COMMUNITY PULSE

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Contents

Introduction

The Community Pulse is a UNHCR-led multi-partner, community-based joint protection and needs assessment mechanism that follows on from the earlier Inter-Agency Protection Needs Assessment (IAPNA). Conducted regularly since 2020, it provides a common evidence base on the evolving conditions, needs, and priorities of refugees across Türkiye. Building on previous rounds, the exercise serves as a platform for collective analysis, strengthening protection-sensitive programming and informing strategic planning under the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) and other inter-agency frameworks.

The October 2025 round (Round 9 in the cumulative series) was implemented to capture recent changes in access to services, information, basic needs, livelihoods, and protection dynamics among refugee communities. Data collection took place between **8 September and 9 October 2025**, with results consolidated in early October to inform the 3RP's 2026 planning cycle and programming adjustments at national and local levels. This report presents an analytical overview of headline findings and trends, with comparisons to previous rounds—including the **August 2024 assessment (Round 8)** and the intentions-focused **February 2025 Community Pulse update**. Further cycles of the Community Pulse assessment will be carried out to validate and complement the information provided in this analysis.

Executive Summary

The October 2025 Community Pulse (Round 9) provides an updated snapshot of the protection and socioeconomic situation of refugee households across Türkiye. Conducted between 8 September and 9 October 2025, the assessment reached 1,319 households representing 4,997 individuals across the Marmara, Central Anatolia, Southeast, and Aegean zones. The findings illustrate continued structural barriers, shifting vulnerabilities, and persistent gaps in access to information and essential services, reflecting trends already visible in Round 8 (2024) and the February 2025 update.

Registration levels amongst respondents remain consistently high, with 97 per cent of respondents registered—similar to the previous round—while birth registration for children born in Türkiye continues to be strong at 91 per cent. While 96 per cent of respondents are currently residing in their province of registration, many face accommodation pressures in their cities. One in four households report facing a risk of eviction, and 23 per cent share their accommodation with non-household members, echoing patterns documented in earlier assessments and indicating ongoing overcrowding and housing insecurity.

Specific needs remain widespread among refugee households, although they have slightly decreased compared to last year. In this round, 56 per cent of households report at least one specific need—a ten-point reduction from 2024. Serious medical conditions and disability continue to be the most frequently reported needs, reflecting a consistent pattern observed across multiple assessment cycles. Female-headed households across nationalities continue to show higher vulnerability compared to male-headed households, particularly for single parents.

Access to accurate and timely information continues to be a key challenge for a minority. Twenty-three percent of respondents indicate they are not informed sufficiently about their rights and available services, similar to the findings of last year. Afghan and Iranian respondents continue to report particularly low levels of awareness. As in previous rounds, these information gaps appear closely linked to difficulties accessing administrative and public services. While information needs remain high across all service areas, Syrian respondents particularly prioritize information on social services and assistance and respondents under International Protection indicate need for increased awareness on PDMM procedures.

Service access barriers remain wide-ranging and largely unchanged. Respondents across nationalities cite lack of information, documentation constraints, and language barriers as the main obstacles. Difficulties accessing social services have increased sharply over the past year, and while access to PDMM and health services has improved somewhat, significant disparities persist—particularly for International Protection applicants, who report inactive health insurance, barriers to reactivation and consequently clear challenges in access to services. For Syrians, language barriers are especially prominent. These persistent access challenges suggest that improvements in service availability or clarity of procedures have not yet translated into better outcomes on the ground.

Education access remains broadly stable, though with a slight decline. While most households report at least partial school attendance, full attendance has declined, and children from other nationalities, households facing financial strain, and children with disabilities experience the most barriers in access. This year, 58 per cent of households report that all their children attend school, compared to 62 per cent last year. Across nationalities and regions, families cite financial barriers, documentation challenges, and peer bullying as the main obstacles—issues that also limit continued attendance for enrolled children. Gendered patterns indicate that female-headed households face greater challenges in keeping children in school. Access to higher education and vocational courses remains limited overall, though participation in Turkish language classes is more common and viewed as essential for social and economic inclusion.

Access to decent and regulated employment remains extremely limited across nationalities and regions, reflected in persistently low formal employment rates and widespread reliance on short-term or precarious jobs. Across surveyed regions, refugees continue to work predominantly in manufacturing, services, and construction, often under hazardous conditions marked by lack of permits, underpayment, excessive working hours, and denial of social security. Despite these risks, most workers experiencing labour violations do not seek assistance, underscoring gaps in protection and the need for strengthened access to safe, dignified, and formal employment pathways.

Refugee households continue to face severe and structural economic vulnerability, with many remaining entirely without earnings. Most households fall into the lowest income brackets, resulting in widespread inability to cover essential expenses—especially rent, food, utilities, and health costs—and leaving only a small minority able to meet their monthly expenses and basic needs. Economic pressures are reflected in the 69 per cent who report their financial situation deteriorated over the past year, driven by rising living costs and unstable employment. Gender disparities compound these challenges with female-headed households experiencing higher income deprivation and greater reliance on social assistance.

Social assistance continues to provide an essential but insufficient buffer against deepening economic vulnerability, with half of all households receiving cash or in-kind support in the past six months, yet only one third benefiting from regular assistance and just 7 per cent reporting that aid fully meets their needs. Large gaps in coverage and adequacy correlate with the adoption of negative coping mechanisms adopted by 81 per cent of households—including reduced food intake, reliance on credit, borrowing, spending savings, or selling essential household items—reflecting a sharp deterioration in socioeconomic conditions compared to the previous year. Taken together, these patterns signal a continuous erosion of household resilience, underscoring the urgent need for predictable social protection, expanded livelihood opportunities, and targeted assistance for the most vulnerable households.

Protection concerns observed within communities continue to shape daily life, though some indicators show modest improvements. Observations of community stress decreased from 61 per cent last year to 48 per cent in this round. Reports of tension with the host community also declined substantially—from nearly half of all respondents in 2024 to 30 per cent in 2025. At the same time, observations related to gender-based violence and domestic violence remain high at around 27–29 per cent, with women and female-headed households consistently reporting higher levels. Observations of child labour have decreased slightly, from 50 per cent to 43 per cent, though they continue to represent one of the most significant protection risks identified by communities.

Households continue facing safety concerns while gender and nationality-based disparities shape overall wellbeing. While most respondents feel safe at home after dark, feelings of insecurity are consistently more pronounced for women, female-headed households, and mobile communities. Safety concerns intensify when walking alone at night, particularly for Iranians and Afghans.

Households continue to face safety concerns against limited access to legal assistance and remedies. Legal protection needs are substantial, with over one quarter of households requiring legal assistance in the past year—especially Iranians and Afghans —yet 59 per cent of those seeking help were unable to obtain it due to information gaps, administrative hurdles, and limited service capacity. Women and female-headed households face disproportionately higher needs related to violence, divorce, and documentation issues.

Intentions to return among Syrians remain low and largely stable, though increasingly marked by indecision. A majority—56 per cent—report no intention to return to Syria in the foreseeable future, a figure that has changed only marginally since February 2025. However, uncertainty has increased: 19 per cent are now undecided, up from 11 per cent earlier this year. Economic pressures in Türkiye, alongside ongoing concerns about safety and access to services in Syria, continue to shape these decisions. Return considerations vary by region— with respondents in the Southeast showing the highest interest in eventual return, whereas Marmara residents prefer to stay. For those considering return, most would do so with their families, and decisions are largely jointly made. Motivations for return remain highly conditional, focused on improved safety, better livelihoods, and access to services in Syria. While most respondents report to be aware of return procedures, some information gaps nevertheless remain with women and female-headed households continuing to report relatively lower levels of awareness.

Access to civil documentation remains broadly high but uneven, with 79 per cent of respondents possessing Syrian documents while 19 per cent lack them—an important gap given that documentation is essential for identity verification, access to services, and any future safe and orderly return to Syria. Thirty-eight per cent of households have had to obtain new documentation while in Türkiye, most often birth reports and marriage certificates. Although the majority were able to secure these documents, difficulties persist highlighting that specific regional and administrative gaps continue to hinder full documentation coverage.

Overall, the findings from Round 9 reaffirm the enduring nature of the challenges faced by refugee households in Türkiye. While some indicators show incremental improvements, the broader picture points to persistent socioeconomic strain, barriers to accessing key services, and a continued need for strengthened outreach, targeted support, and coordinated protection responses.

Methodology

As with earlier rounds [1], the Community Pulse continues the methodological approach originally developed for the initial survey conducted during COVID-19, which was used to understand how the pandemic impacted access to services, information, and coping mechanisms among refugee communities. With the lifting of pandemic-related measures, partners agreed to sustain the exercise to generate regular, comparable data on protection risks, socioeconomic

[1] https://www.refugeeinfoturkey.org/repo/Protection/CommunityPulse/index.html

conditions, and inclusion challenges faced by refugees. The assessment tool is reviewed and refined prior to each round to ensure relevance to the evolving context.

For this iteration, data collection was conducted remotely through **phone interviews** by trained enumerators from Protection Sector Partner organizations operating across Türkiye. Interviews lasted approximately 30–40 minutes and were administered only after obtaining informed consent, in line with the Personal Data Protection Law in Türkiye.

As in previous rounds of the needs assessment, a **stratified sampling methodology** was adopted to ensure adequate representation across refugee groups and that nuances across different geographical areas are captured, to allow for comparative analysis. To inform the sample distribution, participating organisations shared the size and composition of their accessible adult caseloads (by nationality, gender, and location), specifically individuals above 18 who have sought services from respective organizations within the past year. Samples for non-Syrian nationalities were drawn from partner databases, while the Syrian sample was determined using publicly available registration figures of the Presidency of Migration Management (PMM). The assessment includes individuals of Syrian, Afghan, Iraqi, Iranian, and other nationalities.

To reflect Türkiye's coordination structure and to facilitate comparative analysis, interviews were conducted across **four geographical zones: Marmara, Central Anatolia (covering Central and East Anatolia and the Black sea regions), Southeast, and Aegean**. A total of **1,319 households**—representing **4,997 individuals**—were interviewed, ensuring broad representativeness of refugee locations.

The questionnaire followed the structure of previous rounds, enabling time-series comparison on key thematic areas:

- Demographics and specific needs
- Access to information
- Access to services (health, education, registration and protection, etc.)
- Economic empowerment and livelihoods
- Access to basic needs and social assistance
- Protection risks and community concerns
- Intentions and mobility

Findings presented in this report aim to support collective programming, strengthen evidence-based protection responses, and guide 3RP partners and national counterparts in identifying priority needs and addressing emerging gaps.

Findings

Demography

In this round, 25 Protection sector partners conducted interviews with **1,319** individuals. As in previous years, while the interviews are conducted with one member of each household, most questions are posed at household level (i.e. inclusive of other members of the household).

	Individuals	Households
Total	4,997	1,319
Syria	3,234	780
Afghanistan	876	251
Iraq	605	155
Iran	99	54
Other	154	68

Figure 1 Sample distribution (individuals and households), by nationality

Therefore, a total of **4,997** individuals at the household level are represented in the analysis.

While the majority of respondents are Syrian, in order to accurately represent the varying needs of refugee communities in Türkiye, the sample also included Afghans, Iranians, Iraqis and individuals of 'other' nationalities. Of the total of **1,319 households** interviewed for the assessment, **59 per cent** are Syrian, **19 per cent are** Afghan, **12 per cent are** Iraqi, **5 per cent** are households of other nationalities, and **4 per cent** are Iranian households. The analysis presented in this report does not disaggregate findings for respondents classified as "other nationalities" due to the highly heterogeneous nature of this sample, with each nationality represented by a small number of respondents. Their inclusion serves primarily to ensure that the overall sample mirrors the broader demographic composition of the refugee population in Türkiye.

Syria	Afghanistan	Iran	Iraq	Total
5.2	**4.6**	**2.9**	**5**	**4.9**

Figure 2 Average household size, by nationality

Of the respondents, 55 per cent are females, 44 per cent are males, and one per cent are non-binary individuals. Further, **38 per cent** of households are headed by women while **62 per cent** are male headed households. Among the 4,997 household members represented, **60 per cent** are children (of which 55 per cent are girls and 45 per cent are boys). Of these children, **97 per cent** were born in Türkiye.

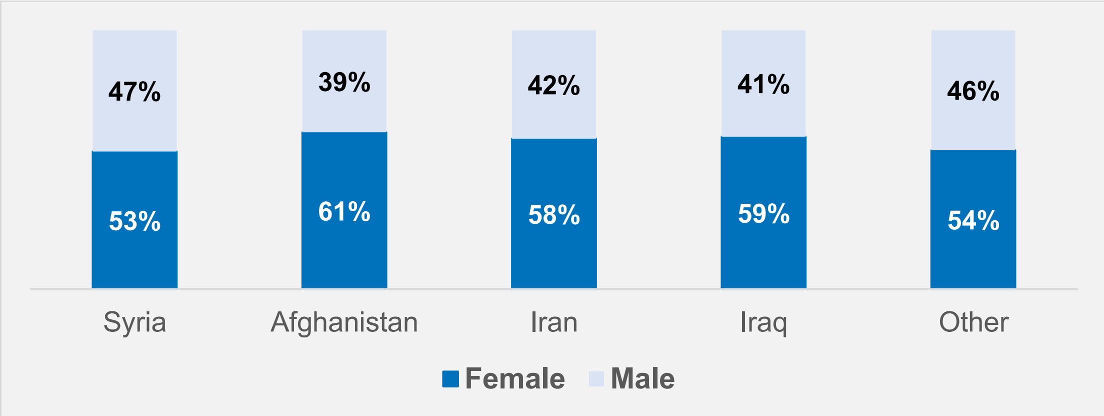


Figure 3 Gender breakdown of respondents, by nationality

Overall, **8 per cent** of household members were identified as having at least one disability, representing a **7 per cent decrease** compared with the previous assessment round. Disability prevalence is notably higher among Iranian households, where **16 per cent** of individuals surveyed report a disability, while rates among other nationality groups remain relatively stable, ranging between **7 and 9 per cent**. Regional differences are also evident: the highest prevalence is observed in Central Anatolia, where **11 per cent** of residents report a disability, whereas Marmara records the lowest rate at **6 per cent**. No significant gender-based differences are observed.

Amongst persons identified as having disabilities, **64 per cent** have a valid report, **9 per cent** indicated never needing one, while **28 per cent** indicate not having one due to various reasons: **11 per cent** attempted to obtain but not able to, **10 per cent** have expired reports, and **7 per cent** never attempted to obtain one despite needing a report. Of those who attempted to obtain a report but failed, **22 per cent** indicate this was because of financial barriers, **17 per cent** did not know about needing a report, **17 per cent** were refused one by the hospital, and **16 per cent** do not have active health insurance.

The vast majority of interviewed households (**87 per cent**) reside in urban and residential areas, while **12 per cent** live in rural settings and **1 per cent** reside in temporary locations due to seasonal labour activities. Across all surveyed households, the data reflects a comprehensive representation of the diverse refugee communities included in the sample.

Registration

Registration levels – primarily including continuous registration for record updates, remain consistently high across the surveyed population, with **97 per cent** of respondents reporting that they are registered under one of Türkiye's protection frameworks[2]. This mirrors the findings from previous rounds and while it points to the strength of the national registration system, the data does not allow for conclusions on system-wide stability. Of respondents indicating they are registered, **3 per cent** hold residence permits.

Among Syrians, the vast majority (**94 per cent**) hold Temporary Protection status, while **4 per cent** remain in the pre-registration phase. Only **1 per cent** report an inactivated ID, a figure that has remained stable over time and is typically linked to address-update requirements rather than systemic barriers.

Procedural and registration related challenges remain particularly relevant for individuals under International Protection. While **56 per cent** hold recognized status, **18 per cent** report being rejected and another **20 per cent** are still waiting for PDMM processing – including both the interview and its decision. The profile of rejected applicants highlights inequities across nationalities: highest indication of rejections is shared by Afghans (**24 per cent**), followed by refugees of other nationalities and Iranians (**17 per cent** both), and Iraqis (**8 per cent**). Central Anatolia continues to host the largest share of rejected individuals, with almost a quarter (**23 per cent**) of respondents indicating rejection, suggesting possibility of region-specific administrative hurdles. The proportion of rejected men (**19 per cent**) are slightly higher than women (**16 per cent**).

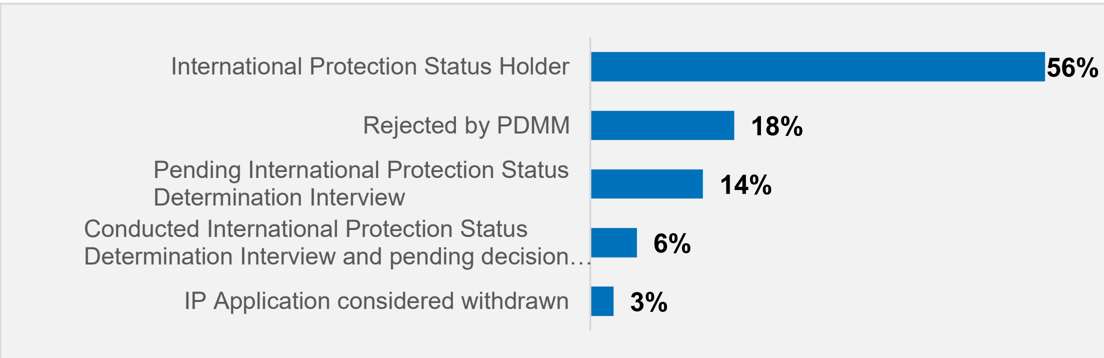


Figure 4 Breakdown of international protection statuses, across respondents

A small group amongst all respondents (3 per cent) indicate that they are currently not registered with authorities. This group primarily includes Syrians (30 per cent) and Afghans (23 per cent), amongst other nationalities. Compared to those who are registered, unregistered

[2] Of those who are registered majority are under Temporary Protection with 61 per cent, followed by those under International Protection at 36 per cent.

respondents report considerably lower levels of access to services, although overall trends of which services were difficult to access remained similar between the two groups.

Residence compliance likewise remains high, with **96 per cent** of respondents living in their province of registration. Syrians most frequently report residing outside of their province amongst nationalities, with more than **5 per cent**, while male headed households also record higher levels female headed households. The highest proportion of respondents residing outside of their province of registration are in the Marmara region, reflecting previously seen patterns of movement toward urban economic centres. This points to the possible presence of unregistered persons in areas characterised by high mobility and dense populations.

Birth registration rates are high with **94 per cent** of children born in Türkiye registered with civil authorities. Important gaps, however, persist among households engaged in seasonal mobility, as well as those from other nationalities, where **23 per cent** of children remain unregistered. These findings signal that while the civil registration system is accessible for most, mobility and location constraints continue to impact specific groups.

Education Levels

When asked about the highest level of education they had completed, respondents most frequently reported primary education (**31 per cent**), followed closely by secondary education (**30 per cent**). A further **16 per cent** indicated that they had not received formal education, while **11 per cent** reported completing tertiary education or above. In addition, **7 per cent** completed postsecondary technical and vocational education and training (TVET), **5 per cent** attained secondary level TVET, and **2 per cent** completed early childhood education (ECE).

