



**FEBRUARY 2024**

## **RESEARCH REPORT:**

### **Support earthquake-affected communities in the Scope of International Protection**

This report is prepared in cooperation with the Afghan Refugees Solidarity Association (ARSA), Support to Life Association (STL) with the support of the Local Humanitarian Forum (LHF).

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# İÇİNDEKİLER

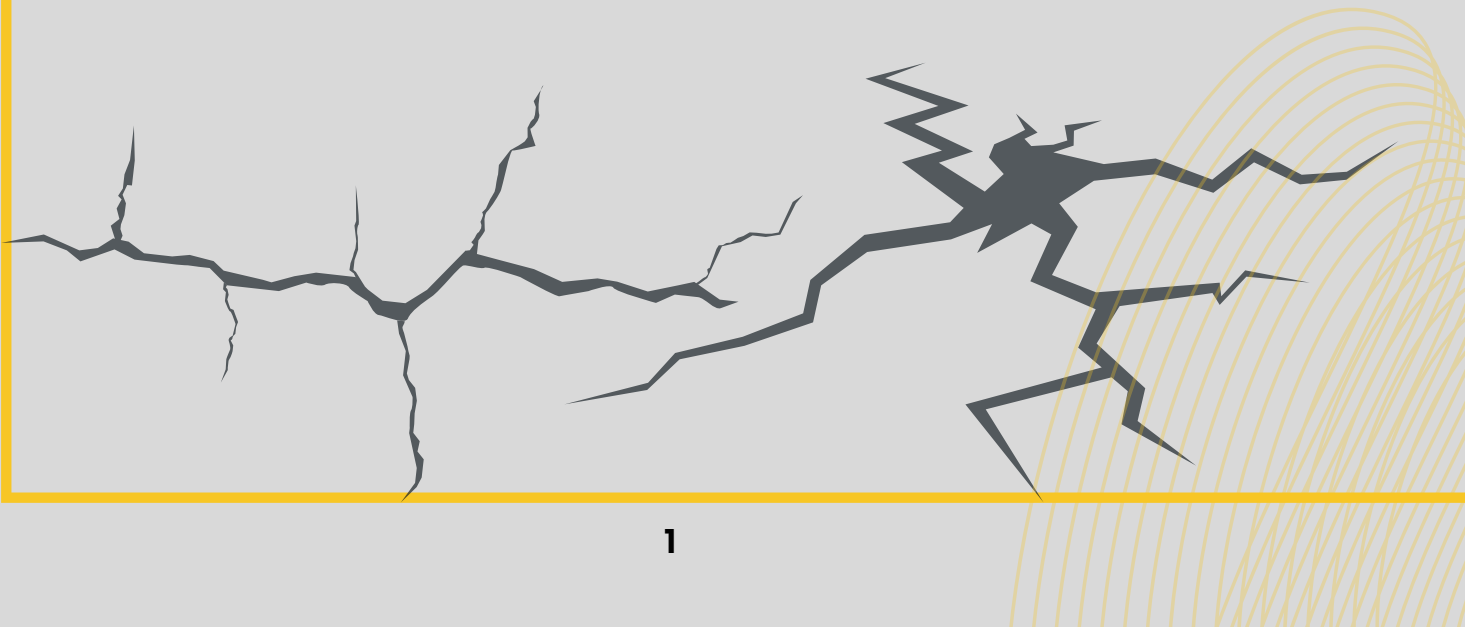
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# 1. Introduction

This report presents the main findings of the research study titled "Project of Supporting People in Earthquake Zones in the Scope of International Protection." The project was implemented by local and international civil society organizations (CSOs) that are actively supporting the earthquake response and are structured under the umbrella of the Turkish Local Humanitarian Forum (TiF). The TiF aims to integrate national organizations into the coordination system of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and enable them to take an active role in sectoral coordination. Additionally, TiF supports increased resource accessibility for local CSOs.

As part of the project, a grant was provided to the Afghan Refugees Solidarity and Assistance Association (ARSA) to implement the "Project of Supporting People in Earthquake Zones in the Scope of International Protection." This project, implemented jointly by ARSA and Support To Life (STL), aims to assess the basic needs of refugees in the earthquake zone, identify inaccessible services, and facilitate access to these services. Almost Half of the refugees in Turkey reside in 11 earthquake-affected provinces. Following massive earthquakes, many refugees lost their lives, while others lost relatives and suffered physical and mental damage. However, travel permit restrictions for refugees set by Presidency of Migration Management (PMM) have prevented many from returning to their registered provinces or extending their travel permits to leave the earthquake zone. This regulation has caused people to face serious financial and mental difficulties, with many unable to find necessary financial support and facing housing, health, and food supports. Moreover, those who lost loved ones had difficulties accessing reliable information and communication. Those who lost their legal documents in the rubble faced the threat and uncertainty of repatriation.

The study focused on the provinces of Malatya, Kahramanmaraş, and Adana, which are the most earthquake-affected and refugee-populated provinces. The main activities included formulating questions to assess needs, conducting fieldwork, interviewing refugees, analyzing the responses, and reporting the results.





Research activities and outputs were structured in a logical framework. In the first phase, ARSA and Support to Life Association conducted a detailed situation assessment study. This included preparing questions on demographics, shelter, safety and security, access to nutrition and food safety, distribution services, water sanitation and hygiene, access to health and education services, livelihoods, gender-based incidents, and discrimination.

Questions, developed for interviews with male and female refugees, allowed participants to identify their needs and current situations. This work was carried out by well-trained and experienced protection staff and Farsi interpreters, as necessary. Active communication and coordination with stakeholders in the field have been provided.

Finally, the findings were compiled into a report, which details the prioritization of needs and presents recommendations for improving the measures taken. The results of the study represent a significant step forward in understanding and addressing the challenges faced by refugees in the earthquake region. The findings aim to provide guidance to relevant stakeholders and to guide future humanitarian aid projects and efforts.



## 2. Background

"February 6th, 2023, marks one of the most tragic dates in Turkey's recent history. Two major earthquakes struck southeastern Turkey, affecting the Pazarcık and Elbistan districts of Kahramanmaraş.

The first earthquake occurred on February 6th, 2023, at 04:17 am in the Pazarcık district. According to AFAD, this earthquake had a magnitude of 7.7 and took place at a depth of 8.6 kilometers. It was felt in many provinces across Turkey. The second earthquake struck the Elbistan district at 13:24 on the same day, with a magnitude of 7.6. This subsequent earthquake caused further destruction in the region after Pazarcık.

The provinces of Kahramanmaraş, Gaziantep, Adana, Adıyaman, Malatya, Diyarbakır, Şanlıurfa, Osmaniye, Hatay, Elazığ and Kilis were the epicenters of these earthquakes. AFAD, the governmental organization for disaster and emergency management in Turkey, reported that 53,537 people lost their lives and 107,213 were injured in the earthquakes on February 6th.

Following the earthquakes, the Turkish government declared immediate mobilization. AFAD, the Red Crescent, NGOs, and volunteers were mobilized to join rescue operations in the region. Many other nations and international organizations sent humanitarian aid and rescue teams.

The February 6th earthquakes occurred on the Elazığ-Kahramanmaraş Fault Line, which is part of the Eastern Anatolia Fault Line, where many refugees are resettled. This fault line is active in southeastern Turkey and has caused many other earthquakes in the past. According to data from the Environment, Urbanization, and Climate Change Ministry of Turkey, a total of 36,932 buildings collapsed due to the earthquake: 13,883 in Hatay, 7,295 in Kahramanmaraş, 5,826 in Adıyaman, 4,197 in Malatya, and 3,805 in Gaziantep. Additionally, 311,000 buildings with a total of 872,000 independent units are no longer usable due to the earthquake.

Louisa Vinton, Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to Turkey, spoke at the traditional weekly press conference held at the UN Office in Geneva on March 7 via video conference from Gaziantep, stating: "According to calculations conducted thus far, it is expected that the damage, as presented by the government and international partners, will exceed 100 billion dollars." Following the devastating earthquakes in Turkey, an emergency appeal was launched through the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and its partners to provide humanitarian assistance.

The February 6th earthquakes have caused immense destruction and loss, particularly affecting refugees living in Turkey. Refugees residing in the epicenters—Kahramanmaraş, Gaziantep, Adıyaman, Malatya, Diyarbakır, Şanlıurfa, Osmaniye, Hatay, Adana, Elazığ and Kilis—were among the most impacted groups, experiencing casualties and injuries. At the post-earthquake stage, refugees have encountered serious issues regarding access to shelter, food, health, and education.

In the aftermath, numerous organizations in Turkey and abroad initiated relief efforts for refugees. AFAD, the Turkish Red Crescent, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and various non-governmental organizations have provided assistance in areas such as shelter, food, health, and education. However, the refugee communities in the region have been severely affected by the earthquake, and significant efforts are required to improve their living standards.

### 3. Methodological Approach of the Study

As per the research study, in the first phase, Afghan Refugees Solidarity and Assistance Association (ARSA) and Support To Life initiated a detailed need assessment study in September 2023 to understand the basic needs and challenges of refugees in the earthquake region. This assessment included fieldwork, interviews with refugees, surveys and data collection.

The questions used for the need assessment were developed as a comprehensive questionnaire covering demographic information, shelter conditions, security, food access and safety, distribution services, shelter, water sanitation and hygiene, access to health services, access to education, livelihoods, gender-based issues and discrimination. There were 69 questions for male and female adults and 25 simplified questions for children. The initial draft of the questions was refined and finalized after the meetings held with representatives of STL and TIF.

The groups were divided into three as women, men and children. In Malatya, Kahramanmaraş and Adana provinces, 9 focus group discussions were held with 72 people in total. Participants were selected using the snowball technique among displaced refugees living in the provinces affected by the February 6th Turkey-Syria earthquake. In the selection process, people who were registered in earthquake affected provinces and refugee status holders were preferred. Participants were informed that focus group discussions would be held at the designated venue on the specified dates and times and were informed about the content of these discussions and the project in detail. Fieldwork was carried out based on this questionnaire. These were conducted by staff with protection training and experience in the relevant field, and Persian interpreters were used for communication when necessary. Before conducting the focus groups, participants were provided with more information about the project and interviews and consent forms were distributed and signatures were obtained. Participants were informed that their personal data will be recorded, stored, organized, updated, transferred and processed in accordance with Law Number: #6698 on the Protection of Personal Data. The answers given during the interviews were immediately and meticulously recorded and documented.

The collected data were analyzed using qualitative and quantitative methods. Qualitative data were thoroughly analyzed in textual analysis, while quantitative data were evaluated through statistical analysis. The data were carefully evaluated in terms of themes and trends, so that the research results were presented in a more holistic and meaningful way.

The results of the research are carefully presented in the final chapter of the report. The findings are detailed in order of prioritization of needs, providing a clear picture of the challenges faced by refugees in the earthquake zone. Furthermore, recommendations and improvement measures are presented, supporting the aim of finding solutions to these problems.

Close collaboration with relevant stakeholders maintained during research study. This collaboration played a critical role for the successful implementation of the project and the effective utilization of the results.

Ethical principles were taken into account during the research process. The confidentiality and privacy of the participants prioritized. Confidentiality was meticulously followed in the storage and processing of data. In addition, interviews with children and adults were conducted in the most ethical and sensitive manner through online training provided by experts on the subject. Attention was paid to cultural and trauma sensitivity issues and participants were provided with a respectful and safe environment. Additionally, special attention was paid to the language to be used in communication with this displaced and earthquake-affected group, with employees undergoing special training and meetings on this matter.

## 4. FINDINGS

### 4.1. Focus Group Discussions Questionnaire Content

The focus group interview covers a wide range of questions on the living conditions, needs and challenges faced by refugees in the aftermath of the earthquake. It starts with gathering demographic information, collecting basic information such as age, gender, nationality and legal status, with the aim of providing support and personalizing services. It then examines several key areas such as housing conditions, safety within the community, access to safety-related assistance and the presence of security measures in facilities.

The survey also addresses issues such as nutrition, food access and food security, aiming to ensure respondents have adequate nutrition and address concerns on food quality and safety. The survey aims to examine the economic well-being of families by assessing livelihoods, sources of income and social support.

In relation to health, the survey covers the physical health status of refugee earthquake survivors, the availability of health facilities, access to treatment, and awareness of reproductive and sexual health issues. Mental health support also presents a critical area, asking respondents about the impact of the earthquake on their mental health and their access to mental health services.

Focus group interview questions address educational opportunities for children and young people, access to school and experiences of discrimination in educational institutions. It provides an opportunity for participants to share their opinions on the Afghan Refugees Solidarity and Assistance Association and the support it provides. Additionally, the questionnaire gives them the opportunity to express any problems or concerns they face in many areas such as housing, safety, discrimination, etc. at the end of the interviews.

Finally, the questionnaire aims to explore participants' personal experiences and future plans. In a nutshell, these questions provide a broad view of participants' circumstances, needs and perspectives, which can inform effective support and assistance strategies appropriate to their specific situation.

5. Yemek hazırlığı için kullanılan mutfak malzemeleri, ateş, ocak, tıp gibi gereçlerin güvenliğini nasıl sağlıyorsunuz?

6. Gıda yardımı ve gıda güvenliği hakkında şahada çalışan kamu kurumları, özel sektör veya sivil toplum örgütleri tarafından size bilgi verildi mi? Bu konuda aldığınız eğitim veya bilgilendirme hakkında daha fazla bilgi verebilir misiniz?

**D. Gelir Kaynakları ve Aile Durumu**

1. Ailenizin geçimini nasıl sağlıyorsunuz? Aile içinde kaç kişi çalışıyor ve kaç çocuk var?

2. 18 yaş altı ve 18 yaş üstü kaç çocuğunuz var?

3. Aile içinde çalışan kadın bir birey var mı?

4. Aylık gelinizin ne kadar ve bu gelir dışında ek gelir kaynaklarınız var mı?

5. Devlet veya sivil toplum kuruluşlarından (örneğin, Kırsal Kart, PTT Kart, Sırtlı Sosyal Yardım, Engelli Birey Nakdi Yardımı) nakdi yardım alıyor musunuz?

6. Çalışan bireyler hangi sektörde çalışıyor ve iş yerine ulaşma nasıl sağlıyorsunuz?

7. Çalışan bireylerin işleri sürekli mi yoksa dengesiz mi? Gündelik çalışan bireylerin günlük geliri nedir?

8. Çalışan bireylerin iş izneleri ve sigortaları mevcut mu?

