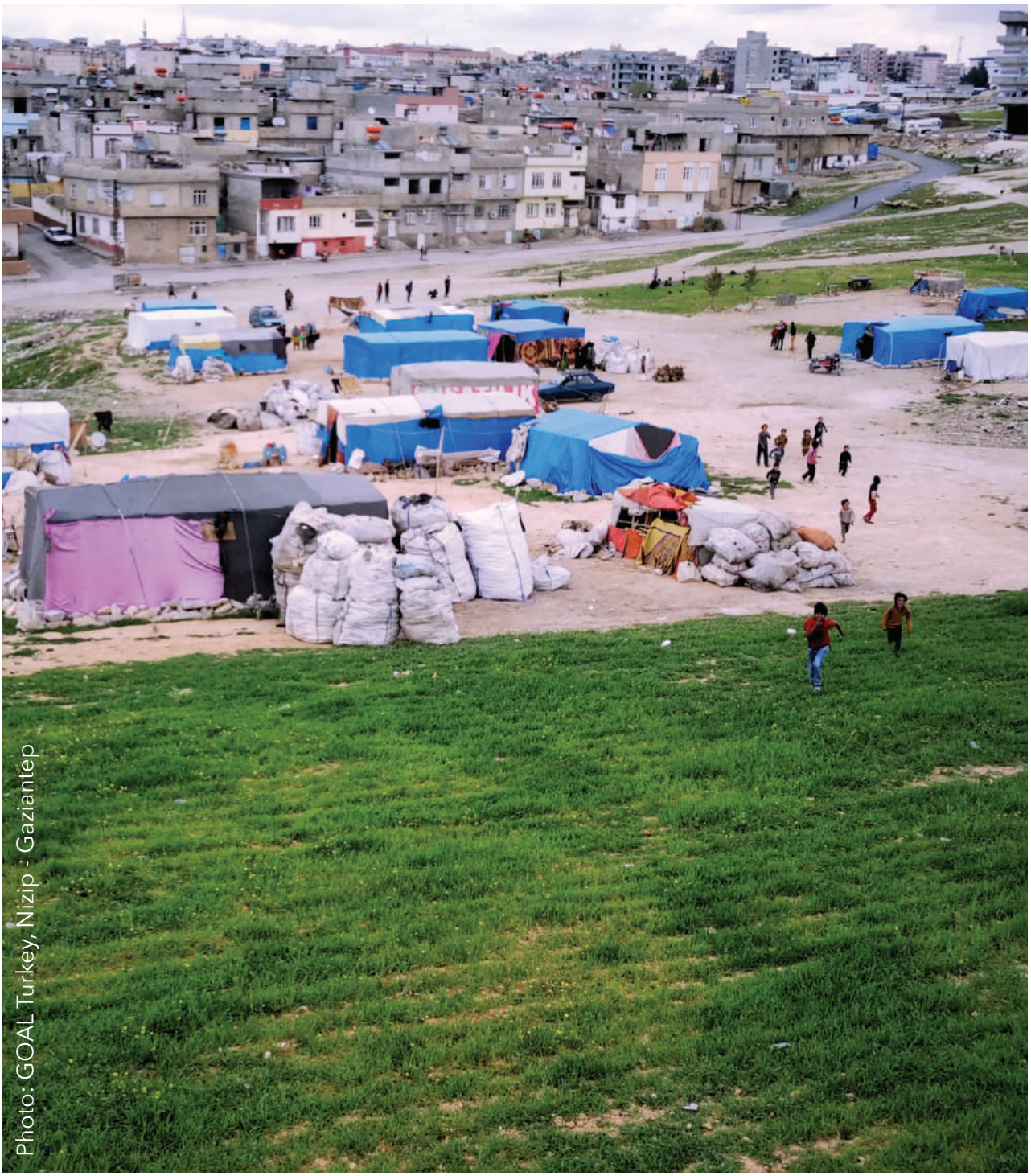
Protection Monitoring Report

Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities in Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Adana and Mersin

GOAL



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1. Executive Summary

The current report is the first of two Protection Monitoring Reports to be produced under LINK II and it aims to present the results of protection monitoring activities to better comprehend the vulnerabilities and protection risks faced by Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities in all project locations. This document is intending to inform GOAL Turkey's future programming and to apprise future advocacy and sensitization strategies targeting duty bearers and service providers by presenting evidence-based, up-to-date, and contextualized information.

1.1 Methodology

The study was conducted in all project locations: Gaziantep (districts of Şahinbey, Şehitkamil, Nizip, Araban), Şanlıurfa (districts of Haliliye, Birecik, Viranşehir, Ceylanpınar), Adana (district of Yüreğir) and Mersin (district of Tarsus). Participants were Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic community members. Qualitative research methods were used. Three different focus group interview guides for adults and children, key informant interview guide, and semi-structured in-depth interview guide were prepared. Data collection activities were carried out between 1st to 19th of February, 2021 at field and via phone in aforesaid locations. Focus group interviews and key informant interviews were conducted face-to-face, while structured in-depth interviews were performed remotely.

Total of 34 focus group interviews with 239 individuals were completed in all locations. Age and gender distributions are presented in the table below.

Table I. Location, age, and gender distributions of participants of focus group interviews

		Gaziantep	Sanliurfa	Adana	Mersin	Total
Adults	Male	32	46	12	8	88
	Female	32	38	21	5	96
Children	Male	9	10	10		29
	Female	9	9	9		26
	Total	72	103	51	13	167

Semi-structured in-depth interviews were remotely conducted in Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa and Adana only with adults. It was not possible to reach Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic community members in Mersin because relationships with these communities are yet to be established, since Mersin Social Support Centre has started to operate in February 2021. Total of 134 interviews in three provinces were completed between 1st of February to 3rd of March 2021.

Table II. Location and gender distributions of participants of semi-structured in-depth interviews

		Gaziantep	Sanliurfa	Adana	Total
Adults	Male	31	33	23	87
	Female	20	17	10	47
	Total	51	50	33	134

1.2 Key findings

- Almost all community members have their TPID. Two major issues of Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic community members with registration and documentation are (1) inability to access rights and services in other provinces than they are registered in, and (2) difficulties in obtaining a valid residence document. These issues affect target groups' ability to access healthcare, education, and social assistance.

- Most community members are working in daily jobs that yield low and irregular income. Almost all of these are working in agricultural work, waste collection, peddling, begging, construction work and shoemaking. Most families are not able to afford rent, bills and basic needs such as food and clothing. After the Coronavirus outbreak, target groups' financial constraints have significantly worsened mainly due to lack of livelihood opportunities.

- Although most are reported to be registered, most of the children are not regularly attending school. Majority of them drop out at around the age of 13 and start to work or help with household chores. None of the interviewed families had any of their children attending pre-school or high school. After the Coronavirus pandemic, almost none of the children were able to access distance learning system.

- Most target group members are able to access healthcare services, though they usually do apply to healthcare institutions only in emergencies. Those with registration/documentation issues are not able to access healthcare services other than emergency medical care. Almost none were accessing mental healthcare services. Majority of them had wished for free and accessible healthcare and medicine without any requirement. The Coronavirus measures had negatively affected target groups' ability to access healthcare institutions.

- Majority of the target group members do not know how to access legal aid. Most prevalent legal issue was problems caused by false information on TPID. Community members have usually no grasp on legal system and procedures or relevant competent authorities such as lawyers or bar associations.

- Majority of the eligible target group households are receiving ESSN, except those with registration/documentation issues.

- Majority of the community members are living in detached houses. Some are living in single rooms and tent settlements. Almost all residences are in poor conditions with a few pieces of furniture. Majority are not able to afford fuel for their heating system.

- Access to non-governmental organizations is mostly a challenge. Most community members are either not willing or not able to access NGOs. Most are unaware of the services provided. Majority of interviewed individuals have only heard of GOAL.

- Gender-based violence has not reported to be an issue for the community. There is a need for a more detailed and targeted assessment regarding the gender-related issues among the target group.

- Cases of child labor and children out-of-school are extremely common among Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities. Major reason for this is reported as financial constraints of the families.

- Early forced marriages are highly underreported. Most are aware of possible legal consequences and are not willing to share information. However, focus group interviews with children and with LINK II staff have indicated that early marriages and early pregnancies are not at all uncommon.

- There were reported incidents of discrimination and/or exclusion by locals and in governmental institutions. Most have encountered discriminative discourses.
- Majority of the elderly are living with the support of their family members.
- Sexual orientation is apparently a major taboo for the community. LGBTI+ members of the community are extremely invisible and thus their situation is unknown.
- Children and adults with disabilities are usually highly dependent on their families. They are mostly isolated and at home. There were no children attending special education.

2. List of Abbrevations

EC DG NEAR: European Council Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations

ECHO: European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations

ESSN: Emergency Social Safety Net Programme

IFRC: The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

IPA: Individual Protection Assistance

MHPSS: Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

NGO: Non-Governmental Organization

PDMM: Provincial Directorate of Migration Management

SASF: Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundation

TP: Temporary Protection

TPID: Temporary Protection Identity Document

UNHCR: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNICEF: United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

WFP: World Food Programme

PLC: Protection Legal Counsellor

Photo: Development Workshop

3. Introduction and Background

The protection monitoring report aims to present protection risks encountered by Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities living in Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Adana and Mersin. The main purpose of this document is to inform future programming and advocacy strategy of GOAL Turkey. A comprehensive desk review, thematic analyses of previous relevant studies, methodology and findings of current research will be presented in the onward sections. An advocacy strategy will also be delivered, deducted from the wide knowledge comprised in the current study.

The target group of this study is **Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities** which are often being referred to with different terms such as Gypsies, Dom, Abdal, Dervish, Nawar, Teber, Qurbet, etc. The term **Gypsy** is used more as a historical umbrella term including all groups that had originally migrated from India to western regions in the 9th Century. Under the term Gypsy, there are Dom communities in Middle East, Lom in Caucasus, and Rom (Romani) in Europe and Thrace Region, and all other related ethnic sub-groups of these three (Yıldız, 2015; Development Workshop, 2020). The focus of this study is **Dom and other self-defined ethnic groups** (such as Abdal, Teberi, Dervish, Gurbet, Karaçi etc.) who were living in Middle East, particularly Northern Syria, before the Syrian Civil War who are leading a nomadic/semi-nomadic life. These groups are quite introverted and often avoid any contact with governmental entities or any other authority. Most of these groups were outsiders in Syria, denied of an Identity Document because of their nomadic lifestyle. After the war broke out in 2011, these communities have fled to Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, and other neighboring regions. It is now estimated that around **50.000** Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic refugees in Turkey, residing mostly in Southeastern Turkey and metropolitans (Tarlan, 2015; Kırkayak Kültür, 2017).

The **rationales** behind this Protection Monitoring Report are:

- There is a need to eliminate gaps in information regarding the current state of Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities, particularly about the protection risks encountered.
- The findings of this research can contribute to GOAL Turkey's future programming by identifying trends and gaps in services.
- The current report can provide a basis for targeted advocacy activities by yielding evidence-based and contextual knowledge.

3.1 Objectives

The main purpose of the current study is to better understand the protection risks faced by Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities at different target locations. To mitigate contextual changes, regular protection risk monitoring and trend analysis will be carried out. The data collected will be disaggregated by location, age, gender, socioeconomic backgrounds, national and cultural identities, etc. The objective is to provide an overview of how protection issues are evolving over time, assessing potential changes and trends affecting different groups and locations.

This report intends to inform the future programming and to apprise future advocacy and sensitization strategies targeting duty bearers and service providers by presenting evidence-based, up-to-date, and contextualized information. The report will help to fill critical data gaps, to identify trends, and facilitate targeted advocacy, sensitization and awareness raising activities informed by evidence, as well as increased quality and breadth of information for sector stakeholders.

3.2 Specific Objectives

- To **identify protection risks** encountered by Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities living in Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Adana and Mersin

- To better understand the situation of vulnerable individuals by **disaggregating the data** for men and women, boys and girls, people with disabilities, elderly, etc.

- To present **a trend analysis** of protection risks, covering the period between July 2018 and March 2021, evaluating the findings of the current study in consideration of results of previous relevant studies, data collected via Individual Protection Assistance activities and GOAL Turkey's Needs Assessment Report

- To propose suggestions on **targeted advocacy,** and on **provision of activities** to improve beneficiaries' ability to access rights and services and to resolve protection risks

4. Desk Review

Literature Research on Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities

To extensively comprehend the current study, it is crucial to refer to previous studies Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities in Turkey. When compared to literature examining general refugee population or other refugee sub-groups in Turkey, the quantity of studies about Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities in Turkey are rather low, possibly due to their high mobility and social invisibility. The most recent study was conducted by **Development Workshop** in 2020, named "Unseen Lives on Migration Routes" focusing on Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities and Seasonal Agricultural Workers in Adana, Gaziantep and Sanliurfa. The study presents a historical background of Roma populations, examines the current situation and primary needs of target groups, and attempts to map out their whereabouts and routes. Another relevant report by **Development Workshop** is titled "Dom Migrants from Syria: Living at the Bottom on the Road amid Poverty and Discrimination" which was published in 2016. The study examines the situation of Dom migrants in Sanliurfa, Gaziantep, Adana, and Mersin.

The report intends to describe the living conditions and main problems of Dom migrants who have migrated from Syria to Turkey due to war. Researcher **Yeşim Yaprak Yıldız** have also contributed to the relevant literature with her work titled "Nowhere to Turn: The Situation of Dom Refugees from Syria in Turkey" in 2015 with European Roma Rights Centre. The study aims to provide an extensive analysis on the problems of Dom migrants in Turkey, with an emphasis on their ability to access their fundamental rights. **Kırkayak Kültür** have authored "*The Dom: The 'Other' Asylum Seekers from Syria*" in 2017, aimed to determine the whereabouts of Dom communities, and identify Dom migrants' conditions and primary needs in the countries of Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon. Lastly, a quite recent and specific study by Kırkayak Kültür is titled *"Being educated is a distant dream to us.": Dom and Abdal Children's Education in Turkey: The Cases of Gaziantep and Şanlıurfa"* which was published in 2020. The report examines Dom and Abdal children's situation in terms of accessing education. There are also two master theses completed in 2019, examining Dom and Abdal communities: *"Migration and Social Exclusion: Sample of Syrian Abdal Asylum-Seekers Living in Gaziantep and İstanbul"* written by **Murat Yılmaz**, and *"Transformation of Gender Perception in Dom Society"* published by **Zühal Gezicier.**

Table III. Methodologic Overview of Previous Relevant Studies

The Study	Group of Focus	Location	Data Collection Methods	Sample Size
Unseen Lives on Migration Routes by Development Workshop	Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities and Syrian Seasonal Agricultural Workers	Adana, Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa	Current Situation Assessment Form, in-depth interviews, focus group interviews, key informant interviews	20 current situation assessments, 20 in-depth interviews, 8 focus group interviews (solely with SAW), key informant interviews with 46 persons from 27 institutions
Dom Migrants from Syria: Living at the Bottom on the Road amid Poverty and Discrimination by Development Workshop	Dom refugees	Adana, Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Mersin	Semi-structured individual and group interviews, observation	400 face-to-face interviews, 27 group interviews
Nowhere to Turn: The Situation of Dom Refugees from Syria in Turkey by Yeşim Yaprak Yıldız	Dom refugees	Adana, Ankara, Antakya, Batman, Diyarbakır, Gaziantep, Kilis, Osmaniye, Kahramanmaraş, Mardin, Mersin, Şanlıurfa	Observation, one to one unstructured interview, group interviews, informal conversations	14 one to one interviews, 14 group interviews with 150 persons
The Dom: The 'Other' Asylum Seekers from Syria by Kırkayak Kültür	Dom refugees	Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, İstanbul, İzmir, Adana, Mersin	One-to-one interviews, focus group interviews	Approximately 250 Syrian Dom community members
"Being educated is a distant dream to us.": Dom and Abdal Children's Education in Turkey: The Cases of Gaziantep and Şanlıurfa by Kırkayak Kültür	School-aged Dom and Abdal refugee children	Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa	Unstructured interviews, semi-structured İnterviews	Unstructured interviews with around 105 adults and 50 school-aged children, 19 semi-structured interviews with administrative staff and teachers from 9 schools
Migration and Social Exclusion: Sample of Syrian Abdal Asylum-Seekers Living in Gaziantep and İstanbul by Murat Yılmaz	Abdal refugees	Gaziantep, İstanbul	Semi-structured in-depth interviews	45 individuals (Abdal refugees, local Abdal persons, volunteers, key informants)
Transformation of Gender Perception in Dom Society by Zühal Gezicier	All members of Dom Society in Turkey	Diyarbakır, Elazığ, Gaziantep	Semi-structured in-depth interviews and focus group interviews	30 individuals from Dom society

4.1 Thematic Overview of Findings of Previous Studies

4.1.1. Living Conditions

Previous studies have shown that although there is an inclination -especially by the stakeholders- to make generalizations regarding the migration habits of Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities, it is often unrealistic to assume any migratory state applies to all of these groups. It has been shown in previous studies that the mobility status of Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities is often unsteady. On "Unseen Lives on Migration Routes", the researchers observed a few sub-groups of Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities regarding their migratory practices: (1) those who stay in the same place, (2) those who migrate seasonally for agricultural work, and (3) those who continuously migrate. Although it was observed that the local duty bearers and service providers have generalized opinions in regards of mobility status of these groups, they point out that it is not possible to speculate about these groups' migratory status in general (Development Workshop, 2020).

All previous studies have reported families' inability to access enough food items. Majority of interviewed Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic households were not able to afford sufficient and nutritious food for all family members. Thus, malnutrition has found to be a significant risk, particularly for children. Almost all former studies had reported health problems due to malnutrition among children and adults.

Another common issue that the previous studies had focused on is housing and accommodation of Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities. Researchers from Development Workshop had concluded in their current state assessment that the average household size for Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities is 6.8 and the families usually do live in tent settlements or desolate buildings. There are also some households who live in warehouses and single rooms. They have observed that many households do not own furniture such as couch, table, and bed (Development Workshop, 2020). Majority of the households, except those in tent settlements, have mostly regular access to electricity, water supply and sewerage system. Heating is generally an issue for households, due to hardships in finding heating fuel. Some households use "trash, pieces of cloth, bush, nylon, (…) and pieces from their rugs on the ground". Yıldız (2015) have found that a minority of Dom refugees in Turkey were staying in a rented accommodation. The situation in most of those accommodation units were found to be quite underwhelming, since the properties were often unfinished, desolate buildings, or shops.

Majority of Dom refugee families were living in buildings without a kitchen, heating, toilets, or ventilation. "Nowhere to Turn" had examined housing situations of Dom refugees in Turkey. According to research, Dom refugees are "the most mobile group among the Syrian refugee community", thus these communities may be particularly challenged regarding housing. The report mentioned forced evacuation of some tent settlements of Dom refugees, as it was also pointed out in other reports (Development Workshop, 2016).

All previous studies have observed that the living environments are usually in poor conditions, particularly of tent settlements in which there are problems of lack of safe water, infestation, poor street lightning -thus security problems- and temporary latrines with no sewage system. It was often argued that the main problem in tent settlements was lack of sanitation infrastructure. It was observed as such a huge problem that, as Yıldız (2015) quoted, one Abdal man have prayed for **"bread, peace and toilets"**. Severe weather conditions were also an issue for those in tent settlements. Studies have pointed out that some families had unstable accommodation situations due to their irregular income. Families do often prefer to stay in tent settlements when they were unable to pay rent.