	Afghanistan	Iran	Iraq	Other	Syria	Total
Early Childhood Education or Pre-primary	1%		2%		2%	**2%**
No formal education	24%	3%	13%	11%	15%	**16%**
Post-secondary - Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)	11%	16%	4%	10%	5%	**7%**
Primary	20%	6%	24%	22%	37%	**31%**
Secondary	26%	28%	39%	27%	29%	**30%**
Secondary - Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)	9%	14%	4%	6%	3%	**5%**
Tertiary and above	10%	33%	13%	24%	8%	**11%**

Figure 5 Highest Level of Education, by Nationality

Marked differences emerge across nationality groups. The majority of Syrian respondents reported primary level education (**37 per cent**), whereas secondary level education was most common among Iraqi respondents (**39 per cent**) and Afghan respondents (**26 per cent**) respondents as well as respondents from other nationalities (27 per cent). The highest proportion of respondents with tertiary education or above was found among Iranians (**33 per cent**). Completion of tertiary education or above is also most common among respondents in the Aegean region.

Gender based differences are also pronounced, demonstrating an overall higher education level amongst women. **Forty three per cent** of female respondents reported having completed at least secondary education, compared with **37 per cent** of male respondents. Among heads of household, men more frequently reported primary and secondary level completion, while women had higher rates of completing tertiary education and above, as well as technical and vocational programmes.

Language Proficiency

Syria	Afghanistan	Iran	Iraq	Total
70%	82%	92%	85%	74%

Figure 6 Percentage of individuals who report ability to speak Turkish at varying levels, disaggregated by nationality

Language proficiency continues to shape refugees' access to services, employment, and social cohesion, and the findings from this round point to varying degrees of linguistic barriers. Among all household members captured in the assessment, **74 per cent** of all respondents indicate speaking at least some level of Turkish with **7 per cent** able to handle official procedures in Turkish, **22 per cent** communicating comfortably in any situation, **22 per cent** meeting their basic needs in Turkish, **23 per cent** can engaging in everyday conversations and **26 per cent** reporting being unable to speak Turkish at all. Disaggregated findings show that barriers impact particular groups, including unregistered respondents indicating lower levels of Turkish proficiency with **31 per cent** not able to use the language at all.

Nationality differences remain significant. Iranians demonstrate the highest levels of proficiency, with **92 per cent** able to speak or understand Turkish at different levels. They are followed by Iraqi (85 per cent) and Afghan (82 per cent) respondents. Refugees of other nationalities represent the largest group with no Turkish proficiency, with **32 per cent** unable to use the language at all. This is followed by Syrians with **30 per cent** unable to speak Turkish.

Gender-related differences present an interesting contrast. The proportion of male respondents who cannot speak Turkish stands at **30 per cent**, as opposed to **22 per cent** of women. The proportion of female respondents who are proficient in Turkish at different levels are usually higher – particularly for everyday interactions. Furthermore, proficiency increases among women as skill levels rise, indicating that women are more likely than men to develop functional or fluent Turkish over time.

Children consistently show higher levels of proficiency than adults, particularly in conversational and functional categories. The data indicates that children aged 5–18 are more capable than adults of sustaining everyday conversations, using Turkish comfortably, and even handling some official interactions. This reflects successful inclusion into the education system, exposure through school-based environments, and peer interaction. The intergenerational divide, with children becoming more linguistically integrated than adults, further highlights the need for sustained adult-language programming.

Regional patterns reveal modest but meaningful differences. Aegean region has the highest share of highly proficient speakers, with **37 per cent** who can speak Turkish comfortably in any situation and can handle official procedures. Meanwhile the Southeast has the highest proportion of individuals unable to interact in Turkish at all (**28 per cent**).

Over rounds, language has appeared as a prominent factor in determining access to services with these findings underscoring its continued importance. While an important majority of surveyed refugees indicate varying levels of proficiency in Turkish, the remaining quarter of individuals with no functional Turkish suggests that language continues to remain a central area for future focus to increase equitable access to services, social cohesion, employment, and protection pathways. Strengthening language skills remains a key driver of refugee resilience, enabling individuals to navigate institutions, access livelihood opportunities, and build sustainable social networks. In this regard, language proficiency comes across as a foundational asset that enhances adaptive capacity and supports longer-term outcomes.

Accommodation

Accommodation conditions reveal ongoing pressures faced by refugee households, characterised by overcrowding, limited affordability, and vulnerability to eviction. **Twenty-three per cent** of households report sharing their accommodation with individuals outside their household. Among these households, **85 per cent** live in homes with three rooms or fewer, and **9 per cent** share a single room, reflecting severe spatial constraints. While the findings are valid across nationalities, Syrians and Iraqis (**24 per cent** for both), have a high prominence of sharing their accommodation with others. Refugees of other nationalities also demonstrate a high prominence with **32 per cent.**

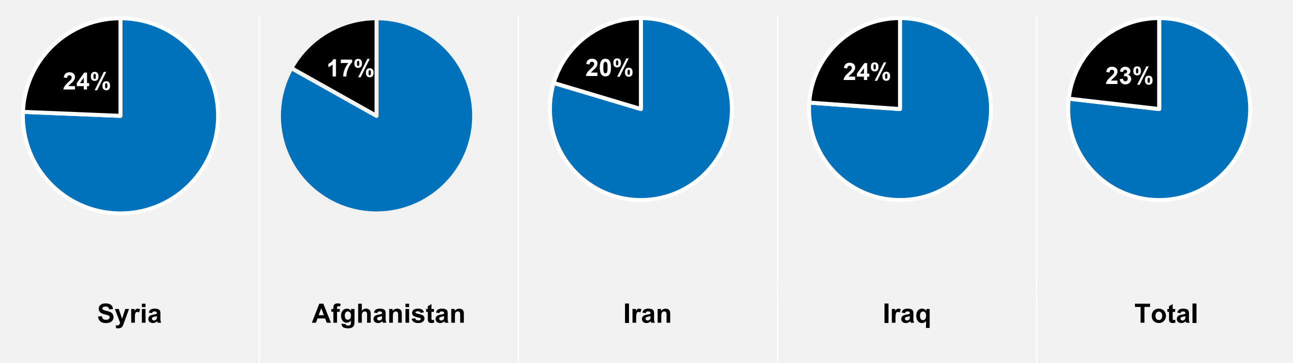


Figure 7 Proportion of individuals sharing accommodation with non-household members, disaggregated by nationality

Regionally, most of the shared accommodation is based in Marmara (**26 per cent** of all respondents in Marmara), followed by Central Anatolia (24 per cent) suggesting that housing pressures are particularly acute in these areas. This can be explained by particularly high rent costs in the Marmara region, as indicated by participants. These crowded living conditions intersect with household vulnerabilities: **34 per cent** of households sharing accommodation include at least one member with a serious medical condition or disability. This indicates that some of the most vulnerable households are also those forced into the least adequate housing arrangements, likely due to financial constraints and limited rental options.

Housing insecurity remains a persistent challenge with **25 per cent** of households reporting facing a risk of eviction within the coming month. Among households at risk, **40 per cent** include a member with a serious medical condition, and **15 per cent** include a person with a disability, underscoring the compounded risks facing households with chronic health needs. The highest risk of eviction is reported for the Aegean region, with **28 per cent** of respondents from the Aegean stating this concern.

Despite these challenges, access to basic sanitation remains comparatively strong. **Ninety-four per cent** of households report having a private toilet within their accommodation, while **3 per cent** share a toilet within the building and **2 per cent** rely on shared facilities outside the building. These proportions have remained stable since 2024, suggesting that even as households compromise on space and affordability, essential sanitation standards are largely maintained.

Taken together, the accommodation findings describe a persistent pattern of overcrowding, limited affordability, and heightened eviction risk, with no substantial improvement since the previous round. These conditions reflect ongoing economic pressures and structural constraints in the housing market, pointing to a continued need for targeted assistance, rental support mechanisms, and interventions addressing the specific vulnerabilities of households with medical and disability-related needs.

Specific Needs

Specific needs remain a defining characteristic of refugee household vulnerability, though this round shows a slight change in the prevalence of specific needs within households, compared with last year. Overall, **56 per cent** of households report having at least one member with a specific need, representing a **10-point decrease** from the previous round. While this reduction suggests a slight shift toward improved coping or stabilization, the scale remains significant, with more than half of all households still navigating health, disability, or protection-related challenges.

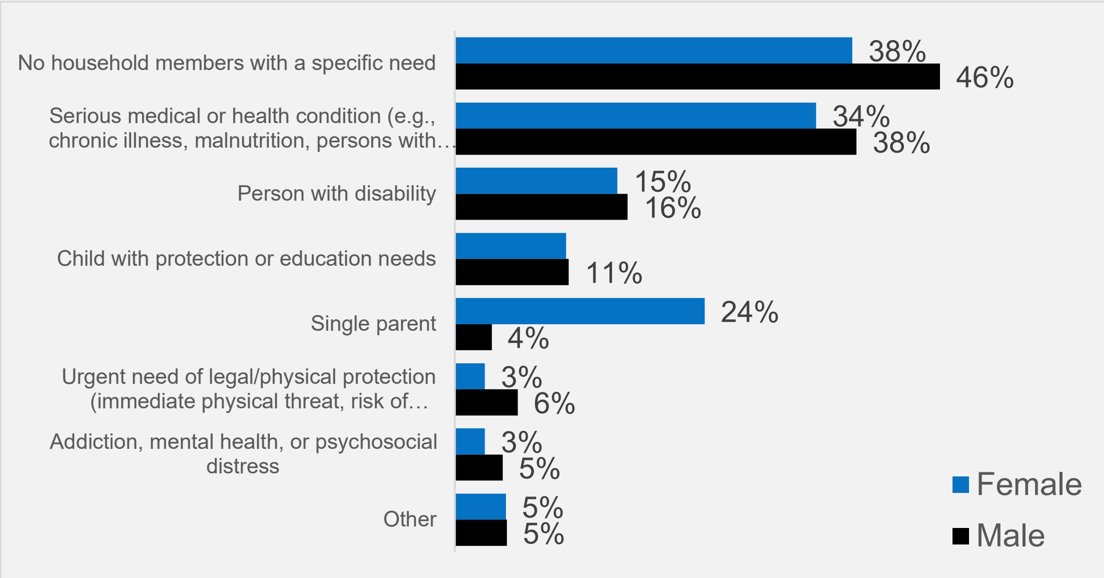


Figure 8 Prevalence of specific needs among household members, disaggregated by sex of the head of household

Nationality patterns remain consistent with earlier findings. Afghan households exhibit the highest levels of specific needs, with **84 per cent** reporting at least one member requiring additional support. Iranians also report elevated levels (**80 per cent**), reflecting long-standing vulnerabilities in both groups linked to chronic health issues, disability, and protection needs. Conversely, households of other nationalities show the lowest levels (**55 per cent**), while Syrians (**52 per cent** with no needs) and Iraqis (**47 per cent**) fall closer to the middle of the spectrum. These patterns show a change in trends from 2024, where Iraqi households reported the most needs, followed by Iranians. While Iranians remain the nationality with the second highest level of specific needs since 2024, the number of Iranians reporting needs have increased by **8 per cent**.

Regional differences also illustrate unequal distribution of specific needs. The Aegean (**72 per cent**) and Central Anatolia (**71 per cent**) record the highest prevalence of households with specific needs, while Marmara and the Southeast show similar but lower proportions (around **50 per cent**). This represents a shift from last year, when the Southeast recorded the highest need levels. The new pattern mirrors findings under different thematic areas, where respondents in the Aegean consistently report the highest levels of socio-economic vulnerability and barriers to access services.

Gender and household composition continue to influence the presence of specific needs. While overall differences between male and female respondents are not pronounced, female-headed households continue to show higher vulnerability, with **62 per cent** reporting at least one member with a specific need, compared with **54 per cent** of male-headed households. These disparities align with long-standing evidence that female-headed households face compounded pressures, including limited access to livelihoods, higher caregiving burdens, and greater exposure to protection risks.

In terms of the types of specific needs, the profile remains largely unchanged from previous rounds. Serious medical conditions are the most common, affecting **36 per cent** of households, followed by disability (**16 per cent**) and children with protection or education-related needs (**11 per cent**). Notably, single parenthood emerges as an important gendered vulnerability: **14 per cent** of female respondents identify being a single parent as a specific need, compared with **4 per cent** of male respondents. Among female-headed households, the proportion rises to **24 per cent** (compared to 4 per cent), illustrating a much heavier caregiving and economic burden.

The ranking of specific needs remains stable compared to 2024, chronic medical conditions and disabilities continuing to be the highest reported specific needs. This consistency suggests that while the overall share of households reporting specific needs has decreased, the nature of vulnerabilities affecting refugee communities remains deeply structural rather than situational.

Taken together, these findings reflect a mixed landscape: a notable reduction in the proportion of households reporting specific needs, balanced by persistent disparities affecting Afghan and Iranian communities, female-headed households, and regions with heightened socioeconomic strain. The stability in the types of needs—dominated by serious health conditions and disabilities—indicates that comprehensive, long-term support mechanisms continue to be essential for maintaining protection outcomes for the most vulnerable.

Access to Information on Asylum Procedures, Rights, and Available Services

The findings presented in this heading refer exclusively to refugees' access to information on asylum procedures, rights, and available services, and should not be interpreted as reflecting access to information on voluntary returns processes or influencing return-related decision-making.

Access to accurate, timely, and comprehensible information continues to be a challenge for some refugee households, with implications for their ability to navigate services, exercise rights, and make informed decisions. This round, **23 per cent** of respondents explicitly report feeling uninformed, showing a similar trend compared with **22 per cent** recorded in 2024. In addition, **31 per cent** of respondents feel well informed about their rights and available services, and nearly half of households (**46 per cent**) feel neither informed nor uninformed. These findings suggest some barriers in communication channels that leave households struggling to receive and act on information.

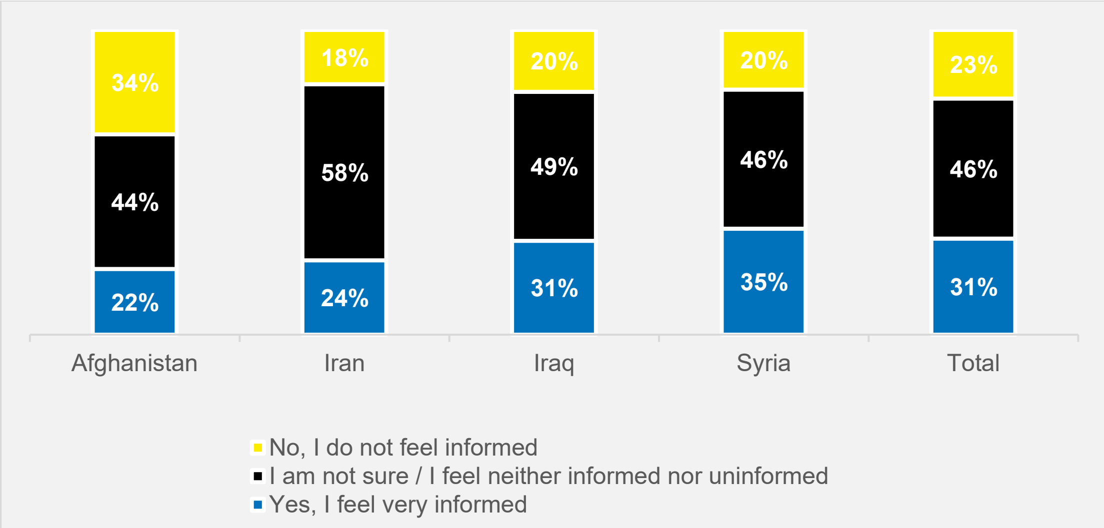
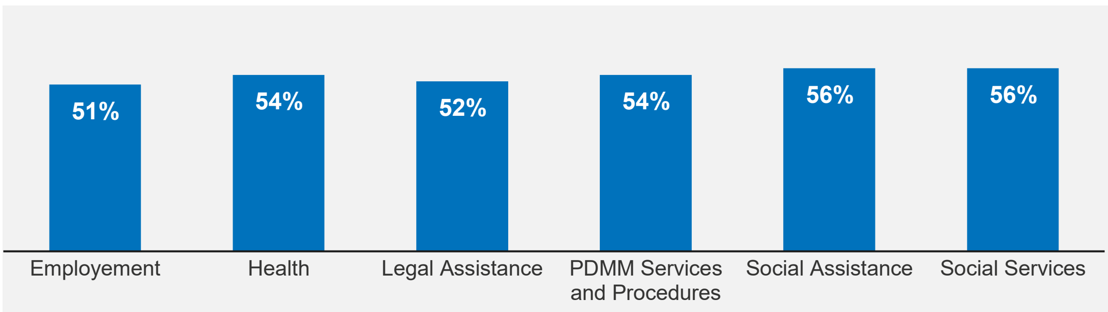


Figure 9 Proportion of respondents reporting sufficient information on rights and available services, disaggregated by nationality

Nationality-based disparities remain prominent. Afghans report the highest levels of feeling uninformed at **34 per cent**, markedly higher than Syrians, Iraqis, and Iranians, who range between **18 and 20 per cent**—a pattern consistent with last year. These discrepancies reflect differing levels of system familiarity, language proficiency, and the complexity of documentation and protection procedures faced by various groups. Female and male respondents report similar levels of feeling uninformed (**24 and 23 per** cent respectively), suggesting that the lack of access to information is broadly shared across gender lines rather than concentrated among one group.



Information needs remain high across all service areas, but priorities differ by group. When respondents identify the type of information they lack most, **56 per cent** prioritise social services and social assistance—making it the most common need, surpassing PDMM-related information that ranked highest last year. This shift is consistent with findings of increasing socioeconomic strain and a growing dependence on assistance mechanisms. Information needs on social services are shared as the priority need by refugees of other nationalities (**71 per cent**) and Syrians (**49 per cent**).

Information on PDMM procedures remains a gap with **54 per cent** indicating a need for increased knowledge – with particular importance for International Protection applicants and beneficiaries. Information on PDMMs appears as the primary need stated by Iranian respondents, with **79 per cent** of all Iranian respondents expressing this. Iraqi respondents also underline this as their primary information gap. Although not stated as their primary information need, a significant portion of Afghan respondents (**75 per cent**) also stated needing more awareness on PDMM procedures. Among those seeking PDMM-related information, **21 per cent** need guidance on feedback and complaints mechanisms, **21 per cent** on accessing health services (such as insurance activation), and **19 per cent** on navigating the e-government system. **15 per cent** still lack essential information on registration, documentation, or address updates, compared with **30 per cent** last year—indicating an overall reduction in need but also reflecting other rising priorities.