9. Günlük kayıplar çalışmıyorsanız ve iş kazası geçiren birisi var mı? Eğer öyleyse, gerekli müdahaleler gerçekleştirildi mi?

**E. Sağlık, Sanitasyon ve Hijyen**

1. Temiz su temini konusunda herhangi bir sıkıntı yaşıyor musunuz? Temiz suyu nereden temin ediyorsunuz ve ne sıklıkla temin ediyorsunuz?

2. Tuvalet ve hijyen olanakları konusunda herhangi bir zorluk karşılayıyor musunuz?

3. Hijyen malzemelerinin temini nasıl sağlıyorsunuz ve bu hizmetleri hangi kamu kurumları, sivil toplum örgütleri veya diğer kuruluşlar tarafından sunuluyor? Bu hizmetlerden memnun musunuz?

4. Su noktaları, tuvaletler ve diğer WASH (Sa, Sanitasyon ve Hijyen) tesisleri, güvenli ve kolay erişim alanlarına yerleştirildi mi? Bu alanlar içinden kilitlenebilir şekilde mi kapatılıyor?

5. Tuvaletler, yıkanma alanları ve diğer hijyen tesisleri, erkekler ve kadınlar için ayrılmış ve cinsiyete göre ayrılmış mıdır? Eğer değilse, bu konuda yaşadığınız zorlukları açıklayabilir misiniz?

6. Hijyen malzemelerinin dağıtımı ve tuvaletler, yıkanma alanları ve diğer hijyen tesislerinin temizliği ne sıklıkla yapılıyor? Bu hizmetlerden memnun musunuz?

7. Çöplerin toplanması hangi sıklıkla gerçekleştiriliyor?

**F. Dağıtım ve Yardım**

1. Su ana kadar hangi tür yardımları aldınız? (Örneğin, gıda, battaniye, su, iletici, iletici, iletici)

2. Bu yardımları nereden aldınız? Hangi kurumlar, kuruluşlar veya sivil toplum örgütleri tarafından sağlandı?

**A. Demografik Bilgiler**

1. Hangi yaş grubuna aitsiniz?

2. Cinsiyetiniz nedir?

3. Hangi ülkeden geldiniz?

4. Yasal statünüz nedir? (Örneğin, Kimlik Kartı, Uluslararası Koruma, Geçici Koruma, Sırtlı Mülteci vb.)

5. Kaç aile üyesi var?

**B. Barınma ve Güvenlik**

1. Depremden sonra yaşadığınız barınma durumu nedir? (Örneğin, ev, akaraba/dost yanı, çadır, tesis, konteyner vb.)

2. Ana giriş yollarında ve ana tesislerde tam aydınlatma ve barınma alanındaki tesisler hakkında şüpheler mevcut mu?

3. Kalacağınız çadırın/evinizin/güvenli aile üyesi sayısına yeterli mi?

4. Toprakta içinde kendinizi güvende hissediyor musunuz? Hissetmiyorsanız neden, hissetmiyorsanız nedenini açıklayabilir misiniz?

5. Yalnız kadınlar ve/veya çocuklar ile yaşayan kadınlar aile bireyleri dışında erkeklerle aynı alanda kalma konusunda korkuyor mu?

6. Güvenlikte ilgili yaşadığınız bir sorun var mı? Varsa, bu konuda yardım talep ettiğiniz bir yaş oldu mu? Eğer yardım alıyorsanız, bu hizmetten memnun musunuz?

7. Kalacağınız yer ve kullandığınız tesislerin (banyo, tuvalet, yemek alanı vb.) kilitli var mı?

8. Bilinmeyen kişiler ya da şüpheli kişiler ne derecede etkiliyor?

9. Çocuk parkı, sosyal alan ve acil durum toplanma alanı gibi tesisler bulunuyor mu?

10. Tesislerde engelli bireylerin, yaşlıların ve bakımı ihtiyacı olan bireylerin dahiliyi ile ilgili bir şey (örneğin, rampalar) mevcut mu?

**C. Gıda ve Gıda Güvenliği**

1. Gıda ihtiyacınızı karşılamak için hangi kaynaklardan faydalanıyorsunuz ve bu kaynaklar hangi tür kurumlara veya organizasyonlara bağlıdır? (Ayrıca, alman gıda yardımından memnun musunuz ve bu yardım ne sıklıkla sağlanmaktadır?)

2. Gıda ihtiyaçlarınızı karşılamak konusunda herhangi bir zorluk karşılayıyor musunuz?

3. Gıda güvenliğini ilgili edindikleriniz ve mi? Eğer varsa, bu edindiklerinizi hakkında daha fazla detay verebilir misiniz? Örneğin, gıda kalitesi, güvenliği veya sağlıkla ilgili konuları paylaşıyor musunuz?

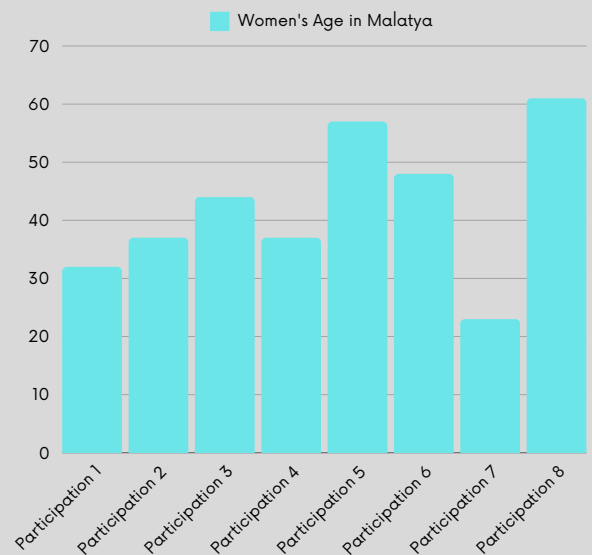
4. Temin ettiğiniz gıdalar nasıl muhafaza ediliyor? Gıda muhafaza yöntemleri hakkında ne tür fikirler alıyorsunuz?

## 4.1. Women Focus Group Discussions

### 4.1.1. Malatya Women Focus Group Discussions

#### Demographics

- 8 women participated in the women's focus group interview in Malatya. All of the 8 women identified their gender as female. 8 women also stated that they were from Afghanistan.
- While 5 out of 8 women have International Protection status, 3 women stated that they are conditional refugees.
- Women's ages: 32, 37, 44, 37, 57, 48, 23 and 61
- The number of women's family members, in order: 8, 7, 8, 5, 8, 4, 4 and 4.



#### Housing and Security:

- Regarding their accommodation after the earthquake, five out of eight women stated that they stayed in a container-city, one woman stayed in a damaged house, one woman stated that they rented a new house after the earthquake and one woman stated that they still stay with relatives/family friends.
- Regarding the lighting system and signs on the main access roads and facilities in the container city and other shelters, all women reported problems.
- Regarding the adequacy of the width of the tent/house/facility for the number of family members, two out of eight women stated that it was sufficient and six stated that it was not sufficient.
- When asked about the security felt in the community, two out of eight women stated that they did not experience any discomfort, while the others experienced discomfort. They stated that the inconveniences experienced were due to theft and looting in the neighborhood and the fact that the buildings were not safe as they were further damaged due to the earthquake.
- The respondents were asked about grave security issues and whether there were any places where help was requested and if so, whether they were satisfied with the service received: seven out of eight women stated that they did not experience any serious problems, while one woman stated that she reported the problem in the container city to the Gendarmerie and that the problem was solved and that she was satisfied with the service.
- Eight women stated their houses and facilities (bathrooms, toilets, childcare areas, etc.) were locked.
- Regarding the impact of climatic conditions on living conditions, four out of eight women stated that it had a negative impact on their living conditions and that they could not stay in the container city or at home in summer, and those who were sick emphasized that it worsened their illnesses. Four women stated that they were not affected.
- Regarding the proximity of facilities such as playgrounds, social areas and emergency gathering areas to living areas, five respondents provided positive answers and three gave negative answers.
- Eight out of eight women stated there is no structure for inclusion of persons with disabilities, elderly and persons in need of care in facilities and other living areas, for example, the availability of ramps.



## Food and Food Safety:

- Regarding meeting their food needs, all 8 women stated that immediately after the earthquake, some governmental and non-governmental organizations provided short-term food aid, and now they are preparing food with their own resources.
- Eight of eight women are currently struggling to obtain food for financial reasons.
- 8 female participants stated that they had no worries about the food safety materials distributed in tents, mosques and other spaces where they stayed for a short time after the earthquake.



- It was stated that no one had any problems with the storage of the food provided.
- It was also stated no one had any issue with the safety of kitchen tools such as tubes, stoves, etc. used.
- Eight participants stated that no information or brochures on food aid and food safety were distributed by public institutions, private sector or civil society organizations working on the ground in the earthquake zone, especially for people staying in tent or container cities.

## Livelihoods and Family Situation

- Four of the eight women's husbands are the primary earners/breadwinners of their families, three women's children over the age of 18 are working and one woman is surviving only with the help of Social Services.
- The number and ages of children in the families of eight women are as follows
  - 6 children, all under 18.
  - 6 children, all under 18.
  - There are 6 children and only 1 child is over 18 years of age.
  - 3 children, all under 18 years of age.
  - There are 12 children and 2 children are over 18 years of age.
  - 4 children, all over 18 years of age.
  - 2 children, all under 18 years of age.
  - 2 children, all under 18 years of age.
- Eight women stated that their family's monthly income was 4000 TL at the lowest and 8000 TL at the highest, and seven out of eight women stated that their family received Red Crescent Card support.
- Seven out of eight women had family members who worked, and these people worked irregularly, without permission and without insurance in apricot factories, carpet factories, air conditioner factories and fruit and vegetable markets.





## Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygien

- All eight women stated that they had difficulties in obtaining clean water and had to use tap water, but that they first boiled and rested the water to make it usable, and when finances allowed, they bought ready-made water from outside.
- In terms of toilet and hygiene facilities, two out of eight women stated that they had problems with the toilets' drain and that toilets were broken in the container city.
- Women in containers were reported to be placed in safe and easy access areas to water points, latrines and other WASH facilities (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene), which are lockable, and gender segregated for men and women. They had the opposite experience in the tent city before. They stated that these facilities provided hygiene services such as garbage collection.

## Distribution and Assistance:

- Regarding aid received from state and any non-governmental organization since the earthquake, it was stated that three out of eight women did not receive any support and five women received food and water aid. The aid organizations mentioned by the participants who remembered where the aid came from are as follows: AFAD, Red Crescent and Malatya Yaşam Derneği.
- Eight out of eight women think that the assistance received is not sufficient.
- All 8 women stated that aid workers of humanitarian organizations and institutions that help do not discriminate.

## Health Services and Mental Health

- Three out of eight women stated that they did not experience any difficulties in accessing basic health services, while five women stated that they had difficulties in accessing health services because they did not have insurance and if they had to go to a private hospital, they did not have the budget to financially cover the fees charged for health services.
- Three out of eight women do not have chronic diseases and five women have chronic diseases such as (blood pressure, kidney disease, etc.).
- All eight women stated they were informed about family planning and sexual health issues and they had never received information from any governmental or non-governmental organization.
- All participants stated that infants and children in the family were fully vaccinated and were obtained from the nearest health center.
- Regarding the impact of the earthquake and the living conditions on their mental health, all eight women stated that they were negatively affected and that the living conditions made them feel helpless about their present situation and more hopeless about their future.
- It was stated that none of them received mental health support.
- It was noteworthy that seven out of eight women stated they did not have any experience and habits about self-care and different alternative health methods. One person consumed herbal-teas.



## Access to Protection and Social Services:

- It was determined that not all of the participants were informed about their rights and were not aware of social support and protection services.
- They stated that they did not apply anywhere when they had problems with protection. Accordingly, inferences cannot be made about the quality of protection services provided in Malatya province, as there was no experience of receiving protection services among the respondents. Furthermore, no information can be provided on which institutions they have approached and whether there are PSEA mechanisms, hotlines for victims of GBV and child protection provided by the institutions they have approached.
- Eight women stated that they did not experience any violence or discrimination after the earthquake.
- Eight women stated they were not at risk of GBV and emphasized they were not threatened.





## Briefing about the ARSA

Only two of the participants had heard of the Afghan Refugees Solidarity Association (ARSA) before and were aware of the services it could provide. All participants, both those who knew about ARSA and those who didn't, were briefed about the services provided by ARSA in any situation and were informed about all channels (address, telephone, e-mail, social media, etc.) through which they can communicate.

## Discrimination & Social Life

- Eight out of eight women stated that they were not subjected to any discrimination or violence by the local community in their place of stay.
- All eight women stated that after the earthquake they had the most difficulties in terms of shelter and that they also experienced financial difficulties and psychological breakdown.
- Finally, when asked about their plans and dreams for the future, all participants clearly stated that they did not have any plans.

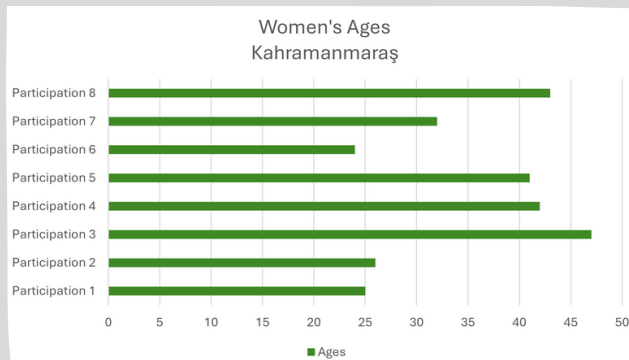
## Education

- Eight out of eight women stated that all school-age children in their families attend school.
- Five out of eight women stated that they had problems with transportation as some children were enrolled in schools far away due to the damaged schools close to the settlements.
- All eight women stated that their children were subjected to discrimination and bullying at school.
- Regarding the educational status of the participants, it was found that four out of eight women had never received any education in their lives, three women had studied until secondary school and then had to drop out for various reasons, and one woman was a high school graduate.

### 4.3.2. Kahramanmaraş Women Focus Group Discussions

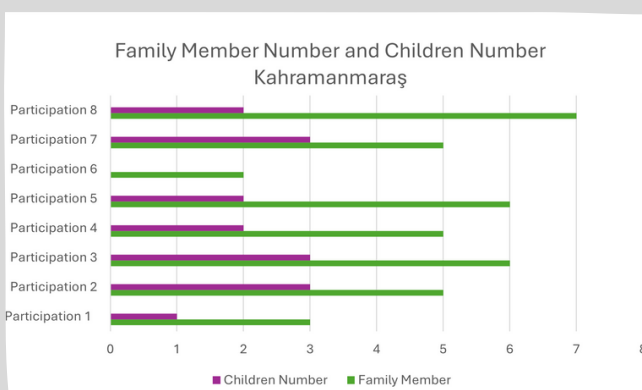
#### Demographic Information

- 8 women participated in the women's focus group interview conducted in Kahramanmaraş.
- 8 women identified their gender as female.
- 6 out of 8 women have International Protection Status, while 2 are conditional refugees.



