Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

Bilagsnr.:	**634**
Land:	Tyrkiet
Kilde:	UNHCR
Titel:	Inter-Agency Protection Sector Needs Assessment. Round 6. September 2022
Udgivet:	September 2022
Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet:	7. juni 2023

INTER-AGENCY PROTECTION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

ROUND 6
SEPTEMBER 2022

Acknowledgements

The Protection Working Group would like to thank the following **Sector Partners** and Organizations for their contribution and support to the UNHCR-led Inter-Agency Protection Needs Assessment Exercise:

ARSA, CARE, Concern, DRC, Dünya Evimiz, El-Bir, GOAL, Gökkuşağı Derneği, Himaye, HRDF, IBC, IDA, IOM, Malatya Şam Derneği, SENED, SEVKAR, SGDD-ASAM, SGYD, STL, UGDD, WALD, WHH.

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Executive Summary

This Sixth Round of the UNHCR-led Inter-Agency Protection Needs Assessment was carried out via 22 sector partners (including Community-Based Organizations) in September 2022 with a sample size of 1,168 individuals (representing a total of 5,588 persons at the household level). The majority of respondents participating in the exercise are Syrian, followed by Afghan, Iraqi, Iranian and individuals of other nationalities.

This comparative analysis aims to provide an overview of refugee needs and, in particular, the impact of the deteriorating socio-economic circumstances on refugee communities. Overall, the assessment provides an understanding of the general protection situation across Türkiye in relation to various thematic areas, including protection and community level concerns, access to registration, access to information, access to services (including health and education), work and income, access to basic needs and survival strategies. In Round 6, in consultation with sector partners, additional questions on disability prevalence, access to civil documentation, safety and security, and access to safe and dignified shelter were included. The resulting analysis puts forward various measures and interventions to address barriers and challenges identified through the assessment.

The main findings from the Round 6 assessment are highlighted below:

- Only 15% of respondents indicate that they can communicate fluently in Turkish. Among these, approximately 60% have official language certificates. Iranians were identified to have the highest fluency in Turkish, while Afghans, closely followed by Syrians have the lowest.
- 16% of respondents were identified to have a possible disability, with the majority being men and of Syrian origin. Among these respondents, 55% were identified to not have a disability report valid in Türkiye.
- Approximately half feel they have enough information on rights and services in Türkiye, with Afghans continuing to have less (perceived) access to information. The main information needs across groups include resettlement, financial/material assistance and, for the first-time since the needs assessments began in 2021, Turkish language courses in Türkiye. Interest in receiving individual in-person counselling is also increasing.
- Across respondents, 56% indicated they were able to access essential services, which represents an increase in barriers to access compared to Round 5. Across nationality groups, Iranians and Afghans continue to report the most difficulties in accessing services. Hardest to reach services include PDMM, ESSN/CCTE and, for the first-time, Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundations. The main barriers are no longer directly related to COVID-19 restrictions.
- In this Round, 90% attempted to access health services, of which 65% confirmed they were able to access services (35% not able to access). This represents an increase in barriers compared to Round 5, where of the 88% who attempted to access health services, 80% were able to and 20% faced challenges. As in previous Rounds, barriers faced by Syrians and individuals of other nationalities differ, with the latter (Iranians and Afghans specifically) facing difficulties mostly due to the inactivation of their health insurances. Among these, more than half indicate they have a specific need which may

trigger reactivation of their insurances, and the majority have approached PDMM to request reactivation, with no success.

- Among households with school-aged children, a quarter mention that none of their children are attending schools in Türkiye (highest for Syrians). Factors leading to children being out of school are highly inter-related with deteriorated socio-economic circumstances and peer bullying. Both issues are also mentioned in the context of challenges faced by children attending schools with differing frequency.
- As in previous Rounds, the assessment identified that 5% of all children at household level are engaged in child labor. Most of these children reside in urban areas within male-headed households, are between ages 15-17 and are of Syrian origin.
- Most respondents are working informally (higher for Syrians), whereas one-third are unemployed (higher for women and Iraqis). Nearly half of employed individuals mention being engaged in short-term/irregular jobs. A significant portion (58%) of respondents do not think safe employment opportunities are available to them in Türkiye and some (40%) also mention not feeling safe at work, which is highest for Iranians and Afghans which are the nationalities with the highest engagement in short-term/irregular jobs.
- More than one-third of respondents believe that sexual harassment and exploitation in the workplace is a concern for working refugees, and the same proportion mentioned that refugees are not aware of existing support mechanisms in Türkiye.
- The top three sources of income are work, humanitarian assistance and remittances. While 50% confirm receiving assistance (mostly in the form of cash), only 4% indicate that the assistance received meets their needs.
- Approximately 90% of households cannot fully cover their monthly expenses and have been forced to adopt a survival strategy, including reduction in essential food expenditure and consumption. These findings have remained relatively similar across Rounds.
- Some protection and community concerns were reported at considerably higher levels compared to Round 5. In Round 6, 58% confirmed observations of increased peer bullying between Turkish and refugee children and youth (41% in Round 5); 53% indicated increased conflict/tension with host community members (32% in Round 5); 41% underlined an increase in domestic violence within their communities (29% in Round 5), 39% mentioned increasing conflict amongst household members (36% in Round 5); 33% confirmed observations of increased child marriages within their communities (13% in Round 5), and 28% expressed an increase in sexual violence/abuse against women and girls (16% in Round 5). Many of these protection risks are reported at higher levels by Iranians and in the Southeast.
- Almost half think safe reporting of incidents of violence and/or sexual assault is possible and think it is likely a survivor would report the incident to relevant authorities (44% and 47% respectively). An additional 43% believe that a survivor would be able to access multi-sectoral GBV services in a safe manner.
- Many individuals continue to report increased stress levels, mostly linked to the uncertainty of their own/families' future in Türkiye and inability to meet expenses.
- One-third indicated that they faced a situation where they required legal assistance (including counselling, referral to legal aid, etc.) however among these, 26% were not

able to access support. Unmet needs in this regard have reduced since Round 5, however still exist, particularly for Iraqis (43% could not access despite needing to).

- Across groups, 65% report they have information on how to obtain civil documentation in Türkiye. Among the 35% who do not have enough information, 32% indicated that they needed to obtain documentation (primarily birth and marriage certificates). Women, Afghans and individuals residing in Central and East Anatolia & the Black Sea region have less knowledge on the matter, and the highest need for documentation is among Iranians, Syrians and in the Southeast. Approximately half believe that their civil documentation would be valid in their countries of origin.
- In relation to their shelter situation, a clear majority (95%) confirm residing in a rental house, of which 70% note they have a contract. Most respondents think their houses adequately protect them from weather conditions and that it meets their basic needs. However, approximately one-third mention that they share their houses with one or more families other than their own, despite most (78%) noting that they think they have enough privacy at home.
- Almost one-third of respondents feel worried about their safety when they go out in public spaces, and one-third do not feel safe when using public transportation. 78% across all groups indicate that being a refugee/asylum seeker, followed by their race/ethnicity (25%), are the primary factors affecting their safety. When asked what personal safety risks concern them the most, 64% mention tension with host communities as the primary risk.

Rationale and Objectives

The Protection Sector Working Group in Türkiye has been undertaking bi-annual joint needs assessments since June 2020. The process aims to develop a better understanding of the protection and humanitarian situation in Türkiye, establish a mechanism to systematically identify needs to better inform evidence-based programming and the larger refugee response; as well as to inform advocacy efforts on the local and central levels. The COVID-19 situation presented an opportunity for the sector to develop a harmonized, inter-agency needs assessment tool that is predominantly related to protection, with questions related to other sectors and thematic areas (education, livelihoods, basic needs, health), mainly from an access point of view.

Findings of the first five rounds of the protection needs assessment have been presented in multiple coordination fora, including but not limited to Protection and other 3RP sector meetings as well as the inter-sector coordination platform (i.e. Syria Task Force) in Türkiye. Findings formed the basis of the 2023-2025 3RP Protection Sector narrative which ultimately serves as the response framework for partners in Türkiye. In addition to overall observations of partners on the country-wide protection situation, findings from Round 6 formed the basis of a guidance document including recommendations on the scope and content of programming under the 3RP 2023-2025 appeal for the sector. Findings continue to be incorporated into the project proposals of partners and are shared with donors as part of ongoing advocacy efforts.

Round 6 of the Inter-Agency Protection Needs Assessment

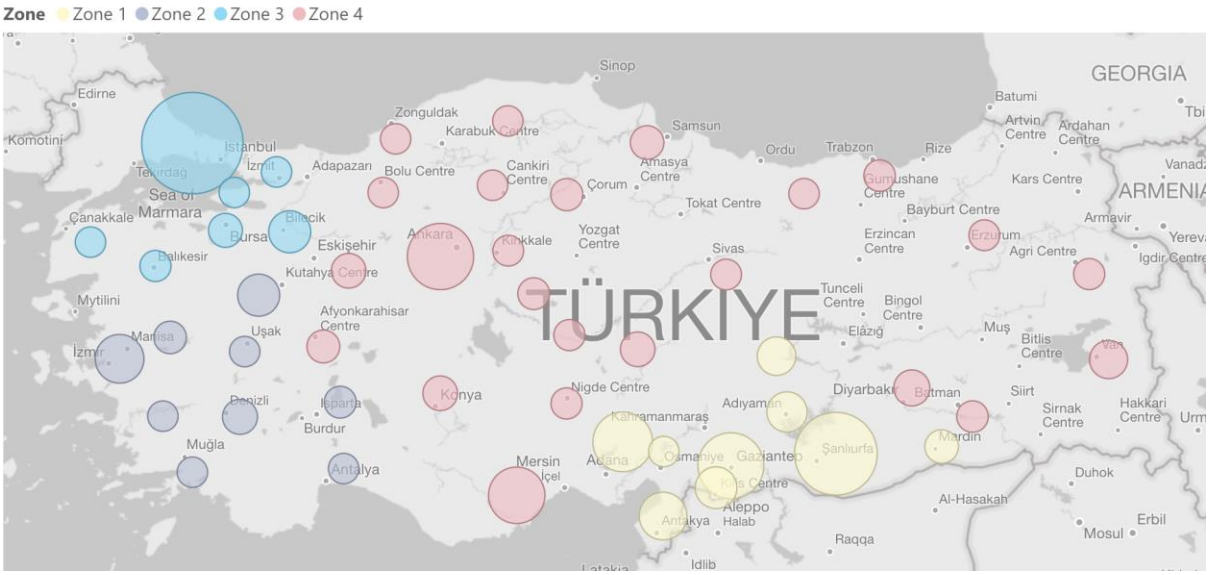
The common protection needs assessment questionnaire developed in collaboration with Protection sector partners in preparation of Round 6 of the exercise was revised to reflect recent changes in context.

Inquiry areas within the questionnaire included demographic information (including questions on disability status, education levels and Turkish language skills), including protection and community level concerns, access to registration, access to information, access to services (including health and education), work and income, access to basic needs and survival strategies. In Round 6, in consultation with sector partners, additional questions on disability prevalence, access to civil documentation, safety and security, and access to safe and dignified shelter were included. The questionnaire is made available through this link.

The process around methodology, sampling and geographical distribution was similar to Rounds 1-5 to ensure the comparability of findings over a period of time. For further information on the process please refer to Annex I. The data used for Round 6 was collected through phone interviews and via Kobo, between 9 August – 19 September 2022.

The anonymized data set for Round 6 is made available through this **PowerBI Dashboard**.

Respondent Profiles and Demographic Information



Map 1 The colours represent the four zones, while the size of the circles represents the density of individuals interviewed per location

In Round 6, sector partners conducted **phone interviews with a total of 1,168 individuals** that provided consent. This represents a total of 5,588 individuals at household level.

As in previous Rounds[1], the number of individuals interviewed were proportionate to the total population of refugees living in each zone. In Round 6, the highest number of interviews were conducted in the Southeast (483), followed by Central and East Anatolia & Black Sea (314), Marmara (254) and Aegean (117).