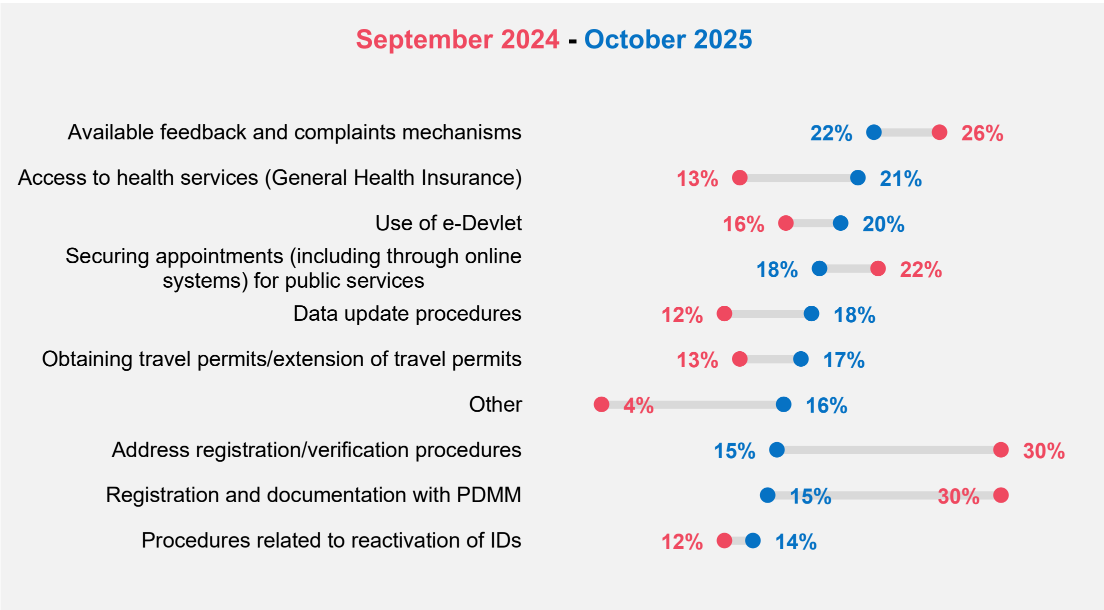


Figure 10 Main information needs regarding PDMM-related procedures, year-on-year comparison

Information on PDMM services shows further nuance when examined by nationality. The need for PDMM-related health information is especially pronounced among respondents under International Protection, with **43 per cent** indicating this is their priority need, compared to only **5 per cent** of Syrians. This is the case particularly Afghans, **53 per cent** of whom prioritise this, followed by **43 per cent** of Iranians and **33 per cent** of individuals from other nationalities. For Syrians, the most prioritized PDMM-related categories are data update procedures (**21 per cent**) and information on temporary visits to Syria[3] (**20 per cent**). These differences underline how information gaps are shaped by each group's legal status, documentation challenges, and administrative histories.

Regional differences highlight varying awareness landscapes concerning PDMM services. In the Aegean, **38 per cent** identify general health insurance as their primary information need, while in Central Anatolia this figure reaches **33 per cent**. These are in line with findings on access to health services, with respondents in these two regions stating the lowest levels of access. Respondents in Marmara are more likely to seek information on travel permits (**25 per cent**), whereas in the Southeast, feedback mechanisms and data update procedures are most commonly cited (**22 per cent** each).

Information needs on healthcare appear as prominent as PDMM-related needs, with **54 per cent** of respondents overall underlining a gap in knowledge. This is most pronounced amongst Afghan respondents with almost **80 per cent** pointing to lack of awareness. Findings are consistent with the PDMM-related outcomes for Afghan respondents, pointing to increased need to focus on General Health Insurance related concerns.

Awareness of work permit exemptions for Syrian nationals remains limited: **56 per cent** are unaware of recent regulatory changes, compared with **44 per cent** who are aware. This suggests refugees continue to face barriers in accessing clear, up-to-date information on services and suggests that livelihood opportunities may be constrained not only by legal frameworks but by the lack of accessible information about them.

Information accessibility for persons with disabilities (PwD) and older persons presents another area of concern. Nearly half (**48 per cent**) of respondents do not know whether information is accessible to these groups. Another **20 per cent** believe information is not accessible, while only **32 per cent** feel that information is available in appropriate formats. The highest accessibility is reported in the Southeast, while Marmara shows the lowest levels. Among nationalities, Afghans face the greatest challenges, with only **7 per cent** stating that information is accessible for older persons, **3 per cent** for PwDs, and **2 per cent** for both. Barriers are multifaceted: **31 per cent** cite limited outreach, **29 per cent** report the lack of accessible formats, and **25 per cent** note that PwDs and older persons are excluded from community information sessions. These patterns reflect systemic gaps in inclusive and tailored communication strategies.

When asked about **preferred channels to receive information**, findings indicate a strong overall preference for digital communication channels, with social media platforms the most preferred with **41 per cent** of all respondents, closely followed by messaging applications (**40**

[3] Referring to the "Go-and-See Visits" launched in early 2025.

per cent). Nearly one quarter of respondents (**24 per cent**) report preferring formal, one-to-one counselling sessions, highlighting the continued relevance of in-person modalities for specific population groups.

	Syria	Afghanistan	Iran	Iraq
Social media	**51%**	25%	13%	**34%**
Messaging apps	47%	33%	42%	27%
Formal one-to-one counselling/advice in person	15%	**42%**	**48%**	23%
Text message/SMS	26%	12%	17%	24%

Figure 11 Preferred channels for receiving information at the household level, disaggregated by nationality

Preferences vary notably by nationality with Syrian respondents predominantly favouring online channels as opposed to Afghans, Iranians, and refugees of other nationalities who demonstrate a stronger preference for in-person information delivery, suggesting differing levels of access, trust, or familiarity with digital platforms across communities. Geographical differences are also evident with respondents in the Marmara and Southeast regions reporting a higher preference for social media as their primary information channel, while respondents in Central Anatolia show a stronger inclination towards in-person counselling sessions. These variations underscore the importance of region-specific communication strategies.

On **trusted sources of information**, across respondents, informal and peer-based sources are the most trusted and frequently used with **half of respondents** preferring receiving information through online groups of refugees, while nearly an equal proportion (**49 per cent**) rely on friends, family, and neighbours they know in person. In comparison, formal actors are less frequently cited: **30 per cent** of respondents report relying on NGOs or CBOs, and **28 per cent** on official government authorities. Compared to the previous year, this represents a 5 per cent increase in reliance on NGOs and CBOs, and a 7 per cent increase in reliance on government authorities. Notably, Afghan and Iranian respondents report higher levels of reliance on NGOs and UN agencies compared to other nationality groups, indicating comparatively greater trust in humanitarian actors among these populations.

Information sources continue to shape how households engage with services, as limited access to information is frequently mentioned as a barrier to accessing services. Therefore what emerges clearly is the importance of continued engagement with community networks and sources, to strengthen community mobilization and empowerment and to ensure that information barriers do not cascade to limited access to services.

Awareness of available feedback, complaints and response mechanisms varies considerably across the sample. Overall, **19 per cent** of respondents report that they are not aware of any such mechanism or channel. Among those who are aware, **19 per cent** mention in person methods, **16 per cent** know of hotlines, and **12 per cent** cite social media channels. Awareness levels are higher in the Aegean and Marmara regions, with respondents in the

Aegean most frequently identifying in person channels, while those in Marmara most commonly refer to social media-based options.

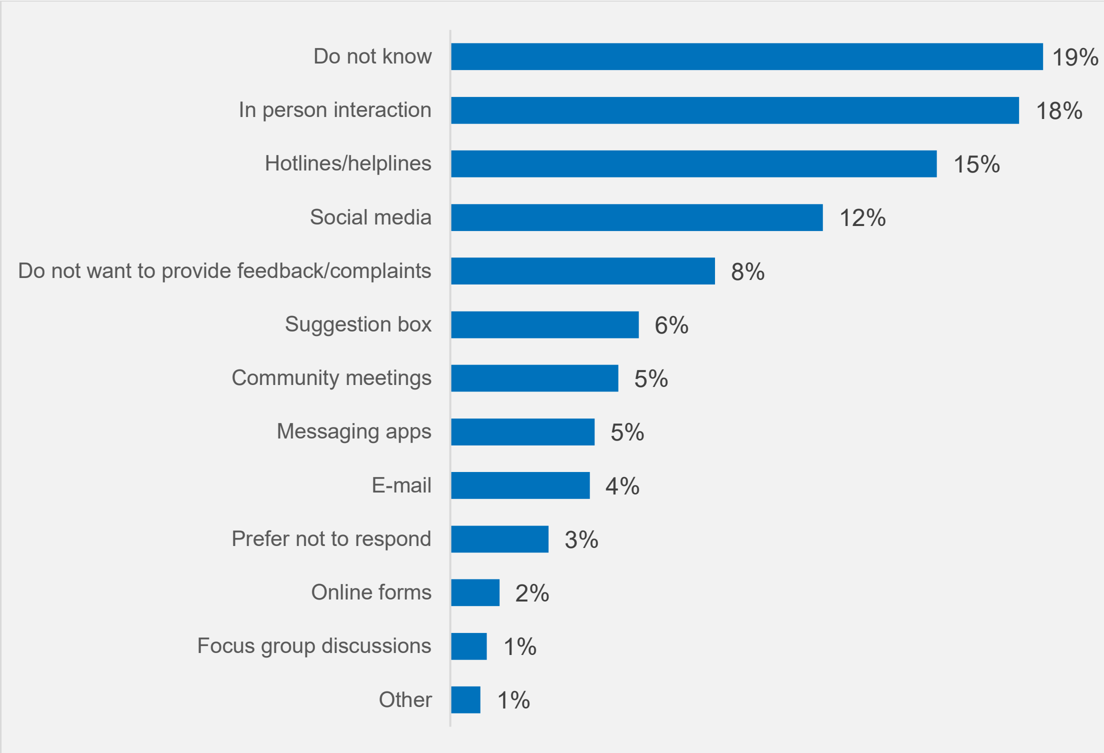


Figure 12 Awareness of feedback and complaints mechanisms among respondents

Notable differences also emerge across nationality groups. Iranian (**30 per cent**) and Syrian (**19 per cent**) respondents are more likely to report a lack of awareness, whereas Afghan, Iraqi, and respondents of other nationalities more often indicate knowledge of in person mechanisms. Gender variations are limited but present: a slightly higher share of female respondents report being unaware of available mechanisms (**22 per cent**) compared with male respondents (**19 per cent**). In addition, urban residents report higher levels of awareness overall than those living in rural or mobile/seasonal settings, highlighting ongoing disparities in access to feedback and complaints channels.

Overall, the information landscape depicted in this round suggests a widening divide between available information on services and the community's ability to access it. The continuing issues around perceived awareness, the high demand for information on social assistance, and the persistent gaps affecting Afghans, women, and persons with disabilities point to the need for renewed investment in targeted, accessible communication strategies that address both structural and group-specific barriers.

Access to Services

Access to services remains a central challenge for refugee households, with significant disparities across service types, nationalities, and geographical zones. Overall, respondents reported the greatest difficulty accessing **social services**, with **69 per cent** indicating they tried accessing these services and **51 per cent** of them unable to access, in the past six months. This marks a deterioration compared to last year, when about 25 per cent reported difficulty accessing a variety of social services[4]. This shift suggests deepening socioeconomic strain and greater reliance on public and NGO social service mechanisms, which may not be keeping pace with rising demand.

Amongst nationalities, Afghans reported the greatest need for social services with **91 per cent** attempting access, followed by Iranians with **86 per cent**. Iranians had the most difficulty accessing these services, with **80 per cent** of those who attempted, failing to access, followed by Afghans with **64 per cent** failing to access. Regionally, the Aegean and Central Anatolia had the highest rates of failure to access social services, with almost **60 per cent** of respondents in both regions unable to reach. Significant access differences weren't observed between female and male respondents, however a higher proportion of female respondents attempted accessing social services, compared to male respondents.

	Syria	Afghanistan	Iran	Iraq	Total
Health Services	91%	53%	39%	68%	**77%**
NGOs	73%	61%	55%	64%	**69%**
PDMM services	73%	57%	50%	77%	**69%**
Social services	57%	36%	20%	48%	**49%**
Other Services	52%	31%	19%	43%	**42%**

Figure 13 Access to services, of those who attempted to access services, disaggregated by nationality

In the face of increasing assistance needs, **79 per cent** of respondents indicate that they attempted to reach **NGO services** in the past six months, and **31 per cent** were unable to access their services. Difficulty with access was most strongly indicated by Iranian respondents with **45 per cent** of Iranians in need of support from NGOs unable to access them, followed by Afghans (**39 per cent**). These two nationalities also indicated the strongest preference for NGOs as a trusted information source – pointing to continued inclination to approach NGOs despite having difficulty accessing services at times. A gender-based analysis shows that women and female headed households needed to access NGOs much more than their male counterparts, with **84 per cent** of women approaching NGOs as opposed to **73 per cent** of men. Amongst those who tried to access, women had greater difficulty compared to men.

PDMM services continue to be difficult to access for many households, though the situation appears to have improved compared to 2024. In this round, **79 per cent** of respondents

[4] The service access comparison with the previous year is approximately reflected as the categorization system in the survey has changed for the this round of the assessment.

indicated they needed services from PDMM in the past six months. While PDMM was the most difficult service to access last year at 39 per cent, this round shows a 8-point improvement, with **31 per cent** of respondents reporting they were unable to access PDMM services despite trying. Access remains uneven across nationalities: **50 per cent** of Iranians and **43 per cent** of Afghans report being unable to access PDMM services, compared with **27 per cent** of Syrians under Temporary Protection. Regionally, PDMM access is most constrained in the Aegean, where respondents report the lowest success rates. The primary PDMM-related difficulties involve obtaining or extending travel permits (**22 per cent** unable to access), reactivating health insurance (**21 per cent**), and address registration or updates (**20 per cent**). Status-specific patterns emerge clearly: **51 per cent** of IP applicants who required PDMM services needed support with health insurance reactivation versus **2 per cent** of Syrians, while **28 per cent** of Syrians under TP required address updates.

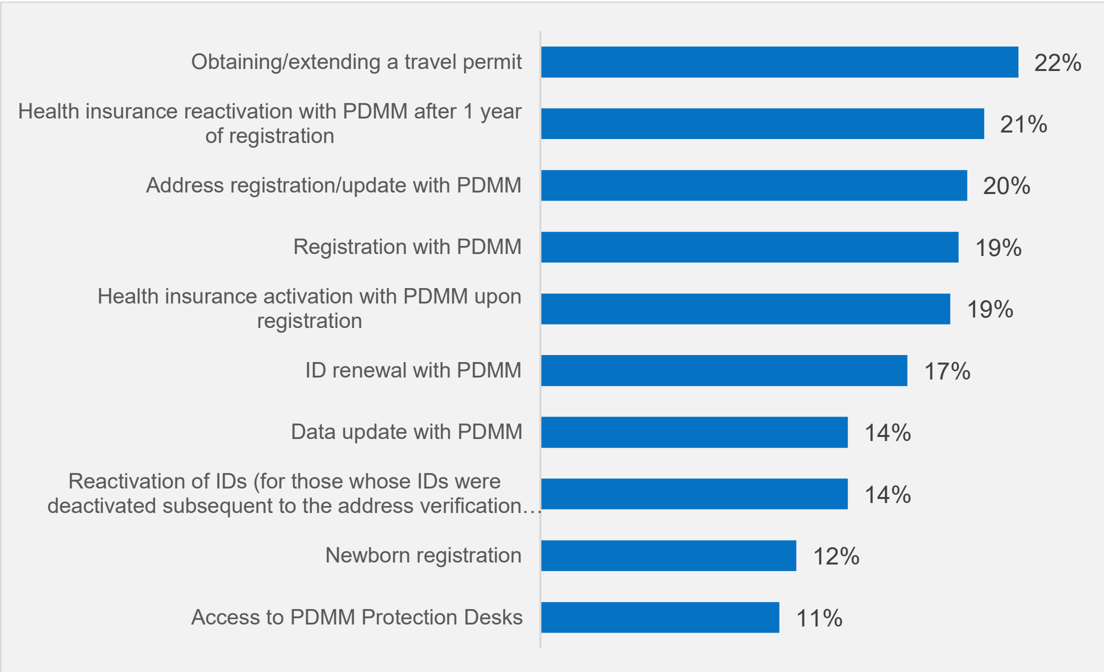


Figure 14 Overview of PDMM services that respondents reported being unable to access

Respondents face multiple **barriers in access to social services as well as services provided by PDMMs and NGOs**. Lack of information emerges as the most commonly reported barrier, affecting **39 per cent** of respondents, followed by language barriers (**30 per cent**), documentation and registration issues (**30 per cent**), and financial constraints (**30 per cent**). These are consistent with the findings under the language proficiency heading, as only 7 per cent report Turkish proficiency in handling official procedures. The findings also reflect the findings captured in the information chapter with only 31 per cent reporting that they feel informed on rights and services. Nationality-specific patterns are notable: Afghans (**42 per cent**), Iranians (**37 per cent**), and Iraqis (**53 per cent**) primarily cite lack of information, whereas Syrians identify language barriers (**41 per cent**) and difficulty booking appointments (**39 per cent**) as their main obstacles. This distinction highlights how Syrians may generally understand where to seek services but face operational barriers at service points, while other groups struggle with foundational knowledge about procedures and entitlements.

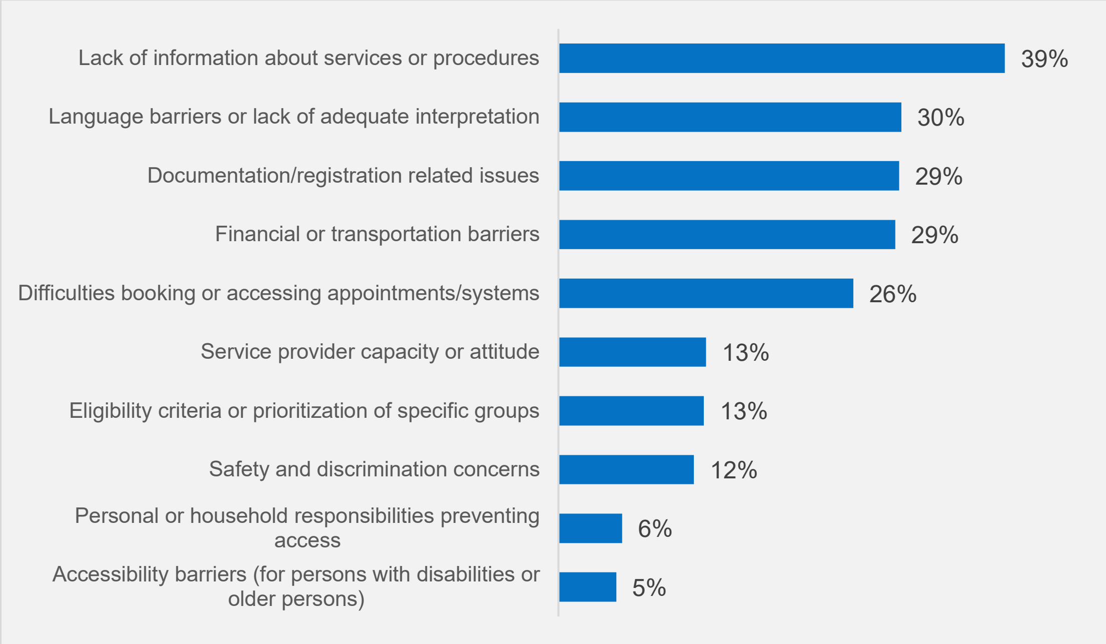


Figure 15 Overview of the primary barriers reported in accessing services, excluding health services

Regional patterns further illustrate the complexity of service access. Respondents in the Aegean (**53 per cent**) and Central Anatolia (**41 per cent**) are most affected by lack of information, while those in the Southeast primarily cite appointment system difficulties (**42 per cent**) and language barriers (**40 per cent**). Rural households face disproportionately high financial and transportation barriers (**39 per cent**).

