

The effects of 6 February Kahramanmaraş Earthquake on Refugees

13 million Turkish citizens and 1 million 730 thousand registered Syrians were affected by the earthquakes with magnitudes of 7.7 and 7.6 on February 6, which affected 10 cities and were also felt in the surrounding countries. We do not have data on unregistered refugees. Children population is 5.4 million of the total affected population, and 811,000 of the child population are refugee children. It was reported that 42,310 people lost their lives in Kahramanmaraş, Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Diyarbakır, Adana, Adıyaman, Osmaniye, Hatay, Kilis, Malatya and Elazığ. The Turkish Government declared a State of Emergency for 10 provinces and asked for international humanitarian aid on 10 February.

After the earthquake, the survivors started to move to cities out of the disaster area and to the west of Turkey as of February 7, as their houses were destroyed and they could not reach to the services they needed in the region. While moving, their choice was to go to the cities where their relatives or friends lived. The survivors tried to go to other cities with very limited, means without money, clothes, or food. Public institutions, provincial and district mu-

nicipalities have started to carry out various services in order to support all disaster victims. The priority was to send aid to the disaster area for basic needs such as food, clothing, and water.

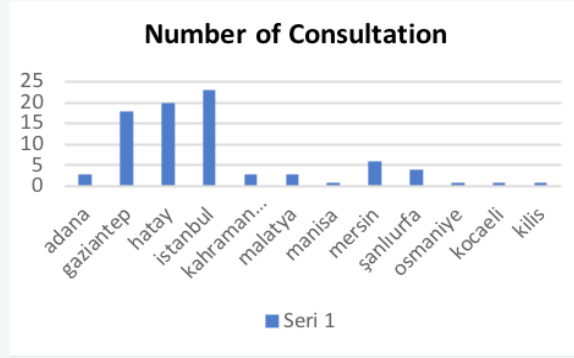
In the process, the Directorate General of Migration Management expanded the application of travel permit in order to record the mobility of refugees and to access basic services and services in the provinces they went to, even if they were registered to another city. Refugees who want to move to cities other than 10 affected by the disaster have started to issue 60-day or 90-day travel permits, which they can take from the city they arrive. We have seen that most of the cities in the Marmara Region, as well as metropolitan cities such as Istanbul, Ankara, and Izmir, provide 60-day permits to refugees.

In the meetings we attended, it was said by PDMM (Provincial Directorate of Migration Management) officials, DGMM had established a system with strict practices towards refugees in terms of population regulation in big cities before the disaster, and that they do not want this order to be disrupted by arrivals from the disaster area to these cities, and that the

practices would be made for this situation. Most refugees tried to move to other cities with their own financial sources. Most of the people, who were able to move to their relatives or acquaintance in other cities, did not have a home to return to or a job to make money back. It has been determined that refugees can benefit from a very limited support and improvement resources offered in the cities where they moved to. During this internal displacement, the disaster victims had both in-kind and cash needs such, nutrition, shelter, and health. We had contacts with the affected people both face-to-face in our offices and on hot line in order to learn the situation of the survivors who have settled with their relatives and direct them to the relevant help and services.

This information note includes the situation and needs of the affected people who reached Mavi Kalem until 2 March, at 17.00.

- The first contact we got from an affected person was on 7 February by hotline.
- In our interviews, we received 91 applications, declaring that they were disaster victims. A total of 528 people benefited from the counseling given to one applicant
- While evaluating the consultations given city basis, Istanbul is in the first place, Hatay is in the second and Gaziantep is in the third. We see that the number of consultations is in directly proportion to the refugee population in the cities.



- 23 consultations were given to affected people who came to Istanbul. Here, we received calls or visits to the office both from refugees who came to Istanbul and from refugees whose relatives were already living in Istanbul.
- 20 consultations were given to the affected people from Hatay. It was seen that 8 of the people went to Istanbul, 2 to Adana and 1 to Mersin.
- 18 counseling were given to the affected people called from Gaziantep. It was seen that none of these people came to Istanbul after the disaster, 2 of them went to Mersin and 1 of them went to Iskenderun.
- 8 of the 11 affected people who reached from Hatay moved to Istanbul
- The consultancy given to affected people reached from Gaziantep, Hatay and İstanbul constitute 67% of the overall.

Consultancy given to affected people from İstanbul

- 159 affected people benefited from the consultancy, given to 23 people who came to Istanbul with their families after the earthquake

- 73 of them are children,
- 48 of them are women, 8 of them are single mother/caregiver, 6 of them are pregnant and 1 of them has chronic illness.
- Half of the 23 affected people reached us (13) asked help for 33 children.
- Demanded helps were the needs under cash and in-kind (baby formula, diapers, clothes)
- 7 affected people asked help more than one for the children, listed above.

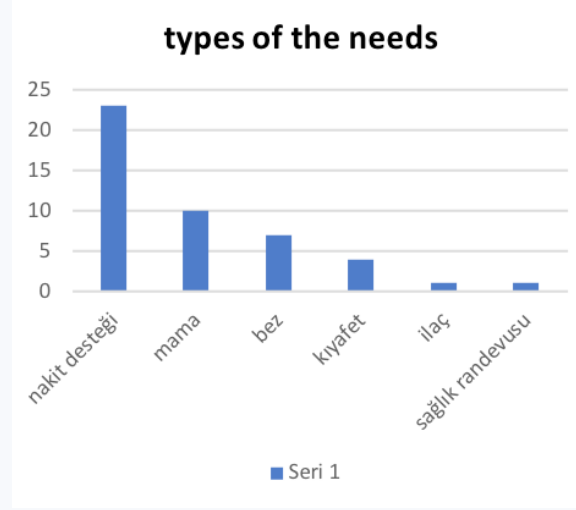
The demands of the affected people who came to Istanbul from the earthquake area are especially related to basic needs.

- 10 affected people asked baby formula for their children
- 7 affected people asked diapers for their children
- 4 affected people asked clothes for their children,
- Medicine and health needs were asked once.

- All 23 affected people asked for cash assistance for paying rent, buying furniture and for food.

Each of the affected people reached to Mavi Kalem are referred to,

- Welfare units to Municipalities,
- Social assistance and solidarity units of the district governors,
- Social service centers of the districts the



people need cash assistance.

As the results,

- Related information are noted and will be contacted of applicants referred to district governors
- Some municipalities have provided blanket and clothes assistance (Zeytinburnu, Fatih)
- It was said that Social Service Centers would direct employees for interview.

Considering that demands of affected people, are urgent and fundamental, these recording and interview processes increase and deepen their vulnerability. Therefore, there is a need to expand the emergency funds of NGOs in order to increase the response capacity for the affected people for their urgent needs and there is need to easing the emergency/special needs fund procedures. ■