Refugee camps are notably a delicate subject for Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities in Turkey. Several previous studies inspected experiences of Dom refugees in refugee camps in Turkey and have concluded that some Dom community members have been "subjected to discrimination from both the camp management and other residents". Some Dom refugees stated that Syrian Arab residents of the camps did not want them there, did beat their kids, they were threatening them (Yıldız, 2015). Apart from problems with other refugee groups, the living conditions in refugee camps meant isolation from outer world, lack of livelihoods opportunities, and inability to move freely. As expressed in the study, "majority of [Dom refugees] likened the camps to prison". A similar evaluation was made by Development Workshop (2016), as they had urged upon the incompatibility between these communities' ways of living and the conditions at refugee camps. In line with the previous study, the interviewed individuals described refugee camps as "prison" and had reported incidents of discrimination and violence directed against them by other residents of the camp and the camp officials (Kırkayak Kültür, 2017; Yılmaz, 2019)

4.1.2. Access to Rights and Services

4.1.2.1. Registration

Earlier studies have reported more serious registration/documentation issues of Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities. A more recent study has noted that a significant majority of the target group have acquired their TPID (Development Workshop, 2020). Yıldız (2015) and Kırkayak Kültür (2017) in their study, have pointed out that some Dom refugees had avoided registration to tackle its requirements. LoFIP regulations requires those under Temporary Protection to reside in their province of registration. Thus, the researches had argued that registering in a particular province would prevent them traveling to other cities for work, which had led some families to avoid registration. Other reports have stated that although most Dom community members interviewed had valid documentation, some still have problems with registration. Some did not meet the criteria due to lack of a valid residence registration, and some did not claim their documents. Nearly all previous relevant studies point out that the members of Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities mostly do speak more than one language, some of which are Arabic, Kurdish, Turkish, and Domari. It has been also found that, as expected, particularly the community members who do not speak Turkish are more challenged in their daily lives and when accessing their rights and services.

4.1.2.2. Access to Education

The previous studies have all emphasized the high prevalence of non-schooled children among Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities. In "Being educated is a distant dream to us" the researchers from Kırkayak Kültür had only focused on schooling among Dom and Abdal refugee children and brought a great perspective to these communities' view towards schooling and education. The study explores the conception of education by Dom and Abdal communities and arrives at unprecedented conclusions. It has been reported in the study that Dom and Abdal communities had quite few children enrolled in and regularly attending school. It was also shown that children of these communities usually drop-out after primary education. While examining the possible reasons for this situation, the researchers have noticed that "(…) there was a differing perception on what it means to go to school" (Kırkayak Kültür, 2020). It seems like these communities' definitions of schooling and education do diverge from mainstream perceptions in a way that it directly influences children's school life -if existent at all-.

It was stated that there was absolutely no regularity to children's attendance to school, as it was reported both by parents and by school administrators. It is argued in the report that this may be due to what these communities expect from school which is mostly only learning reading and writing. These communities do view education as "an intermediary to having conditions better than current living conditions" (Kırkayak Kültür, 2020). By getting education, one can obtain a driver's license, have a profession, and be well-informed in social life. Some main challenges that children of these communities face regarding schooling were adverse economic conditions of the families, irregularities in their mobility and accommodation status, common practice of early marriages and some cultural beliefs.

Another study found in their field research that there were no children attending pre-school and there is a low school enrollment rate among school-aged children of Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities in Adana, Gaziantep and Şanlıurfa (Development Workshop, 2020). When parents were asked about the reasons of non-schooling, it was argued that it is mainly due to their high mobility status, but also because of incidents of discrimination and peer bullying in schools.

4.1.2.3. Access to Health Services

Previous studies have argued that the members of Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities do not apply to healthcare facilities for regular health examinations, they only seek for medical care in cases of emergencies (Development Workshop, 2020). They also state that this situation is especially problematic for children of these groups. It was also found that only half of the interviewed families had fully vaccinated their children. Another study has also concluded that Dom refugees do access to healthcare services only in cases of emergencies, particularly in cases of birth. It was found that women were not provided with antenatal or postnatal healthcare, and they have lacked the critical information regarding childcare such as vaccination or breastfeeding. The researchers have observed that none of the children of the visited households had received their vaccinations, including newborn (Yıldız, 2015). It was reported that most of refugee children of Dom families have showed symptoms of diseases caused by malnutrition and living in unsanitary conditions (Kırkayak Kültür, 2017).

4.1.2.4. Access to Livelihoods

Several studies (Development Workshop, 2016; Kırkayak Kültür, 2020) have mentioned fading historical professions of the target groups. As they argued, these traditional professions (such as instrument playing, iron and tin smithing, and traditional dental work) had diminished due to industrialization and state

control over world of work.

Consequently, target group members, especially those in urban areas, had to turn towards various forms of temporary manual work with low income and no social security. The previous studies have revealed that members of Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities often earn their livelihoods by agricultural work, peddling, begging, making music, construction work, fortune telling, textile work, and waste collecting. Children of these communities are expected to go to work after reaching a certain age and earn money usually "in whatever way their parents do" (Development Workshop, 2020). Participants to their research had mentioned discriminatory acts of employers and their high mobility status as reasons of their inability to reach decent employment opportunities. As it was found in all previous studies, Dom refugees in Turkey mostly are being employed informally in the sectors of construction, agricultural work, recycling, etc. as cheap labor workers. They were found to be working in daily jobs, which brought huge instability to their income. Seasonal agricultural work was considered as the "key source of income for many Dom refugees" (Yıldız, 2015). The report emphasized that Dom refugees were working for quite lower wages, for longer working hours and with no formal employment procedures. Language barrier was also described as a factor in accessing livelihoods opportunities, as some Dom refugees only spoke Domari and/or Arabic. Abdal groups were found as more advantageous when finding jobs since they can usually speak Turkish.

4.1.3. Protection Risks

4.1.3.1. Gender Based Violence

The study conducted by Development Workshop (2020) have conveyed that Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities do not see domestic violence as a problem, and the community members do know how to apply to law-enforcement in case of an incident. Yıldız (2015) have stated that "[women's] dependency and lack of awareness on their rights and existing services often make them vulnerable to sexual exploitation and domestic violence". It was observed that poly-marriage is a common practice among Dom refugees. Most Dom women stated that they had a difficult pregnancy and/or childbirth. It was also reported in the study that, none of the interviewed women had access to sexual and reproductive health services.

Gezicier (2019), in their dissertation, have investigated the gender issues among Dom society. It was argued that after transitioning to sedentary lifestyle, Dom society had gone through some changes in their values including issues about gender. Gender roles forces women to undertake domestic responsibilities, childcare duties while men are supposed to be out,

working, and be responsible from household's income. In central cities, women and children are working for much less wages. Especially in agricultural work, men are earning much more than women and children with their manual labor, even though women are doing all the work except that. It was reported that agricultural work employers prefer to recruit girls rather than boys, because girls are more obedient.

4.1.3.2. Risks Against Children

Child labor, non-schooling, and malnutrition have been described as the major threats against the well-being of the children of Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities (Kırkayak Kültür, 2017; Development Workshop, 2016). Widespread practice of early marriages was reported in all previous studies. Yıldız (2015) have reported that most Dom refugee children were not attending school, and Dom refugee children were engaged in the informal economy. The previous studies had reported that most refugee children were malnourished. The children were showing symptoms of various diseases caused by malnutrition and lack of hygiene. The researchers from Development Workshop (2020) have observed that the living conditions of the families are quite enabling for potential harmful acts against children. For instance, the researchers pointed out that there were safe spaces for children in the neighborhood at which they can play and spend time.

4.1.3.3. Trauma-Related Risks

Dom refugees in Turkey "had all been directly affected" by the Syrian Civil War (Yıldız, 2015). It was found in the study that all participants had lost one or more family member during the war, including children who had lost their parents, and parents who had lost their children. The researcher describes the Dom families' circumstances back then as "caught between two fires" as they were already a discriminated group in Syria, and they could not find somewhere to take refuge in during the civil war. The report also argues that unofficial border crossings to Turkey were traumatic for some Dom refugees, as some of them were caught and subjected to ill-treatment by soldiers, some stated that soldiers had opened fire, and there were children died on the migration route "due to lack of food and water" (Yıldız, 2015). It was reported that there were many Dom refugees who were in psychological distress, and yet none of them had ever received any psychosocial support from an institution.

4.1.3.4. Social Discrimination and Exclusion

Development Workshop (2020), during their interviews with local actors and duty bearers, have observed that "(…) discriminatory and prejudiced perceptions, attitudes and behaviors have a negative effect on the target

group's access to the assistance that they need".

Some local actors believed that these groups do not need any assistance, some even stated that they do not deserve it. An important and worth-pondering aspect of the issue was that most of the community members did not conveyed any experience with discrimination or prejudice. The researchers have noticed that the participants usually have avoided complaining about these issues. Development Workshop (2020) have concluded in their research that local actors mentioned some security problems in the neighborhoods where Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities live, such as drug use, theft, and prostitution. Some local duty bearers and community members, on the other hand, argued that there are no significant problems with regards to security since these communities do not come to contact with other groups.

As it was mentioned in several studies, Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic community members are being subjected to stigmatization and discrimination, usually due to their ways of living and their unusual means of livelihood, by other members of society and sometimes indirectly by governmental regulations. The clearest example is the Circular No. 46 by the General Directorate of Security in July 2014 which had aimed to hinder refugee adults and children from begging on the streets. The circular is known as "Circular on Beggars" and it mostly affected Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities (Kırkayak Kültür, 2017). As it was argued by Development Workshop (2016), "the circular directly targets the Dom". With this regulation, the law governmental actors have been authorized to "hunt" begging children and adults and send them to refugee camps. Several studies have reported Dom children being taken to refugee camps without even noticing their family. Yılmaz, in their dissertation study, have argued that Syrian Abdal communities in Turkey are being subjected to discursive and locational exclusion when they become more visible in the society. As it was also mentioned in other previous studies, there are discriminative and exclusory expressions and discourses used against these groups. By locational exclusion, Yılmaz (2019) refers to accommodation issues that Abdal groups were facing. Mostly due to not having enough income and cultural characteristics, Abdal groups are often experience banishment from urban centers.

CSV 4.1.4. IPA Data

LINK II identified, assessed, and is connecting those marginalized and vulnerable communities to state and non-state services in Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Adana, and Mersin, providing support in line with the southeast Interagency Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Individual Protection Assistance (IPA)

and in close coordination with the Protection Cluster to ensure alignment with other actors. Under LINK II project, more than 1400 beneficiaries were identified and assessed between the period of September 2020 to January 2021, in Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Mersin and Adana. The data analyzed in Annex I includes all target groups of LINK II project which are (1) Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities and (2) Syrian Seasonal Agricultural Workers.

4.1.5. Needs Assessment Report of GOAL Turkey

GOAL Turkey has carried out a study in March 2020, to identify the needs of Syrian seasonal agricultural workers and Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic community members with vulnerabilities in the provinces of Mersin and Hatay. The research was conducted with qualitative data collection tools, namely observation, focus group interviews and key informant interviews. Total of 12 key informant interviews and 11 focus group discussions (5 with Syrian Nomadic/Semi-Nomadic community members) were completed. This study is significant as to it was conducted immediately before the Coronavirus pandemic broke out. Thus, it can provide a great basis of comparison when inspecting the impacts of the pandemic over these communities.

The interviewed families in Mersin were all living in rented accommodation. The families were semi-nomadic as to they were migrating to other provinces for work. It was reported that all males above the age of 15 were working in waste collection for a daily wage. The families were hardly affording the expenditures of rent, bills, and basic needs. Girls of age were attending school, but boys were mostly working. They could access health services without any difficulties. Women were found uninformed about how and where to apply when a security risk arises.

The findings were more thorough in Hatay. According to the interviews, there were unregistered local Abdal groups in Kırıkhan, Hatay who wanted to avoid any contact with government. Moreover, there were newcomer Dom families who were waiting for registration. Focus group interviews have revealed that there were some target group members who were registered in another province and thus not able to access governmental services. It was found that main sources of income of the target group were agricultural work, waste collecting, begging, and shoe-shining. Women and children were also working in agricultural work. The main issues in accessing healthcare services were lack of resources, language barrier, and lack of awareness. Children of target group were mostly registered to a school, but their attendance was usually irregular. Children living in tent settlements were not attending school at all. The main reason for non-schooling was financial constraints. Tent settlement did not have regular access to electricity and safe water. Some families have reported hostile attitudes and behaviors against them by the locals.

4.1.6. IA Protection Sector Rapid Needs Assessment Analysis Reports (Rounds I, II, and III)

The Inter-Agency Coordination Unit of Turkey have conducted rapid needs assessment studies mainly to develop a better understanding of the protection and humanitarian situation in Turkey, particularly after the Coronavirus pandemic. The data was collected in three rounds via partners. The preliminary findings of the studies were published in June 2020, September 2020, and February 2021. This extensive study can be of capital importance since it provides a ground for this study to compare the situation of Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities with the general refugee population in Turkey.

5. Methodology

5.1. Research Method and Sampling Strategy

Descriptive research methods and a qualitative approach were used in this study. The target group of this study is Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic community members, both adults and children, living in Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Adana and Mersin. Sampling procedure included combining three non-probability sampling methods of purposeful sampling, snowball sampling and convenience sampling. Purposeful sampling involves detecting individuals or groups that are particularly insightful regarding the study's topics of interest, while convenience sampling is useful when there is already a pool of respondents at hand to gather information from (Cresswell & Clark, 2011). Snowball sampling is applicable when the target group members are hard to reach and there are available community members who can facilitate the recruitment of the participants (Ghaljaie et al., 2017).

5.2. Data Collection

Data collection activities were carried out between 1st to 19th of February 2021 at field and via phone in aforesaid locations. Focus group interviews and key informant interviews were conducted face-to-face, while structured in-depth interviews were performed remotely.

Focus group interviews were carried out by field team, face-to-face at each location. There were four different focus group interview guides prepared: (1) General Discussion for Adults, (2) General Discussion for Children, (3) Gender and Early Forced Marriage, and (4) Impacts of Coronavirus Pandemic. After few focus group sessions at field, "General Discussion for Adults" and "Impacts of Coronavirus Pandemic" guides were merged into one interview guide, since it was observed that the topics discussed in the general discussion sessions

inevitably touched on the issues related to the impacts of Coronavirus pandemic. The participants were selected via purposeful and snowball sampling methods. Most of the time, the field team visited neighbourhoods, and spontaneously invited four-to-eight individuals to participate in a focus group interview. Some focus group interviews were arranged beforehand, by either inviting persons to GOAL offices, or by informing a community member about the study and asking them to reach few more people to participate in the interviews on a voluntary basis.

Table IV. Visited Neighbourhoods for Data Collection

Gaziantep	Sanliurfa	Adana/Mersin
Centre (Şahinbey and Şehitkamil): Karşıyaka, Ünaldı, **Nizip:** Hafızpaşa, Yunus Emre **Araban:** Kale, Mehmet Gökçek	**Haliliye:** Atatürk **Birecik:** Cumhuriyet, Yeşildağı **Viranşehir:** Şırnak **Ceylanpınar:** Cumhuriyet	**Yüreğir:** Yamaçlı, Yeşilbağlar, Kiremithane, Ulubatlı Hasan, Bahçelievler **Mersin/Tarsus:** Mithatpaşa

Table V. Age Group, Gender and Location Distribution of Focus Group Interview Participants

Age Groups	6-12	13-17	18-25	26-40	41-60	60+	TOTAL
Adana	15	3	11	13	8	1	51
Female	7	1	7	7	6	1	29
Male	8	2	4	6	2	0	22
Gaziantep	11	7	11	23	14	6	72
Female	4	5	6	18	7	1	41
Male	7	2	5	5	7	5	31
Mersin	0	0	4	5	4	0	13
Female	0	0	2	2	1	0	5
Male	0	0	2	3	3	0	8
Sanliurfa	14	5	22	36	25	1	103
Female	7	2	13	17	8	0	47
Male	7	3	9	19	17	1	56
TOTAL	40	15	48	77	51	8	239

Additionally, a total of three focus group interviews were conducted with LINK II staff in Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa and Adana with an attempt to understand the current status and vulnerabilities of the target group from frontline protection case workers who have been responding to protection risks/vulnerabilities and access issues of the target group at field level. They have comprehensive knowledge about the situation of the target group since they are working directly in touch with beneficiaries and variety of service providers including governmental institutions, non-governmental institutions and local actors.

Table VI. Gender and Location Distribution of Focus Group Interview w/ Staff Participants

	Gaziantep		Sanliurfa		Adana	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Deputy Program Manager		1		1		
Protection Team Leader		1				1
Protection Worker	2	1	2	2	2	1
Protection Legal Counsellor		1				1
Protection Outreach Worker		1		1		
Psychologist	1			1		1
Community Access Officer/Assistant	1				1	
Statutory Officer			1		1	
Child Corner Worker				1		
Translator			1			1

Semi-structured in-depth interviews were remotely conducted by dedicated staff at each location. Call lists for each location were prepared by Deputy Program Managers and/or Individual Protection Assistance Team Leaders, from LINK I and LINK II dataset, consisting of persons known as Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic community members and individuals from neighbourhoods in which the target group population live. Identificatory information of participants were not included in the interview forms.

Table VII. Age Group, Gender and Location Distribution of In-Depth Interview Participants

	Gaziantep		Sanliurfa		Adana	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
18-25	12	8	8	1	3	6
26-40	12	6	15	11	13	2
41-60	7	5	9	5	7	2
60+	-	1	1	-	-	-
Total	31	20	33	17	23	10

Key informant interviews were carried out by Deputy Program Managers in Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa and Adana.

Table VIII. Key Informants by Organization, Job Title and Location

Key Informant	Organization	Location	Title
Hasan Sazlık	Ministry of Interior	Hurriyet, Gaziantep	Mukhtar
Halid Reşid	I.	Sehitkamil, Gaziantep	Syrian Abdal
Mahmut Karalar	A local association of musician Abdals	Sahinbey, Gaziantep	Member
Niyazi Buluter	Gaziantep Abdal Solidarity and Culture Association	Sehitkamil, Gaziantep	Chair
Hammud Fehem	II.	Yuregir, Adana	Community Leader
Mehmet Şahin	Ministry of Interior	Birecik, Sanliurfa	Mukhtar
Aziz Aslan	A local association of musician Doms	Haliliye, Sanliurfa	Chair

5.3. Data Sources

Primary data source of the current research is the data acquired via qualitative data collection tools, namely focus group interviews, semi-structured in-depth interviews, and key informant interviews. As secondary data sources: (1) a comprehensive desk research and literature review was produced, including thematic analysis of previous studies on Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities living in Turkey; (2) Development Workshop's review of the LINK I data was utilized and the data collected through LINK II Individual Protection Assistance (IPA) activities were analysed; (3) and GOAL Turkey's Rapid Needs Assessment Report conducted in Mersin and Hatay in March 2020 was reviewed. The secondary data sources will be used as "baseline" in trend analysis.

Additionally, Inter-Agency Protection Sector Rapid Needs Assessment Reports will provide a basis of comparison to better understand the situation of Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities at regard of general refugee population in Turkey.

Primary Data Sources	Secondary Data Sources
■ Semi-structured in-depth interviews with adult community members ■ Focus group interviews on the topics of "General Discussion and the Impact of COVID-19", "Gender and Early Forced Marriages" with adult community members ■ Focus group interviews on their general status with children community members ■ Focus group interviews with LINK II staff at Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa and Adana ■ Key informant interviews conducted in Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa and Adana	■ Desk research and literature review on Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities in Turkey ■ Development Workshop's review on IPA data collected under LINK I project ■ Analysis of data collected through LINK II IPA activities ■ GOAL Turkey's Rapid Needs Assessment Report conducted in Mersin and Hatay in March 2020

5.4. Limitations

The current study has used qualitative instruments as data collection tools. Data collection with qualitative tools brings a few inherent limitations. Most important -and inevitable- of them is the active presence of the researcher during the data collection process. This limitation gains even more significance when the nature of the relationship between the researcher and participants is considered. All participants were clearly informed that the field team is working for GOAL Turkey. The participants' responses might be affected in some way due to these factors. Another methodological limitation is that the researchers' individual skills may influence the entry and evaluation of data. To partially tackle this issue, the team have mostly made sure that more than one person is taking notes during the focus group interviews. However, semi-structured in-depth interviews and key informant interviews were conducted by one person.

Sampling strategies used in this study may also cause limitations. The participants were usually recruited from those settlements and neighbourhoods in Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Adana, and Mersin, at which GOAL Turkey is actively working.

Thus, almost all participants of this study are beneficiaries of GOAL Turkey. Thereby, the representability of the data may be limited since the research could not recruit Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic community members residing in other provinces, and those in project locations that GOAL Turkey has not reached yet. Moreover, the data collected in Mersin is quite narrow. It was not possible to approach target group members without them getting familiarized with GOAL since it is a very closed and cautious community towards unknown people and organizations.