The assessment continues to aim at identifying the varying needs of different nationality groups. As such and as in previous Rounds, the **sample included individuals of nationalities other than Syrian as well**. The nationality breakdown per geographical zone for Round 6 is as follows:

Geographical Zone	Syria	Afghanistan	Iraq	Iran	Other
Southeast	404	23	23	22	11
Central & East Anatolia and Black Sea	104	103	68	30	9
Marmara	166	36	10	22	20
Aegean	49	25	18	18	7
Total	**723**	**187**	**119**	**92**	**47**

[1] In the **First Round**, the number of interviews per zone were as follows: 441 in the Southeast, 295 in Central & East Anatolia and Black Sea, 221 in Marmara and 63 in the Aegean.

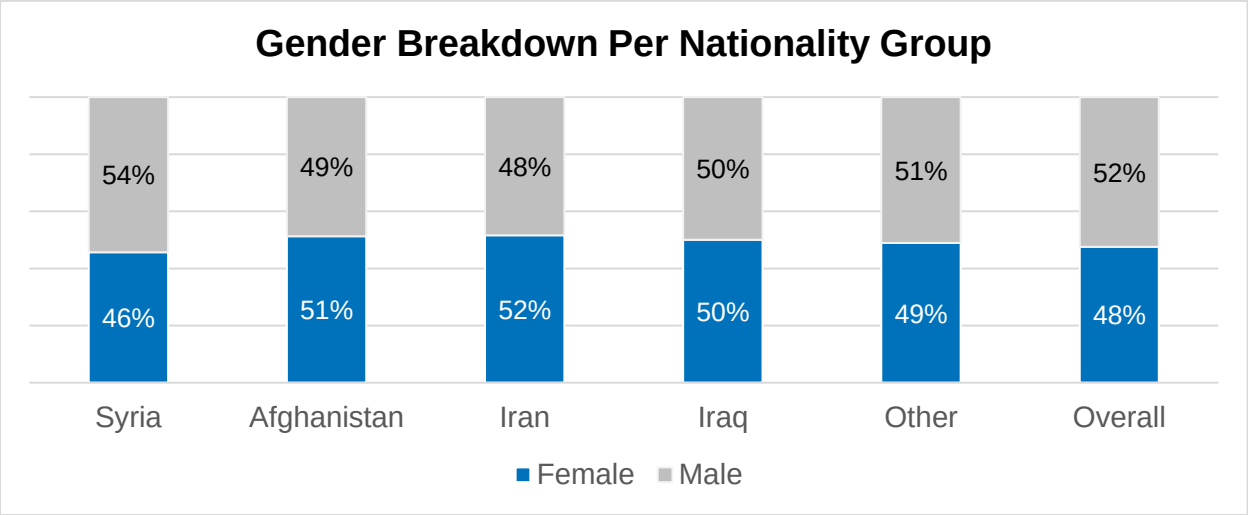
In the **Second Round**, the number of interviews per zone were as follows: 481 in the Southeast, 299 in Central & East Anatolia and Black Sea, 218 in Marmara and 57 in the Aegean.

In the **Third Round**, the number of interviews per zone were as follows: 514 in the Southeast, 343 in Central & East Anatolia and Black Sea, 241 in Marmara and 75 in the Aegean.

In the **Fourth Round**, the number of interviews per zone were as follows: 506 in the Southeast, 397 in Central & East Anatolia and Black Sea, 234 in Marmara, and 84 in the Aegean.

In the **Fifth Round**, the number of interviews per zone were as follows: 421 in the Southeast, 63 in the Aegean, 221 in Marmara, and 295 in Central & East Anatolia and Black Sea.

As in previous Rounds, the gender breakdown of respondents was derived based on caseloads received through contributing partners. Accordingly, **53% of respondents are women**, 47% are men. Only 3 individuals identified as gender non-binary. Gender breakdown per nationality group is indicated below:



78% of the households interviewed are male headed, and 22% are female headed. Details on age and gender breakdown of households is available below:

Gender/	0-5	6-17	18-65	65+	Total
Female	479	1,013	1,402	47	**2,941**
Male	458	908	1,236	39	**2,641**
Gender Non-Binary	-	-	6	-	**6**
Total	937	1,921	2,644	86	**5,588**

Most respondents (69%) reside in urban areas, followed by those residing in rural areas (30%). In Round 5, 88% of respondents resided in urban areas and 12% in rural. The shift in residential locations of respondents may be related to a temporary move from urban to rural areas for seasonal work. Other factors behind the shift may include respondents' perception of what an urban versus rural area may consist of. The sample for urban and rural respondents are both representative of the respective populations. However, only 14 individuals were identified as mobile, whereas 2 were identified to be in Temporary Accommodation Centers (TACs). The assessment will not look into the differences in access to rights and services for mobile populations and individuals in TACs, as the sample sizes do not allow for representative analysis.

At the time of sampling and data collection, **80% were recorded in partner databases as persons with specific needs**[2].

[2] The scope and definition of persons with specific needs is taken widely, including those with protection needs, at risk of exposure to a protection concern, those who would be referred for individual protection assistance (etc.). A common set of defined risk categories were shared with contributing organizations to promote a shared understanding of who would fall under these categories.

In discussion with the 3RP Disability Inclusion Task Team, the short set of Washington Group Questions on Disability were included in this Round to collect data related to disability prevalence within refugee communities in Türkiye and to identify their needs better. The short set of Washington Group Questions probe into whether individuals have any difficulties seeing, walking/climbing steps, remembering/concentrating, hearing, communicating and self-care. Respondents were expected to provide responses only on their behalf. The standard analysis of the short set of Washington Group Questions is to record someone as having a disability if they answer "Yes – a lot of difficulty" or "Cannot do at all" to at least one of the six questions included. Accordingly, **187 individuals were identified to have a possible disability, accounting for 16% of all individuals interviewed**[3]. Among these, 57% are men, and most are Syrian (62%). While the assessment does not probe into details related to the type of disability, findings indicate that most of these individuals experience difficulties with walking/climbing steps and seeing.

Among respondents who were identified as having a possible disability, **55% indicated that they do not have a disability report obtained in Türkiye.** Among these individuals, one-third did not attempt to obtain the report (29%), some could not access it despite attempting to (17%), while others had a report in the past that is currently not valid (9%). The main reasons for not having access to disability reports include not knowing about the need for a report (21%), not having active health insurance, lack of information on how/where to obtain it (13%) and absence of registration (11%). To note, health insurance as a barrier in accessing these reports is significantly higher for Iranians and Afghans compared to other groups (50% and 46%, respectively), while financial barriers are higher for Iraqis compared to others (30% versus 11% overall).

Across respondents, the highest level of education is reported to be primary (35%), followed by secondary (24%) and undergraduate degree (18%). To note, while 6% of all respondents indicate they are not illiterate despite not graduating from an educational institution, this is notably higher among Afghans (21%).

Overall levels of Turkish language skills were identified to be low, as **only 15% indicate they can communicate fluently in Turkish**. However, among those that can communicate fluently, many (60%) have obtained official language certificates of which most are at C1/advanced level. To note, the lowest levels of Turkish language speaking ability was identified among women, Afghans and Syrians. Further, the assessment identified that the likelihood of rural populations, men, Iraqis and Syrians having official language certificates is less than their counterparts (i.e. urban populations, women, and other nationality groups) to obtain language certificates.

Registration Status

As in previous Rounds, a clear majority of interviewed individuals are registered with the Presidency of Migration Management in Türkiye (only 3% were identified to be pending registration and documentation). Across groups, 58% confirmed they were registered under

[3] According to WHO estimations, over 1 billion people worldwide (approximately 15%) live with some form of disability. In the absence of official statistics related to how many persons on the move are also persons with disabilities, the 15% prevalence rate is applied in migration contexts as well. Findings on disability prevalence in refugee communities in Türkiye is very much in line with the global statistics.

Temporary Protection, whereas 31% are registered under International Protection (the remainder hold residence permits). Most respondents were identified to be residing in their province of registration (92%). However, it should be noted that the assessment did not inquire into mobility within provinces.

83% of the registered Syrians are Temporary Protection beneficiaries, whereas 16% are Temporary Protection applicants. The 1% includes those whose registrations were deactivated due to failure to register/update their address and due to the V-87 code.

The breakdown of status for those registered under International Protection include individuals that were granted conditional refugee status (44%), those pending International Protection interviews (31%), and those that are pending decisions post-interview (15%). At the time of data collection, no individuals were identified to have a deactivated registration due to their failure to register/update their address.

In terms of major differences in international protection status between nationality groups, the findings indicate that Afghans have the highest rates for pending interviews (46%), Iraqis have the highest rates of conditional refugee status (61%) and Iranians have the highest rates of rejections (23%) and appeal towards negative decisions (19%).

For the 3% who indicated they were not registered with Provincial Directorates of Migration Management (PDMM), the main reasons for pending registration include cities being closed for registration (36%), not being informed by PDMM as to the reason for pending registration (28%), lack of required documentation (14%) and other factors. Most individuals pending registration and documentation are Syrians.

The assessment probed into the actions taken by PDMMs for those who confirmed approaching PDMM for registration but were not able to access registration. Accordingly, most (61%) indicated that no action was taken by PDMM, whereas others mentioned that they were referred verbally to a referral center/another province (9%) or given signature duty[4] without documentation (9%).

Access to Civil Documentation

In consultation with Protection Sector partners, an ad hoc thematic inquiry area on access to civil documentation was incorporated into the assessment in Round 6, to better understand refugees' levels of knowledge and awareness on importance of civil documentation, how and where to obtain it, and if they faced any barriers in accessing relevant service providers.

Findings indicate that **overall levels of knowledge on obtaining civil documentation is in line with the assessment's findings on access to information on rights and services. Across groups, 65% report they know how to obtain civil documentation in Türkiye.** Afghans (65% do not have information on how to obtain), women (41% of women headed households, 38% of women respondents), and individuals residing in Central & East Anatolia and Black Sea (47%) were identified to have the lowest levels of knowledge on accessing civil documentation in Türkiye.

[4] According to the Article 57/A and 110 of the Law on Foreigners and International Protection, the newcomers who approached PDMM to register themselves are obliged to comply with the signature duty, by reporting to PDMM at regular intervals and signing themselves in, during the processing of their registration application, for more information please check: https://www.resmigazete.gov.tr/eskiler/2022/09/20220914-3.htm

32% of respondents indicated that they needed to access civil documentation in Türkiye, with most needing to obtain birth certificates (67%) followed by marriage certificates (37%). While it may seem like the need for documentation is low within refugee communities, considering the low levels of knowledge on civil documentation overall, it is likely that the need may be higher if and once individuals' awareness on civil documentation is strengthened. To note, the need for civil documentation was identified to be higher for Iranians (39%), Syrians (37%) and individuals residing in the Southeast (38%). The main difference between these groups is that Iranians indicate a much higher need for divorce certificates than overall (41% compared to 10% across groups). The need for divorce certificates is also notably higher for women compared to men (18% versus 3%).

Among those who indicated a need for civil documentation (and attempted to obtain it), 62% expressed that they did not face barriers in accessing relevant service providers. Among those who did face difficulties in accessing services, findings show that access barriers were more prevalent for Syrians (43%), women (42% versus 34% for men), individuals residing in rural areas (40% versus 34% for urban) and in the Central and East Anatolia & Black Sea region (41%).