Gender differences, while not pronounced overall, show specific vulnerabilities: **32 per cent** of women face financial or transportation barriers compared to **25 per cent** of men, and female heads of households more often face language or interpretation needs (**38 per cent** compared with **23 per cent** of male headed households). These intersectional constraints reinforce earlier findings suggesting that female-headed households experience a more complex combination of socioeconomic and operational barriers.

Health service access shows both improvement and persistent gaps. In 2025, health services were the most in demand across all categories, with **88 per cent** of respondents indicating they attempted access. The proportion of respondents unable to access healthcare decreased from 28 per cent last year to **23 per cent** this year. However, this masks significant disparities: **61 per cent** of Iranians and **47 per cent** of Afghans report being unable to access healthcare, compared with only **9 per cent** of Syrians. Central Anatolia and the Aegean are the regions facing the highest levels of health service inaccessibility, closely tied to widespread issues with inactive health insurance in these areas. The regional findings also align with information access outcomes, with the Central Anatolia and Aegean regions recording the lowest level of awareness on health access and general health insurance processes. No significant gender-based differences are observed.

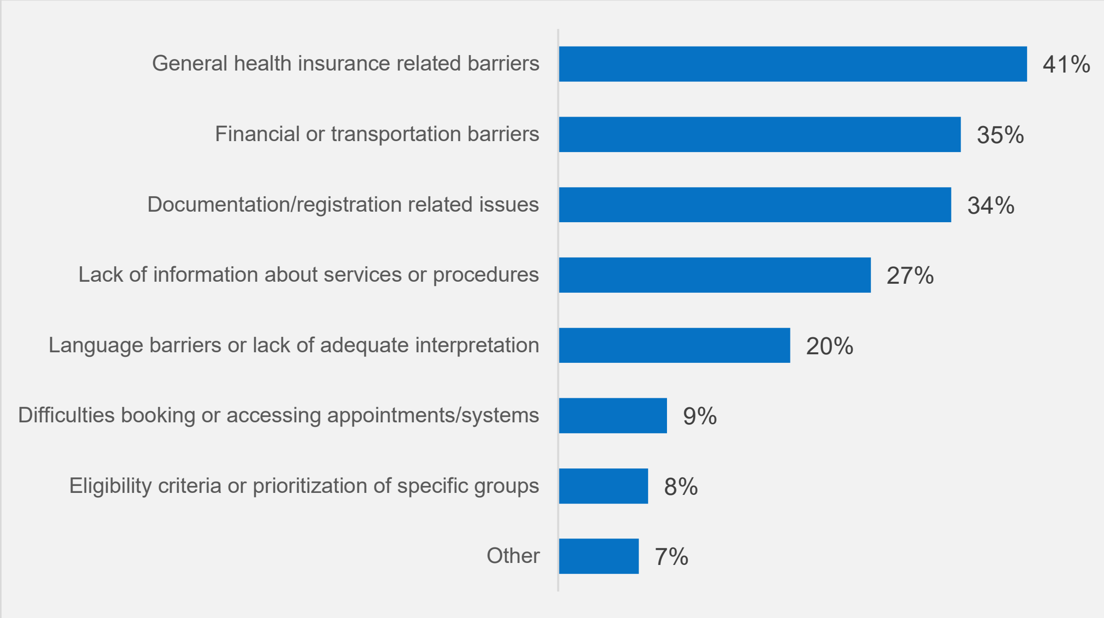


Figure 16 Overview of barriers reported when accessing health services

Health insurance remains the most prominent barrier to healthcare access. Among those unable to access healthcare, **69 per cent** report currently inactive health insurance, resulting from various causes: previously active insurance becoming inactive (**29 per cent**), rejection of IP applications (**14 per cent**), insurance not activated upon registration (**6 per cent**), and expiration after one year (**6 per cent**). Nearly all respondents with inactive insurance are under International Protection, with only **7 per cent** being Syrians under TP. Central Anatolia accounts for almost half (**47 per cent**) of all inactive insurance cases. Of those who attempted to reactivate their insurance, **59 cent** were unsuccessful, often because PDMMs did not disclose the reason (**32 per cent**) or found the medical condition insufficient for reactivation under Ministry of Health criteria.

Together, these findings portray a service environment where access varies significantly not only by the type of service but also by nationality, location, and gender. Improvements in certain areas—particularly health and PDMM—do not offset growing constraints in social services and the persistent structural challenges faced by IP applicants, households in the Aegean and Central Anatolia, and communities navigating inactive insurance systems. The prominence of information-related and administrative barriers underscores the critical need for simplified, consistent, and multilingual guidance, alongside targeted support mechanisms that address systemic inaccessibility for the most affected groups.

Education

Access to education remains generally high for refugee children in Türkiye, but notable disparities and persistent barriers continue to affect certain groups, particularly children with disabilities and households facing economic strain. In this round, **58 per cent** of households report that all their children are attending school, a slight decrease from **62 per cent** last year. Another **5 per cent** indicate that most of their children attend, **25 per cent** say only some children attend, and **12 per cent** report that none of their children attend school. These shifts suggest a gradual movement away from full attendance toward more mixed attendance patterns, likely reflecting economic pressures, challenges with enrolment, and increased psychosocial or protection-related obstacles.

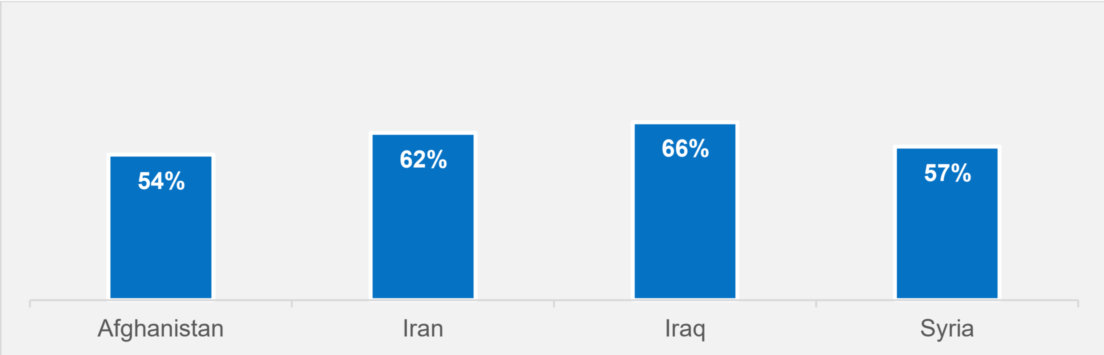


Figure 17 Overview of children's access to education in Türkiye, disaggregated by nationality

Differences across nationalities highlight varying experiences. Iraqi households report the highest rates of access, with **92 per cent** indicating that all, most, or some of their children attend school. **Eighty-eight per cent** of Syrian households indicate some level of access, with **57 per cent** indicating that all their children attend, and 30 per cent indicating that majority or some do. Households from other nationalities have the lowest access, with only **74 per cent** reporting any level of participation and **26 per cent** indicating that none of their children are attending formal education. These disparities reflect longstanding challenges among smaller nationality groups who often face compounded documentation difficulties, weaker community networks, and limited access to support services.

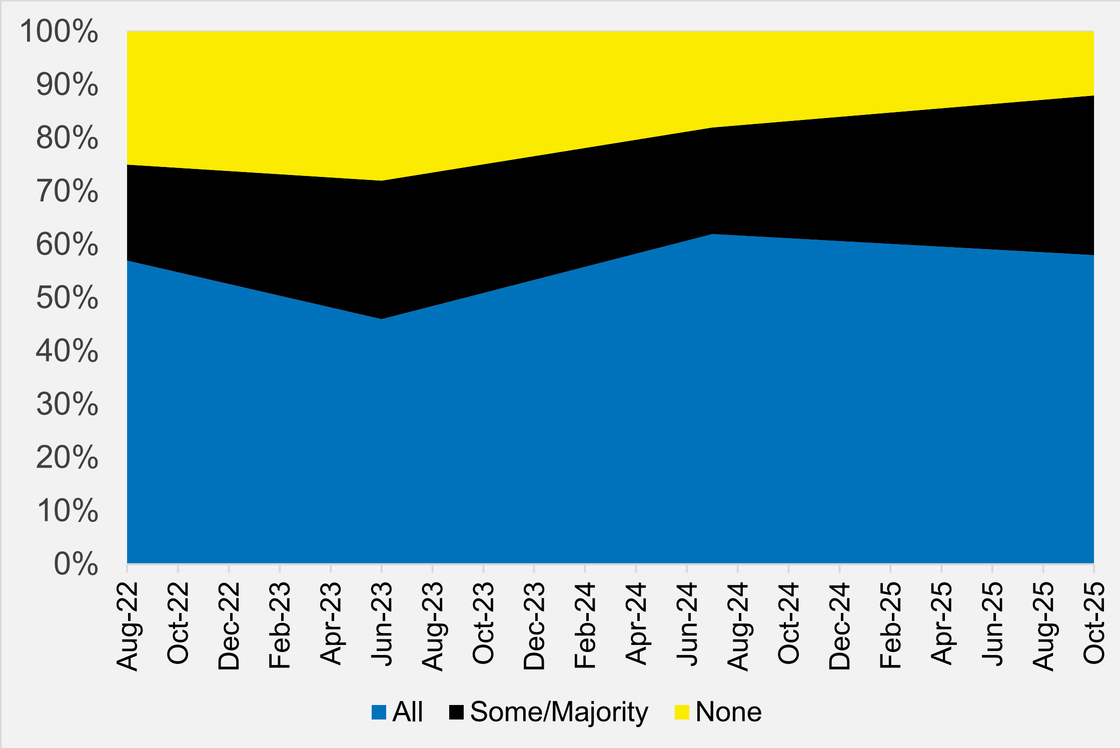


Figure 18 Complementary visual illustrating differences across reporting periods

Regional differences remain pronounced. Attendance is highest in the Aegean, where **92 per cent** of households report that all, most, or some children are attending school. Marmara shows the lowest levels, with **84 per cent** recording at least partial attendance and **16 per cent** indicating complete non-attendance. These regional variations mirror the complex administrative and logistical challenges often seen with larger metropolitan provinces.

Barriers to education continue to follow patterns observed in previous years, though some have shifted in magnitude. When households were asked why their children are out of school, **36 per cent** cited financial barriers, **20 per cent** documentation or registration issues, and **19 per cent** reported peer bullying. For Syrian households, financial constraints dominate (**41 per cent**), whereas Afghan, Iranian, and other nationality groups point primarily to documentation challenges (**34–42 per cent**). Iraqi households stand out for identifying peer bullying as the leading cause (**33 per cent**)—a concerning shift from last year, where bullying was mentioned by only 10 per cent of Iraqis.

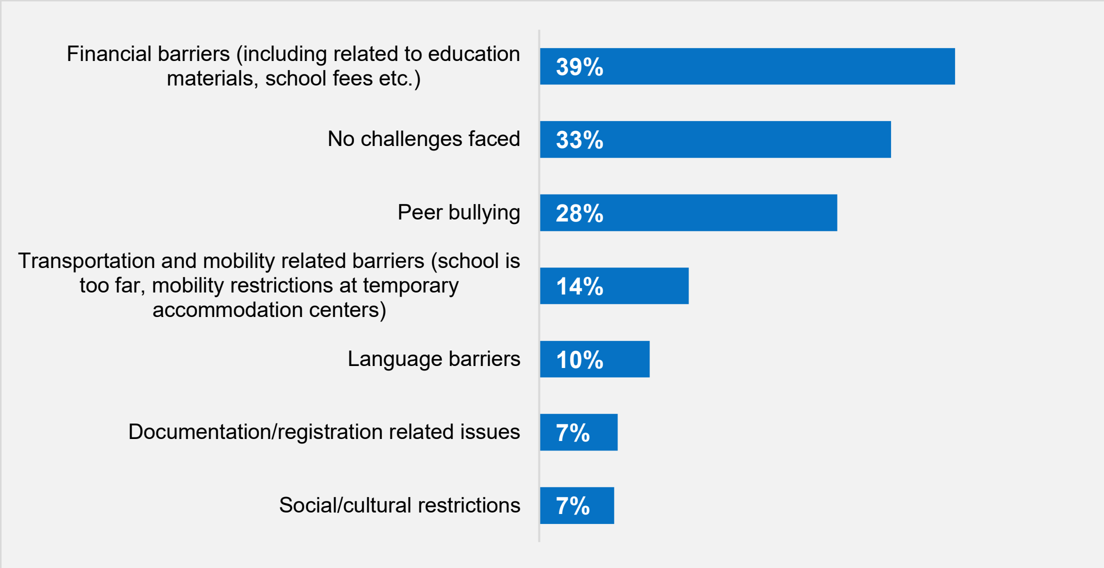


Figure 19 Challenges in continued attendance in schools, across respondents

When examining barriers to continued attendance among children who are enrolled, the same issues reappear. **Thirty per cent** of households report financial difficulties, **25 per cent** cite peer bullying, and **14 per cent** highlight transportation or mobility issues. These attendance barriers align closely with the reasons families provide for children being out of school, reinforcing the systemic nature of the constraints. Gender patterns reveal that female respondents are more likely to report financial issues (**40 per cent** vs. **36 per cent** for men) and bullying (**31 per cent** vs. **23 per cent**), while female heads of household similarly report considerably higher levels of both obstacles than their male counterparts.

When asked of enrolment and registration difficulties, respondents shift their focus onto social challenges. **Nineteen per cent** point to negative attitudes of teachers and school administrators whilst **17 per cent** indicate peer bullying impacts their experience. Once again peer bullying appears a significant concern for Iraqi respondents, with **40 per cent** of Iraqi households indicating concern on this. Across regions, school personnel's negative attitudes are most prominent in the Marmara region, stated by **36 per cent** of the region's residents.

Children with disabilities face the most pronounced barriers in the education system. Only **25 per cent** of households with a child with disabilities report full attendance, and **13 per cent** indicate partial attendance. A striking **62 per cent** state that their children with disabilities are completely out of school—compared to **13 per cent** of children living without disabilities. Attendance rates are highest among Syrian families (**45 per cent** full or partial attendance) and significantly lower among nationalities under International Protection. The data indicate a gender-related gap in the attendance of children with disabilities: **35 per cent** of female respondents report that children in their households attend programs, compared with **42 per cent** of male respondents; similarly, attendance is **32 per cent** among female headed of households compared with **39 per cent** among male headed households.

Access to higher education remains limited. A significant **85 per cent** of respondents state that no household members are attending higher education, while **11 per cent** report attendance—primarily in undergraduate (bachelor-level) or associate degree programmes—and **2 per cent** note that a household member took the university entrance exam but is not currently enrolled. Attendance is highest among individuals of other nationalities (**18 per cent**) and Syrians (**13 per cent**), with no major differences across regions, gender, or head-of-household categories. When asked why no one is pursuing higher education, the most common responses are lack of interest (**28 per cent**) and financial barriers (**22 per cent**), reflecting a combination of socioeconomic pressures and perceived limited returns on investment in higher education.

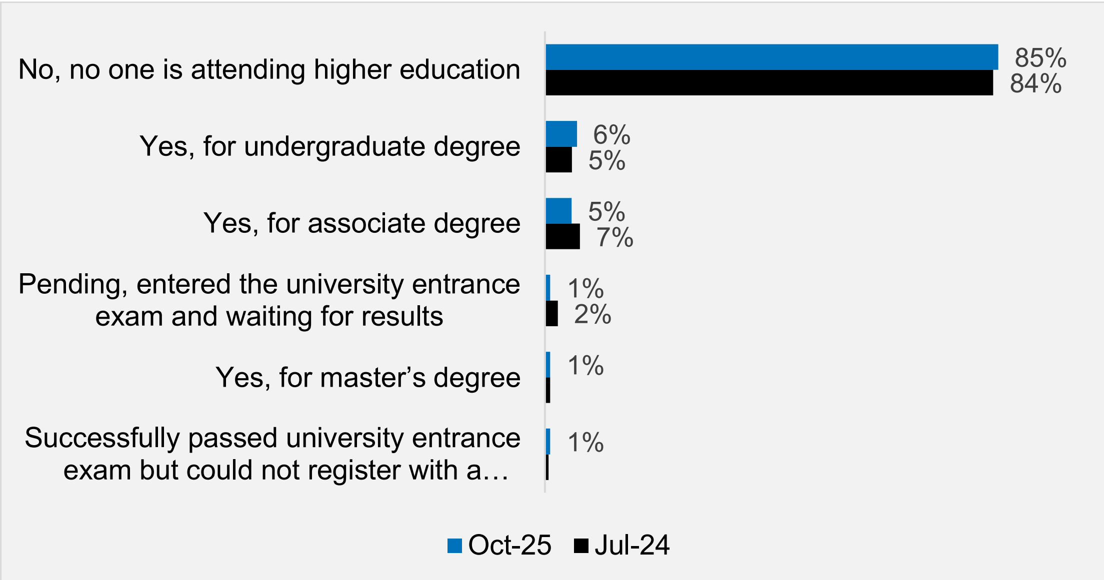


Figure 20 Overview of higher education attendance at the household level, comparison between rounds

Participation in **vocational and skills-related courses** remains relatively limited across the sample, though it is more prevalent than engagement in higher education. Overall, **21 per cent** of respondents report that at least one household member is attending Turkish language courses, while participation in vocational training programmes remains low at **5 per cent**. Attendance varies by nationality, with Iranian respondents demonstrating markedly higher engagement: **57 per cent** report participation in at least one type of course, substantially exceeding other nationality groups. The primary motivations for enrolment relate to social and economic inclusion, with two thirds of respondents (**66 per cent**) citing improved integration into Turkish society as the main driver, followed by improved access to the labour market (**26 per cent**). These findings suggest that while overall interest in courses remains limited, language and vocational training are perceived as practical pathways to both social inclusion and employment opportunities.

Together, these findings paint a picture of an education landscape that remains broadly resilient but marked by cumulative pressures. While overall attendance remains high, the gradual decline in full attendance suggests increasing strains on households. Financial constraints, documentation challenges, and peer bullying continue to shape children's educational experiences, with particularly severe consequences for children with disabilities and for nationality groups facing more complex documentation pathways. Regional and gender differences further highlight the layered nature of the barriers. These patterns underscore the need for tailored, multi-dimensional support to ensure equitable access to education and to prevent further erosion of gains made in previous years.

Work and Livelihoods

Employment conditions for refugee households in Türkiye continue to be characterized by high informality, unstable income, and limited access to decent work, with findings in October 2025 closely mirroring those observed in previous rounds [5]. Overall, **39 per cent** of respondents reported having worked for pay in the past seven days, while **61 per cent** were not employed during this period. Among those not working, **32 per cent** report actively seeking employment.

