Expenses) by Sex of Household Head



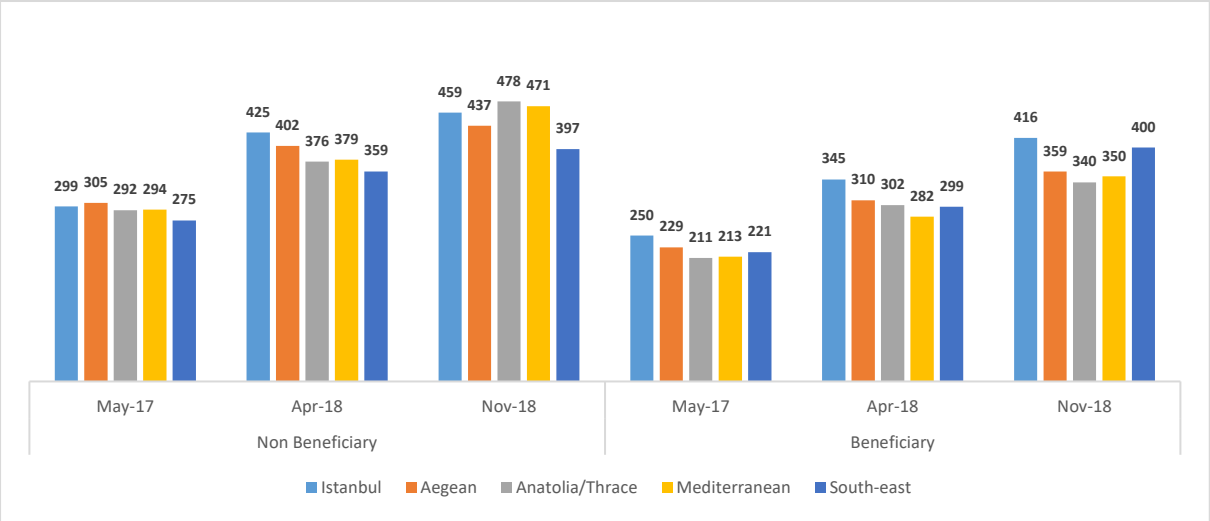
Regionally Adjusted Median Expenditure per Capita (Excluding Debt Repayments, Remittances and Entertainment Expenses) by Household Size



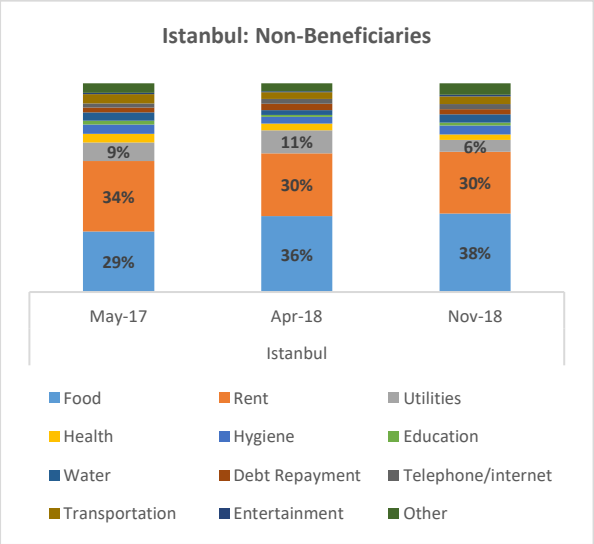
Median Expenditure per Capita (Excluding Debt Repayments, Remittances and Entertainment Expenses) by Stratum