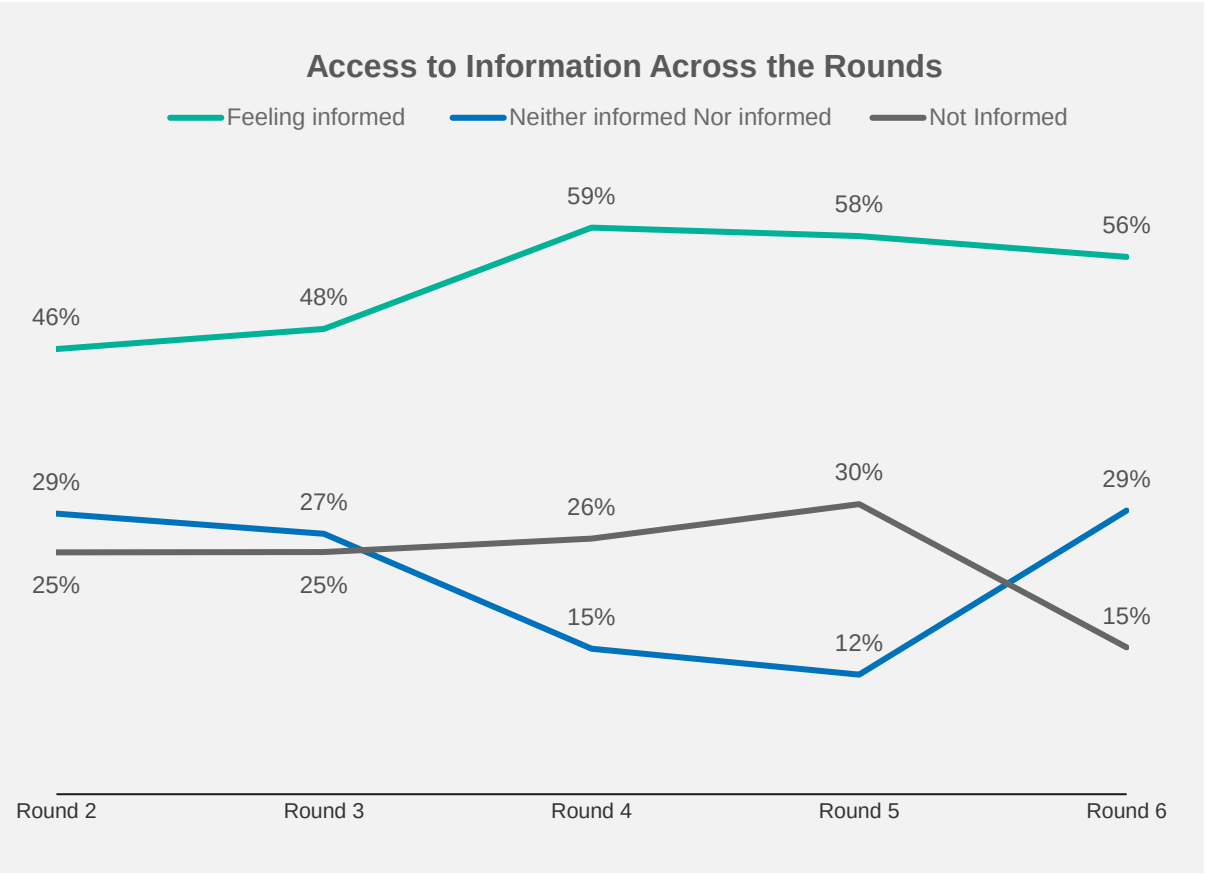
Across groups (including those mentioned above), **the main barriers in accessing civil documentation service providers include a lack of the required documentation from countries of origin (29%), crowded service providers (18%), financial barriers (16%) and refugees' limited information on the obligation to obtain civil documentation for certain procedures (16%)**. Respondents expressed that they were not able to reach the following services due to lack of civil documentation: data update with PDMM (55%), resettlement to a third country (29%) and access to assistance (19%). The only major difference between groups is that Iraqis mentioned not being able to access legal assistance/aid at significantly higher levels compared to overall (29% versus 7%), which is also validated through the findings on unmet legal assistance needs.

Approximately one-third of respondents do not know whether the civil documentation they hold would be valid in their countries of origin, and an additional 16% said that their documentation would not be valid upon return. Respondents from the Central and East Anatolia & Black Sea region (48%), Afghans (41%) and Iraqis (35%) were identified to have the lowest levels of knowledge on whether their documentation would be valid or not.

Access to Information

As in previous rounds, this section of the assessment aimed to measure respondents' perceptions on their levels of access to information on rights and services rather than actual levels of awareness. In Round 6, **55% of respondents confirmed feeling informed on rights and services available to them in Türkiye**. To note, Afghans were identified to have lowest levels of perceived awareness and knowledge on rights and services (28% do not feel informed compared to 15% overall). As of the Second Round[5] of the assessment, the overall average for those who indicated they felt informed at some level is 53%.

[5] In Round 1, as with other sections in the assessment, information needs were very much focused on COVID-19 risk mitigation, prevention and response measures. Hence regular information needs including related to resettlement and/or financial/material assistance was not inquired into.



The main information needs across groups include resettlement (32%), financial/material assistance (31%), and Turkish language courses in Türkiye. While the first two information categories remained among the top needs from Round 2 onwards[6], Turkish **language courses were prioritized as an information need for the first time in this Round**. To note, the need for information on Turkish language courses identified by urban respondents is twice the need identified by rural respondents.

The most notable differences between nationality groups in relation to information needs is that resettlement is prioritized by Afghans at notably higher levels (52%), while information on family reunification procedures in third countries is more prominent for Iraqis compared to other nationality groups (16% for Iraqis compared to 5% overall).

In Round 6, respondents were asked specifically about their information needs related to PDMM procedures considering the changes introduced by PDMMs including address registration/verification and related deactivation/reactivation of IDs, as well as referrals of Syrians pending registration to Temporary Accommodation Centres. Findings indicate that in addition to differences between population groups in terms of categories of information needs, overall, rural respondents and Iranians require more information on PDMM services compared to other groups.

Across groups, respondents identified registration and documentation (48%), address registration (32%) and reactivation of IDs (27%) as PDMM processes they require information on. The most significant differences between groups are for urban versus rural respondents, and between nationality and sex groups. To specify, the need for registration

[6] ibid

and documentation-related information is significantly higher for urban respondents (67% identify this as a need) compared to rural, who also prioritize information related to obtaining travel permissions (23%). Furthermore, for both women headed households (68% for women HH compared to 43% for men HH) and women respondents (54% versus 42% respectively), the need for registration and documentation information is significantly higher compared to their male counterparts. In terms of nationality groups, the need for information on registration/documentation (67%), address registration (50%) and travel permissions (50%) are all highest among Iraqi respondents.

Sources of information on available rights and services have remained mostly unchanged since Round 1. The **top sources of information identified across respondents include friends, family and neighbours (56%), online refugee groups (50%) and NGOs (36%)**. An additional 19% respectively identified public institutions and UN agencies as their primary sources of information. Some differences between sex and nationality groups are identified. To specify, online refugee groups is slightly more preferred as a source for both male-headed households and male respondents. In terms of nationality groups, the most notable differences include prioritization of NGOs and UN agencies as primary sources of information particularly by Iranians, Afghans and Iraqis respectively. Further, government websites and channels are identified as importance sources by Afghans and Iranians.

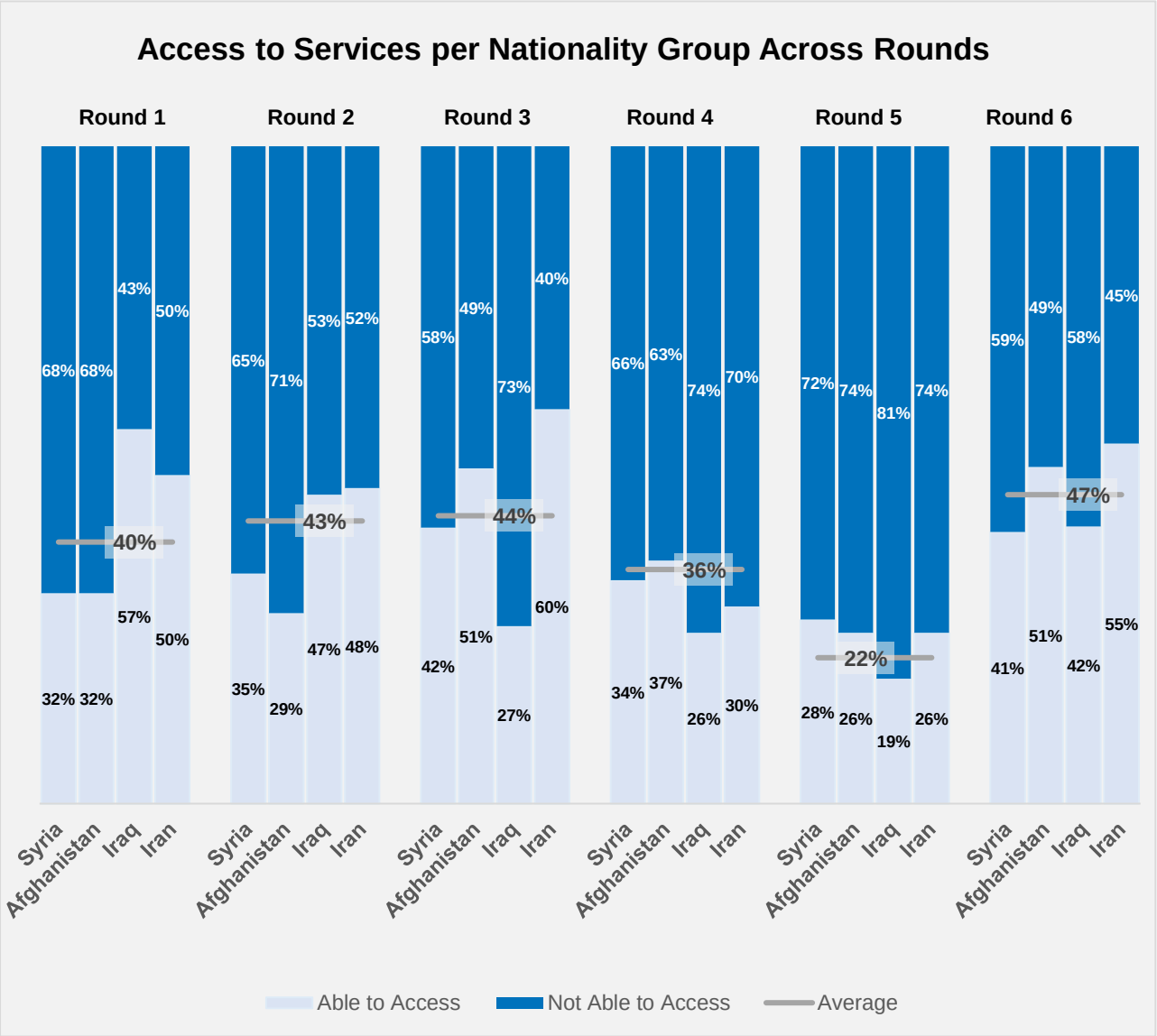
With the exception of one-to-one counselling in-person, community preferences in terms of channels to receive information have remained the same across Rounds. While Iraqis had noted **in-person counselling** to be among their top three preferred channels to receive information in Round 5, in this Round, this **was identified as a top channel across all groups**. In addition to overall preferences, Afghans and Iranians also rank individual counselling via telephone among their preferred channels to receive information.