Women's ages are: 25, 26, 47, 42, 41, 24, 32 and 43.

8 women also stated they were from Afghanistan.



The number of women's family members, in order: 3, 5, 6, 5, 6, 2, 5 and 7.





## Housing and Security

- Regarding their accommodation after the earthquake, one out of eight women stated they stayed in a container city, four women stayed in a damaged house, three women stated they rented a house after the earthquake. Further, they added that they all stayed outside and lived in tents before this.
- None of the eight women reported any issue concerning availability of full lighting and signage on the main access roads and facilities in container city and other shelters.
- Regarding the adequacy of the width of the tent/house/facility for the number of family members, two out of eight women said it was not sufficient and six stated that it was sufficient.
- Regarding the safety, two out of eight women stated they had experienced a problem and the others did not. One of the two women who stated they experienced difficulties said these issues pose a danger to their children, and the other one said Syrian refugee families and individuals constitute the majority in the container city and only a few Afghan families live in the container city; there is a language barrier between them and other people and they have difficulties in this respect.
- The respondents were asked about grave security problems and whether there were any places where assistance was sought and, if so, whether they were satisfied with the service received:
- Six out of eight women stated they did not experience any serious issue; one of the women said she reported the attack on them in the container city to the Gendarmerie and the problem was not solved and no action was taken; the other one stated that she was discouraged because she thought that the institutions she would request help from would not respond and no action would be taken based on the experience of the people around her.
- Eight women stated their houses and facilities (bathrooms, toilets, childcare areas, etc.) were locked.
- Regarding the impact of climatic conditions on living conditions, seven out of eight women expressed that they were not affected. One woman said she was affected by the extreme heat due to being in the container city and that she thought she would be affected by the cold in the same way in winter and that more problems would arise.
- Everyone responded negatively about the proximity of facilities such as playgrounds, social areas and emergency assembly areas to living areas. The person staying in the container city emphasized that there is only a prefabricated school.
- Eight out of eight women stated there is no structure for inclusion of persons with disabilities, elderly and persons in need of care in facilities and other living areas, e.g. the availability of ramps.

## Food and Food Safety

- About meeting food needs, currently all 8 women prepare food with their own facilities. Some government institutions and non-governmental organizations distributed food aid immediately after the earthquake when all 8 women were in tents.
- Three out of eight women are currently struggling to obtain food for financial reasons.
- Five out of eight women stated they had problems with food safety regarding food distributed in tent cities where they stayed for a short time after the earthquake. They added that sometimes spoiled and inadequate food was distributed.
- The seven women staying in the house do not have any problems in storing food provided, but one woman staying in container city reported the mini fridge in the container is absolutely inadequate.
- Regarding safety of kitchenware such as cylinders, stoves, etc. Seven out of eight stated they did not have any issue but one woman staying in the container used a small gas cylinder and it was not safe.
- Eight participants stated no information or description on food aid and food safety were distributed by public institutions, private sector or non-governmental organizations working on the ground in the earthquake zone, especially for people staying in tent cities or container cities.

## Distribution and Assistance

- Regarding the aid received from the state and any non-governmental organization since the earthquake, eight out of eight women stated that aid was provided while they were in the tent and that these were generally food, blankets, clothing and water aid. They stated they did not know or could not remember where the aid came from.
- Eight out of eight women think that the assistance received is sufficient.
- All eight women stated that humanitarian aid workers do not discriminate against the organizations and institutions providing assistance.

## Livelihoods and Family situation

- It was stated that four out of eight women's husbands were primary earners of their families, two women from the group have children over 18 and two women had no family members working.
- The number and ages of children in eight women's families are as follows:
  - 1 child, all under 18 years of age.
  - 3 children, all under 18 years of age.
  - There are 4 children and only 1 child is over 18 years of age.
  - 2 children, all under 18 years of age.
  - 2 children, all under 18 years of age.
  - 1 participant has no children in the family.
  - 3 children, all under 18 years of age.
  - There are 2 children and 2 children are over 18 years of age.
- Six women said their family's monthly income was 3000 TL at the lowest and 15000 TL at the highest, and three out of eight women stated that their family received Red Crescent Card support.
- Six out of eight women stated that six of them had individuals working in their families and that these individuals worked irregularly, unauthorized and uninsured in gardening, construction and tailoring. Three out of six women said these uninsured individuals in their families had work accidents.

## Health Services and Mental Health

- Five out of eight women stated that they did not experience any difficulties in accessing basic health services. While one woman stated they had difficulties because they did not have insurance and if they had to go to a private hospital, they did not have the budget to cover the fees charged for health services financially. The other two women stated that they had difficulties in accessing health services due to language barriers as hospitals have Arabic interpreters but not Persian interpreters.
- Five out of eight women do not have chronic diseases and three women have chronic diseases (heart disease, mental health problems and blood pressure etc.).
- These 8 women stated that they were aware of issues related to family planning and sexual health and never received information or announcements from any governmental or non-governmental organization.
- All participants stated infants and children in the family were fully vaccinated that were obtained from the nearest health center.
- On the impact of the earthquake and the living conditions on your mental health, eight women reported being negatively affected and that the living conditions made them feel helpless about their situation now and more hopeless about their future. Some reported having panic attacks, not being able to sleep at night and not being able to focus on daily activities.
- It was stated that none of them received mental health support. two participants underlined they had mental health problems.
- Six out of eight women mentioned their gender-based roles such as focusing on housework, fulfilling motherhood duties, etc. for self-care and different alternative health methods. two stated that they did not think that any means of self-care was sufficient in any way. One woman who stayed in the container city stated that she could not establish relations with other refugee groups in the container city and if she could, her daily life would be at a better point and an environment where the effects of the earthquake would be felt less would be good for her.





## Protection and Access to Social Services

- It was determined that all participants were informed about their rights and were aware of social support and protection services.
- They stated that they had not applied anywhere because they had not experienced any problems about protection before. Accordingly, inferences cannot be made about the quality of protection services provided in Kahramanmaraş province, as there is no experience of receiving protection services among the respondents. Accordingly, it is not possible to provide information on which institutions they have applied to and whether there are PSEA mechanisms, hotlines for victims of GBV and child protection provided by the institutions they have applied to.
- Six out of eight women stated they were not subjected to any violence or discrimination. One who stayed in the container city stated all the communication between her and other refugee groups was in a discriminatory language; the other woman stated she was subjected to discrimination and racism by both local people and other refugee groups while staying in the tent city. Both women said they reported that to the local security, yet no action was taken
- Furthermore, eight women stated they were not at risk of GBV and emphasized they were not threatened.



## Education

- Eight out of eight women reported all school-age children in their families went to school. Four out of eight women stated they did not have any issues with their children's access to education and distance of schools from settlement, and four women stated that their children traveled far to the settlements and they were worried about them and sometimes had difficulties in transportation.
- Three out of eight women stated their children did not experience discrimination at school, while the other five stated their children were subjected to discrimination and bullying at school. Three out of five stated their children experienced peer bullying from other refugee kids, while two stated the school administration and teachers chose a discriminatory approach in their attitudes and behaviors towards children.
- "My child achieved second place in a writing contest. Despite his success, the school administration did not recognize the success and did not grant the award, leaving my child deeply affected by the situation."
- Regarding education, four out of eight women never received any education in their lives, two women studied until secondary school and then dropped out and two women were high school graduates

## Discrimination & Social Life

- Only one out of eight women reported being subjected to discrimination and verbal violence by locals in their accommodation.
- Eight women reported climate and livelihoods were the biggest issues after the earthquake.
- Ultimately, when asked about their plans and dreams for the future, all participants stated their plans were based on being able to travel abroad and settle legally in a third country. One participant said, "Our file is at UNHCR and we have been waiting for 12 years for a response. The hope of all family members and especially our children depends on this. We all want our children to receive better education in better conditions. After the earthquake, we realized we were even more psychologically challenged and felt hopeless."

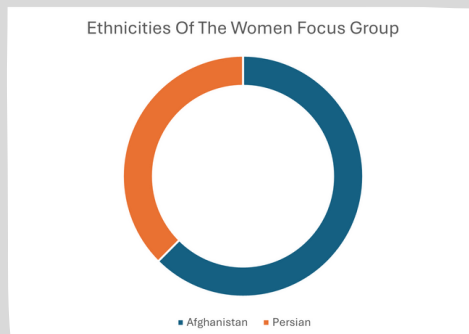
## Briefing about the ARSA

- Only four of the participants stated they did not hear of the Afghan Refugees Solidarity Association (ARSA) before. The four participants stated they already knew the ARSA and were aware of services it provides. These four participants had previously benefited from rent support and cash card assistance provided by ARSA to earthquake affected-refugees. Participants who were not familiar with ARSA were briefly informed about the services that can be provided in any situation, and participants who were familiar with ARSA were informed about other services they can benefit from, and all channels (address, telephone, e-mail, social media, etc.) to contact were provided.

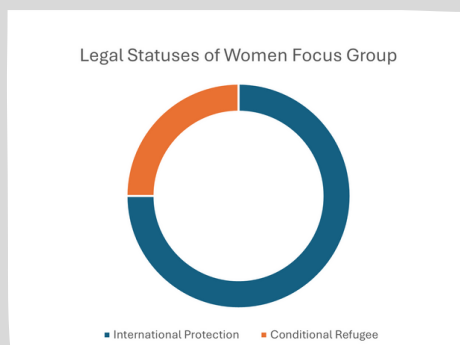


### 4.2.3. Adana Women Focus Group Discussions

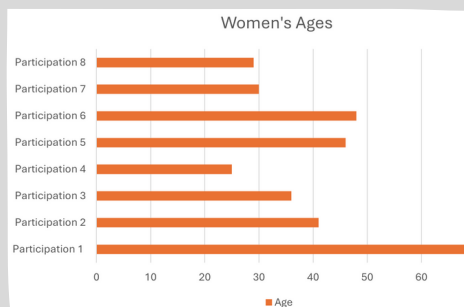
- 8 women participated in the women's focus group interview in Adana.
- All of them identified their gender as female.



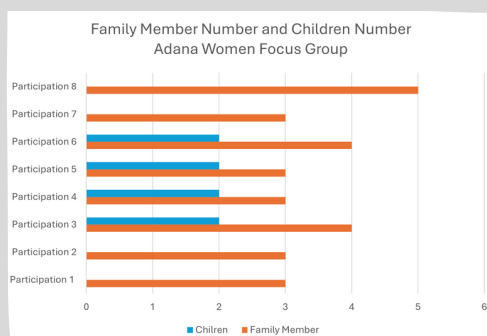
Only 3 of the 8 women stated they were Iranian, while 5 women were from Afghanistan.



While 6 out of 8 women have International Protection status, 2 has conditional refugee.



Women's ages are: 68, 41, 36, 25, 46, 48, 30 and 29.



The number of women's family members, in order: 3, 3, 4, 3, 3, 4, 3 and 5.





## Housing and Security

- Regarding their accommodation, eight women said they stayed in old houses. They added immediately after the earthquake, all of them stayed outside and lived with relatives or friends for a while.
- Regarding the availability of full lighting and signage on the main access roads and facilities in the shelters, eight out of eight women stated that there were no problems.
- Regarding adequacy tent/house/facility size for family members, eight women stated it was sufficient.
- Seven out of eight women stated to have security issues and one other did not report any.
- Seven stated they had problems, two stated they did not feel safe because they were foreigners and sensitivity caused by displacement was never discarded. Other five women stated they had security issues for the same reasons.
- They were asked about serious security problems and whether there were places where help was requested and if so, whether they were satisfied with the service received: 6 out of eight women stated that they were hesitant to ask for help in these matters.
- Eight women stated their houses and facilities (bathrooms, toilets, childcare areas, etc.) were locked.
- Regarding the impact of climate conditions on living conditions, eight women said they were affected.
- Everyone responded positively about the proximity of facilities such as playgrounds, social areas and emergency assembly areas to living areas.
- Eight out of eight women indicated there is a structure for the inclusion of people with disabilities, older people and people in need in facilities and other living areas, for example availability of ramps.

## Food and Food Safety

- Regarding meeting their food needs, 6 out of 8 women said that they are currently preparing food with their own facilities and 2 people said that after the earthquake some governmental and non-governmental organizations provided food aid. ASAM and the Red Crescent.
- One out of eight women said she is struggling to provide food for her baby due to financial issues.
- All the eight women who participated stated that they had no food safety concerns regarding food distributed in streets and in places where they stayed for a short time after the earthquake
- Regarding storage of food provided, all participants currently staying at home reported no issues.
- All the eight women stated that they did not have any problems with the safety of kitchen cookware such as gas cylinders, stoves, etc. Everyone has their own kitchens and kitchen wares.
- All the eight participants stated no information or brochures on food aid and food safety were distributed by public institutions, private sector or non-governmental organizations working on the ground in the earthquake zone, especially for people staying in tent cities or container cities.

## Livelihoods and Family Situation

- Three of the eight women's husbands were the primary earners of their families, three women had children over the age of 18 who were working and the two women had no family members working.
- The number and ages of children in eight women's families are as follows:
  - 2 children, all over 18 years of age.
  - 4 children, all over 18 years of age.
  - 2 children, all under 18 years of age.
  - 2 children, all under 18 years of age.
  - 4 children, only two of whom are under 18 years of age.
  - 2 children, all under 18 years of age.
  - 1 child over 18 years of age.
  - 2 children over 18 years of age.
- Six women who stated there are working individuals in their families, lowest monthly income was 6000 TL and highest was 11000 TL. Five out of eight women stated their families received Red Crescent Card support.
- Out of the six women who work in the family, four of them stated these individuals work regularly, while the remaining two women work irregularly. All six women have indicated that these individuals work without permission and without insurance. These family members work in the service sector, construction, tailoring, sports teaching, and repair shops. There have been no work accidents.

## Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene

- Eight women stated they do not have any difficulty in obtaining clean water and tap water with confidence.
- Eight women stated that they had no problems with toilet and hygiene facilities.
- As all of the eight participants stayed in their homes, they did not respond to the questions about their experiences in container cities and other alternative living spaces.

