



REPORT
ENG
2020

SGDD-ASAM ASSOCIATION FOR SOLIDARITY WITH ASYLUM SEEKERS AND MIGRANTS



May '20

Sectoral Analysis of
the Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic
on Refugees Living in Turkey



This document has been prepared under the coordination of the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit of Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants (SGDD-ASAM) and with the contributions of the Protection Unit and field team, and made publicly available.

This document has been published as an open source study. Parts of or all content of this publication can be quoted and reproduced provided that an appropriate reference is made. This publication cannot be used for commercial purposes and cannot be sold in exchange of money. No permission from SGDD-ASAM is required provided that it is given reference for quotation and reproduction.

Design: SGDD-ASAM's Corporate Communication Unit



ANKARA, 2020



CONTENTS ■

04.	INTRODUCTION
06.	METHOD
11.	FINDINGS AND INTERPRETATION
20.	CONCLUSION



1. INTRODUCTION ■

Despite being faced with more risks and difficulties during global outbreaks and similar cases, persons displaced from their homeland due to war, conflict and humanitarian crises are always neglected more often compared to the general population. Difficulties experienced in acquiring information due to the language barrier, existing difficulties concerning access to means of livelihood worsening during outbreaks along with financial problems, additional health risks caused by living and working together in crowds, insufficiencies in shelter, food and hygiene conditions, access to fundamental rights and services being disrupted and the physical obstacles to accessing facilities, mainly those providing health services, are especially among the primary reasons for these fragilities.

In that regard, it is essential to develop actions and intervention tools to respond to the vulnerabilities and needs of refugees while combating and responding to the COVID-19 outbreak that we are globally facing and that the World Health Organization has declared a “pandemic”.



**ALIENATION,
LABELLING AND
DISCRIMINATION
DUE TO THE
MEASURES THAT
COULD BE TAKEN
TOWARDS REFUGEES
(ESPECIALLY
TOWARDS
IRREGULAR
MIGRANTS) DURING
SITUATIONS OF
EMERGENCY ALSO
EMERGE AS OTHER
RISKS.**

With its 25 years of experience and nearly two thousand employees, Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants (SGDD-ASAM), in line with its founding purpose and mission, continues to carry out works in order to meet the fundamental needs of Temporary Protection and International Protection Status holders and/or Applicants and irregular migrants living in Turkey that have emerged in light of the measures taken of staying at home and isolation against the COVID-19 outbreak.



In order to monitor and map out how refugees with different vulnerabilities are affected by the COVID-19 outbreak in terms of basic needs, protection, healthcare, education and livelihoods sectors, SGDD-ASAM has also carried out the “Sectoral Analysis of the Impacts of Covid-19 Pandemic on Refugees Living in Turkey” under the coordination of its Monitoring and Evaluation Unit and with the contributions of the Protection Unit and field teams.

[1] Herein after, these groups, irrespective of their legal status, will be referred to as “refugees” throughout the document.



2. METHOD ■



2.1. PURPOSE OF THE RESEARCH

The main purpose of this research is to identify how refugees living in Turkey are affected during the pandemic period in terms of gaining information concerning their fundamental rights, services, and healthcare services in particular, and to determine their social and economic needs during this period.



2.2. ASSUMPTIONS OF THE RESEARCH

It is assumed that the sample of the research represents all beneficiaries receiving service from SGDD-ASAM centers and that the individuals included in the sample have sincerely responded to the questions.



Turkey's first case of the COVID-19 outbreak that has spread throughout the world was identified on 10 March 2020. The first death from the virus occurred on 15 March 2020.





The Republic of Turkey Ministry of Health had declared on 1 April 2020 that coronavirus cases have spread all across the country.



SGDD-ASAM conducted the Sectoral Analysis of the Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on Refugees Living in Turkey from 13.04.2020 to 17.04.2020.



In order for the study to be sustainable and to be able to ascertain the current condition of beneficiaries in the following pandemic period, the study could be updated at certain periods depending on the developments taking place.



2.3. MODEL OF THE RESEARCH

In line with the objective stated above, a “Screening Model” has been adopted in this research. Screening model is a research approach that aims to describe a situation, which has existed in the past or currently exists, as it is. In order to identify the needs of persons with different vulnerabilities, the “Cluster Sampling Method” has been identified as an appropriate method in this survey, which aims to determine the situation in various sectors. Each sector has been included in the sample as constituting one cluster and from the samples, the ones that represents the cluster have been chosen through the “Simple Random Method”. This way, it has become possible to make an analysis, both within the cluster and within the main group (SGDD-ASAM beneficiaries).





2.4. STATISTICAL UNIVERSE AND WORKING SET OF THE RESEARCH

The statistical universe of the research consists of Syrians under Temporary Protection and International Protection Status holders living in Turkey. Whereas, the working set of the research are non-Turkish individuals above the age of 18, who have received counselling from SGDD-ASAM within the last 3 months and whose consent forms are found on the database.