To add on the limitations related to the characteristics of the target group, it is also important to emphasize on some difficulties in working with Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic community members as a humanitarian organization. The target group members could sometimes have specific -often financial or in kind- expectations from humanitarian assistance workers. It could be quite hard at times to sync agendas up with target group members since it may understandably seem meaningless to them to spare much time and effort for some activities that GOAL has to offer, when even their basic needs are unmet. What we consider significant as humanitarian professionals, does not sometimes align with the primary needs of the beneficiaries. The cases - which had not yet been identified by GOAL- that the team have encountered with at field during protection monitoring activities were referred to respective LINK II staff at that location.

6. Findings and Trend Analysis

6.1. Access to Rights and Services

6.1.1. Registration and Documentation

The focus group and in-depth interviews have showed that almost all participants and their family members were registered and had their Temporary Protection Identity Documents in all provinces. The major problem with documentation was the issues arising when the person was not residing in their province of registration, and consequently have their TPID unverified. At all locations, there were substantial number of participants who reported that they cannot access education, health, and social assistance services due to not having a valid documentation. Another main issue with registration is the requirement for a residential address to have a valid TPID. For those who locally change places, it is often a challenge to verify the new address and thus continue to meet requirements for a valid TPID. Particularly after the Coronavirus pandemic, relevant governmental institutions had closed up or had restricted their services by notably limiting the number of appointments given, thus target group members are now more challenged in accessing relevant institutions to verify their TPID.

Obtaining a valid residential document is also an important problem for those living in tent settlements. It was found that some tent settlements, such as in Nizip, were given address ID numbers which enabled the residents to have a valid residential address, even though there are still hardships when applying for ESSN. Thanks to insistent efforts of advocacy made by WFP, IFRC, local SASF, and GOAL, District Governate of Nizip have legitimatized the tent settlement as a valid place of residence. However, there are some nomadic groups, especially around Şanlıurfa, who change places all the time, voluntarily or by being forced by law enforcers. Right at that time the Protection Monitoring Team was collecting data in the urban centre of Şanlıurfa, it was heard that a tent settlement nearby was dispersed by law enforcement officers. The team later coincidentally came across with the group right outside the district of Viranşehir in Şanlıurfa and was able to conduct an interview with them. There were around 30 families there. They identified themselves as Dervish and they were leading a nomadic life. They have stated that they prefer to live in tents to avoid paying rent and bills, but in turn they were not able to have a valid residence address and access governmental services including social assistance. Unlike those in the tent settlement in Nizip, this group did not have a permanent place to set up their tents due to moving constantly.

> *"We are here since 2011. But it says "temporary" in my identity card. I do not know what I am anymore."*
>
> Male, 35 years old, Sahinbey/Gaziantep

Other than two major issues mentioned above, there was no significant problem of Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic community members when accessing registration and documentation. All except few interviewed target group members had their Temporary Protection Identity Document, though a substantial number were registered in another province. Those without any identity document were either waiting for their appointment in PDMM or had their TPID confiscated. All families knew how to apply for registration for a new-born baby. They were mostly aware of the requirements of a valid TPID.

LINK II staff have mentioned some issues the target group face when applying for registration and documentation in governmental institutions. It was expressed that some of the public officers in PDMMs or other relevant institutions can sometimes directly or indirectly discriminate against Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic community members.

Without any attempt to question public authorities' competence or intent, it was reported that some target group members have thought that they were denied of their rights in governmental institutions. It was also observed that there were less problems when a GOAL employee accompanies the beneficiary for advocacy. However, cooperation of governmental institutions -especially PDMM- were also dependent on the severity of case. It was reported that advocacy for persons with vulnerabilities (those with critical/chronic illnesses, pregnant women, elderly, GBV survivors, school-aged children) usually end in success, while it is rarely useful for persons without any protection risk and/or vulnerability.

When compared to previous studies, it can be argued that the problems with registration and documentation have, in a general sense, diminished over time. Earlier studies had found more serious and prevalent issues with registration and documentation of Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities. However, there have been an increasing trend of problems in accessing registration after the Coronavirus pandemic, due to limitedness of services provided by governmental institutions. The major problem of the target group regarding registration is found to be more about meeting the requirements for valid documentation rather than challenges with obtaining an identity document.

6.1.2. Access to Livelhoods

Similar to findings of previous reports on Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities, it was found that the significant majority of the target group members are working in various daily jobs that require manual labour. Approximately two-third of the interviewed individuals in Gaziantep and Şanlıurfa was working or have someone in the family working in waste collection. In Adana, it was found that most were working in agricultural sector, and less than one-third in waste collection. Less than one-third in Gaziantep and Şanlıurfa was earning money by peddling and/or begging. There were some in all provinces who were working in construction work and shoemaking. None of the interviewed target group members was registered employees with social security. Some groups were found to be changing provinces for seasonal agricultural work. In Adana, some were temporarily moving to provinces in Central Anatolian region in summers to work in beet fields, and to Black Sea Region in August for hazelnut season. Those in Gaziantep and Şanlıurfa were usually working in pistachio harvesting/processing around that region. Similar to the findings of the current study, analysis of the LINK II data of the period September 2020-January 2021 has showed that %80 of the IPA-clients has not had access to regular income-generating livelihood opportunities.

Focus group and in-depth interviews have revealed that, when evaluating challenges in accessing livelihoods, majority of the interviewees mentioned lack of enough employment opportunities. Many of them have stated that they do not have any profession. For those with no Turkish language, the main challenge was language barrier. Illiteracy, health problems, and nomadic lifestyle were also mentioned as challenging factors.

Almost all respondents have reported that after the Coronavirus outbreak, their ability to access livelihoods opportunities had drastically and adversely affected. Many became indebted to their relatives, neighbours, or shopkeepers in their neighbourhood. More than two-third of the in-depth interview respondents have stated that they are not able to afford enough food for all family members at all times. Only the %27 of the participants and their families were having three meals a day. More than half of the participants were not able to afford rent, bills, and basic needs with their monthly income. LINK II data analysis has showed that %21 of the IPA-clients was in extreme poverty. Development Workshop's analysis of LINK I data of the period between December 2018-February 2020 had revealed that %52.1 of the IPA-clients were not able to pay rent each month, and only %5.2 of the clients were having difficulties in access to basic needs. Though the issue was most probably underestimated in the aforesaid LINK I analysis, this extreme difference in the reported ability of meet basic needs can be interpreted as an indicator of a negative trend in the target groups' ability to meet their basic needs, particularly after Coronavirus outbreak.

6.1.3. Access to Education

It was found in focus group and in-depth interviews that more than two-third of families had their children (aged 7 to 13) registered to a school except those children living in tent settlements and children of Dom families in Yüreğir, Adana who were mostly not registered. There were only a few children above the age of 13 who were schooled. Most children between the ages of 13 to 18, were dropped out and working. Moreover, it was found that more than half of registered children were not regularly attending school before the Coronavirus pandemic. In line with previous studies, the major issue in accessing education was non-attendance due to various reasons. According to target group members, main reasons were financial constraints, nomadic/semi-nomadic lifestyle, and unwillingness of children. All interviewed parents have said that they would want their children to get educated and have a profession. Focus group interviews with children have showed that most children think that school is a good place to be, even though they are not registered or attending. Children in Gaziantep and Şanlıurfa have mentioned some incidents of discrimination and peer bullying towards Syrians in schools, usually by other children.

After the outbreak started in March 2020, Ministry of Education has started to implement a nationwide distance learning system (EBA) through TV channels and internet. EBA TV channels were broadcasting a limited content for specific classes. Thus, in order to fully access EBA, one must have a smartphone, tablet, or computer with internet connection. The interviews with adults and children have showed that only a minority of children were able to regularly access distance learning, reportedly due to lack of resources such as computer, tablet and internet access. It was also found that children who had come of school age last year were not registered to a school due to Coronavirus pandemic. The families have stated that they will register their children next year.

When the respondents asked for suggestions to improve their ability to access education services, most of them wished for financial or in-kind aid for schooled children. Majority of families were having difficulties in affording school uniform and stationery equipment. Most of the respondents have stated that they would regularly send their children to school if they were not having financial constraints.

In line with previous findings and LINK I & II data analyses, access to education is still a serious problem for children of Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities. However, the situation is clearly worsening due to Coronavirus pandemic and the families' increased financial difficulties. Those minority of children who were attending school before the pandemic are now mostly not able to access distance learning opportunities. Moreover, escalating hardships in families' access to income-generating activities may lead to an increasing trend in child labour and consequently in the -already low- percentage of children out-of-school.

6.1.4. Access to Healthcare

Most of the respondents have reported that they have enough resources (information, transportation expenses, language, etc.) to access healthcare services. It was found that those with a valid TPID do not mostly have issues when accessing healthcare services. However, particularly those who do not speak Turkish in Adana and Şanlıurfa, had stated that they are sometimes having difficulties in receiving appropriate medical care due to language barrier. Around half of target group members who are living in remote districts in Gaziantep and Şanlıurfa have thought that local healthcare institutions are not equipped enough with specialized medical staff and tools.. %75 of new-borns and children were reported to be vaccinated. Families of non-vaccinated children had not applied for paediatric health services mostly due to not having a valid TPID. Minority of these families were lacking knowledge/awareness. Getting an appointment for healthcare services is also a challenge for some target group members.

Due to language barrier and lack of knowledge, these persons sometimes directly apply to healthcare institutions for medical examination without any appointment and get rejected. Majority of the respondents with a chronic/critical illness in family have stated that they are receiving appropriate medical treatment.

The major problem in accessing health services was being faced by those without a valid documentation. As it was mentioned before, it was found that there were considerable number of target group members in all provinces who had their TPID registered to another city. It can also be argued that since a significant number of community members do change places throughout the year, so the issue might be more critical than the current study have found. Without a valid TPID registered to that certain province, it is not possible for persons to receive free medical care except first-tier emergency services. It can be commented that children of these families are not having regular medical examinations, new-borns are not receiving their basic vaccinations and those with chronic/critical illnesses are not able to have a continuous medical support. These community members -including those in tent settlements- do sometimes collect money from neighbours/family members and apply to private hospitals to receive healthcare services, in case of a serious health issue. The lack of coordination in-between governmental institutions is also an issue at times. An example given by a LINK II staff in Adana, an unregistered beneficiary with a chronic illness was directed to PDMM by the hospital to obtain documentation in order to receive healthcare, however PDMM requested a medical report to carry out the registration procedure.

> *“We have more serious agendas, such as earning a living. We do not have time to think about psychological health.”*
>
> Male, 36 years old, Ceylanpinar/Sanliurfa

Access to mental healthcare services, in line with previous studies, was found to be extremely rare among the target group. The interviewees were asked of their communities’ perception towards mental health issues, and most of the respondents have stated that mental health issues are not regarded as important by the community members, and that the persons are not informed about how to seek help. Around 10% of the respondents have reported they or a family member were experiencing psychological distress. Only a few of them were receiving support regarding the issue.

The rest have either found MHPSS support unnecessary or was lacking knowledge and awareness. Almost all had attributed the issue to financial constraints. It can be argued that mental health problems among the target group have heightened after the Coronavirus outbreak, due to increased financial difficulties and the psychological hardships of going through a pandemic.

Pregnant and lactating women were asked if they have received prenatal healthcare. Around half of these women stated that they were not able to access to prenatal medical care, mostly due to lack of knowledge/awareness. Some women have also stated that they had preferred to not seek for prenatal screening due to Coronavirus pandemic, or because they were living in remote regions.

The interviewees were asked for suggestions on how to improve healthcare services for the community members. Nearly half of the respondents have wished for completely free healthcare and medicine without any condition. Some stated that there is a need for language support in healthcare institutions. Substantial number of interviewees have thought the healthcare services are good enough for them.

LINK II data analysis have showed that %6 of the clients had unmet health needs. LINK I data have showed that %21.7 of the clients were having difficulties accessing health services. Apart from the consequences of the pandemic, the current study is presenting an increasing trend in the target groups' ability to access health services when compared to previous findings. The main issues can be evaluated as (1) inability to access healthcare with an invalid TPID and (2) lack of knowledge and awareness of the target group members about health-related issues. There were only a few respondents have mentioned problems in receiving healthcare services with a valid TPID and adequate information on protection of health and how the healthcare system works. Apart from this, after the Coronavirus pandemic, the community members' ability to access healthcare services had been negatively affected. Limitedness of healthcare services provided, and fear of disease were the main reasons. Some of those with chronic/critical health issues were not able to receive updated prescription for their treatment. It was reported in all provinces that almost none of the target group members have had Coronavirus infection.

6.1.5. Access to Legal Aid

Almost none of the interviewed target group members have reported any legal problems. Reported legal issues were mostly related to wrong information on TPID and civil fines due to traveling without a permit.

It was stated that the community members usually seek help from trusted NGOs when encountered with a legal problem. However, legal issues may be underreported by the participants of this study.

Focus group interviews with LINK II staff have provided great insight to the issue. According to them, target group members are usually hesitant when taking legal actions. As it was discussed before these communities are highly reserved and they would like to avoid any contact with governmental institutions -particularly the law enforcement- as much as possible. They are mostly abstained from the state. A lot of community members have a fear of being deported back to Syria. Thus, when a legal issue arises, it is usually a frightening situation for them.

Protection Legal Counsellors of LINK II have reported that the main legal problems of the target group were wrong information on TPIDs and lack of knowledge/awareness of the legal regulations in Turkey. It was observed that the target group members do not know how to seek legal aid and they are not willing to do so anyway. Community members have usually no grasp on legal system and procedures or relevant competent authorities such as lawyers or bar associations.

6.1.6. Access to Social Assistance

Similar to previous findings, accessing to social assistance was mostly problematic for those without a valid TPID and a valid residence address. In order to receive social assistance, a valid residence document is required. It is often a challenge to continuously receive social assistance for community members who change places all the time. Eligibility of the residence is also a common issue. Some families are living in a single room which is not registered as a separate residence address for that building, thus it becomes impossible for them to obtain a residence document for that address. It was reported in focus group interviews with LINK II staff that sometimes target group members -especially those in tent settlements- register their family to a nearby address of a local relative of theirs, but they do not live there.

Another issue is when the families can no longer meet the criteria for social assistance due to demographic changes in the household (for ESSN, one of the criteria is having at least three children in household). It causes hardships for those families who relied upon the social assistance as a primary source of income. This may be due to lack of knowledge of community members about the requirements of social assistances.

To present a trend, it can be argued that with an increasing trend on the target group's ability to access to registration/documentation, community members'

access to social assistance has improved. However, there are still access issues for those without a valid TPID and those without a residency document.

6.1.7. Shelter and WASH

More than half of the interviewed individuals were living in a detached house. One-tenth were living in tent settlements. The remaining were living in a single room, an apartment, or a shop/storehouse. Except those in tent settlements, all were paying rent. Only a few had a rental contract. Average household size was 6.4. Majority of the respondents have stated that they are having difficulties affording rent and bills. Around %15 of the participants was having troubles in accessing safe water or electricity in their houses. The access issues were mostly caused by unpaid bills for those in rented accommodation. Those living in tent settlements had very limited access to safe water and electricity. In some tent settlements, the residents string out a power line from a nearby local community member's house to their tents and get water from a nearby water source. Problems with heating were much more prevalent. During the in-depth interviews, nearly %40 of the respondents have stated that they are having difficulties in affording fuel for their heating system. This result was in line with previous studies. Most of those in rented accommodation had access to a toilet with an appropriate infrastructure. Some houses had their toilets outside which caused problems at night and when in winter.

LINK II data shows that 11% of the IPA-clients are living in tents, on earth or concrete ground and in harsh living conditions. Those in tent settlements have very limited or no access to clean drinking and household-use water and toilets. Garbage is not collected regularly in tent settlements, dumped in vacant lots or canals. Since regular disinfestation is not done, insect and pest problems are experienced in living areas.

It was also reported that homeowners in some regions are not willing to have target group members as tenants. In Tarsus/Mersin, the team was able to have a quick chat with a local neighbour of a Dom family. She was also the homeowner for another Dom family, and she had stated that most people around Tarsus would never rent their property to these communities because they are quite large families with a lot of children.

When compared to previous studies and the data of LINK I & II, it can be said that the problems in accessing proper housing opportunities of Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities is continuing. With the financial hardships are increasing with the Coronavirus pandemic, it can be expected that the target group members will have much more issues.

6.1.8. Access to Non-Governmental Organizations

Around 30% of the in-depth interview respondents have not been provided any service by non-governmental organizations. In Gaziantep, this percentage was around 50%. However, due to methodological biases, this percentage is most probably an overestimation. Some target group members regarded financial or in-kind assistance as the only type of service provision. The relevant question was asked in a more general sense, so this percentage can be interpreted as of those who have not received any financial or in-kind assistance. Most of the respondents have mentioned GOAL as the only organization that they know and trust. Minority of the participants have referred to Turkish Red Crescent, ASAM, STL, CARE and WHH.

Nevertheless, it can be argued that Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities are accessing non-governmental organizations much less often than other refugee groups in Turkey due to few main reasons. Firstly, as discussed before, the target group is quite untrustful against unknown persons and institutions. It is hard for them to trust strangers without any reference. So, it may be difficult for organizations to approach these groups. Secondly, the target group members are unaware of services provided by non-governmental organizations. Especially if they are not trusting, they often perceive any NGO intervention as a threat. Last but not the least, target groups' nomadic/semi-nomadic lifestyle causes hardships in identification of these groups by non-governmental organizations. Particularly, those away from urban centres are further impossible to reach. Non-governmental organizations in South East of Turkey are mostly concentrated on city centres. Thus, as a huge gap, most of non-governmental organizations in the region are not quite aware of the existence of Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities and their particular problems.

6.2. Protection Risks and Vulnerabilities

6.2.1. Gender-Based Violence

In line with previous studies, it was found that the target group do not perceive gender-based violence as a problem in their communities. Significant majority of the respondents in focus group interviews and in-depth interviews have denied any possibility of gender-based violence in their family and community. It was also observed that different ethnic groups among Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities had varied perspectives regarding gender roles and related issues. There was only one incident of gender-based violence reported during the data collection activities that was experienced with the interviewee or their families and neighbours. Those who have heard such incidents have insistently emphasized that the parties were not from their

community. Majority of interviewed community members knew where and how to seek help in case of violence. Participants were asked if they have observed an increasing trend in domestic violence after staying home due to Coronavirus pandemic. Most respondents have stated that there have been some disagreements and conflicts at home, but none have mentioned any incident of violence.

> *"There are incidents of domestic violence in tent settlements. But we do not ever step in. They do not go to police. There is no need."*
>
> Female, 21 years old, Nizip/Gaziantep

Focus group interviews with LINK II staff have revealed some critical information about gender-based violence and gender-related issues. It was reported in all provinces that the target group members do rarely make a complaint in case of gender-based violence. It was commented that those subjected to gender-based violence are not aware of it. Another argument was that the community members are not willing at all to share information regarding gender-based violence, even if they are being subjected to it. Variances among target communities were also emphasized. Some groups had adopted a more conservative point of view, possibly due to the dominant cultural or religious values in where they had lived in Syria. Those who were outsiders in Syria, such as Dervish and Alawi groups, were reported to be more equalitarian regarding the gender-related topics. Women in these communities were observed to be more assertive and empowered. However, it would be erroneous to assume women of Dervish or Alawi groups are not being subjected to gender-based violence. It is clear that there is a lack of awareness regarding gender-based violence in all Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities.

In line with other studies and LINK I & II data, the prevalence of reported gender-based violence incidents are quite rare among Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities. To speculate about the possible reasons of this: (1) the community members are not aware of what constitutes as violence, (2) the community members prefer to avoid any contact with government, and thus legal complaint mechanisms, (3) the community members are not willing to share information about their family life. As an alternative and unlikely explanation might be that the incidents of gender-based violence do, in-fact,

might be that the incidents of gender-based violence do, in-fact, occur quite rarely among these communities due to cultural characteristics. In any way, there is an overt need to increase community members' awareness and knowledge about gender-based violence.