## Distribution and Assistance

- Regarding aid received from the state and any non-governmental organization since the earthquake, eight out of eight women stated they have not benefited from any aid so far.
- Therefore, they did not have the information to report whether the aid received was sufficient, nor did they experience discrimination by the humanitarian workers distributing the aid.

## Health Services and Mental Health

- Only one out of eight women stated they did not have any difficulties in accessing basic health services and had health insurance; seven women did not have insurance and if they had to go to a private hospital, they had difficulties because they did not have the budget to financially cover the fees charged for health services.
- Eight women stated that they had no chronic disease.
- 8 women stated that they were aware of issues related to family planning and sexual health and that they had never received information or brochures from any governmental or non-governmental organization before.
- All participants stated children in the family were fully vaccinated from the nearest health center.
- On the impact of the earthquake and the living conditions on your mental health, eight women reported being negatively affected and that the living conditions made them feel helpless about their situation now and more hopeless about their future. Some reported having panic attacks, not being able to sleep at night and not being able to focus on daily activities.
- Seven out of eight women stated they did not receive mental health support. Only one participant emphasized that she applied for support from an NGO in Ankara for her mental health problem, but there was no sustainable or effective assistance.
- Two out of eight women reported using religious based approaches for self-care and different alternative health methods. Five of them said they were confident either way were not sufficient for them to provide self-care. However, they were just crying and living their lives hopelessly. One woman stated her brother is a psychologist and talking to him was good for her.





## Protection and Access to Social Services

- It was noteworthy that all of the participants stated they were not informed about their rights and were not aware of social support and protection services.
- They stated they had previously turned to a local NGO when they had problems with protection. They were informed about the PSEA mechanisms provided by this organization and the hotlines for reporting victims of GBV and child protection.
- Six out of eight women informed they were not subjected to any violence or discrimination after the earthquake. Two women said they had such experiences. Both women stated they reported the case to a local NGO but did not provide information about the quality of service they received.
- However, one out of eight women reported being threatened by her husband and being at risk of GBV.

## Discrimination & Social Life

- Eight women stated they had not been subjected to discrimination and verbal violence by the local community in their place of stay.
- Seven out of eight women stated they had the most difficulties after the earthquake in terms of housing conditions, house rents and their livelihoods.
- Ultimately, when asked about their plans and dreams for the future, five women stated their future plans are solely about the welfare of their children. One participant stated she wants to continue her education and another one said she has a dream to become a citizen of a third country and become a public citizen there.

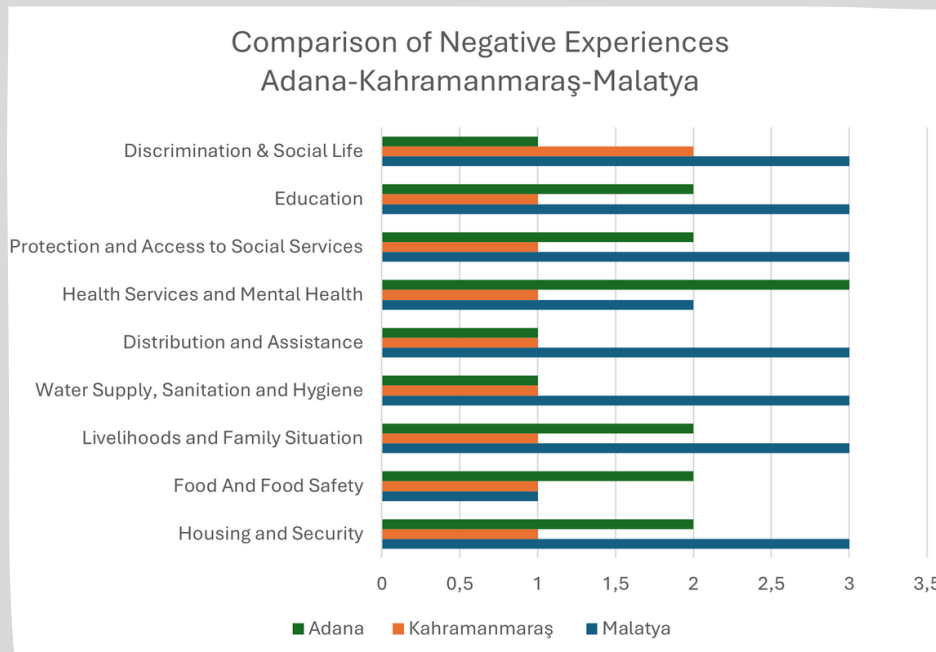
## Education

- Eight of eight women reported all school-age kids in their families attended school.
- Eight women stated they did not have any problems with their children's access to education and distance of schools to their settlements.
- Four out of eight women stated their children experienced discrimination at school, while the other four women stated their children were discriminated against and bullied at school. Two of these four women stated their children experienced peer-bullying from classmates and discrimination from teachers, and the other two women stated their kids had difficulty finding internships and that their internship applications were easily rejected simply because they were refugees.
- Regarding the educational status of the participants, it was found that one of the eight women had never received any education in her life, six of them had studied until secondary school and then had to drop out for various reasons and one woman had to drop out of university in her last year.

## Briefing about the ARSA

All participants stated they had heard of the Afghan Refugees Solidarity Association (ARSA), but were not aware of ARSA's services. All participants were briefly told about services that can be provided by ARSA in any situation and were informed about all channels through which they can contact ARSA (address, phone, e-mail, social media, etc.).





#### 4.2.4. Findings Summary: Differences, Common Problems & Solutions

##### Differences

- Respondents in Malatya experienced discrimination from the local population much more than those who live in Kahramanmaraş and Adana, while in other two provinces, they reported discrimination to a greater extent from other refugee groups.
- There are differences in the legal status of the women; in Adana, they hold mostly conditional refugee status.
- Children's school-related experiences and exposure to discrimination vary. In particular, children in Kahramanmaraş stated they are exposed to more discrimination at school.
- Women participants' experiences in accessing mental health services differed. Women in Adana experienced more insensitivity to mental health issues.

##### Common Challenges

- All cities have common basic problems such as housing, security concerns, food supply challenges, economic hardship, clean water supply problems, lack of access to health services, discrimination on children in schools.

##### Solution Suggestions:

- The government and civil society organizations should provide earthquake survivors with adequate shelter and focus on addressing safety concerns.
- A more effective system of food aid and food security should be established.
- Families facing economic issues should be offered financial support and opportunities.
- Clean water supply and hygiene conditions must be improved.
- Greater access to mental health services with specific relevance to refugee communities should be provided
- Measures should be taken against discrimination in education and children should be provided with a safer environment in schools.
- Access to protection services should be increased and more support to individuals who face discrimination should be provided.

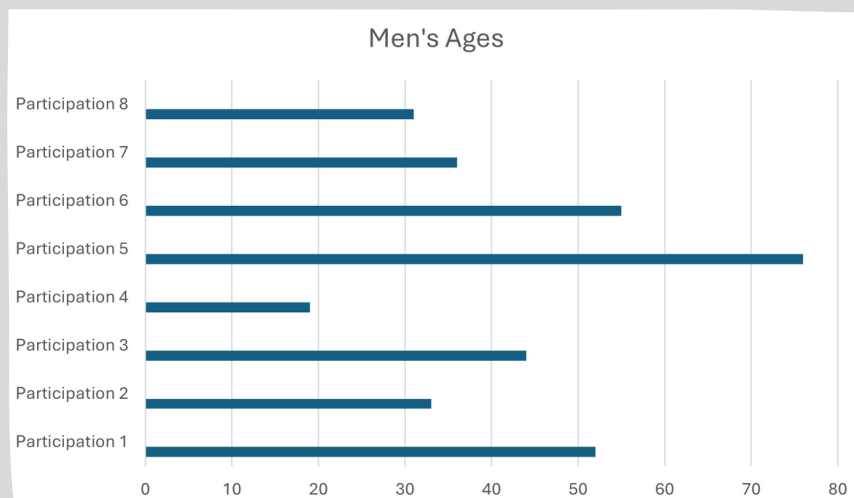


## 4.3. Men Focus Group Discussions

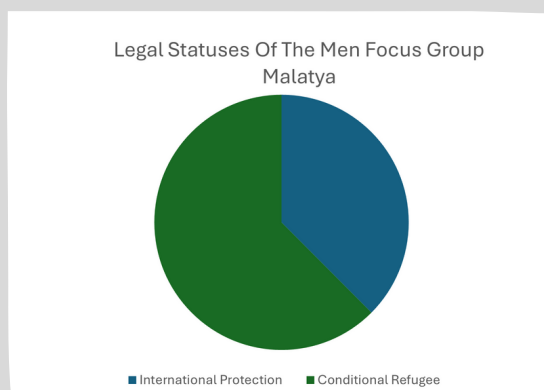
### 4.3.1. Malatya Men Focus Group Discussions

#### Demographic Information

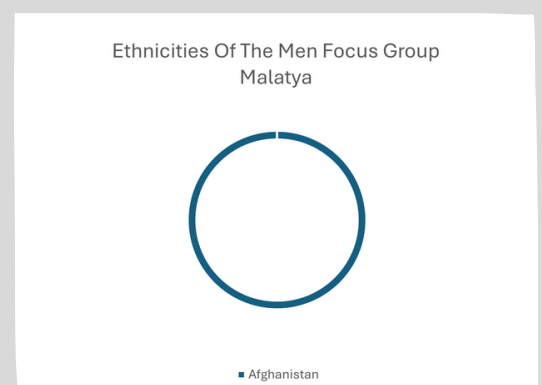
- 8 men participated in the male focus group interview conducted in Malatya.
- 8 men identified their gender as male.
- The number of male family members is, in order: 4, 5, 4, 4, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 4.



The ages of men are: 52, 33, 44, 19, 76, 55, 36 and 31.



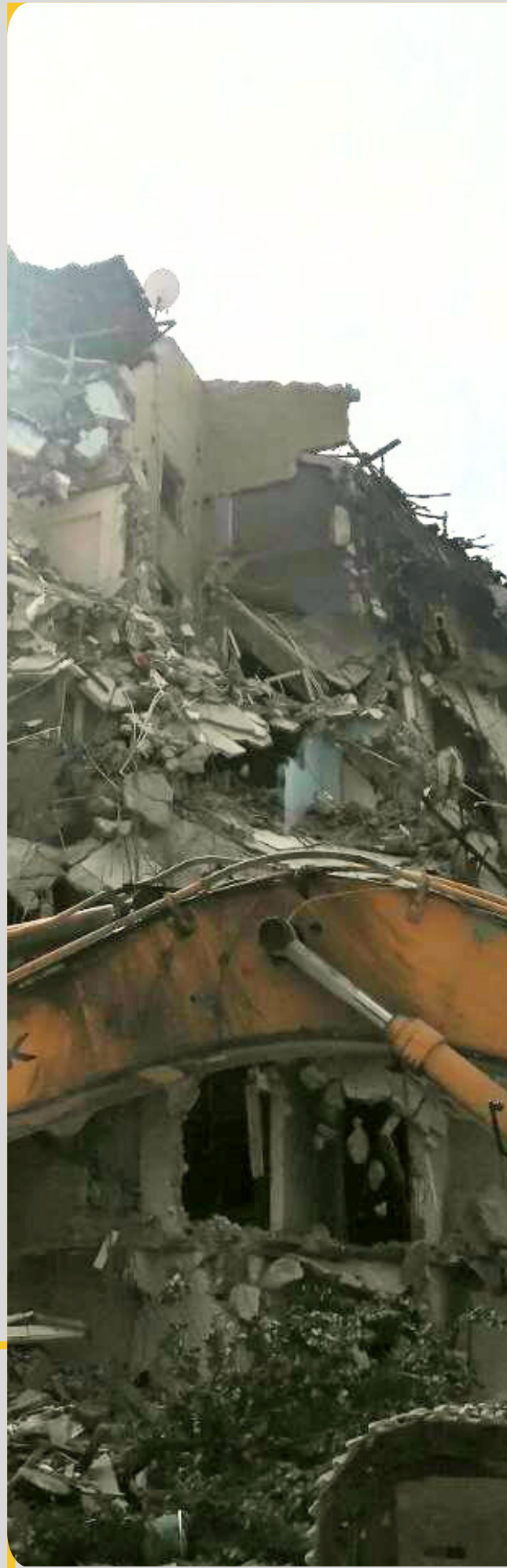
3 out of 8 men have International Protection status, 5 men said they are conditional refugees.



8 men stated they were from Afghanistan.

## Housing and Security

- Concerning where they have stayed after the earthquake, two out of eight men stated they stayed in a container city, one participant stated they stayed in a house that was damaged in the earthquake, and five participants stated they stayed in a new house after the earthquake.
- Regarding the availability of full lighting and signage on the main entrance roads and facilities in the container city and other places of shelter, six out of eight men stated there were no problems, but two male participants in the container city stated there were problems.
- Regarding the adequacy of the size of the tent/house/facility for the number of family members, two out of eight men stated they could not fit in a small container because they were staying in a container city and had privacy problems, and the six participants stated it was not adequate.
- When asked about the security felt in the community, two out of eight men stated there are too many unemployed and maladjusted young men in the container city and they create problems. The other six men stated they did not have any problems because they were at home.
- The respondents were asked whether they had experienced any serious problems with security and whether they had asked for help and, if so, whether they were satisfied with the service received: eight men stated they did not experience any serious problems.
- Eight men stated the houses and facilities (bathrooms, toilets, childcare areas, etc.) were locked.
- Regarding the impact of climatic conditions on living conditions, six out of eight men stated it was not a problem, but two men living in the container city stated the cold in winter and the heat in summer affected them a lot.
- Regarding the proximity of facilities such as playgrounds, social areas and emergency gathering areas to living areas, six responded positively and the two mentioned the lack of such facilities in the container city and even the roads are smooth and safe.
- Two out of eight men stated there is no structure for the inclusion of persons with disabilities, the elderly and persons in need of care in facilities and other living areas, for example the availability of ramps.



## Food and Food Safety

- Regarding the food needs, eight out of eight respondents stated they are currently providing food on their own, while two respondents staying in the container city stated some governmental and non-governmental organizations provided food aid immediately after the earthquake, sometimes irregularly.
- Eight of the eight respondents stated they do not currently have difficulties in obtaining food.
- Eight men stated they did not have any concerns as the food was distributed in tent cities, mosques and other living spaces where they stayed for a short time after the earthquake.
- Two participants added that they were staying in a container city and had serious problems about the storage of the food provided.
- It was also stated by two participants who stayed in the container city, that they had problems with the safety of kitchen appliances such as cylinders, stoves, etc.
- Eight participants stated no information or brochures on food aid and food safety were distributed by public institutions, private sector or non-governmental organizations working on the ground in the earthquake zone, especially for people staying in tent cities or container cities.



