SITUATION AND NEED ANALYSIS STUDY REPORT TO IMPROVE SUPPORT MECHANISMS FOR YOUNG REFUGEES IN TURKEY

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FOREWORD

We have been facing worldwide migration issues for many years due to a variety of reasons. In parallel with such migration issues, we have also been introduced different concepts such as those associated with regular and irregular migrants, refugees, and asylum-seekers. Especially because of the Syrian crisis lasting since 2011, some countries including Turkey have become closely familiar with the facts of migration and refugeeism, and take such facts almost as the number one priority in their agendas.

Turkey currently hosts approximately 3.6 million Syrians under temporary protection status. No matter whether the legal status is identified as temporary protection or international protection, it can be clearly expressed that Turkey hosts refugees from several parts of the world particularly including those from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Iran for this moment. Furthermore, we are aware that almost one third of the said refugee population is composed of young people aged 15 to 30. "Refugees" and the "youth" are already listed amongst vulnerable groups by several prominent actors, and when talking about "young refugees" as a group, we make a mention of even a considerably higher vulnerability.

Compared to EU countries, Turkey already has a higher percentage of young population, and hence respective age group turns out to be even more important due to the involvement of a refugee group with a high ratio of young population. Under such a demographical structure; employment, education, social cohesion, healthcare, and several other topics become much more of an issue for the youth in the eye of interested countries.

And hereby study is prepared on the basis of the contribution of Support to Young Refugees Program, and vigorous efforts of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gökay Özerim for the purpose of elaborating not only topics mentioned above including employment, education, healthcare, social cohesion and communication, but also situation and needs related to the perception of youth and future expectations, and thus for creating an effective guide to the relevant institutions.

With the awareness that it depends on the long-lasting efforts of multiple contributors, I wish this study to be useful for relevant people and institutions, and to bring forth a new perspective for the decision-makers and the youth as the subject of this research.

Muhammed Bahri TELLI
Support to Young Refugees
Program Manager

ABOUT **SUPPORT TO YOUNG REFUGEES PROGRAM**

Support to Young Refugees Program is an empowerment project funded by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Turkey Office and conducted jointly by the Community Volunteers Foundation and Youth Approaches to Health Association (Y-PEER Turkey). The project is designed to empower young Syrian refugees aged between 15 and 30 in provinces of Ankara, Diyarbakır, Hatay, and Izmir and support the process of cohesion for them, and thus the project is expected to create a civic social impact on the basis of youth-oriented and humanitarian works. The project helps Syrian refugees aged between 15 and 30 and all the youth living in Turkey to create strong bonds and also ensures their accessibility to healthcare and psychosocial support services while raising their awareness in various areas especially including sexual health, reproductive health, and gender to provide accession to accurate information and contribution to social cohesion by heightening awareness of discrimination.

From the beginning of January 2018 to the end of December, at these four youth centers;

- 52.196 services were offered,
- 20.014 people received at least one service from the centers.

The general break-down of services can be indicated as follows:

- 10.803 people received "Sexual Health and Reproductive Health" service,
- 8.485 people participated in an individual and / or group study on "Gender-Based Violence",
- 11.728 people participated in "Social Cohesion and Coexistence" activities.

At the youth centers, various activities are organized, including cultural studies, Turkish language courses, history studies, photography workshops, art workshops, rhythm workshops, sports activities, peer training on certain themes, awareness/empowerment works for the women and the youth, children activities, among others.

Moreover, youth centers also provide multi-dimensional case follow-up in the areas of health, mental health, education, law, and livelihoods.

Between the years 2016-2019, 120.946 people had received at least one service from the centers.

Distribution of Beneficiaries:

- 84.466 Syrians (of which 50.679 are women, whereas 34.466 are men)
- 36.283 Turkish Nationals (of which 17.000 are women, whereas 16.963 were men)

Facebook:
https://www.facebook.com/gmdprojesi

Instagram:
https://instagram.com/gencmulteciler

BACKGROUND

In Turkey, the total population which might be considered as "refugees" in accordance with the relevant definition of international community is basically over 4 million including more than 3.7 million Syrians under temporary protection. According to the data presented by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Turkey in February 2019; 368.400 people live in Turkey with the requisition of international protection, consisting of 170.000 Afghans, 142.000 Iraqis, 39.000 Iranians, 5.700 Somalians, and 11.700 other nationals are listed besides Syrians (UNHCR, 2019).

In accordance with data presented by the Directorate General of Migration Management under T.R. Ministry of Interior (DGMM), as of March 2019, the number of Syrians aged between 15-30 is 1182671 in Turkey, and this figure is corresponding to almost one-third of Syrians living in Turkey (DGMM, 2019).

Despite the lack of clear statistical data, the population under the age of 30 composes also a significant ratio of the asylum seeker groups who come from different countries rather than Syria and stayi in Turkey with the request of international protection.

When these groups are also taken into account since they currently seek international protection in Turkey just like Syrians do, the *"young population"* comes in sight as one of the key features of refugees in Turkey.

Turkey already has a remarkable amount of young population, and this brings new challanges for Turkey. Young population represents, more than a demographical group in all dimensions of life such as social, economic, and political spheres. This group is important both with their needs in education, social life, employment, health and accommodation and also by being potentially more open to be integrated into the society. That's why, young refugees can be discussed as a dilemma-creating group since they are closely connected both with opportunities and threats at the same time.

When we assess the situation in Turkey's point of view, an increase in relevant numbers led to comprehensive changes in policies and implementation particularly following the arrival of Syrians by 2011, and accordingly, brought Turkey new social, political, and economic responsibilities. In this respect, the relevant discourse which was constructed on the emergency aid in the first years of the post-2011 period, was replaced with integration-oriented discussions after it had become clear that a major part of refugee population would live in Turkey on a permanent basis because of the unresolvable conflict and civil war in Syria. Within the overall process, non-governmental actors and particularly the civil society have played a considerably complementary role in sharing the responsibility undertaken by the government.

However, despite all the efforts of governmental and non-governmental actors, young refugees in Turkey may turn into a completely vulnerable population because of the high numbers and the strategical needs they already have in several areas of life.

In this respect, this research study which is supported by Community Volunteers Foundation and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and designed by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gökay Özerim, was designed for two major objectives. The first objective of the study is to conduct a comprehensive analysis on the current situation and needs of young refugees in Turkey in scope of the field survey and to identify major intervention areas for the future. In this study, effectiveness of Youth Centers is also assessed for the purpose of enhancing activities and scope of such centers established by UNFPA and Community Volunteers Foundation for young refugees. Therefore, this study does not only reveal opportunities and threats regarding young refugees in Turkey, but also aims to provide a guiding manual to all relevant stakeholders for future strategies.

On the other hand, this study is also designed to contribute several invaluable field surveys conducted about Syrians and other refugees living in Turkey from a youth perspective. Especially "Syrians Barometer" (Erdogan, 2018) survey on Syrians living in Turkey and the "Need Analysis of Syrian Women and Girls under Temporary Protection in Turkey" (UNWomen, 2018) prepared by UN Women in cooperation with Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants are taken as models for this research, and it is intended to contribute to the picture presented by these studies by providing a youth perspective.

Within the context of the research, the *"Persons of Concern"* approach of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is adapted, and the target group is not limited only with Syrians under temporary protection, but also includes young refugees of different nationalities who live in Turkey, have already applied for international protection, and currently benefit from or may benefit from the services of Youth Centers. The research period started in November 2018, and the field survey had been conducted in Izmir, Diyarbakir, Hatay and Ankara in January, February and March 2019 by surveys, and therein participation of 1402 young refugees aged between 15-30 was provided. Furthermore, focus group interviews were also performed in these provinces with the participation of 41 young refugees. In this study, these four provinces were addressed due to the dense refugee population they host, and the availability of Youth Centers coordinated by UNFPA and Community Volunteers Foundation. In addition, these 4 provinces set important models for different regions of Turkey.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In this report, the situation and needs of refugees are presented in 7 major areas. These areas are as follows: (i) profile of young refugees, (ii) education, (iii) employment, (iv) social cohesion and communication, (v) health, (vi) "being young", and (vii) "future". In addition to these 7 basic areas, the study is intended to analyze both the role of youth centers established jointly by the Community Volunteers Foundation and UNFPA and the demands of young refugees regarding these centers.

Summary of Findings and Recommendations

Participation in Education:
Amongst the respondents 43% of young refugees declare that they continue their education as students in Turkey whereas the rest are not covered by the education system. 14% of them tell that they are *"illiterate"*. When their age groups are taken into account, refugees addressed in this study are amongst those who can intensively benefit from the education life. However, over half of the sampling population express that *"they are not in the education system"*. The percentage of drop-outs is on the rise directly proportional to the increasing age. A general assessment puts forth that the primary reason for drop-outs among young refugees is *"the obligation of working"*. Right after this reason, *"income inadequacy"* and *"lacking Turkish language skills"* can be listed. If data is analyzed after being classified in terms of gender, the reasons for drop-outs are subject to a variation in terms of weighted prominence. It is reported that the weight of *"the obligation of working"* is corresponding to 39.3% among male respondents for drop-outs, whereas the same factor just has a weight of 14.4% among the women for drop-outs in the education process. For the women, *"disallowance of families"* and *"lacking Turkish language skills"* are stated as obstructing reasons of equal priority compared to the obligation of working. During focus group interviews, it is stated that *"lacking adequate time"* is also one of the most common obstacles. In particular, the reason for drop-outs among young male refugees is *"the obligation of working"*; whereas among young women, the same reason can be specified as *"undertaking childcare and likewise familial responsibilities"*, and thus it is not possible for them to continue their education due to the lack of time. Furthermore, it is also expressed that *"missing documents"* and *"facing challenges with regard to accessing evidence of their educational background"* can also be listed among major obstacles. On the other hand, a considerable number of respondents tell that *"they don't know how to get integrated into the education system"*. Under such circumstances, it appe-

ars that support mechanisms are required to be enhanced for keeping addressees informed about such processes both by the government and civil society despite all the initiatives developed in the realm of education.

Complementary role of courses:
The study reveals that courses organized by public education centers and non-governmental organizations serve as effective tools for young refugees who can't get integrated into the education system due to reasons given above. Since the required period of attendance is shorter, such courses function as *"short cuts"* within the context of the educational needs of young refugees. Furthermore, it is reported that these courses offer a significant socialization opportunity for the young refugees. 50.4% of respondents state that they attended *"a course in Turkey"*. When they are asked about the type of the course they attended, it becomes apparent that they primarily benefit from Turkish language courses (64.8%). This is followed by awareness sessions on a variety of topics and professional development courses. Among other types of courses, it is possible to list computer, foreign student exam preparation, football, Quran and photography courses according to the statements of respondents. While courses provide an important support mechanism, it appears that differentiation and diversification of such courses are essential in accordance with the needs. By far, Turkish language course is stated as the most required course by young refugees in Turkey (%62.1). On the other hand, it is also expressed by 20.6% of respondents that professional development courses are also necessary. Many young participants of the focus group studies state that *"they used to be employed in certain jobs for which they have some certain professional skills in their countries of origin, but they fail to continue their careers in Turkey due to the problem of certification"*. Within the context of both questionnaire practices and focus group interviews, it is frequently expressed that *"these courses meet urgent expectations of young refugees in the case of supporting the certification process and ensuring recognition for skills of the youth"*. Moreover, young refugees also express that they don't only need vocational courses, but also artistic development-oriented courses, personal development courses, computer courses, and university exam preparation courses.

Working process and obstacles:
Among young refugees, the ratio of those telling that *"they used to work in their countries of origin"* is corresponding to 22.4%, whereas those telling that *"they are currently employed on a formal basis in Turkey"* is corresponding to 11%. *"Formal employment"* level is generally low for refugees in Turkey, and hence young refugees are directly affected when they want to get a job. When reasons are listed, it reveals that *"the lack of employment opportunities"* is listed as the primary reason amongst others regarding the failure to provide easy access to the employment market for job-seekers (34.7%). This reason is followed by *"lacking Turkish language skills"* with a percentage of 24.9% which is also a very significant ratio. 12.9% of respondents think

that *"their educational background is not enough for employment"*, whereas 15% of them state that *"they want to get involved in professional life, but it is not possible due to the lack of time resulting from their ongoing education."* As an important piece of data, it shall be noted that 9.5% of young respondents tell that *"they are not familiar with steps required to be taken for finding a job"* which is deemed to be one of the most important two obstacles for getting a job in their points of view. Such data makes it clear that counseling services have a significant influence on access to employment and lay emphasis on that civil society may take a more active role in this respect. In addition to these reasons deemed as factors obstructing the employment process, some women respondents also tell that *"their spouses don't allow them to work"*, *"they are obliged to take care of children"* and they also mention *"lacking documents and such similar certificates"* just as many others who expressed this reason previously. 61% of young refugees adopt the idea that *"when their current educational status is taken into account, it is not possible to be accepted for a job"*. If a respondent tells that he/she is currently employed, then he/she is asked about the way of finding his/her current job; then 51.3% of respondents tell that they find their jobs on their own, 25.7% points out the support of friends whereas 13.7% highlights the mediation of relatives. 6.6% of them tell that they managed to find a job thanks to the contribution of NGOs, and this can be accepted as an important data since it clearly shows the contribution made by the involvement of different actors in the process.

Communication with Turkish youth and society in general:

While 41% of young refugees described their communication level with Turkish society as *"moderate"*, almost 30% of them stated it as *"either poor or very poor"*. On the other hand, 30% of them consider that the communication level is "either good or very good".

Young refugees consider that they are mostly similar to Turkish youth in terms of religion, but those who think there are no similarities available are ranked first among responses to the question related to similarities. Among topics linked with similarity; social life, culture and physical appearance come after the religion, whereas the lowest level of similarity is represented within the scope of relations between women and men. Only 18.1% of young refugees reported that *"there are no differences between them and Turkish youngsters"*. Respondents who are of the opinion that there are some differences state that *"social life"* and *"relations between women and men"* as the most distinctive differences. Almost 70% of respondents don't have more than 5 Turkish national friend with whom they have regular contact, and they are rather in touch with their own nationals. In this respect, social distance is escalated as a result. When they are asked about basic reasons herein, they particularly mention *"the impact of failing to be integrated into the education system on developing friendship relations"*. *"Lacking Turkish language skills which pose an obstacle to striking up*

friendship in-depth with Turkish youngsters" is specified as the most significant factor among all the others. The number of those who think that *"relationships can only be superficial but nothing more because communication bond could not be flourished due to the language barrier"* is as much as those who refer to discrimination as the reason for failing to get into contact with Turkish nationals.

Religion, education, culture, professional life, being young, and Turkish social structure are respectively listed as factors facilitating communication with Turkish society. *"Public perception of refugees"* reveals as the main obstacle with a ratio of around 55%. This is followed by Turkish social structure, culture, religion, and being young. *"Turkish social structure"* is identified both as a facilitating element and a challenge.

Social Media and Smart Phones– The Most Important Contact Point for Young Refugees: Over 80% of respondent refugees don't go to the movies, concerts, or theaters. The ratio of those telling that *"they go to such places once a month"* is 5%. The ratio of those who tell that *"they never read Turkish newspapers"* is 64.2%. On the other hand, 36.7'% of them never watch Turkish television channels. However, 72% of them has a smart phone and over 40% use social media communication tools. Based on such data, it is possible to figure out that digital technologies and applications can be used as a prominent and strategical platform in initiatives of both NGOs and the public institutions for both accessing young refugees and enable them to communicate and familiarize themselves with the Turkish youth.

Needs in healthcare:
The field survey shows that almost one-fifth of the young refugees are diagnosed with a chronic disease and 61.1% of them think that they suffer from malnutrition. They are highly satisfied with healthcare services, and 81% of them express that they are satisfied with such services. Healthcare services are generally considered as sufficient. 40% of them state that healthcare services are easily accessible and sufficient. Almost 20% of them point out that they are not satisfied with healthcare services, and 30.2%, a considerably high percentage, of such respondents mention *"failing to express themselves because of language differences"* as the number one reason hereof. The other reasons can be respectively listed as: *"having difficulties with medical staff"*, *"failing to meet their needs"*, *"feeling excluded"* and *"disfavoring quality of healthcare services"*. In accordance with the outputs from various areas examined in this study, the language barrier comes into prominence as a key element in the healthcare field.

Almost 30% of young refugees state that *"they acquire medical information from their families".* Public institutions, NGOs, friends, and educational institutions serve almost identically as a source of information in this field whereas 22.3% of respondents tell that they lack any relevant sources of information. Based on such data, it is observed that awareness sessions and counseling turn into highly important and necessary services with regard to healthcare. When they are asked about whether they have received counseling service or attended an awareness raising meeting on family planning, reproductive health, and sexual health in Turkey; a considerable portion which is 70% of the overall young refugees express that *"they haven't participated in any events of such a kind".* In sum, around 60% of young refugees stated that their level of knowledge is *"either medium or lower (poor or very poor)"* with regard to family planning, reproductive health, and sexual health. Almost 34.6% of them lack any information about the designated entity for lodging an application in this respect. 37.4% of young refugees think that they are mostly in need of *"psychological support/mental health"* in the healthcare sector, and almost a similar portion of them thinks that what they primarily require is *"reproductive health/sexual health"* support with a ratio of 34%. Though they are not as much of concern as others, *"nutrition"* and *"communicable diseases"* are also issues that are characterized by the need for health-related counseling based on their percentages of 15% and 13.7% respectively.

54% of young refugees *"are not familiar with the designated entity in case of a psychological issue."* When responses of those reflecting to be knowledgeable in this respect are taken into account, not only answers expected to be prominent such as *"hospital"* and *"psychological counselor"*, but also *"youth centers"* and NGOs are addressed as significant points of counseling. Among other options, *"healthcare centers"*, *"social service centers"* and *"friends"* are also specified. Based on the noted expectations, the priority of healthcare services is also in parallel with this response and *"psychological support"*, *"reproductive health"* and *"nutrition"* topics are underlined in respective order. On the other side, *"general health knowledge", "herbal treatment","spiritual support sessions", "healthcare services for the disabled", "neurological diseases" and"heart health"* are listed among other topics.

Perception of "Youth" and needs:

Youth represents *"strength and independence"* for 24.1% of young refugees. Whereas, it means *"future"* for 16%, *"responsibility"* for 14.3%, *"hope"* for 7.5% and *"happiness"* for only 3% of them. In focus group interviews, it is stated that *"learning", "education", "responsibility", "active social participation", "first step for the future", "goals", "self-confidence", "celibacy", "freedom", "production"* are deemed to be best-fitting concepts for the youth. *"Responsibility"* is the most striking concept that is considered to be best-fitting by young refugees for themselves related to their lives, and specifically to the current period of their lives. This responsibility predominantly requires a contribution to the income of the household. Young refugees reside in crowded households.

If we take respondents into account, 32.2% of them state that *"they live in households with 7-10 concurrent dwellers."* On the other hand, 48% express that *"they live in households with 4-6 members."* Such data also sets forth the degree of responsibilities concerning households with a high number of members which are specifically mentioned by young refugees within the context of problems associated with employment and education arising from the obligation of caring for their families. When they are asked about their needs as young individuals; education, money, employment, benefiting from and developing their skills, traveling, improving their Turkish language skills, and socialization are respectively listed among mostly referred items. Another prominent need is to make use of their educational background and skills they have acquired in their countries of origin. Particularly, *"not being able to present documents"* appears as an obstacle to prove their previous professional experience and skills as well as their educational background. *"Education"* and *"making money"* are described as contradicting needs by young refugees.