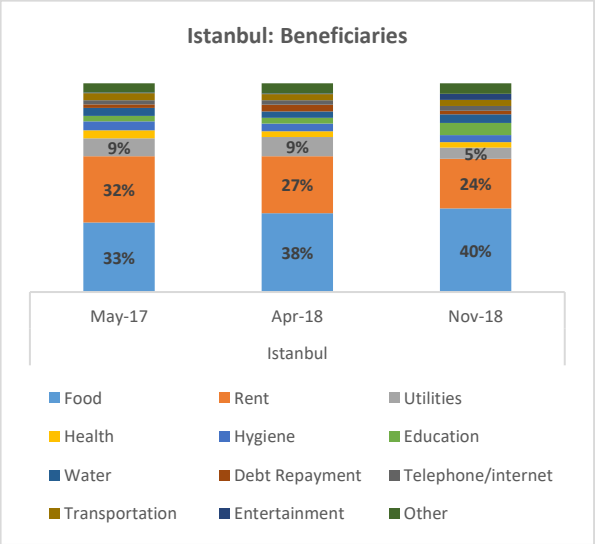


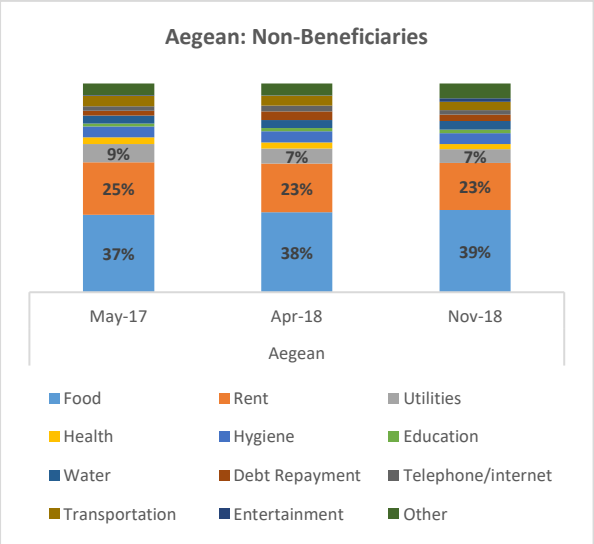
Regionally Adjusted Median Expenditure per Capita (Excluding Debt Repayments, Remittances and Entertainment Expenses) by Stratum