Three gender-based violence cases managed by LINK staff will be introduced in Annex 3 to shed a light on how legal mechanisms and protection services work at field level in Turkey. Due to disruptions in service provisions and protection services provided by relevant public institutes, gender-based violence survivors do sometimes face severe aggrievances during legal procedures. The relevant legal framework and case examples are presented in order to convey areas of focus to direct advocacy efforts, as well as the need for strengthened cooperation among public and humanitarian actors.

6.2.2. Child-Related Vulnerabilities

6.2.2.1. Child Labour

Child labour, in parallel with findings of previous studies, is found to be a serious and prevalent risk among Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities in all locations. Children usually work in waste collection, as peddlers or beggars. It was noticed that families were a bit hesitant to clearly answer questions regarding the issue. However, in focus group interviews with children, the issue was openly expressed. In almost all interviews with children, they had said that the most children around the neighbourhood are working as waste collectors or as beggars. It can be argued that the issue was underreported by adults possibly because the parents are aware of the possible legal consequences. Another noteworthy observation in field was that the adults do not consider those around and above the age of 14 as children. The data collection team sometimes had to repeatedly emphasize "those under the age of 18" when referring to children. When counting children or talking about children, they mostly left adolescents out. This may be interpreted as an indication of target groups' perspective towards the end of childhood.

> *"No one goes to school here. We collect garbage, and we sometimes work at the iron smithry."*
>
> Male, 11 years old, Yuregir/Adana

> *We are dealing with poverty. I left the school and started to work.*
>
> Female, 12 years old, Sehitkamil/Gaziantep

> *I am afraid I will be still living in poverty when I grow up.*
>
> Male, 10 years old, Sehitkamil/Gaziantep

Children working in the streets are vulnerable to all possible threats. In a focus group interview with children in Şehitkamil/Gaziantep, some of the participants have mentioned incidents of violence against them, perpetrated by local shopkeepers and law enforcers. A girl aged 10 have reported that she had been taken to a police car and subjected to physical violence by a law enforcement officer, because she was begging in the street. She has stated that she had not told anyone about it. Possibly more often than incidents of physical violence, these children are being subjected to verbal harrassment by the public.

In LINK II data analysis, 19% of children between the ages of 5-17 are reported as out-of-school with the highest rate in Mersin where there are high number of refugees living in tents and working as seasonal agricultural workers. In these areas, within emergency livelihoods coping strategies, one of the most commonly used coping action is child labour by withdrawing them from schools to work either at agricultural fields or houses/tents to assist household chores.

Similar to previous findings of studies and also LINK I & II data, child labour can still be regarded as a major protection risk for children of Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities. Together with diverse cultural perspective regarding education and schooling, financial constraints of families do seem to be the main causes of high prevalence of child labour. Additionally, families are aware of the possible legal consequences of child labour, so it may be argued that the issue is often underreported. Moreover, with aggravated financial difficulties of Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic families due to Coronavirus pandemic, it should be expected an increasing trend in prevalence of child labour among these groups.

6.2.2.2. Early Forced Marriages

Early forced marriage is still being widely practiced among Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities. It affects both boys and girls. However, some families were observed to be more informed and cautious about the issue. Most interviewed participants were aware of the legislations in Turkey and wanted to avoid any legal problems that might arise in a case of early marriage and early pregnancy. Almost all adult participants of focus group interviews had stated that early marriage is not a common practice anymore at all, at least in their family. Women, when telling their stories, often mentioned that no one had forced them into a marriage. A substantial number of participants have stated that they had escaped from home to get married when they were around 14. But they now think of it as a childish mistake, and they would not let their children to get married that early. Children were more upfront about the issue. Most interviewed children have conveyed that average age for marriage is around 16 in their community. So, it is -again- senseful to argue that the issue is underreported in this study.

Focus group interviews with LINK II staff validates this argument. It has been mentioned that early marriages and early pregnancies are not at all exceptions among target groups. These has been some documentation issues caused by the lack of a birth certificate of a newborn child, because the mother was underage and birthed at home. Both parties are usually underage in these early marriages among the target group.

Early forced marriage is clearly a complicated issue for Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities. Maybe one should approach this issue in a more radical sense, rather than just following -undebatable- facts. While avoiding any generalization, when one talks to girls and boys of these community who got married underage and maybe even had a child, it seems clear that the root of the issue is related to their outlook on life, rather than oppressive cultural norms, or adults forcing them into marriage. There were children who had stood against their family and got together with someone. As it was partly discussed before and as the previous studies have argued, the ages of 12 to 16 marks the end of childhood according to most members of these communities. It may be that this cultural perspective combined with the extreme lack of schooling and the debilitating financial constraints are debarring these children from any alternative prospective on life. This may the main reason for wide practice of early marriages among these communities. Thus, the best approach may sometimes not only be taking legal actions against the situation, but rather it should also be about offering children an idea of a different life that their mother and father had, with enhanced opportunities to access education.

6.2.3. Social Discrimination and Exclusion

Focus group and in-depth interviews have revealed that more than half of the participants have not experienced any act of discrimination perpetrated by other societal groups or in institutions. However, a lot of respondents mentioned hostile behaviours and attitudes of the locals against them. The reported incidents were mainly cases of verbal violence. Some examples that the respondents gave were: "Syrians are filthy", "You should go back to your country", "Decent persons would have stayed in their country and defend it", "You stink". It was observed during the interviews that most participants have become inured to discriminative discourses. They have evaluated it as a usual thing that just happens daily.

As the previous studies have also suggested, the target group members are quite often perceived as thieves or beggars by other members of the society. They are being subjected to discrimination on the bases of both being a Syrian refugee in Turkey and also being a Gypsy. The word itself, Gypsy (çingene) in Turkish language implies negative attributes. As a recent example, a famous sport commentator in Turkey used the words "he is being a gypsy" when criticizing a sports person who was demanding more money from their football club administration. He later apologized and said that the correct word was "beggar". [1]

Majority of the respondents with a valid TPID have reported that they had not been denied of rights, resources, opportunities and/or essential services. However, results of the focus groups with LINK II staff have described a more adverse situation. According to findings, the target group members are often being discriminated against in governmental institutions. Particularly during the accompaniments for procedures in PDMM or other governmental institutions, LINK II staff members were able to observe discriminative attitudes of some officers. A LINK II staff member in Gaziantep mentioned a scene where she had accompanied a beneficiary in PDMM, and one of the officers had loudly asked "Where do you even find these people?". There have also been some reported incidents of discrimination in schools and hospitals in Gaziantep and Şanlıurfa. Some target group members had mentioned reluctant behaviours of healthcare professionals and school administrators when providing service.

6.2.4. Other Vulnerabilities

6.2.4.1. Elderly

> *I want to learn how to read and write. I want to be able to read Quran.*
>
> Male, 75 years old, Yuregir/Adana

It was reported during focus group interviews that the elderly population among the target group is having various difficulties. Those elderly individuals who are not able to work, are generally dependent on their children. Respondents have stated that some elderly persons work as peddlers or beggars to earn a living. Without any other possible source of income, these individuals either has to work or become fully dependent on their family members. Those without any close family members are usually getting help from neighbours. The Coronavirus measures had forced elderly population over 65 to stay at home except few hours a week. Focus group attendants have noted that elderly individuals are bound to be at home and becoming more isolated and depressed.

Elderly target group members -including those with chronic or critical illnesses- had been mostly able to access healthcare services before the pandemic. However, after the pandemic, majority of them had either avoided healthcare institutions due to fear or was not able to get an appointment.

It can be argued that there is a gap in services of NGOs and governmental institutions targeting to identify the needs of and to enhance the well-being of elderly individuals of Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities. They are often invisible and hard to reach, even more than other members of their communities.

6.2.4.2. LGBTI+

The situation of LGBTI+ individuals among Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities is highly unclear. There are almost no identified cases under the LINK I & II projects in all locations. There were exceptionally rare cases in Gaziantep and Şanlıurfa, who were being subjected to physical and psychological violence by their family members. The current study had not attempted to identify any LGBTI+ individual, due to the subject being quite disturbing for the community members. The impossibly few numbers of LGBTI+ cases implies that the community is quite conservative regarding the topic. Thus, there is a significant gap in our knowledge regarding the situation of LGBTI+ individuals among the target group.

6.2.4.3. Adults and Children with Disabilities

It was found that around 10% of the interviewed target group members had a family member with a disability. Similarly, LINK II data has showed that 7% of the total LINK clients were persons with disability. LINK II data analysis has also indicated that most of these clients with disabilities were in Gaziantep with 43% of the total clients with disabilities, followed by Şanlıurfa with 35%. The lower rate of PWDs in other locations does not stem from a smaller number of

persons with disabilities in Adana and Mersin but remote agricultural areas may be assessed as a barrier in front of their access to service providers.

None of the children with disabilities were found to be accessing special education. A mother with a child with a mental disability in Yüreğir/Adana had said that "They would not know what he needs. Only I know how to take care of him, how to feed him. I will not send my child to that school.". It can be argued that there is an obvious lack of awareness/knowledge about the developmental needs of children with disabilities. Another important issue regarding special education is that it is being provided only in Turkish. Especially for those children with learning difficulties and developmental disabilities, lack of special education in their mother tongue is an important gap in services.

There were some children and adults with disabilities who were not able to obtain a medical report stating their disability, and consequently not able to apply for social assistance. Main reasons for this were lack of knowledge/awareness, and the limitedness of healthcare services during the Coronavirus pandemic. It was also reported that some individuals with physical disabilities without medical devices that they need such as hearing device and wheelchair, especially in rural areas.

Adults and children with disabilities were reported to be usually at home, dependent to other family members, isolated from society, and not receiving appropriate and continuous medical support. It can be argued that the Coronavirus outbreak had negatively affected their situation due to psychological hardships of the pandemic period and difficulties in accessing healthcare services.

6.3. Situation of General Refugee Population in Comparison with Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities

To add on the findings of the current study, it may be enlightening to compare the situation of Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities to the general refugee population in Turkey. It was found in the Inter Agency Protection Sector Needs Assessment Rounds that the situation of general refugee population was deteriorating due to Coronavirus pandemic. In terms of access to registration/documentation and decrease in the ability to access healthcare services and livelihoods after the Coronavirus pandemic, Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities did not significantly differ from the general refugee population in Turkey. However, there seems to be a significant variation between these groups in terms of access to education, ability to meet basic needs, and protection risks.

According to the I-A's results, of the families with children, 51% stated all their children were registered and school-going, whereas 37% stated none of their children participated in education prior to the pandemic. Overall, 79% of respondents with children stated that their children were able to continue education via remote learning. When compared to the general refugee population, schooling among children of Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities is significantly lower. There is also a huge difference among these groups in terms of children accessing distance learning systems.

It was noted that 3% of the general refugee population families had reported that their children were working. By comparison, among children of Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic families, child labor is around twenty times more prevalent than general refugee population.

I-A reports had noted that nearly 46% of interviewees (35% in round 2) are unable to cover their monthly expenses, and 38% can only partially cover them. The current study has found that around 80% of the Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic families were not able to afford rent, bills, and their basic needs.

In terms of protection risks, I-A Protection Sector has reported that the most prevalent protection concerns for the general refugee population were observations of increased stress within their communities (38%) and conflict amongst household members (13%), while 2% reported conflict with local communities. Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic community members do seem to mostly encounter with the protection risks of child labor, early forced marriages, non-schooled children, lack of knowledge/awareness of their rights and provided services, inability to access governmental services due to not having a valid TPID, and poor housing conditions.

7. Conclusion

Before presenting an overall evaluation regarding the findings of the current study, it is crucial to lay emphasis on impracticability of any generalization to be made on the ground of terms of "Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities", "Dom and Abdal communities" or any other similar expression. It is a must to consider different sub-groups of these communities in terms of their mobility status, cultural background, languages spoken, way of lives, and their current situation as refugees in Turkey. There are some Dom and Abdal groups who are settled in, while there are some Dom sub-groups who identify themselves as "Dervish" and live a nomadic lifestyle. Their place of residence in Syria before migrating to Turkey is also a factor to these differences. For instance, those who settled in Şanlıurfa mostly speak in Kurdish, it was found that those in Gaziantep and Adana are speaking Arabic and/or Turkish.

The current study had intended to consider these variances among these communities when reporting the outcome.

The overall assessment of the current findings regarding the target groups' ability to access rights and services, and encountered protection risks/vulnerabilities are as follows:

- Almost all community members have their TPID. Two major issues of Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic community members with registration and documentation are (1) inability to access rights and services in other provinces than they are registered in, and (2) difficulties in obtaining a valid residence document. These issues affect target groups' ability to access healthcare, education, and social assistance.

- Most community members are working in daily jobs that yield low and irregular income. Almost all of these are working in agricultural work, waste collection, peddling, begging, construction work and shoemaking. Most families are not able to afford rent, bills and basic needs such as food and clothing. After the Coronavirus outbreak, target groups' financial constraints have significantly worsened mainly due to lack of livelihood opportunities.

- Although most are reported to be registered, most of the children are not regularly attending school. Majority of them drop out at around the age of 13 and start to work or help with household chores. None of the interviewed families had any of their children attending pre-school or high school.

- After the Coronavirus pandemic, almost none of the children were able to access distance learning system.

- Most target group members are able to access healthcare services, though they usually do apply to healthcare institutions only in emergencies. Those with registration/documentation issues are not able to access healthcare services other than emergency medical care. Almost none were accessing mental healthcare services. Majority of them had wished for free and accessible healthcare and medicine without any requirement. The Coronavirus measures had negatively affected target groups' ability to access healthcare institutions.

- Majority of the target group members do not know how to access legal aid. Most prevalent legal issue was problems caused by false information on TPID. Community members have usually no grasp on legal system and procedures or relevant competent authorities such as lawyers or bar associations.

- Majority of the eligible target group households are receiving ESSN, except those with registration/documentation issues.

- Majority of the community members are living in detached houses. Some are living in single rooms and tent settlements. Almost all residences are in poor conditions with a few pieces of furniture. Majority are not able to afford fuel for their heating system.

- Access to non-governmental organizations is mostly a challenge. Most community members are either not willing or not able to access NGOs. Most are unaware of the services provided. Majority of interviewed individuals have only heard of GOAL.

- Gender-based violence has not reported to be an issue for the community. There is a need for a more detailed and targeted assessment regarding the gender-related issues among the target group.

- Cases of child labor and children out-of-school are extremely common among Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities. Major reason for this is reported as financial constraints of the families.

- Early forced marriages are highly underreported. Most are aware of possible legal consequences and are not willing to share information. However, focus group interviews with children and with LINK II staff have indicated that early marriages and early pregnancies are not at all uncommon.

- There were reported incidents of discrimination and/or exclusion by locals and in governmental institutions. Most have encountered discriminative discourses.

- Majority of the elderly are living with the support of their family members.

- Sexual orientation is apparently a major taboo for the community. LGBTI+ members of the community are extremely invisible and thus their situation is unknown.

- Children and adults with disabilities are usually highly dependent on their families. They are mostly isolated and at home. There were no children attending special education.

The semi-structured in-depth interview participants were asked of "If you had the power, how would you change things so that your family and your community members have better lives as nomadic/semi-nomadic refugees in Turkey?". Word frequency analysis was conducted to the answers and it had resulted as below.

In all, in terms of access to rights and services, there is a need for awareness raising/information dissemination among the community, as well as targeted advocacy activities to recover gaps in services. Moreover, children and adult members of Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities encounter critical protection risks which require tailored protection activities. The target group members do evidently differ from the general refugee population in terms of their lifestyle, primary needs, ability to access rights and services, and protection concerns. Thus, identification and assessment of vulnerable members of the Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities should be a priority for all relevant organizations and institutions at field. Non-governmental organizations and governmental institutions do lack information regarding the status and protection risks of these groups.

8. Recommendations

In the light of current findings, and with valuable experience gained through LINK I and LINK II projects, GOAL Turkey's future programming has a critical importance in linking Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic community members to governmental and non-governmental services, as well as in identifying and assessing vulnerable members of the community.

Relevant public institutions and humanitarian actors at field should be familiarized more with the status and needs of Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities. Efforts to strengthen cooperation and collaboration among governmental and humanitarian actors are also crucial to ensure gaps in services are minimized. Additionally, inclusion of asylum seekers/refugees from nomadic and semi-nomadic communities should be promoted by EC DG NEAR, Key Donors and UNHCR in the next phases of the National Roma Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan (2019-2021) that came into force on 11 December 2019 after the circular was published in the Official Newspaper including design and implementation of other innovative policies and practices.

It was understood that there are various vulnerabilities and protection risks within the targeted community. Alongside of those vulnerabilities and protection risks that require tailored individual protection assistance, the community members at all project locations have reported common problems of extreme poverty, limited access to livelihood opportunities, lack of awareness/knowledge about services and rights, and protection risks against children. Further to that, Coronavirus pandemic and measures have negatively affected the community members in accessing governmental services and livelihood opportunities. Almost all families have reported increased difficulties in affording basic needs. Prevailing financial constraints of the target group still seem to be a huge problem. There is a need for a collaborative and multi-sectoral effort of governmental and non-governmental entities to extend the livelihood opportunities, social assistance and cash/in-kind assistance for Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic families. There is a need for key donors and respective UN agencies to discuss and explore opportunities to develop and fund different social assistance modalities for those who are terribly vulnerable but do not meet the eligibility criteria due procedural / documentation requirements. Through advocacy with UN Development agencies, shock-sensitive, responsive, and remedial social protection systems should be promoted through provision of cash-based interventions for minority groups who are fragile to disasters and pandemics.

It had appeared that elderly individuals and persons with disabilities among the target group are much more invisible than the rest. There is a need for service provision specifically targeting these invisible members of the community to be able to better identify those individuals and increasing their capacity on accessing their rights and services. It is also critical to utilize community-based support mechanisms and information channels to enhance community members' ability to access rights and services to achieve durable solutions.

Given the protracted refugee context in Turkey and the fact that the vast majority of refugees live in urban, peri-urban, and rural areas, key donors, UN Development Agencies, DG NEAR and DG ECHO should explore the possibility to develop comprehensive and contextual tools to measure resilience of the most vulnerable refugee populations to better inform and influence program and policy development to promote resilience and self-efficacy of vulnerable community members and households. Funding diversification shall be sought by humanitarian actors and encouraged by donors for provision of holistic support in response to multilayered vulnerabilities refugee communities. Multiyear protection integrated livelihood programming tailored to the social characteristics of targeted refugee communities would contribute to self-efficacy of them in the medium to long term.

Province and district level advocacy activities are needed to enhance local response mechanisms of governmental and non-governmental actors. As the current study have found, there is a lack of knowledge among service providers about the status, needs and protection risks of Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities. While strengthening coordination and collaboration among actors, it is also crucial to disseminate evidence-based information regarding the issues of the target group among sectors. Respective donors shall engage with the UN development actors they fund, to ensure their coordination with I/NGOs and humanitarian service providers to promote complementary protection and social protection activities at field level and vice versa.

Below table elaborates on specific recommendations that can help or at least contribute to addressing problem areas and identified protection risks and gaps. **Green written** ones are for GOAL to sustain and for other humanitarian stakeholders to start with or sustain the delivery of services given in the respective recommendation; whilst **the ones written in blue** are for GOAL to start with provision of services / delivery of activities given in the respective recommendation.

Registration and Documentation

Problem Areas / Identified Protection Risks & Gaps

- Almost all interviewed participants have Temporary Protection Identity Document, although a substantial number of them were residing in a different province than they are registered in. Due to not having a valid documentation, these families are not able to access health services except first-tier medical care or receive social assistance.
- Obtaining a valid residential document is also an important problem for those living in tent settlements.
- There has been an increasing trend of problems in accessing registration after the Coronavirus pandemic, due to limitedness of services provided by governmental institutions.
- The major problem of the target group regarding registration is found to be more about meeting the requirements for valid documentation rather than challenges with obtaining an identity document.

Advocacy Needs & Recommendations

- Conduct awareness raising activities regarding registration procedures and required documentation and implicit risks associated with not having valid documentation and/or residing in a province other than the registered one such as deportation.
- Provide facilitative support to promote access to registration, including transportation, appointment taking, translation, and accompaniment.
- Increase outreach activities to identify individuals with special needs among those residing in a different province than they are registered and provide facilitative support and advocate for their registration with PDMM to transfer to enable them to access services.

- Advocate with TRC and IFRC as to address registration issue of those nomadic / semi-nomadic refugees to promote their access to social assistance.