Access to Services

Across respondents, 93% confirmed that they attempted to access at least one essential service and service provider[7] in the past 6 months. Of these, **41% indicated that they were not able to access at least one essential service**, with barriers slightly more prevalent for rural populations (46% of rural respondents unable to access compared to 39% in urban), Iranians (52%) and Afghans (48%). To note, while access to services has been fluctuating across groups and for specific population groups over time, in comparison to Round 5, access

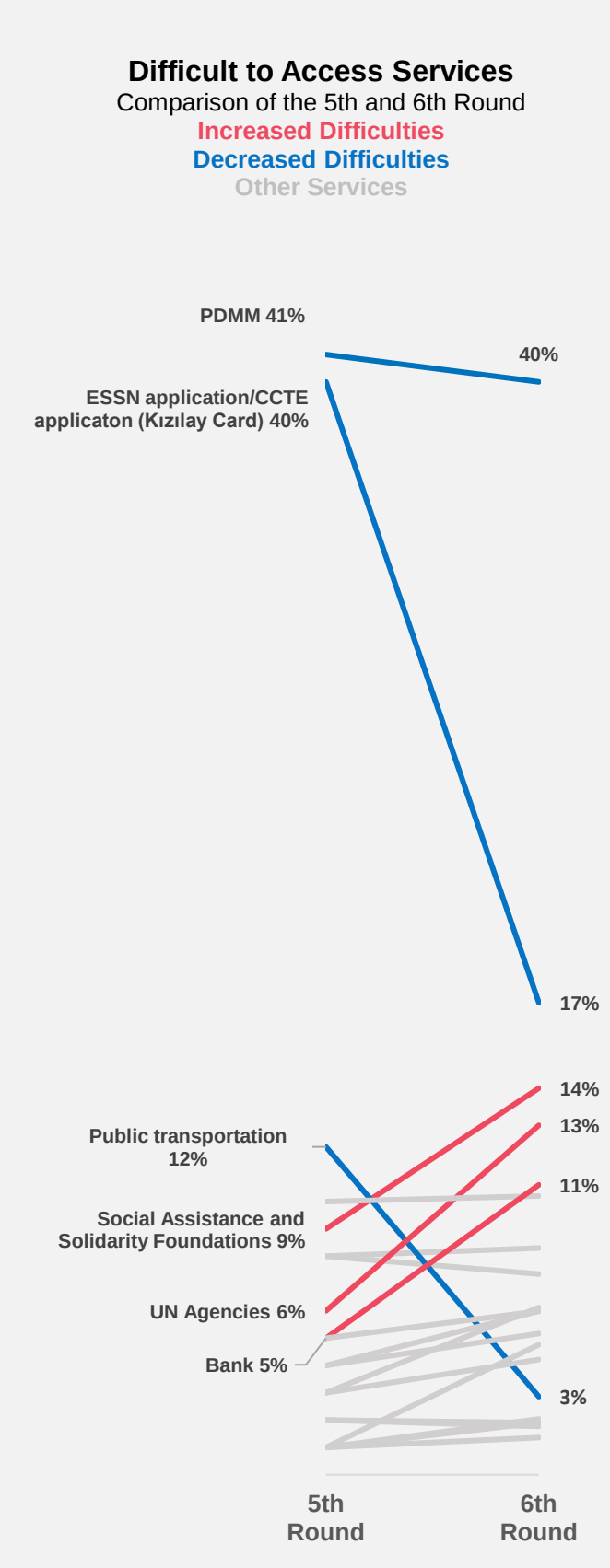
[7] In Round 6 of the assessment, essential services and service providers included the following (listed in order of services that are difficult to reach): PDMM (40%), ESSN/CCTE (17%), SASF (14%), UN agencies (13%), other (13%), bank (11%), PEC (10%), PDoFSS (8%), NGOs (7%), e-Devlet (6%), Government Hotlines (6%), municipalities (6%), IŞKUR (5%), Civil Registry Offices (5%), family reunification (4%), PTT (4%), public transportation (3%), mukhtars (2%), judicial services (2%), police department (2%), District Governorate (2%), other MoFSS institutions (1%), and guidance and research centers (1%).

difficulties seem to have increased in this Round (17% higher compared to the previous Round). The below chart provides an overview of the levels of access to services since June 2020.



Difficult to reach services and service providers remained relatively unchanged over time, with **PDMM services and ESSN/CCTE ranked in every Round (including Round 6) among the most difficult to reach services/service providers**. For the first time in this Round, Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundations (SASFs) were identified as the third most difficult to reach service provider. This may also be the case due to the increased need for access to social assistance (i.e., increased demand for SASF services), in consideration of the current socio-economic context and refugees' reduced ability to cover monthly expenses and basic needs.

Respondents who indicated they were unable to reach PDMM services despite attempting to were also asked which specific processes and services they were unable to reach via PDMMs. Accordingly, **data updates, registration, and health insurance reactivation were identified as the top three most difficult to access PDMM services**. There are, however,

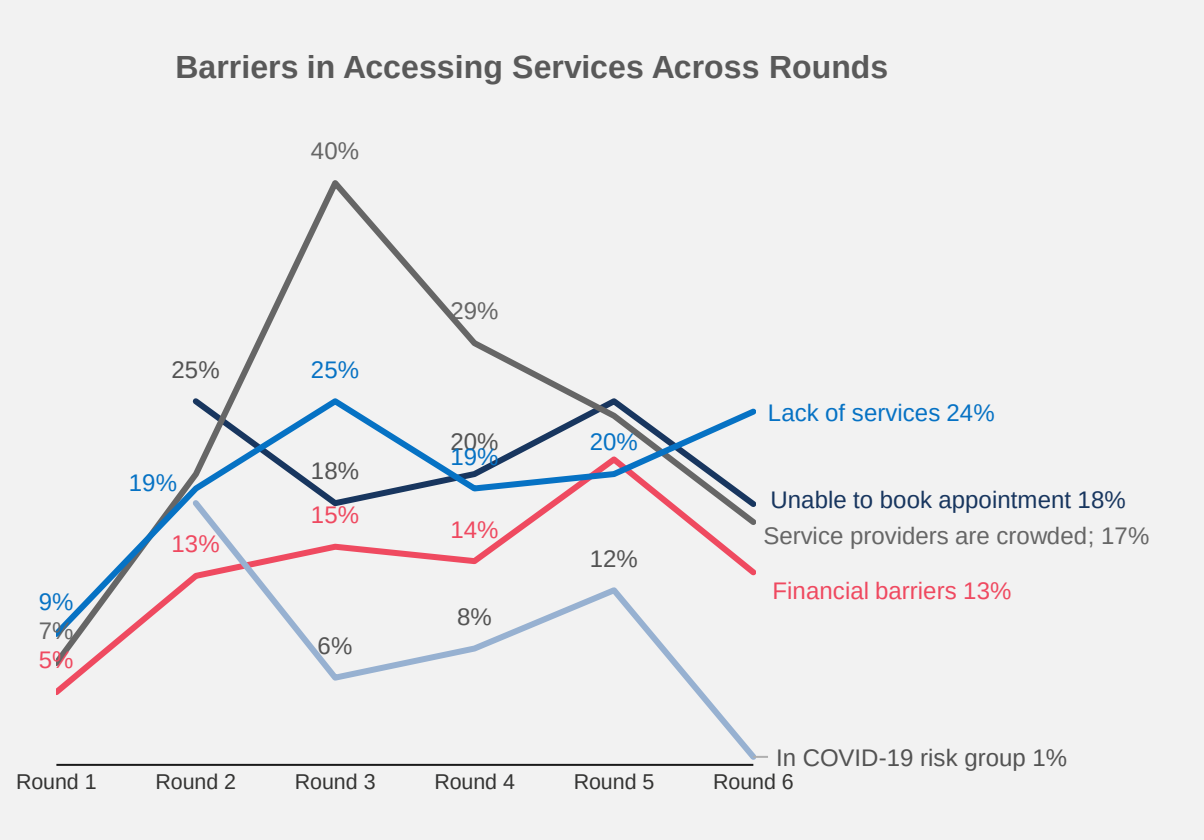


significant differences between rural versus urban respondents, sex and nationality groups, as well as locations in terms of difficult to access PDMM services. Among the most notable are that travel permissions are significantly more difficult to access for urban respondents, registration is more difficult to reach for women and urban respondents in general, and health insurance reactivation is the most difficult to reach for Iranians, Afghans and Iraqis. Lastly, both health insurance reactivation and travel permissions are more difficult to reach in the Aegean.

General barriers in accessing services (not limited to PDMM) **include service providers not being helpful (25%), unavailability of services (24%), and inability to book appointments (18%)**. While in previous Rounds, COVID-19 and related restrictions were identified as having a notable impact on access to service providers (such as closure of services, overcrowding in service providers, inability to book online appointments to access services), the barriers identified as in Round 6 are no longer related to COVID-19 restrictions.

Some of the main differences in barriers to accessing services across groups include rural respondents ranking lack of services (26%) as the top reason for their inability to access, not satisfying the eligibility criteria for services (15% compared to 4% overall) as well as ID inactivation (12% compared to 6 overall) being indicated by Iranians, and in a similar vein, financial barriers (19% compared to 13% overall) being mentioned as a more prominent challenge by Afghans compared to others.

Across groups, **7% did not attempt to access essential services and service providers**, remaining consistent with previous Rounds. The main reasons for not attempting to access services include overcrowded service providers, lack of services and physical impairments. It is noted that **none of the reasons mentioned for not attempting to access services suggest that individuals are not in need of services**.



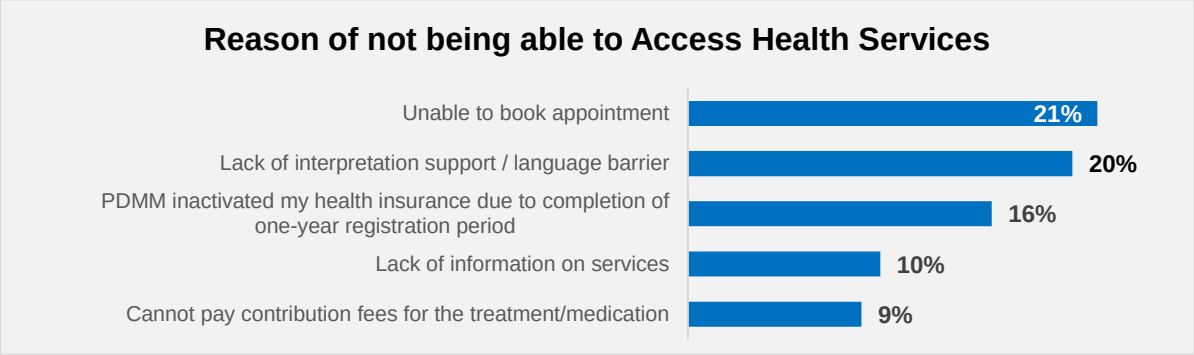
Access to Health Services

Of the 90% who attempted to access health services, 65% confirmed they were able to access (35% were not able to access). This represents a reduction in access to health services from the previous Round where 88% of respondents attempted to access of which 80% confirmed they were able to and 20% were unable to access. To note, findings show that Syrians face less barriers in access to health services compared to individuals of other nationalities, as 41% of the latter indicate they were unable to access despite attempting to, compared to 26% of Syrians.

As in previous Rounds, Syrians and individuals of nationalities other than Syrian continue to face separate barriers in accessing health services. Syrians who attempt to access health services but report not being able to indicate an inability to book appointments (30%), language barrier (29%) and lack of information on services (14%) as the main barriers. **For individuals of nationalities other than Syrian, while notably lower compared to Round 5 (where 72% could not access), health insurance deactivation (51% in total[8]) remains the main barrier in their access to health services**, in addition to their inability to pay

[8] Breakdown of barriers under health insurance deactivation is as follows: 34% of respondents from nationalities other than Syria indicated PDMM inactivated their health insurance due to completion of one-year registration period, 9% mention inactivation without knowing the reason why, and 8% indicate their IP application was rejected.

contribution fees (15%) and book appointments (11%). Among those who mentioned health insurance deactivation as a barrier in access to health services, **65% self-identified to have**



one or more specific needs that would trigger an individual assessment towards insurance reactivation upon approaching PDMM. Breakdown of these specific needs include having medical concerns (44%), falling under another category of persons with specific needs (17%), being a single parent with accompanying child/ren (11%), being a person with a disability (4%) and/or being an older person (4%). Furthermore, while most respondents (86%) mentioned approaching PDMM to request assessment towards reactivation of their insurance, 36% indicated that they were unable due to lack of a medical report documenting their need, while for 29% their medical concern was not found serious enough.