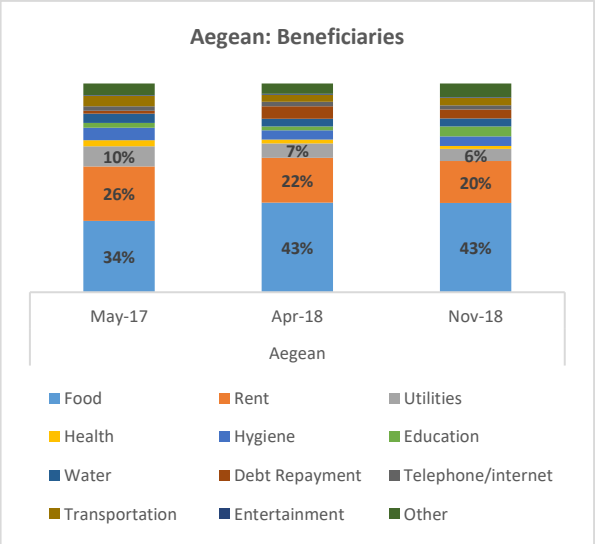


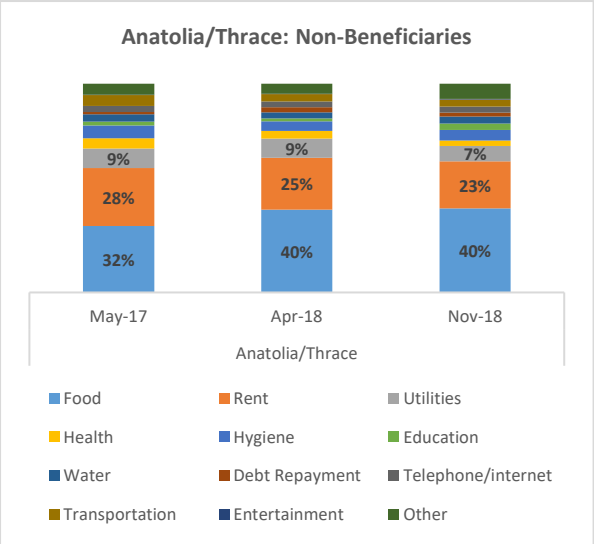
Expenditure Shares by Strata

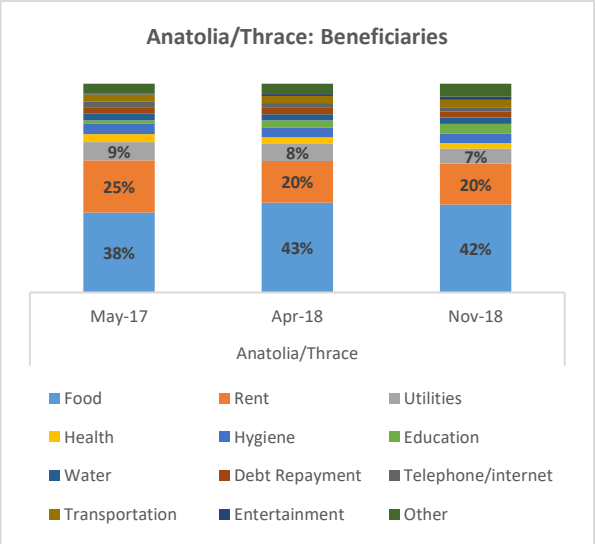


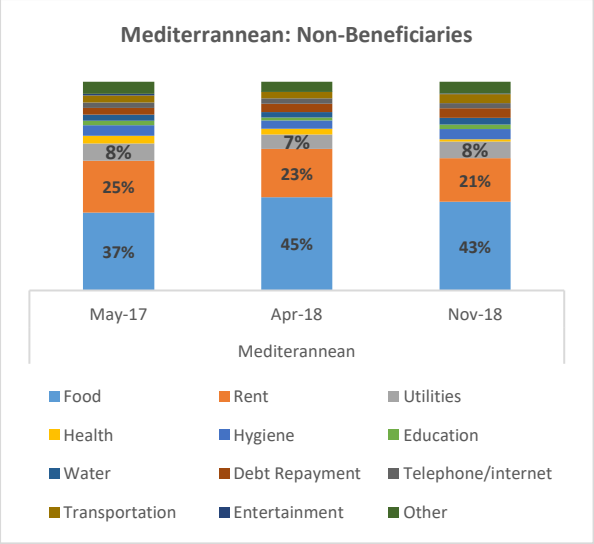