- Cooperate with I/NGOs to increase outreach activities to better identify community members with registration and documentation issues.

- Provide relevant governmental institutions (PDMMs, Registry Offices, SASFs) with evidence-based information regarding gaps in registration and documentation services.

Access to Livelihoods

Problem Areas / Identified Protection Risks & Gaps

- Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities are mostly earning their livelihoods by seasonal agricultural work, waste collecting, peddling, begging, construction work and other forms of manual labor. None of the interviewed community members were registered employees. Almost all are working in short-term jobs and paid daily wages which brings irregularity to their income. The coronavirus pandemic has drastically affected their ability to access livelihood opportunities. Most are unemployed and got into debt.

Advocacy Needs & Recommendations

- Explore and map the opportunities of vocational training to refer aspirant community members in all provinces.

- Reintroduce GOAL's livelihood service map to all protection workers to promote access to employment opportunities.

- Put effort in linking men and women to Turkish language courses provided by governmental and non-governmental actors to increase their chances of employability.

- Advocate with organizations with resources to target nomadic / semi-nomadic refugees and provide cash or in-kind assistance until economic impacts of coronavirus pandemic is curved.

- Explore the possibilities of securing a fund from donors supporting livelihood projects to establish a cooperative for nomadic/semi nomadic refugees making a living, for example with waste collection and musicianship, with an overarching aim to promote sustainable employment and social security.

Access to Education

Problem Areas / Identified Protection Risks & Gaps

- Majority of children of Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities are registered to a school. It was observed that around one-third of children of settled families are regularly attending school, while children of nomadic families are usually out of school. There was no significant gender gap in terms of schooling of children.

- Most children between the ages of 13 to 18, were dropped out and working. Moreover, it was found that more than half of registered children were not regularly attending school before the Coronavirus pandemic.

- Schooled children, without an exception, have praised their teacher and stated that teachers are quite nice towards them. Some few families have reported acts of discrimination at schools, usually by other children and school administrators.

- Children -if they attend school at all- do drop out usually after primary school. Among those families interviewed, there were no children of age who were attending high school. Majority of children are either married or actively working by the age of sixteen.

- Access to education has clearly worsened due to Coronavirus pandemic and the families' increased financial difficulties. The small minority of children who were attending school before the pandemic are now mostly not able to access distance learning opportunities. Moreover, escalating hardships in families' access to income-generating activities may lead to an increasing trend in child labour and consequently in the -already low- percentage of children out-of-school.

- Most respondents reported need for financial or in-kind aid for schooled children. Majority of families were having difficulties in affording school uniform and stationery equipment. Most of the respondents have stated that they would regularly send their children to school if they were not having financial constraints.

Advocacy Needs & Recommendations

Support and advocate for families who are having troubles in school registration.

- Disseminate elaborative information to parents about short and long-term consequences of non-schooling under Awareness Raising activities and community events.

- Advocate with respective donors to explore the possibility to provide school-aged children with education to prevent school dropouts.

- Directly target school-aged children in awareness raising activities conducted by staff with relevant expertise or training.

- Incorporate the respective provisions articulated in the circular regarding children of seasonal agricultural workers and nomadic – semi/nomadic refugees' access to education that indicates that those children can be enrolled at school without residence registration and at any time of the school year, into Awareness Raising sessions.

- Collaborate with educational institutions to improve the capacities of school administrators and teachers to create a more inclusive environment at schools.

Access to Healthcare

Problem Areas / Identified Protection Risks & Gaps

- Although the majority of community members at all provinces had enough information in accessing health services, they usually do not prefer to seek for medical care unless there is an emergency.

- Those without a valid identity document are not able to access healthcare services other than emergency medical care.

- Most children were vaccinated, except those living in tent settlements.

- Women mostly do not receive prenatal care.

- Elderly individuals are not seeking for preventive health care.

- A significant number of community members with chronic illnesses have had difficulties in reaching health services after the Coronavirus pandemic. Some were not able to renew their prescription and receive their medication.

- Access to mental healthcare services was found to be extremely rare.

Advocacy Needs & Recommendations

- Increase outreach activities to identify individuals with health needs among those residing in a different province than they are registered and provide facilitative support and advocate for their registration with PDMM to transfer their registration to enable them to access healthcare services.
- Conduct awareness raising activities regarding access to healthcare services.
- Encourage respective humanitarian actors operating under health sector to promote importance of pre-natal health services for women through awareness raising activities and information, education, and communication materials.
- Encourage respective humanitarian actors operating under health sector to promote importance of regular medical examinations for children through awareness raising activities and information, education, and communication materials.
- Conduct basic psychoeducation activities to encourage and to support access of nomadic / semi-nomadic refugees to mental health care service providers.
- Advocate with respective donors to explore the possibility to fund mobile health units in coordination with the Ministry of Health in underserved urban and peri-urban areas (as in rural areas) to reach those with health issues.
- Locally seek for collaboration opportunities with healthcare service providers to conduct outreach activities to provide basic health screenings, especially for those in tent settlements.
- Strengthen referral pathways for specialized MHPSS services.

Access to Legal Aid

Problem Areas / Identified Protection Risks & Gaps

- Reported legal issues were mostly related to wrong information on TPID and civil fines due to traveling without a permit.
- The target group members do not know how to seek and access legal aid.

Advocacy Needs & Recommendations

- Conduct awareness raising activities regarding legal aid and importantly on legal aid mechanisms and roles of different actors involved in legal aid in Turkey to increase nomadic / semi-nomadic refugees' competence in accessing to legal aid.
- Advocate for and continue to provide legal counselling for beneficiaries in need to promote their access to legal aid.
- Disseminate up-to-date information regarding Coronavirus measures, through mass messages, both voice messages and in written.
- Coordinate with local actors and bar associations to facilitate access to legal assistance, and to raise awareness regarding the legal issues among the community.

Access to Social Assistance

Problem Areas / Identified Protection Risks & Gaps

- It is often a challenge to continuously receive social assistance for community members who change places all the time
- Eligibility of the residence is also a common issue. Some families are living in a single room which is not registered as a separate residence address for that building, thus it becomes impossible for them to obtain a residence document for that address.

Advocacy Needs & Recommendations

- Conduct awareness raising activities regarding available social assistances, eligibility criteria, application procedures and application documents.
- Advocate with TRC and IFRC as to address registration issue of nomadic / semi-nomadic refugees to promote their access to social assistance.
- Strengthen the coordination and referral pathways with governmental (i.e., SASF, SSCs) and non-governmental organizations for those who are not eligible for ESSN but needs critical basic needs support.
- Mobilize local actors to identify those who are eligible for social assistance but not receiving it.

Shelther and WASH

Problem Areas / Identified Protection Risks & Gaps

- Most families are living in rented accommodation. The buildings are mostly in poor condition, with almost no furniture whatsoever. Most of the households have access to electricity and safe water, whilst heating is a major problem for almost all. Majority of the houses have wood-burning or coal-burning heaters, though families are not able to afford fuel for their heating system. They usually use scraps and trash as fuel.
- Around %15 of the participants was having troubles in accessing safe water or electricity in their houses.
- Around half are having difficulties in affording fuel for their heating system.
- Those living in tent settlements had very limited access to safe water and electricity.

Advocacy Needs & Recommendatıons

- Explore possibilities and advocate for designated tent settlement areas in all provinces with necessary infrastructure and residence permit.
- Explore the possibility to distribute hygiene kits to large number of households or to all households in pre-identified and assessed neighborhoods.
- Collaborate with local government in identifying issues with infrastructure, particularly in tent settlements.

Access to Non-Governmental Organization

Problem Areas / Identified Protection Risks & Gaps

- Around 30% of the in-depth interview respondents have not been provided any service by non-governmental organizations.
- Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities are accessing non-governmental organizations much less often than other refugee groups in Turkey.
- Target group members are unaware of services provided by non-governmental organizations.

- Nomadic/semi-nomadic lifestyle causes hardships in identification of these groups by non-governmental organizations. Particularly, those away from urban centres are further impossible to reach.

Advocacy Needs & Recommendations

- Advocate with other NGOs to increase their outreach activities to underserved urban and peri-urban areas to target refugees from nomadic / semi-nomadic communities.
- Provide information (current situation and needs analysis report, maps) to other NGOs to equip them with the knowledge on the whereabouts of nomadic/semi-nomadic refugee communities.
- Equip location-based community advisory communities with specific knowledge on available services to promote nomadic / semi-nomadic refugee communities' help seeking behavior.
- Disseminate information about the status of the target group through coordination meetings.
- Advocate for increase in multi-sectoral non-governmental service provision in all districts and provinces.

Gender-Based Violence

Problem Areas / Identified Protection Risks & Gaps

- Gender-based violence is not an easy subject to talk about for most community members. Any possibility of an incident of violence among community is often insistently denied by both men and women. This may be due to misconceptions regarding gender-based violence or defensiveness of the target group. There was only one incident of gender-based violence reported during the data collection activities that was experienced with the interviewee or their families and neighbors. Majority of interviewed community members knew where and how to seek help in case of violence.
- Most respondents have stated that there have been some disagreements and conflicts at home, but none have mentioned any incident of violence.
- The target group members do rarely make a complaint in case of gender-based violence.
- There is a lack of awareness regarding gender-based violence in all Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities.

Advocacy Needs & Recommendatıons

- Conduct awareness raising activities regarding gender-based violence.
- Develop specific and short-termed training programs about gender-related issues for voluntary men and women and utilize these key community members to disseminate key messages among the target group
- Equip location-based community advisory communities with specific knowledge on gender-based violence, its forms, legal rights, and available service providers to sensitize nomadic / semi-nomadic refugee communities, and promote their help seeking behaviors.
- Engage in cooperation and working group meetings on child protection and disseminate evidence-based information regarding gender-based violence among target group. -based violence in all Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities.

Child Labor

Problem Areas / Identified Protection Risks & Gaps

- Child labor is a major problem at almost all visited neighborhoods. Boys are usually working with their father, while girls are helping their mother.
- Significant number of children living in urban centers do earn money by begging in the streets. Some children mentioned incidents of discrimination and violence with local shopkeepers and law enforcement officers.
- Together with diverse cultural perspective regarding education and schooling, financial constraints of families do seem to be the main causes of high prevalence of child labor.
- Some child laborers have mentioned incidents of violence against them, perpetrated by local shopkeepers and law enforcers.

Advocacy Needs & Recommendatıons

- Identify the status and needs of child laborers at all project locations and enter them to child labor problem log created by UNICEF to contribute to advocacy efforts.
- Provide counselling for parents and caregivers on the consequences of child labor on children and legal framework, through awareness raising activities and information, education, and communication materials.

- Promote access to education by introducing conditional cash transfer to families (through awareness raising activities and information, education, and communication materials) and by supporting their application to it.

- Engage in cooperation and working group meetings on child protection and disseminate evidence-based information regarding child-related vulnerabilities among target group.

- Promote families' access to social services, livelihood opportunities and complementary services to help them avoid child labor as a negative coping mechanism.

- Identify children at risk of worst forms of child labor and provide enhanced protection services through direct protection support and referrals.

- Equip location-based community advisory communities with specific knowledge on child labor, its impacts on children, and legal framework to sensitize nomadic / semi-nomadic refugee communities.

Early Forced Marriages

Problem Areas / Identified Protection Risks & Gaps

- Early marriage is still a widely practiced tradition among Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities. However, some families were observed to be more informed and cautious about the issue. Most interviewed participants were aware of the legislations in Turkey and wanted to avoid any legal problems that might arise in a case of early marriage and early pregnancy.

- These has been some documentation issues caused by the lack of a birth certificate of a newborn child, because the mother was underage and birthed at home. Both parties are usually underage in these early marriages among the target group.

Advocacy Needs & Recommendatıons

- Conduct awareness raising activities regarding early forced marriages.

- Continuously deliver key messages on the adverse effects of early marriages on the well-being and future social economic opportunities of children.

- Target parents and caregivers with various awareness raising programmes focusing on healthy communication with children, as well as psychological and physical harms of early marriages and early pregnancies.

- Design awareness-raising activities and interventions targeting school-aged children and adolescents at risk of early marriages.

- Equip location-based community advisory communities with specific knowledge on early marriages, its impacts on children, and legal framework to sensitize nomadic / semi-nomadic refugee communities.

- Engage in cooperation and working group meetings on child protection and disseminate evidence-based information regarding child-related vulnerabilities among target group.

Social Discrimination and Exclusion

Problem Areas / Identified Protection Risks & Gaps

- More than half of the participants have not experienced any act of discrimination perpetrated by other societal groups or in institutions. However, a lot of respondents mentioned hostile behaviors and attitudes of the locals against them.

- Most participants have become inured to discriminative discourses. They have evaluated it as a usual thing that just happens daily.

- The target group members are often being discriminated against in governmental institutions.

- There have also been some reported incidents of discrimination in schools and hospitals in Gaziantep and Şanlıurfa. Some target group members had mentioned reluctant behaviors of healthcare professionals and school administrators when providing service.

Advocacy Needs & Recommendatıons

- Engage with mukhtars, locals, community leaders, and agricultural mediators in tent settlements (çavuş) about issues regarding discrimination and exclusion.

- Capacitate community members with knowledge on their rights and legal remedies.

- Engage with other I/NGOs that target both host and refugee communities and provide them with information on the whereabouts of nomadic/semi-nomadic refugee communities; to encourage them to include these communities in their social cohesion activities and/or community events.

Elderly

Problem Areas / Identified Protection Risks & Gaps

- Elderly individuals who are not able to work, are generally dependent on their children.
- Some elderly persons work as peddlers or beggars to earn a living.
- After the pandemic, elderly individuals are bound to be at home and becoming more isolated and depressed.
- Elderly target group members -including those with chronic or critical illnesses- had been mostly able to access healthcare services before the pandemic. However, after the pandemic, majority of them had either avoided healthcare institutions due to fear or was not able to get an appointment.
- Elderly is often invisible and hard to reach, even more than other members of their communities.

Advocacy Needs & Recommendations

- In service provision and outreach activities, specifically target elderly members of the community whose access to rights and services are more constricted.
- Target elderly members of the community with psychoeducation and psychosocial support activities which would also provide an opportunity to identify those with specific needs to access social and healthcare services.

LGBTI+

Problem Areas / Identified Protection Risks & Gaps

- The situation of LGBTI+ individuals among Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities is highly unclear.
- There is a significant gap in our knowledge regarding the situation of LGBTI+ individuals among the target group. avoided healthcare institutions due to fear or was not able to get an appointment.
- Elderly is often invisible and hard to reach, even more than other members of their communities.

Advocacy Needs & Recommendatıons

- Increase the capacity of staff in communication with LGBTI+ individuals.
- Promote a LGBTI+ friendly environment in Social Support Centers (of GOAL) by increasing the visibility of key messages.

Children and Adults with Disabilities

Problem Areas / Identified Protection Risks & Gaps

- Nearly one-third of adults and children with disabilities have not had their medical report stating their disability status. Main reasons for this were lack of knowledge/awareness, and the limitedness of healthcare services during the Coronavirus pandemic. It was also reported that some disabled individuals without medical devices that they need such as hearing device and wheelchair, especially in rural areas.
- There were no disabled children attending special education.
- Disabled individuals are usually at home, isolated and not receiving appropriate and continuous support.

Advocacy Needs & Recommendatıons

- In service provision and outreach activities, specifically target disabled members of the community whose access to rights and services are more constricted.
- Advocate with respective donors to explore the possibility to fund provision of special education for children with special needs in coordination with ministry of Education.
- Ensure participation of disabled individuals in awareness raising and psychoeducation activities.
- Create and disseminate specific messages (through mass messages, both voice and in written) on how to obtain medical report and available facilitative supports.
- Collaborate with local Counselling and Research Centers (Rehberlik Araştırma Merkezi-RAM) to better identify and assess children with disabilities among the target group.
- Collaborate with other relevant actors to develop programmes focusing on capacity and skill-building activities for disabled adults and children.

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Photo: GOAL Turkey, Viransehir - Sanliurfa

10. Annexes

10.1. Annex 1 - Brief Analysis of IPA Data Collected Under LINK II Project Between 01.09.2020 and 01.03.2021

Introduction

LINK II was designed to target the most vulnerable and excluded refugees, specifically migrant seasonal agricultural workers, and nomadic/semi-nomadic groups such as Doms and Abdals, to reduce, remove or prevent protection risks, until lasting solutions are integrated into government systems, resulting in sustainable and equitable access to services for refugees.

LINK II identified, assessed, and is connecting those marginalized and vulnerable communities to state and non-state services in Gaziantep, Sanliurfa, Adana, and Mersin, providing support in line with the southeast Interagency Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Individual Protection Assistance (IPA) and in close coordination with the Protection Cluster to ensure alignment with other actors.

Demographic Information

GOAL LINK team was able to identify, assess, and partially support 1425 clients belong to the four provinces (Gaziantep 40%, Sanliurfa 34%, Adana 22%, and Mersin 4%). 57% of targeted clients were females while 43% were males and the average Household (HH) size was about six family members.

Figure I: Groups dissaggreated by gender

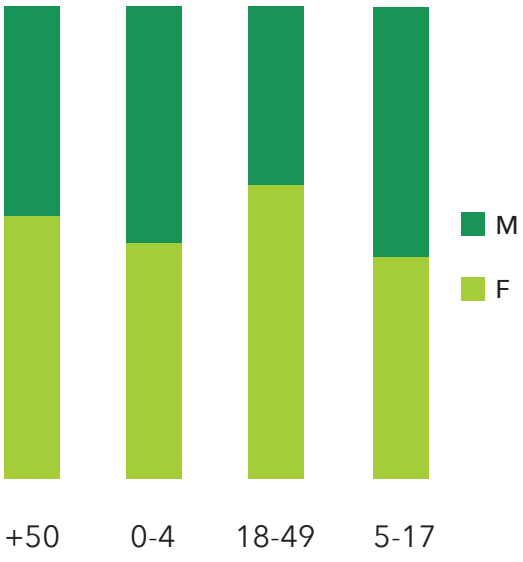
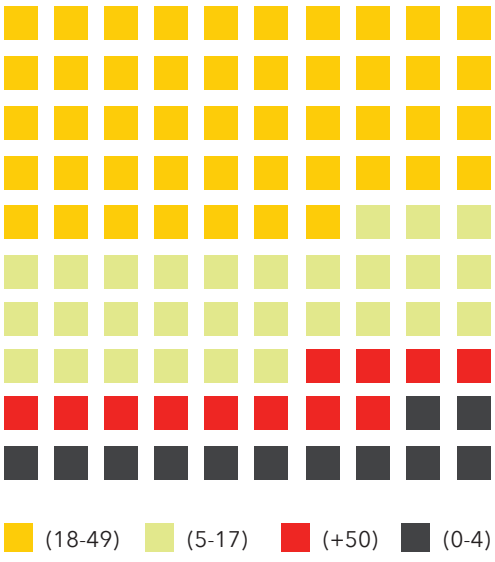
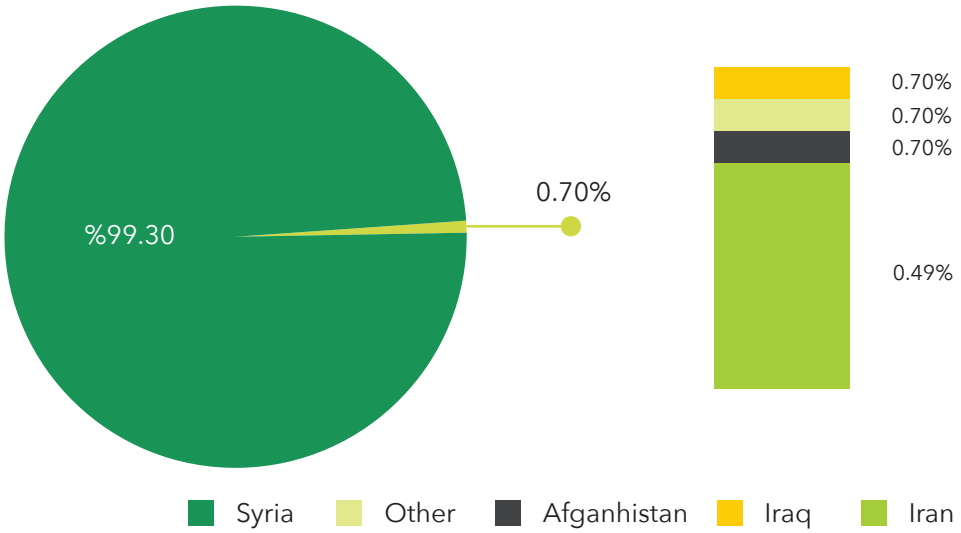


Figure II: % of Age groups



Age group '18-49' constitutes the majority with 47% because such group is mostly representing heads of households, breadwinners who are the ones usually seeking assistance/support to satisfy their families' protection concerns. Women and girls have higher percentage at all age groups except from '5-17' which indicates that their limited ability to meet basic needs and constrained capacity to cope with risks that can negatively affect the achievement of those needs. Due to their educational needs, legal status requirements etc., '5-17' age group has the second highest percentage with 29%. More details are illustrated in Figures 1,2 above.