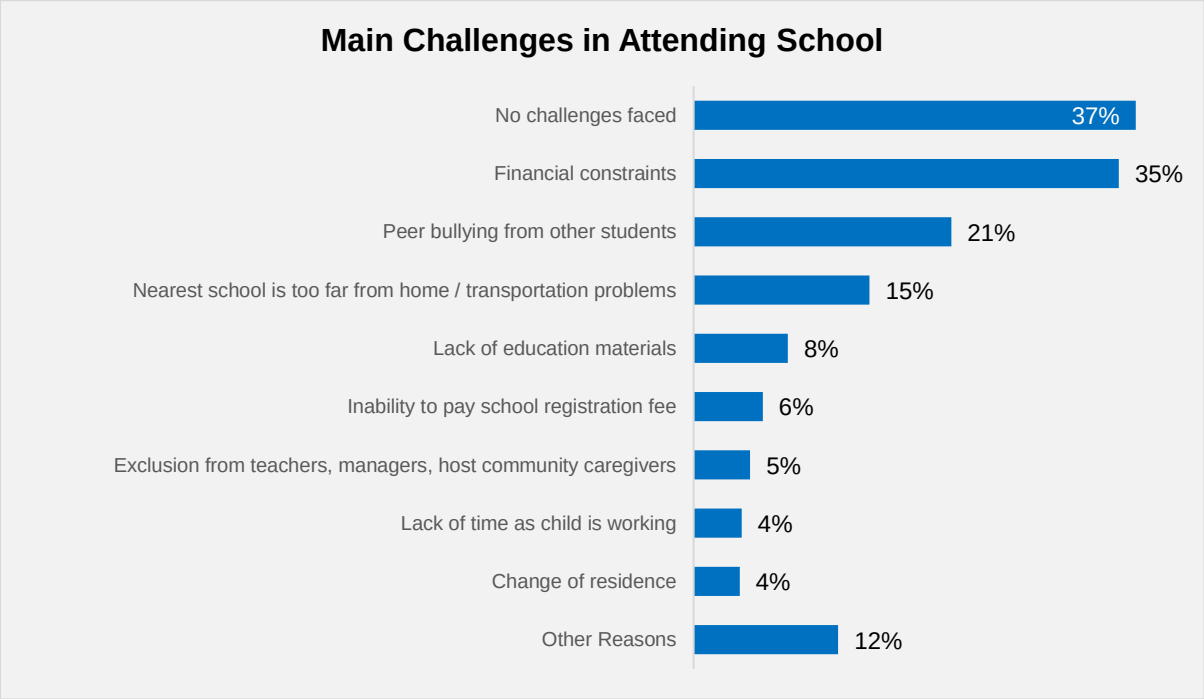
Attendance in Formal and Public Education

The questions under this section were reformulated in the survey to better identify attendance related issues at household level, rather than to identify the circumstances for each individual child within the household, given the general limitations of the exercise (i.e. conducting phone interviews, providing limited time to inquire into individual level circumstances). The questions were only asked to individuals who confirmed there were children in their households within the demographic section of the survey.

More than half of households with children (57%) indicated that all their children are attending schools. However, **a quarter of households mentioned that none of their children are attending schools, suggesting that they are all out of school**. Findings show that most out of school children are of Syrian origin. Additionally, 10% mentioned that some of their children are attending schools, whereas 8% indicated that the majority of their children are attending schools.

Upon identifying the overall levels of attendance in schools for households with children, the assessment probed into the attendance frequency for those who indicated all their children were attending schools. Accordingly, 93% of respondents mentioned that their children always attend school. This suggests that children from households who send all their children to schools are likely to have a high attendance rate.

The assessment looked into challenges faced by children from households that send all, a majority or some children to school, with the understanding that even if children may be attending schools, they may still face some challenges including with (factors that may risk) continued attendance. While 37% mention that they did not face any challenges, 35% indicated that they were experiencing financial constraints at household level, whereas 21% observed that their children were being exposed to peer bullying. In addition to these overall challenges, notable differences between nationality groups were also identified. Namely, Afghans mention financial constraints (47%) and lack of education materials (17% compared to 8% overall), Iranians rank peer bullying as the first challenge (50%) and Iraqis mention distance/transportation problems (18% compared to 11%) at higher levels compared to others.



The main reasons for children being out of school were identified to be heavily related to households' financial circumstances. To specify, of households that indicated the majority, some or none of their children attended schools, **42% of respondents mentioned financial barriers and 17% indicated child labour as reasons for their children being out of school**. In terms of reasons for children being out of school, some notable differences between groups were identified. For example, Afghan and Iranian households refer to financial barriers most among all nationality groups (54% and 50%, respectively), Afghans also mention distance to schools (14% compared to 8% overall) and problems faced during registration and documentation (12% compared to 7% overall) at slightly higher levels, whereas Iranians indicate deteriorated MHPSS of children (10% compared to 2% overall) and faced exclusion by the teachers, managers, host caregivers (10% compared to 2% overall).

Through employment related questions, the assessment identified that **among the 1,046 individuals that are currently working, 144 are below 18 (i.e. 14% of all working individuals are children)**. This amounts to 5% of all children identified at household level through the assessment, which remains consistent with findings on child labor in previous Rounds. Most working children are boys (83% of all working children), of Syrian origin (78%), reside in urban areas (71% compared to 27% in rural areas) and are members of men headed households (82%). While most working children are between ages 15-17 (72%), some

between the ages of 13-14 (12%) as well as 12 (16%) and under were also identified. To note, almost half (44%) of all working children under 12 are Syrian.

While Türkiye continues to provide higher education to more than 50,000 refugee students[9], ranking above global averages in refugee contexts[10], as in previous rounds, **most households (88%) indicated none of their members attend higher education in Türkiye**. Among those that confirmed attendance within their households, the highest level of attendance is in University for undergraduate degree (5%). This is followed by those who were pending results from University exams (3%). The lowest level of access to higher education was identified in Afghan households (95% do not attend) and rural respondents' participation was also observed to be less compared to urban populations (91% of rural respondents do not attend compared to 86% for urban). Differing from previous Rounds, respondents were asked in Round 6 if there were any specific reasons for household members not attending higher education. While **approximately half (49%) indicated there was no interest to participate, almost one-third (26%) mentioned financial difficulties as a barrier to participation and 11% also indicated language barriers**. To note, Afghans mention both financial difficulties (61%) and language barriers (23%) at significantly higher levels compared to other groups.

Across respondents, **32% confirm participating in vocational and/or Turkish language courses provided through public institutions and local authorities, including but not limited to Public Education Centers, municipalities and/or IŞKUR**. Some differences were identified in participation across groups. To note, participation was identified to be less in rural areas compared to urban, women headed households and women respondents confirm higher participation compared to men, and participation is lowest amongst Syrians and in Marmara. Across groups, highest participation is in Turkish language courses (26%), followed by vocational courses (9%) and general/hobby courses (6%).

Work, Income and Assistance

Work

Most respondents (68%) were identified to be working at the time of data collection.

However, as in previous Rounds, **only 9% of working individuals reported to have work permits** (highest among Syrians), while the remainder work informally. Informal employment was identified to be highest amongst Syrians and Afghans (both 62%).

Only **9%** of the respondents **were working with work permit**

The main types of employment across respondents include short term and/or irregular jobs (43%); working for an individual, company or household (40%); and seasonal work (21%). Only 5% were identified to own a business, be a freelancer or have cooperative membership. Hence, it can be assumed that **most working refugees are not engaged in sustained livelihoods opportunities but rather insecure and ad hoc employment**. Some groups

[9] University enrolments of Syrians under temporary protection increased to 53,097 in the 2021-2022 academic year, YÖK data, 2022 https://istatistik.yok.gov.tr/

[10] Of note, according to UNHCR statistics, globally, approximately 5% of refugees are enrolled in any form of tertiary education. UNHCR - Tertiary Education

were identified to be at more risk in this sense than others. Specifically, Iranians (67%), Afghans (63%) and rural populations (58%) are more likely to be engaged in short-term/irregular jobs. Furthermore, seasonal work was identified to be highest among Afghans (33%) and Syrians (23%).

Approximately half (51%) of respondents expressed that either their household members or themselves experienced loss of employment in the past year. In particular, Afghans and Iranians were identified to be impacted at notably higher levels than other nationality groups, as 77% and 69% respectively shared that they lost their jobs. Additionally, in comparison to rural respondents, those in the urban have experienced job loss at higher levels (54% compared to 44%).

In addition to those that are employed (both formally and informally), approximately one-third (32%) of all respondents were identified to be unemployed. To note, unemployment is notably higher among women headed households (48% unemployed compared to 27% for men headed households). In terms of differences between nationality groups, highest unemployment rates were identified among Iraqis (42%). Lastly, findings indicate that unemployment rates are highest in the Central & East Anatolia and Black Sea region. The main reason for unemployment, as in previous Rounds, is mostly related to household members having long-term health conditions, injuries or disabilities (19%). Others indicated they are unemployed but are looking/available for a job (15%), they were not able to find a job despite searching for one (14%), or that they are willing to work but do not have time due to domestic work (13%). Some notable differences between groups include domestic work as the main reason for unemployment for women (ranked as first reason at 19% compared to 8% for men), rural populations mentioning they do not work because of low salaries/salaries not being paid (15% compared to 8% for urban), and Iranians expressing not being able to find jobs due to their nationality (23% compared to 10% overall.)

To strengthen the protection-sensitive analysis of current conditions related to individuals' access to livelihoods respondents were asked new perception-based questions in this Round related to safe employment opportunities, feeling of safety at work, sexual harassment and exploitation in the workplace (and awareness on existing support mechanisms).

58% of refugees do not think there are safe employment opportunities for them in Türkiye. Particularly Iranians (79%), Afghans (74%) and women (62%) note this at higher levels compared to their counterparts. To note, for those that indicated they do not believe there are safe employment opportunities for them, 57% work occasionally in short-term/irregular jobs, and 36% work informally. Comparatively, among the 29% who think there are safe employment opportunities for them, 61% were identified to be working for an individual, company or household. Additionally, **40% of respondents indicated that they do not feel safe at work**, which is also highest among Iranians and Afghans (50% and 48% respectively do not feel safe).

35% of respondents believe sexual harassment and sexual exploitation in the workplace is a concern. Findings show that these concerns are higher among Iranians (49%), Syrians (36%) and urban respondents (37%). In terms of geographical differences, respondents from the Aegean region have notably higher concern levels compared to other locations (57%). Additionally, **approximately one-third of respondents (29%) do not think that their community members are aware of existing support mechanisms if exposed**

to sexual harassment and sexual exploitation in the workplace. To note, perceptions of awareness on mechanisms is lowest among Iraqis (37%) and in the Southeast (33%).

Income and Assistance

Despite widespread reports related to loss of jobs as detailed in previous sections, **the primary source of income as in previous Rounds was identified as work/employment**, **followed by humanitarian assistance and remittances**. Differing from previous Rounds, men (both headed households and respondents) and Afghans also rank income through unemployment benefits among their top three sources of income.

Across groups, **50% respondents confirm receiving assistance, in the form of cash and/or in kind**. Findings indicate that women (both head of households and respondents) have slightly more access to assistance compared to men. Additionally, Iranians were identified to have least access across nationality groups (45% confirm receiving assistance).

Among those who receive assistance, 86% confirm receiving only cash, 10% only in-kind and 4% indicate to receive both cash and in-kind assistance.

Only 3% of respondents indicate the assistance they receive fully meets their needs, while 44% express the assistance does not meet their needs, and 53% only partially. Assistance recipients among Iranians (78%) and those residing in Marmara (51%) expressed highest levels of dissatisfaction with the level of assistance.

Access to Basic Needs and Survival Strategies

Overall, **80% across groups mentioned that their financial circumstances deteriorated/declined over the past year**. An additional 15% mentioned that they did not experience any financial changes, while only 4% indicated their circumstances have improved[11]. While most respondents clearly experienced deterioration in their socio-economic conditions, this is highest among Iranians and Iraqis (86% and 84% respectively mention worsening situation).