Living in Turkey:
Turkey represents *"temporary protection"* for 31.5% of young refugees, and *"a new homeland"* for 27.3% of them. While Turkey means *"security and peace"* for 22.6% of young refugees, it is described as *"somewhere they are obliged to live for a while"* by 18.6% of them. *"Healthcare services provided", "rights given to women (i.e., marriage is legally banned before the age of 18)", "lower level of social and familial pressure compared to their countries of origin", "services offered in accommodation centers"* and *"vocational training opportunities"* are the most frequently expressed positive items in focus group interviews. Among the most expressed negative items are *"being unevenly treated while renting an apartment and seeking a job", "job-wage imbalance", "total dependence of work permit processes to the employer"* and *"unwillingness of employers to provide insurance coverage", "obstacles caused by insufficient language skills", "challenges concerning certification", and accordingly "lack of the opportunity to be employed in their professional fields in Turkey", "bureaucracy", "prejudices" and "stereotypes about refugees".* It can be seen that percentages of those *"who are in favor of repatriation"* and those *"who are in favor of becoming a Turkish citizen"* are almost equal to each other. Such kind of data becomes even more relevant when we take into account the percentages of those who assume Turkey as a *"country offering temporary protection"* and those who consider it as a *"new homeland"* are close to each other. 24% of them consider that *"their best choice for the future is to make a life for themselves in Turkey under any circumstances".*

Youth Centers:
Youth centers become more recognizable day by day for young refugees in the sample cities. 63.5% of respondents state that they are already familiar with youth centers.

More than half of them heard about youth centers from their friends (54.1%) whereas 28% of them were informed by volunteers of Community Volunteers Foundation. While relatives are also mentioned by some respondents as agents hereof, the web page is not specified among information resources as much as expected. More than half of young refugees (56%) have benefited from services offered by youth centers at least once. The most commonly received supports are for education, socialization, health, empowerment, and employment. The rate of employment is 4.9%, which is lower than in other areas. The most satisfactory item of the support period is fellowship and a reliable environment resulting from one-to-one communication. During all focus group interviews, it is particularly stated that *"team support is provided with a friendly attitude and empathy."* Other items deemed satisfactory are *"easy accessibility", "affinity to the place of residence"* and *"provision of support by a specialized team".* Almost 80% of those who are offered services by youth centers think that relevant service is adequate and not lacking. One of the major issues is *"distance to the place of residence and accessibility"* for those who think that the service is inadequate. *"Organizing training in different time slots"* and *"keeping centers accessible in the evening"* are also among the requests of the respondents. It becomes apparent that *"evening sessions"* or *"online sessions"* are strongly requested for offering compensation to those who can't attend daytime activities due to being either in school or at work. In this respect, it is also possible to put some options on the agenda such as offering online service delivery for certain services of youth centers and broadcasting some sessions in a web-based and constantly accessible way. Such an initiative has the potential to increase the number of beneficiaries given that a high percentage of youngsters own a smartphone although some main objectives of these centers such as socialization and mutual interaction might be downscaled to a certain extent.

Among other expectations, it is possible to mention of providing more opportunities with regard to *"health"* and *"language education"* as well as leveraging support for *"access to employment opportunities."* The strong aspects of Youth Centers are specified as *"opportunity of socialization created", "provision of psychological support", "raising-awareness sessions", "providing accompaniment and assistance while benefiting from healthcare services"* and *"competent and friendly attitudes of working teams".* Additional requests are mostly related to *"launching new service areas".* Sports courses, football tournaments, picnic and recreational activities, language courses, musical instrument courses, museum and culture trips, and computer training are the most favorite areas. In addition, some young refugees particularly emphasize their need for further information and assistance with regard to *"addiction".*

For centers, another commonly-expressed need and request are to *"provide security of them continuously by recruiting security guards".* In sum, 60% of young refugees are of the opinion that the contribution of services offered by youth centers is *"either high or very high"* for themselves. Besides, this study also puts forth that the diversification of services is highly demanded from centers. *"Need for improving language skills"* and demand for relevant courses are listed once again among responses to both general and youth specific questions and almost half of young refugees specify that they are primarily in need of such courses (47.1%). Language courses are followed by the need for professional development courses, hobby courses, and trainings on health and nutrition.

Under the option 'other', complementary courses (extra study program), courses on culture, job placement processes, university exam preparation, and sports are identified as the most important educational needs. Another topic in demand is *"support for job placement processes".* The need for orientation and support for job placement is also confirmed by responses given to other questions of this study. 43% of young refugees state that *"they are exposed to obstacles to benefit from such services."* It is reported that the major obstacle hereof is *"either to be in school or at work during the time of activities."* Therefore, they request a repetition of daytime activities also in the evenings from time to time since they are either in school or at work during the day.

"Family permission" should also be addressed as another significant obstacle. Detailed analysis of data makes it clear that the principal obstacle is deemed as *"obligation of working"* by the males (52%), whereas *"obtaining permission from the family"* (27%) and *"being at school during service hours"* (30%) comes out as important obstacles for the women. On the other side, a certain portion of respondents say that they are not aware of *"such free services"* or they do not *"how to apply for them."*

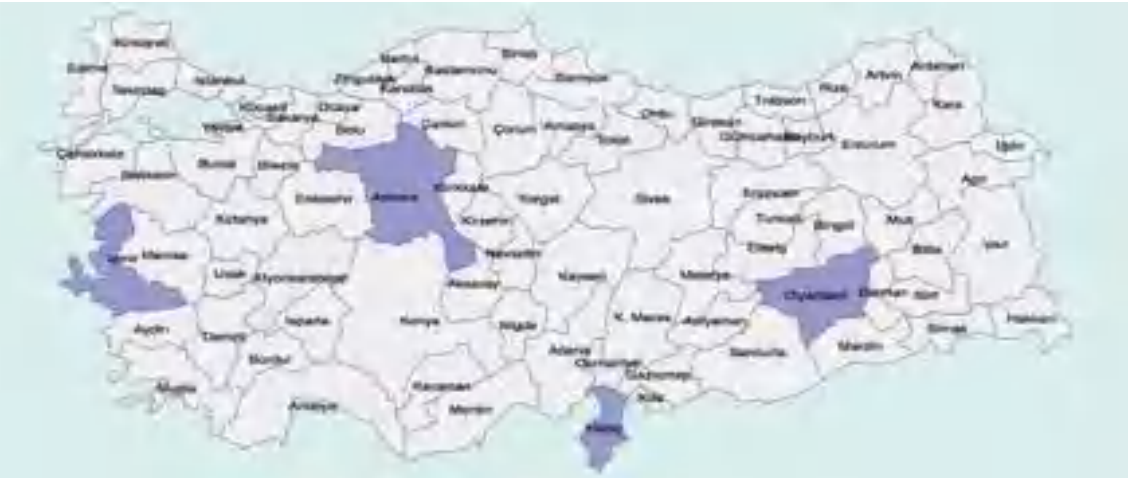
PART 1:
RESEARCH METHOD AND PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

In this report, the situation and needs of refugees are presented in 7 major areas. These areas are as follows: (i) profile of young refugees, (ii) education, (iii) employment, (iv) social cohesion and communication (v) health, (vi) perception of youth, and (vii) "future". In addition to these 7 fundamental areas, the study aims to analyze both the role of youth centers established jointly by the Community Volunteers Foundation and UNFPA and the demands of young refugees regarding these centers.

1.1. Method

In this study, the approach of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees called *"Persons of Concern"* is used and the target group is not composed of only Syrians under temporary protection, but also those who actively benefit from or have the potential for benefiting from services of Youth Centers while living in Turkey within the framework of international protection. Youth is defined comprehensively by taking different age groups specified by the European Union and United Nations into account, and refugees aged 15-30 are included within the context of field survey. Refugees of this age group also coincide with the target group of Youth Centers established by the Community Volunteers Foundation in cooperation with UNFPA.

Within this framework, data sources of the study include questionnaires conducted by the participation of 1402 young refugees for acquiring both primary and secondary data (previous researches and reports, statistical data) related to the topic and focus group interviews addressing at least 9 respondents from each province, and 41 young refugees in sum.



Quantitative distribution of questionnaires per province is identified by taking into account the number of Syrians and other refugee populations in these cities. Within the context of this study, the number of Syrians under temporary protection is recorded as 439.910 in Hatay, 143.660 in İzmir, 33.844 in Diyarbakır, and 90.911 in Ankara (DGMM,2019).

Table 1: Number of Participants within the Context of Sampling Provinces

City	Number of Participants	Number of Focus Group Participants
Ankara	162	9 (4 female, 5 male)
Diyarbakır	270	12 (5 female, 7 male)
Hatay	741	9 (2 female, 7 male)
İzmir	229	11 (5 female, 6 male)
Total	**1402**	**41 (16 female, 25 male)**

The questionnaire conducted for the sample of four provinces is composed of different numbers of questions covering nominal, ordinal, interval and ratio scales, and responses are split into seven main categories. Specific to the aforementioned scales, there are 101 questions in total, including open and closed-end questions, yes-no questions, as well as qualitative and quantitative questions under the headings of listing, sorting, and classification. Within the context of relevant questions, projective techniques are also applied so as to improve individual diversity in addition to aggregated responses. Within the scope of this descriptive study, there are 162 respondents in Ankara, 270 in Diyarbakır, 741 in Hatay, and 229 in Izmir, and in sum 1.402 respondents are addressed.

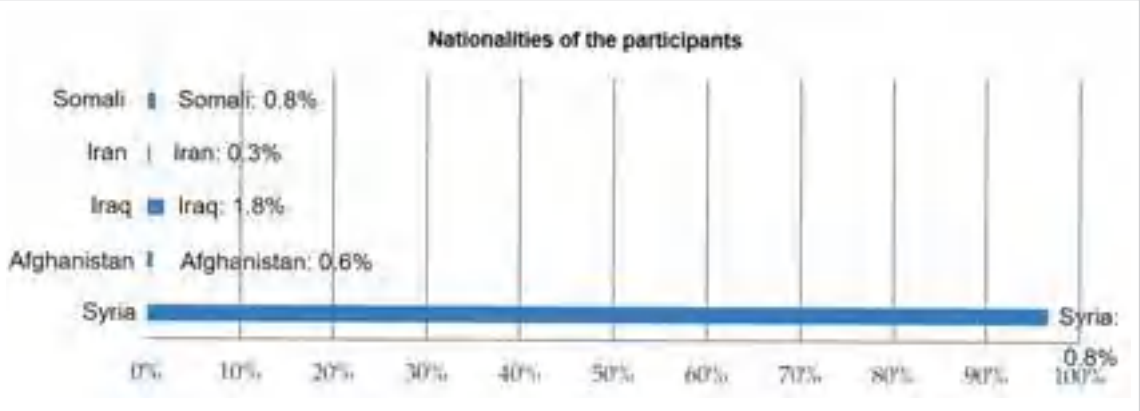
Table 2: Content Distribution of Questionnaire Questions

Distribution of Questions	
Title	**Number of Questions**
General Questions	16
Education	13
Employment	14
Social Cohesion and Communication	16
Health	20
Future and Life in Turkey	7
Services of Youth Centers	15
Total Number of Questions	101

The sample group is identified according to Krejcie& Morgan method in parallel with the data of Directorate General of Migration Management depending on the total population of asylum-seekers and Syrians under temporary protection in Turkey, and therein the safety level is over 95% and the confidence interval is designed to be 3.5 (plus or minus) within the context of sample estimation methods. **Covering only 4 provinces of Turkey, this report does not claim an absolute representation but rather aims to provide a notable source of information about the current situation, challenges and opportunities for practitioners and policy-makers in the field as one of the first comprehensive studies addressing young refugees living in Turkey.**

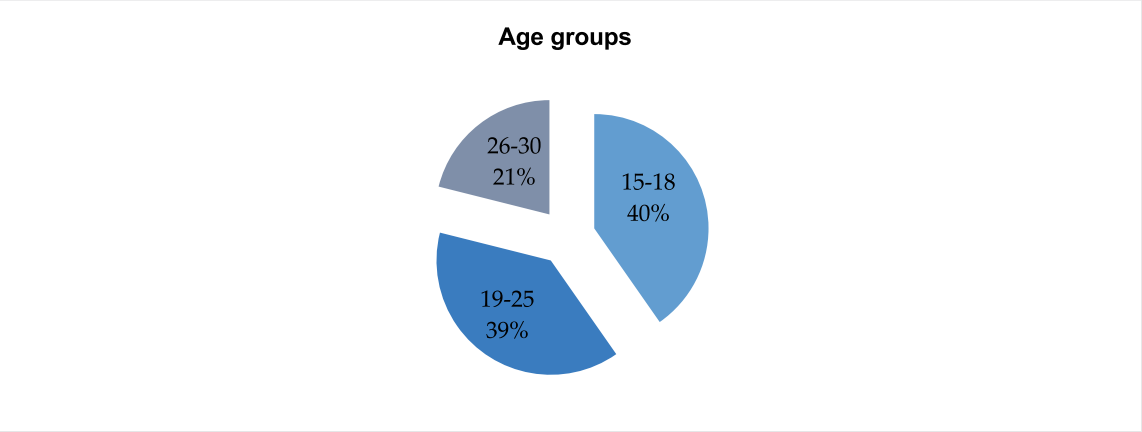
1.2. Profile of Respondents in Survey Study

Graphic 1

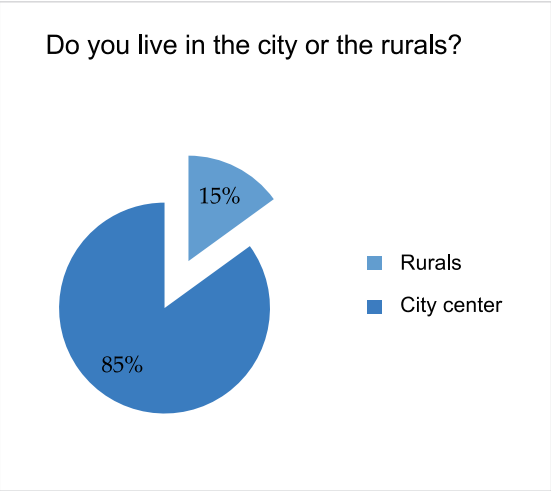


96.6% of respondents are Syrian nationals. Other nationals can be respectively listed as Iraqi (1.8%), Somalian (0.8%), Iranian (0.3%) and 0.6% Afghan nationals.

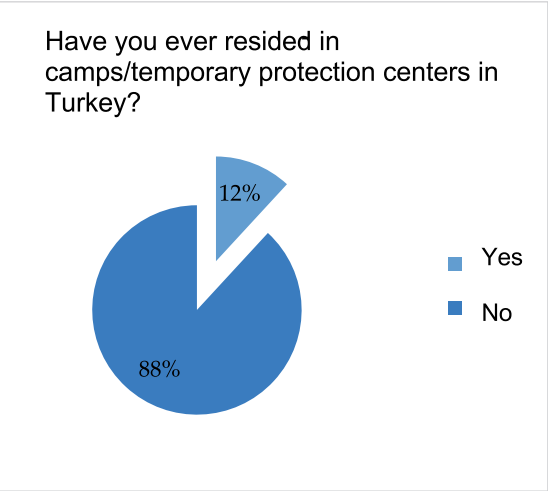
Graphic 2



Graphic 3

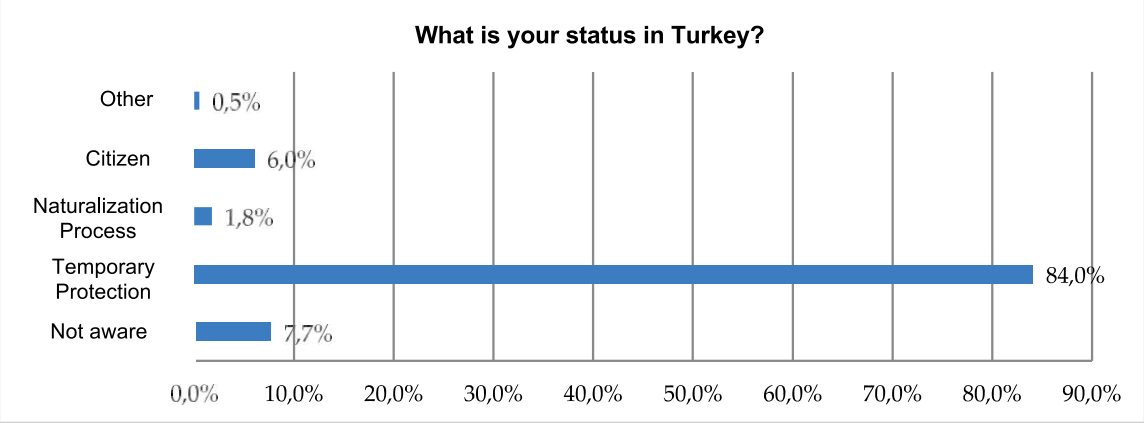


Graphic 4



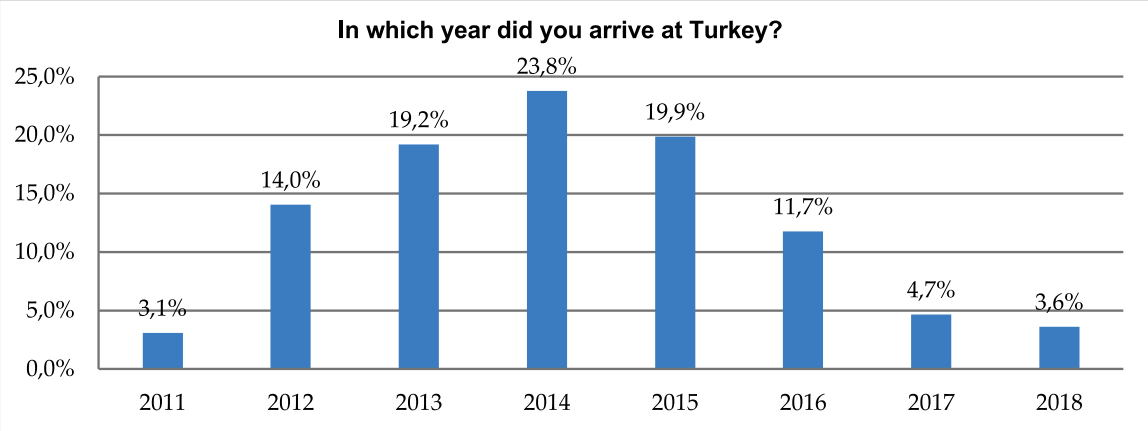
Respondents predominantly live in city centers (85%). The scope of research is limited only with young refugees living within cities excluding those residing in accommodation centers. However, **88% of young respondents have never stayed in an accommodation center, whereas 12% of the respondents state that they have resided in an accommodation center for a while after arriving in Turkey.**

Graphic 5



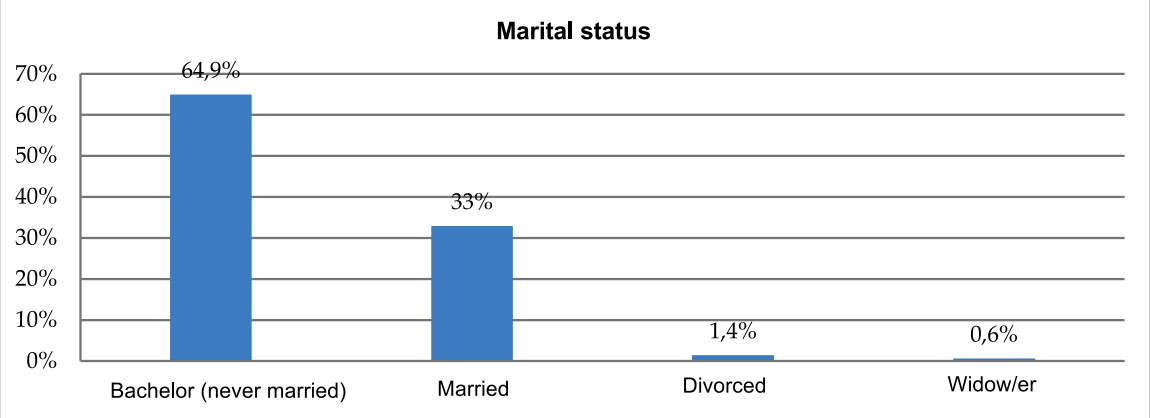
When they are asked about their status in Turkey, 84% of respondents express that they are under temporary protection. 7.7% of them declare that they are not aware of their status, whereas 6% of them report that they have already acquired citizenship, and 1.8% state that the naturalization process is ongoing for them. In addition to such groups, some young refugees also specify that they stay in Turkey as students.