Figure III: % of Client nationality



Based on the demographics of the LINK areas of operation, it is anticipated that beneficiaries would primarily be from Syria but will also include other nationalities such as Afghanistan, Iraq, and Iran. In this context, Syrian nationality was the most frequented nationality with 99.3%, followed by Iraqi nationality with less than 0.5% as represented in Figure3. As LINK activities exclusively targeted Syrian refugees from the Dom, Abdal and other semi-nomadic communities and migrant seasonal agricultural workers in Adana, Mersin, Hatay, Gaziantep and Şanlıurfa, this result is acceptable.

Disability

7% of the total LINK clients were persons with disability (PWD) who are particularly exposed to targeted violence, exploitation, and abuse, including sexual and gender-based violence. Women and girls with disabilities are more likely to experience gender-based violence than women and children without disabilities. They also often suffer from multiple forms of discrimination. Therefore, their empowerment and protection should be given particular attention.

As other details are demonstrated in Figures 4 and 5 below, the highest number of disabled clients were in Gaziantep with 43% of the total disabled clients, followed by Şanlıurfa with 35%. The lower rate of PWDs in other locations does not stem from a smaller number of persons with disabilities in Adana and Mersin but remote agricultural areas may be assessed as a barrier in front of their access to service providers. Since these persons are expected to be amongst the most vulnerable, particular effort is made to link these PWDs to GOAL SSCs through outreach teams, hotline and referrals from (I)NGOs, local authorities and UN agencies and other protection activities.

Figure IV: % of PWD Geographical Distribution

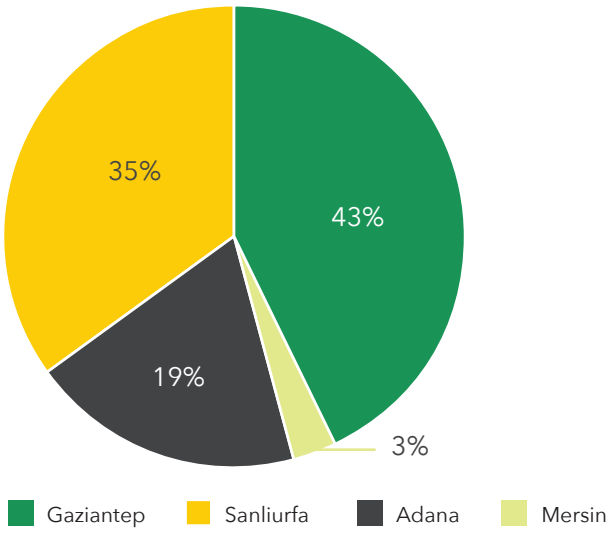
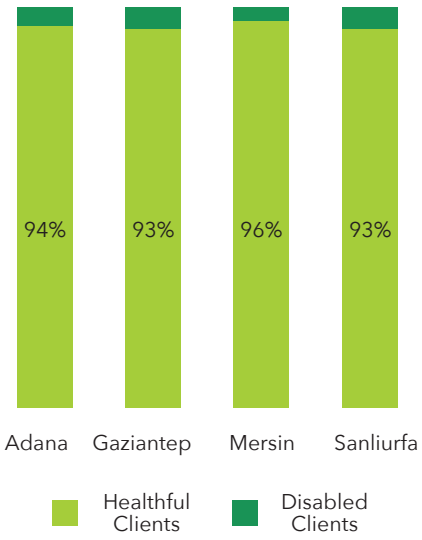


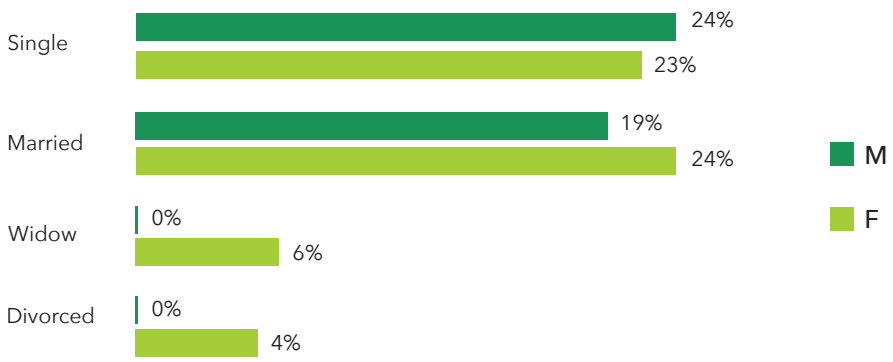
Figure V: % of PWD Per Province's Total Clients



Marital Status

No significant differences in marital status (married/single) between males and females, while all vulnerable marital status forms (widow, divorced) were females as stated in Figure 6.

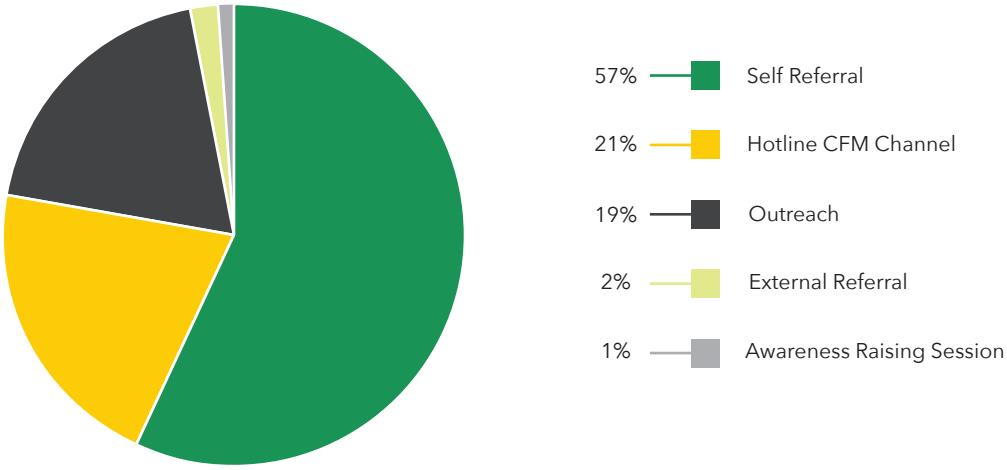
Figure VI: Marital status disaggregated by gender



Widowed or other women on their own are particularly vulnerable; they frequently lose out and are often excluded from receiving aid as there is no male member of the household to be registered with humanitarian agencies and cultural norms often prevent them from going to register by themselves. In agricultural tent areas where GOAL operates, they are more likely to face sexual and verbal harassment outside the home, which also increases the strain on them. Unmarried and widowed women travelling alone feel particularly vulnerable in their new environments.

Due to the need of special provisions to be made for widows, divorcees and other groups of women who may be especially at risk, 10% of beneficiaries assisted by GOAL are widowers and divorced women.

Figure VII: % of Intake Modality



More than 97% of IPA clients were identified by three main mechanisms as following:

- Majority (57%) of IPA clients were identified by self-referral.
- 21% were identified through Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM) channels.
- 19% were referred through outreach workers.
- The highest rate is self-referral that promotes one of the key aims of LINK Social Support Centres which is to facilitate mutual trust between LINK Program staff and targeted communities and create easy-access walk-in platforms for confidential self-referrals concerning protection incidents.
- Other intake modality was just 3% for awareness raising session, external referrals as stated in Figure7.

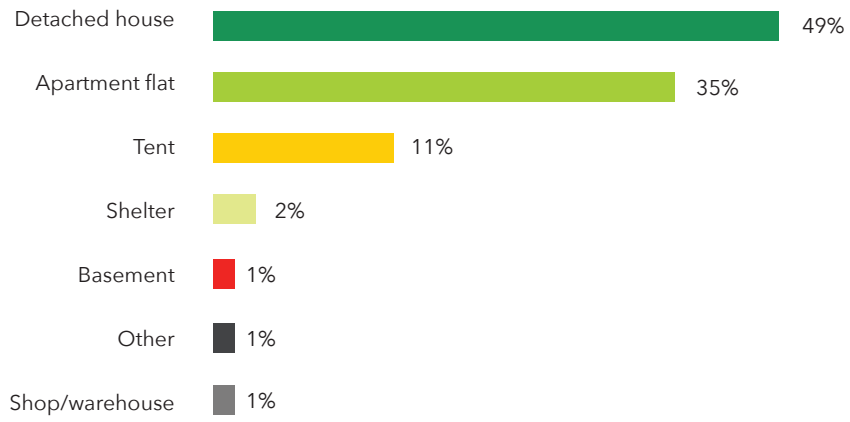
Shelter Type

Trained GOAL protection workers rapidly assessed the quality of the housing, evaluating the standards of construction, hygiene, and winterisation. The results show that almost half of beneficiaries were living in detached houses, while 35% were living in apartment flats.

LINK targets two main groups (agricultural seasonal workers and nomadic/ semi- nomadic refugees) in terms of nomadic status. While some of them have been living in the same city, neighbourhood, or tent area for a long time, some migrate seasonally and return to their location.

11% living in tents, on earth or concrete ground. are from remote locations with harsh living conditions and deprived of accessing basic needs and services provided.

Figure VIII: % of Shelter types



They have very limited or no access to clean drinking and household-use water and toilets. Garbage is not collected regularly in tent settlements, dumped in vacant lots or canals; Since regular disinfestation is not done, insect and pest problems are experienced in living areas.

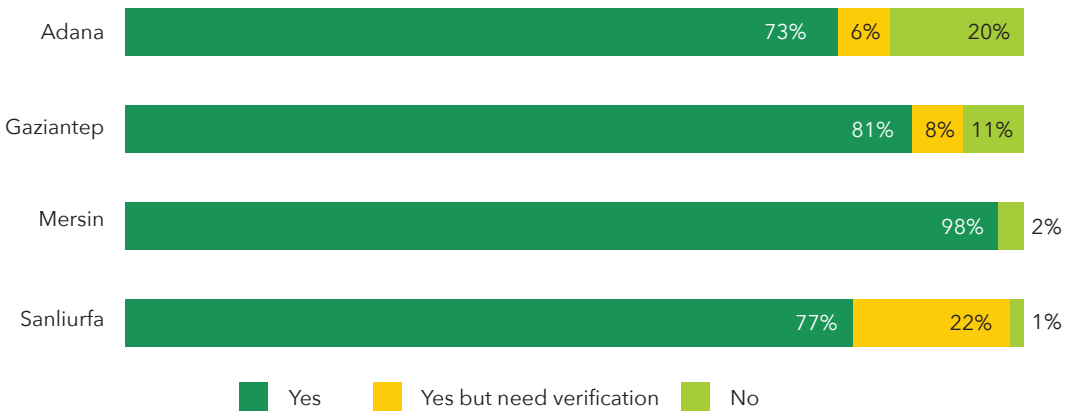
GOAL made direct payments for IPA cases to the landlords for critical/emergency rental support in case of safe temporary shelter needs for individuals with critical/urgent protection concerns (e.g. for eviction cases, GBV survivors or accommodation costs in the cities where clients have officially been referred for health and other formal services). For the ones with shelter repairement or WASH- related needs, service map is used and referrals are made to other service providers.

Temporary Protection Status

79% of all clients were holding verified TP/ID, while 12% their TP/ID need to be verified. 9% did not have TP/ID at all which indicates that refugee families in Turkey continue to be joined by new arrivals who still face issues with DGMM registration and since most of the unregistered population comes from Adana province where most of the agricultural seasonal workers live in, it would not be wrong to say that these workers have more limited access to and/ or knowledge about governmental services and legal requirements.

For these reasons, 21% of clients with a valid ID at the settlement are being assisted by continued fast-tracking of DGMM registration for families or individuals with specific health or protection concerns, allowing them to quickly access available services and advocacy is being conducted to ensure this practice continues in PDMMs across all areas of operation. Figure9 clarify such percentage distributions per provinces.

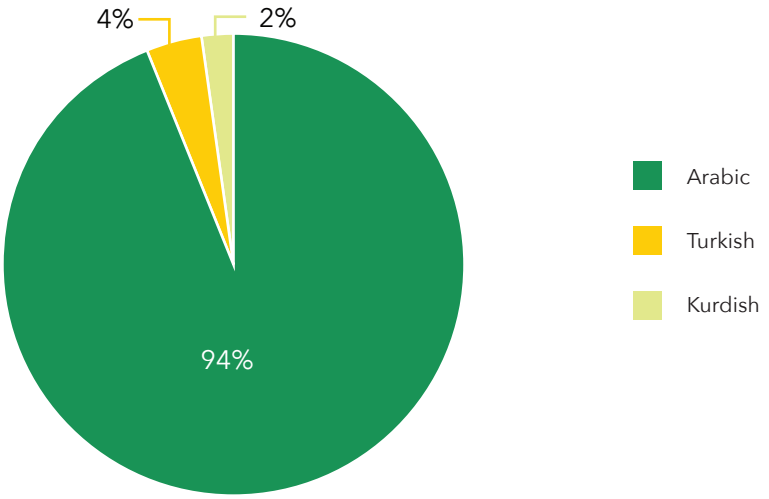
Figure IX: % of TP/IP status per province



Language Competencies

Arabic language was the primary language used by IPA clients with 94%, due to the fact most clients' nationality was Syrian (99%), followed by Turkish with 4% as shown in Figure10. In a high literacy context like Turkey, Turkish language skills are a key competency to escape vulnerability and access economic opportunities. In any case, the more important language skills to decrease vulnerability and enhance the prospects of integration (accessing public services, DGMM registration and Nüfus [Population Department] registration) are Turkish. Although one of LINK targeted groups (nomadic/ semi-nomadic community members) are mostly able to speak Turkish, not being able to speak host community's language bring many protection-related needs to those 94% of clients benefitting from GOAL's IPA services including written and verbal translation and accompaniment.

Figure X: % of Client Language

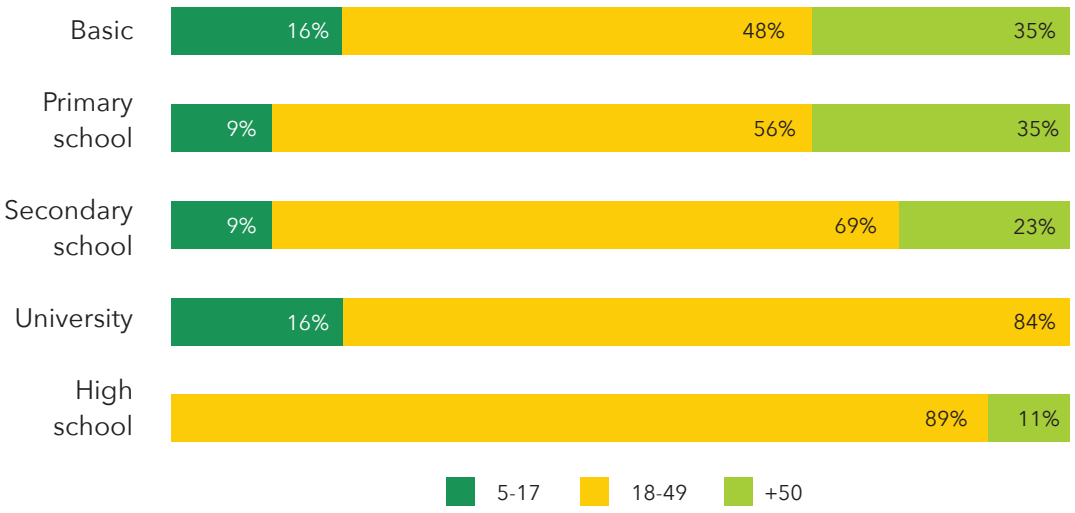


Education Level

66% of IPA clients were illiterate or with basic literacy level, while 21% were completed the primary school and 10% in secondary schools. Just 2% of IPA clients has a high school education and 1% has a university degree.

As demonstrated in Figure11, among all LINK II beneficiaries who have already graduated from or continue their education at primary school, only 35 % of them are at between 5-17 which is school age group. The rate decreases from primary to high school for these children by 24 %. This data indicates that some children, have access to education (many of them not) but after secondary school, they either get married or participates in labour market so that they do not attend school.

Figure XI: % of Education level per age



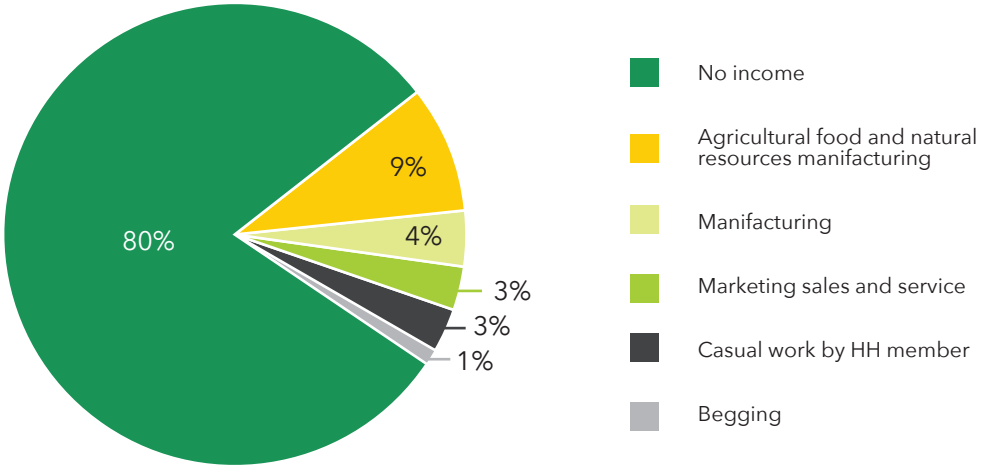
During COVID-19, the system of distance learning set up by the Ministry of Education was found to be applicable to only a small minority of the target groups' members. Many were found to have no information on how it is implemented, and lack of access to the required devices.

Primary Income Source

While income is necessary, but not sufficient, to escape vulnerability, in terms of income sources, 80% of LINK clients reported having even no primary income source.

As most refugees have been residing in Turkey for an extended period, they have been able to find basic livelihood opportunities and generate their own income. The issue is that the labour income they are able to generate is still too low and does not provide enough resources to meet basic needs and escape from poverty.

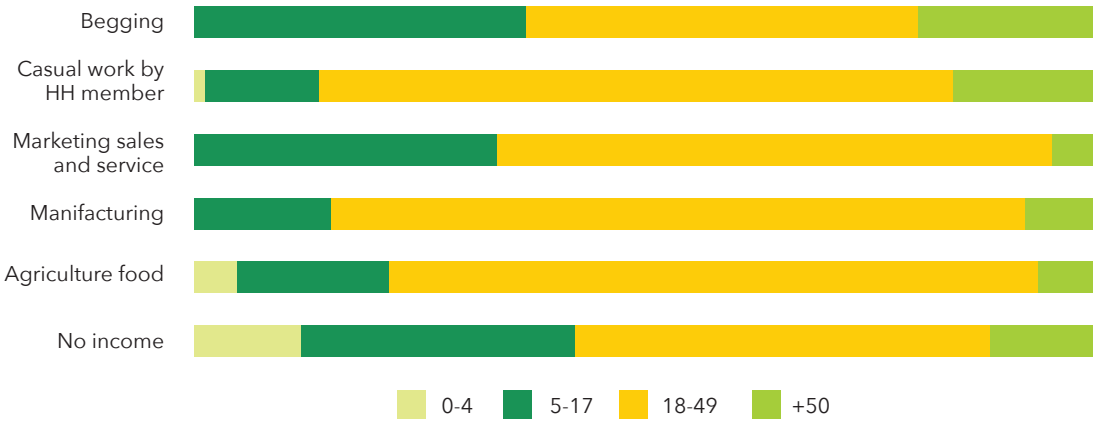
Figure XII: % Primary income source



COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictions must be considered at this point when sluggish economic activity brought about unemployment, declining wages, and, hence, loss of income.