In case of persons found on SGDD-ASAM's database being identified as the statistical universe in light of the criteria, the survey conducted with 378 persons with a 95% confidence interval and 5% margin of error has been found to be sufficient for representing the sample. In terms of sector, 362 surveys in the protection sector, 195 surveys in the healthcare sector, 118 surveys in the access to means of livelihood sector and 100 surveys in the education

sector have been found to be sufficient for representing the population. In order for the survey to be able to reach an extensive sampling, a survey participant included in one sector has not been included in the other sectors. In addition, when selecting provinces, beneficiaries from each region and all beneficiaries having International Protection and Temporary Protection Status have been included in the survey.

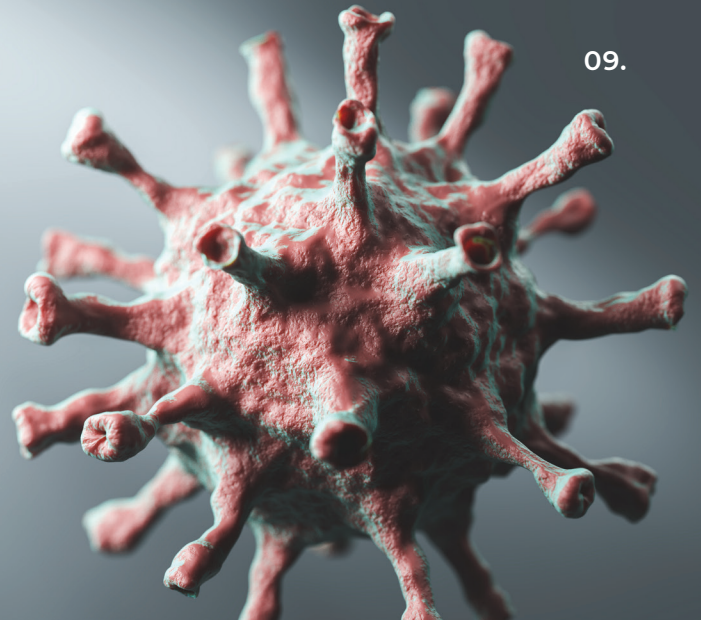


2.5. DATA COLLECTION TOOLS

The data of this research have been collected by using four different interview forms for the sectors. The interview forms contain questions intended for identifying the different levels of individuals during the COVID-19 period who receive services from SGDD-ASAM offices.

These interview forms have been formed by SGDD-ASAM's Monitoring and Evaluation Unit.

Before finalizing the Turkish interview form, representatives of the relevant sectors have been contacted and certain amendments have been made accordingly. The survey form has then been translated into Arabic and Farsi by SGDD-ASAM interpreters. This way it has been concluded that the interview form can become 'operative' and the last touches have been made.



2.6. DATA COLLECTION PROCESS

It is known that approximately 15% of the beneficiaries are illiterate, and it is important to measure the satisfaction of those persons in terms of representing SGDD-ASAM beneficiaries. Therefore, it has been decided that making telephone interviews with these persons in their mother tongue would be a more

facilitative and convenient method. The surveys have been conducted by SGDD-ASAM staff through the calls made. The survey form has been transmitted online through the survey implementation interface and the forms have thus been digitalized. Phone interviews have been conducted based on the following conditions:

- Participant consent form being read in the mother tongue and the oral consent of the participant being received
- The surveys being in the mother tongue of the participants
- The survey content and purpose of the study being explained to the participant
- Demographic questions found in the survey and the Likert scale being explained

Due to the varying conditions of beneficiaries like their accessibility status and their phone numbers on the database not being up to date, the total number of calls to be made has been identified as 1,938.

Of the total 1,938 calls, 905 have been made for the protection sector, 488 for the healthcare sector, 295 for the access to means of livelihood sector and 250 for the education sector.



2.7. DATA ANALYSIS

The frequency distribution, mean and standard deviation values, minimum and maximum values, median and most frequent values of the data have been calculated.

Survey questions have been separated according to 4 different sectors under the headings of

Education, Protection, Healthcare and Access to Means of Livelihood, whereas questions on the Access to Means of Livelihood sector and level of information on COVID-19 have been found in all surveys. Therefore, the results obtained from the surveys have been analyzed under 6 main headings.



3. FINDINGS AND INTERPRETATION



3.1. DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF SURVEY PARTICIPANTS



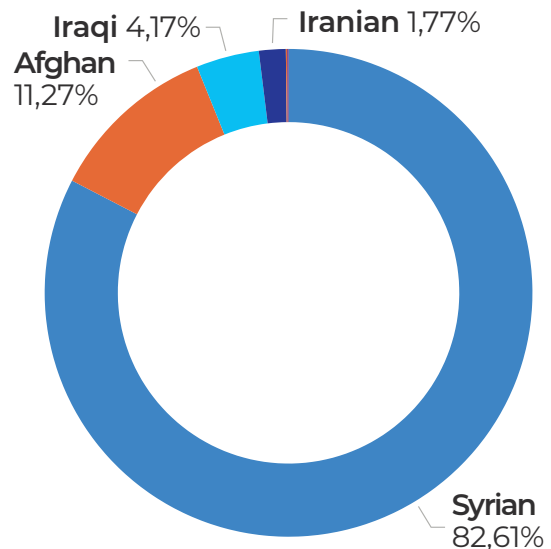
The Sectoral Analysis of the Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on Refugees Living in Turkey has been conducted between 13.04.2020 and 17.04.2020 by reaching 1,162 SGDD-ASAM beneficiaries by phone.