Graphic 6



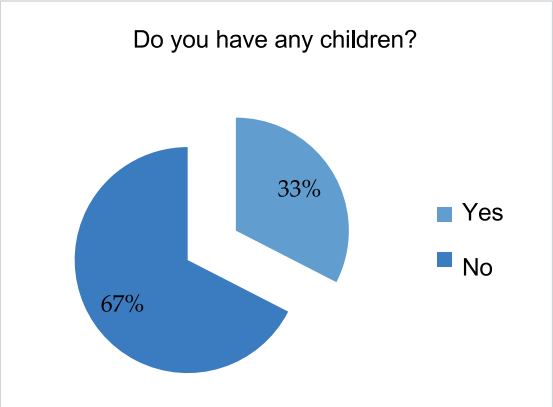
23.8% of young refugees express that they arrived at Turkey in 2014, whereas 19.9% arrived in 2015. In 2014 and 2015, almost half of the total young refugee inflow arrived at Turkey, and this piece of data is consistent with the incremental trend from 2013 to 2016 given that the number of Syrians under temporary protection increased to 2.834.441 (DGMM, 2019) from 224.655, and this implies a relative increase over 10 times. Only 3.1% of young respondents have been living in Turkey since 2011. When 4 sample provinces are taken into account with regard to the percentages of those arriving at Turkey in the first two years after 2011, it can be seen that 34% and 38.7% of the young refugees live respectively in Diyarbakır and Hatay whereas it is possible to observe lower percentages in Ankara (15%) and İzmir (20%).

Graphic 7

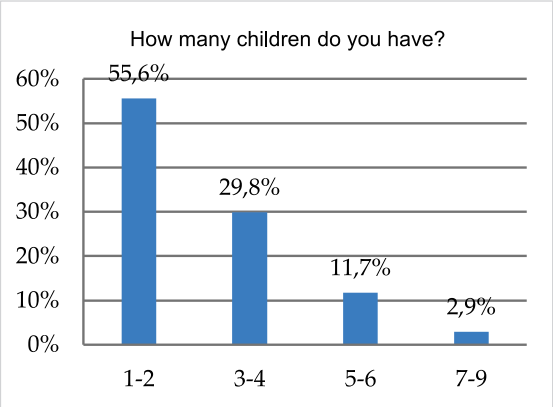


64.9% of respondents have never got married. Among them, 33% are married, 1.4% are divorced, whereas 0.6% stated that their spouses passed away. When age distribution is analyzed in detail, it becomes clear that 6% of married women and 3% of married men are in the age group between 15-18. The highest percentage of married men (61%) is in the age group of 26-30, whereas for the women the highest percentage hereof is in the age group of 19-25 (51%).

Graphic 8

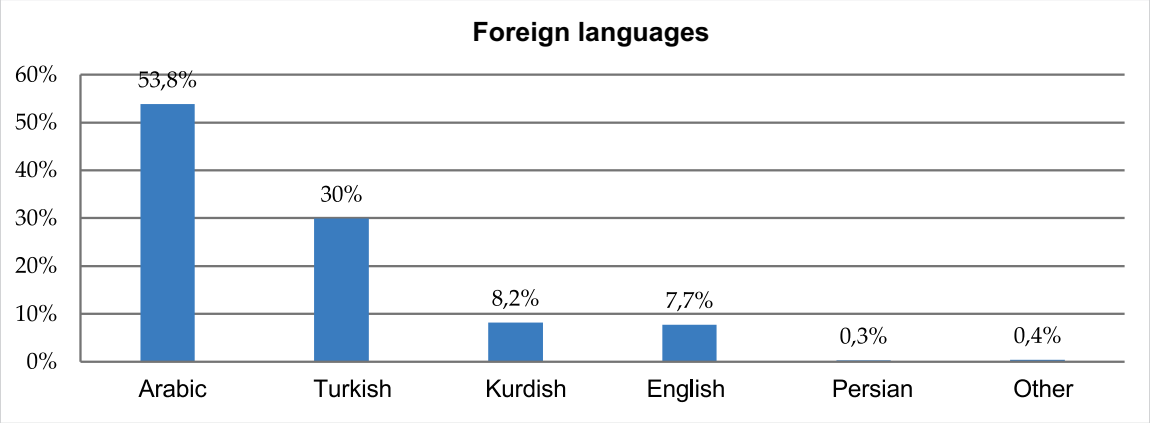


Graphic 9



67% of respondents don't have any children, whereas 33% of them have at least one child. The number of children is 1 or 2 for 55.6% of the respondents that stated having children; the same figure is 3-4 for 29.8%, 5-6 for 11.7%, and 7-9 for 2.9% of them.

Graphic 10



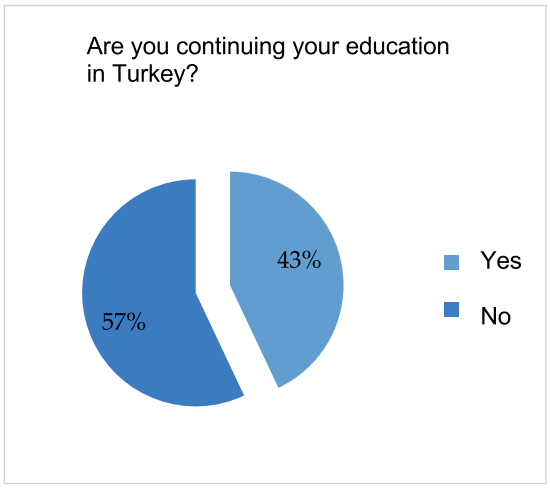
When they are asked about their language skills, Arabic comes out as the most common language among young refugees with a ratio of 53.8% in parallel with the weighting according to the group of respondents. This ratio is 30% for Turkish. Among other languages, Kurdish (8.2%), English (7.7%) and Persian (0.3%) can be listed. Given the relevance of such data with Turkish language skills, it is possible to specify it as a key element of several challenges in the other parts of this study, especially of those related to education and employment.

PART 2:
EDUCATION

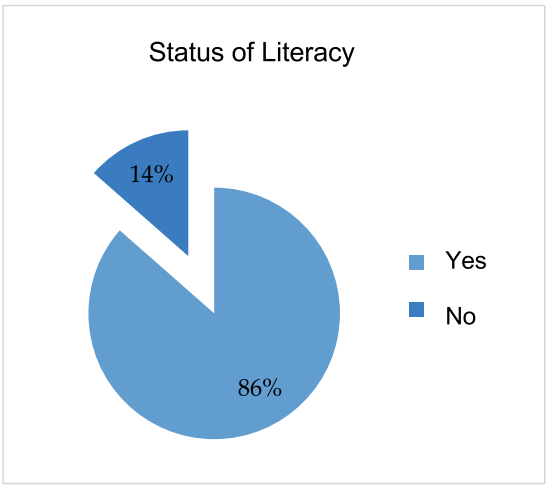
As the target group of this study, young refugees are not only among the most important potential beneficiaries of the education field but also education is one of the key needs for this group. In accordance with the "Education Services of Students under Temporary Protection" report published by Directorate General of Life Long Learning under Ministry of National Education at the end of 2018 with regard to Syrians living in Turkey, 1.047.536 of Syrians in Turkey are at school age(MONE, 2018). The enrollment rate is 62.53% according to the number of enrolled students (MONE, 2018). The highest ratio is observed at the primary school level education where a high number corresponding to 375.063 over 382.748 school-age Syrians are enrolled; whereas the lowest schooling ratio is observed at high school level education where only 51.636 over 269.236 Syrians of relevant school-age are enrolled (MONE, 2018). If higher education is taken into account, the estimated number of Syrians enrolled in higher education institutions of Turkey is corresponding to 20.000 for the 2017-2018 academic year, and this ratio is lower than 5% for Syrians of university age living in Turkey. All these data reveal that the schooling rate of young refugees sharply decreases after the primary school in parallel with increasing age due to a variety of reasons.

2.1. Status of School Attendance

Graphic 11



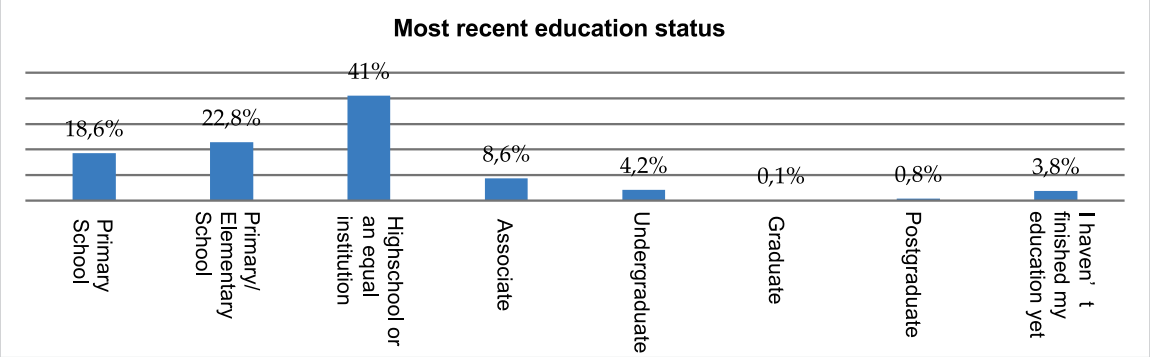
Graphic 12



In accordance with the findings of this research study, it is also confirmed that the schooling rate decreases proportional to the increasing age, and accordingly, a complimentary picture is presented hereof.

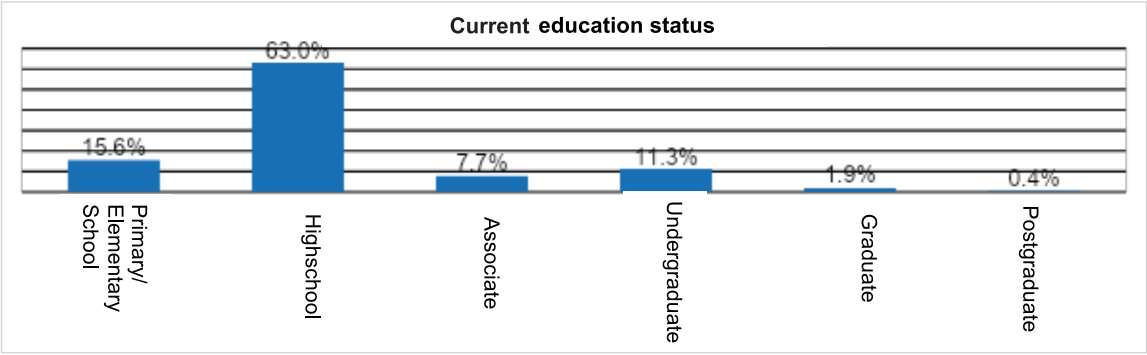
Among respondents of the questionnaire, only 43% of them continue their education in Turkey, and the remaining respondents are drop-outs.14% of them are illiterate. When age groups of respondents are taken into account, it is observed that they are either 15 years old or older; however young refugees are also stated that they join primary and secondary level education to finalize their basic education which remains incomplete previously.

Graphic 13



The predominant group is high-school graduates among young refugees (41%). High school graduates are followed by elementary education/secondary school (%22.8) and primary school (%18.6) graduates. 8.6% of young refugees express that they completed an associate degree program, and only 4.2% of them have a bachelor's degree. 39.2% of young refugees specify Turkey as the last place of education.

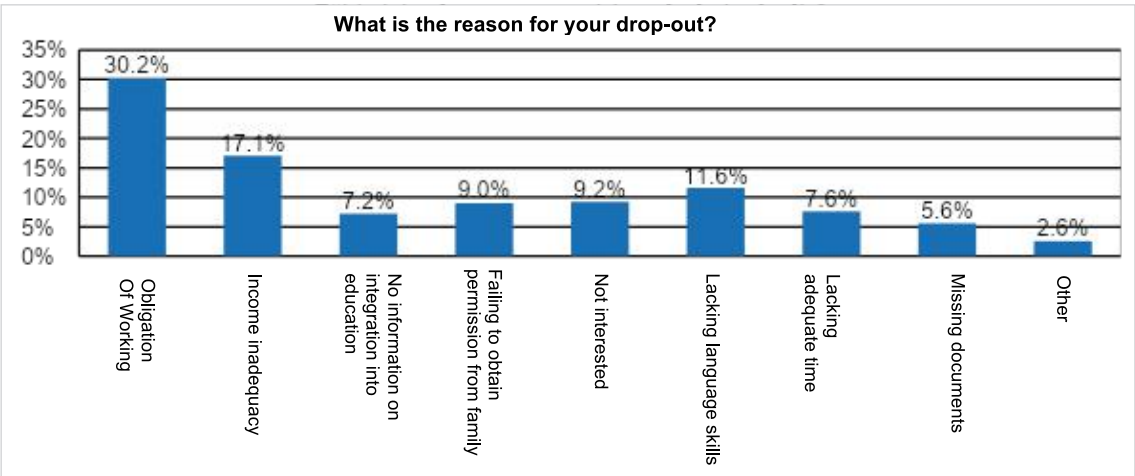
Graphic 14



When educational level of young refugees who are both over the age of 15 and stating they continue their education in Turkey (%43) is analysed, the predominant group is high-school students with a ratio of 63%. 15.6% of them continue their education in elementary/secondary education whereas undergraduate study is ongoing for 11.3% of them. Though the relevant number is very limited, still there are a few young refugees continuing graduate (masters and doctorate) education, and the respective ratio is 2.3%.

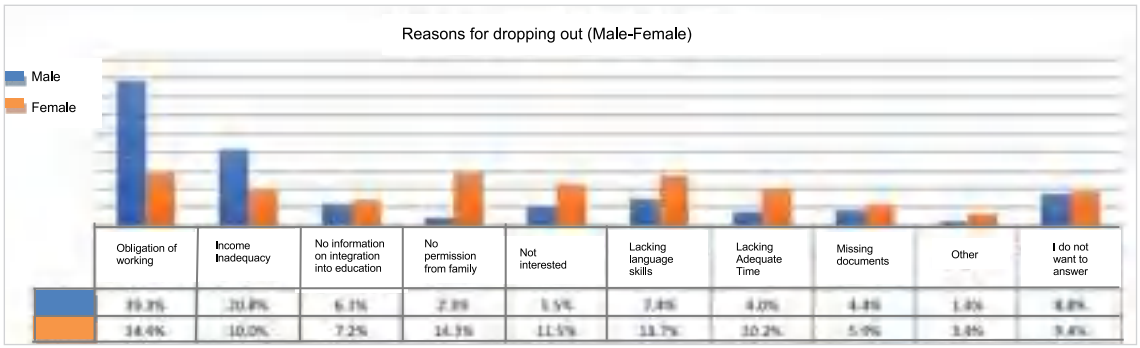
2.2. What are the reasons for Drop-Outs?

Graphic 15



In general, it appears that the *"obligation of working"* is the most important reason for drop-outs among young refugees with a ratio of 30.2%. This reason is followed by *"income inadequacy"* (17.1%) and *"lacking language skills"* (11.6)%.

Graphic 16



However, if data is analyzed after being classified in terms of gender, the reasons for drop-outs are subject to a variation in terms of weighted prominence. It is reported that the weight of *"obligation of working"* is corresponding to 39.3% among male respondents for drop-outs, and appears to be the leading reason by far, whereas the same factor just has a weight of 14.4% among the women for drop-outs in the education process. *"Failing to obtain permission from the family"* and *"lacking language skills"* appear to be reasons for obstructing education almost with equal prominence for women. Submitted responses of women under the heading *"Other"* are the obligation to take care of children or health problems as major obstacles for drop-outs in the education system.

"Lacking adequate time" is identified as one of the prominent obstacles during focus group interviews. The primary reason of men for drop-outs is *"obligation of working"*, whereas the primary reason is expressed as *"taking care of children and undertaking familial responsibilities"* by the women.

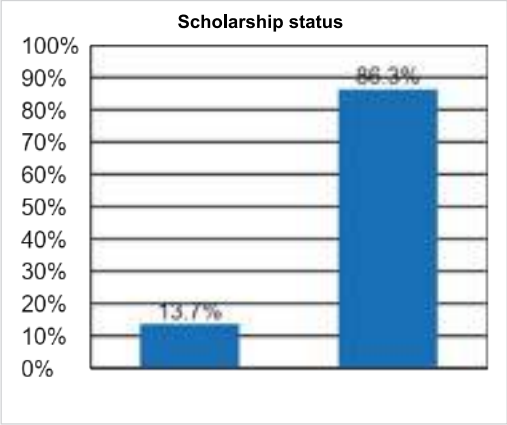
Furthermore, it is also expressed that *"missing documents"* and *"facing challenges with regard to accessing evidence of their educational background in their countries of origin"* can also be listed among major obstacles.

"I feel as if the times of youth is over for us. Because when we used to be kids, we considered that young people were those who built their own lives up. We couldn't take even a step forward from the scratch. And now my 12-year education in Syria is also a complete waste. I wish I had been trained on a craft for vocational purposes rather than being educated in formal education; so that I could have a specific profession now. For example, a craft like carpentering. Now I lack both a craft and a diploma." (A., Male, 30 years old, working in a construction site, Syrian, has been living in Ankara for 5 years.)

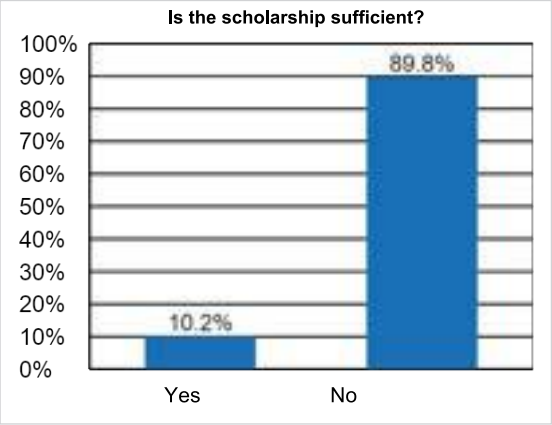
On the other hand, a considerable number of respondents tell that *"they don't know how to be involved in education"* (7.2%). In light of the data, it is possible to claim that support mechanisms should be empowered both by the government and civil society especially while addressing awareness and counselling despite all the relevant initiatives taken.