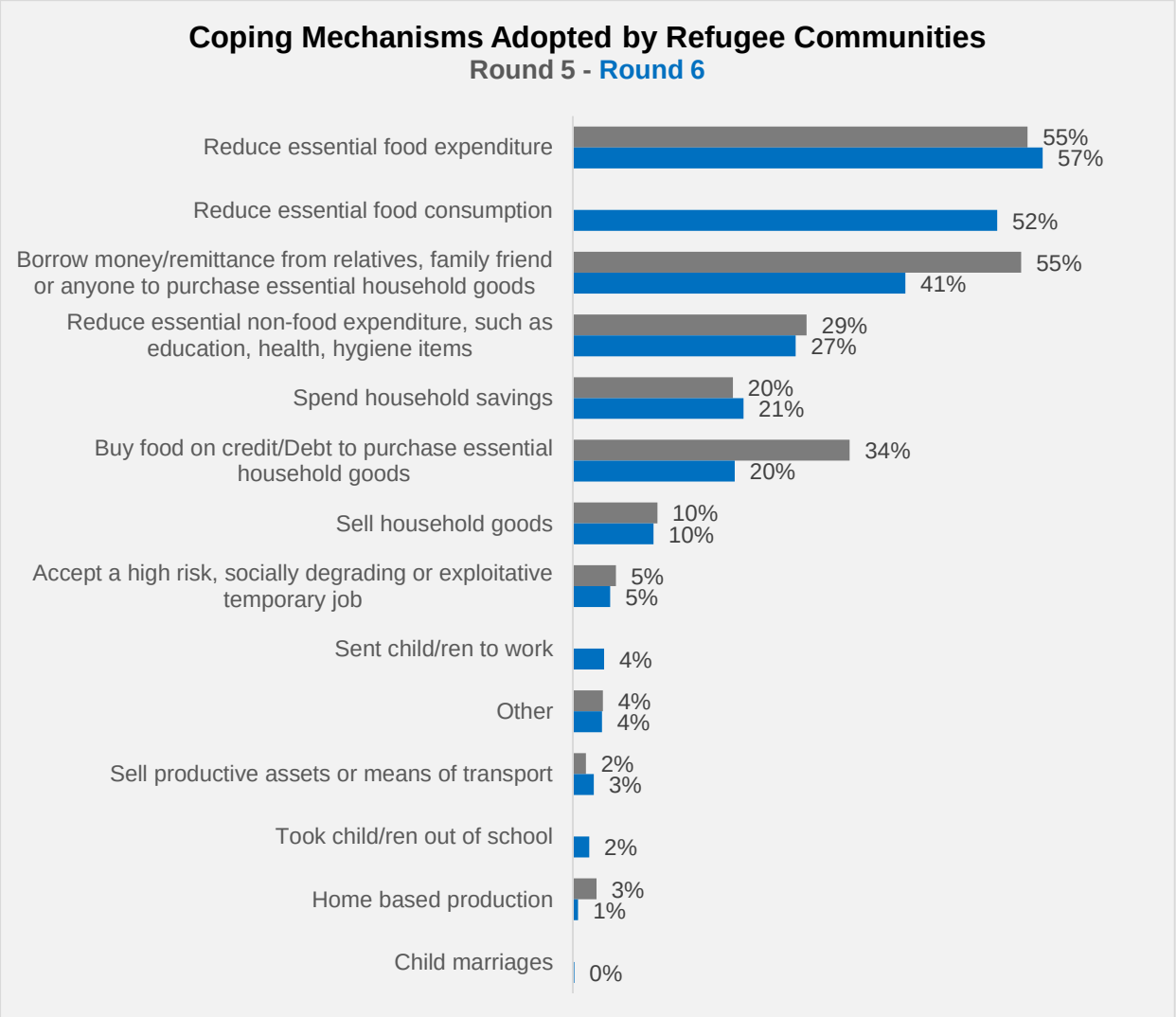
In line with findings related to loss of employment (particularly considering this is many respondents' primary source of income), decline in financial circumstances, and access to assistance (for which most recipients indicate assistance not being sufficient to meet their needs), **90% of respondents report that they are not able to fully meet their basic needs and monthly expenses**. These findings have remained consistent across all Rounds of the assessment. To note, an inability to cover expenses is reported at highest levels by Iranians (60%) and is identified to be higher for rural respondents (50%) compared to those in urban areas (40%).

Across groups, the main costs and expenditures that cannot be covered include rent/housing (73%), food (59%) and utilities (39%). In comparison to Round 5, findings indicate that respondents' ability to cover food expenses has increased while their ability to cover rent/housing costs has reduced. Some notable differences were identified between urban versus rural respondents, sex, nationalities and locations. To specify, urban respondents struggle more so with rent/housing compared to individuals residing in rural areas

[11] The remaining 1% did not want to respond to the question related to change in their household's financial circumstances.

(77% compared to 66%), whereas rural experience more difficulties than urban in covering food costs (63% compared to 56%). Women seem to be facing more difficulties in covering rent/housing (76% versus 70%) and utilities (43% versus 35%) compared to men.

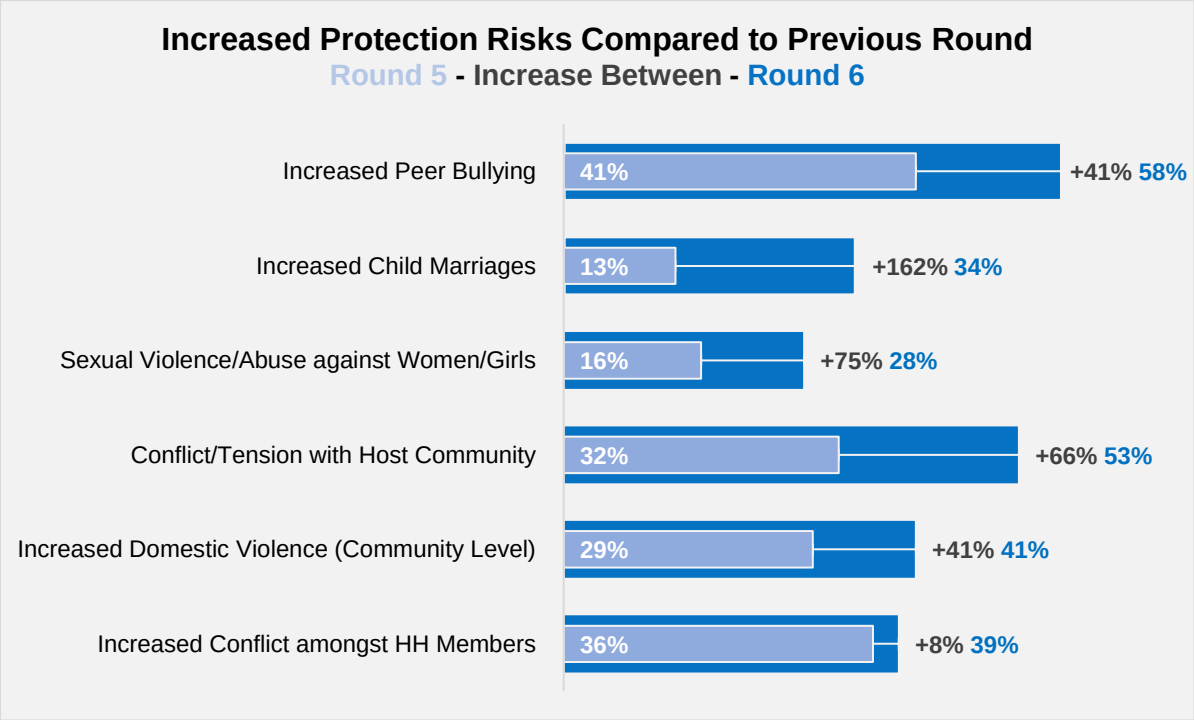
As in previous Rounds, **94% of households indicate that they adopt a survival strategy to cope with their deteriorating socio-economic circumstances**. This rate is even higher for women-headed households (98% adopt compared to 93% for men headed households), Afghans (98%), in the Southeast (98%) and for rural (97% adopt compared to 93% in urban). **Most respondents mention reduction of food expenditure (57%) and consumption (52%) as well as borrowing money/remittances (41%) in terms of adopted survival strategies**. Some notable differences between groups include higher levels of reduction in food consumption within Afghan (71%) and Iranian households (71%). Further, reduction of food expenditure was identified to be highest in Iraqi households (72%) and for individuals residing in rural areas (65% compared to 54% for urban). Lastly, while across groups 27% mention reduction of essential non-food expenditure, such as costs related to education and health, as a survival strategy, this increases to 49% for Afghans.



Protection and Community Concerns

Protection Risks

Protection risks continue to be reported at the community level, with most at notably higher levels than in previous Rounds. In Round 6, the assessment continued to inquire into protection risks including peer bullying, conflict/tension with host community, domestic violence, conflict between household members, child marriages, and sexual violence and abuse against women and girls. In relation to sexual violence and abuse, the assessment inquired in detail on respondents' perceptions on safe reporting, likelihoods of reporting and safe access to services. The following provides an overview on protection risks reported at community level in order of prevalence.



58% of respondents indicated that they observed an increase in peer bullying between refugee and host community children and youth. This represents a significant increase compared to Round 5, where 41% expressed an increase in peer bullying. In this Round, peer bullying was identified to be of more concern in the Aegean region (68%), for Syrian respondents (66%) and individuals residing in urban areas (62% versus 47% for rural).

Approximately half of respondents (53%) report observations of an increase in conflict and tension with host community, which was indicated by 32% across groups in Round 5. Tension with host community is reported at highest levels by Iranians (73%), in the Southeast (60%) and in urban areas (45% of urban respondents mentioned compared to 29% of rural).

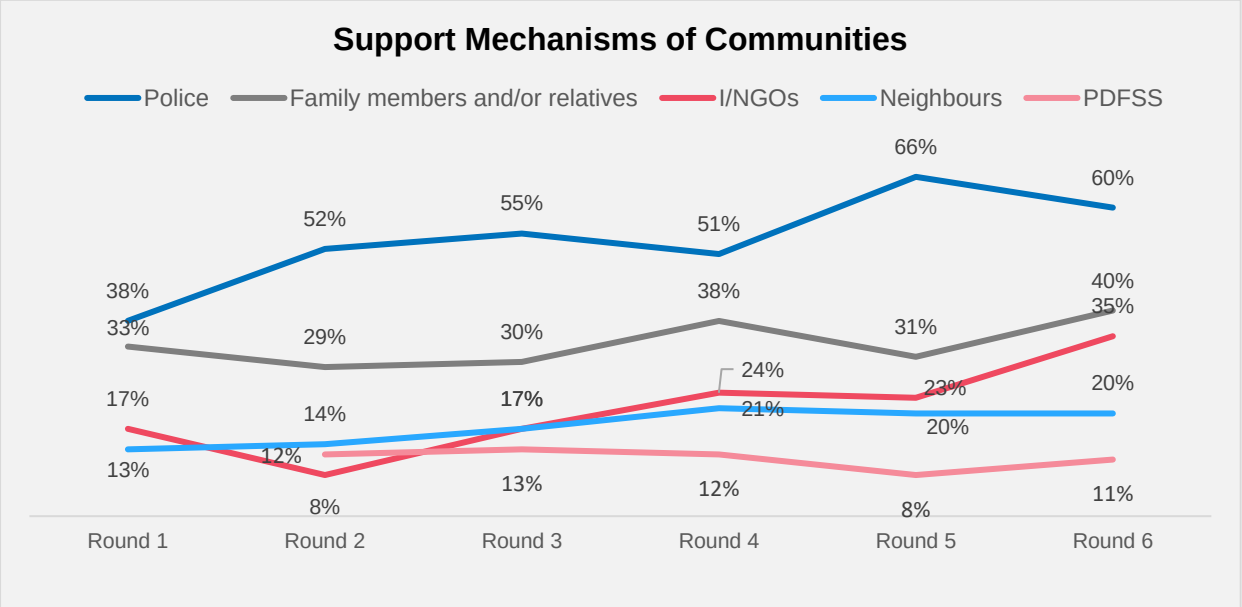
Domestic violence is also reported at the highest level since Round 1, with 41% of respondents sharing that they observe an increase within their communities. Reports of domestic violence are highest within Iranian communities (54%), in the Southeast (46%) and in urban areas (45% versus 29% in rural). As in previous Rounds, women mention observations of increase at slightly higher levels compared to men (44% versus 38%).