The surveyed beneficiaries were aged between 18-70 years, and 609 of them were female, while 553 were male. The nationality distribution of the survey participants were as follows: 960 Syrians, 131 Afghans, 49 Iraqis, 20 Iranians, 1 Palestinian and 1 Somalian. The survey in question was conducted through phone calls across 53 provinces, and such calls were answered in 48 of the relevant provinces.

Gender Distribution of the Surveyed Beneficiaries



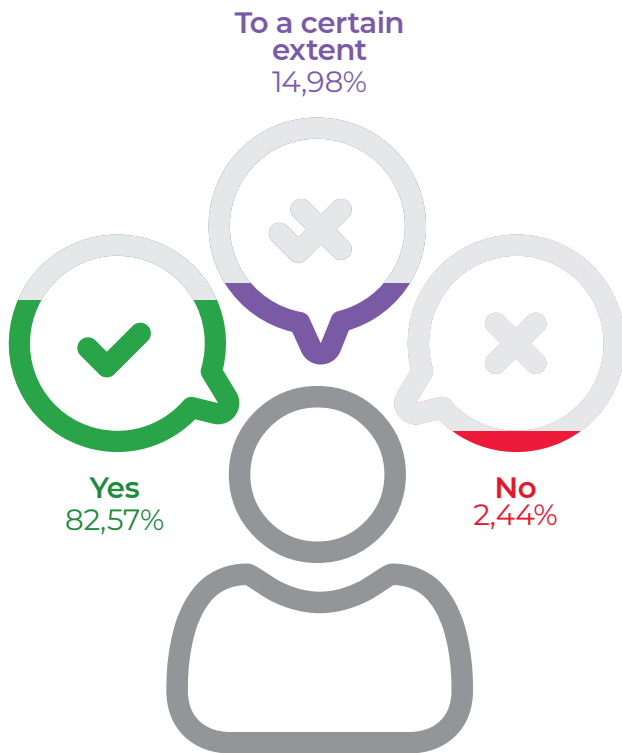
Nationality Distribution of the Surveyed Beneficiaries





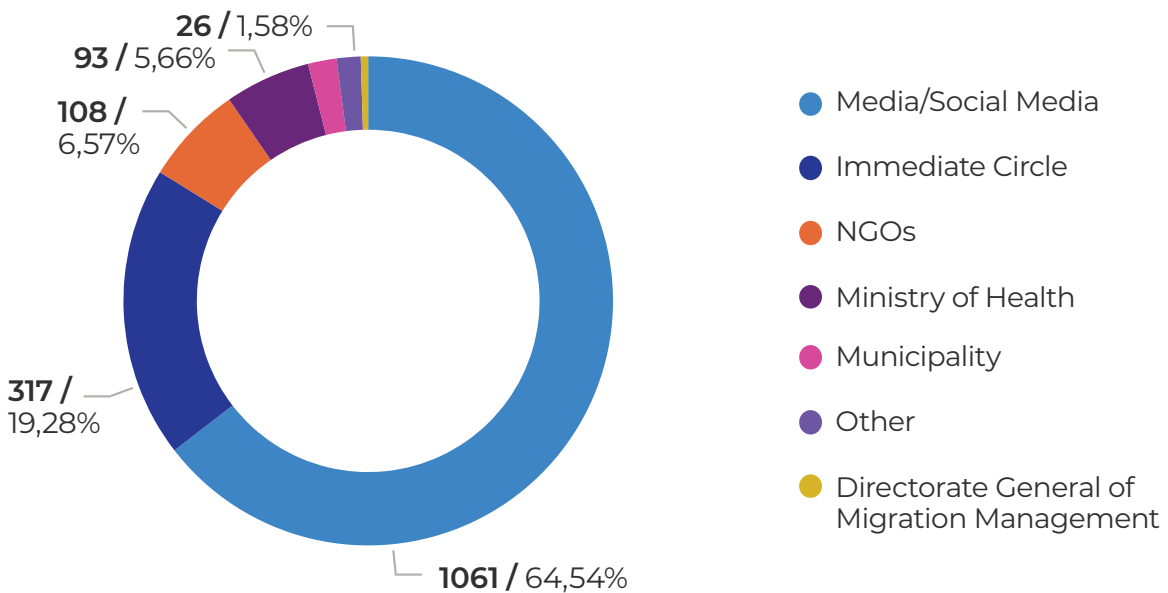
3.2. LEVEL OF INFORMATION REGARDING THE PANDEMIC

Does he/she have any information regarding Covid-19?



In the survey in which a total of 1,162 individuals participated, 83% of the participants indicated that they had sufficient amount of information about the COVID-19 pandemic. 65% of the survey participants noted that they had access to the COVID-19 related information via social media or other means of visual/printed media, while 19% stated that they had been informed by their neighbors or friends. On the other hand, the rate of survey participants expressing that they had been informed through the means provided by the Republic of Turkey Ministry of Health and other public institutions, which are the most trustworthy sources in terms of access to such information, remained below 10%.

What is the source of information?