2.3. Scholarship Status

Graphic 17



Graphic 18

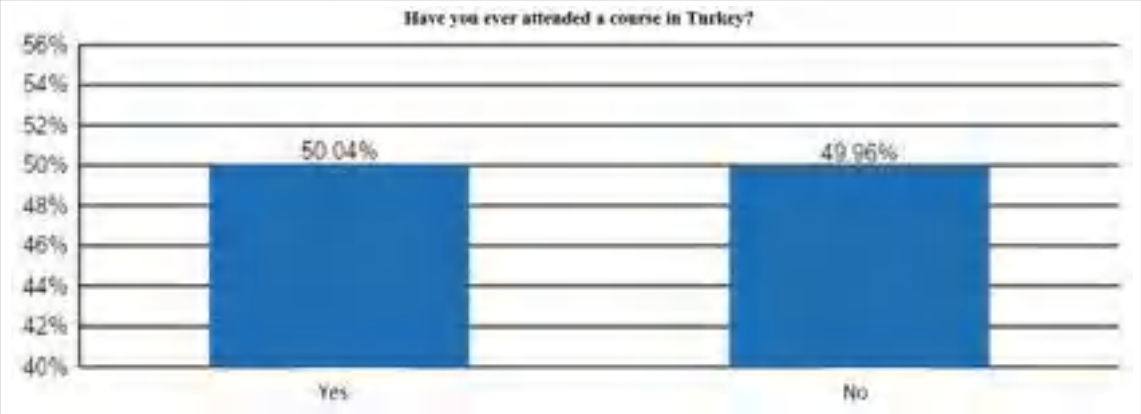


86.3% of young refugees, who have successfully integrated into the education system in Turkey, are not granted any scholarships for continuing their education. Only 10.2% of scholarship students think that amount of their scholarships is sufficient for fulfilling their educational needs and living on.

2.4. Complementary Role of Courses

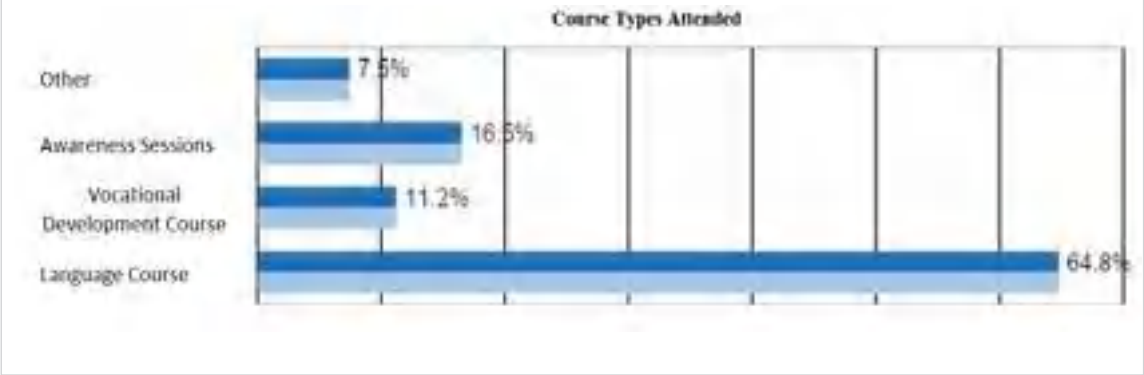
Both the data provided by this field survey and also reports of the relevant institutions, reveals that the integration of young refugees into the education system is not at the desired level due to some fundamental reasons listed also in the other parts of this report. Within this framework, courses organized by public education centers and non-governmental organizations serve as important tools for those who are not integrated into the education system. Being short-term and requiring less participation time, such courses do not only address the educational needs of young refugees but also offer functional contributions as ***"shortcuts"*** for integration with the host community. Therefore, such courses may create a smooth social ground for those who can not get integrated into the education system.

Graphic 19



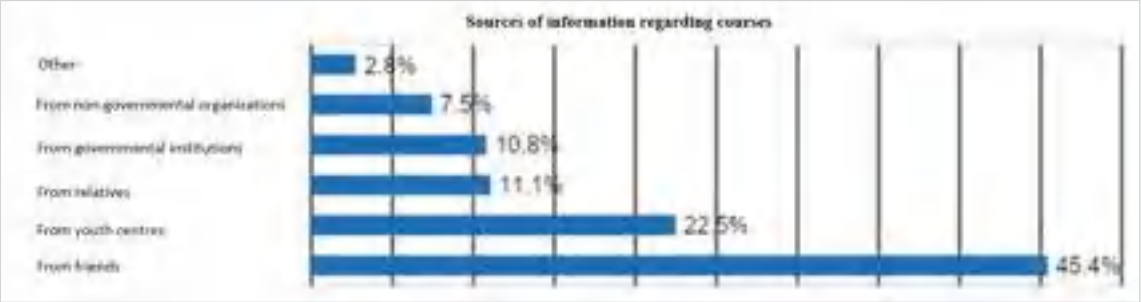
50.4% of respondents state that they have attended "a course in Turkey". As sample provinces, Hatay (59.2%) and Ankara (56.8%) appears to offer a higher level of participation in courses for young refugees compared to İzmir (30.2%) and Diyarbakır'a (35.4%).

Graphic 20



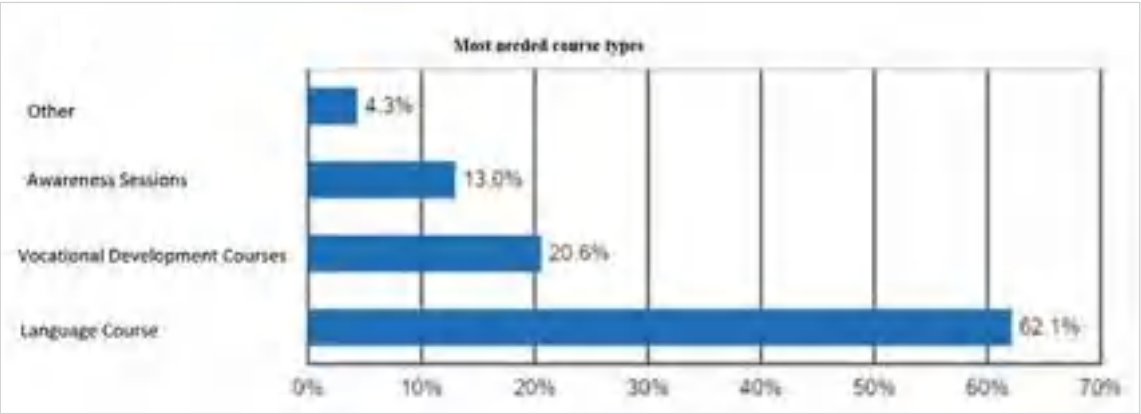
It is observed that young refugees predominantly benefit from language courses among the present types of courses (64.8%). It is followed by *"awareness sessions on a variety of topics"* and *"professional development courses"*. Among other types of courses, it is possible to list computer, foreign student exam preparation, football, Quran and photography courses according to the statements of respondents.

Graphic 21



When they are asked about how they were informed about such courses, almost half of them (45.4%) state that *"they heard about such activities from their friends."* *"Youth Centers"* (22.5%) is ranked second among the platforms providing information on such courses. Among other information sources, *"Relatives"* (11.1%), *"public institutions"* (10.8%), and *"non-governmental organizations"* (7.5%) can be listed. The role of non-governmental organizations for disseminating such courses is found to be lower than the expected although they act as actors which can offer most of these courses. Since it is can be seen that friends play such a prominent role in this process, it becomes clear that increasing the number of multiplier trainings addressing refugees and integrating young refugee volunteers into their activities more will serve the purpose of expanding their outreach.

Graphic 22



While available courses ensure a significant support mechanism for young refugees, it is required to provide variation and diversification of such courses according to needs. *"Turkish language course"*, is significantly identified as the most needed course (62.1%). 20.6% of respondents mentioned about professional development courses as one of mostly needed types of courses.

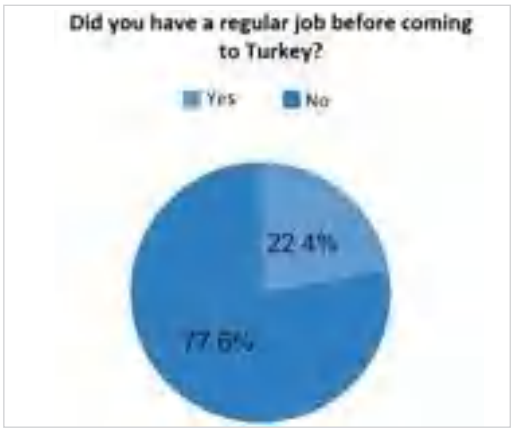
Many respondents of the focus group studies state that *"they used to be employed in some jobs for which they have some certain professional skills in their countries of origin, but they fail to continue their careers in Turkey due to the problem of certification".* Within the context of both questionnaire practices and focus group interviews, it is identified that *"these courses meet urgent expectations of young refugees in case of supporting certification process and ensuring recognition for skills of the youth".* Moreover, young refugees also express that they don't only need vocational courses, but also art courses, personal development courses, computer courses, and university exam preparation courses.

PART 3:
EMPLOYMENT and ECONOMIC CONDITION

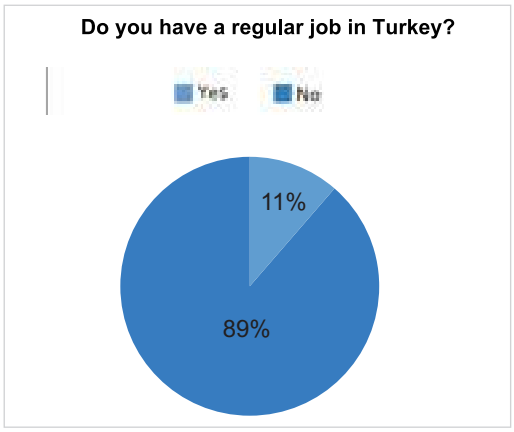
While discussing the employment status of young refugees in Turkey, the most important fact is that Syrians are provided with the facilitation of access to formal employment opportunities in parallel with temporary protection status compared to other groups. Within the context of regulation enacted by Turkey in January 2016, Syrians under temporary protection may benefit from work permits upon the request of the employer in case they have been living in Turkey for a minimum of 6 months. However, the formal employment rate still happens to be too low and the number of Syrians awarded work permits is lower than 30 thousand even though the total number of Syrians living in Turkey corresponds to 3.7 million as per 2019. When the age group coverage is taken into account, this study addresses different groups comprising those who are still students without any relevance with the employment market, those who are in a transitional period from education to employment, and those who currently engage in professional life. Therefore, data on the status of young refugees related to the employment market lay emphasis on economic conditions in Turkey and their identifying role for social integration.

3.1. Employment Status

Graphic 23



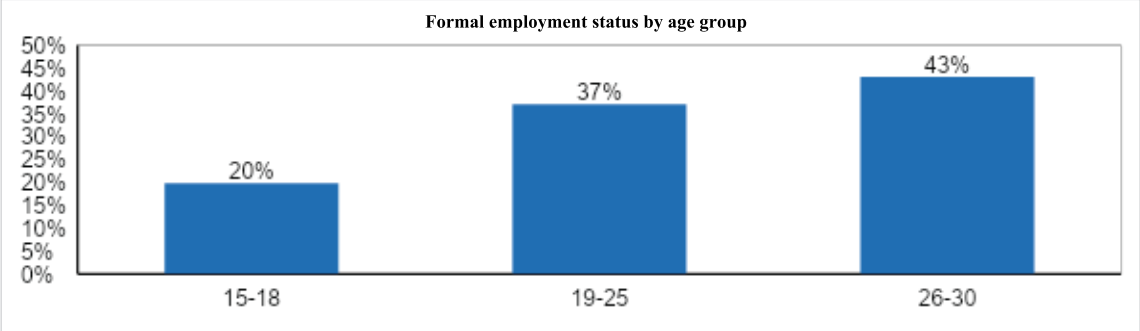
Graphic 24



77.6% of young refugee respondents state that they had not worked before coming to Turkey. The ratio of those who state that they had been working in their countries of origin corresponds to 22.4% whereas the ratio of those who have a regular job in Turkey now is 11%. While evaluating such data, it is possible to anticipate that the ratio of those who have reached the working age has been increasing since 2011, and hence the ratio of employment in Turkey might be higher than the ratio in their countries of origin (22.4%). However, it is possible to argue that this ratio remains low due to the reasons mentioned in this paper and other relevant studies.

Moreover, *"regular employment"* level is generally low for refugees in Turkey, and young refugees are also adversely affected by this situation. On the basis of the data obtained, it is possible to express that at least half of young refugees, who had been employed before coming to Turkey, fail to join the employment market in Turkey.

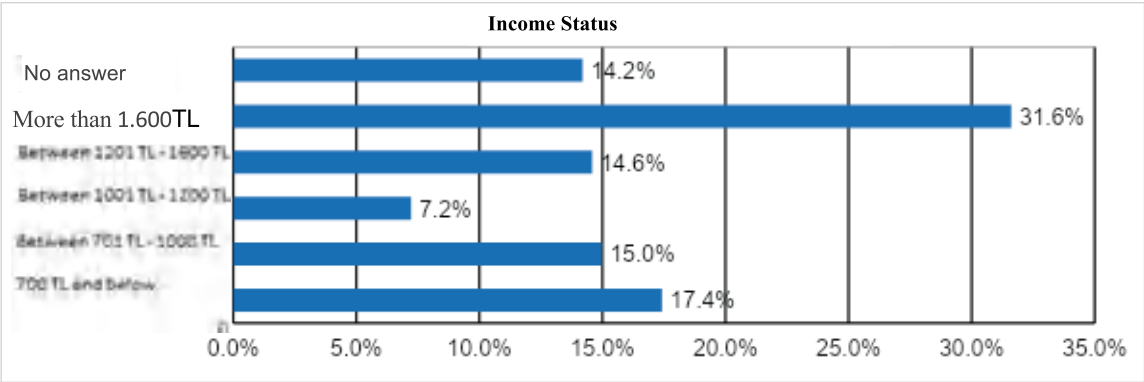
Graphic 25



When the data is analysed according to the age groups, it can be seen that employability is provided only for 43% of young refugees in the age group of 26-30 in Turkey though this group is excepted to be with the highest level of involvement in the professional life. A concurrent examination of data on employment and education reveal that the ratio of young refugees *"who are neither working nor studying"* is quite high, and corresponds to 46%.

3.2. Income Level and Economic Conditions

Graphic 26



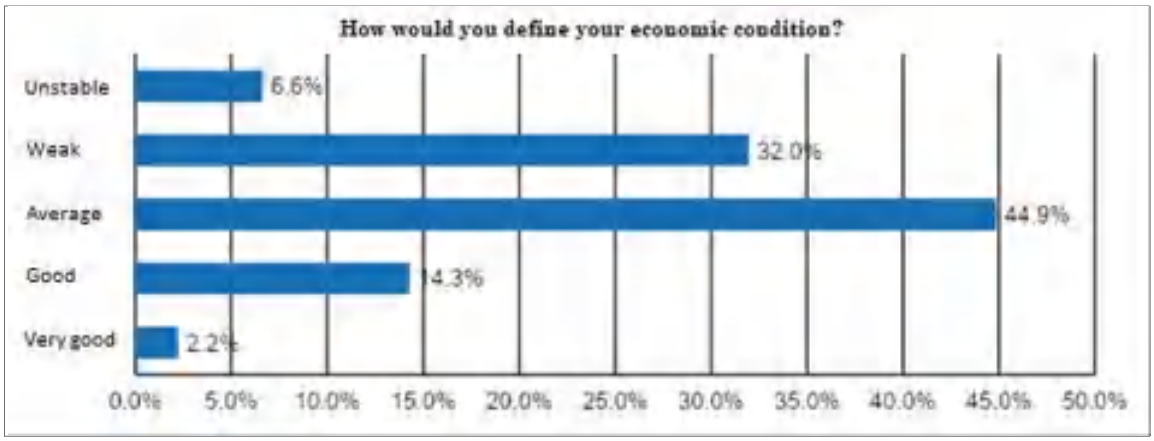
In sum, 54.2% of young refugee respondents state that their monthly income is lower than TL 1600, and 17.4% of them have a monthly income lower than TL 700. The ratio of respondents stating to have an income over TL 1600 seems relatively high (31.6%), since young refugees generally state the total income of their families, but not (Grap-

hic 27) their own individual incomes. 14.2% of addressees don't want to reply to this question, and a group of respondents herein is composed of the unemployed, and those having a regular or an irregular job.

Graphic 27

Only 30.4'% of young refugees indicate that they generate an income by either a regular or an irregular job. 55.2% mention *"family support"* as the basic source of income whereas 4.1% of them lack any sources on income including the family.

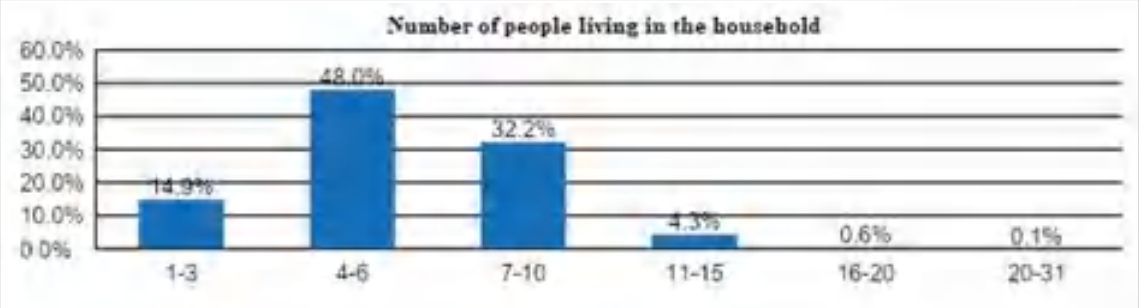
Graphic 28



When they are asked about the self-reflection about their current economic condition, 83.5% of them define it as *"middle or lower"*. Only 16.5% of them define it as *"good"* or *"very good"*. This looks like a factual evidence of deprivation exposed by young refugees in economic terms.

3.3. Household and Responsibility

Graphic 29



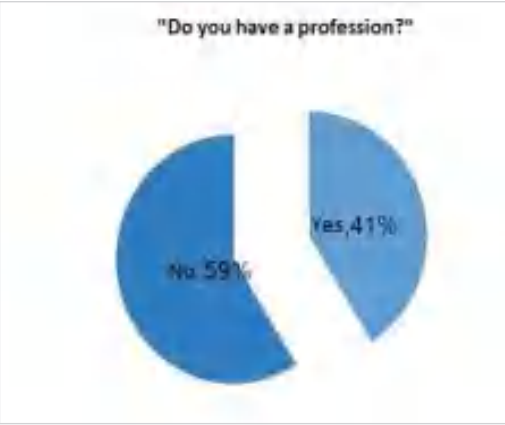
As is discussed later on within the context of the study regarding the perception of youth, *"responsibility"* is among the concepts deemed to be best-fitting for the lives of young refugees and the current period of their lives. This responsibility predominantly requires a contribution to the income of the household.

Young refugees reside in crowded houses. 32.2% of young respondents state that they live in households with 7-10 concurrent dwellers. On the other hand, 48% express that they live in households with 4-6 members. Such data also sets the degree of responsibilities forth with regard to households with a high number of members which are specifically mentioned by young refugees within the context of upcoming questions associated with employment and education arising from the obligation of caring for their families.