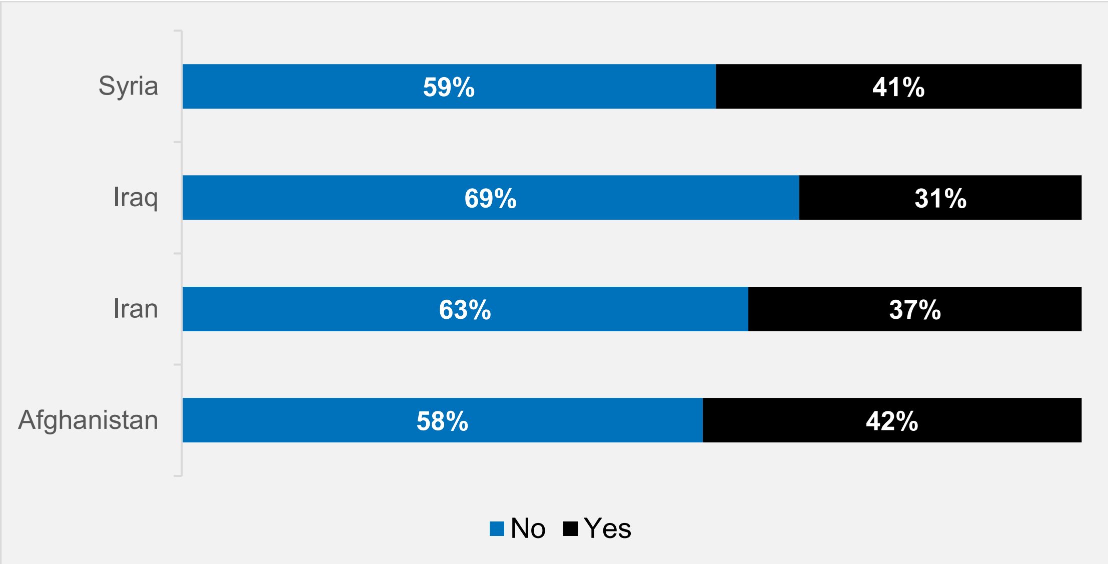


Figure 21 Proportion of respondents who worked for someone else for pay in the past 7 days, disaggregated by nationality

Informality continues to dominate the labour market experience of refugees. Among those employed, **81 per cent** work informally, **14 per cent** work formally, and **5 per cent** work via the work permit exemption, a proportion nearly identical to 2024 levels. Of respondents working with the exemption, **10 per cent** work in agriculture, while **90 per cent** in other sectors. Only **9 per cent** are self-employed or business owners. These figures point to the persistent structural barriers that prevent refugees from accessing formal employment, including work permit

[5] The formulation of questions concerning current employment status have changed with this round of the assessment, to ensure alignment with other data collection efforts – including regional studies. Overall findings can still be compared with the previous rounds' findings.

obstacles, limited recognition of skills, and the prevalence of short-term or seasonal job arrangements.

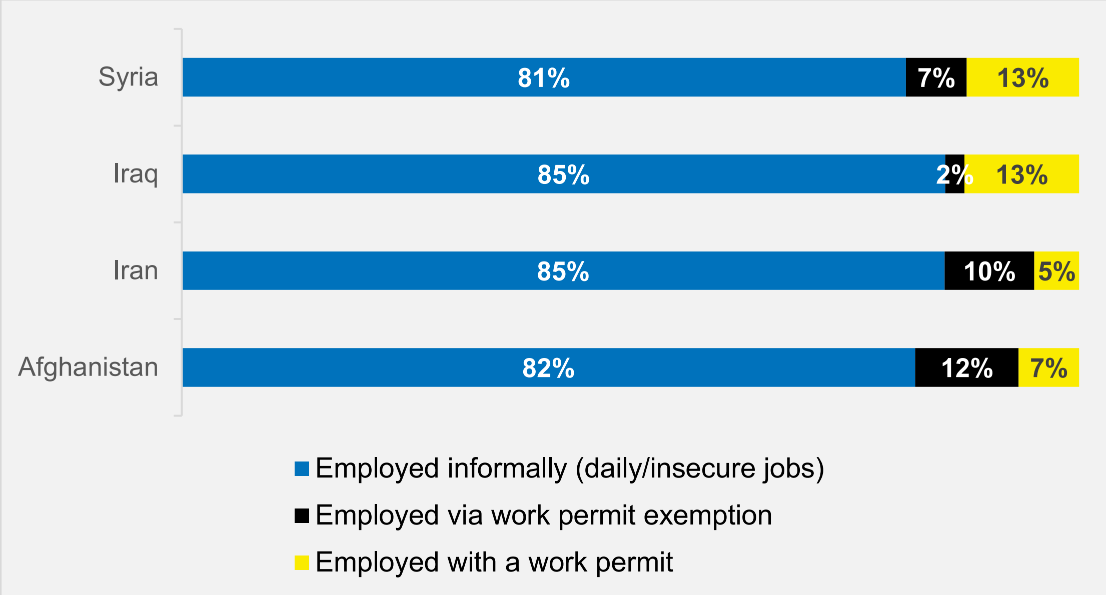


Figure 22 Employment status, disaggregated by nationality

Nationality-based disparities remain pronounced. Afghan refugees report the highest employment rate (formal and informal), with **42 per cent** having worked in the past seven days, compared to **41 per cent** of Syrians, **37 per cent** of Iranians, **32 per cent** of refugees from other nationalities, and **31 per cent** of Iraqis. Employment modalities differ notably across groups: Iranians and Iraqis report the highest level of working informally (**85 per cent** each), followed by Afghans at **82 per cent**. While Syrians are the highest proportion of persons employed via work permit exemption with **7 per cent** (only 11 per cent in agriculture), refugees of other nationalities (**38 per cent**) and Afghans (**16 per cent**) show the highest shares of formal employment. Iranians stand out for their high labour market engagement, with **44 per cent** of unemployed Iranians actively seeking work, the highest among all nationalities.

Gender disparities remain a defining feature of labour market outcomes. **Fifty-four per cent** of men report having worked in the past week, compared to only **27 per cent** of women. Women are significantly more likely to be outside the labour force, and while data for reasons of unemployment is not available within the survey, possible reasons could include structural barriers such as caregiving responsibilities, limited access to childcare, and mobility restrictions. Female-headed households show similar patterns: **67 per cent** report no employment, while **29 per cent** indicate being unemployed but actively seeking work, highlighting constrained labour market access despite willingness to work.

Regional differences reflect uneven economic opportunities. Employment is highest in the Aegean region, where **49 per cent** of respondents report working, followed by the Southeast (**41 per cent**), Marmara (**40 per cent**), and Central Anatolia (**33 per cent**). The Aegean also records the highest levels of self-employment (**13 per cent**). Southeast and Marmara regions show the highest shares of respondents actively seeking work, each at **30 per cent**, indicating sustained labour supply pressure.

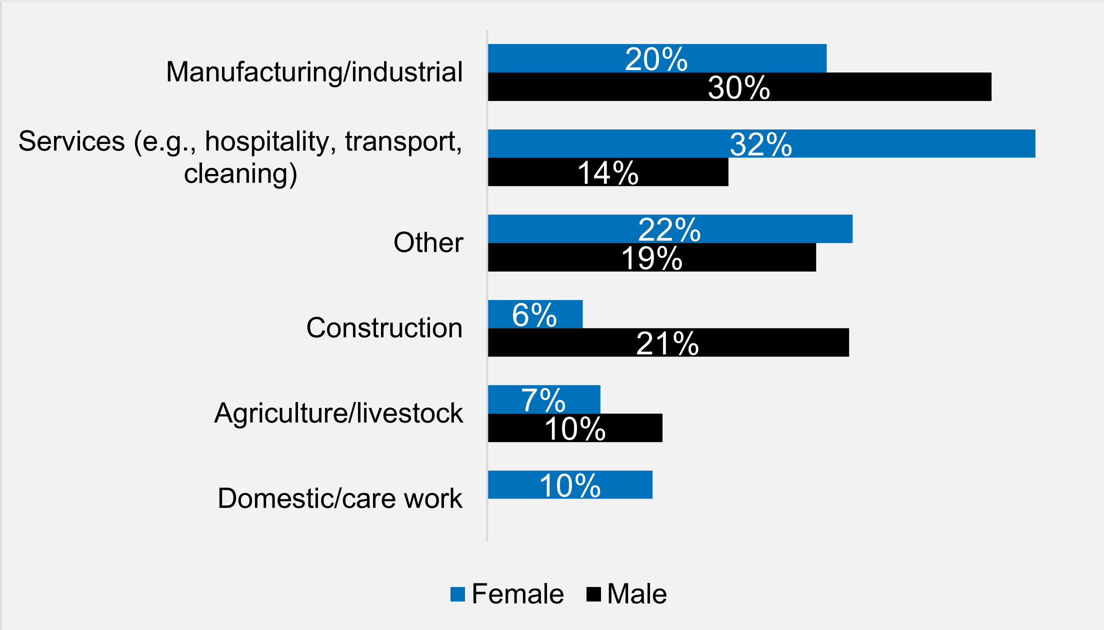


Figure 23 Primary profession or occupation in Türkiye, disaggregated by gender

Employment remains concentrated in a narrow range of **sectors**. Manufacturing is the dominant sector, employing **27 per cent** of respondents, followed by the services (**21 per cent**) and construction (**15 per cent**) sectors. Sectoral engagement varies by nationality: Afghans (**30 per cent**) and Syrians (**29 per cent**) are primarily employed in manufacturing, while Iranians (**30 per cent**), Iraqis (**29 per cent**), and other nationalities (**38 per cent**) are more concentrated in service-related activities. Regionally, manufacturing employment is heavily concentrated in Marmara (**42 per cent**) and the Aegean (**29 per cent**), while service-sector work is more prevalent in Central Anatolia (**26 per cent**) and the Southeast (**23 per cent**).

Gender-based sectoral differences persist. Men are more likely to work in manufacturing (**30 per cent**) compared to women (**20 per cent**), while women are disproportionately represented in the services sector with **32 per cent,** versus **14 per cent** of men. These patterns are less pronounced when disaggregated by different heads of households but still indicate gendered labour segmentation.

Livelihoods in rural areas differ markedly from urban settings. Among rural respondents, agriculture and livestock-related activities account for **30 per cent** of employment overall, rising substantially in rural pockets of the Aegean and Central Anatolia, where such activities represent a critical income source.

Working Conditions and Labour Protection Risks

Working conditions remain highly precarious. Almost **80 per cent** of employed respondents report working in insecure conditions, while **29 per cent** report receiving wages lower than agreed or below the legal minimum, and **25 per cent** report working long hours without adequate breaks. **Eighteen per cent** experience delayed or non-payment of wages, and **16 per cent** report denial of access to social security or health insurance.

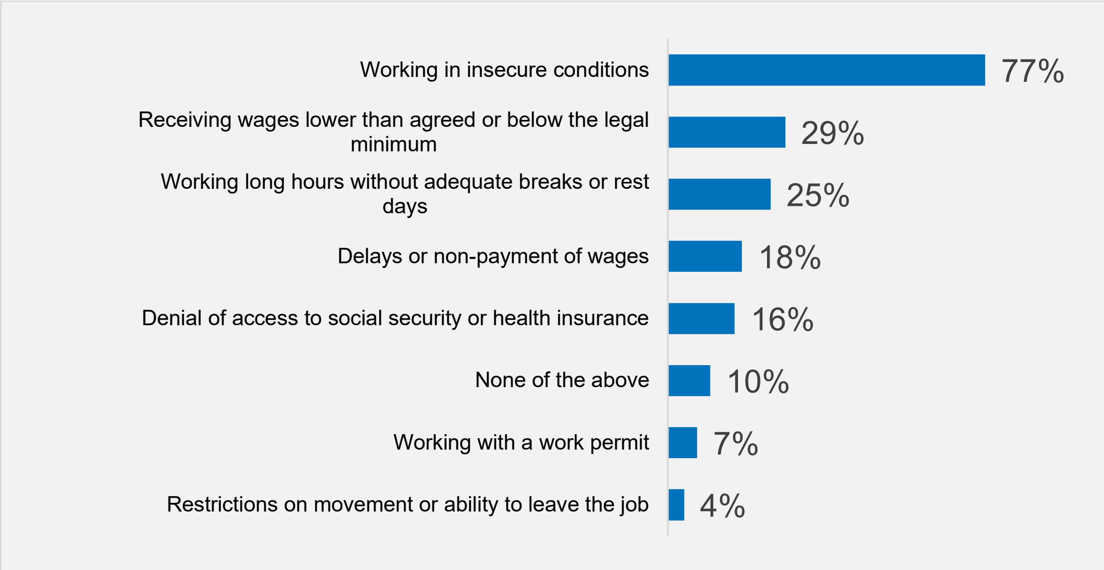


Figure 24 Conditions experienced in the most recent job reported by respondents

Nationality-based disparities are stark. Afghan respondents report the most severe working conditions, with **93 per cent** working in insecure conditions, **48 per cent** receiving lower wages, **37 per cent** working excessive hours, and **42 per cent** experiencing delayed wage payments. Iranians also report high vulnerability, particularly regarding lack of permits (**85 per cent**), receiving lower wages than agreed or below the legal minimum (**40 per cent**), and denial of social security (**40 per cent**). In contrast, Syrian respondents report comparatively lower—but still substantial—levels of labour protection risks, with **70 per cent** working without a permit.

Regionally, the Aegean records the highest prevalence of adverse working conditions, including **85 per cent** working without permits and **41 per cent** reporting underpayment, exceeding levels observed elsewhere. Gender differences are relatively modest, with women reporting slightly higher exposure to adverse conditions across most indicators.

Despite widespread exploitation, **73 per cent** of respondents experiencing poor working conditions report not seeking assistance or reporting abuses. Only **26 per cent** sought help, with outcomes evenly split between receiving assistance and not. Additionally, despite reporting working under the most severe conditions, Afghans are least likely to report abuses **(81 per**

cent did not seek help**)** and also report the lowest rates of receiving assistance when they do seek support.

Child Labour

Child labour remains a significant protection concern. **Four per cent** of households report having at least one working child under the age of 16, a decrease from **7 per cent** in the previous round, yet still indicative of ongoing negative coping mechanisms caused by persistent economic pressure. Child labour is most commonly reported among Syrian and Afghan households and is highest in southeast Türkiye.

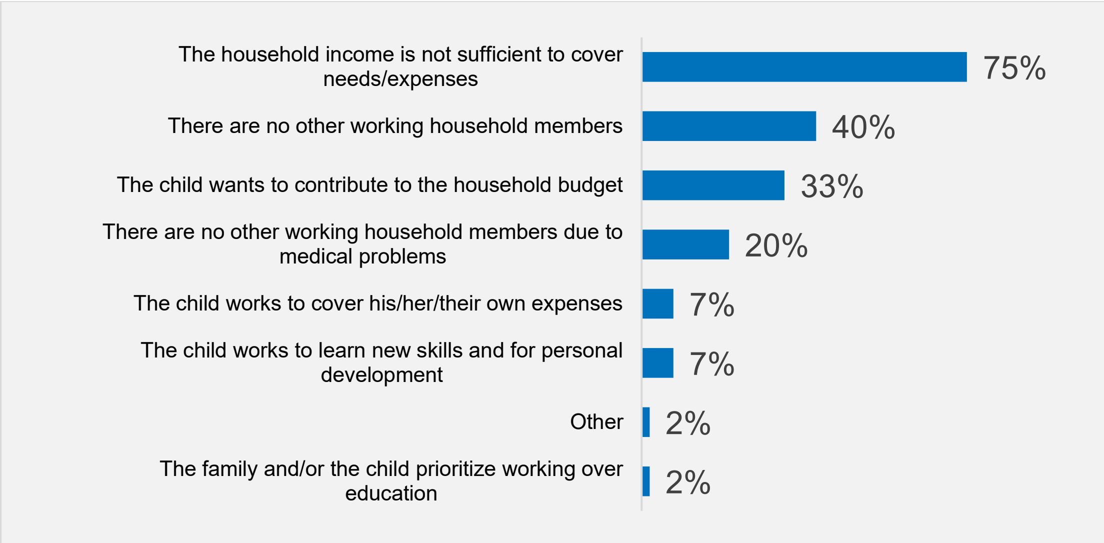


Figure 25 Overview of the main reasons children are engaged in work

Children are most frequently engaged in the textiles and tailoring sector (**26 per cent**), followed by manufacturing (**13 per cent**), and construction (**11 per cent**). The primary drivers of reported child labour are economic: **75 per cent** of households cite insufficient income, **40 per cent** report having no other working household members, and **33 per cent** indicate children work to contribute to household income. Among working children, **62 per cent** work long hours with inadequate breaks, and **11 per cent** report exposure to verbal or physical violence, underscoring serious protection risks. The reasons as well as the working conditions show consistency across different nationalities and regions.

Income, Expenditures, and Basic Needs

Household income patterns continue to reflect chronic instability, limited earning capacity, and heavy reliance on informal and non-protective income sources. Across all respondents, informal employment remains the dominant primary income source, reported by **64 per cent** of households, highlighting the continued exclusion of refugees from regulated labour markets.

By contrast, only **11 per cent** rely primarily on formal employment, underscoring the narrow reach of stable and legally protected livelihoods. Social assistance constitutes the main income source for **10 per cent** of households, while a concerning **12 per cent** report having no income at all, signalling severe economic marginalization. A further **8 per cent** depend primarily on debt, remittances, or community-based support, reinforcing the role of informal safety nets in compensating for insufficient income and limited formal assistance.

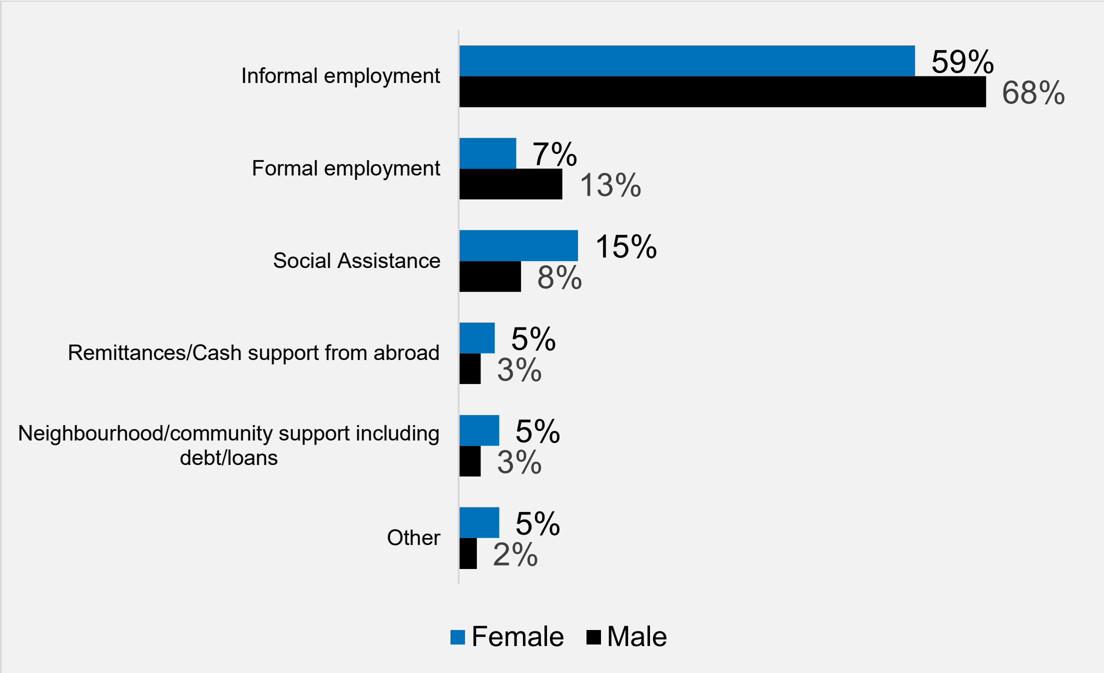


Figure 26 Primary sources of household income, disaggregated by sex of the head of household

Income disparities are observed across nationality groups with Afghan households the most dependent on informal employment, with **71 per cent** citing it as their primary income source, followed closely by Syrian households at **66 per cent**. Iranian households exhibit comparatively higher reliance on formal employment (**13 per cent**), although this remains limited and does not translate into overall economic security. Notably, households reporting no income are most prevalent among refugees of other nationalities (**20 per cent**) and Iranians (**16 per cent**), indicating instances of acute income deprivation within refugee populations of smaller size.