The economic impact of COVID-19 has significant bearing on vulnerable groups including refugees, migrants, IDPs and host communities due to the loss of income, restricted movement, reduced access to markets, inflation, and a spike in prices. All participants work in the informal sector of irregular income generating activities, meaning their income has been severely hit by restrictions imposed, and creating difficulty in meeting daily basic needs.

Figure XII: Primary income source per age groups



36 % of all clients who beg at streets to earn money to contribute families' income are children between 5-17. The same applies to service sector (33%) and agricultural activities (23%). The economic impact of COVID-19 has significant bearing on vulnerable groups including refugees due to the loss of income, restricted movement, reduced access to markets, inflation and a spike in prices. It lead to increases in negative coping strategies such as hazardous forms of child labour and child marriage, for example as shown in Figure13. Even before COVID-19 pandemic, most of the clients' children were out of school for several reasons including parents' reluctancy, lack of knowledge, participation in labor market due to financial problems, culture, peer bullying and discrimination at school, neglect etc.

GOAL, during LINK Project, has been assisting children's school enrolment process, removing barriers affecting their attendance at school, accessing educational social aid scheme like CCTE and raising awareness of families on child labour and importance of education.

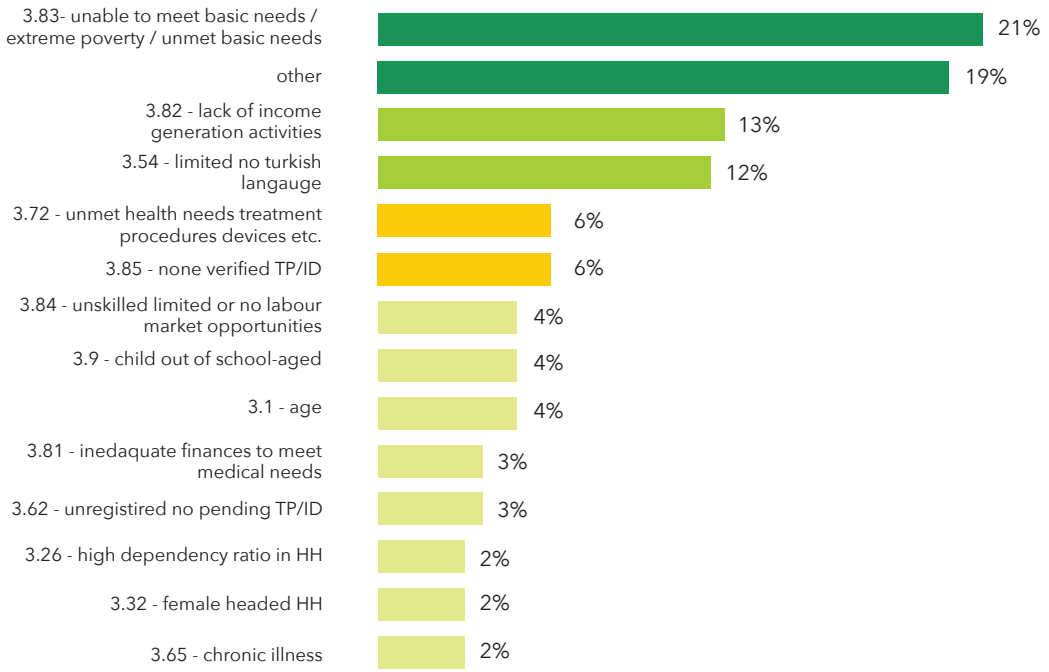
Types of Vulnerabilities

At least 34% of LINK IPA clients in all 4 areas of operations reported financial problems due to lack of income generation activities and extreme poverty especially after COVID-19 pandemic. The disaggregation of vulnerabilities by gender demonstrates that 68% of women have much more limited access to labour market opportunities than men.

Income is an important part of the story, but there are dimensions of being vulnerable that go well beyond income. For refugee populations, access to legal status and capacity to cope with trauma are two dimensions that cannot be captured by just focusing on income. In this context, lack of Turkish language skills and verified TPIDs are the two most encountered vulnerabilities among LINK IPA clients in addition to others linked to age, gender, or medical condition.

It may be deduced that agricultural workers have very limited contact with people from host community because limited/ no Turkish language skills have significant rate both in Adana (26%) and Mersin (17%) where agricultural workers live in remote areas with very limited access to social environments, vocational and language courses. On the other hand, clients live in Gaziantep are mostly from targeted nomadic/ semi-nomadic groups who are able to speak Turkish and only 7% of the beneficiaries have the vulnerability of limited or no Turkish language skills in this operational area.

Figure XIV: % of Vulnerabilities



Living in remote areas with financial issues also affected refugees' access to health services in general but more in Adana by 15% of rate with unmet health needs.

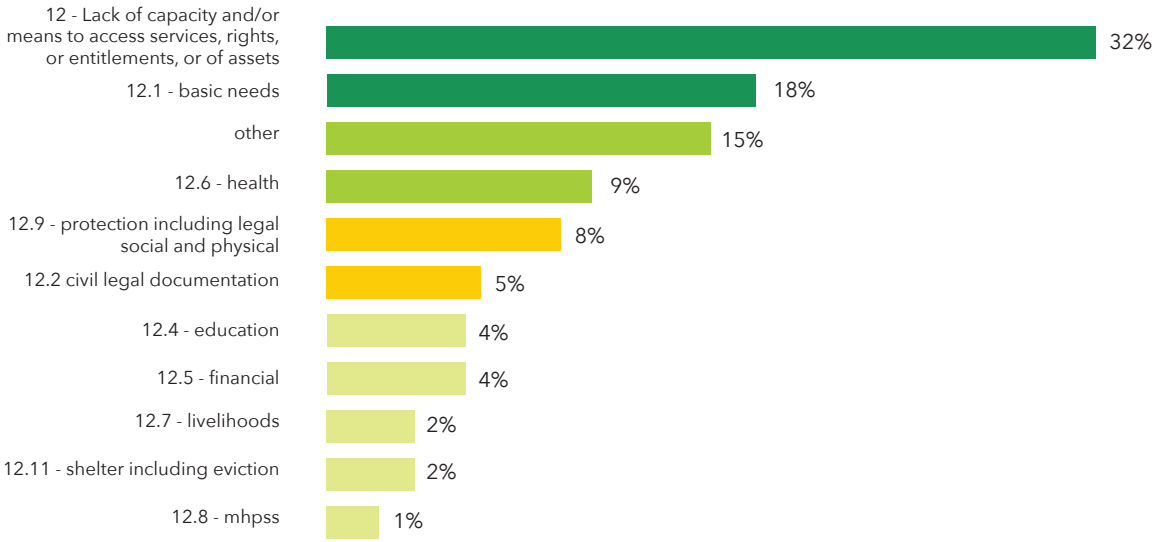
19% of children between the ages of 5-17 are reported as out-of-school with the highest rate in Mersin where there are high number of refugees living in tents and working as seasonal agricultural workers. In these areas, within emergency livelihoods coping strategies, one of the most commonly used coping action is child labour by withdrawing them from schools to work either at agricultural fields or houses/ tents to assist household chores.

Other vulnerability types (19%) consist of 59 vulnerability categories (such as physical disability, lactating, speech impairment, malnutrition, child parent, mental illness, child head household etc.) are grouped together because each of them is less than 1%.

Risk Types

Lack of capacity and/or means to access services rights or entitlements was the mostly encountered risk type among IPA clients with 32%, followed by its sub-categories demonstrated in the Figure 15.

Figure XV: % of Risk types



When disaggregated by gender, there are few significant differences between the risks that women and girls encountered more than the men and boys. For instance, women and girls particularly in Gaziantep expose to the risk of eviction more than others (3 % in Antep, 2% in Urfa), and they are more deprived of livelihoods opportunities.

In all project locations, particularly in Adana (16%), risks in access to civil/ legal documentation is reported and GOAL Protection Workers and Legal Counsellors provided legal counselling services that include but are not limited to enabling access to civil and criminal legal aid through the Bar Associations, court and security enforcement authorities, supporting refugees to complete any legal documentation, including the pre-requisites for the ESSN, CCTE and other formal social assistance schemes, resettlement, registration and obtaining ID under the provisions of the temporary or international protection regulations, family tracing and reunification, Turkish citizenship, disability certificates, civil registration (birth, marriage, divorce, death). In Turkey, it is unlikely that the COVID 19 pandemic is contained and as such we can anticipate extended period of limited freedom of movement which further contributes to the global slowdown that is already under way.

The health system is also unlikely to be able to cope, and access to appropriate health services by the most vulnerable will be more difficult. As an implication, most of the clients in different locations like Adana (20%) and Mersin (13%), particularly the age groups between 0-4 (22%) had serious challenges in accessing health services with their caregivers and GOAL assisted them by taking appointment, accompanying to very urgent cases, transportation to hospital and facilitating disability health report receiving procedures.

Other risk types with 15% of share such as family separation, violence physical abuse, intimidation, neglect, financial, self-harm, verbal harassment, adolescent pregnancy etc. consist of 54 risk type grouped together because each one of them is less than 1%.

10.2. Annex 2 - IA Protection Sector Rapid Needs Assesment Analysis Reports' Summary (Jun 2020[1], Sep 2020[2] and Jan 2021[3])

Rationale and Objectives

Since partners, within the protection sector identify a significant gap in systematic and structured information collection around needs of various refugee groups at the inter-agency level, it is agreed by protection partners that the ongoing COVID-19 situation presents an opportunity for the sector to develop a common, harmonized, inter-agency rapid needs assessment tool. Because outcomes and findings of the structured assessments were not systematically compiled and analyzed between partners.

Objectives of the development of a common, protection specific rapid needs assessment tool that was uploaded on Kobo and focal points assigned by the agencies were trained on how to use it;

- A better understanding of the protection and humanitarian situation in Turkey;
- Establish a mechanism to systematically identify refugee needs in relation to thematic areas;
- Systematize and standardize data collection and analysis processes to better inform evidence-based programming and the larger refugee response (including via the 3RP);
- Inform and develop protection programming initiatives;
- Inform advocacy efforts on the local and central level with various stakeholders

[1] Turkey: Inter-Agency Protection Sector Needs Assessment Analysis Round 1 - June 2020, https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/78531
[2] Turkey: Inter-Agency Protection Sector Needs Assessment Analysis Round 2 - September 2020, https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/83595
[3] Turkey: Inter-Agency Protection Sector Needs Assessment Analysis Round 3 - January 2021, https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/86731

PARTICIPANT PARTNERS	
ROUND I JUNE 2020	ASAM, Concern Worldwide, HRDF, International Blue Crescent, IOM Partners (Adana Migrant Center, Ensar Community Center, Keçioren Migrant Center, Şanlıurfa Migrant Center), MSYDD, SEVKAR, Turkish Red Crescent, UNFPA Partner (Eskişehir University, Sağlıkta Genç Yaklaşımlar Derneği), UNHCR Field Office Izmir, WALD, Welthungerhilfe
ROUND II SEPTEMBER 2020	CARE, Concern, Eskişehir University, HRDF, IBC, IOM Adana Community Center, IOM Ensar Community Center, IOM Keçiören Migrant Center, IOM Şanlıurfa Migrant Center, Mavi Kalem, MSYDD, Rahma, Sevkar, SGDD-ASAM, TRC, WALD, UNHCR.
ROUND III JANUARY 2021	Adana, Mardin, Sanliurfa, Istanbul, Gaziantep MMs, CARE, GOAL, IOM Adana CC, IOM Urfa MC, Kilis Munic., Nusaybin Munic., TRC, WHH, Seyhan Munic., Concern, HRDF, IOM Ensar CC, Malatya Munic., Kiziltepe Munic., Osmaniye Munic., ASAM, UNHCR, Adiyaman Munic., IBC, IOM Kecioren CC, Buca, Artuklu, Midyat, Akcakale Municipalities, StL, WALD

Geographical Distribution

Four zones were created in alignment with existing coordination hubs (Marmara, Southeast, Aegean and Central Anatolia & Other) to ensure information collected is representative of refugees residing across different locations in Turkey and results are comparable. Partners interested in undertaking phone interviews were identified.

Sampling

Nationality	# of Participants		
	Round I	Round II	Round III
Syrian	774	817	845
Iraqi	118	112	77
Afghan	72	46	129
Iranian	38	69	70
Nigeria, Palestine, Cameroon etc.	18	11	35
TOTAL	1020	1055	1156

Considering the multi stakeholder nature of the assessment, simple random sampling method (i.e. probability sampling) was applied for respondents of Syrian and other nationalities separately. Sample size for Syrians was identified based on official DGMM registration statistics for Syrians under Temporary Protection (with due weight per geographical distribution).

Respondent Profiles and Demographic Information

Gender/Age	Round I				Round II				Round III			
	0-5	6-17	18-65	65+	0-5	6-17	18-65	65+	0-5	6-17	18-65	65+
Female	511	938	1333	63	505	1048	1434	114	563	1406	961	60
Male	463	969	1231	41	441	1051	1313	87	496	1344	964	52
Non-binary	0	0	0	0	1	1	5	0	2	4	10	0
Total	974	1907	2564	104	947	2100	2752	201	1061	2754	1935	112

DGMM Registration

98% are registered with DGMM. The other 2% either have not approached DGMM for registration or could not register with DGMM due to various reasons.

10% of respondents need legal support and 37% of those are currently receiving legal assistance. TP ID related inquires represent the most common issue respondents require legal assistance with (12%).

COVID-19 Awareness and Access to Information

The levels of awareness **(general situation, symptoms, measures announced by the Government and where to seek support if infected)** on COVID-19 and access to relevant information was found to be significantly high. **77% of respondents feel they have enough information about COVID-19.** No major differences across locations, population groups or sexes were identified in this regard in round 1. However, the findings in the Second-Round seem to indicate a minor drop in awareness (76%) and the assessment did indicate differences between nationalities.

A majority of Afghans (52%) and high numbers of Iranians (38%) stated they do not have enough access to information on rights and services.

The top three sources of information remained the same in all rounds as internet and social media; TV and newspaper; official websites of public institutions; and through their communities. NGOs and other civil society organizations, as well as UN agencies were not identified as one of the main current or preferred sources of information.

The assessment indicates that the main information needs include information on financial assistance (13%); working in Turkey (11%); resettlement to a third country (10%); social services, including protective, preventive and rehabilitative services (9%); legal assistance (7%); and school, university and vocational studies in Turkey (7%). In Round 3, procedures related to work permits (10%) and financial assistance (9%) are added. Information related to COVID-19 vaccination is ranked as a need by 3% of respondents.

Access to Services

63% of respondents, across population groups and geographical areas, stated they did not face barriers in accessing services averagely. 39% could not access essential services in round 3 indicating a slight increase in those facing barriers compared to Round 2 (where 31% were unable to access). The main barriers include overcrowding of services (19%), closure of services (15%) and lack of services (12%). 13% did not attempt to access services, mainly related to fear of leaving house due to COVID-19 transmission (which has been dropping slightly since Round 1).

On the other hand, in Round 2 (September 2020), there is an increase in respondents' access to information as 76% but non-Arabic speakers have below average levels of access, indicating the need for increased outreach and targeting to these groups.

The Second-Round analysis identified new barriers to access services, the highest ranked being the inability to use online systems to book appointments (13%), affecting predominantly male respondents

In average, 37% of female respondents stated they had experienced difficulties in accessing services compared to 30% of male respondents.

Access to Health Services

Assessment results indicate that health services and health service providers were the **hardest to reach throughout this period.** Afghan and Iranian respondents reported the most difficulties in accessing, with 44% and 56% respectively stating they faced barriers when trying to access health care.

Between March- June 2020, 49% of respondents attempted to access health services. Of those who did attempt, 75% were able to access services. On September 2020, of the 79% of respondents who attempted to access health services, 20% reported they were unable to (23% for female respondents) and on February 2021, of the 81% respondents who attempted to, 18% failed to access health services.

The main reasons for not being able to access health services include inactivation of general health insurance (14%), avoiding hospital due to fear of COVID-19 infection (12%), lack of information on services (12%) and limited resources of hospitals due to COVID-19 (11%). In round 3, 49% mentioned inactivation of insurance as the main barrier – a drastic and note-worthy increase from 14% in Round 2.

Overall, 38% of all female respondents stated they had difficulties in accessing SRH services, while around 50% of both Iraqi women and those of other nationalities responded that they did not access SRH services, either because they were unable or did not attempt to access these.

Access to Education

Of the families with children, 51% stated all of their children were registered and school-going, whereas 37% stated none of their children participated in education prior to the pandemic. Overall, 79% of respondents with children stated that their children were able to continue education via remote learning. The level of access to remote education has decreased considerably compared to the First- Round (from 79% to 68% and 69% in round 3), signaling increasing drop-out rates from education. The highest percentage of discontinued education is amongst Afghan (29%) and Syrian (19%) households respectively.

For both girls and boys, **barriers to access include no internet (22%), not enough equipment (17%), language barriers (13%) and no TV or no TV connection (12%).**

The results indicated a need to support households with equipment and digital infrastructure and particularly Afghan children with language related support, to prevent further drop-outs and challenges in accessing remote education.

Of the families who state that they can cover their monthly expenses and basic needs, the overall rate of continued remote education is 78%. Comparatively, only 63% of children of those who stated that they are not able to cover their monthly expenses and basic needs were able to continue their education. Through work and income related questions**, 3% of families also flagged that their children were working.** It is unclear whether these children continue education or not.

2nd round also looked at access to Public Education Centers (PEC) and available courses. As is the case with participation in higher education, the majority of adults in households (75%) did not participate in PEC courses prior to the pandemic. Of the remaining 25% who did attend PEC courses, 18% participated in Turkish language courses, followed by vocational courses (3%) and general hobby courses (3%). From a gender perspective, members of female headed households had less access to courses (20%) compared to members of male headed households (27%).

Work

Results indicate that **prior to the pandemic, most respondents across all nationalities worked informally (62%) and 10% worked formally.**

31% of respondents expressed that they were not working. For these respondents, the most common barriers in accessing employment were identified as not being able to find jobs (29%) and long-term health conditions, injuries and/or disabilities that prevent working (26%).

A significant majority (78% on average), across all nationalities, responded that their working status and conditions have changed (negatively) due to the pandemic. The main reasons for this change include 25% who were dismissed by their employer (15% in Round 2, 13% in Round 1), 22% stopped working because of COVID-19 measures, 20% lost their jobs due to closure of workplace (29% in Round 2) and, 11% were sent on unpaid leave.

17% believe they will find jobs in the coming 1-3 months **(dropped from 27% in Round 2)**, whereas **7%** believe they will able to find a job in 3-6 months **(dropped from 20% in Round 2).** 63% expect to find a job but are not sure about the timing (an increase from 41% compared to Round 2). **13% do not believe they will be able to secure employment.**

Income and Assistance

In round 1, humanitarian assistance remains the main source of income for respondents, representing 34% of their reported income. It is followed by income through employment (30%) and personal savings (11%). On the other hand, humanitarian assistance (30%) ranks as the second source of income while the main source of income for respondents is employment, representing 42% of their reported income.

Almost 46% of the total expenditure in the 3rd round remains to be food costs (36% in Round 2), and 26% represents rent. Nearly 46% of interviewees (35% in round 2) are unable to cover their monthly expenses, and 38% can only partially cover them.

52% of respondents stated that they receive assistance through public institutions, local authorities, I/NGOs and UN agencies. Amongst those receiving assistance, the top three types of assistance are all via cash modality, including ESSN, CCTE and other cash assistance schemes. 50% of the respondents **are not satisfied** with the assistance they receive.