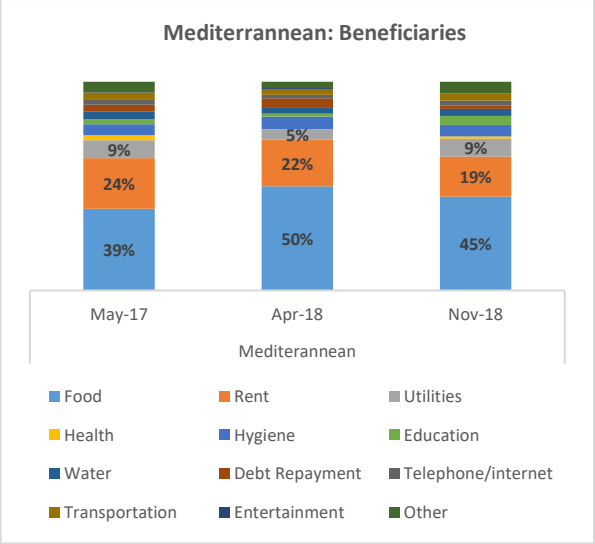


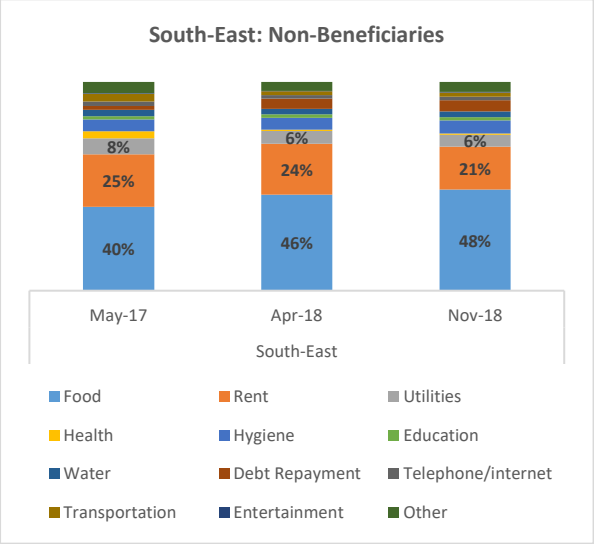


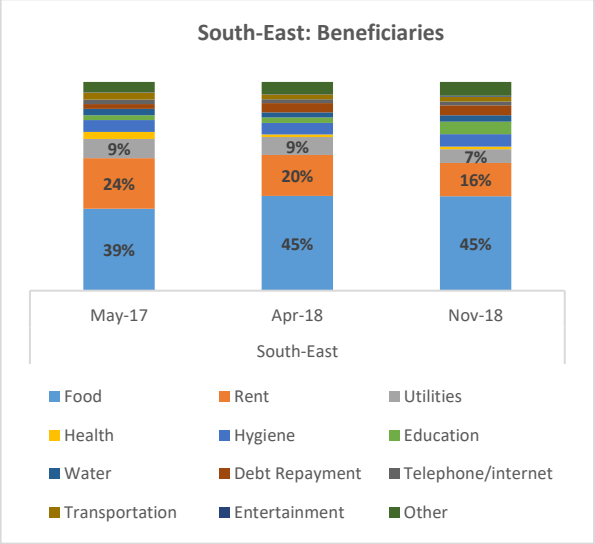




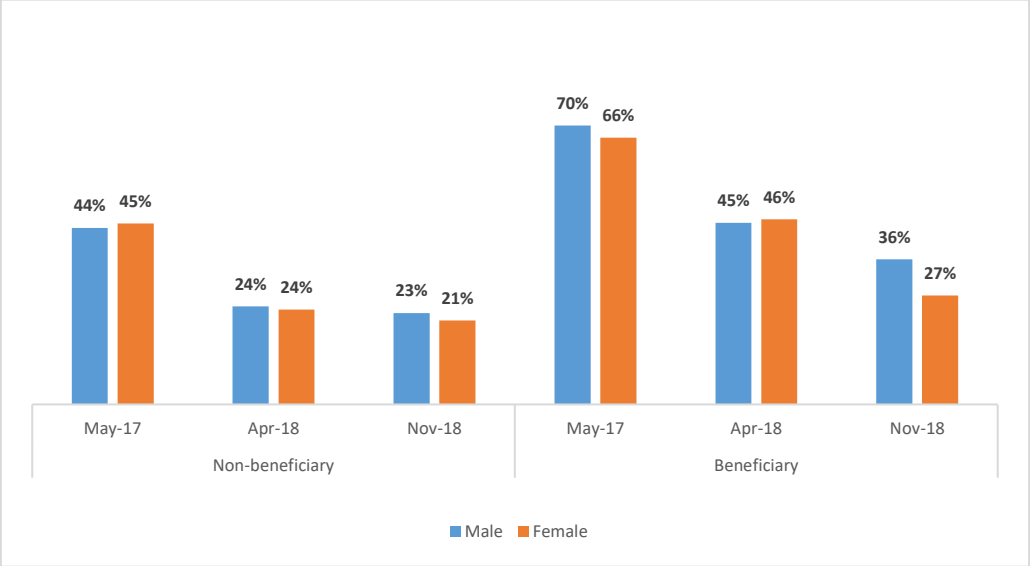