## Livelihoods and Family Situation

- Three out of eight participants stated no one provides for the family and that they do not have any job at the moment. Two of these three people stated there are currently no job opportunities as they are seasonal workers. Another person said that they are living with the help of his father's disability report and that he is the only person in the family who can work. So he has to fulfill his obligation of taking care of his family instead of going to university, and that he is looking for a job. It was learned that five of the people were working as porters, factory workers, construction workers and textile workers.
- The number and ages of children in the families of eight participants are as follows:
  - 6 children, all under 18.
  - There are no children.
  - There are 6 children and only 1 child is over 18 years of age.
  - There are no children.
  - There are 12 children and only 2 children are over 18 years of age.
  - 4 children, all over 18 years of age.
  - 2 children, all under 18 years of age.
  - 2 children, all under 18 years of age.
- Eight participants did not specify the exact monthly income of their families, emphasizing it was not enough for their families. Only one participant stated they received assistance from Social Services.
- Five out of eight men work without permission and without insurance, five of them work as porters in market, factory, construction and textile sectors. For their commute to workplaces, everyone walks. Two participants stated they had an accident at work but could not get a report.

## Distribution and Assistance

- Regarding the aid received from the state and any non-governmental organization since the earthquake, it was stated that 4 out of 8 men did not receive any support and the 4 men generally received food, water, blankets and heaters. The NGOs mentioned by the participants remembered where received aid came from are as follows: AFAD, Red Crescent and Malatya Yaşam Derneği.
- The 4 respondents who received assistance think that the assistance received is sufficient.
- 4 of the respondents who received aid stated that they were not discriminated by aid workers and humanitarian organizations and institutions during the distribution of aid.

## Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene

- Six out of eight participants stated they had difficulties in obtaining clean water but they had to use tap water. Two participants staying in a container city stated they get water from the facility.
- In terms of toilet and hygiene facilities, two out of eight men stated that they had problems with the toilets' drain and that toilets were broken in the container city.
- Container city residents reported that water points, latrines and other WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) facilities are located in safe and easily accessible areas and are lockable and gender-segregated for men and women. These facilities provide hygiene services such as garbage collection.

## Health Services and Mental Health

- Six out of eight men stated they did not experience any difficulties in accessing basic health services; two men stated there was no public transportation service after certain hours and that they had difficulties in accessing health services in emergencies.
- Four out of eight men do not have chronic diseases and the four have chronic diseases such as (stomach disease, blood pressure, etc.).
- Eight men stated they were aware about family planning and sexual health issues and so they had never received information from any governmental or non-governmental organization.
- All participants with children stated the vaccines for infants and children in the family were complete and obtained from the nearest health center.
- Regarding the impact of the earthquake and the living conditions brought about by the earthquake on your mental-health, eight men said they were negatively affected and that the living conditions made them feel helpless about their situation now and more hopeless about their future.
- It was stated that none of them received mental health support.
- Eight men stated that they did not have any experience and habits about self-care and different alternative health methods.



## Protection and Access to Social Services

- It was determined that not all of the participants were informed about their rights and were not aware of social support and protection services.
- They stated that they did not apply anywhere when they had problems with protection. Accordingly, inferences cannot be made about the quality of protection services provided in Malatya province, as there was no experience of receiving protection services among the respondents. Furthermore, no information can be provided on which institutions they have approached and whether there are PSEA mechanisms, hotlines for victims of GBV and child protection provided by the institutions they have approached.
- Eight men stated they did not experience any violence or discrimination after the earthquake.

## Education

- Eight out of eight women stated all school-age children in their families went to school. Five out of eight men stated they had problems with transportation as some children were enrolled in schools far away due to damaged schools close to their settlements.
- Regarding educational status, three of the eight men stated they had never received any education in their lives, three of them had studied up to middle school and two participants were high school graduates.



## Discrimination & Social Life

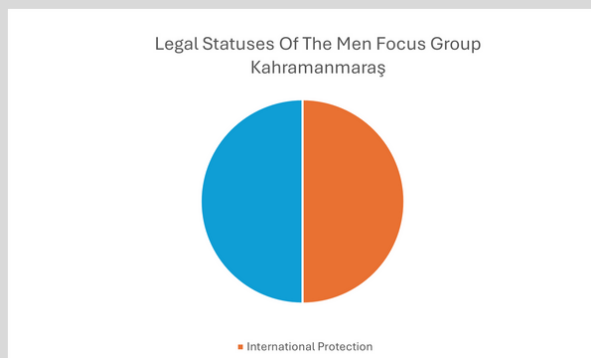
- Six men stated their children were subjected to discrimination and bullying at school.
- Six out of eight participants stated they were subjected to discrimination by the local people where they stayed. They stated had difficulties in getting positive answers from landlords, especially when looking for a new house, and that discriminatory language was used in public institutions.
- Eight participants stated they had the most difficulties with shelter after the earthquake, as well as financial difficulties and psychological breakdown.
- Ultimately, when asked about their plans and dreams for the future, four participants stated they were desperately waiting for their files to be finalized in order to legally cross to a third country, three participants stated they had no plans and that they could not hold on in Turkey, and one participant said "I was especially affected by the earthquake in terms of education, I wanted to prepare for the university exam and go to university, but this was not possible due to the earthquake. Now I have to suspend my dream of education because I have to take care of my family. But I would like to continue my education in Turkey and become a doctor in the future."

## Briefing about the ARSA:

It was determined that only five of the participants had heard of the Afghan Refugees Solidarity Association (ARSA) before and were aware of the services it could provide. Five participants stated ARSA had previously provided market cards and rent support. All participants, both those who knew ARSA and those who did not know ARSA, were briefly informed about the services that can be provided in various situations by ARSA and all channels to contact (address, telephone, e-mail, social media, etc.) were provided.

## 4.3.2. Kahramanmaraş Men Focus Group Discussion

### Demographic Information



4 out of 8 men have international protection status, while 4 men are conditional refugees



8 men stated they were from Afghanistan

- 8 men participated in the male focus group interview conducted in Kahramanmaraş.
- 8 men identified their gender as male.
- Ages of men 24, 52, 35, 52, 33, 48, 36 and 40.
- The number of family members of men is, in order: 5, 6, 1, 6, 3, 2, 5 and 5.



## Housing and Security

- Regarding their accommodation after the earthquake, eight participants stated they stayed in a tent for three months after the earthquake and then rented a new house, only one of the participants stated he stays at night at a place where he is currently working.
- Regarding the adequacy of the width of the tent/house/facility for the number of family members, two out of eight men stated it was not sufficient and six stated it was sufficient.
- In the question on the perceived safety in the community, only one of the eight respondents stated he had problems and the others stated they did not have any problems. The participant who stated he had problems emphasized that he did not feel safe due to theft and looting incidents.
- Respondents were asked about serious security problems and whether they had sought help and, if so, whether they were satisfied with the service they received. Only one respondent said that he went to the police when he had security problems and was satisfied with the service he received, but the others did not want to answer this question.
- Eight men stated the houses and facilities (bathrooms, toilets, childcare areas, etc.) were locked.
- Regarding the impact of weather on living conditions, eight stated they were affected by the humidity of Adana.
- Everyone responded positively about the proximity of facilities such as playgrounds, social areas and emergency assembly areas to living areas.
- Everyone responded positively about the availability of a structure for inclusion of people with disabilities, elderly and people in need of care, e.g. ramps, in the facilities and other living areas.

## Food and Food Safety

- Regarding meeting their food needs, all 8 men stated that they are currently preparing food by themselves and received food aid from some government institutions and non-governmental organizations immediately after the earthquake while they were all staying in tents.
- Eight respondents stated they are currently struggling to obtain food for financial reasons.
- All of the eight men who participated stated they did not have any food safety problems with the food distributed in the tent cities where they stayed for a short time after the earthquake.
- Seven men who are currently staying at home do not have any problems with the storage of the food provided, but one man who is staying at his workplace has problems with nutrition and storage.
- In terms of the safety of kitchen equipment such as cylinders, stoves, etc.. Seven out of eight men do not have any problems, but one person who stays at the workplace does not have such a possibility.
- Eight participants stated no information or brochures on food aid and food safety were distributed by public institutions, private sector or non-governmental organizations working on the ground in the earthquake zone, especially for people staying in tent cities.

## Livelihoods and Family Situation

- Seven out of eight participants were found to be breadwinners of their families, while one was not working.
- The number and ages of children in the families of eight participants are as follows:
  - 3 children, all under 18 years of age.
  - 1 child is under 18 years of age.
  - 4 children, all under 18 years of age.
  - 1 child is under 18 years of age.
  - 4 children, only three of whom are under 18 years of age.
- One participant has no children in the family.
- 3 children, all under 18 years of age.
- 3 children, all under 18 years of age.
- Six participants stated the minimum monthly income of their families is 5000 TL and the maximum monthly income was 14000 TL. Six of the eight participants stated they received Red Crescent Card support, one received assistance from Social Services and one participant didn't receive any additional assistance.
- It was stated seven participants worked irregularly, without permission and insurance in construction and tailoring. It was stated these uninsured individuals had not had a work accident before.



## Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene

- Four out of eight participants stated they had difficulties in obtaining clean water and could not use tap water with peace of mind.
- Regarding toilet and hygiene facilities, the person who resides at his/her workplace stated he has problems with hygiene. Seven people who currently reside in houses stated they do not have any problems with hygiene.
- Eight participants who all had previously stayed in tent cities stated hygiene kits were provided to tent cities before, albeit irregularly.

## Distribution and Assistance

- Regarding the aid received from the state and any non-governmental organization since the earthquake, eight out of eight participants stated food aid was provided and they benefited from it while they were in the tent city. They stated they usually received aid from AFAD and Red Crescent.
- Eight out of eight respondents think that the assistance received is sufficient.
- 7 out of 8 respondents stated that they were not discriminated by aid workers of humanitarian organizations and aid providers. Only one respondent stated that he was discriminated against a lot.



## Health Services and Mental Health

- Eight participants stated they had difficulties in accessing basic health services due to lack of insurance. Three respondents stated they had difficulties in accessing health services due to language barriers, especially due to the lack of Persian interpreters in hospitals.
- Only one of the eight participants reported having a chronic illness.
- Eight participants stated they were aware about family planning and sexual health issues yet had not been provided with information or brochures by any governmental or non-governmental organization before.
- All participants reported children in their family were fully vaccinated and that was obtained from the nearest health center.
- Regarding the impact of the earthquake and the living conditions brought about by the earthquake on your mental health, only two out of eight participants stated they were negatively affected and that it made their living conditions difficult.
- Regarding mental health support, only one participant stated that they received help from an NGO in Ankara for mental health issues, the others stated that they did not receive any support.
- Eight participants stated that they practiced self-care by listening to music, praying and reading books.

## Protection and Access to Social Services

- It was determined that all participants were aware about their rights and were aware of social support and protection services.
- They stated that they had not applied anywhere because they had not experienced any problems about protection before. Accordingly, inferences cannot be made about the quality of protection services provided in Kahramanmaraş province, as there is no experience of receiving protection services among the respondents. Accordingly, it is not possible to provide information on which institutions they have applied to and whether there are PSEA mechanisms, hotlines for victims of GBV and child protection provided by the institutions they have applied to.
- Eight participants stated they did not experience any violence or discrimination after the earthquake.



## Education

- All of the participants who reported having children stated that all school-age children in their families went to school. It was emphasized that there was no child of school age who did not go to school.
- Regarding the educational status of the participants, it was found that three out of eight men had never received any education in their lives, two of them had studied until middle school and the three participants were high school graduates.

## Discrimination & Social Life

- All participants with children stated that their children were not subjected to discrimination at school, and when they were, the principal's office and teachers intervened.
- Only one out of eight respondents stated that they were subjected to discrimination and verbal violence by local people in their place of stay.
- Eight women stated that the most difficulties they experienced after the earthquake were climate conditions and their livelihoods.
- Ultimately, when asked about their plans and dreams for the future, all participants responded pessimistically. Five participants stated that they hoped for a good future for their children, while the three participants stated that they had no plans.

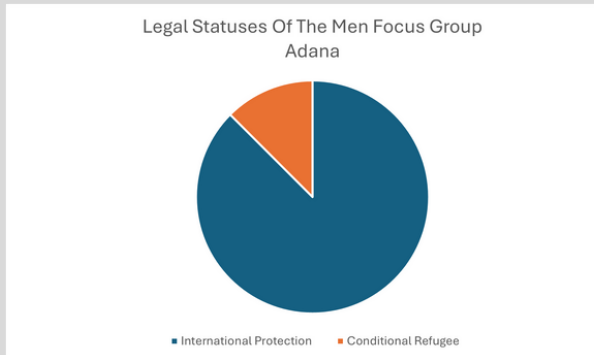
## Briefing about the ARSA:

Only four of the participants stated they had not heard of the Afghan Refugees Solidarity Association (ARSA). Four participants stated they knew about ARSA and were aware of the services it could provide. These four participants stated they had previously benefited from the rent support and cash card assistance provided by ARSA to refugees affected by the earthquake. Participants who were not familiar with ARSA were briefly informed about the services we can provide in any situation, and participants who were familiar with ARSA were informed about other services they can benefit from, and all channels (address, telephone, e-mail, social media, etc.) through which they can contact ARSA were provided.

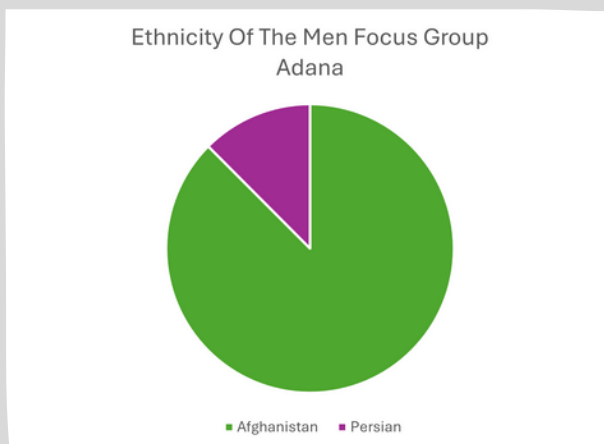


### 4.3.3. Adana Men Focus Group Discussions

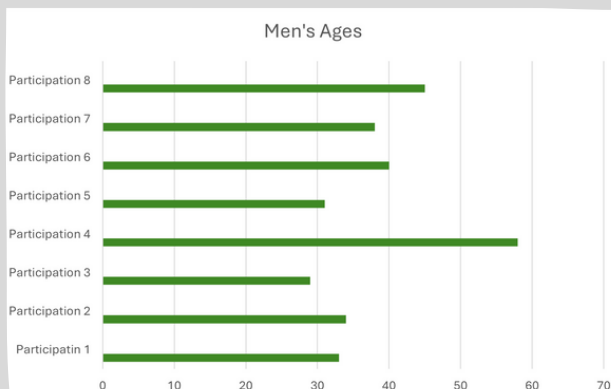
- 8 men participated in the male focus group interview conducted in Adana
- 8 men identified their gender as male.
- Only one of the 8 men stated that he was Iranian, while the 7 men stated that they were from Afghanistan.