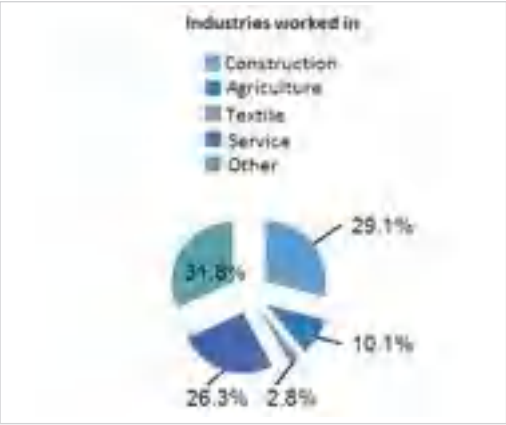
"We are always asked why we chose to flee away instead of defending our country. We did not personally flee away from the death, but we came here for the survival of our families." (M. Male, 25 years old, Syrian, Married, has been living in Ankara for 5 years)

3.4. Professional Engagement

Graphic 30



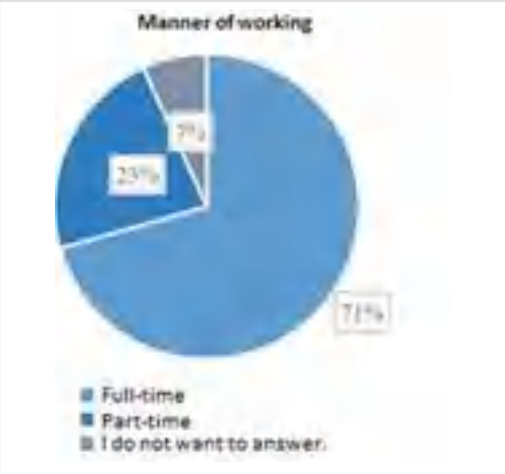
Graphic 31



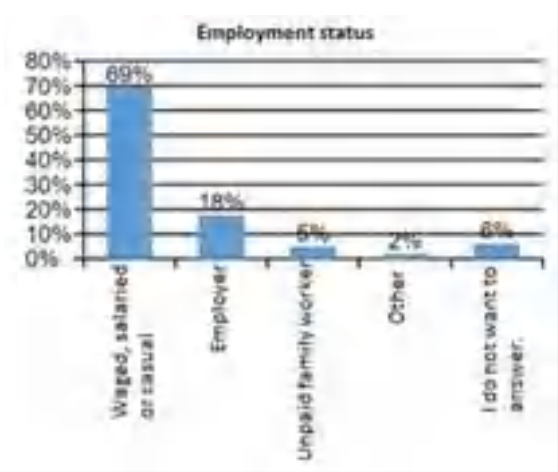
Among young refugees that declared having a current job, 41% state that they hold a profession. Herein, a wide range of professions is addressed, among those tailoring, hair-dressing, mechanic works, engineering, confectionery, decoration, cookery, electronic repairing, accounting, attorneyship, and bakery can be listed. However, this diversity is not reflected in the sectors which are specified by them as their current posts in Turkey as of now, and 70% of them are concentrated in certain sectors. These sectors can be respectively pointed out as construction, service sector, agriculture, and textile. In this respect, it is possible to inference that young refugees remain stuck with certain conventional sectors though they have different professional skills and experiences.

3.5. Types of Employment

Graphic 32



Graphic 33

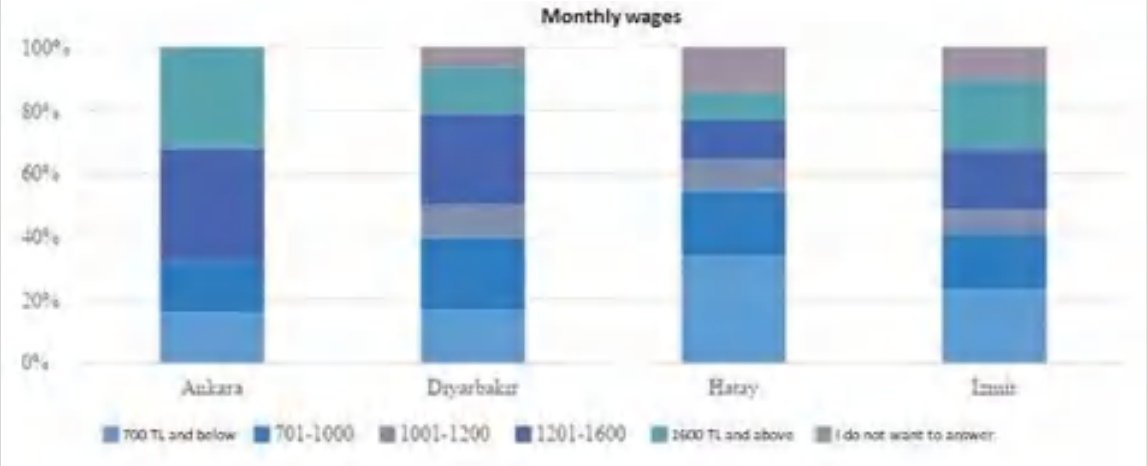


70% of young refugees declaring to have a current job keep working on a full-time basis and 69% of them state that they are employed on a salary or daily wage basis, whereas 18% of them are employers, and 5% of them work as unpaid family workers. There is also a small fraction of young refugees who state that they work within the context of civil society activities on a voluntary basis.

Graphic 34

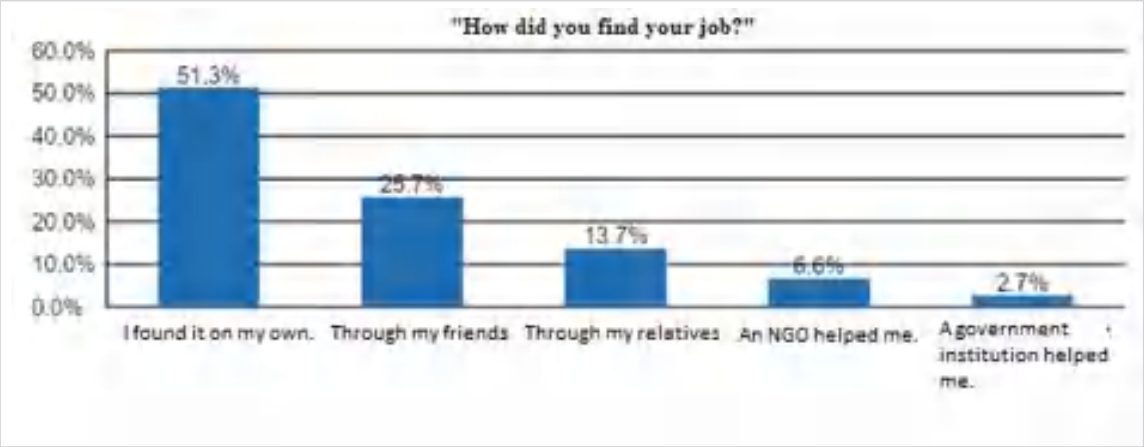
In accordance with TURKSTAT data of December, 2018 minimum wage is declared to be TL 2213,40 for occupations of *"heavy"* status, TL 1978,80 for occupations of *"medium"* status, and TL1841,40 for occupations of "light" status. Among young refugees declaring to have a current job;
23.5% state that their monthly salary is lower than TL 700, whereas 9.9% of them abstain from answering this question. 22.6% of respondents express that their monthly salary is TL 1600 or higher. Compared to other two cities, the percentage of those with a monthly salary of TL 1600 or higher is strikingly higher in Ankara and Izmir, and it is also possible to bring their impact on the general average forward. It might be clarified on the basis of a higher number of employment opportunities and formal employment options with a minimum salary in these metropolitan cities compared to others.

Graphic 35



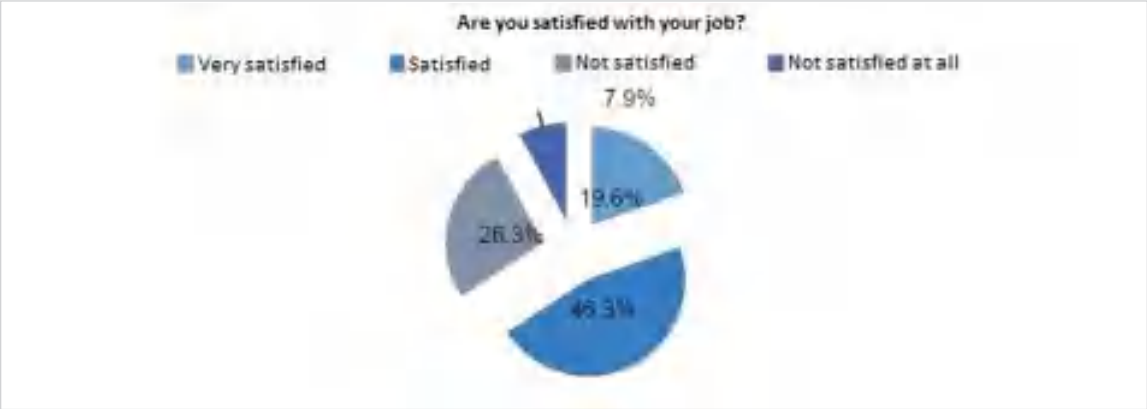
3.6. Entering into Labor Market

Graphic 36



It is of paramount importance to look into the way of finding jobs in order to understand accession processes to employment for young refugees. Among young refugees who currently have a job, 51.3% tell that they found a job on their own; whereas 25.7% mention friends and 13.7% refer relatives as mediators. 6.6% of them express that they managed to find a job by the support of an NGO, and this can be deemed as a significant piece of data especially for showing the involvement and contribution actors in this process. Among sample provinces, it is identifed that NGOs provide the highest level of support for access to employment in Ankara and Diyarbakir.

Graphic 37



Among young refugees who currently have a job, 34.2% state that *"they are not satisfied"* or *"they are not satisfied at all"* with their jobs.

One of the most important reasons for dissatisfaction appears to be related to the idea of *"receiving unequal pay for equal work compared to Turkish employees."* Thus, one of the major challenges of young refugees is the "concern of unequal payment" with regard to employment market.

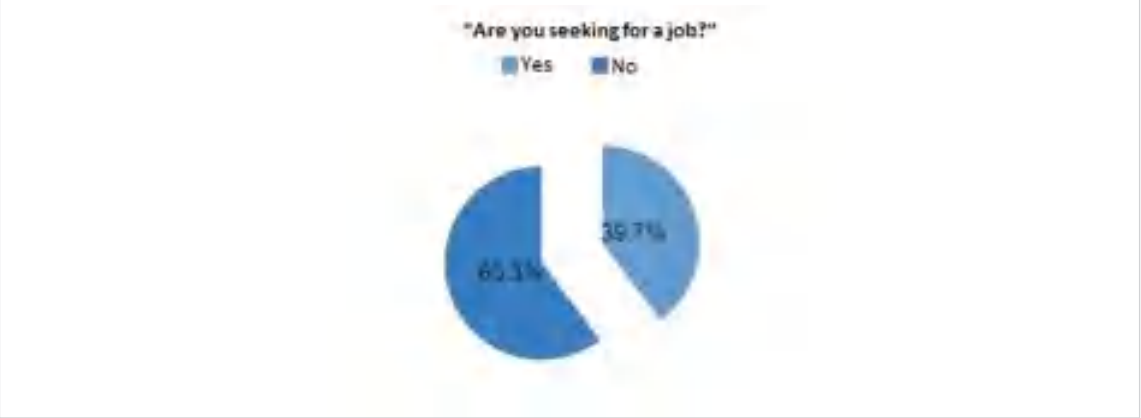
"I have a previous work experience. I worked as a shop assistant in a clothing shop. I had worked from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. together with 3 women for a year. I wasn't paid any extra money, but others were overpaid compared to me. Meanwhile, I also tried to continue my education, but I couldn't manage it concurrently with the professional life. I am not sure what will be required in case I restart working because I don't think that I am experienced enough". (M., Female, 21 years old, Syrian, has been living in Diyarbakır for 7 years.)

"Problems with regard to timely payment of their wages by the employer", "failing to persuade the employer for the provision of formal employment" and *"inconsistency of their skills with the current job"* are also revealed as other problems.

"Even if I manage to find a job, still employer has the last say for the work permit. If the employer does not have me registered, then I loose my rights. The employer has the full authority in this respect" " (M., Male, Syrian, 25 years old, has been living in Ankara for 5 years.)

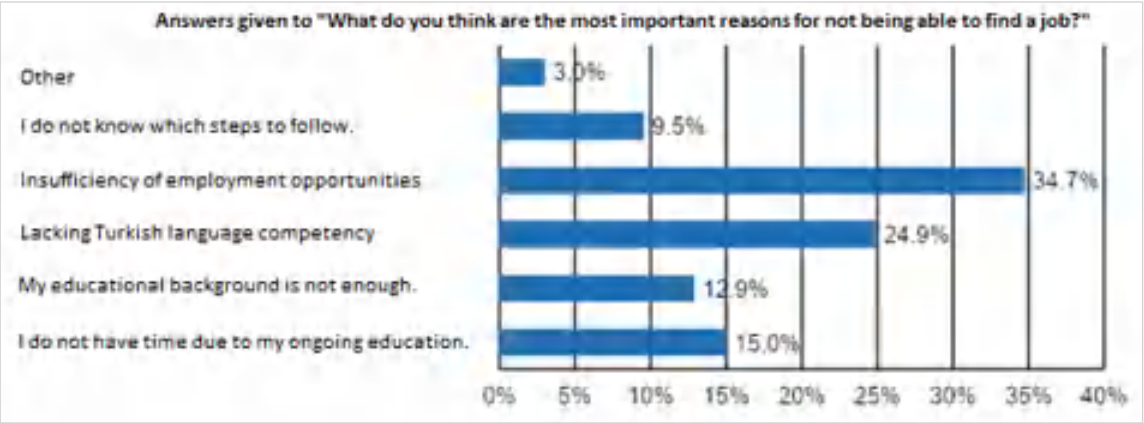
3.7. Job Placement Process and Related Challenges

Graphic 38



Another group of respondents is composed of those who don't have a current job; and only 39.7% of them state that they seek for a job in Turkey now. Among those who do not seek for a job; those who continue their education due to the age group / those who are of school age, or those who are not allowed to work by their families can be listed.

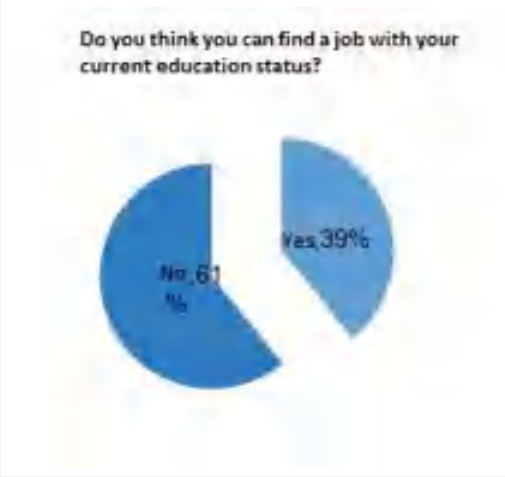
Graphic 39



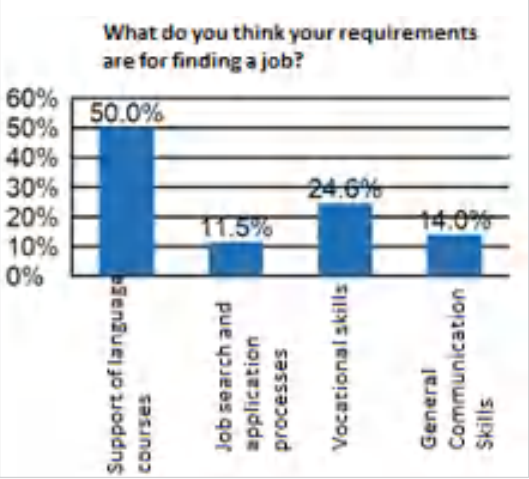
When reasons are listed, *"insufficiency of employment opportunities"* ranks as the primary reason amongst others regarding the failure to provide access to the employment market for job-seekers (34.7%). This reason is followed by *"lacking Turkish language competency"* with a percentage of 24.9% which is also a very significant ratio. 12.9% of respondents think that *"their educational background is not enough for employment"*, whereas 15% of them state that *"they want to get involved in professional life, but it is not possible due to lack of time because of their ongoing education"*.

As an important piece of data, it shall be noted that 9.5% of young refugees tell *"they are not familiar with the steps required to be taken for finding a job"* which is deemed to be one of the most important two obstacles for finding a job in their points of view. These data lay emphasis on the significance of counseling services for access to employment. Apart from these reasons mentioned above, some respondents also list other important obstacles including not being allowed by their spouses, obligation to care for children, and also lacking documents and certifications as frequently mentioned in association with the upcoming questions as well.

Graphic 40



Graphic 41



61% of young refugees consider that *"when their current educational status is taken into account, it is not possible to be accepted for a job"*. Such an idea may depend on feeling incompetent about certain fields and accordingly the lack of self-confidence in addition to the obstacles to finding a job. When they are asked about their need for finding a job, *"support of language courses"* appears to be the most important need by far (50%). Language support is followed by the need for general communication skills and information on job-seeking and application processes.

"I currently have a job. Even though I knew how to speak Turkish when I first started working, daily language is somewhat different from than professional language. That's why I initially faced some problems regarding language, but everyone can encounter other problems I faced" (P., Female, 19 years old, Syrian, has been living in Diyarbakir for 3 years)

Within the scope of focus group works; certificate, diploma, and certification are particularly emphasized as the other most important needs.

"I am employed in textile sector, yet I can not develop myself while working. Education starts at an early age. In fact, I used to be an accountant, but I lack the documents required for being employed in this field" (D., Male, 28 years old, Syrian, has been living in Izmir for 5 years.)

PART 4:
SOCIAL COHESION AND COMMUNICATION

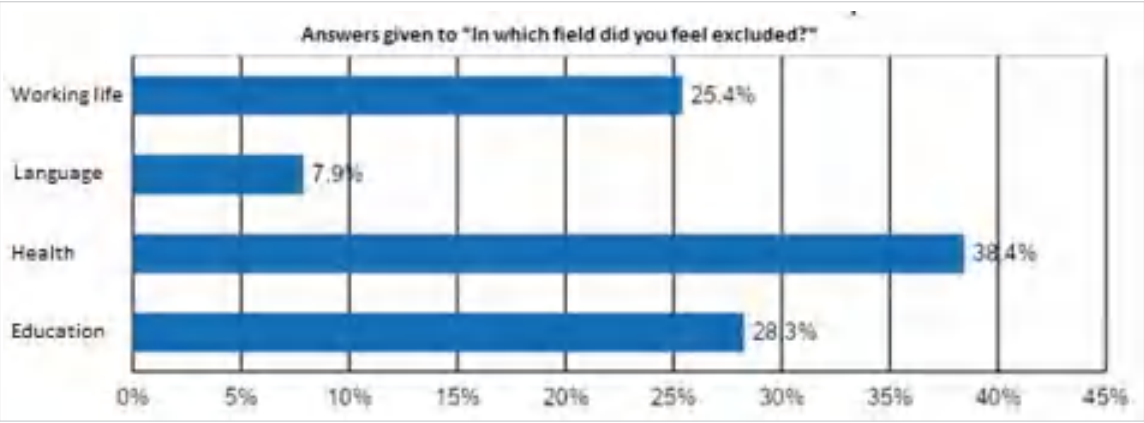
In general terms, youth might be deemed one of the most important actors within the context of their needs, dialogue mechanisms they create, and the role they play for shaping the future regarding the integration process. That's why, their situations, expectations, and opinions in terms of social cohesion and communication give important clues for the future. In this part of the study, the questions are designed by the intention of discovering the relationship of young refugees with the Turkish community and major elements of relations.

4.1. Exclusion and "Feeling Excluded"

"Yes, I think that I managed to adapt myself. Because our customs and traditions are much alike. Meanwhile, I also learned how to speak Turkish thanks to the help of a female friend who supported me for Turkish language skills, adaption, and professional engagement. But of course I am not as if I were in Syria at all." (S. Female, 18 years old, Syrian, has been living in Diyarbakir for 6 years.)

48.6% of young refugees have never felt as if they are subject to exclusion. 51.4% state that they have felt as if they are subject to exclusion at least once during their stay in Turkey. When percentages are checked over in detail, the percentage of those who are subject to the perception of exclusion is lower in Ankara and Izmir compared to two other sample provinces.