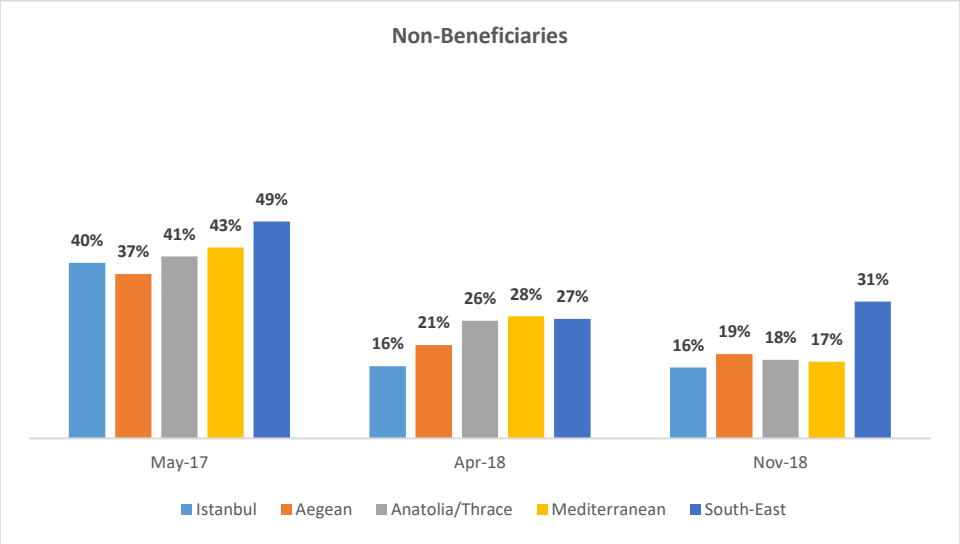


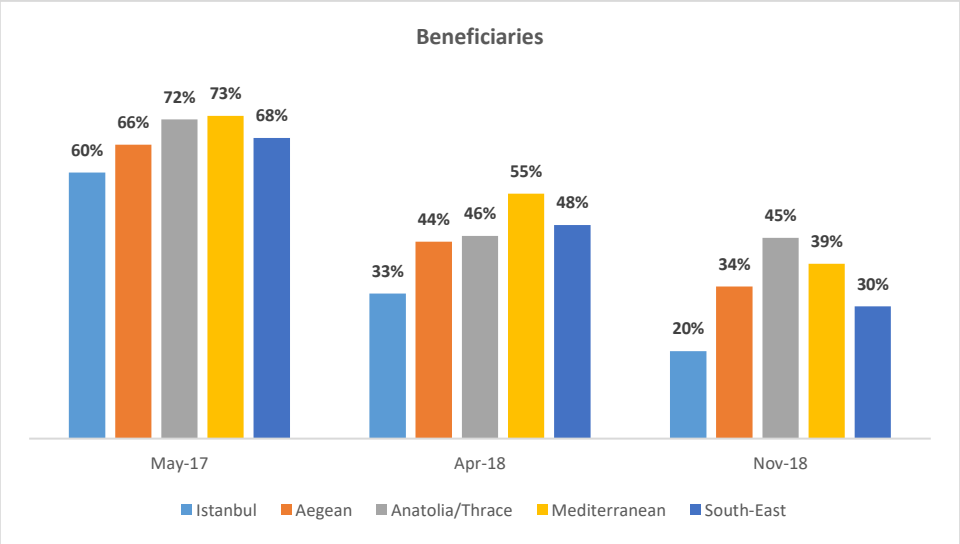


Share of Households with Expenditure per Capita below the MEB by Sex of Household Head