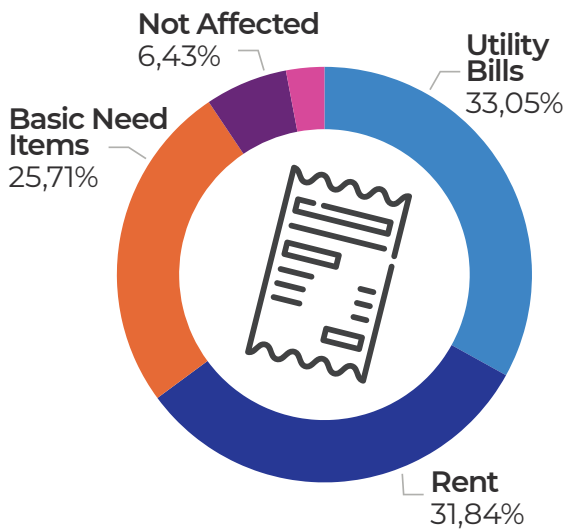


3.3. BASIC NEEDS SECTOR

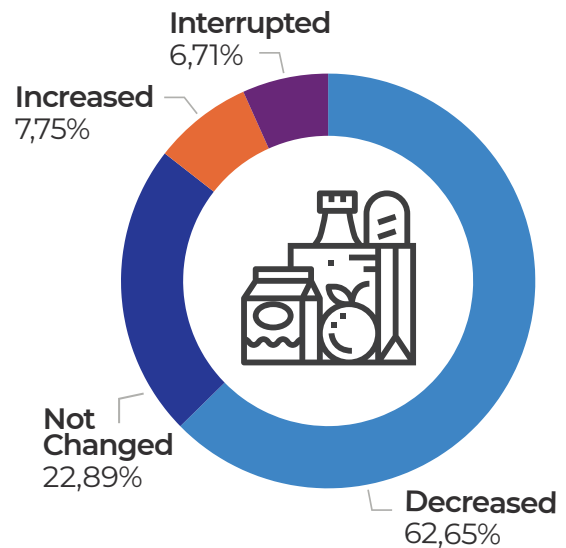
63% of the 1,162 survey participants stated that in the period subsequent to 11 March 2020, the date on which the first case was tested positive for COVID-19 in Turkey, they had difficulty in reaching food, and 53% expressed that they had difficulty in meeting their basic hygiene requirements.

Those indicating that their ability to cover their mandatory expenses and payments had been adversely affected following the measures taken against the COVID-19 pandemic noted that they had difficulty in paying for their rents, utility bills and basic need items, in particular.

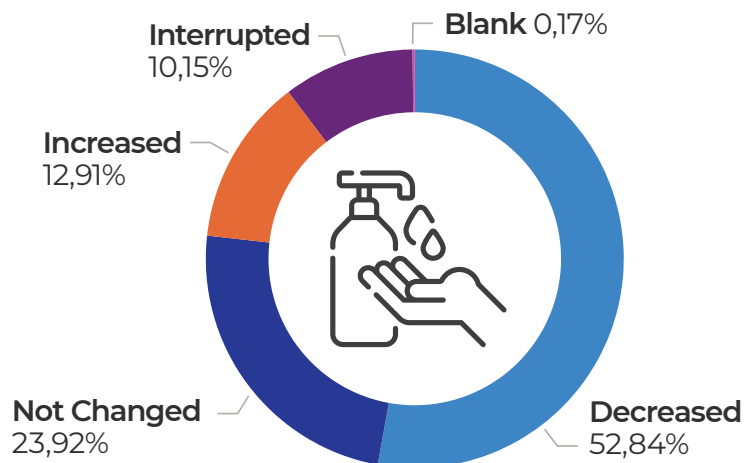
Which payments were affected?



How was access to food affected?



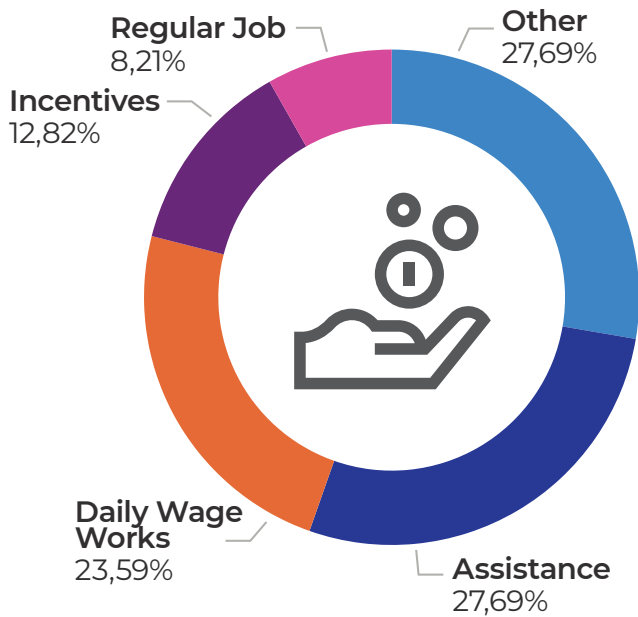
How was access to hygiene affected?