39% indicate an increase in conflict amongst household members, remaining at similar levels as in Round 5 (where 36% had confirmed an increase). As with many other protection risks, Iranians report the highest levels of conflict within households (59%). Conflict levels are also reported at higher levels in the Southeast (47%), by urban respondents (44% compared to 27% in rural) and by women (43% versus 36% by men).

Around one-third (34%) of respondents mention that they observe an increase in child marriages within their communities. This also represents a significant change since Round 5, where 13% of respondents had confirmed an increase in child marriages. Findings indicate that child marriages are increasing at higher levels in the Southeast (42%) and within the Syrian community (40%). Additionally, female-headed households observe an increase at slightly higher levels compared to men headed households (39% versus 32%). Lastly, child marriages seem to be more prominent in urban areas compared to rural (38% in urban confirm increase compared to 23% in rural).

In this Round, 28% of respondents indicated observations of an increase in sexual violence and abuse against women and girls, compared to 16% in Round 5. To note, Iranians reported much higher levels (55%) compared to other nationality groups. In terms of geographical differences, findings show that reports are highest in the Aegean (43%). Lastly, both female-headed households and women respondents indicated slightly higher levels compared to their counterparts.

44% of respondents think that there are safe reporting mechanisms available to survivors of violence or sexual assault. Iranians, rural respondents and women headed households seem to be less confident about safe reporting channels compared to other groups. Additionally, **47% of respondents think survivors are likely to report incidents of violence and sexual assault to authorities**. In line with the findings on safe reporting mechanisms, Iranians and rural respondents are less confident that survivors would report incidents to the relevant officials. Lastly, **43% across groups believe that survivors can access services (including shelters, legal assistance and healthcare) safely**. Iranians and female-headed households are more sceptical that survivors can safely access relevant services in case of an incident of this nature. Overall, **when faced with a protection concern as in all previous Rounds, most respondents indicated that they would primarily seek support from the police (60%), followed by family members/relatives (40%) and I/NGOs (35%)**. Some differences in primary support mechanisms were identified, particularly between nationality groups. To specify, while UN agencies are not ranked across groups among the top three mechanisms, Iranians rank UN agencies as their top support mechanism whereas Iraqis and Afghans rank the UN as their third choice. Furthermore, while I/NGOs are a significant support mechanism for Iranians and Iraqis, for the former, PDMM is also ranked relatively high.

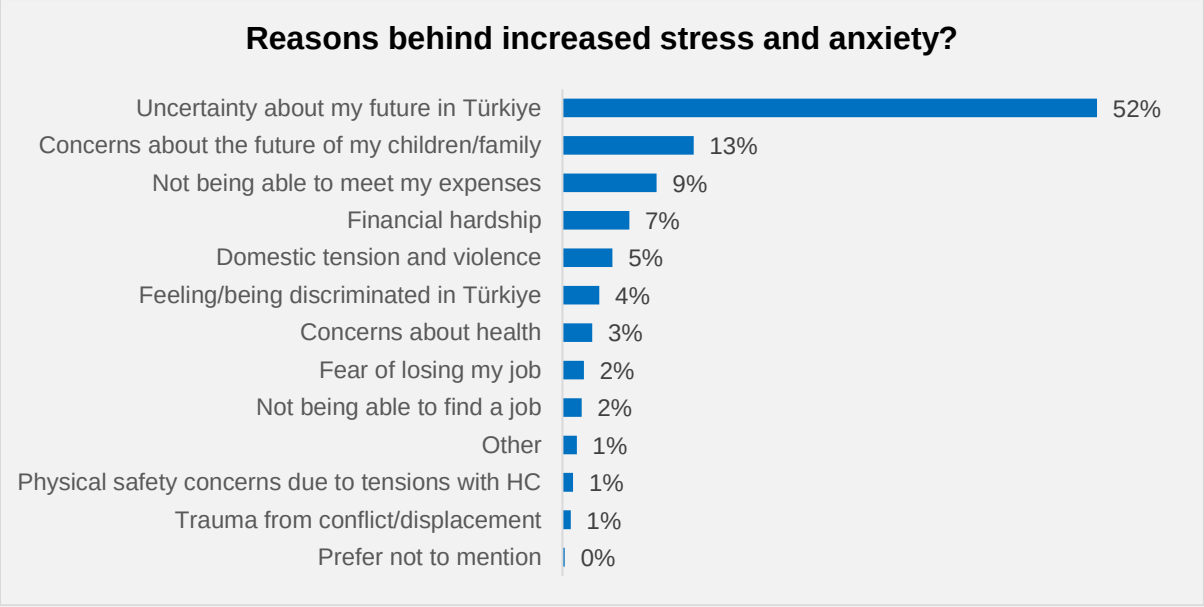


Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support

Across all Rounds of the assessment, increased stress and anxiety were the highest reported protection and community concern. To specify, in Round 5 63% noted an increase in stress levels within their communities. In this Round, findings indicate that across groups **69% observed increased stress within their communities.** As in all previous Rounds, Iranians (87%) and Afghans (80%) report the highest levels of increased stress.

At the individual level, while in Round 5 60% reported experiencing increased stress, in this Round **79% confirmed they were stressed and/or anxious due to a number of factors.** To specify, 54% shared that they were worried about their future, 28% reported being anxious and 26% expressed that they were overwhelmed, stressed and exhausted. In terms of notable differences, approximately a quarter of both rural respondents and Syrians indicated that they do not have any of these feelings (i.e. anxiety, stress etc.). Furthermore, worries about the future is notably higher for Afghans (80%) and Iranians (73%) compared to other nationalities.

The main reasons for increased stress and/or anxiety is reported as uncertainty about their own future in Türkiye (52%), concerns about the future of their children/family (13%), and not being able to meet expenses (9%). To note, 77% of Iranians and 64% of Afghans mentioned uncertainty about their futures as the most significant source of their anxiety, validating findings relayed above.



Access to Legal Assistance and Aid

One-third of respondents (33%) indicated that they encountered a situation where they required legal assistance, counselling, and/or referral to legal aid. This is the highest recorded level of need so far, as in comparison to Round 5 the need has increased twofold, whereas between Rounds 3 – 5 on average 13% of respondents indicated a need for support in legal matters. The need for assistance was identified to be highest within Iranian (48%) and Iraqi (40%) communities and in the Marmara region (44%). Legal assistance needs are slightly higher for women headed households (39% compared to 32% for men headed households) and for rural respondents (37% compared to 32% for urban).

Among those who indicated a need for legal assistance and/or legal aid, most (74%) mention they were able to access support. This represents a significant reduction in access barriers considering that in Round 5, only 46% of those in need were able to access support. **Among those that were able to access support in this Round, most received support through I/NGOs in the form of legal assistance (42%), followed by private lawyers (16%) and Bar Associations in the form of legal aid (13%)**[12]. Some differences were identified between groups: for example, Iraqis were identified to be second sin their need for assistance, while they recorded the least access to support (40% noted a need whereas 43% were not able to access). Furthermore, female-headed households were identified to receive more support through Bar Associations compared to male-headed households (21% versus 10%), whereas male-headed households were identified to receive more assistance via I/NGOs (44% versus 37%). Lastly, support via Bar Associations seems to be highest for Afghans (26%).

Public Safety and Security

In Round 6, a few questions were included to better capture refugees' perceptions related to public safety and security, factors affecting their safety and what they identify as risks to their personal safety.

[12] The remaining 3% mentioned they receive support through other sources, without specifying which entities they accessed services through.

Approximately **one quarter of respondents shared that they have safety concerns when in public spaces**, with no major differences identified across groups. **The majority believe the primary factor affecting their safety is being a refugee/asylum seeker (81%), followed by race/ethnicity (27%) and other factors, such as their legal status**. While across groups sex as a factor affecting safety is identified by 11%, this is higher for Iranians (35%), both female-headed households (28% versus 5% for male-headed households) and women respondents (18% versus 3%), and rural populations (17%). For Iranians, gender identity/sexual orientation as a factor impacting their safety is also slightly higher than average (12% compared to 4% overall).

When asked what personal safety risks concern them the most, **only 4% did not mention being concerned by personal safety risks**. **The most mentioned personal safety risk is tension with host community (64%), followed by sexual harassment (23%) and stalking (18%)**. Some differences between groups were identified in relation to personal safety risks. To note, rural respondents indicate they are more concerned with sexual harassment (30% versus 21% for urban) and sexual assault/rape (14% versus 7%), whereas urban respondents mention tension with host community (67% versus 57%) and stalking (23% versus 5%) at higher rates. Furthermore, for both sexual harassment and sexual assault/rape, both female-headed households and respondents were identified to be more concerned compared to their male counterparts. Lastly, tension with the host community as a concern was identified to be highest within Syrian communities and in the Southeast, whereas sexual harassment (50%) and sexual assault/rape (33%) is highest for Iranians.

29% across groups indicated that they do not feel safe when using public transportation. This is slightly higher for individuals residing in Central and East Anatolia & Black Sea region (37%), Iranians and Iraqis (35% respectively).

Access to Safe and Dignified Shelter

Considering the procedural changes introduced by the Presidency of Migration Management related to the address registry[13] and capping of the proportion of refugee population in various provinces/neighbourhoods across Türkiye, as well as the lack of nationwide data on the shelter situation of refugees (from a protection perspective), sector partners agreed to include an ad hoc thematic inquiry area on access to safe and dignified shelter. Questions sought to investigate the type of shelter of refugees, housing conditions, privacy, access to basic infrastructure, relations with landlords and whether (and why) individuals had to recently change their houses.

While a majoritys of respondents were residing in rental houses with contracts (69%) and 25%indicated that they were renting houses without contracts (hence at risk of arbitrary measures that may be taken by landlords and neighbours and restricted access to services where official address information is mandatory). The remaining 5% live in tents, collective shelters, shanties or abandoned houses. Findings show that levels of residing in

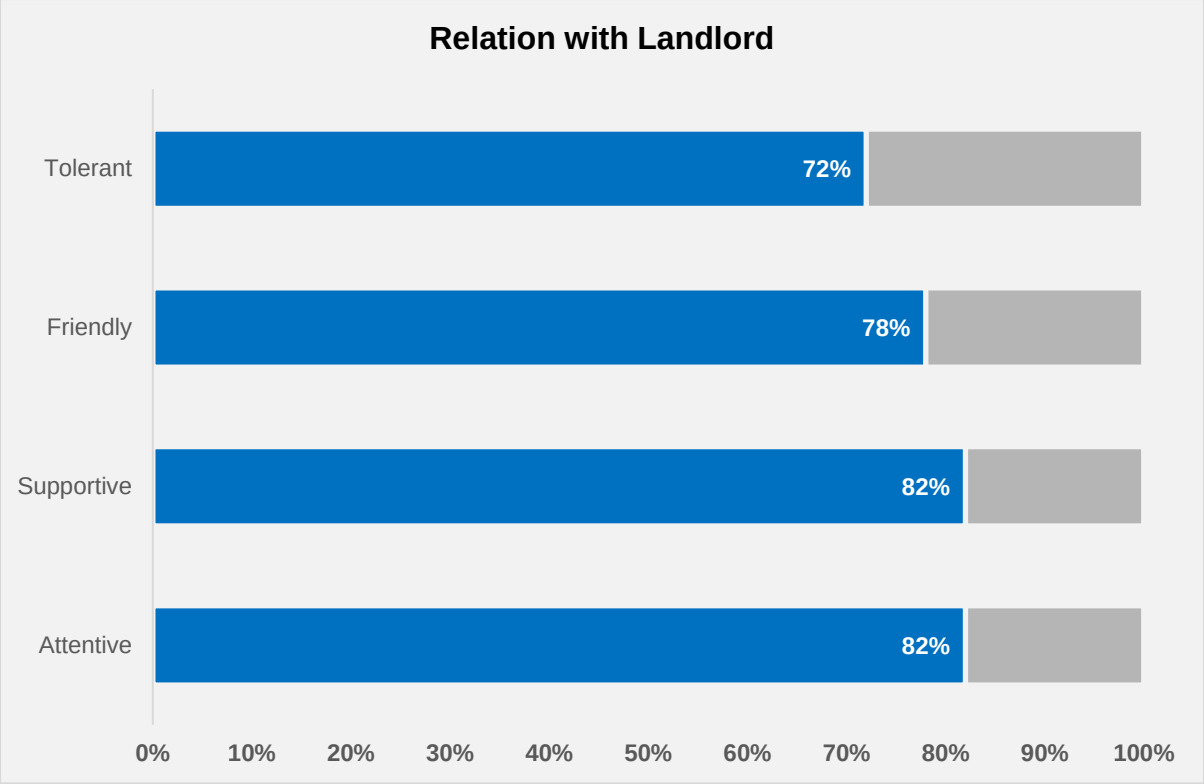
[13] Address checks were initiated in December 2021 by the Turkish law enforcement to verify the addresses of Syrians nationals under temporary protection and other nationalities registered as international protection applicants. Those who could not have been identified at their addresses received an SMS inviting them to PDMMs for updating their address on the system. IDs of individuals who did not approach PDMMs were inactivated.

rental houses without contracts is highest for respondents in the Southeast (42%), Syrians (35%) and urban respondents (29%).