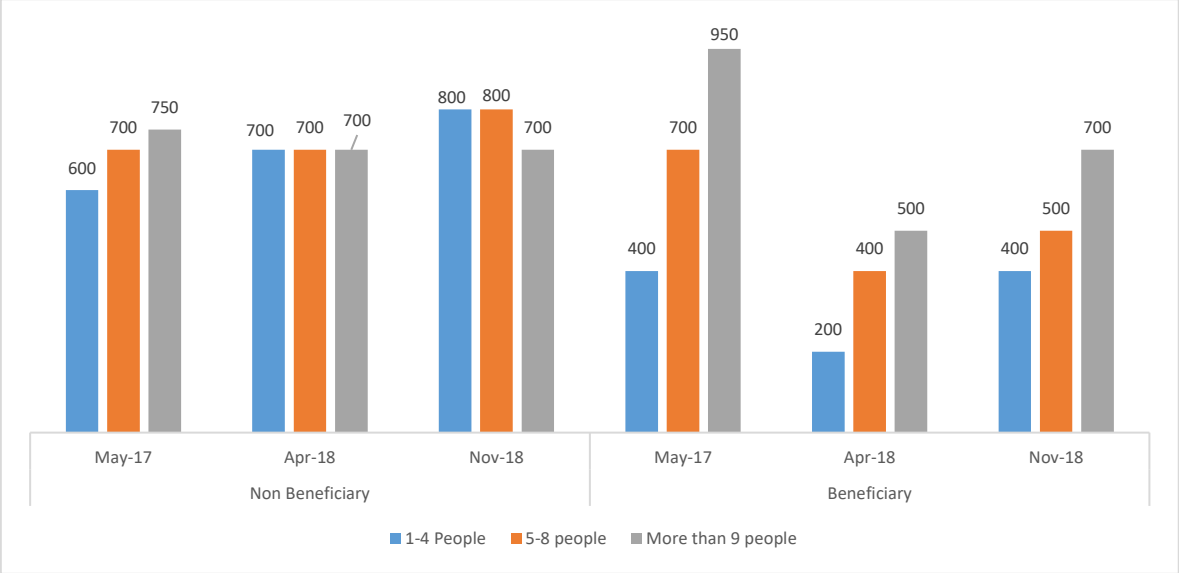


Share of Households with Expenditure per Capita below the MEB by Stratum

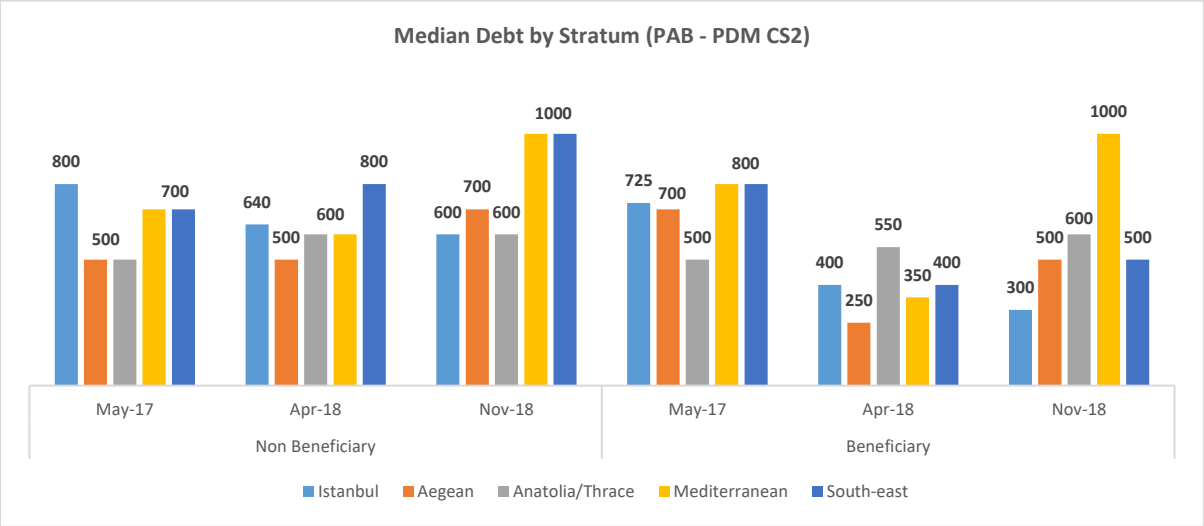




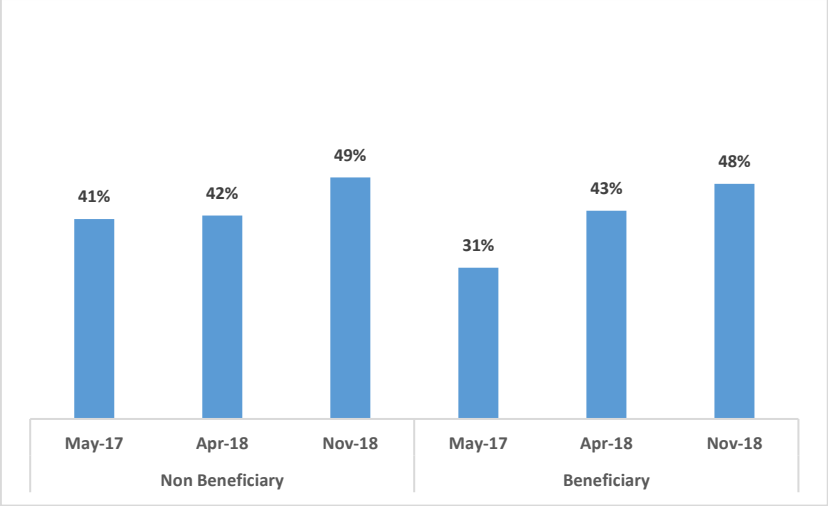
Median Debt by Household Size



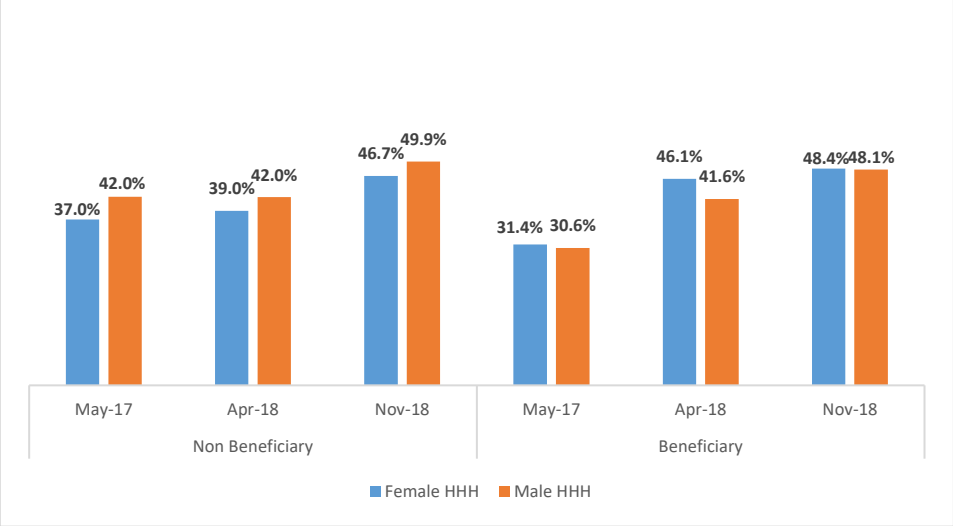
Median Debt by Stratum