3.4. ACCESS TO MEANS OF LIVELIHOOD SECTOR

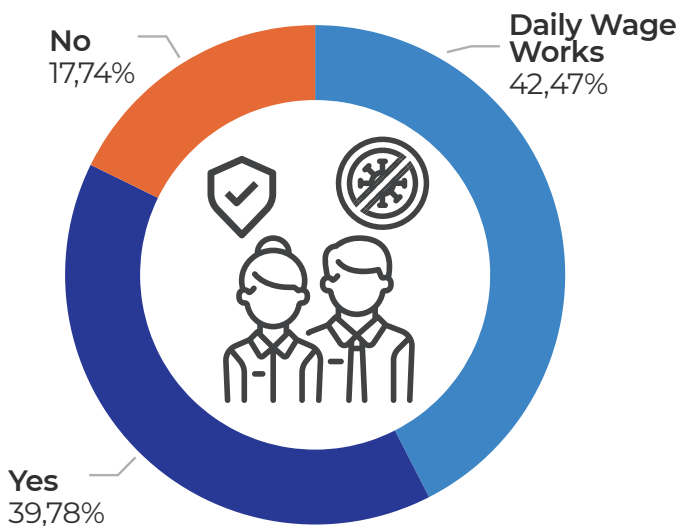
Livelihood Distribution of Beneficiaries



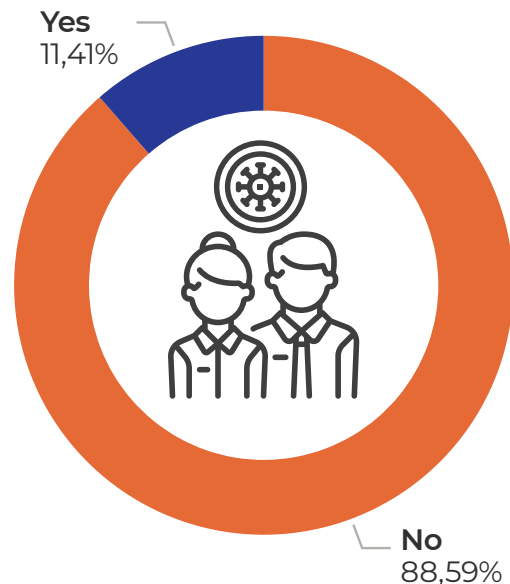
In scope of the Sectoral Analysis of the Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on Refugees Living in Turkey, Access to Means of Livelihood Sector-related survey was conducted with 184 individuals. The survey participants were asked how they earned their livelihoods, regardless of their employment status. The answers received revealed that half of the participants made their living through assistance and daily wage works. On the other hand, the other half stated that they were striving to live on incentives they received, money they borrowed and savings they made and that in the event this process was prolonged, they would be unable to sustain their livelihoods.

While only 18% of the individuals reached via phone calls for survey were unemployed before the precautions taken against the COVID-19 pandemic, this rate increased to 88% after March.

