



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

- February 2021 -

## Background

The Syrian refugee crisis is in its 10<sup>th</sup> 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 3.6 million are Syrian including over 1.6 million children. More than 760,000 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, Labour and Social Services since 2003 and was extended to Syrian and other refugee families in mid-2017. This extension is being implemented through a close partnership between the Ministry of Family, Labour 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 and 2019-20 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

682,882

Pre-primary  
Kindergarten



19,951

9,855 10,096

Primary  
Grades 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>



317,032

154,187 162,845

Lower-secondary  
Grades 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>



260,317

128,457 131,860

Upper-secondary  
Grades 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>



76,065

42,022 34,043

ALP



4,284

1,996 2,288

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, temporary education centres 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 8<sup>th</sup> grades) are entitled to monthly amounts of 45 TL for boys and 50 TL for girls.

Students in high school (from 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades) receive monthly amounts of 55 TL for boys and 75 TL for girls. Students in ALP receive a monthly amount of 75 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 was provided to support families facing increased challenges due to the socio-economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, benefitting 518,794 children. About 77% of CCTE beneficiaries also benefit from the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) programme which provides monthly cash transfers of 120 TL per family member.



The extension of the CCTE programme to Syrians and other refugees is made possible through financial support from EU's Directorate General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migrants (PRM) of the US State Department 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.



## Child Protection Component

Number of Children Reached

81,938

Number of Children Referred to Specialized Services

7,178

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-attend-

ance 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. The child protection component is focusing on 15 provinces, Adiyaman and the Black Sea Region. Due to movement restrictions put in place due to the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, TRC Child Protection teams were not able to carry out household visits from mid-March 2020 through June 2020. During the aforementioned period, the teams focused on following up at risk cases that had previously been identified. Starting from July 2020, in view of the limitations in the outreach activities linked to the evolution of the pandemic situation in Turkey, the modality of the fieldwork has temporarily changed and the TRC CP teams have been conducting remote assessments to identify, assess and follow up CP cases.

## Beneficiaries Geographical Breakdown