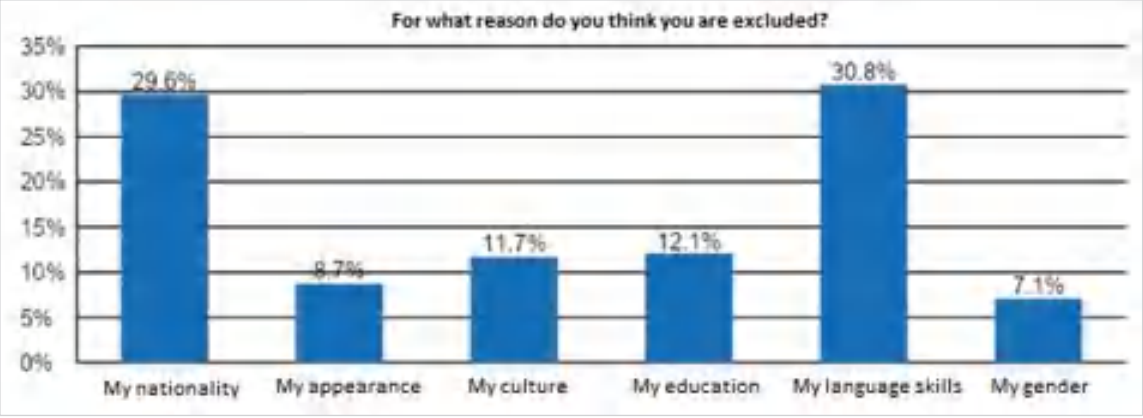
Graphic 42



Young refugees state that health is the primary area that leads them to the perception of exclusion. But, prominence of health herein is somewhat remarkable. That's because many respondents attribute positive aspects to Turkey mostly to the right to access to the healthcare services and the provision of healthcare services. Thus, further clarification is maintained upon the in-depth conversation within the context of the focus group interviews. To young refugees, *"exclusion"* is not solely associated with an attitude of community. *"Exclusion"* can also be characterized with the impact of concerns about full self-competency or failure in terms of adaption due to some issues depending on themselves. Within the context of focus group interviews, *"language barrier based challenges"* are indicated as the principal reason for the perception of exclusion in healthcare services. Therefore, *"exclusion"* may be defined in a very comprehensive way, and does not necessarily refer to the exclusion by the host community, but it is required to lay particular emphasis on the situation of *"staying out"* which can also be perceived as exclusion due to its relevance with needs occurring during the cohesion process of refugees. With a weight of 7.9%, the exclusion caused by language barriers bursts into prominence as an independent item.

For young refugees declaring to be excluded in professional life, exclusion factors can be split into specific groups according to the topics highlighted during focus group studies. These factors are similar to those discussed within the context of the section hereof related to the employment. In this respect, relevant element can be briefly specified as *"language barrier caused by lacking adequate Turkish language skills", "unequal wages",* and *"insufficiency of formal employment opportunities."*

Graphic 43



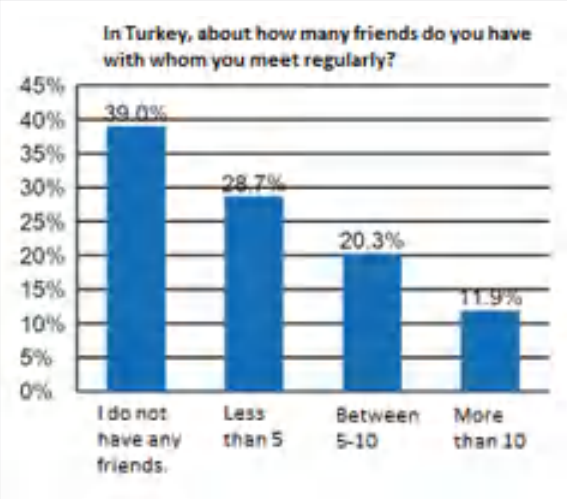
When they are asked about the reason for the perception of exclusion, the predominant answer appears to be language skills with a ratio of 30.8%. Nationality (29.6%), culture (11.7%), level of education (12.1%), physical appearance (8.8%) and gender (7.1%) come right after it.

"For cohesion, it is not enough to step in Turkey. It takes 1 year at least. Because there is a major barrier. Language. It is not always possible to determine course hours by taking our working and school hours into account." (O., Male, 18 years old, has been living in Hatay for 5 years.)

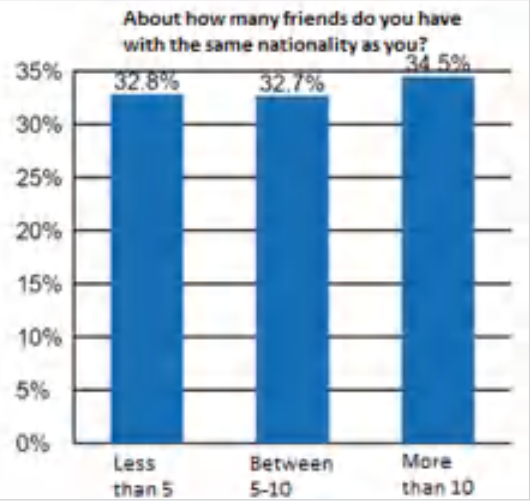
4.2. Communication with Turkish Youth and Society

"I want to avoid of any generalization. I have friends, but this depends on what you mean by friendship. To me, there are friends who are and who are not close. It has not relevance with being a Turkish or Syrian. Friendship depends upon mindsets..."
(H., Male, 21 years old, Syrian, has been living in Diyarbakir for 3 years.)

Graphic 44



Graphic 45



39% of young respondents do not have any Turkish friends. On the other hand, 28.7% of respondents declare to have 5 or fewer Turkish friends with regular contact, and they rather have contact with their own nationals as friends. In this respect, social distance is escalated as a result. When respondents are asked about associated reasons within focus group interviews, it is expressed that *"failing to integrate into education system also has an adverse impact on making friends"*, but the principal factor is reflected as *"preventive impact of lacking proper Turkish language skills on making Turkish friends on the basis of comprehensive relations."*

"If you ask me if I have integrated myself. The answer is both yes and no. If you ask this related to my professional life, then yes. But rather than the professional life, I do not have any ties with the community. I could never make friends. I have some acquaintances, but not any friends" (A., Male, 30 years old, Syrian, has been living in Ankara for 5 years).

Lacking adequate Turkish language skills comes out to be a major obstacle to making Turkish friends. Within the context of focus group interviews, the number of those who set forth that they could not get into communication with Turks directly due to the perception of exclusion is almost equal to those who consider that their relationship remains superficial and they couldn't get into communication with Turkish youth because of the language barrier.

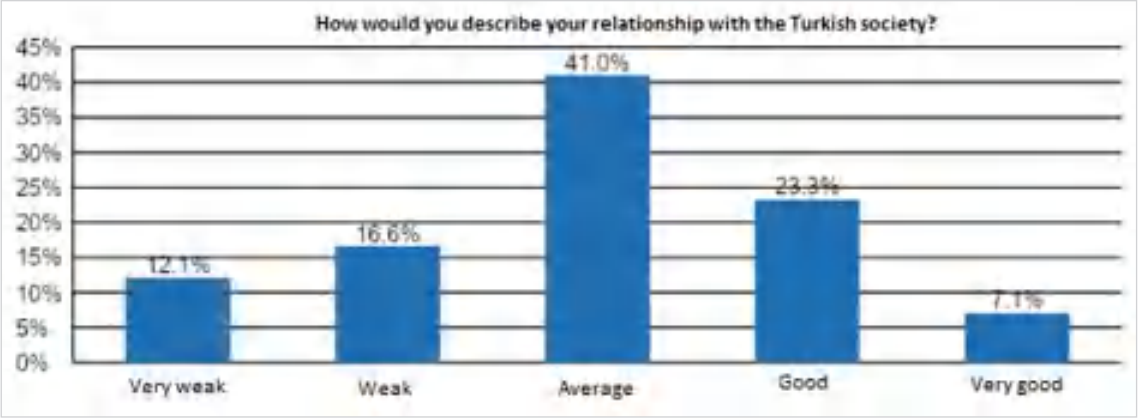
"I have Turkish friends, yet number of my Syrian friends is higher. Some Turkish young people treat on a friendly footing though I am not good at Turkish language." (M., Male, 18 years old, Syrian, has been living in Hatay for 3 years.)

In focus group interviews, many young refugees reflect that they can make Turkish friends and socialize by means of Youth Centers.

In these interviews, another notable point is *"the fear of making a mistake"* within the context of questions related to the communication. Some of them state that they have difficulties to build up a healthy relationship with Turkish young people *"because of their fear of being subject to exclusion in case of making a mistake."*

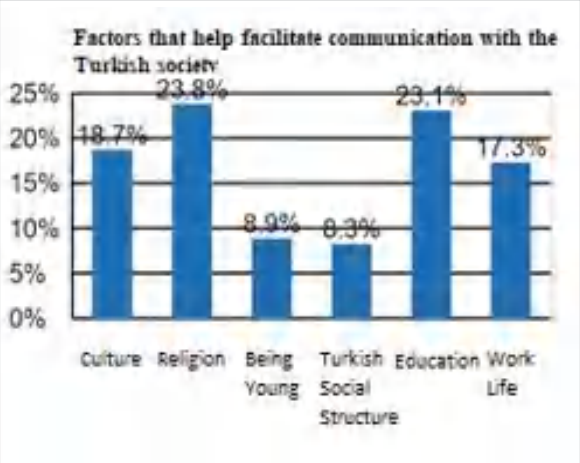
"I hardly communicate with them. I have some Arabic-speaking Turkish friends, but I am internally torn by being excluded in case of creating a problem". ." (O., Male, 18 years old, Syrian, has been living in Hatay for 1,5 years.)

Graphic 46

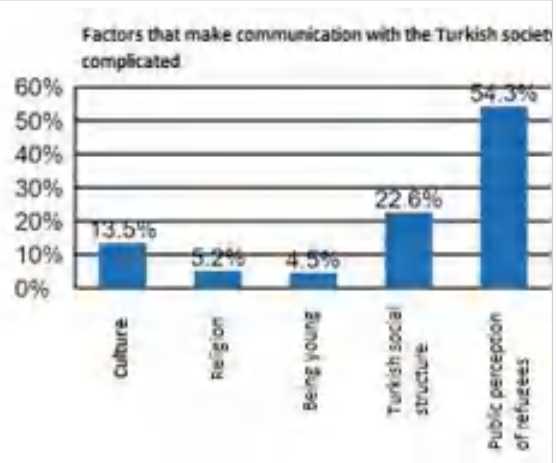


While 41% of young refugees characterize communication level with Turkish society as *"moderate"*, in sum almost 30% of them specify it as either *"poor"* or *"very poor"*. On the other hand, 30.4% of them think that their level of relationship with Turkish society is either *"good"* or *"very good"*.

Graphic 47

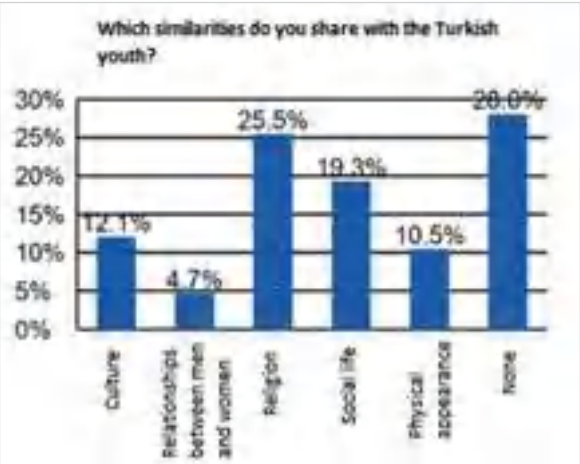


Graphic 48

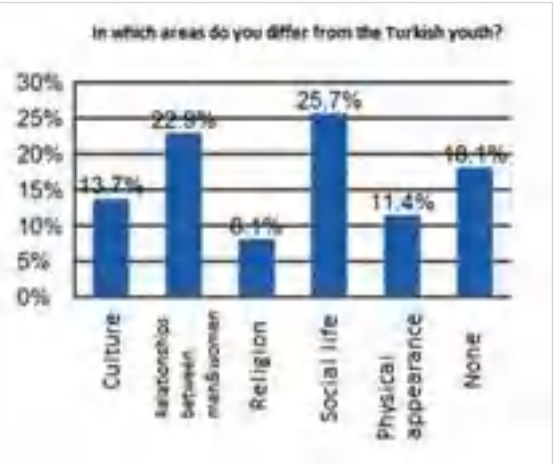


Religion, education,culture, professional life,being young, and Turkish social structure are respectively listed as factors facilitating communication with Turkish society in accordance with the order of priorities. *"Public perception of refugees"* comes out as the main complicating item with a ratio around 55%. This item is followed by *"Turkish social structure", "culture", "religion "and "being young". "Turkish social structure"* is identified both as a *"facilitating and complicating item."* But it is predominantly referred as a complicating item.

Graphic 49



Graphic 50

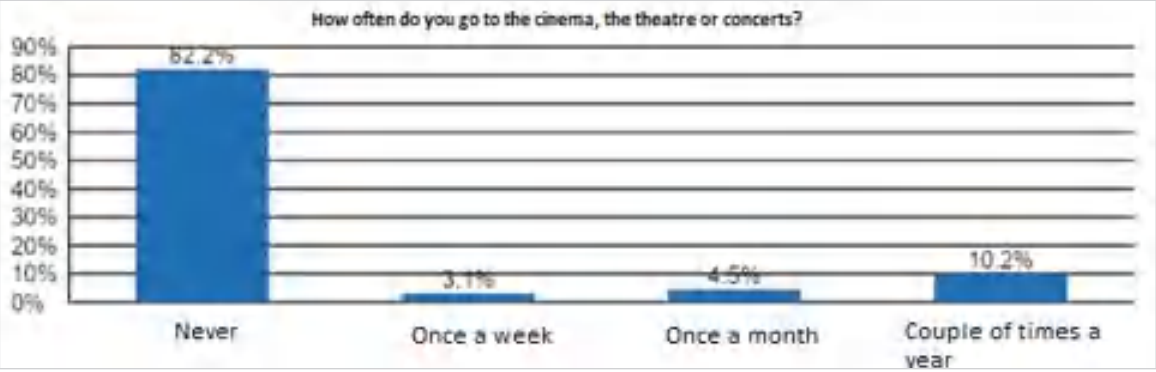


Young refugees consider that they are mostly similar to Turkish young people in terms of religion (25.5%). But those who think there are not any similarities available are ranked first among responses addressed for the question related to similarities (28%).

Among topics linked with similarity; *"social life", "culture"* and *"physical appearance"* come after the religion, whereas the lowest level of similarity is represented within the scope of *"relations between women and men"* (4.7%). Only 18.1% of young refugees set forth that there are not any differences between them and Turkish young people. Respondents who are of the opinion that there are some differences lay emphasis on *"social life"* (25.7%) and *"relations between women and men"*(22.9%) as the most distinctive differences.

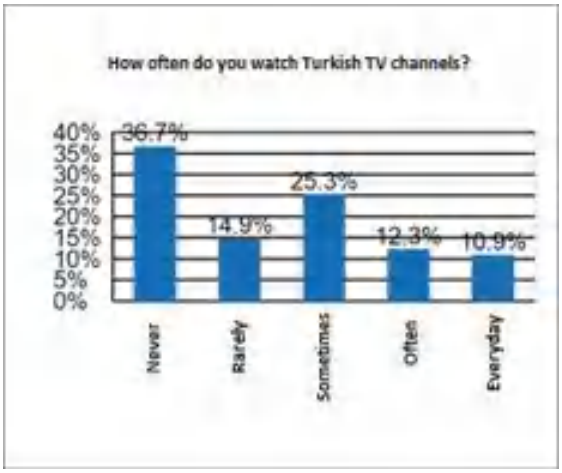
4.3. Social Media - Principal Contact Point for Youth

Graphic 51

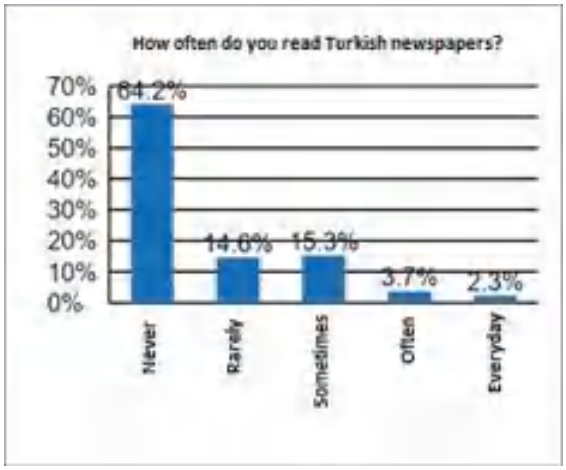


Over 80% of young refugees do not go to cinemas, concerts or theaters. The ratio of those who tell that they go to such places once a month is just 4.5%.

Graphic 52

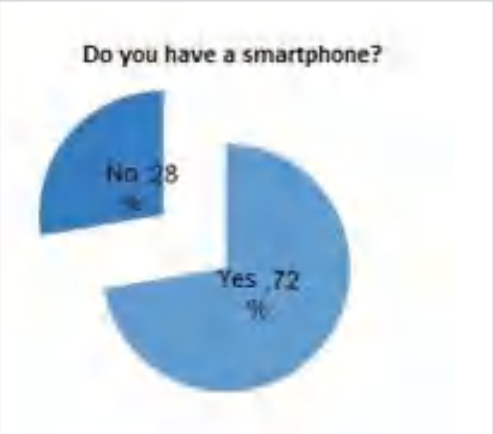


Graphic 53

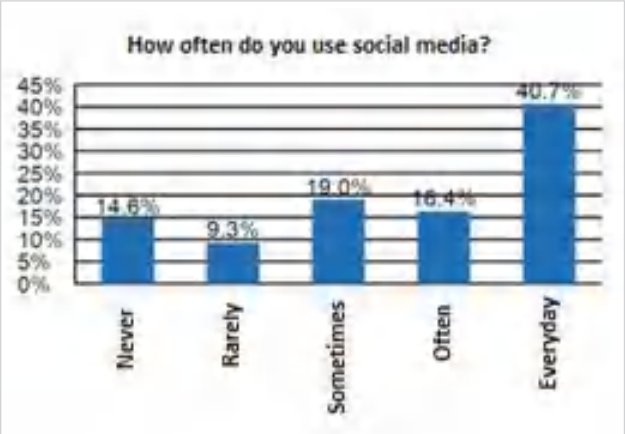


The ratio of those who tell that *"They never read Turkish newspapers"* is 64.2%. On the other hand, 36.7'% of them never watch Turkish television channels.

Graphic 54



Graphic 55



However, 72% of them has a smartphone andover 40% of them make use of social media communication tools every day, whereas 16.4% of them frequently use those though not every day. 19% of them state that they use social media from time to time. Only 14.6% of young refugee respondents tell that they have never used social media.

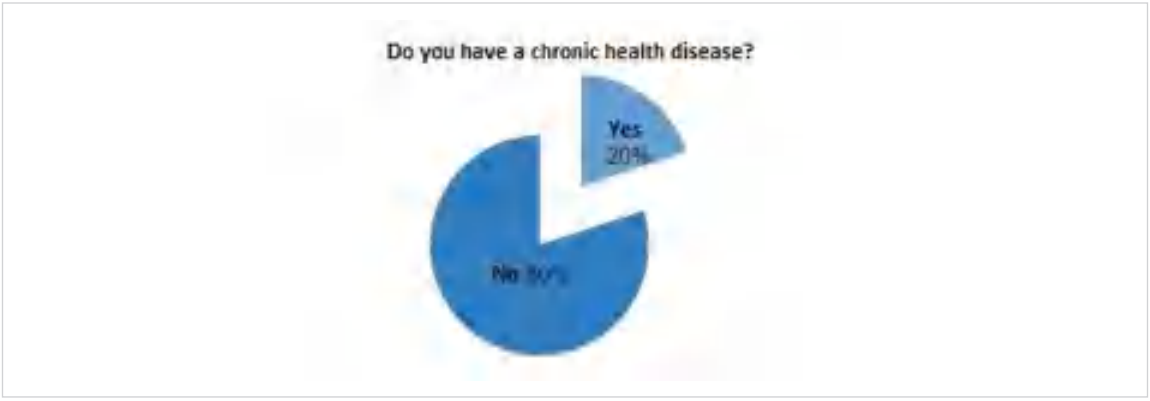
On the basis of such data, it is possible to figure out that digital technologies and smart phone applications can be used as a prominent and strategical platform for both accessing and providing service to young refugees and enable them to communicate with the Turkish youth, and accordingly to know each other, and in case of such practices, it indicatively seems possible to expand the outreach for NGOs and public institutions working for refugees.