Employment Status Before the Pandemic

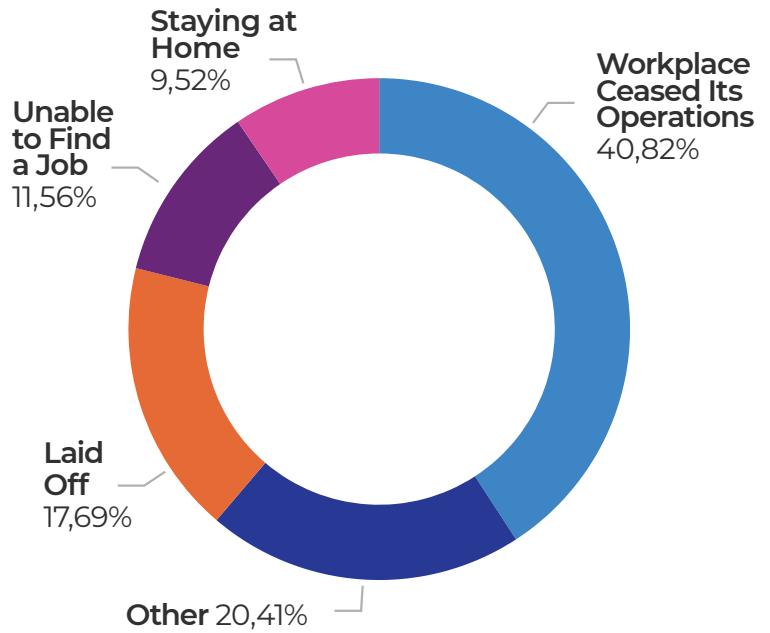


Current Employment Status



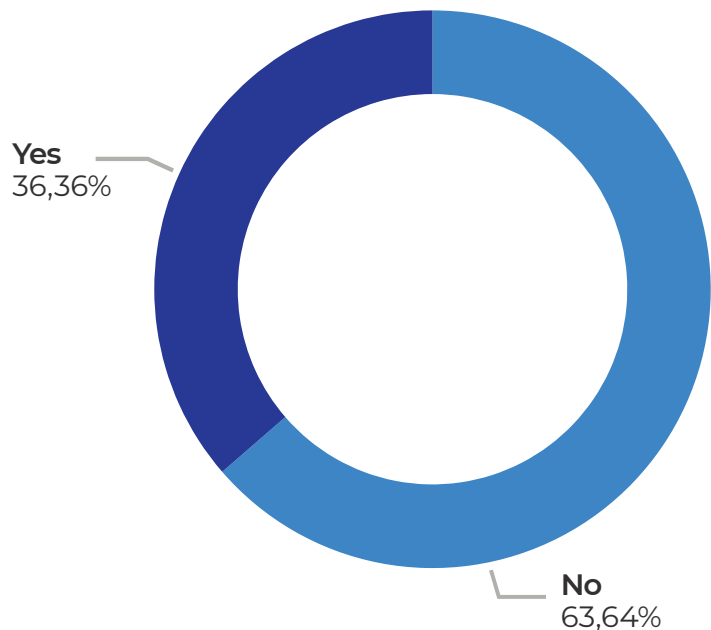
While 41% of the survey participants expressing that they were no longer employed stated that they had lost their jobs as their company/ institution had ceased its operations, 18% indicated that they had been laid off due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 12% stated that they had been unable to find a job and 10% expressed that they preferred to stay at home on their own will.

Reasons for Current Unemployment



In addition, 36% of those, who expressed that they were employed, reported that there had been deduction in their salaries. **Among the employed beneficiaries with whom the survey was conducted, the most common business sectors are service, textile, food and construction.**

Salary Deduction Status of Currently Employed Beneficiaries



One-third of the employed beneficiaries noted that they worked in a crowded work environment; and the remaining two-thirds stated that they considered their work environment safe.



3.5. EDUCATION SECTOR

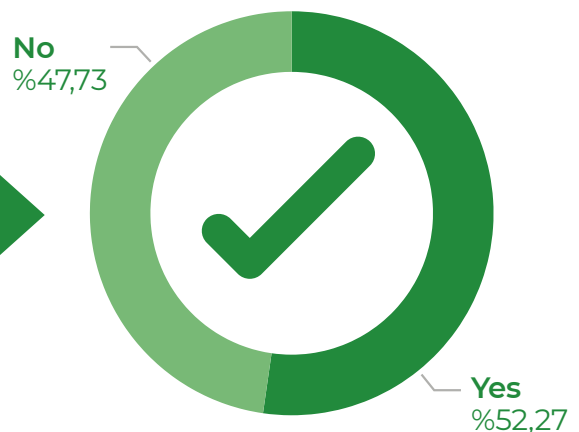
In scope of the Sectoral Analysis of the Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on Refugees Living in Turkey, Education Sector-related survey was conducted with 126 individuals, who are registered in SGDD-ASAM’s database and who indicated during case management that their children

were enrolled in schools. Among the Education Sector Survey participants, 70% stated that their children were still enrolled in their respective schools. Nevertheless, it was noted that 48% of the children enrolled in schools did not have access to distance education.

School Enrolment Status of Children

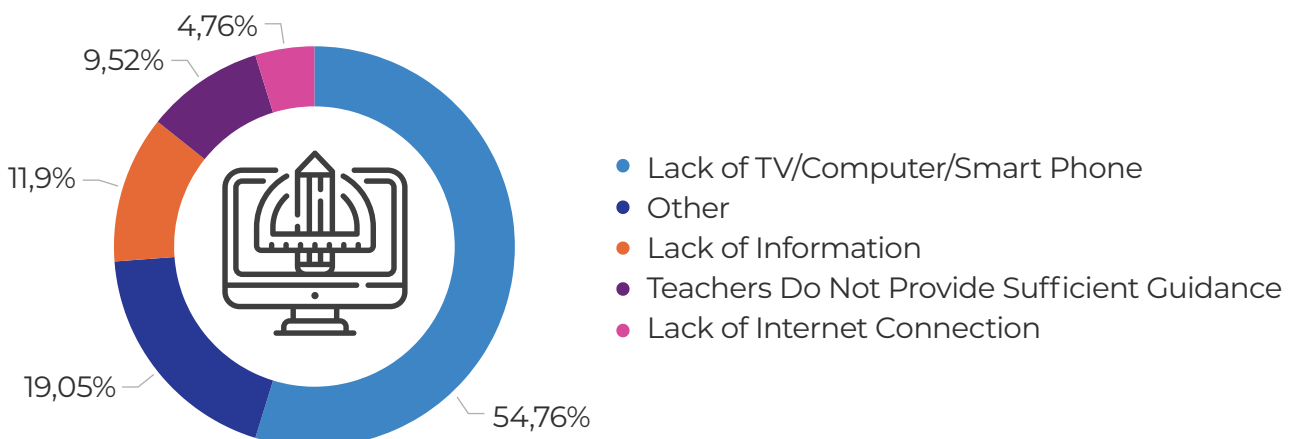


Having Access to Distance Education



As the reason for their inability to benefit from distance education, more than half of the families of children who experienced difficulties in having access to distance education stated that they did not have access to technical means such as a television or computer.