Reliance on employment as the primary source of income is highest in the Marmara region, with **85 per cent** of households supporting themselves through informal or formal income. The proportion of households reporting income through formal employment is also highest in Marmara, with **19 per cent** – at least 10 points higher than other regions.

Gender-based disparities are also observed here, with an importantly higher proportion of female respondents and female headed households relying on social assistance, remittances and community support to cover household needs, compared to their male counterparts. While **81 per cent** of men and male headed households rely on an income through employment, **71**

per cent of female respondents and **66 per cent** of female headed households indicate the same.

Income levels further illustrate the depth of economic vulnerability. **Forty-five per cent** of households report monthly incomes below 22,000 TRY[6], and an additional **33 per cent** fall within the 22,000–31,999 TRY range, placing the majority of households well below the threshold required to meet basic urban living costs. Only **10 per cent** of households report incomes above 32,000 TRY, while **12 per cent** report no income whatsoever. Female respondents are disproportionately represented among the lowest income brackets, with **14 per cent** of women reporting no income, compared to **8 per cent** of men, reflecting persistent gender gaps in labour market access. These disparities are mirrored at household level, where female-headed households face higher income deprivation, compounding vulnerability through reduced earning capacity and higher dependency burdens.

	Afghanistan	Iran	Iraq	Syria	**Total**
66,000 TRY and more	0%	0%	0%	0%	**0%**
44,000 - 65,999 TRY	2%	0%	1%	2%	**2%**
32,000 - 43,999 TRY	6%	6%	7%	10%	**8%**
22,000 - 31,999 TRY	33%	24%	33%	35%	**33%**
Less than 22,000 TRY	47%	54%	44%	43%	**45%**
No income	13%	16%	14%	10%	**12%**

Figure 27 Monthly household income levels, disaggregated by nationality

The mismatch between income and **expenditure** is stark. Only **10 per cent** of households report being able to fully cover their monthly expenses and basic needs, while **41 per cent** state they cannot cover them at all, and **49 per cent** report doing so only partially. This pattern is consistent across regions and nationalities, underscoring a structural deficit between income levels and cost of living rather than localized or temporary shocks.

Housing costs continue to exert the greatest financial pressure. Rent and housing-related expenses are reported as not fully covered by **59 per cent** of households, reflecting rising rental prices and limited access to affordable housing. Food costs follow closely at **43 per cent**, signalling persistent food insecurity driven by inflation and reduced purchasing power. Utilities (**40 per cent**) and health-related expenses (**25 per cent**) further compound household financial strain, while education, transportation, and debt repayment costs continue to stretch limited

[6] The household expenditure brackets were formulated in consultation with the CBI Working Group to ensure harmonisation with inter-agency assessment tools and comparability across analyses. The thresholds are anchored to nationally relevant benchmarks, notably the minimum wage and the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB), and are defined as follows: below TRY 21,999 (below minimum wage at the time of the survey); TRY 22,000–31,999 (at or above the minimum wage at the time of the survey but below MEBs); TRY 32,000–43,999 (above both the minimum wage at the time of the survey and MEBs); TRY 44,000–65,999 (approximately twice the minimum wage at the time of the survey and above); and TRY 66,000 and more (three times the minimum wage and above). These brackets allow for a graduated assessment of household expenditure capacity while maintaining alignment with inter-agency standards.

resources. Average expenditure data confirm that rent and food alone account for a substantial share of monthly spending, leaving little flexibility to absorb shocks or unexpected costs.

Even though housing related costs are the most difficult to cover expense for all nationalities, different nationality groups struggle more when covering different expenses. Proportionally Afghans face the most difficulty covering food (**51 per cent**) and health (**57 per cent**) related costs, compared to other nationalities. Iranians also have difficulty covering health costs, with more than half of all respondents unable to. These findings correlate with findings on International Protection beneficiaries' limited access to healthcare, and difficulties around health insurance. Iraqi households and refugees of other nationalities struggle most with rent and housing related costs including utilities, with almost **70 per cent** unable to cover monthly housing fees, highest amongst all nationalities. Syrians report struggling most with covering rent (**57 per cent**) and food costs (**43 per cent**).

	Afghanistan	Iran	Iraq	Syria	**Total**
Rent / Housing (including repairs)	63%	47%	72%	60%	**62%**
Food	53%	32%	41%	45%	**45%**
Utilities (electricity, water bills)	37%	30%	59%	40%	**42%**
Health (including medicines)	59%	53%	30%	13%	**26%**
Essential non-food items (clothing, blankets, bedding, household goods)	24%	30%	17%	27%	**25%**

Figure 28 Top five costs and expenditures not fully covered by households, disaggregated by nationality

Difficulty in covering expenditures varies regionally. **Sixty nine per cent** of respondents in Marmara report being unable to meet rent costs—the highest proportion among all regions—compared with **51 per cent** in southeast Türkiye, where rent appears to be relatively less burdensome. This finding aligns with data on accommodation, with shared housing stated most prominently by residents in the Marmara region. The Aegean region records the greatest difficulty in covering both **food** expenses (**48 per cent**) and health related costs (**42 per cent**), indicating heightened pressure on basic consumption and medical needs. Coverage of utility costs is the most difficult in Central Anatolia, with **49 per cent** of respondents reporting difficulties. By contrast, households in the Southeast report the highest levels of unmet need for essential non-food items, including clothing and household goods.

Across all expenditure areas, women and female headed households report greater difficulty covering costs than men, indicating a gendered pattern of financial vulnerability. The greatest difference is noted for the cost of rent, utilities, and education fees. Notably, **62 per cent** of female headed households are unable to cover rent and **45 per cent** unable to cover utilities, compared to **56 per cent** and **37 per cent** respectively, of their male counterparts. Considering that a higher proportion of women and female headed households report having no income at all, the disparities have the likelihood of creating increased protection risks, negative effects on wellbeing and attempts at employing negative coping mechanisms, pointing to the need for increased gender responsive programming.

Reflecting these pressures, **69 per cent** of households report that their financial situation has deteriorated over the past year, a proportion consistent across gender, nationality, and region, and similar to the findings of the previous round. Considering that average monthly expenditures have increased across all categories and employment rates have fallen compared to the previous round, the primary drivers of this deterioration could be rising living costs and declining or unstable income opportunities, rather than short-term shocks. In this round, only **4 per cent** report any improvement in their financial situation, underscoring the absence of meaningful economic recovery pathways for most refugee households.

Worsening in household financial conditions over the past year appear most striking for Iranians, with **81 per cent** indicating that their financial circumstances have deteriorated, followed by households of refugees from other nationalities (**76 per cent**). Regionally, consistent with other socio-economic findings, respondents from the Aegean report the most deterioration (**74 per cent**) followed by Central Anatolia (**73 per cent**).

Female-headed households are more likely to report a deterioration in their financial circumstances **(74 per cent)** than male-headed households **(67 per cent)**, aligning with evidence that women face greater difficulty covering costs across all expenditure categories. This pattern of disadvantages—higher income deprivation and greater reliance on social assistance—signals increasing economic stressors that increase exposure to shocks and constrain recovery.

Taken together, these findings point to households operating under sustained and structural financial stress, where informal income dominates, expenditures consistently exceed income, and social assistance is insufficient to close the gap. The persistence of these patterns across multiple Community Pulse rounds underscores the need for expanded access to formal livelihoods, strengthened and predictable social protection mechanisms, and targeted income support for households facing compounded vulnerabilities, particularly female-headed households and those with no income or high dependency ratios.

Social Assistance

Social assistance plays a critical but insufficient role in mitigating mentioned economic pressures, reflecting both sustained demand and structural constraints in coverage and adequacy. **Half** of all households report receiving cash or in-kind assistance in the past six months. Findings demonstrate that regular support remains more common than one-off assistance, with **32 per cent** receiving regular support and **17 per cent** receiving one-off assistance. This confirms that, despite a sizeable share of households reached with support, half of the population remains entirely outside assistance mechanisms, and only one third benefit from regular assistance – pointing to concerns of sustained income.

Cash assistance is the dominant modality, received by **79 per cent** of assisted households, while **18 per cent** receive in-kind support and **4 per cent** receive a combination of both. Receipt of cash or in-kind assistance is most frequent with Syrians, with **55 per cent** confirming receiving support, possibly reflecting stronger integration into humanitarian support systems. Support is also highest in the Southeast region with **54 per cent** receiving some kind of social assistance. Receipt of assistance is mentioned least in the Aegean region (**42 per cent**), which also reports the greatest difficulty covering monthly expenses for basic household needs. Female-headed households and respondents are also slightly more likely to receive assistance, also considering more report inability to cover monthly costs.

Despite its reach, the adequacy of the social assistance remains limited: only **7 per cent** of recipients report that assistance fully meets their needs, while **52 per cent** state it covers needs only partially, and **41 per cent** report that it does not meet their needs at all. This indicates that a very significant number of assisted households continue to experience unmet needs, confirming that assistance functions largely as a short-term buffer rather than a pathway toward financial stability. Iraqi respondents are the worst off, with **54 per cent** indicating the support is not sufficient to cover expenses. This finding is particularly concerning, considering Iraqis are the nationality with most members unable to cover basic household needs. The findings are similar for the Aegean region, with **54 per cent** stating social assistance is not sufficient.

Coping Mechanisms

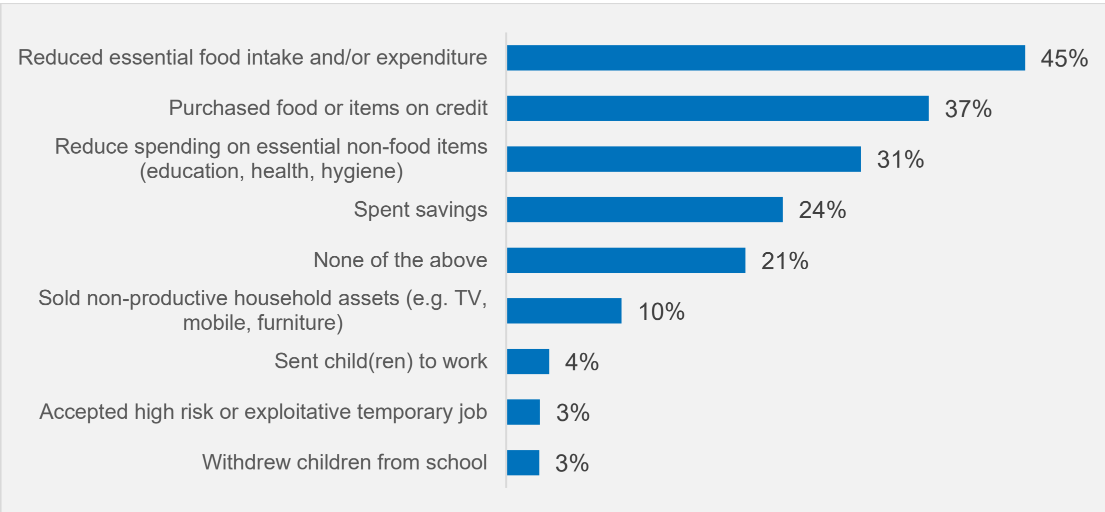


Figure 29 Breakdown of survival strategies, across households

Coping strategies among refugee households continue to reflect structural and sustained economic strain. In October 2025, **81 per cent** of households report adopting at least one coping mechanism in the past month, a proportion indicative of chronic vulnerability driven by insufficient income, high living costs, and limited access to stable livelihoods. Compared to the previous round there seems to be an **eight per cent increase** in the number of refugees resorting to coping mechanisms, demonstrating a deterioration of socio-economic circumstances compared to the past year. Refugees of other nationalities report the most frequent adoption of coping strategies, with **85 per cent** using at least one mechanism. Amongst regions, the Aegean once again demonstrates the direst scenario, with more than **84 per cent** of households adopting at least one coping mechanism. The gendered impact socio-economic difficulties are again apparent, with female respondents (**81 per cent**) and female headed households (**82 per cent**) resorting to coping strategies more than their male counterparts.

Food-related strategies remain the most widespread form of coping. **Forty-five per cent** of households report reducing essential food intake and food-related expenditures, while **37 per cent** report purchasing food on credit. These behaviours align closely with the Consumption Gap Index (CGI) results, which show that **37 per cent** of households fall into the high vulnerability category, and a further **50 per cent** into moderate vulnerability, confirming widespread difficulty in meeting basic consumption needs.

Food-related coping is particularly prevalent among households in Central Anatolia and Aegean regions, with half of all households resorting to reducing food intake or expenditures. Female-headed households and households with children are more likely to report reduced essential food intake, reflecting constrained prioritization choices within the household.

Borrowing money and reliance on informal financial support are also common coping mechanisms. **Thirty-nine per cent** of households report borrowing money or taking loans to meet basic needs. While these strategies may temporarily offset income shortfalls, the data on costs not fully covered—particularly rent (59 per cent), food (43 per cent), and utilities (40 per cent)—suggest that borrowing is often used to cover recurrent expenses rather than shocks, increasing the risk of debt accumulation and long-term financial stress. This pattern is especially pronounced among Syrian households (**47 per cent**) and refugees from other nationalities (**46 per cent**), which also report higher levels of informal employment and income instability. Regionally, borrowing money is most frequently reported in Southeast Türkiye (**47 per cent**) reflecting both higher poverty levels and higher costs of living.

Among the most severe coping strategies, **24 per cent** of households indicate **spending savings**, and **11 per cent** report selling essential household items including productive and non-productive assets. Amongst women and female headed households, a much higher frequency of respondents indicate spending savings, compared to men. These behaviours align with higher Livelihood Coping Strategies Index (LCSI) crisis and emergency categories (detailed below) and indicate erosion of household resilience, reducing future income-generating capacity and increasing long-term dependency on assistance. Harmful **livelihood-related coping strategies** remain prevalent with **7 per cent** of households reporting at least one such strategy, including sending children to work or accepting high risk or exploitative temporary jobs, including employment characterized by low pay, unsafe conditions, or excessive working hours. The Livelihood Coping Strategies Index (LCSI) confirms these trends with **39 per cent** respondents relying on stress strategies, **29 per cent** on crisis strategies, and **7 per cent** on emergency strategies.

Overall, coping mechanisms observed in October 2025 reflect that socio-economic deterioration observed in the previous year, has far reaching implications for households. Increase in adoption of negative coping mechanisms comes in combination with indications of chronic poverty, experiences of labour market exclusion, and rising household expenditures. The persistence of stress, crisis, and emergency coping strategies—alongside high dependency ratios and widespread consumption gaps—indicates a progressive erosion of household resilience. Without expanded access to formal livelihoods, predictable and adequate social assistance, and targeted support for households facing compounded vulnerabilities, refugee households are likely to continue relying on coping strategies that increase protection risks and undermine both current wellbeing and long-term recovery.

In-depth Analysis of Socioeconomic Indicators

Composite indices provide a structured and multidimensional lens through which the depth, drivers, and persistence of socioeconomic vulnerability among refugee households in Türkiye can be assessed. With this round, an in-depth socio-economic analysis has been carried out, based of four separate indices: The Socioeconomic Vulnerability Index (SEVI), the Consumption Gap Index (CGI), the Livelihood Coping Strategies Index (LCSI), and the Financial and Labour Market Exclusion Index (FLEX). These are accompanied by the Dependency Ratio which captures demographic pressures within households. Together, these indicators reveal how income inadequacy, coping exhaustion, labour market exclusion, and household composition intersect to shape vulnerability.

Consumption Gap Index (CGI)

The Consumption Gap Index shows that the majority of households are unable to meet minimum consumption needs without compromise. Overall, **37 per cent** of households fall into the high vulnerability category, while **50 per cent** fall into moderate vulnerability, and only **12 per cent** are classified as low vulnerability. These results align closely with reported difficulties in covering food, rent, and utility costs and confirm that consumption shortfalls are widespread and structural.

Nationality-based disparities are pronounced. Iraqi households show the highest share of high consumption vulnerability (**51 per cent**), followed by Afghans (**40 per cent**) and Syrians (**37 per cent**). In contrast, Iranian households exhibit a markedly different profile, with only **3 per cent** in the high vulnerability category and **28 per cent** in low vulnerability, reflecting comparatively higher income levels and lower dependency pressure within this group.

Regionally, high consumption vulnerability is most pronounced in the Southeast (**47 per cent**) and Central Anatolia (**37 per cent**), both regions characterized by limited livelihood opportunities and high dependency ratios. Gender differences are present but moderate: **41 per cent** of female respondents fall into high vulnerability, compared to **34 per cent** of males, and **40 per cent** of female headed households compared to **36 per cent** of male headed households, reflecting lower income levels and higher care burdens among women.

The **Consumption Gap Index (CGI)** measures households' economic capacity to meet their **essential monthly expenditures**, including food, rent, utilities, health, education, hygiene items, transportation and clothing. The indicator combines two dimensions:

1. The consumption gap: Household per-capita expenditure is compared against the **Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB)**. Households whose spending falls below the MEB are considered to have a mild, moderate, or severe consumption gap depending on how far below the benchmark they fall.

2. Unmet essential expenditures: Households were also asked to identify which essential costs they are **unable to cover fully**. Reporting one unmet essential expenditure indicates emerging economic pressure, while multiple unmet expenditures point to severe financial stress.

By combining these two elements, CGI categorizes households into three levels:

- **Low vulnerability:** able to meet most essential needs;
- **Moderate vulnerability:** experiencing difficulty covering some basic expenditures;
- **High vulnerability:** facing significant economic strain and unable to meet essential needs.

The CGI captures both the **quantitative gap** between available resources and the cost of basic needs, and the **self-reported strain on household budgets**, offering a more complete picture of economic vulnerability.

Livelihood Coping Strategies Index (LCSI)

The LCSI highlights erosion of coping capacity across the majority of households. Only **25 per cent** of households fall into the "normal" coping category, while **39 per cent** rely on stress strategies, **29 per cent** on crisis strategies, and **7 per cent** on emergency strategies. This distribution indicates that three out of four households are relying on coping mechanisms that compromise future resilience.

Nationality patterns again show significant variation. Iranian households report the highest reliance on crisis coping strategies (**39 per cent**), while Afghan (**31 per cent**) and Syrian households (**28 per cent**) also show elevated crisis-level coping. Emergency coping is most prevalent among Syrian households (**8 per cent**) and Afghans (**7 per cent**), indicating exhaustion of safer coping options among these groups.

