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

May 2017 - December 2022

Background

The Syrian refugee crisis is in its 11th year, with no end in sight. Millions have been forced to flee their homes to neighbouring countries, their future remains uncertain. Children continue to pay the highest price and bear the heaviest burden of the crisis: their education, their hopes and dreams, all continue to be at risk. Türkiye 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 1.8 million children. More than 800,000 refugee children have enrolled in schools. Despite significant achievements and the commitment of the Government of Türkiye, 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 extended to Syrian and

other refugee children in mid-2017. This extension was 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. Furthermore, as of September 2018, CCTE for Refugees also reached children enrolled in the Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) which is intended for out-of-school children as a transition pathway into formal education. As of October 2022, the CCTE for Refugees programme has been transitioned from UNICEF to the Ministry of Family and Social Services. UNICEF will continue to support the full transition of the programme until the end of December 2022.

Cash Transfer Component

Total number of
Beneficiary
Children

811,181



Pre-primary
Kindergarten



32,019

15,747 16,272

Primary
Grades 1st to 4th



341,645

165,577 176,068

Lower-secondary
Grades 5th to 8th



321,533

157,530 164,003

Upper-secondary
Grades 9th to 12th



104,492

57,565 47,377

ALP



5,893

2,755 3,138

The cash transfer component of the CCTE for Refugees programme applied the same rules and regulations as applied for Turkish families under the national CCTE programme. The families received cash support every two months through Kızılaykarts on the condition that the child attended school regularly (at least 80%) in the relevant preceding school months. Families of students enrolled in Turkish public schools and the Accelerated Learning Programme were eligible to benefit from the programme. The cash component of the programme was implemented nationwide in all 81 provinces.

The amounts paid depended on the gender and the grades of the school-going children. Kindergarten and primary school children (from kindergarten to 8th grades) were entitled to monthly amounts of 55 TL for boys and 60 TL for girls. Students in high school (from 9th to 12th grades) received monthly amounts of 70 TL for boys and 90 TL for girls. Students in ALP received a monthly amount of 90 TL regard-less of gender. These transfer

values were effective until the September 2022 payment. For November 2022 payment onwards, transfer values were further increased. Additional support was 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 71% of CCTE beneficiaries also benefited from the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) programme which provided monthly cash transfers of 230 TL per family member, approximately 17% of CCTE beneficiaries also benefit from the Complementary Emergency Social Safety Net (C-ESSN) programme which provided monthly assistance of 350 TL per family member.





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Child Protection Component

Number of Children
Reached

172,516

Number of Children Referred to
Specialized Services

39,984

The CCTE Programme included 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 was implemented by outreach teams consisting of social workers and translators working in the field. The outreach teams visited families whose children were not meeting, or were at risk of not meeting, the attendance condition of the CCTE programme. These teams assessed and identified the children's and families' needs

in order to address them in a personalized and systematic manner. Through this component, the CCTE programme was expected to mitigate child protection risks and violations, which were 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. There were CCTE CP teams in 15 provinces and 2 mobile teams covering Adiyaman and surrounding provinces and the Black Sea Region.

Social Cohesion in Education

The CCTE programme included a pilot project, implemented in partnership with Maya Foundation in Istanbul and Şanlıurfa, which aimed to address some of the non-financial barriers to refugee childrens' education through promotion of "Social Cohesion through Education." This pilot also contributed 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 August 2022, 11,844 children participated in activities that built their social and emotional skills, promoted social cohesion, and raised awareness of the importance of anti-bullying. 678 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. 3,056 parents were engaged in online sessions to build their capacity in prevention and detection of bullying.





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Beneficiaries Geographical Breakdown*

*The cash transfer component of the programme is nationwide. The map shows the 15 provinces where CP teams are based, and the provinces covered by the mobile teams (Adiyaman and surrounding provinces and the Black Sea Region) where the cash transfer and child protection components are both available.

* Location of Osmaniye CP office has been shifted to Kocaeli based on emerging needs.