Reasons for Inability to Benefit from Distance Education





3.6. HEALTHCARE SECTOR

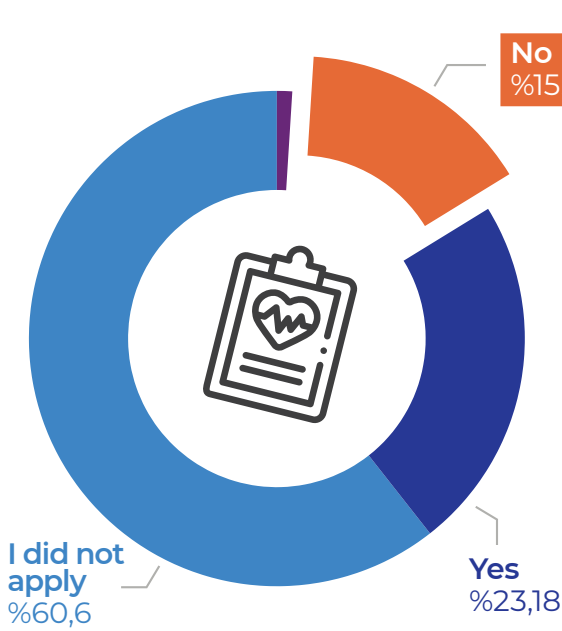


In scope of the Sectoral Analysis of the Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on Refugees Living in Turkey, a total of 302 individuals with vulnerabilities such as disability, chronic disease, serious health problem or pregnancy/breastfeeding have provided answers to the Healthcare Sector-related survey questions.

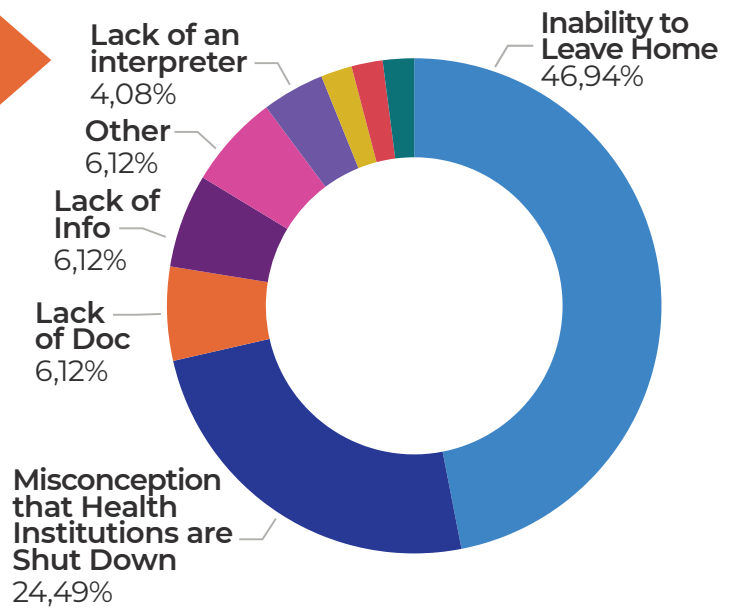
At the end of the survey, 40% of the beneficiaries stated that they had felt the need to apply for healthcare services due to various reasons during the pandemic. However, 15% of these persons, who indicated that they had applied to healthcare institutions, noted that they were unable to benefit from the healthcare services.

While the inability to leave home was among the most common reasons for not being able to benefit from healthcare services, the misconception that health institutions are shut down, the lack of documents and the lack of sufficient information were also among the most common reasons, respectively.

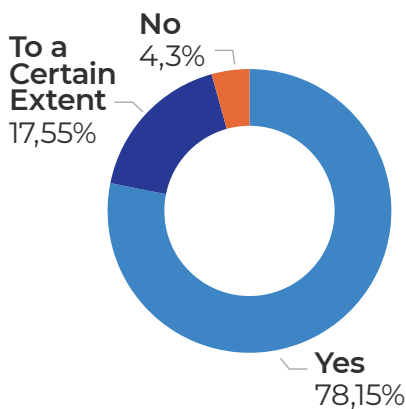
Situation as to Benefiting from Healthcare Services



Reasons for Inability to Benefit from Healthcare Services



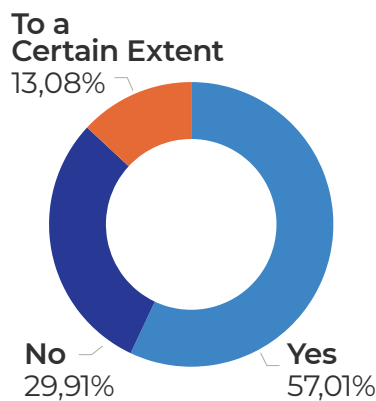
As to Whether the Necessary Precautions Were Taken Against Covid-19



78% of the survey participants are of the opinion that they have taken the necessary precautions that would protect them against the COVID-19.



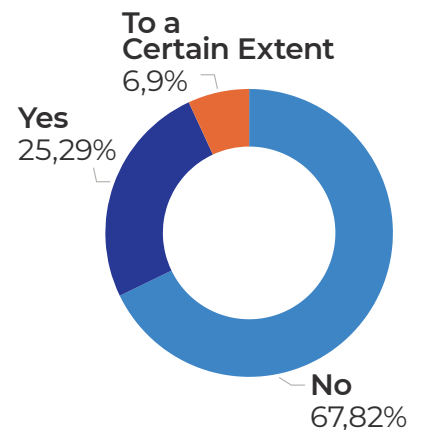
Ability of Beneficiaries with Children to Follow-Up Vaccination Schedules



57% of the survey participants with children said that their children's vaccination schedules were regularly followed-up.