Regional differences are also evident. Marmara and Central Anatolia show higher proportions of households in crisis and emergency categories, reflecting labour market exclusion combined with high housing costs. Gender-based differences are modest, though female respondents are more likely to fall into crisis coping (**32 per cent**) compared to males (**25 per cent**), consistent with other findings showing increased inability to cover household expenditures and decreased income.

The **Livelihood Coping Strategies Index (LCSI)** assesses how households manage economic pressures by examining strategies used within the past 30 days. Strategies are grouped according to their **severity and long-term consequences**, following global humanitarian practice.

- **Normal (no coping):** No reliance on coping strategies.
- **Stress strategies:** Short-term adjustments that do not harm long-term wellbeing (e.g., purchasing on credit, borrowing money, spending savings).
- **Crisis strategies:** Decisions that reduce future productive capacity (e.g., selling productive assets, withdrawing children from school).
- **Emergency strategies:** Harmful actions that significantly endanger livelihoods and wellbeing (e.g., child labour, begging, high-risk work, survival sex).

Each household is assigned an LCSI level based on the **most severe coping strategy** used. Higher LCSI levels indicate **reduced resilience** and **greater socioeconomic fragility**.

Financial and Labour Market Exclusion Index (FLEX)

The FLEX index underscores the structural nature of labour market exclusion. Overall, **4 per cent** of households fall into the “moderate exclusion” category, **78 per cent** fall into the “low exclusion” category, and **18 per cent** into “no exclusion”. Importantly, “low exclusion” in this context reflects systemic exclusion affecting the vast majority of refugee households, rather than meaningful economic inclusion.

Nationality disaggregation reveals that Afghans households experience the highest relative inclusion, with only **2 per cent** classified as moderately excluded and **20 per cent** in the “no exclusion" category. They are closely followed by Syrians, with **4 per cent** experiencing moderate exclusion and **19 per cent** no exclusion. while Iranian, Iraqi, and other refugee nationality households cluster tightly around high levels of exclusion. Regionally, Central Anatolia shows the highest share of moderate exclusion (**7 per cent**).

Gender differences persist but remain limited in magnitude. Women are slightly more likely to fall into moderate exclusion (**5 per cent**) than men (**2 per cent**), reflecting lower labour market participation and higher unpaid care responsibilities.

The **FLEX Index** measures households' level of **financial and labour market exclusion**, reflecting their ability to participate in safe, stable, and formal economic life. The index uses a set of binary indicators capturing:

Financial inclusion barriers:

- No access to a bank account;
- No access to a mobile wallet;
- No Turkish SIM card (restricting access to services, employment communication, and digital platforms).

Labour market vulnerability:

- Engagement in informal or irregular employment;
- Unemployment combined with not actively seeking work;
- Inability to start work within two weeks;
- Presence of child labour;
- Income-related reasons driving child labour.

Each exclusion factor increases a household's overall level of vulnerability. FLEX categorizes households as:

- **No exclusion;**
- **Low exclusion;**
- **Moderate exclusion.**

Socioeconomic Vulnerability Index (SEVI)

The SEVI consolidates the indices on economic capacity, resilience and economic inclusion into an overall vulnerability classification. **Thirteen per cent** of households fall into the high vulnerability category, **59 per cent** fall into the moderate vulnerability category, and **28 per cent** into low vulnerability. This distribution indicates that nearly three quarters of refugee households experience moderate or high socioeconomic vulnerability, with limited prospects for recovery under current conditions.

Nationality-based patterns are consistent across indices. Afghan households show the highest combined moderate and high vulnerability (**75 per cent**), followed by Iraqi households (**74 per cent**) and Syrian households (**71 per cent**). Iranian households again show lower overall vulnerability, with **38 per cent** classified as low vulnerability and only **3 per cent** in the high vulnerability category.

Regionally, Central Anatolia and the Southeast both record the highest shares of high vulnerability (**17 per cent each**). Gender differences demonstrate consistent levels of higher vulnerability for female respondents, with **15 per cent** falling into high vulnerability, compared to **12 per cent** of male respondents, and **62 per cent** falling in moderate vulnerability compared to **56 per cent** of men, consistent with income and coping disparities observed elsewhere in the analysis.

The **Socioeconomic Vulnerability Index (SEVI)** combines the three indicators above—**CGI**, **LCSI**, and **FLEX**—into a single composite measure summarising households' overall socioeconomic conditions.

SEVI captures three interconnected dimensions:

1- **Economic capacity** (CGI): Ability to meet essential needs and the extent of financial strain.

2- **Resilience and negative coping** (LCSI): Whether households must rely on strategies that erode assets, well-being, or future opportunities.

3- **Economic inclusion and labour access** (FLEX): Degree of exclusion from financial systems and the formal labour market.

Each component is normalised and weighted to ensure balanced contribution to the final score. Households are categorised as:

- **Low socioeconomic vulnerability**
- **Moderate socioeconomic vulnerability**
- **High socioeconomic vulnerability**

This combined index enables a **holistic understanding** of households' living conditions, going beyond income to include structural barriers and behavioural coping patterns.

Dependency Ratio

The Dependency Ratio reveals one of the most structurally significant drivers of vulnerability. Overall, **49 per cent** of households fall into the “severely dependency vulnerable” category, meaning they have more than 1.8 dependents per working-age adult. A further **19 per cent** fall into moderate dependency vulnerability, while only **25 per cent** fall into low dependency vulnerability.

The **Dependency Score** assesses household dependency severity by examining the balance between **dependent** and **autonomous** household members. The indicator is constructed through a sequential process that translates individual household characteristics into a standardized dependency vulnerability classification.

Step 1: Classification of household members: Household members are first categorized based on age and health status:

- **Dependent members** include children aged 0–17, elderly persons aged 60 and above, and adults aged 18–59 with a serious medical condition or disability.
- **Autonomous members** include adults aged 18–59 without a serious medical condition or disability.

Step 2: Aggregation into composite indicators: Two composite indicators are calculated at the household level:

- Total number of dependent members (children, elderly, and dependent adults).
- Total number of autonomous adults.

If a household has **no autonomous adults**, it is considered structurally dependent and classified at the highest dependency level.

Step 3: Calculation of the dependency ratio: For households with at least one autonomous adult, a dependency ratio is calculated by dividing the total number of dependent members by the number of autonomous adults. This ratio reflects the caregiving and economic burden placed on autonomous household members.

Step 4: Assignment of dependency severity: Households are classified into four dependency vulnerability levels based on the dependency ratio:

- **Low dependency vulnerability:** ratio ≤ 0.6
- **Moderate dependency vulnerability:** > 0.6 to ≤ 1.2
- **High dependency vulnerability:** > 1.2 to ≤ 1.8
- **Severe dependency vulnerability:** > 1.8

The resulting dependency severity classification provides a standardized measure of household vulnerability related to family composition and is used to support targeting, prioritization, and comparative vulnerability analysis across households and population groups.

Nationality differences are stark. Syrian households exhibit the highest severe dependency burden (**55 per cent**), followed by Afghan households (**45 per cent**) and refugees of other nationalities (**42 per cent**). In contrast, Iranian households show a substantially different profile, with **63 per cent** classified as low dependency vulnerable, reflecting smaller household sizes and higher labour force participation.

Regional patterns mirror these trends. Southeast Türkiye shows the highest severe dependency ratio (**55 per cent**), followed by Marmara (**50 per cent**), reinforcing how demographic pressure compounds economic vulnerability in these regions. The responses demonstrate a higher dependency in male headed households with **53 per cent** categorized under severe dependency vulnerability, compared to **39 per cent** of male-headed households, indicating that household composition amplifies risk regardless of headship gender.

Taken together, the SEVI and Dependency Ratio results present a coherent and concerning picture of entrenched vulnerability. High dependency ratios amplify consumption gaps, accelerate reliance on crisis and emergency coping strategies, and limit households' ability to benefit from labour market participation even when employment is available. The strong alignment across CGI, LCSI, FLEX, and Dependency Ratio confirms that vulnerability is multidimensional, persistent, and structurally driven, rather than episodic.

These findings underscore that livelihood interventions alone are insufficient without parallel measures addressing household composition, access to social protection, and predictable income support, particularly for Syrian and Afghan households and those residing in Marmara and Southeast Türkiye. Without addressing these intersecting drivers, a large share of refugee households is likely to remain trapped in moderate to severe socioeconomic vulnerability over the medium term.

Protection

Protection findings in this round demonstrate slight improvement across indicators compared to the previous round. Yet respondents still share ongoing concerning observations of psychosocial stress, interpersonal tensions, gender-based risks, and concerns affecting children at the community level. As in previous rounds, the protection-related assessment is based on respondents' observations of changes within their communities, instead of experiences within their households, considering limitations and sensitivities of conducting in-depth protection assessments over the phone. With that, while some indicators show modest improvements compared with previous rounds, overall protection concerns remain widespread and deeply intertwined with socioeconomic pressures.

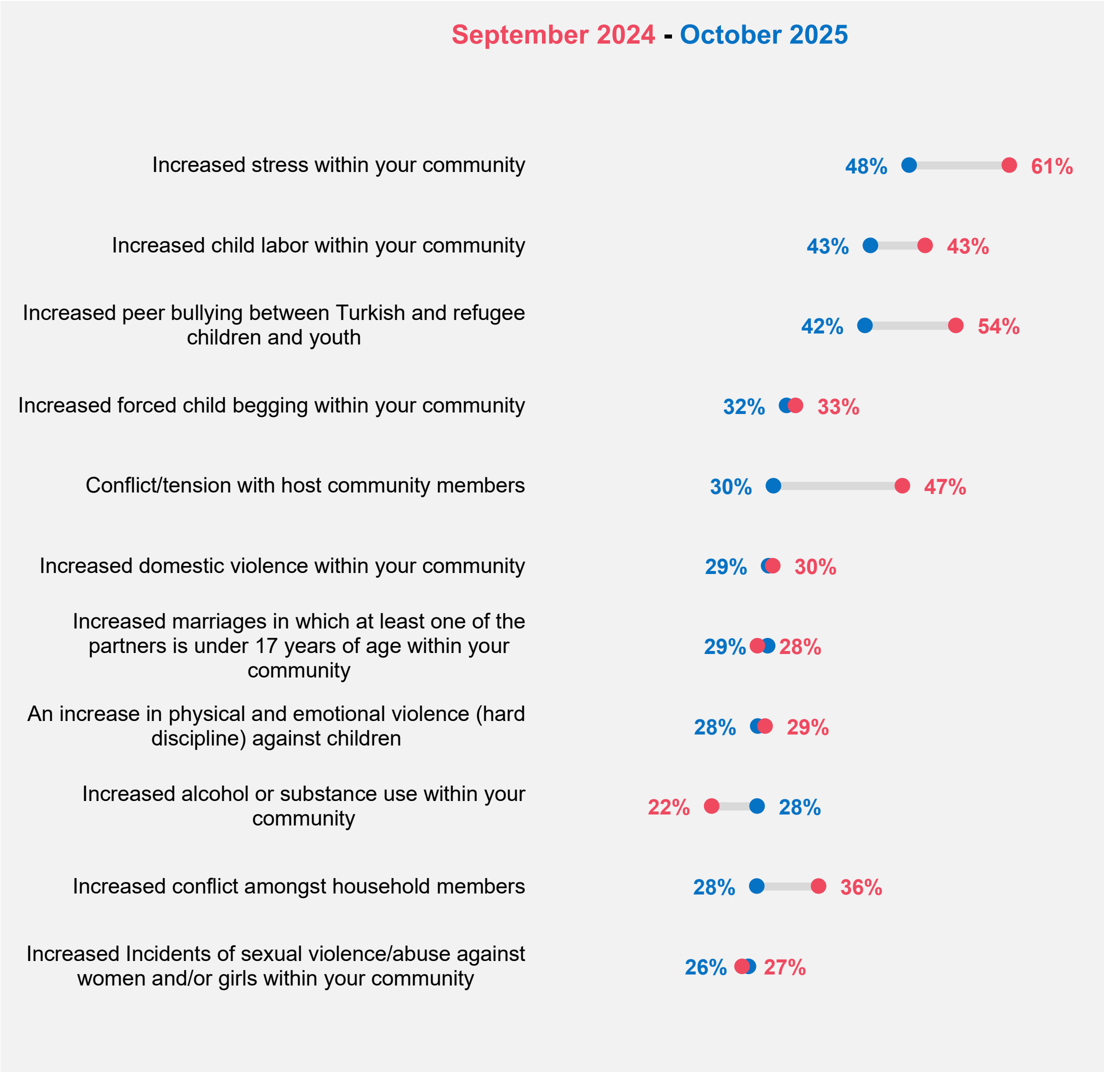


Figure 30 Perceived protection concerns, comparison across rounds

Psychosocial stress remains one of the most pervasive issues. **Forty-eight per cent** of respondents report increased stress within their communities, a notable improvement from **61 per cent** last year but still affecting nearly half of all households. Stress levels vary by nationality, with a very significant number of Iranian respondents reporting increase in stress, at **88 per cent**. This is followed by **73 per cent** of Afghans, and **63 per cent** of refugees from other nationalities. Iraqis and Syrians report significantly lower stress at **43 and 37 per cent**. Women continue to report higher levels of stress (**53 per cent**) compared to men (**41 per cent**), and female-headed households show the highest levels overall (**57 per cent**). These variations suggest that while stress indicators have eased slightly, gender roles, caregiving responsibilities, and socioeconomic pressures continue to disproportionately affect women.

Conflict within households persists. Over a quarter (**28 per cent**) of respondents observed increased conflict among household members, down from last year's **36 per cent** but still substantial. Conflict is most frequently reported by Afghans (**42 per cent**) and Iranians (**39 per**

cent), and least by Syrians (**22 per cent**). Female respondents (**33 per cent**) and female headed households (**36 per cent**) again report higher levels of conflict compared with men (**22 per cent**), reinforcing patterns of gendered exposure to domestic tension.

Community-level tensions show more marked improvement, though challenges remain. **Thirty per cent** of respondents report increased tension between refugees and host communities, compared with **47 per cent** in the previous round. This decline is visible across all regions and nationalities, though the magnitude varies: highest levels of inter-community tension are observed by Iranian respondents, with **62 per cent** reporting an increase – a value significantly higher than that reported by other nationalities. While just below half of Afghan respondents report an increase, for refugees of other nationalities, Iraqis and Syrians, the rates lie below **30 per cent**. Tensions are reported highest in the Aegean (**47 per cent**), followed by Central Anatolia. Reports of community-level tension in the Southeast and Marmara regions are considerably lower, reported by less than a quarter of residents in these areas.

Gender-based violence (GBV) remains a critical protection concern[7]. **Twenty-nine per cent** of respondents observed an increase in domestic violence within their communities, while **27 per cent** reported increased incidents of sexual violence and abuse against women and girls. Observations of domestic violence and sexual violence and abuse are highest among Iranian households, with more than half of all Iranian respondents reporting an increase (**57 and 59 per cent** respectively). This is followed by Afghans with almost half of all respondents reporting higher rates. Reports of incidents are much lower by other nationalities, Iraqis and Syrians. Women are more likely to report domestic violence and GBV concerns (**36 and 33 per cent** respectively) than men (**21 and 19 per cent**), and female-headed households report some of the highest levels (**44 per cent** for domestic violence and **40 per cent** for GBV). These trends highlight the gendered nature of protection risks and the continued need for safe reporting channels, confidential services, and community-based GBV prevention efforts.

Child protection concerns remain among the most frequently observed risks, with concerns both widespread and persistent across refugee communities. **Forty-three per cent** of respondents report increased child labour in their communities, only a modest decrease from **50 per cent** last year. Child labour is reported most frequently by Iranians at **65 per cent** and Afghans (**57 per cent**), and least by Iraqis (**34 per cent**). Peer bullying is reported by **42 per cent** of respondents, down from **54 per cent** previously, though still concerningly high. Observations of bullying are highest amongst Iranian and Afghan respondents, with more than half reporting concerns. Forced child begging, observed by **32 per cent** of respondents, is most frequently reported by Iranian respondents (**51 per cent**) while child marriage, reported by **29 per cent**, is reported more frequently by Afghan households (**40 per cent**). Across all child protection indicators, highest concern is consistently reported by residents in the Aegean

[7] Reported GBV findings in this survey should be interpreted with caution. From an intersectional perspective, GBV is commonly subject to underreporting due to stigma, economic dependency, and fear of disclosure. In a context of increasing unmet basic needs and livelihood-related pressures, the reported prevalence may not fully reflect the actual magnitude or level of risk within communities.

region, indicating a clear geographic concentration of risk – with around half of all respondents from the region stating increased child protection concerns within the past year. Child protection concerns are also consistently reported more frequently by female respondents, as opposed to male respondents. There are especially marked differences between rates reported by female and male headed households, with **14 per cent** more female headed households than males indicating increased marriages, and **18 per cent** more than males pointing to peer bullying. This suggests heightened exposure to risks and greater awareness of child well-being issues, highlighting the importance of engaging women more meaningfully in protection monitoring processes.

Safety concerns remain prominent, with particular locations and nationalities more impacted. Although the majority (**75 per cent**) of respondents indicate feeling safe or very safe at home after dark, **12 per cent** still indicate feeling not safe or not safe at all. This is highest for Afghans with more than a quarter of all respondents indicating anxiety (**26 per cent**), followed by respondents of other nationalities (**21 per cent**). Aegean (**24 per cent**) and the Central Anatolian (**18 per cent**) regions rate the highest in terms of feeling unsafe. There's a notable difference between genders across all nationalities, with **16 per cent** of women not feeling safe as opposed to **9 per cent** of men, and **20 per cent** of female headed households not feeling safe as opposed to **8 per cent** of male headed households. While residents in rural areas indicate feeling safer than urban residents, mobile communities are the worst off with **20 per cent** not feeling safe.

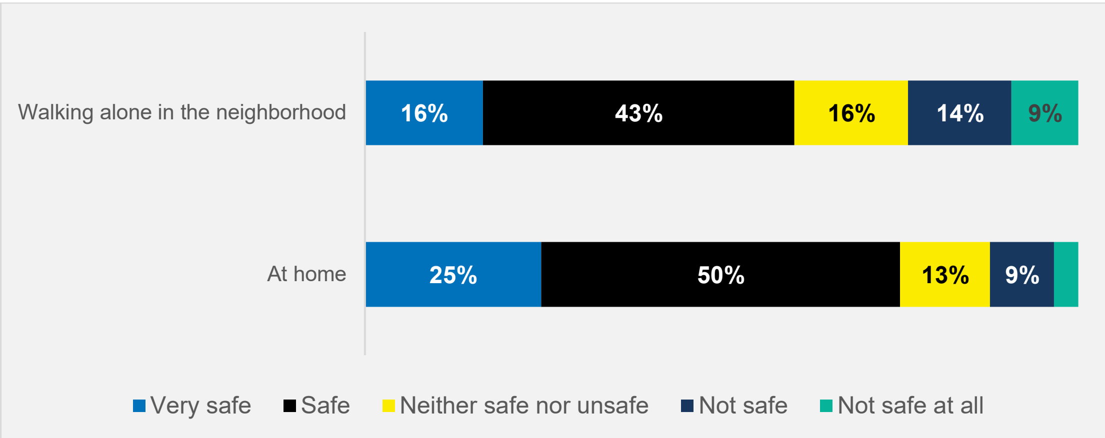


Figure 31 Perception of safety among respondents

Feelings of safety are reduced even further when respondents walk alone at night, with **25 per cent** feeling unsafe. This is shared by almost half of all Iranian respondents (**45 per cent**) and **41 per cent** of Afghans. Once again findings are more concerning for female respondents with **30 per cent** of women feeling unsafe walking alone at night as opposed to **16 per cent** of men, and **34 per cent** of female heads of households feeling safe as opposed to **17 per cent** of men. While residents in rural areas indicate feeling safer than urban residents, mobile communities are the worst off with **30 per cent** not feeling safe.