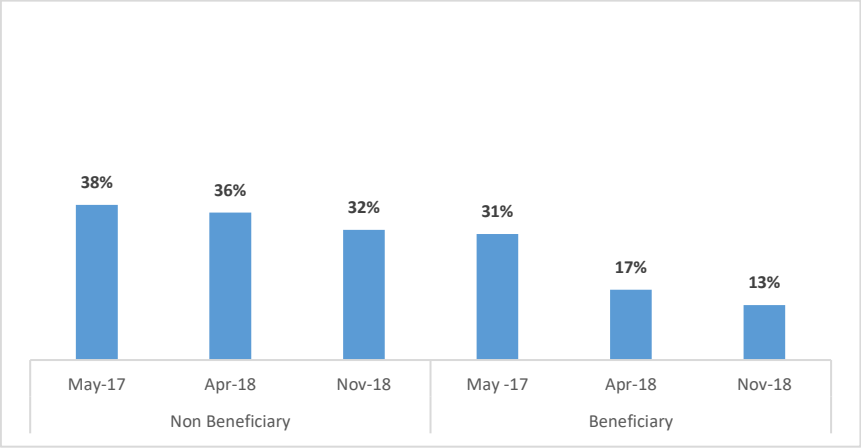
Proportion of Households Where All of the School Aged Children Are Attending School



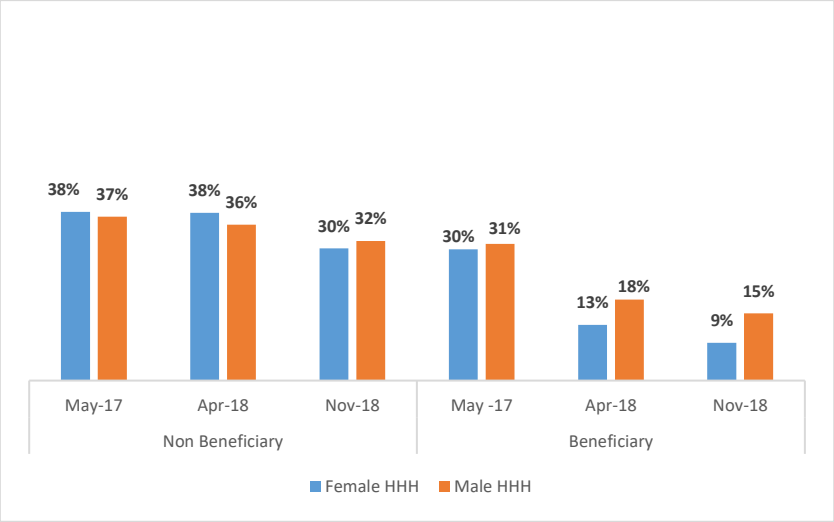
Proportion of Households Where All of the School Aged Children Are Attending School by Sex of Household Head