Ability of Beneficiaries in Need of Regular Medication to Acquire Their Medication



68% of those who are in need of regular medication indicated that they were unable to acquire their medication.



3.7. PROTECTION SECTOR

540 individuals have provided answers to the Protection Sector-related survey questions in scope of the Sectoral Analysis of the Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on Refugees Living in Turkey. In view of the protection-related risks to be posed by having to stay constantly in the same home together with their household members during the

outbreak, the survey participants were asked whether they had left their homes in the course of the pandemic. According to the survey results, 58% of the surveyed beneficiaries had rarely left their homes, while 35% stated that they had not left at all. The number of the beneficiaries who had to leave their homes on a daily basis corresponded to 6%.

Rates Concerning Staying at Home

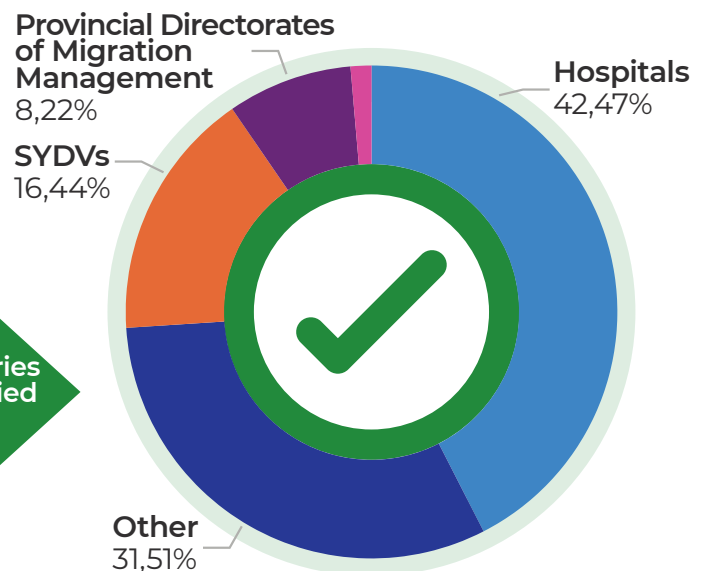


The number of the surveyed beneficiaries who had to apply to an official institution or organization after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic corresponded to 19%. While hospitals were the institutions with the highest number of applications, Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundations (SYDVs) and Provincial Directorates of Migration Management were among the others that received a high number of applications.

Situation as to Whether the Beneficiaries Applied to an Official Institution/Organization



Official Institutions/Organizations Applied for Services



THE SURVEY RESULTS THAT HAVE BEEN PRESENTED IN GRAPHS UNDER THE HEADINGS ABOVE ARE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:







- **83% of the survey participants** indicated that they had sufficient amount of information about the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **63% of 1,162 survey participants** stated that since March 2020, they have been having difficulty in reaching food, and **53%** expressed that they have been having difficulty in meeting their basic hygiene requirements.



- Participants indicating that their ability to cover their payments had been adversely affected following the measures taken against the COVID-19 pandemic noted that they had difficulty in paying **for their rents, utility bills and basic need items, in particular.**

- 
 - While **only 18% of the individuals** reached via phone calls for survey were unemployed before the precautions taken against the COVID-19 pandemic, this rate increased to **88%** after March.
- 43% of the survey participants** stated that they had lost their jobs as their company/institution had ceased its operations.
- Among the participants with children enrolled in schools, **48% expressed that their children did not have access to distance education.**
- Although **48% of the survey participants** stated that their children were unable to have access to distance education, the fact that **52% of the participants noted that their children** were able to benefit from distance education in such a difficult period can be considered as an indication that with the additional support on this issue, there may be a further increase in the refugees' adaptation to this education model in the medium and long term.

- Among the survey participants who had felt the need to apply for healthcare services during the Covid-19 pandemic, **85%** were able to receive the services they sought.



- **78% of the participants** are of the opinion that they have taken the necessary precautions that would protect them against the COVID-19.



- **58% of the survey participants** had rarely left their homes, while **35%** stated that they had not left at all. The number the beneficiaries who had to leave their homes on a daily basis corresponded to **6%**.



Having regard to the results listed above, it is seen that a large majority of the survey participants have sufficient amount of information as regards the COVID-19 pandemic. On the other hand, the gradual increase in the unemployment rate and the lack of a regular source of income worsen those individuals' housing and nutritive conditions and make it more difficult for them to cover their mandatory expenses such as rent and utility bills. **It has been observed that if the pandemic period lasts longer, persons making a living through daily wage works and various types of assistance will be unable to sustain their livelihoods.**





SGDD-ASAM

ASSOCIATION FOR SOLIDARITY WITH
ASYLUM SEEKERS AND MIGRANTS

Contact Us



 [asamsydd](#)  [sgdd_asam](#)  [sgdd_asam](#)

 [sgdd-asam](#)  [ASAM](#)  [sgdd.org.tr](#)