Legal protection concerns show a mixed picture. More than one quarter of respondents (**28 per cent**) report having required legal support within the past year, indicating an important level of legal assistance needs among refugee households. Legal support needs are significantly more pronounced among Iranian and Afghan respondents, with **67 per cent** of Iranians and **51 per cent** of Afghans reporting a need for legal assistance, while only **18 per cent** of Syrians report support needs. The highest proportion of respondents reporting legal support needs is observed in Central Anatolia (**40 per cent**). Gender-disaggregated findings indicate that women face compounded legal and protection-related challenges with slightly higher legal assistance needs than men with **30 per cent** requiring legal support, compared to **24 per cent** of male respondents. This disparity is more pronounced when analysed by gender of head of household: one third of female-headed households report legal assistance needs, compared to **25 per cent** of male-headed households.

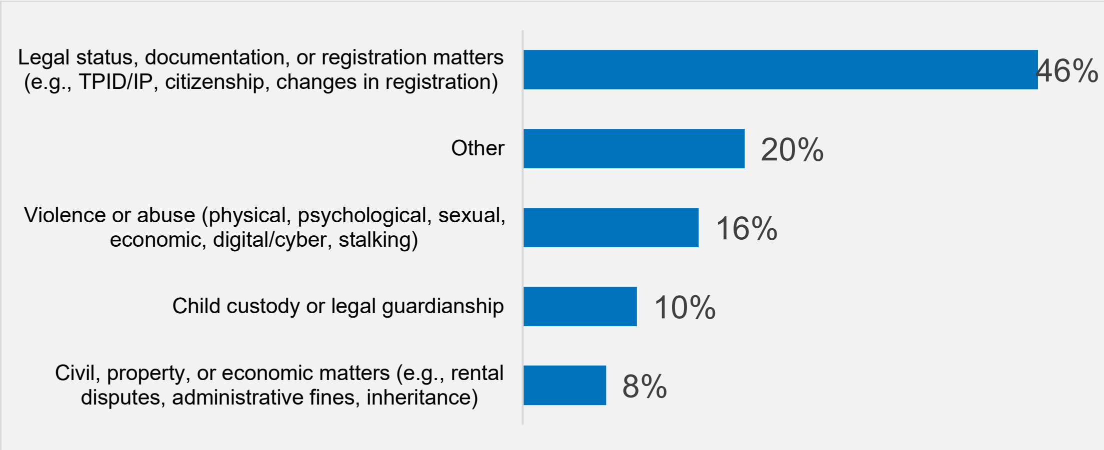


Figure 32 Disaggregation of issues for which legal services are required

Across the sample, the most common legal assistance needs relate to legal status, documentation, and registration (**46 per cent**), followed by support related to violence or abuse (**16 per cent**) and divorce (**14 per cent**). In line with earlier findings on access to services, legal status and documentation needs are most frequently reported by respondents of other nationalities, Afghans, and Iraqis, while Iranian respondents more commonly report needs related to legal follow-up after experiences of violence or abuse. Gender-based differences are most pronounced for violence and divorce-related legal needs, which are reported significantly more often by women and female-headed households, highlighting the intersection between gender, household structure, and legal needs.

Of those who sought legal help, **59 per cent** were unable to receive it, citing obstacles such as lack of information, service capacity limitations, or inability to secure appointments. Where assistance was accessed, referrals through international or national NGOs were the most common pathway (**23 per cent**), followed by self-referral (**14 per cent**), while appointments through bar associations remain rare (**4 per cent**). Unmet legal representation needs are highest among Syrian, Iraqi, and respondents of other nationalities, while Iranian and Afghan respondents report comparatively greater access, largely facilitated through NGO referrals. A higher proportion of rural (**70 per cent**) residents indicate not receiving support by a lawyer, compared to urban residents (**58 per cent**). Compared to the previous year, the rate of those who could not access legal support has seriously increased from **33 per cent** in the last round.

Taken together, the protection indicators from this round present a layered landscape: modest improvements in stress and community tensions, persistent risks related to GBV and child protection, and continued difficulty accessing legal remedies. While some progress is evident, many of the core drivers of protection risks— socio-economic hardship, administrative constraints, gender inequality, and regional difficulties—remain deeply entrenched. Sustained and targeted interventions across multiple systems will be essential to address both immediate risks and the chronic vulnerabilities that shape protection dynamics for refugee communities.

Intentions and Information on Voluntary Returns

Intentions regarding voluntary returns to Syria or continued stay in Türkiye, remain shaped by a combination of economic pressures, safety considerations, and access to services. This round shows overall stability in refugees' intentions, though with nuanced shifts across nationalities, gender, and regions that signal evolving conditions influencing future decision-making.

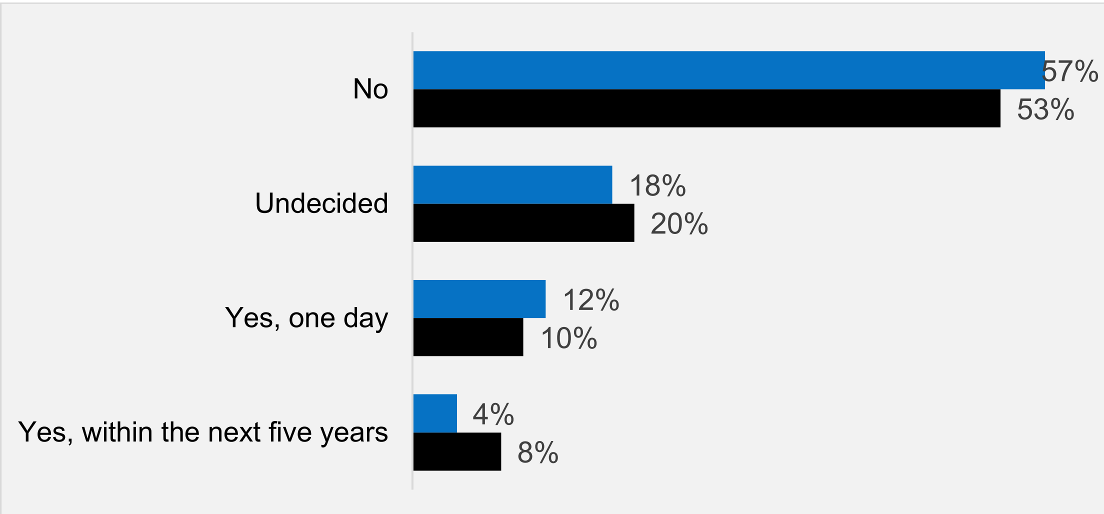


Figure 33 Overview of intentions, disaggregated by gender

Among Syrian respondents **56 per cent** report no intention to return to Syria in the foreseeable future. This represents only a marginal decrease of two percentage points from February 2025, suggesting that broader conditions regarding safety, governance, and livelihoods inside Syria remain insufficient to encourage large-scale return. **Eleven per cent** express the intention to return "one day", **8 per cent** within the coming year, and **6 per cent** within the coming five years, while **19 per cent** report being undecided—an increase from **11 per cent** earlier this year. The rise in indecision appears closely tied to growing financial hardship in Türkiye and uncertainty about future protection and social policies.

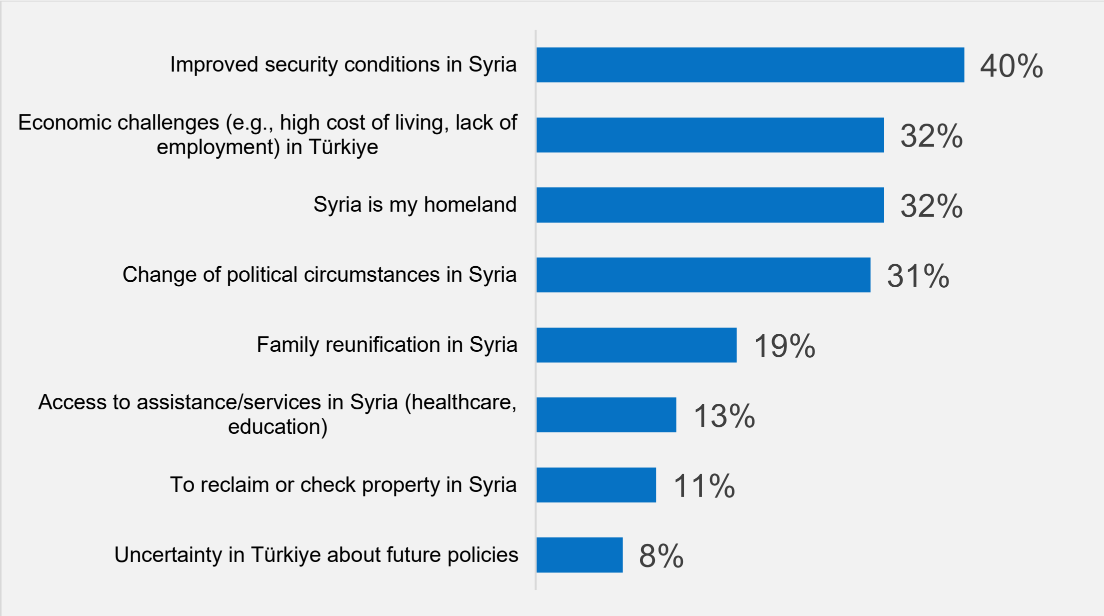


Figure 34 Overview of reported reasons for return

Women are slightly more likely to express no intention to return (**57 per cent** compared with **53 per cent** of men), majority of whom indicate they would consider return in case of improved safety and security. Men show a higher tendency toward uncertainty or long-term return. Female-headed households demonstrate similar tendencies.

Regional patterns reveal differing expectations and pressures. Respondents in the Southeast, which hosts the largest Syrian population, show the highest share considering return either soon or in the future (**31 per cent**), possibly pointing to lower perceived logistical and financial barriers to return due to geographic proximity. Marmara, on the other hand, has the highest proportion of respondents who indicate a definite `no` (**70 per cent**). Longer durations of stay, higher rates of urban settlement, and greater investment in livelihoods and education may be reinforcing intentions to remain.

Almost half of the respondents (**47 per cent**) indicate that a possible decision to return to Syria or remain would be made by all adult members of the household, while **37 per cent** indicate the decision would be made by the head of the household. While most (**55 per cent**) male respondents say the decision would be made jointly, **40 per cent** of female respondents say the same. Female respondents have a higher likelihood to indicate that the decision is made by the head of the household.

Among respondents who expressed willingness to return, the majority indicated that they would do so together with their families, with **79 per cent** reporting that they would return with all family members, and an additional **10 per cent** stated they would return with their entire family including extended family members. A small minority reported alternative plans: **three per cent** indicated they would return alone, and **four per cent** stated they would return with only some family members while others would remain in Türkiye. Regional patterns are largely consistent; however, rate of those considering returning alone are highest in Central Anatolia, with **17 per cent** of respondents. Proportion of respondents considering return alone are also slightly higher for male respondents.

For any extended or nuclear family members who are not currently considering return, the majority cite conditional or delayed intentions. **Fifty three per cent** report that return to Syria is possible depending on factors such as the completion of education or improvements in conditions. Meanwhile, **40 per cent** expect to remain in Türkiye for the foreseeable future, and **13 per cent** anticipate staying in Türkiye permanently.

Among Syrians considering returns, Aleppo is the most preferred destination, with **41 per cent** of respondents stating this location. This is followed by Idleb (**17 per cent**) and Hama (**17 per cent**). For those expressing interest in returning, motivations are mixed and often conditional. **40 per cent** cite improved security, **33 per cent** indicate economic challenges in Türkiye, **31 per cent** a change in political circumstances in Syria, and **31 per cent** a sense of attachment or longing for their place of origin. These results show a modest increase in the proportion citing economic motivations compared with last year, reflecting worsening financial stability in Türkiye.

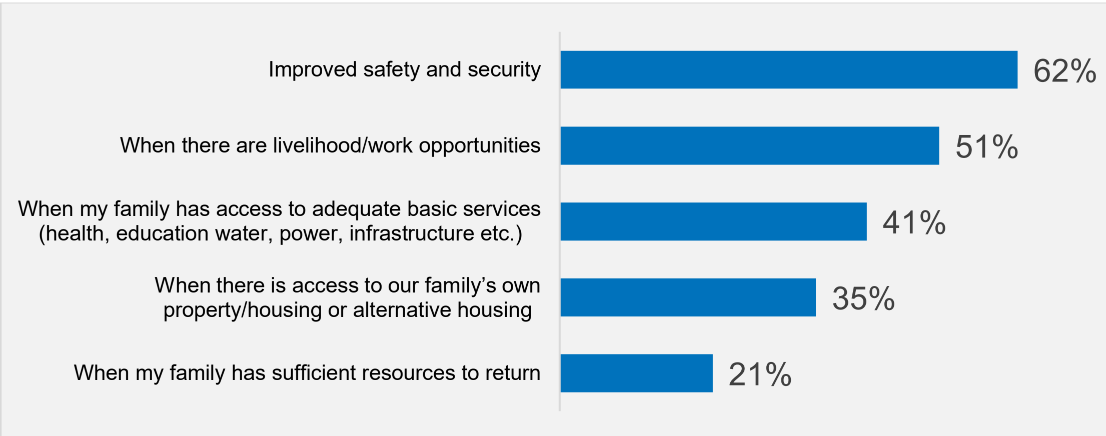


Figure 35 Overview of circumstances under which respondents would consider returning in the next 12 months

When asked under what conditions they would consider returning within the next year, respondents most frequently cited improved safety and security as a determining factor, mentioned by **62 per cent**. This was followed by increased livelihood opportunities in Syria, reported by **51 per cent**, and access to basic services, identified by **41 per cent**. Across all regions, safety and security emerged as the overarching priority influencing the likelihood of earlier return. Respondents residing in the Marmara and Aegean regions also emphasised the importance of improved livelihood and employment opportunities.

Information plays a significant role in shaping intentions. With the vast majority (80 per cent) feeling adequately or partially informed to make decisions about returning or staying and **20 per cent** are not informed. Across regions, respondents from Marmara are the least informed. Male respondents (**52 per cent**) indicate feeling more informed than female respondents (**44 per cent**), similarly twice as many female headed households indicate they don't feel informed, compared to males.

These findings reinforce a long-standing pattern: while intentions remain generally stable and dominated by caution, rising financial pressures and ongoing uncertainty concerning the security situation in Syria are increasing indecision among refugee households. The findings suggest that intentions are likely to remain volatile and contingent on both national policy shifts and regional dynamics affecting conditions inside Syria.

Civil Documentation

Civil documentation plays a critical role in shaping refugees' return experiences, as proof of identity and family links is often required to access services, secure housing, and complete administrative procedures upon arrival. Overall, **79 per cent** of respondents report possessing Syrian civil documentation, while **19 per cent** indicate they do not. No notable gender-based differences are observed in overall documentation status. Among those who hold documentation, the most common types are Syrian ID cards (**34 per cent**), family booklets (**27 per cent**), and passports (**10 per cent**). Male respondents more frequently report having Syrian ID cards and family booklets, whereas female respondents more commonly possess marriage certificates.

A total of **38 per cent** of respondents report having needed to obtain civil documentation while in Türkiye. report having needed to obtain civil documentation while in Türkiye. This need is most prevalent among residents of the Marmara (**53 per cent**) and Southeast (**35 per cent**) regions. The most commonly required documents are birth reports from hospitals (**62 per cent**) and marriage certificates (**47 per cent**). Most respondents (**91 per cent**) were able to obtain the necessary documentation in Türkiye, although **seven per cent** were not, with individuals in without an active Temporary Protection ID experiencing the most difficulty.

These patterns underscore that while the majority of respondents hold essential documents, gaps remain for specific regions and documents. Given that civil documentation is a prerequisite for formal registration, education, property claims, and legal recognition, access to documentation is likely to be a key enabling factor for safe and orderly returns in the future.

Conclusion

Findings from the October 2025 round of the Community Pulse reflect a protection environment shaped by chronic socioeconomic pressure, uneven access to essential services, and persistent vulnerabilities across refugee communities. While some indicators show modest improvements—particularly in reduced levels of community stress, slightly better access to PDMM and health services, and stabilising patterns in education—these gains are overshadowed by enduring structural constraints that continue to affect households' daily lives and future prospects.

Across nearly all dimensions, economic fragility remains the central driver of vulnerability. Income sources are limited, informal, and unpredictable; expenditures consistently outpace income; and the vast majority of households rely on negative coping mechanisms to meet basic needs. Composite indices and dependency ratios reinforce this picture, revealing multidimensional vulnerability at scale and highlighting that refugees' economic resilience continues to erode over time. Social assistance mitigates some of these pressures, but its scale and predictability remain insufficient relative to population-wide needs.

Access to services shows improvement in certain areas but remains constrained overall. Administrative barriers, documentation challenges, and inactive health insurance continue to shape households' interaction with institutions. Information gaps have, although limited, persisted, directly affecting families' ability to navigate services, access assistance, and make informed decisions about their future. These gaps are most acute among International Protection applicants, persons with disabilities, and women, who face intersecting barriers that limit access to timely, accurate, and accessible information.

Protection concerns remain pronounced. Gender-based violence, child labour, peer bullying, and household conflict continue to affect a substantial proportion of communities, while economic hardship amplifies psychosocial stress and tensions in overcrowded housing environments. Although community-level tensions with the host population have declined, the drivers of these tensions—rising living costs and limited-service capacity—remain unresolved. Legal assistance needs persist, particularly among International Protection applicants facing documentation challenges and citing limited avenues for remedy.

Intentions regarding return remain largely unchanged. Most Syrian households continue to see return as unfeasible under current conditions due to insecurity, lack of services, and housing challenges. At the same time, rising financial strain in Türkiye has increased uncertainty, reflected in the growing proportion of respondents who report being undecided about their future. The interplay between economic conditions in Türkiye and security conditions in Syria will continue to shape these intentions in the months to come.

Overall, the findings of this round point to a protection landscape characterised less by sudden shocks than by cumulative pressures—economic, administrative, and social—that interact to limit refugees' wellbeing and long-term stability. While community resilience remains strong, and some indicators show improvement, the persistence of foundational vulnerabilities underscores the need for sustained, multi-dimensional support, prioritizing those who are most vulnerable due to intersecting challenges. Strengthening access to services, expanding predictable assistance, improving documentation pathways, and enhancing inclusive communication systems will be central to addressing the structural barriers highlighted in this assessment.

The Community Pulse continues to provide a shared evidence base for partners, informing targeted interventions and strategic planning across the 3RP and national frameworks. Addressing the challenges identified in this round will require coordinated efforts that place refugee needs, safety, and dignity at the centre of programming and policy decisions.