24% of respondents indicate that their houses do not protect them from weather conditions (i.e. heat, cold, rain, wind etc.), with rural populations at a slight disadvantage in this regard (31% share their current shelter does not protect adequately from weather). In addition to protection from weather conditions, respondents were asked whether their shelter meets basic conditions such as access to water (including drinking water), sanitation and hygiene, continuous access to electricity, adequate living space, culturally acceptable, location (in terms of access to livelihoods and essential services). Accordingly, **23% shared that their shelter conditions do not meet basic needs**, with no major differences across groups.

Approximately one-third of respondents share houses with a family/families other than their own. Findings indicate that sharing of houses is more common among Syrians (37%), in the Southeast (37%) and in urban areas (35%). Including both those that do and do not share houses with other families, **20% believe they do not have enough privacy in their homes**.

Across groups, **21% reported that they moved/changed house in the last year**. Most movement was recorded by Iraqis (26%) and in the Southeast (24%). The main reasons for moving include looking for more affordable rent (33%) and a more comfortable house (13%) as well as being forced to leave by landlord and/or neighbors (12%). Only 7% indicated that they had to move as they could not register their address (i.e. lived in a “closed” neighborhood). In addition to these reasons applicable across groups, Iraqis (26%) and men (14%) mentioned dispute with landlords as a reason for moving more so than other groups. Despite findings related to the role of landlords in refugees changing homes, as can be seen from the below chart, most respondents noted that their landlords were quite tolerant, friendly, supportive and attentive.



Most respondents pay their rent via their earnings (59%), while some cover costs via borrowed money (23%) and through cash support provided by individuals and/or organizations (19%). As cash support would include assistance received through I/NGOs and UN agencies as well, it is important to note that women headed households (28%) and Afghans (24%) seems to rely more on this channel to pay rents compared to other groups.

Conclusions and Key Recommendations

- This assessment provides an overarching understanding on disability prevalence within refugee communities in Türkiye. Considering that many of the organizations contributing to the exercise may not necessarily have expertise in interview techniques with persons with disabilities and that a representative sample could not be created within this assessment for the group, **the Disability Inclusion Task Force is encouraged to facilitate dedicated inter-agency assessments to address the remaining information gaps on refugees with disabilities (and their caregivers) in Türkiye**. Based on information needs of the wider sector, among others, the dedicated assessment should probe into types of disabilities within refugee communities in Türkiye, access to information, access to rights and services, housing/accommodation situation, accessibility and access to special needs education and assistive devices and community capacities towards engagement in livelihoods.
- Considering that at least half of individuals with disabilities do not have valid disability reports in Türkiye, to facilitate their access to available rights and services (which require reports as a pre-condition), **all sector partners should mainstream provision of support as well as dissemination of information on obtaining disability reports to persons with disabilities and/or their caregivers in their regular protection programming**. To this end, sector capacity on information dissemination to this group should be strengthened.
- To increase Turkish language fluency within refugee communities, **Turkish speaking clubs should be facilitated** in collaboration with relevant institutions/entities. Additionally, engagement with and/or **referrals to official Turkish language courses** provided through Public Education Centres, municipalities and other institutions should be strengthened. Targeting should prioritize Women, Afghans and Syrians.
- **Continued advocacy with PDMMs and PMM is required to further improve access to registration of individuals pending registration and documentation**. Advocacy with PDMMs should focus more so on facilitating access of individuals, whereas PMM level advocacy should continue to be oriented towards strategic and policy level issues, or for strategic intervention for individuals on an exceptional basis. Even if certain cities are closed for registration (or there are other barriers in registering individuals in certain provinces), action should be taken by PDMMs and relayed to concerned individuals in writing.
- **Information dissemination efforts should continue to target and prioritize Afghans, illiterate and rural populations**, considering their levels of access to information have been identified to be lower across multiple Rounds. Sector partners are advised to continue to invest in community capacities and mobilization of communities in leading/supporting information dissemination efforts. Nonetheless, I/NGOs and UN agencies continue to play an important role in disseminating timely and accurate information to communities, hence relevant activities should be continued including increasingly through individual in-person counselling.
- **Information dissemination and raising awareness on obtaining civil documentation in Türkiye should be facilitated widely considering the overall low levels of knowledge on the matter.** Information efforts should prioritize women, Afghans and

individuals residing in Central & East Anatolia and Black Sea region. In addition to information dissemination, support in procedures should be extended particularly to Iranians, Syrians, women, and individuals residing in rural areas, Southeast and in Central & East Anatolia and Black Sea region. Lastly, there is a need to clarify the validity of civil documentation in countries of origin, particularly for Afghans and Iraqis, after which individuals should be provided with the necessary information.

- While notable improvements have been recorded with regards to the insurance related difficulties faced by individuals of nationalities other than Syrian in accessing to health services, many continue to report access challenges. **Iranians and Afghans with specific needs and persons with disabilities whose health insurances are deactivated should be supported, including with case-by-case basis advocacy with PDMMs/PMM to facilitate their access to health services**. Complementary support to accessing treatment and medication should be identified with health sector partners for individuals whose insurances cannot be reactivated (and who have serious medical concerns), including access to special needs funds or other mechanisms.
- **Rural populations, Iranians and Afghans should be prioritized in facilitating access to services**, considering they were identified to be facing more barriers compared to other groups.
- In previous Rounds of the assessment, inability to book appointments through online systems was prominent as a barrier to accessing services considering that many service providers shifted to remote service delivery (including through digital platforms). In Round 6 however, the inability to book appointments were also included in the top barriers to accessing services, despite not referring to online appointment booking systems. As such, it can be inferred that **appointment systems in general may not be robust, accessible to/inclusive of all groups (including those who require systems tailored to their specific needs) and/or user-friendly**. A better understanding of the difficulties with existing appointment systems would be useful to capture towards the identification of appropriate solutions.
- Service providers not being helpful as a barrier to accessing services has increased notably across Rounds, which may be directly or indirectly caused by the socio-political context in Türkiye related to refugees and increasing social tensions between communities. As such, **it will be critical to implement sustained and structured social cohesion programming rather than one-off events, including in those targeting service providers**.
- All education and child labour related programming should include interventions to increase engagement of adult caregivers in sustained livelihoods opportunities as a preventive measure (i.e. for school drop-outs, child labor, etc.).
- Iraqis, individuals in the Southeast and in the Aegean should be targeted with information dissemination and awareness raising activities on prevention and response mechanisms related to sexual harassment and exploitation in the workplace.
- While measures should be taken according to the needs and capacities of each group, **women headed households, Iraqis and individuals in Central & East Anatolia and Black Sea region should be targeted with information dissemination on access to work, related procedures and rights**, to reduce unemployment rates.

- While almost all households face difficulties in meeting their basic needs and monthly expenses, this is even more difficult for rural populations and Iranians. As such, both livelihoods programming and assistance mechanisms should specifically target these two groups to prevent/mitigate risk of any protection risks.
- Considering the notable increase in **peer bullying** (and its overall ranking among the different protection risks included within the assessment), **sustained advocacy and structured programming should be implemented in schools and other spaces** in which refugee and host community children and youth come together. Similar social cohesion programming targeting school administration and caregiver should be increased.
- Many protection risks are being reported at highest levels by Iranian refugees and in the Southeast, requiring increased prevention, risk mitigation and response programming.
- **Mental health and psycho-social support programming should be mainstreamed in protection programming**. In particular, Afghans and Iranians should be targeted with such activities.
- While the gap in terms of need versus access has been reduced, there are still unmet legal assistances needs within refugee communities. **Relevant service providers (including I/NGOs that play a critical role in legal assistance and counseling, as well as facilitating access to legal aid) should increase their capacity to provide legal services, particularly for Iraqis**.
- In general, information dissemination and raising awareness efforts should be increased with regards to where to seek support in case of a safety/security related incident or emergency.
- There is a need to better understand why certain refugee groups, including Syrians and those residing in the Southeast and in urban areas, do not have rental contracts. In any case, awareness raising should be facilitated on the importance of signing rental contracts with landlords as not doing so may create additional protection risks in the future.

Way Forward

- Through this Report and the interactive PowerBI Dashboard, assessment findings from this Round will be shared widely across 3RP and other coordination platforms.
- Findings will be referred to in the 3RP Türkiye Chapter for 2023 – 2025 and will form the basis of the Protection Sector Strategy. Sector partners will be provided with guidance on recommendations for scope and content of appeals based on the analysis provided throughout the report on communities' unmet needs, preferences and capacities. Findings will also inform the sector's inputs in the annual 3RP Türkiye Monitoring & Evaluation report for 2022.
- Widespread sharing of and reference to these findings is intended to strengthen evidence-based programming and implementation, as well as informing advocacy efforts with a variety of stakeholders.
- The next assessment will take place as of August – September 2022. As partners agreed to reduce the frequency of regular inter-agency protection needs assessments to once a year, the questionnaire will be reviewed critically per changes in the context, in consultation with Protection sector partners and non-protection experts. Ad hoc and specific protection needs assessments will be undertaken where useful to the inter-agency response in Türkiye.

Annex

Annex I. Additional Information on the Needs Assessment Process

The plan of action around the development of the tool and larger process for Round 6 is outlined below.

- Methodology: The initiative's primary goal was to understand the evolving impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on refugee communities vis-à-vis access to services, access to information, and the coping strategies that communities developed in response to the pandemic. With this purpose, a multi-stakeholder protection needs assessment tool was developed. Partners operating in various geographical locations conducted the interviews through phone interviews. Strong field-level coordination between the partners ensures the prevention of double calling.
- Sampling: Considering the multi-stakeholder nature of the assessment, a simple random sampling methodology was applied, namely probability sampling. While there are limitations in accessing the larger refugee populations, the available datasets are considered representative enough to minimize the sampling bias. The sample size was defined following discussions on the size of available datasets and geographical distribution. A target of 1,261 refugees was agreed on, comprised of; 750 Syrians, 198 Afghan, 121 Iraqi, 110 Iranian and 82 from other nationalities. The sample was derived from each partner's own caseload.
- Geographical Distribution: As the exercise was open to all protection partners, four zones were created to distinguish and compare the impacts of the pandemic at different coordination hubs. Each partner was asked to call a representative number of individuals in proportion to the total population of refugees living in each zone.
- Data Collection and Analysis: A common, protection needs assessment questionnaire was developed in collaboration with the agencies involved with the exercise. Additionally, to make the findings comparable with already available assessments, a level of alignment with existing questionnaires was incorporated in the design phase. The questions were uploaded to Kobo Toolbox. Focal points assigned by the agencies were trained on how to use the tool.