PART 5:
HEALTH

Among all other services, healthcare services are considered to be the most satisfactory by Syrians under temporary protection in Turkey. Displaced refugees are vulnerable in terms of health, and thus have several relevant needs as a group. In this report, status and access to services are considered to be different for Syrians under temporary protection and other refugee populations within the context of services particularly including those associated with healthcare, and some specific results are reviewed separately for the Syrians and other refugees to analyze the related difference. However, general problems of young refugees aged 15-30 are intended to be addressed rather than a suchlike difference in parallel with the purpose and objectives of the study.

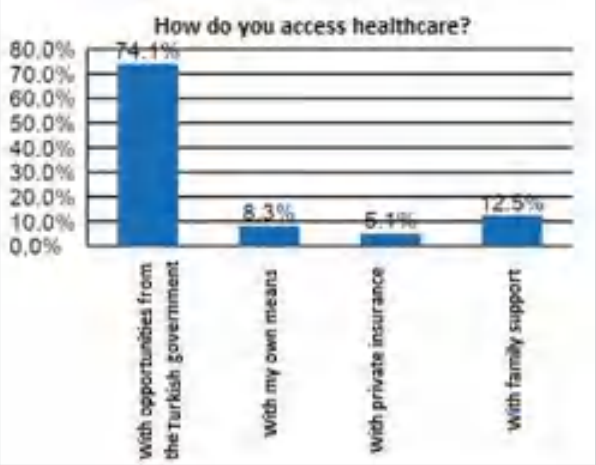
5.1. Processes

Graphic 56

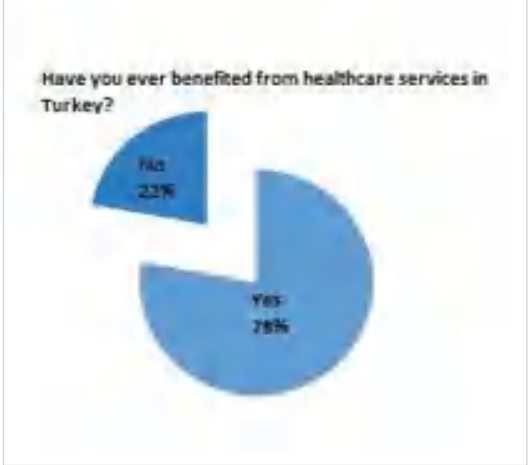


On the basis of the field survey, it comes out that one fifth of young refugees are diagnosed with a chronic health problem. Though such a percentage appears to be quiet high for a young group, it is required to avoid disregarding potentially multi-dimensional healthcare needs of this group which had fled from the conflict zone, and the data are also consistent with such an understanding. In addition, living conditions may also scale such challenges up. For example, the study sets forth that 61.1% of young refugees think that they are deprived of healthy nutrition.

Graphic 57

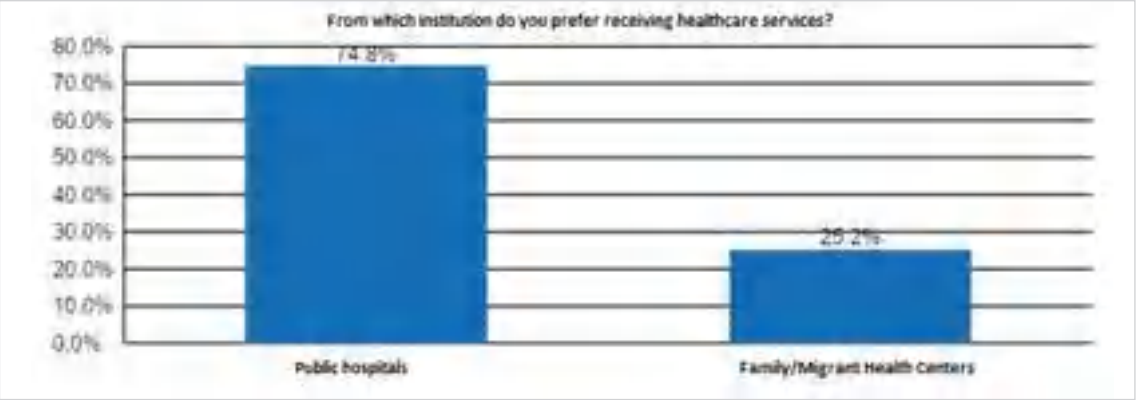


Graphic 58



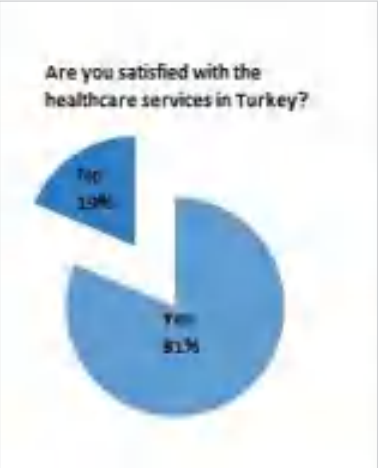
78% of young refugees have benefited from healthcare services in Turkey at least once. If considered in general terms, 74.1% of them state that they provide access to healthcare services by the *"opportunities offered by the Turkish government"*, whereas family support, own means, and private insurance are referred respectively by 12.5%, 8.3% and5.1% of them. However, a detailed analysis of available data demonstrates that the ratio of accessibility by non-state means in Turkey is 25% for non-Syrian young refugees within the context of healthcare services, whereas the same ratio is 46% for Syrian young refugees.

Graphic 59

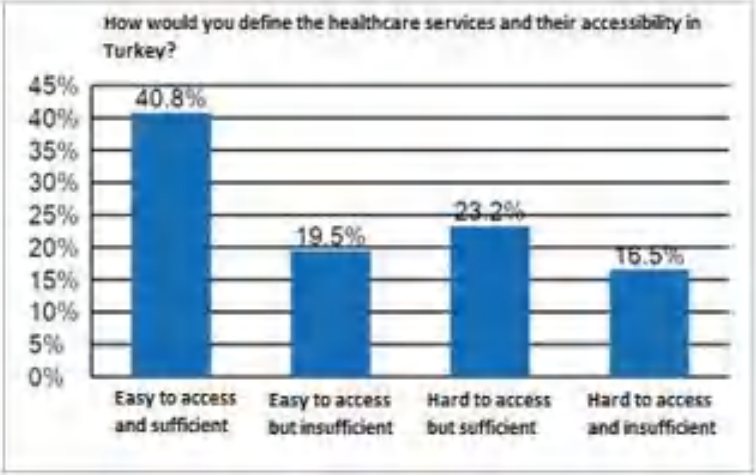


For receiving such services, 74,8% of young refugees mainly prefer public hospitals, whereas 25.2% of them prefer Migrant Health Centers.

Graphic 60



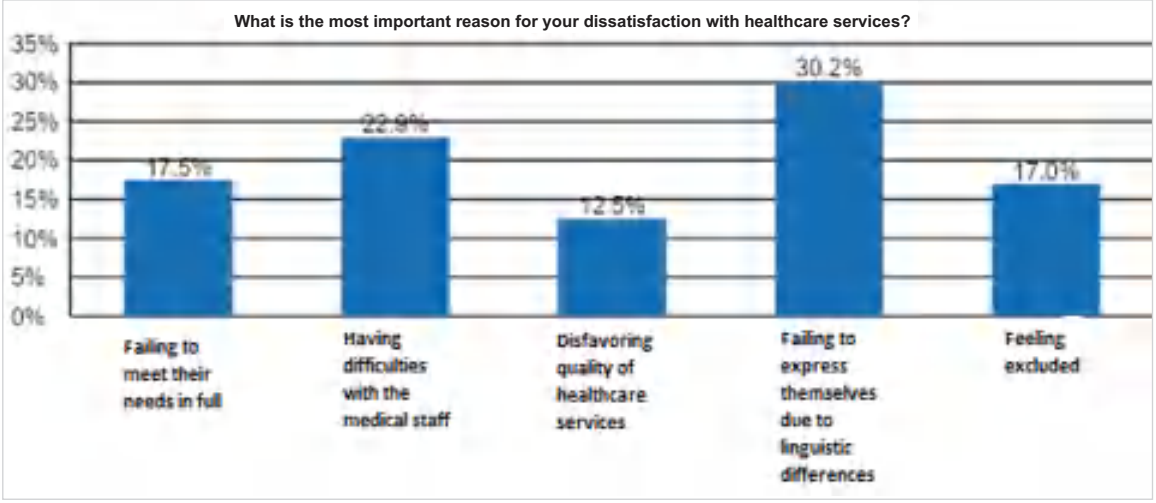
Graphic 61



They are highly satisfied with healthcare services, and 81% of them express that they are satisfied with such services. According to the general opinion, healthcare services are considered to be adequate. 40.8% of young refugees define access to health services in Turkey as *"easy and adequate"*. Whereas, 23.2% of them deem health services *"hard-to-access but adequate"*. Therefore, it becomes clear that services are deemed adequate, but the main concern hereof is related to access.

These data are interesting because it is also figured out that the healthcare field is also among those which are associated with the perception of exclusion by young refugees within the scope of answers addressing the previous questions of this study. Focus group interviews and statements of respondents set forth this problem related to access generally depends on the language barrier caused by lacking adequate Turkish language skills or completely lacking such skills as specified in previous sections hereof. Even though young refugees are satisfied with healthcare services, language barrier creates an obstacle to self-expression and thus can be considered to be an item related to access to services or exclusion.

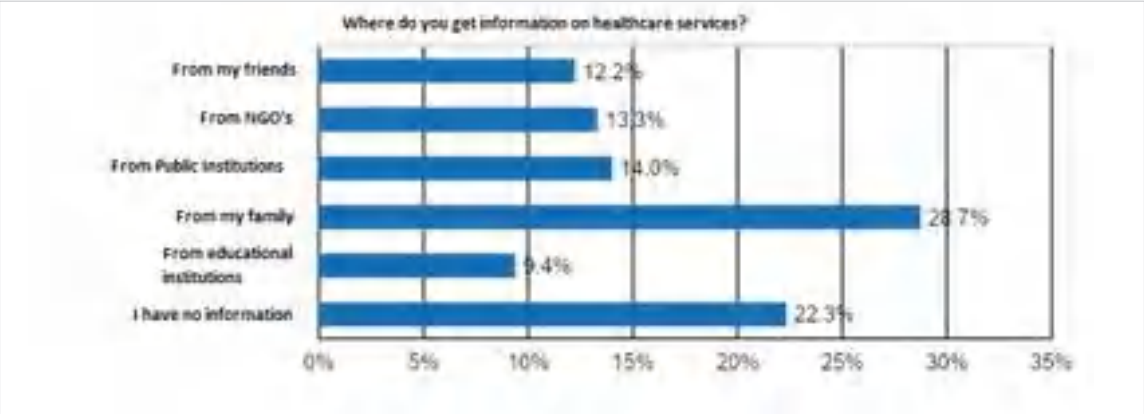
Graphic 62



This finding is also supported by the items specified as the reason of dissatisfaction by the relevant young refugees with regard to healthcare services. Almost 20% of them point out that they are not satisfied with healthcare services, and 30.2%, a considerably high percentage, of such respondents mention *"failing to express themselves because of linguistic differences"* as the number one reason hereof. The other reasons can be respectively listed as such: *"having difficulties with medical staff", "failing to meet their needs in full", "feeling excluded"* and *"disfavoring quality of healthcare services"*.

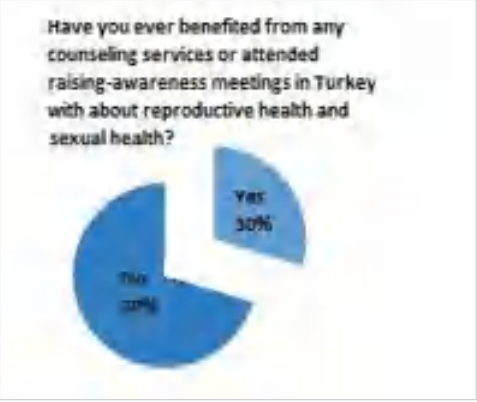
5.2. Information Resources

Graphic 63

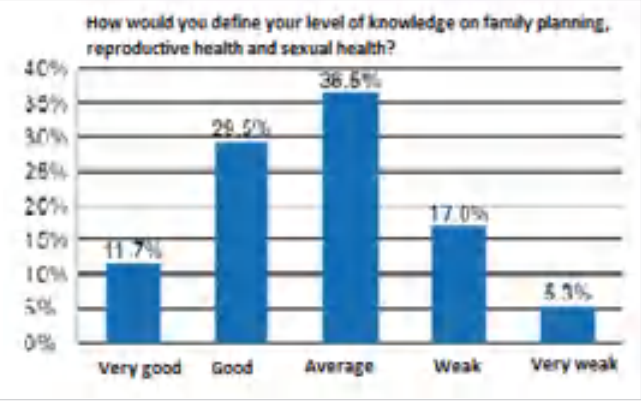


Information resources of young refugees are of capital importance to provide solutions to problems associated with access to services. When they are asked about the most common way of accessing information regarding healthcare, almost 30% of respondents address *"the families as the source of information."* Public institutions, NGOs,friends, and educational institutions serve almost identically as a source of information in this field whereas 22.3% of respondents tell that they lack any relevant sources of information. On the basis of such data, it is clearly observed that awareness sessions and counseling turn into highly important and necessary services with regard to healthcare.

Graphic 64



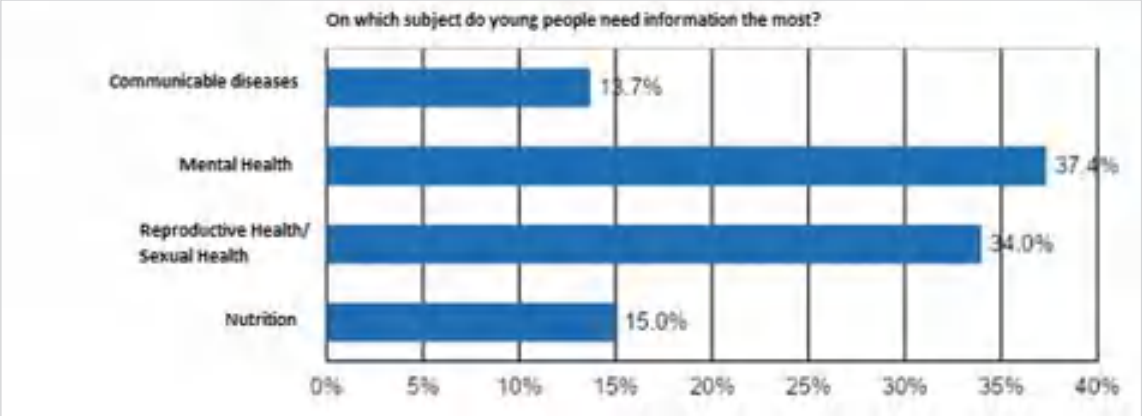
Graphic 65



5.3. Healthcare Needs

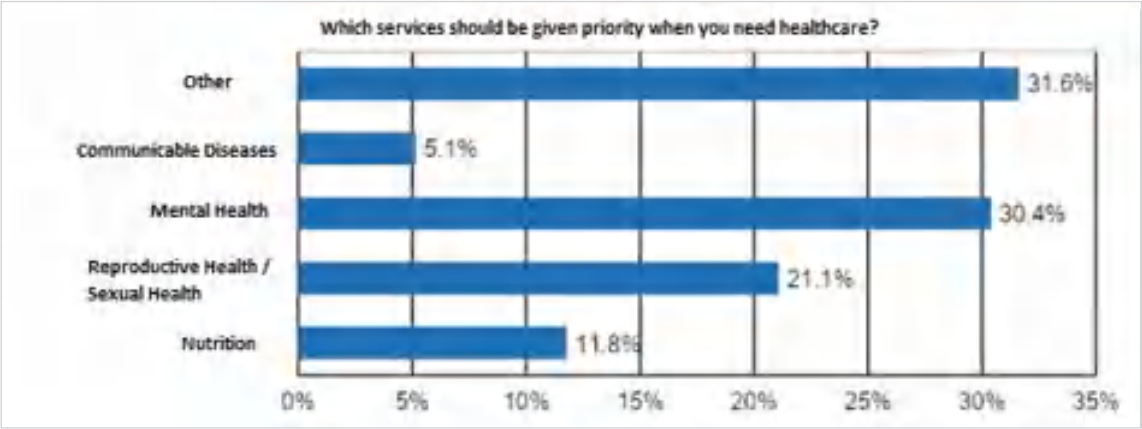
When they are asked whether or not to benefit from any counseling services or attending raising-awareness meetings in Turkey with regard to reproductive health and sexual health as well as family planning, a high ratio of young refugees corresponding to 70% of them state that they have never participated in such an event. In sum, around 60% of young refugees are of the opinion that their level of knowledge is *"either medium or lower (poor or very poor)"* with regard to family planning, reproductive health, and sexual health. Almost 34.6% of them lack any information about the designated entity to file an application in case of any likewise problems.

Graphic 66



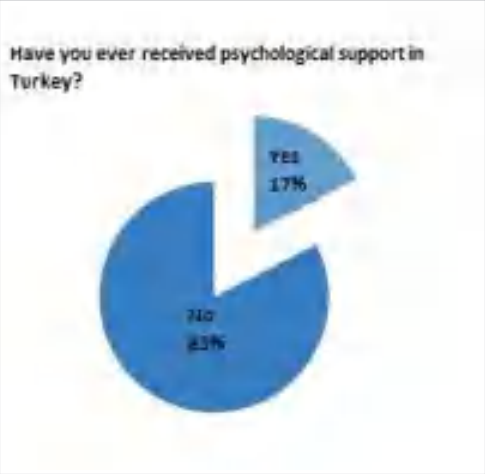
37.4% of young refugees think that they are mostly in need of *"psychological support/mental health"* in the healthcare sector, and almost a similar portion of them thinks that what they primarily require is *"reproductive health/sexual health"* support with a ratio of 34%. Though they are not as much of a concern with others, *"nutrition"* and *"communicable diseases"* are also issues that are characterized by the need for health-related counseling on the basis of their percentages (%) which are 15 and 13.7 respectively.

Graphic 67

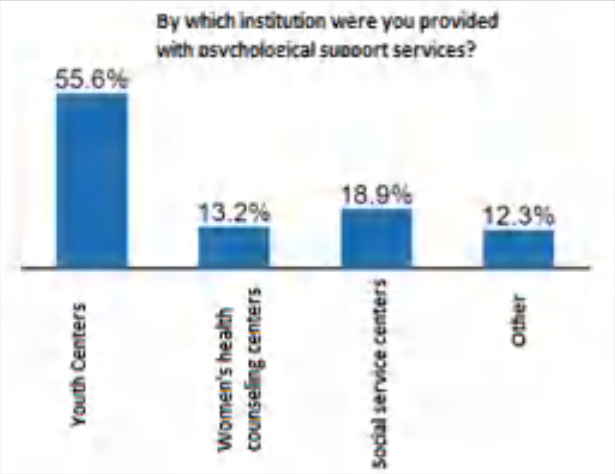


Primary healthcare services that they need are also consistent with responses served for previously asked questions, and they are predominantly specified as *"psychological support", "reproductive health", "nutrition"* and "others" in succession. Having a high proportion, *"others"* option is composed of topics such as general knowledge of health, herbal therapies, moral support sessions, services for those living with disabilities, neurological diseases, and heart health.