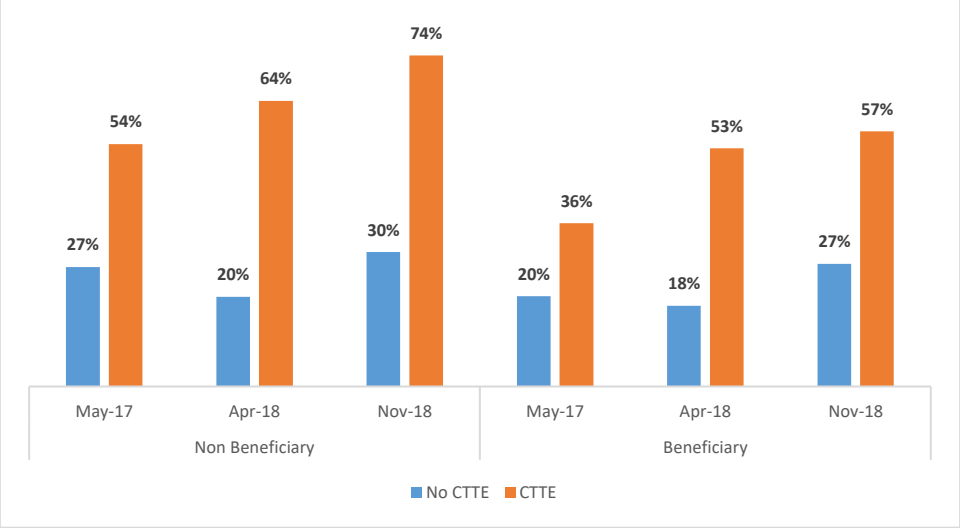
Proportion of Households Where None of the School Aged Children Are Attending School



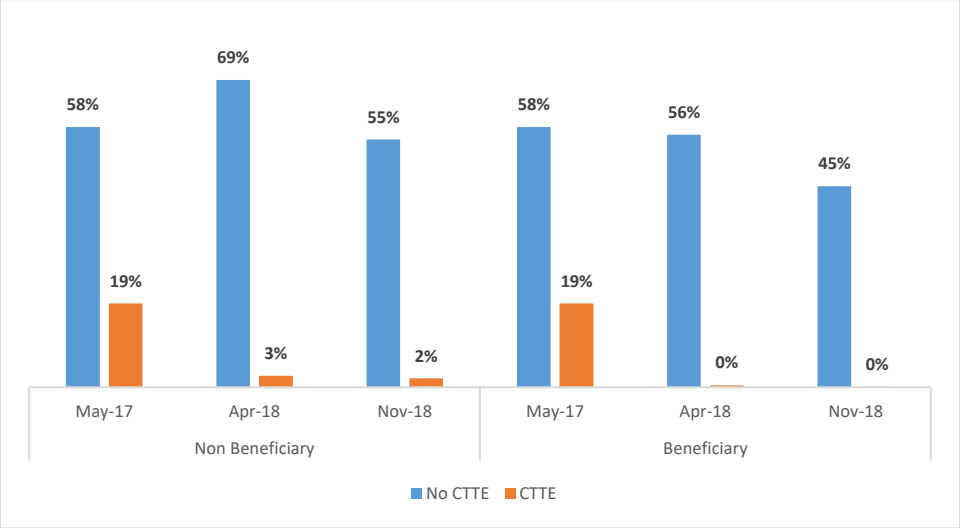
Proportion of Households Where None of the School Aged Children Are Attending School by Sex of Household Head



Proportion of Households Where All of the School Aged Children Are Attending School based on ESSN and CCTE Status



Proportion of Households Where None of the School Aged Children Are Attending School based on ESSN and CCTE Status



This report was prepared by the M&E Unit of WFP Turkey Country Office, Ankara. For more information contact: co.tur.m&e@wfp.org

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