7 out of 8 participants had international protection status, while 1 participant stated that he/she was a conditional refugee



Only one of the 8 men stated that he was Iranian, while the 7 men stated that they were from Afghanistan.



Ages of the participants: 33, 34, 29, 58, 31, 40, 38 and 45.

## Housing and Security

- As for where they stayed after the earthquake, eight participants stated that they stayed in their old houses. Before that, immediately after the earthquake, they all stayed outside, even temporarily living in places like mosques, churches and parks. At the time of interviews, they were back to their old houses, regardless of whether they are more or less damaged.
- Regarding the availability of full lighting and signage on the main access roads and facilities in the shelters, eight out of eight men also reported no problems.
- Eight men stated that adequacy of tent/house/facility size for number of family members, was sufficient.
- In the question about safety felt in the community, eight men stated they had problems and houses they were staying were damaged in the earthquake, but they could not move to a different place.
- It was asked whether there were any serious problems with security and whether there were any places where help was requested and if so, whether service received was satisfactory. eight participants stated they did not apply anywhere because they did not experience any serious issue.
- Eight men stated that the houses and facilities (bathrooms, toilets, childcare areas, etc.) were locked.
- Regarding the impact of climatic conditions on living conditions, eight men stated they were affected. They stated that they were especially affected by humidity and temperature.
- Everyone responded positively about the proximity of facilities such as playgrounds, social areas and emergency assembly areas to living areas.
- Eight out of eight men stated there is a structure for the inclusion of people with disabilities, older people and people in need of care in facilities and other living areas, for example the availability of ramps.





## Food and Food Safety

- Regarding their food needs, seven out of eight participants stated they currently obtain food with the facility provided by the Red Crescent card, and the one participant stated that he meets his food needs with his own salary.
- Eight men who participated stated they had no problems with food safety and were satisfied with the food distributed on the streets and in places where they stayed for a short time after the earthquake.
- Regarding storage of food provided, all participants currently staying at home reported no problems.
- Eight men stated that they did not have any problems with the safety of kitchen appliances such as cylinders, stoves, etc. Except for one participant who stayed at the workplace, everyone has their own kitchens and kitchen appliances at the moment.
- Eight participants stated that no information or brochures on food aid and food safety were distributed by public institutions, private sector or civil society organizations working on the ground in the earthquake zone, especially for people staying in tent cities or container cities.



## Livelihoods and Family situation

- Four out of eight men stated they provide for the family's livelihood themselves. Two other individuals were at the time unemployed, with no other family members employed. The spouse of one individual was the breadwinner, and the other individual has a child over the age of 18 who was working.
- The number and ages of children in the family of eight participants are as follows:
  - 3 children, all under 18 years of age.
  - 3 children, all under 18 years of age.
  - There are 2 children and only 1 child is over 18 years of age.
  - 4 children, all under 18 years of age.
  - There are 3 children and 2 children are over 18 years of age.
  - 2 children, all over 18 years of age.
  - 4 children, all under 18 years of age.
  - This participant has no children.
- Of the six participants who stated that there were working individuals in their families, the lowest monthly income of their families was 2000 TL and the highest was 16000 TL. Five out of eight men stated that their families received Red Crescent Card support.
- Six men with working family members stated their work was irregular, unauthorized and uninsured. These family members work in the service sector, construction, tailors, market. They stated they have not experienced any work accidents until today.





## Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene

- Eight respondents stated that they have difficulties in obtaining clean water and that they do not trust tap water but consume it and sometimes get sick.
- Eight men stated that they had no problems with toilet and hygiene facilities.
- As all eight participants stayed in their homes, they did not answer the questions about their experiences in container cities and other alternative living spaces.



## Distribution and Assistance

- Regarding the assistance received from the state and any non-governmental organization since the earthquake, seven out of eight men stated that they benefited from food parcels and other in-kind assistance from the Red Crescent and ASAM, especially while staying in the tent city. The other one participant stated that they benefited from the rent support provided by ARSA to earthquake affected people.
- All participants stated that the assistance was sufficient.
- Again, all participants stated that they were not discriminated against by the humanitarian workers distributing the aid.

## Health Services and Mental Health

- Only one out of eight participants stated that they had difficulties in accessing basic health services and did not have health insurance. The seven people had insurance, but stated that they could not receive quality and accurate healthcare services due to language barriers, they always had difficulty in finding appointments, and they were exposed to aggressive behavior of healthcare professionals.
- Seven out of eight men stated they had chronic diseases. Including diabetes, MS, herniated disc, heart disease and orthopedics. They take regular medication and have financial difficulties in obtaining medication.
- Eight men stated that they were aware about family planning and sexual health issues and that they had not been provided with information or brochures from any governmental or non-governmental organization before.
- All participants stated infants and kids in the family were fully vaccinated from the nearest health center.
- Regarding the impact of the earthquake and the living conditions on your mental health, four out of eight participants stated that they were negatively affected and that the living conditions made them feel helpless about their present situation and more hopeless about their future. Especially people with diabetes shared that stress was worse than poison for them.
- Only one out of eight participants reported receiving mental health support from ASAM.

## Education

- Most of the respondents with children reported that their school-age children were continuing their education and had no problems with access to education and the distance of schools from the settlement. Only one participant reported that his child experienced both discrimination from teachers and peer bullying from friends, and begged not to go to school every day.
- Regarding the educational status of participants, four out of eight men reported they did not finish primary school, two reported that they studied until high school and the other two reported that they have a bachelor's degree.

## Briefing about the ARSA

All of the participants stated they had heard of the Afghan Refugees Solidarity and Association (ARSA) before but were not aware of its services. All participants were briefed about services ARSA can provide in various situations and were informed about all channels to contact (address, telephone, e-mail, social media, etc.).

## Protection and Access to Social Services

- It was noteworthy that all of the participants stated that they were not informed about their rights and were not aware of social support and protection services.
- They stated that they had previously contacted the Presidency of Migration management when they had problems with protection. They were informed about the PSEA mechanisms provided by these institutions and the hotlines for reporting victims of GBV and child protection.
- Eight participants stated that they were subjected to violence or discrimination after the earthquake. "I was subjected to violence with my young daughter by other refugee groups in the neighborhood where we stayed. I went to the police but they discouraged me by stating that it would take too long if a lawsuit was filed and no action was taken on my complaint. Once, I did not get my daily wage for my labor at the place where I was working as a gardener. It exhausts me to have to deal with this discrimination," said a participant. Another participant stated that people first treated them badly because they thought they were Syrians, but then their attitudes changed positively when they heard that they were Afghans. While discussing discrimination, it was observed that everyone adopted a body language of acceptance of these behaviors towards themselves and other family members.

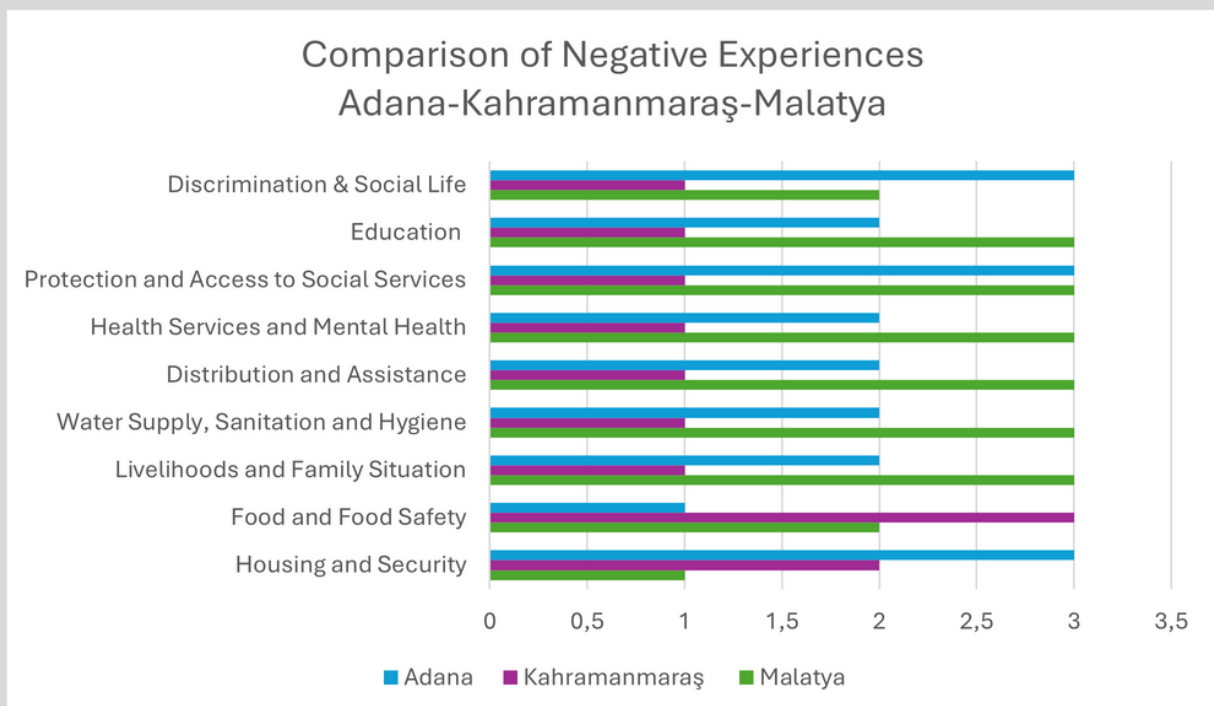
## Discrimination & Social Life

- Five out of eight participants stated their children face discrimination and bullying at school. They are worried and sad for their children who sometimes face discrimination from parents of other students, sometimes school administration, teachers and most of the time from their peers.
- Eight men reported being subjected of discrimination and verbal violence by locals.
- Seven out of eight participants stated after the earthquake, they had most difficulties about housing conditions, house rents and their livelihood. one participant stated they had psychological difficulties.
- When participants were asked to share information about how their lives changed after the earthquake, most respondents indicated that they experienced both psychological and financial challenges and felt more hopeless at home. One participant said, "Before and after the earthquake, there was always the problem of our future being uncertain. Our children also ask us this question, but we don't have an answer because we don't know what will happen to our future." One participant clearly stated, "It's just discrimination."
- Ultimately, when asked about their plans and dreams for the future, eight men stated their future plans were based solely on the welfare of their children - they wanted to migrate from Turkey to another country and it is dependent on results of their file at UNHCR. One participant said, "I am a Christian. Both in Iran, where I came from, and in Turkey, where I am staying, I am constantly discriminated against for this reason. My biggest dream is to move to a country where I will not be discriminated against because of my faith or color."

## 4.4.4. Summary of Findings: Differences, Common Problems & Solutions

### DIFFERENCES

- While the Adana Male Group preferred to stay in their houses after the earthquake, Malatya and Kahramanmaraş Male Group lived in container cities.
- While Malatya and Kahramanmaraş Men's Groups have difficulties in obtaining food, Adana Men's Group meets their food needs with Red Crescent cards and distributed food.
- Many of the Adana Men's Group are unemployed and work in irregular jobs, while the Kahramanmaraş Men's Group received irregular benefits.
- Malatya and Kahramanmaraş Men's Groups have issues with water supply and hygiene, while Adana Men's Group does not.
- The Kahramanmaraş Male Group experienced more challenges in terms of discrimination and violence.



### Common Problems

- All groups experienced serious problems in terms of shelter and security and were affected by the earthquake.
- All groups experienced similar problems in terms of food supply and food safety.
- In terms of livelihoods and family situations, unemployment and irregular jobs were the main problems. .
- All groups experienced similar challenges in terms of water supply, sanitation and hygiene.
- All groups experienced similar problems in terms of health services and mental health.
- In relation to education, children faced discrimination and bullying in schools.
- All groups face uncertainty about the future

### Potential Solutions

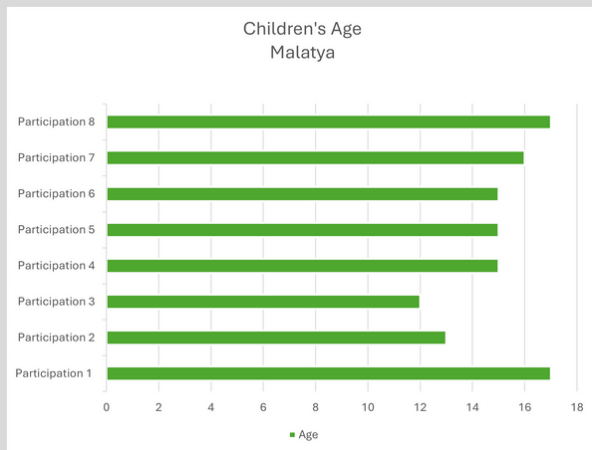
- Better conditions for housing and security should be provided.
- Regular assistance and information on food supply and food safety should be provided.
- Employment opportunities should be increased and job security should be ensured.
- Water supply, sanitation and hygiene conditions must be improved.
- Access to health services and mental health support should be ensured.
- Measures should be taken to prevent discrimination in educational institutions.
- Solutions should be developed to reduce future uncertainties.

