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Conditional Cash Transfer for Education (CCTE) Programme for Syrians and Other Refugees

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Background

The Syrian refugee crisis is in its 10th year, with no end in sight. Millions have been forced to flee their homes to neighbouring countries, their futures uncertain. Children continue to pay the highest price and bear the heaviest burden of the crisis: their education, their hopes and dreams, and even their lives, all continue to be at risk. Turkey is home to the largest number of refugees, migrants and asylum seekers, standing at over 4 million. More than 3.7 million are Syrian including 1.7 million children. More than 770,000 refugee children have enrolled in schools. Despite significant achievements and the commitment of the Government of Turkey, hosting the highest number of refugees in the world is putting enormous strain on the country's basic services and infrastructure, particularly when it comes to education and child protection. The Conditional Cash Transfer for Education (CCTE) programme aims to encourage enrolment and improve school attendance of children. It is a national social assistance programme which has been implemented by the Ministry of Family and Social Services since 2003 and was extend-

ed to Syrian and other refugee families in mid-2017. This extension is being implemented through a close partnership between the Ministry of Family and Social Services, the Ministry of National Education, the Turkish Red Crescent and UNICEF, and has been made possible by the generous support of the European Union, as well as the Governments of Norway and the United States of America. After a very successful implementation during 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years, CCTE continues to reach refugee families in the new school year. Furthermore, as of September 2018, CCTE for Refugees is also reaching children enrolled in the Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) which is intended for out-of-school children as a transition pathway into formal education. And as of September 2019, increased 'beginning of term' payments have been introduced for secondary school and ALP students to further encourage their schooling.

Cash Transfer Component

Total number of
Beneficiary
Students

794,356

Pre-primary
Kindergarten



29,111

14,338 14,773

Primary
Grades 1st to 4th



335,563

162,512 173,051

Lower-secondary
Grades 5th to 8th



317,031

155,476 161,555

Upper-secondary
Grades 9th to 12th



102,158

56,131 46,027

ALP



5,321

2,470 2,851

The cash transfer component of the CCTE for Refugees programme applies the same rules and regulations as applied for Turkish families under the national CCTE programme. The families receive cash support every two months through Kızılaykarts on the condition that the child has attended school regularly (at least 80%) in the relevant preceding school months. Families of students enrolled in Turkish public schools and Accelerated Learning Programme are eligible to benefit from the programme. The cash component of the programme is nationwide.

The amounts paid depend on the gender and the grades of the school-going children. Kindergarten and primary school children (from kindergarten to 8th grades) are entitled to monthly amounts of 55 TL for boys and 60 TL for girls. Students in high school (from 9th to 12th grades) receive monthly amounts of 70 TL for boys and 90 TL for girls. Students in ALP receive a monthly amount of 90 TL regardless of gender.

Furthermore, additional support is provided to families at the beginning of each school term in the form of 100 TL per beneficiary child in primary school (including Kindergarten), 200 TL per beneficiary child in lower secondary school and 250 TL per beneficiary child in upper secondary school or ALP. In November 2020, an additional one-time top-up payment of 85 TRY was provided to support families facing increased challenges due to the socio-economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, benefitting 518,794 children. While about 64% of CCTE beneficiaries also benefit from the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) programme which provides monthly cash transfers of 155 TL per family member, approximately 14% of CCTE beneficiaries also benefit from the Complementary Emergency Social Safety Net (C-ESSN) programme which provides monthly assistance of 250 TL per family member. The C-ESSN aims to meet the basic needs of the "most vulnerable" who cannot be directed to livelihoods.



The extension of the CCTE program to Syrians and other refugees is made possible through financial support from EU Humanitarian Aid the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) and the Government of Norway.

Despite the closure of schools as part of the confinement measures imposed to curb the spread of COVID-19 pandemic, the cash assistance continued as scheduled for all eligible children, in line with the national programme.



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Child Protection Component

Number of Children
Reached

123,109

Number of Children Referred to
Specialized Services

10,530

The CCTE Programme includes a strategic child protection component to ensure the continued school enrolment and attendance of the most vulnerable refugee children, as well as their referral to child protection services, when needed. This component is implemented by outreach teams consisting of social workers and translators working in the field. The outreach teams visit families whose children are not meeting, or are at risk of not meeting, the attendance condition of the CCTE programme. These teams assess and identify the children's and families' needs in order to address them in a personalized and systematic manner.

Through this component, the CCTE programme is expected to mitigate child protection risks and violations, which are closely intertwined with economic vulnerabilities and contribute to non-attendance at school as well as child labor, child marriage, physical and emotional violence and family separation. The cash transfer component of the programme is nationwide. There are CCTE CP teams in 15 provinces and 2 mobile teams cover Adıyaman and surrounding provinces and the Black Sea Region.

Social Cohesion in Education

The CCTE programme now includes a pilot project, implemented in partnership with Maya Foundation in Istanbul and Şanlıurfa, which aims to address some of the non-financial barriers to refugee childrens' education through promotion of "Social Cohesion through Education." The pilot will also contribute to the development of national guidelines and tools to tackle issues related to social tension (such as bullying), including school personnel capacity building, in classroom activity guides for children, and awareness raising materials for parents.

As of end December 2021, 11,567 children participated in activities that built their social and emotional skills, promoted social cohesion, and raised awareness of the importance of anti-bullying. 351 school staff were provided with online training focusing on detection and prevention of bullying and cyberbullying, as well as classroom management skills to tackle issues of social tension between groups of students. 849 parents were engaged in online sessions to build their capacity in prevention and detection of bullying.



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Beneficiaries Geographical Breakdown