Access to Basic Needs

88% of respondents are not fully able cover their monthly expenses and basic household needs. From a gender perspective, **53% of female headed households, compared to 43% of male headed households, are unable to cover their monthly expenses.**

It is interesting to note that **out of the 88% of respondents who stated that they were not fully able to cover their monthly expenses, approximately half are not receiving any assistance.** The most widely adopted coping mechanisms include to borrow money / remittances to purchase essential items (28%), reduce essential food expenditure (22%) and spend household savings (18%).

Access to Hygiene Items

Overall, **54% of respondents are unable to access COVID-19 related hygiene items.**

When inquired about the reasons of not purchasing these items, respondents state they were unable to access masks due to high costs (85%), unavailability of items in shops (9%), and unsatisfactory quality of items (4%).

Protection and Community Concerns

In round 1, the list of protection and community concerns shared with respondents were as follows: increased stress, conflict among household members, domestic violence, homelessness, xenophobia, conflict / tension with local community members, crime, other, and no conflicts. Protection and community level concerns are increasing as the pandemic prolongs as of round 2.

Overall, 63% of the respondents reported some protection or community concerns during the COVID-19 pandemic. **The most frequently mentioned protection concerns include observations of increased stress within their communities (38%) and conflict amongst household members (13%). Only 2% reported conflict with local communities.**

43% informed that they have been experiencing increased stress within their own household, and 14% was partially experiencing increased stress within the household.

Globally, there is recognition that confinement at home that was brought about by the pandemic is likely to increase exposure or risk of violence and abuse. However, **assessment findings show that only 3% of all respondents stated that they were observing increases in domestic violence (of which 60% are female respondents).** Complementary to the 3% that observe increase in domestic violence, it is noted **that 78% of overall respondents feel safe at home at all times, whereas 16% feel safe most of the time.** However, in round 3, 29% mentioned that they heard or observed increase in domestic violence in their community (dropped slightly from 31% in Round 2) and 30% mention increased conflict/tension with the local community, showing a drop from 33% compared to Round 2 findings.

38% seek support from the police when they encounter a protection problem. As a first-choice option, 42% of male respondents state they seek support from the police, compared to 35% of female respondents who would seek support through family members. On the other hand, only 10% of all respondents stated they would seek support through UN agencies and NGOs when faced with a problem.

When asked where to seek assistance after a natural disaster, 25% mentioned Municipalities and 23% mentioned AFAD.

Conclusions

Levels of information on rights and services remain high, as corroborated in previous rounds.

Access to essential services seem to be deteriorating slightly over a period of time. The main barriers to accessing services are related to COVID-19 impact on reduced operational capacity of service providers and changes in service delivery. As in previous rounds, health services and service providers remained the hardest to reach, with inactivation of insurances (for IP applicants) increasing significantly as a barrier to access.

The levels of continued access to education remained similar to findings in Round 2. However, it is noted that compared to Round 1, children's continued participation in education is seemingly worsening.

The working status of a large majority has changed negatively, as in previous rounds. It is noted that the prospects of finding jobs have been decreasing steadily since the First Round.

Linked to previous rounds, socio-economic indicators are also showing a decrease over time. During 3rd round and compared to previous rounds, it is observed that those who are not able to cover their monthly expenses at all have increased significantly, whereas those who were able to partially cover

their expenses has decreased. Additionally, in Round 3, inability to pay utility bills became one of the most predominant factors of school dropouts, corroborating the findings of previous rounds that socio-economic deterioration of households will have direct impact on children's continued access to education. Lastly, one third of the refugee population still relies on humanitarian assistance as their only source of income.

Protection and community level concerns remain alarming, however unchanged compared to the previous round.

10.3. Annex 3 - Gender-Based Violence Case Studies

When a refugee gender-based violence survivor approaches to a law enforcement office for criminal complaint or protection demand the most possible challenges he/she would face could be discrimination and language barrier. The law enforcement units tend to reject applications from refugees regardless of the severity of the crime, or how the protection service provision is crucial for the individual.

Legal aid for refugees seems to be a solution for such an issue, and it should be provided starting from the application time to law enforcement offices. Legal support for criminal cases is regulated under "Ceza Muhakemesi Kanunu Gereğince Müdafi Ve Vekillerin Görevlendirilmeleri Ile Yapilacak Ödemelerin Usul Ve Esaslarina Ilişkin Yönetmelik". According to Article 5 of the above-mentioned directive, aggrieved party or complainant has the right to ask an attorney from bar association through the authority taking the statement who is generally a police chief. Thus, when a refugee faces maltreatment or discrimination in police stations, they also lose the chance to access legal aid since it is also law enforcement units who will demand an attorney for the complainant from bar association.

Involvement of community-based organizations and commissions of bar associations for sensitive legal cases of refugees do generally accelerate procedures, decrease the possibility of violation of refugee rights in criminal procedures, and increase the ability to access protection services. As it is mentioned below as the third case, involvement of Mersin Bar Association's Women Rights Commission and the President of Bar Association have enabled a beneficiary to settle in a safe shelter without an additional criminal complaint. Involvement of these actors had been critical for the particular case since the beneficiary had explained the incident of sexual assault many times in details which have traumatized her even further.

Unfortunately, not all I/NGOs are in cooperation with such organizations due to several reasons. These reasons are mainly political risks and recruiting lawyers who are not familiar with the context or who have no experience in women rights, refugee rights or any other disadvantageous groups. When it is

considered that the Bar Associations are among the most respected organizations in Turkey, I/NGOs might develop better coordination mechanisms with them with incentive and support of donor organizations such as ECHO.

Although Republic of Turkey declared withdrawal from Istanbul Convention, the particular Law No. 6284 to Protect Family and Prevent Violence against Women is still in force and implementation of women protection tools should be based on that law. In short, legal tools for protection of women and LGBTI+ are still legally available. Issues regarding implementation might be increased after the withdrawal from Istanbul Convention, yet it is attorneys' and I/NGOs' duty to advocate for those rights.

Violence Protection and Monitoring Centre (ŞÖNİM) is a key institution found under the Ministry of Labor, Family and Social Services where gender-based violence survivors can seek protection and support. However, for refugee women there are many arbitrary implementations which raise difficulties for them to access protection services. In every location where GOAL works, it is observed by PLCs that ŞÖNİM administrations do not accept women who had not filed a criminal complaint. Both the "Directive Regarding Violence Monitoring and Protection Centres" and Law No. 6284 allow the survivor to ask for a safe shelter and or protection without filling a criminal complaint.

Filling a criminal complaint might be difficult or traumatizing for refugee women especially if it is the first step of their case management process. When a refugee approaches a police station as a violence survivor, he/she would be exposed a different kind of violence again in police station. They generally are kept waiting for long hours and forced to explain the incident to different police officers many times within the same day which is traumatizing them even more and cause them to cease seeking for protection.

Moreover, there are not any interpreters based in police stations and they call someone from outside. The interpreters usually are male and do not speak Arabic very well. It is very easy to be a sworn translator in Turkey. There is not a central system to register them. The notaries are the competent authority to classify someone as a sworn translator. Especially GBV survivors are facing severe difficulty to explain themselves in front of a male interpreter along with male police officers. In all three case studies, the interpreters in police stations were male with poor Arabic skills.

Lastly, GBV refugee survivors are not being informed regarding the relevant procedures in police stations, ŞÖNİMs and other institutions. Additionally, taking consent from applicants is often disregarded. In the third case study, the beneficiary was not informed regarding the details of internal body examination by doctors and forced for the examination. Although the PLC

had briefly explained her the process, it should have been explained by medical staff ensuring the beneficiary clearly understood the procedure.

After a woman is admitted to a safe house under ŞÖNİM, they are no longer allowed to use mobile phones and communicate with people from outside because of protection concerns. GBV survivors generally leave everything behind and go without any personal belongings including money, identity documents or mobile phones. After admission, it is very hard contact them. To visit someone staying in a safe shelter, it is mandatory to apply to Provincial Directorate of the Ministry of Labor, Family and Social Services and they usually reject such applications due to protection concerns. Therefore, after a beneficiary settled in a women shelter, I/NGOs' case workers or PLCs are usually not able to communicate with the beneficiary.

It is commonly observed that ŞÖNİMs are sheltering over their capacity and they usually just dismiss anyone who wants to leave only by taking their written consent. However, women are usually not informed that they might not be accepted again by ŞÖNİM.

Although police officers are generally not willing to apply court verdicts given based on Law No. 6284, it is possible to create positive impact on the field with the support of voluntarily based organizations, bar associations and lawyers experienced on particularly refugee and women rights law and its implementation in the field by advocacy and follow up.

Case Study 1

S.A. (Syrian, 31 years old single mother) and her daughter (5 years old) live in Adana Yüreğir within the same household of S.A.'s parents and brothers. S.A. fled to Turkey by illegally crossing the border in 2011. She got married with a customary ceremony in 2013 and moved to Şanlıurfa with her husband. She had a daughter from this marriage. In 2018 she got divorced, after her husband left her, and came back to Adana where her parents still live in.

S.A. approached GOAL office on the 21st of October 2020 to ask for information and support regarding TPID verification for herself and her daughter. After her interview with GOAL's Protection Worker, SA stated that she is constantly being threatened by her ex-husband and is being exposed to psychological violence. However, since she was afraid of him, she did not want to fill a criminal complaint or ask for a protective or preventive measure under the Law to Protect Family and Prevent Violence against Woman (Law Nr. 6284). Since she was not feeling ready, safe, and empowered to file a complaint by the time the interview was conducted, she was only informed regarding women's rights in Turkey, respective legal protective and preventive regulations, social services as well as services and supports provided by GOAL.

S.A. recontacted the protection case worker on February 10, 2021 and asked for immediate assistance from GOAL since her ex-husband had kidnapped her 5 years old daughter. GOAL's IPA team and Protection Legal Counsellor have accompanied her to Family Court in Adana Court House and filled a petition for her demanding protective and preventative order against husband according to 6284 Law to Protect Family and Prevent Violence against Woman, under which article 5(1) allows women to demand annulment of curatorship rights of the father in case of violence against woman.

Article 5 (1) –: "If there is a previous decision to allow having a personal connection, to have a personal connection with the children together with a company and to restrict the personal connection or to revoke it completely"

Based on the article, on the 17th of February the Judge gave a verdict to restrict personal connection between the perpetrator father and the child and send a percept to law enforcement unit to accompany S.A. when she goes to take her daughter from the house of the perpetrator father. Moreover, judge also decided to implement other protective orders such as restriction of communication between the perpetrator and women, restriction of approaching to S.A. and the child.

Following the verdict, on the 26th of February, S.A. notified the protection case worker in GOAL that her daughter who was kidnapped by her ex-husband was in Gaziantep. Upon receiving this notification, GOAL Gaziantep team applied to nearest police station with the verdict issued by Adana family court. The law enforcement unit rejected to implement the order since it was issued in another province's court which is against the law and the verdict issued by the judge. The next day, GOAL's Protection Legal Counsellor based in Gaziantep applied for another verdict with the same demands for S.A. in Gaziantep Family Court, however on the 1st of March, the court partially rejected the demand since there was already a verdict but send a warrant to Gaziantep Public Prosecution Office to implement the verdict given by Adana Family Court. On the same day GOAL's Protection Legal Counsellor accompanied S.A. in Gaziantep with Law Enforcement Units to where the perpetrator kept the child and took the child from him.

After taking the child, GOAL's Protection Legal Counsellor, SA and her daughter took a taxi to go to bus station since S.A. wanted to go back to Adana, however the perpetrator chased them. Upon noticing this, PLC, SA, and her daughter directly went to Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centre (ŞÖNİM) and sought shelter. Although they were chased by two males, the ŞÖNİM officers told them to go to a police station and that they cannot admit them without a criminal complaint. However, the center should accept anyone who expresses that she is under threat or exposed to violence according to the Law 6284 and as per the Directive Regarding Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centers.

Upon this, GOAL's Deputy Program Manager in Adana called 183 hotline and briefly explained the situation in there in order to prevent PLC, S.A., and her daughter's removal from the center. Following the call made to 183, a relevant official from the Provincial Directorate of Family, Labor and Social Services (PDoFLSS) contacted the center and prevented S.A.'s and her daughter's dismissal from the center. However, the center still did not accept SA and her daughter to stay in the shelter without filling a criminal complaint.

According to article 13 of the Regulation Regarding Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centers, a person can apply to ŞÖNİM by him/herself individually or one can apply via 183 hotline Based on the regulations, it is not mandatory to fill a complaint against perpetrator in order to seek refuge in a safe women shelter, yet in practice, ŞÖNİMs always ask to fill a complaint when a Syrian women approach.

GOAL's Protection Legal Counsellor's advocacy efforts in ŞÖNİM to admit SA and her daughter to ŞÖNİM had not succeeded. Upon this, GOAL's Deputy Program Manager joined PLC and accompanied SA and her daughter to a police station in order to fill a criminal complaint against the husband who had kidnapped the child and violated the verdict of the family court by approaching SA again.

It should be noted here that by the time GOAL's PLC and DPM decided to accompany SA and her daughter to the police station, it was noticed that they were being chased by two males with a motorcycle. Upon realizing this, they have asked the police officers in ŞÖNİM for an escort to police station. The police officers in ŞÖNİM had first rejected this and have only done so after insistent advocacy efforts by GOAL's PLC and DPM.

Eventually, SA was accompanied to the police station together with her daughter. Afterwards, she was also accompanied at a hospital for simple medical examination to see if she has any COVID-19 symptoms or not before her admission to the ŞÖNİM. It was at midnight time when SA and her daughter were finally placed in safe women shelter.

Case Study 2

N.M. was referred to GOAL by Danish Refugee Council's (DRC) Hatay office. According to her statement N.M. is an 18-year-old single woman living in İmamoğlu district of Adana with one of her cousins. Her reason for approaching GOAL was to ask for support to apply for Temporary Protection since she had recently fled Syria and crossed the Turkish border irregularly. Reportedly, she had not been able to register herself in Hatay province where her family lives in.

DRC colleagues informed GOAL Protection Team that she might be underage

and forced into marriage with an elder person. In order to gain N.M.'s and her family's trust, on 9th of February GOAL's protection worker assigned for this case invited her to GOAL's Social Support Centre (SSC) and they interviewed her individually in a private room. In the interview, the respective protection worker found out that N.M. was three months pregnant. Moreover, during the interview N.M. shared that she was 14 years old and was not very comfortable while talking about her husband, the pregnancy, and her age.

On the following day, on 10th of February, early in the morning GOAL's protection worker and Protection Legal Counsellor accompanied N.M. at İmamoğlu Family Court to apply for a protective order to ensure her access to health services. Law 6284 article 5(1) allows applicants to get receive medical care andin-patient treatment in a public health institution. Moreover article 19 allows Judges to decide SGBV survivors to be covered by general health insurance:

"ARTICLE 19 – (1) As per the provisions of this law, those for whom the protective cautionary decision is taken but who do not have general health insurance, who cannot benefit from a dependent insurance, who cannot benefit from general health insurance as a result of due payments and those who cannot benefit from treatment assistance for other provisional reasons are regarded as having general health insurance without an income test within the scope of article 60, paragraph 1, clause C and sub clause 1 of the Social Security and General Health Insurance Law no. 5510 dated 31/05/2006."

The court rejected the demand for general health insurance but gave a verdict ensuring N.M. to get medical care in Adana State Hospital. Protective and preventative orders are generally decided within the same day of application by Family Courts. GOAL's PLC had communicated with the Judge and swiftly took the decision. Then, GOAL Protection Team accompanied her to Adana State Hospital and protection worker had informed the doctor who examined NM regarding her situation. The doctor have noticed that N.M was underage and notified Public Prosecution Office.

Simultaneously, GOAL protection Team called 183 hotline and notified an incident of early forced marriage. According to N.M.'s statement a police officer went where she stays in Adana and have only investigated if she got married forcibly or not.t. The law enforcement unit did not take any further action.

GOAL Protection Team assisted N.M. to take a registration appointment in Adana PDMM. PDMM officials had pre-registered her as 18 years old based on her statement and gave another appointment date in April 2021. Since she is an adult based on her pre-registration document. , the law enforcement unit had not taken an action because N.M. did not fill any complaint.

In her second doctor appointment, the doctor –again- notified the public prosecution office, yet no action has been taken yet.

According to Turkish Criminal Code article 278 obliges any person to notice such crimes to Public Prosecution Office or relevant local authorities. However ineffective interference of law enforcement units generally causes the situation of early forced marriage survivors to get worse. After involvement of public institutions, perpetrators tend to change their location or restrain the child t not get in contact with their family members, neighbors, and friends.

Case Study 3

Z.N. is an 18-year-old single woman who fled Syria 7 months ago. She was referred to GOAL by Mersin PDMM's Human Trafficking focal point on March 15th, 2021.

Z.N. had been forced to marriage by her family members with a person she never saw before. After she refused to get married, she was kidnapped by that person. She was kept by force in a house located in Aydın province. She does not know how many days she was kept in there since she had stayed in darkness for days, there was not even a window to see sun light. She was exposed to sexual violence while she was drugged and unconscious few times. After an unknown person set her free, she went to a gendarmerie station in Aydın, and without taking her statement or taking any other actions, she was sent to Mersin where her TPID is registered.

When she arrived in Mersin on March 15, she was taken to Mersin PDMM by police officers. The Human Trafficking focal point have conducted an interview with her and decided to assess her as a survivor of human trafficking. The official had individually accompanied her to police station in the same day on around 10:30. Then he reached GOAL's Protection Team to request legal and interpretation support.

GOAL's PLC arrived the police station at 18:00. Up until then four different police officers in different times asked Z.N. what happened to her but none of them were taking her statement. All of them asked her not to fill a complaint since it is hard to find the perpetrator and if she is wrong, it may create trouble for her. When PLC intervened, he made sure that no one except the police officer taking the statement officially asked any more questions. Since Z.N. did not remember if she was exposed to sexual assault or not since she was unconscious for a long time, she was referred to a state hospital for internal body examination. There was not any female gynecologist at that time in the hospital and Z.N. refused to give consent for internal body examination. There was not any other convenient health institution for the examination.

Although Z.N. filled a criminal complaint the police station refused to issue a

protective order for Z.N. since they did not have domestic violence unit, and asked Z.N. to go district police department. However, Law 6284 clearly stated that all law enforcement units must take protective cautionary actions to provide safe shelter if delay is considered risky without waiting a decision from Family Court or Governorate.

"Article 3(2) - In cases where delay is considered to be risky, the measures as contained in the paragraph 1, clauses A and shall be taken by related law enforcement chiefs as well. Law enforcement chief shall present the report to the administrative chief for approval not later than the first workday after the decision is taken. The measures which are not approved by the administrative chief within forty-eight hours shall be per se abolished."

Z.N. passed out after she came back to police station from the hospital. GOAL PLC called an ambulance. After she recovered, she was accompanied to Mersin / Akdeniz District Police Department. The officers in the District Police Department took an additional statement and issued a protective order for her ensuring her settlement in a safe shelter. She arrived to shelter directly by police officers at 01:00.

Although Z.N. was an SGBV survivor she was not provided with psychological support. On the 31st of March she left ŞÖNİM's safe shelter for an unknown reason. She reached to GOAL protection worker and informed her regarding her situation and asked her assistance again. Z.N. said that she was taken by police from safe shelter on March 16, the following day she was settled in safe shelter by the order of public prosecution office, and she was forced for internal body examination. There was not anyone who is talking Arabic around her and she could not explain she wanted to be examined by a female doctor. After this incident she was informed that she exposed to sexual assault. S, both incidents affected her seriously. GOAL's protection worker and PLC met her immediately and found out that she was also exposed violence in safe shelter by other women staying there.

Since she needed psychological support and not able to take care of herself, GOAL Protection Team suggested her to settle ŞÖNİM's safe shelter again. When they approached ŞÖNİM they refused to accept her without a new criminal complaint. Since Z.N. was already severely traumatized, GOAL team insisted to settle her to safe shelter without going to a police station again and filling a complaint.

After ŞÖNİM's refusal, GOAL PLC informed 183 hotline and Mersin Bar Association. After involvement of the Bar President and pressure after constant notification to 183 hotline, they accepted her without a complaint. Nevertheless, Z.N. was waited for hours to be accepted to safe shelter.

Photo: Development Workshop