## 4.5. Children Focus Group Discussions

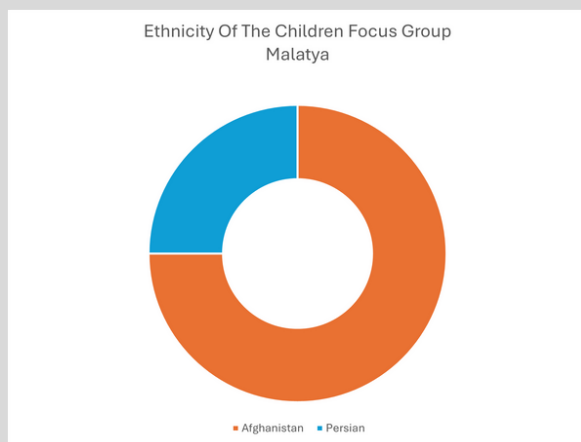
### 4.5.1. Malatya Children Focus Group Discussions

#### Demographic Information

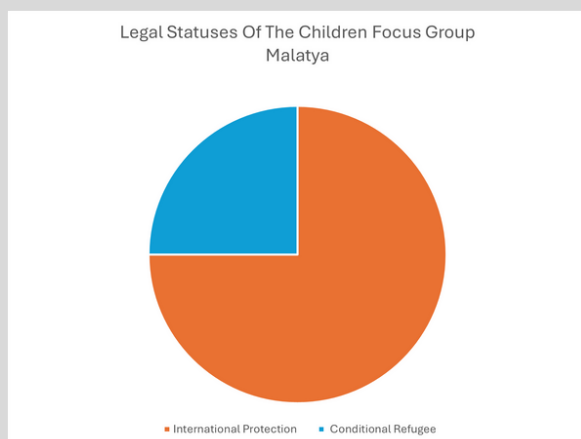
- 8 children participated in the child focus group interview in Malatya.
- Only 2 out of 8 children identified their gender as male and the 5 as female.



The ages of the children are: 17, 13, 12, 15, 15, 15, 16, 17 and 16.



2 of the 8 children stated that they were from Iran and the 6 children stated that they were from Afghanistan.



6 out of 8 children have International Protection status, while 2 stated they are conditional refugees.



## Housing and Security

- As for where they stayed after the earthquake, three of the eight children stated that they stayed in the container city, while the other five children stayed in the old house that was damaged in the earthquake.
- Eight children who participated do not think that their current place of residence is safe.
- Three out of eight children stated adults and children stay in one room. Other five stated they have their own room.
- Six out of eight participating children stated after the earthquake, in-kind aid was provided by some institutions and was irregular, and that aid was mostly for basic needs, such as food, water, blankets and clothing.

## Livelihoods and Family situation

- Five out of eight children stated that their fathers and one child's older brother provided for their families, and two children had no one working in their families, and a young girl in one family said that she might drop out of school and start working. Children with working members in their families stated they work in the textile industry, factories and pharmacies.
- Four of the children stated that their families had a Red Crescent card and the other four children stated that their Red Crescent cards were closed for various reasons and they could not receive assistance



## Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene

- Seven out of eight children stated they had difficulties in obtaining clean water and did not want to use tap water. They stated that there are constant illnesses and therefore they do not trust the water.
- Three out of eight children staying in the container city had problems with toilets and hygiene.

## Health Services and Mental Health

- Six out of eight children stated they had difficulties in accessing basic health services, hospitals were far away and they had difficulty in getting appointments. Other two reported they did not have any issues.
- Eight children felt that their mental health had been damaged by the earthquake. In terms of self-care and different alternative health methods, it was noteworthy that they mentioned individual and non-social actions such as going out for a walk, listening to music and hanging out alone.

## Distribution and Assistance

- Regarding aid received from the state and any NGO since the earthquake, seven out of eight children stated that they received in-kind support. They stated aid is usually in-kind such as food, water and blankets.
- Six out of eight children think the assistance received is sufficient, while two others think it is not sufficient.

## Education

- All school-age children in families of eight children were reported to be attending school. No child labor or child marriage was observed.



## Discrimination & Social Life

- 3 out of 8 children stated they were not exposed to discrimination. 5 children reported being discriminated both at school and outside. One child said, "Unfortunately, I was discriminated. When my family and I were in Sivas, we asked for help in the hope of staying in a dormitory like other earthquake survivor families. However, the dormitory did not accept us and we ended up staying with another family in the house of my father's friend. This was a very difficult process for us. I was also subjected to peer bullying by Afghan and Syrian students at the school I went to in Konya. Unfortunately, the teachers were also insensitive to this sad situation." He said.
- When we asked 8 children about their future plans and dreams, 3 of them stated they did not have any future plans and even if they did, they faced too many problems to focus on them. Other 5 children stated that their current life is not an ideal life, that they need to stay positive no matter how difficult it is, and that they focus on education and career opportunities that will enable them to pursue professions such as doctors, lawyers, scientists in Turkey and/or abroad in the future.

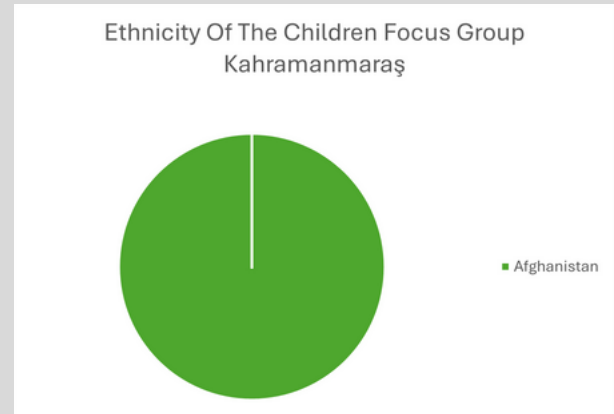
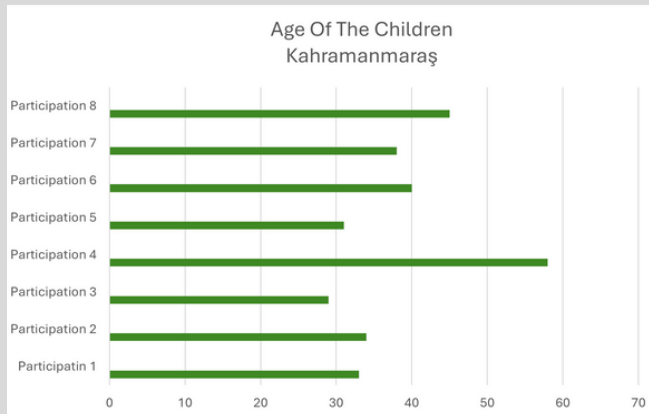
## Briefing about the ARSA

Only two of the participants had heard of the Afghan Refugees Solidarity and Association (ARSA) before; one stated ARSA provided rent support to his family and the other participated in the painting competition organized by ARSA in 2022 and came fifth in the competition. All participants, both familiar and unfamiliar with ARSA, were given a brief overview of the services provided by ARSA in various situations and were informed of all the contact channels (address, phone, e-mail, social media, etc.).

## 4.5.2.Kahramanmaraş Children Focus Group Discussions

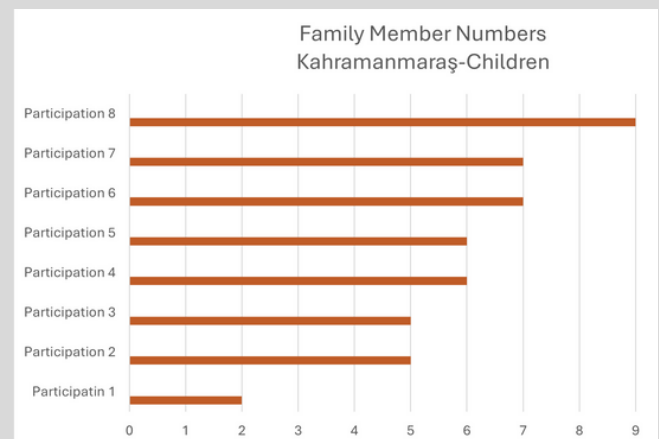
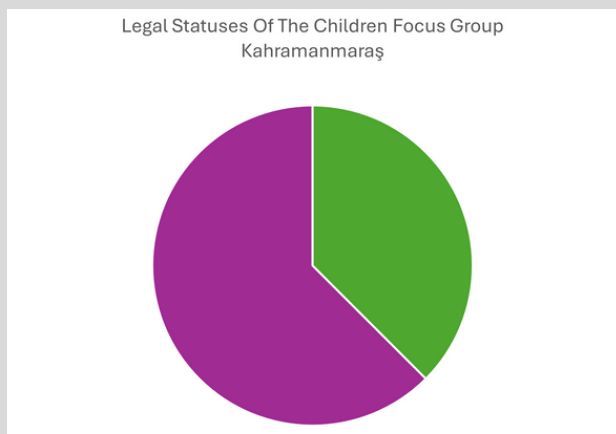
### Demographic Information

- 8 children participated in child focus group interview in Kahramanmaraş.
- Only 2 out of 8 identified their gender as male, while 5 identified their as female



·The ages of the children are: 13, 17, 17, 13, 15, 14, 17 and 18.

8 children stated they were from Afghanistan



5 out of 8 children stated they were conditional refugees, while others don't know their legal status.

The number of children's family members in order: 2, 5, 5, 6, 6, 7, 7 and 9.



## Housing and Security

- Regarding their accommodation after the earthquake, eight children stated that they stayed in tents for a few months and then in their damaged old houses.
- Of the eight children who participated, five do not think that the place they lived at the time of interview was safe. They also expressed fear among damaged and/or collapsed buildings.
- Three out of eight children stated that adults and children stay in different rooms. The other 5 children stated that they did not have a room of their own and stayed in the same room with adults.
- Seven out of eight children stated that after the earthquake, especially while they were staying in the tent city, in-kind aid was provided by some institutions and that this aid was generally for basic needs such as, food, water, blankets, hygiene kits and clothing.

## Food and Food Safety

- Five participating children stated that food was provided by the family's income and underlined that they did not have any problems in accessing food.
- All Children stated that they are not sure about food safety.

## Livelihoods and Family Situation

- Five out of eight children's families were provided by their fathers, one by his sister, and two of the children had no one working in their families. The children whose families had working members stated that they worked in the textile sector and construction.
- Six of the children stated that their families had a Red Crescent card and the other two stated that they did not receive any cash aid from any organization.

## Distribution and Assistance

- Regarding the aid received from the state and any non-governmental organization since the earthquake, seven out of eight children stated that they received in-kind support. They stated that the aid is usually food, water and blankets.
- Six out of eight children think assistance received is sufficient, while two children think that it is not sufficient.

## Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene

- Six out of eight children stated that they did not have any difficulty in obtaining clean water and that they used tap water, while two children stated that they thought that they were infected with diseases from tap water. Eight children reported that water supply is frequently cut off in Kahramanmaraş.
- Regarding toilet and hygiene facilities, eight children reported having issues with hygiene immediately after the earthquake when they stayed in tents, in different cities, outside and in alternative living spaces.

## Health Services and Mental Health

- Four out of eight children stated they had issues in accessing basic health services, hospitals were far away and they had difficulty in getting appointments. Other four reported they did not have any problems.
- Eight children reported that their lives had been drastically changed by the earthquake. Six out of eight children stated that they have turned to artistic and sporting activities such as painting, knitting, writing poetry and playing sports to learn about self-care and different alternative health methods. The two children stated that since they had lost so many near and dear ones in the earthquake, they believed that actions that could be good for mental health were useless.

## Education

- In the families of seven out of eight children, it was stated that all school-age children were attending school. In the family of one child, it was stated that there was a 15-year-old boy who did not go to school, but there was no evidence of child labor.





## Discrimination & Social Life

- Out of the eight children surveyed, only one stated that they have not experienced any form of discrimination. The remaining seven reported instances of discrimination they had encountered. One child recounted their experiences, saying, "I have spent a considerable amount of time in hospitals and have endured psychological pressure from the school director. Consequently, I switched schools, but ended up in a classroom I dislike, and have faced inappropriate behavior and tone." Other children mentioned instances of racism within their neighborhood. When questioned about their future plans, one child opted not to disclose theirs. However, the remaining seven shared their aspirations despite the challenges they face in Turkey. They expressed their determination to pursue education opportunities, aspiring to become lawyers, doctors, or dentists either in Turkey or abroad.

## Briefing about the ARSA

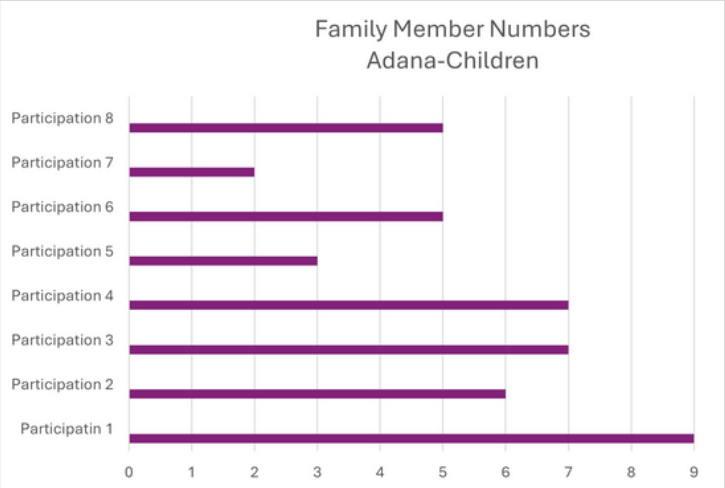
Only five of the participants had heard of the Afghan Refugees Solidarity Association (ARSA). They stated ARSA provides rent support and grocery cards to their families. All participants, both those who know ARSA and those who do not know ARSA, were briefly informed about the services ARSA can provide in various situations and were informed about all contact channels (address, telephone, e-mail, social media, etc.).



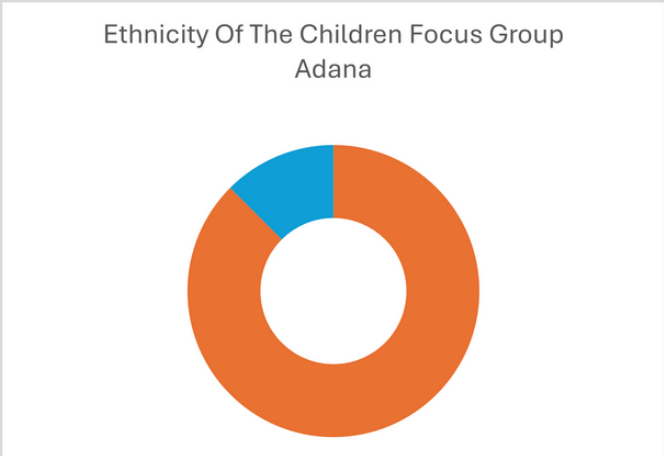
### 4.5.3. ADANA CHILDREN FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

#### Demographic Information

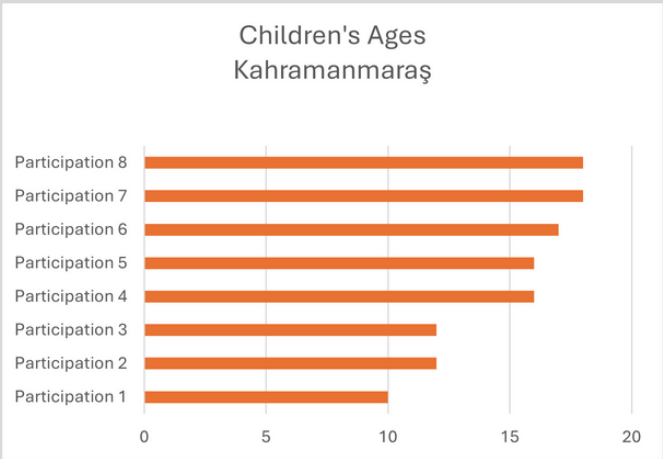
- 8 children participated in the child focus group interview conducted in Adana.
- 5 out of 8 children identified their gender as male and 3 as female.



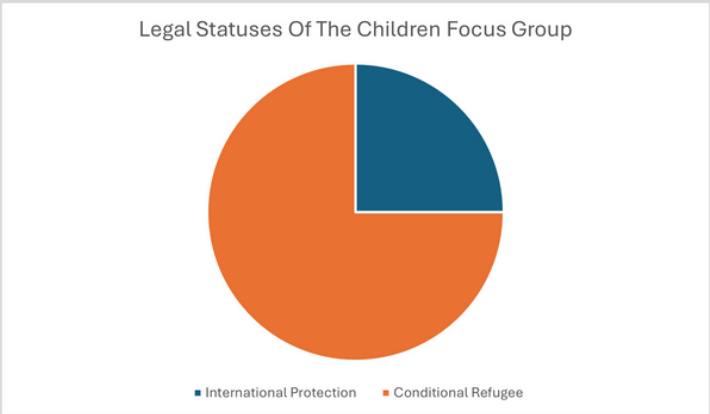
The number of family members of the children is in order: 9, 6, 7, 7, 3, 5, 2 and 5.



7 out of 8 children stated that they were from Afghanistan and 1 child stated that they were from Iran.



Ages of children 10, 12, 12, 16, 16, 17, 18, 18



6 out of 8 children stated that they were conditional refugees and the other 2 children stated that they had international protection legal status.

## Food and Food Safety

- All of the participating children stated that food was provided by the family income and underlined that they did not have any problems in accessing food.
- Two children stated that they are not sure about food safety.
- Two children living in containers stated mini-cabinets in containers were not sufficient for food storage.

## Livelihoods and Family Situation

- Eight children were informed that their fathers were the breadwinners of their families. Children with working family members stated that they worked in the construction and service sectors.
- All of the children stated that their parents had a Red Crescent card.

## Water Supply, Sanitation & Hygiene

- Six out of eight kids stated they do not have difficulties in obtaining clean water and they use tap water, while two children stated they have concerns about water supply and water safety in the container city.
- Regarding toilet and hygiene facilities, eight children stated they had problems with hygiene immediately after the earthquake when they stayed in the tent city, in different cities, outside and in alternative living spaces. Currently, two children staying in the container city stated that this problem still continues.



## Distribution and Assistance

- Regarding the aid received from the state and any non-governmental organization since the earthquake, four children out of eight children stated that they received in-kind support. They stated that the aids were generally food, water and blankets. two children stated that they have not received any aid and two children stated that they have no information on the subject.
- Four out of eight children said assistance received was sufficient, four stated they had no opinion on the issue.

## Housing and Security

- Regarding their accommodation after the earthquake, three out of eight children stated that they stayed in a newly rented house, two children stayed in a container city, two children stayed in relatives' houses and one child stayed in their old house that was damaged in the earthquake. They also stated that before their current living space, they were constantly migrating from province to province and/or from one living space to another, even staying on the streets and in tents.
- Five out of eight participating children do not think that their current place of residence is safe.
- Two out of eight children stated that adults and children do not have the opportunity to stay in different rooms since they are staying in a container city. Two of the other five children said that the place they were staying was not enough because more than one family was staying in a relative's house.
- Eight participating children stated that after the earthquake, especially while staying in the tent city, in-kind aid was provided by some organizations and that this aid was generally for basic needs such as food, water, blankets, hygiene kits and clothing.



## Health Services and Mental Health

- Four out of eight children stated they had difficulties in accessing basic health services, hospitals were far away and they had difficulty in getting appointments. Other four reported they did not have any issues.
- Eight children stated that their lives have changed drastically because of the earthquake. Six out of eight children said that they have turned to drawing, reading books, writing poetry, concentrating on their schoolwork and going out to do activities related to self-care and different alternative health methods. Many children also emphasized that they do not yet know what self-care is.

## Education

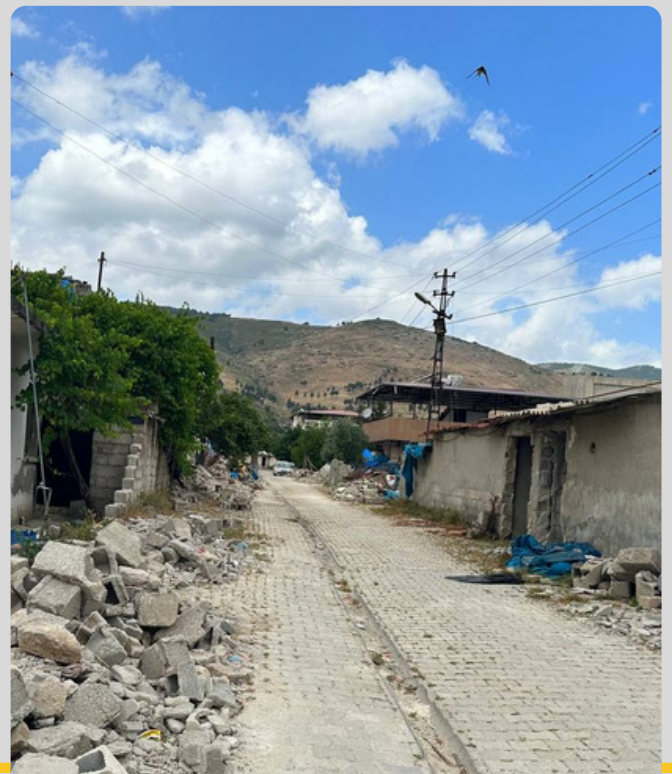
- Eight children reported that all school-age children in their families were attending school.

## Briefing about the ARSA

Only one of participants said he has heard of the Afghan Refugees Solidarity Association (ARSA) already, the others said they had not heard of ARSA before. All participants, both those who knew about ARSA and those who did not, were briefly told about the services provided by ARSA in various situations and were informed about all contact channels (address, phone, e-mail, social media, etc.).

## Discrimination & Social Life

- Two out of eight children stated that they were not exposed to discrimination. Six children reported being discriminated against both at school and outside (especially by their peers at school). Three children stated that they were constantly verbally harassed and bullied by their peers at school because they were Afghans. One child said, "Both at school and in our neighborhood, they make derogatory statements about the need to go back to our country. I don't feel safe or comfortable even going to the grocery store in the simplest way."
- When we asked eight children about their future plans and dreams, two children stated that they had no future plans and that they had never even asked themselves this question before. One child stated that they faced too many problems to focus on this question and that they were hopeless and unhappy. The other five children stated that they wanted to pursue professions such as doctors, stewardesses, soccer players, neurosurgeons in Turkey and/or abroad. A child said, "I try to pay attention to my studies at school, even if I am bullied by peers, this does not stop me from my goal. I do research about my future. I heard that the best neurosurgeons are trained in the U.S. I want to take the TOEFL exam, go to the U.S. and train myself in this field."





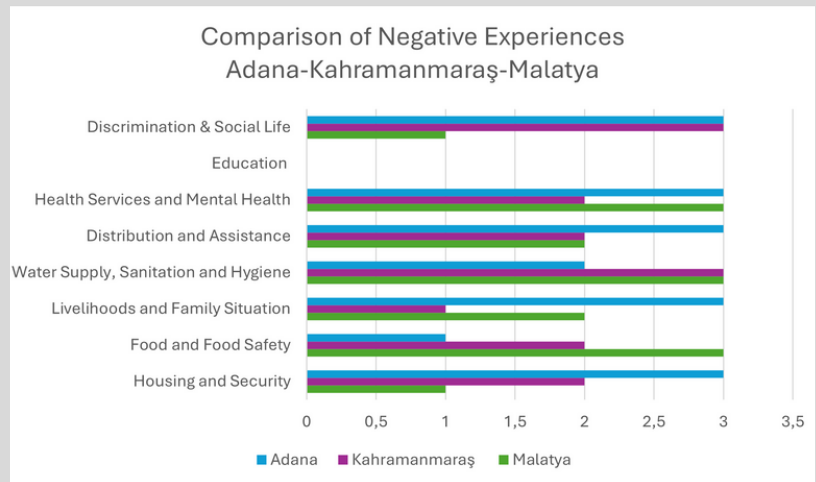
#### 4.5.4. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS:

### DIFFERENCES, COMMON PROBLEMS & SOLUTIONS

Three separate focus group discussions were conducted in three different cities, Malatya, Kahramanmaraş, and Adana. While there are commonalities in the challenges and experiences of children in the three cities, there are also some differences.

#### Differences

- The focus group in each city has a different demographic composition. The focus group in Malatya included both Iranian and Afghan children, while the group in Kahramanmaraş consisted of Afghan children only. The focus group in Adana differed in terms of both gender and national origin.
- There are differences in the legal status of children. While six children in Malatya have international protection status, five children in Kahramanmaraş are recognized as conditional refugees. In the focus group in Adana, six children are conditional refugees while two children have international protection status.
- The age of children also varies in each focus group. These different age groups can lead to various impacts in terms of needs and experiences.
- In the focus groups in Malatya and Adana, it was reported all school-age children in the families of the children were attending school, whereas in the group in Kahramanmaraş, it was found that there was one child not attending school. This shows that there are differences regarding problems such as child labor.
- In terms of exposure to discrimination, children in Kahramanmaraş reported experiencing more bullying, especially at school. This is a reflection of the trauma experienced by children exposed to discrimination.



#### Common Challenges

- Children in all three focus groups were affected by the earthquake and experienced housing problems. There are concerns about security issues between those living in container cities after the earthquake and those living in their damaged old houses.
- In three cities, families face food supply challenges. Food security was a common concern for children.
- In all three focus groups, there are children who face similar challenges in providing for their families. Economic hardship of families due to unemployment or low income also affects children.
- In all three cities, there are problems with clean water supply. Hygiene and sanitation facilities are also a problem among children.
- Concerns that post-earthquake assistance received was inadequate or disorganized was a common theme across all three focus groups.

#### Potential Solutions

- Container cities need to be improved and damaged houses need to be repaired to solve shelter problems and provide safe shelter conditions.
- It is important to increase regular assistance for food supply and food security and to address the irregularity of food distribution.
- There is a need to increase job opportunities and provide economic support for families.
- Improving clean water supply, hygiene and sanitation is important to protect children's health.
- More effective aid programs should be established to overcome the inadequacy of post-earthquake aid.

## 5.CONCLUSION

This study aims to understand the fundamental needs of refugees living in 11 earthquake-affected cities, find solutions to these needs and provide support. The earthquake has had tragic consequences for many refugees; some have lost their lives, many have lost relatives and suffered material and moral damage. In addition, the travel permits set by the Provincial Directorate Migration Management have resulted in many people not being able to return, extend their travel permits or leave the city, leaving people to cope with difficulties. Many people were unable to meet their needs and faced problems such as shelter, health, food, and many people who lost relatives had difficulties in accessing necessary information. In addition, many people who lost their legal documents during the earthquake faced the threat of uncertainty and repatriation/deportation.

This research focused on the provinces of Malatya, Kahramanmaraş and Adana, which were the most affected by the earthquake and where the refugee population is dense. The main activities of the research included formulating questions to identify needs, fieldwork, conducting interviews with refugees, analyzing the responses and reporting the results.

In Malatya, Kahramanmaraş, and Adana, different experiences were observed among female, male and child respondents coping with the challenges caused by the earthquake. While female participants experienced discrimination from the locals in Malatya, in Kahramanmaraş and Adana they experienced discrimination to a greater extent from the refugee population. Differences in legal status, children's school-related experiences and access to mental health care also varied across cities. In all cities, the majority of children reported experiencing discrimination. In Malatya and Kahramanmaraş, children's body language, language and excitement were observed when answering questions about self-care and future plans. In particular, children in Malatya were more psychologically affected and this was visibly reflected in their thoughts and feelings.

However, despite these differences, there are common problems in all three cities. Key issues such as housing, security, food supply, economic hardship, access to health services, discrimination and segregation in education reflect common challenges in all three cities.

To overcome these challenges, government and civil society organizations need to collaborate. Potential solutions include providing better shelter conditions, regular food assistance and information, increasing employment opportunities, improving water supply and hygiene conditions, providing access to health services and mental health support, taking measures to prevent discrimination in education, and reducing uncertainty about the future. These solutions will help mitigate the effects of the earthquake and help society build a better future. The results of the research are intended to provide guidance to relevant stakeholders and guide future humanitarian efforts.

## SOURCE

- Afet ve Acil Durum Yönetimi Başkanlığı (AFAD)
- Türkiye Deprem Araştırma Enstitüsü (TDAE)
- Türkiye Bilimsel ve Teknolojik Araştırma Kurumu (TÜBİTAK)
- 2023 Earthquake Report. (İTÜ)
- AFAD: "6 Şubat Depremlerinde Mülteciler" report, 2023
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- Kızılay: "6 Şubat Depremlerinde Mültecilere Yönelik Yardım Çalışmaları" raporu, 2023

## WHO IS ARSA?

The Afghan Refugees Solidarity Assistance Association (ARSA) is a civil society organization based in Turkey and operating since 2009. ARSA provides solidarity and support to the refugee communities and asylum seekers, and collaborates with various stakeholders such as local authorities, governmental institutions, civil society organizations, and international organizations. ARSA has a wide range of activities and projects including legal support, protection, education programs, cultural and social initiatives, and advocacy activities.



ARSA provides social, legal, and health services to refugee communities, operating in fields such as education, translation service, life skills, health assistance, livelihood resources, and integration. The association engages in various initiatives aimed at advocating for the rights of refugees and asylum seekers, facilitating their integration into society easier, and improving their lives. ARSA's primary goal is to assist refugees in more effectively integrating into Turkish society and ensuring respect for their fundamental rights. Through national and international collaborations, the association continues its mission to raise awareness about refugee rights and provide support to refugees.

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**04.17**