Graphic 68

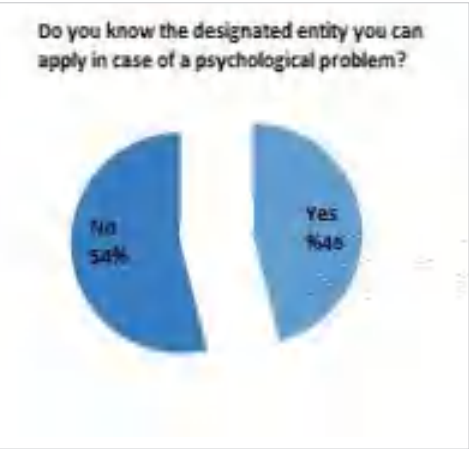


Graphic 69

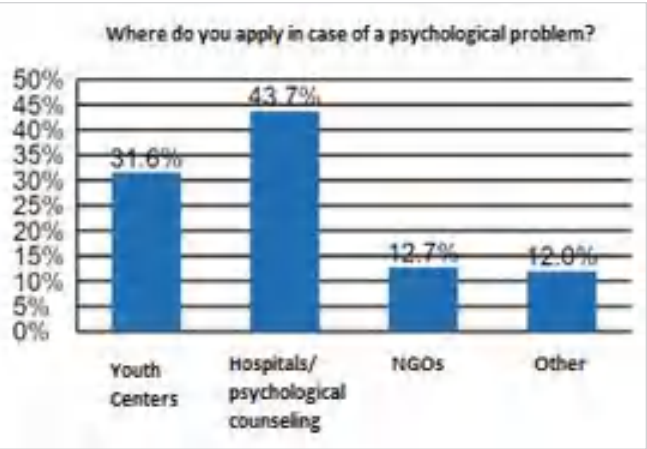


Though psychological support and need are predominantly emphasized by young refugees, only 17% of them declare to be provided with psychological support in Turkey. 55.6% of this quantitatively restricted group state that they have been provided such services by youth centers. Among other primary service providers, it is possible to list women's health counseling centers and social service centers for the youth whereas those who serve a response under the option *"others"* address institutions like UNICEF, Red Crescent, YUVA as well as psychological support and guidance service at schools, private doctor and/or private institution as service providers of a likewise support.

Graphic 70

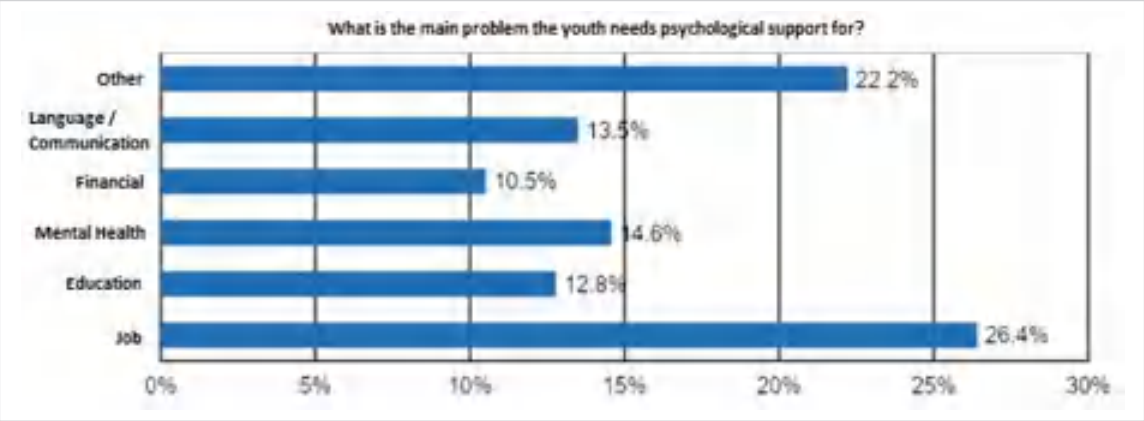


Graphic 71



54% of young refugees are not familiar with the designated entity to apply in case of a psychological problem. When responses of those reflecting to be knowledgeable in this respect are taken into account, not only answers expected to be prominent such as hospital and psychological counselors, but also youth centers and NGOs are addressed as significant points of counseling. Among other options, healthcare centers, social service centers and friends are also specified.

Graphic 72



Finally, when young refugees are asked about the matters for which psychological support is needed, the respondents predominantly speak of *"job"* (26.4%) as the major factor. In addition, respondents respectively mention *"mental health in general", "language/communication problems", "education", "financial problems"* as the most relevant items. Other significant items are listed as trauma, sorrow, phobias, failure in self-development, dependency, and poverty within the scope of issues triggering the need for psychological support.

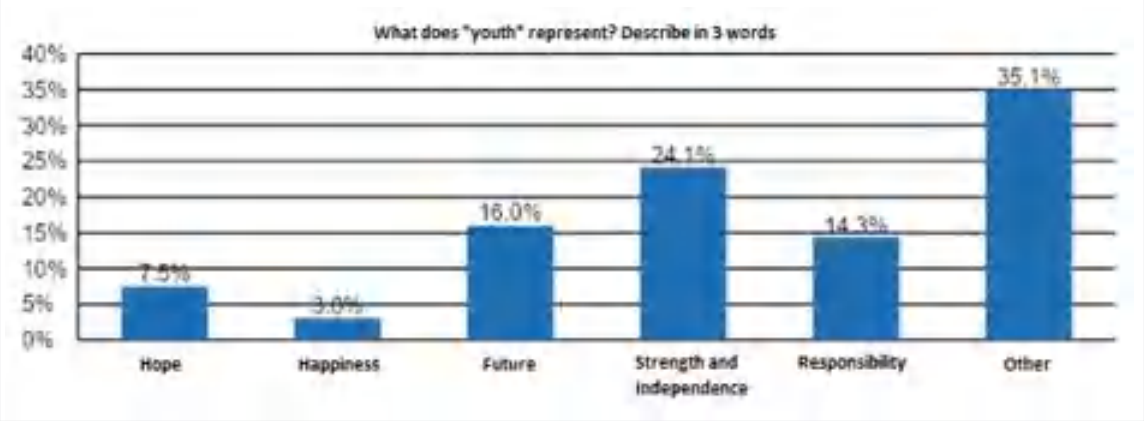
PART 6:
LIFE AND FUTURE in TURKEY

6.1. Youth - The Forgotten Identity

Since youth is the main focus of this study, the definition and perception of the youth are also of capital importance regarding the key research inquiries. On the basis of the research process and the whole of interviews, it comes out that young refugees do not consider being young as a complementary element of their identity, and youth is of secondary importance as an identity for most of the young refugee respondents within the context of this research study. Even in focus group interviews, it is observed that young refugees focus on other dimensions of problems although each of them is asked about *"his/her opinion as a young person"*.

"Youth is the most attracting stage of a life. However, we are deprived of tasting the youth because of the war. After the war, some families had their daughters married; and their sons could not continue their education. This is not consistent with how youth should be. Even the youngest could not attend the school due to financial conditions. Our elders can look back on their own youth pleasantly from time to time. Well, we will lack such a reminiscence in the future." (R., Female, 25 years old, Syrian, has been living in Ankara for 4 years.)

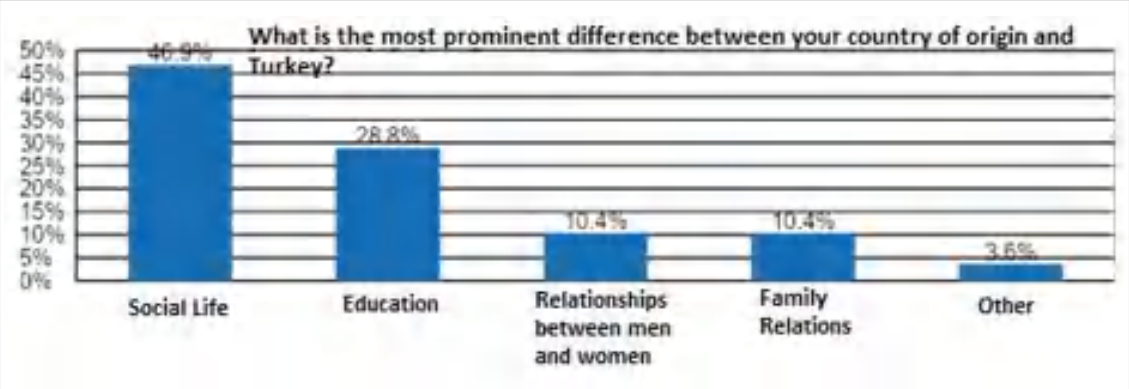
Graphic 73



Youth represents *"strength and independence"* for 24.1% of young refugees. Whereas, it means **"future"** for 16%, *"responsibility"* for 14.3%, *"hope"* for 7.5% and *"happiness"* for only 3% of them. Among topics mentioned under the heading *"other"*, and deemed to identify the youth, it is possible to make mention of "learning, education, active social participation, taking the first step forward, self-confidence, singleness, freedom, producing."

Graphic 74

Graphic 75



When young refugees are asked about major differences between their countries of origin and Turkey, they lay emphasize on *"social life"* (46.9%), "education" (28.8%)and *"relations between women and men"*(10.4%) and *"family relations"* (10.4%) as the most distinctive differences.

6.2. Needs as a "Young person"

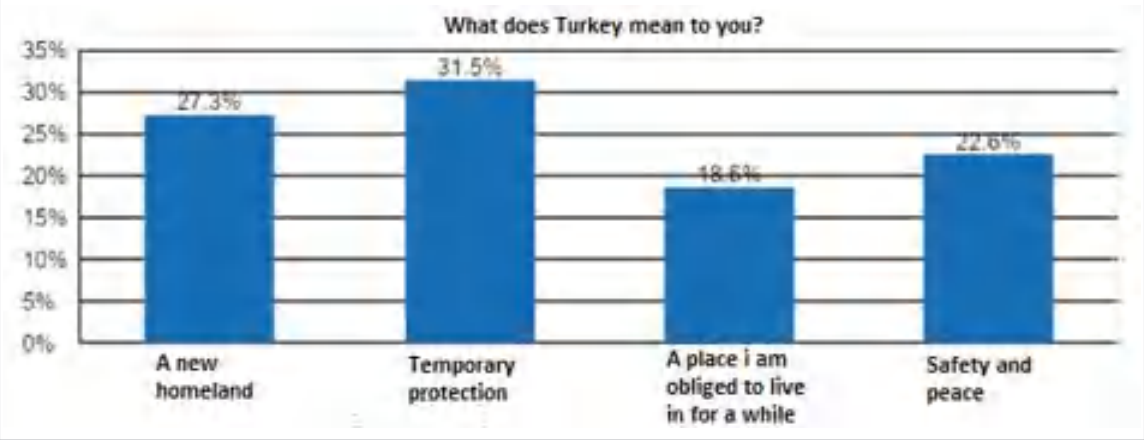
When each respondent is asked about *"his/her needs as a young person"* within the context of focus group studies, it comes out that most common needs are ranked as education, money, job, developing and using their talents, traveling, advance Turkish language skills, socialization, love and to be loved. Another prominent need is to *"make use of their educational background and skills acquired in their countries of origin."* Especially, *"not being able to present documents"* appears as an obstacle to proving their previous professional experience and skills as well as educational background.

Education and making money are defined as contradictory needs.

"I want to weight my mind off. We fled away from the conflict zone. I always suffer from anxiety regarding familial, professional needs and so forth. I want to feel fully like a Turkish citizen, but not like a refugee." . (İ., Male, 21 years old, Syrian, has been living in Hatay for 7 years.)

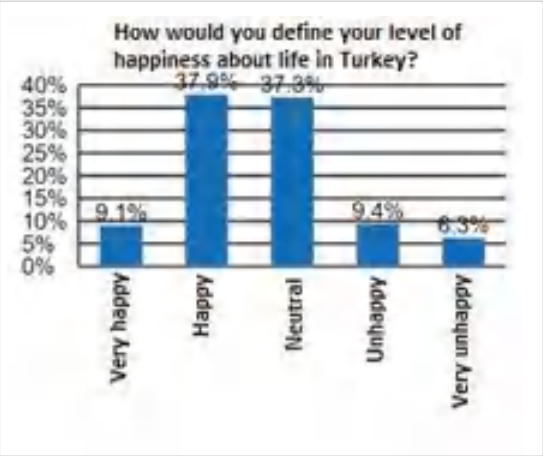
6.3. Living in Turkey

Graphic 76

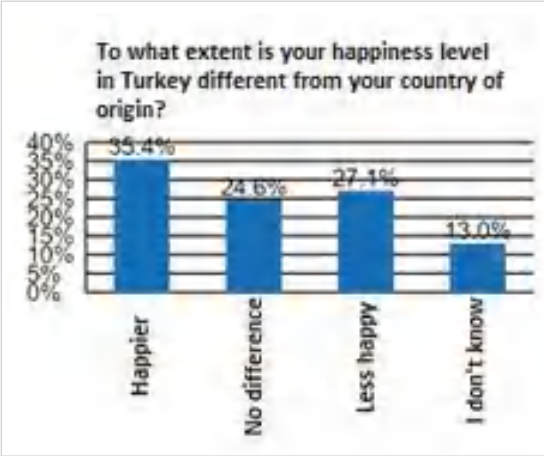


Turkey implies *"temporary protection"* for 31.5% of young refugees, and *"a new homeland"* for 27.3% of them. While Turkey means *"security and peace"* for 22.6% of young refugees, it is described as *"somewhere where they are obliged to live for a while"* by 18.6% of them.

Graphic 77



Graphic 78



47% of respondents define their level of happiness about their lives in Turkey either as *"happy"* or *"very happy"*. The total ratio of those declaring to be unhappy is not so high. However, 37.3% of them prefer to make a self-description by saying *"I am neither happy nor unhappy"*. When they are asked about to what extent their lives in Turkey is different from their lives in their countries of origin, 35.4% of them state that they are happier in Turkey, whereas 25% of them express that it doesn't make any difference.

6.4. Positive and Negative Factors

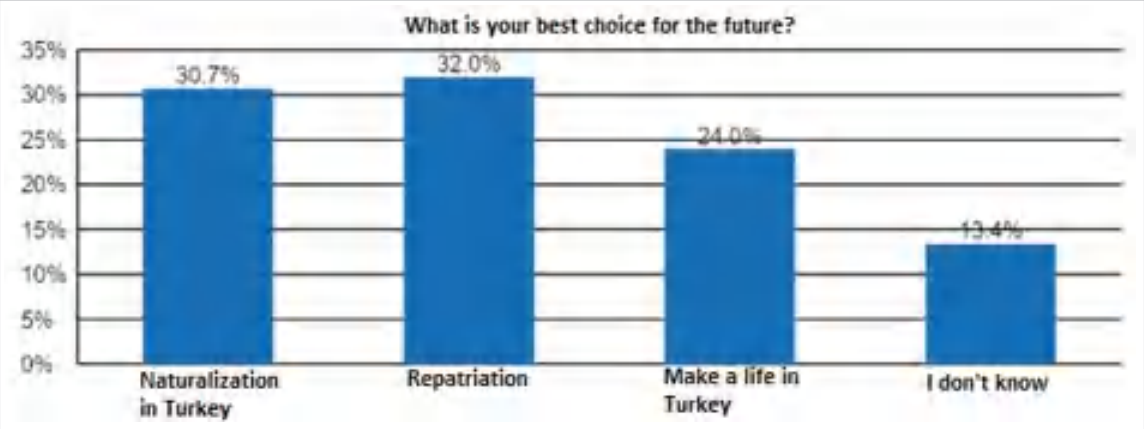
"Healthcare services provided", "rights offered for women (i.e., marriage is legally banned before the age of 18)", "lower level of social and familial pressure compared to their countries of origin", "services offered in accommodation centers" and *"vocational training opportunities"* are positive factors which are mostly expressed during focus group interviews with regard to living in Turkey.

"As Syrians, we were welcomed quiet better by Turkey compared to other countries. You are stuck in camps while living in other countries. Since my first arrival, I have been in the middle of the natural flow of life here." (M., Male, 18 years old, Syrian, has been living in Hatay for 3 years".)

Among the most expressed negative factors, it is possible to list *"being unevenly treated while renting an apartment and seeking a job", "job-wage imbalance", "total dependence of work permit processes to the employer"* and *"unwillingness of employer for providing insurance coverage", "obstacles caused by insufficient language skills", "challenges with regard to certification",* and accordingly *"lacking the opportunity to be employed in their own professional fields", "bureaucracy", "prejudices"* and *"generalizations about Syrians".*

6.5. Youth and Future

Graphic 79



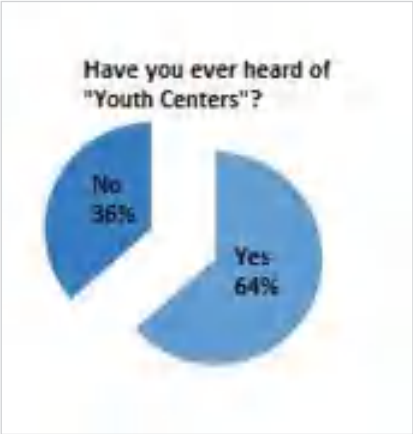
It comes out that the percentages of those *"who are in favor of repatriation"* and those *"who are in favor of naturalization in Turkey"* are almost equal to each other. Such kind of data becomes even more relevant when we take into account that the percentages of those who assume Turkey as a *"country offering protection temporarily"* and those who consider it as a *"new homeland"* are close to each other. 24% of them consider that their best choice for the future is to make a life for themselves in Turkey under any circumstances.

PART 7:
YOUTH CENTERS

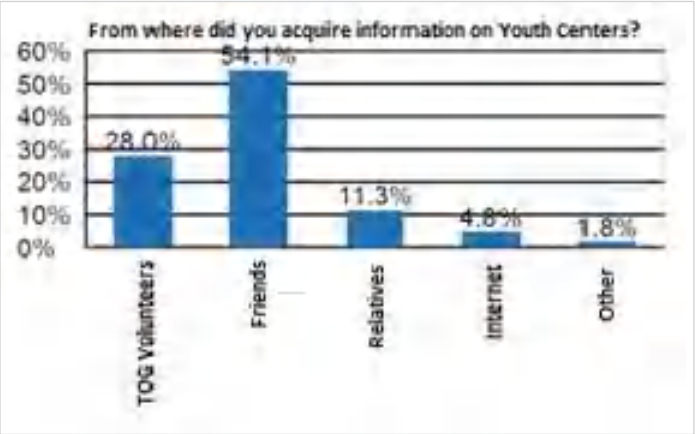
Support to Young Refugees Program is an empowerment project funded by UNFPA Turkey Office and conducted jointly by Community Volunteers Foundation and Youth Approaches to Health Association (Y-Peer Turkey) in Turkey, and it is designed to empower young Syrian refugees aged between 15 and 30 in provinces of Ankara, Diyarbakır, Hatay and Izmir and provide them with healthcare and psychological support services. It is hereof intended to measure the level of knowledge, modes of utilization, satisfaction, and demands of young refugees with regard to youth centers as the target group of this research study. Therefore, relevant needs are henceforth described depending on the field survey. Even though questions are structured in such a way that focuses on youth centers, useful data are made available for similar centers and organizations aiming to organize activities.

7.1. Benefiting from Youth Centers

Graphic 80

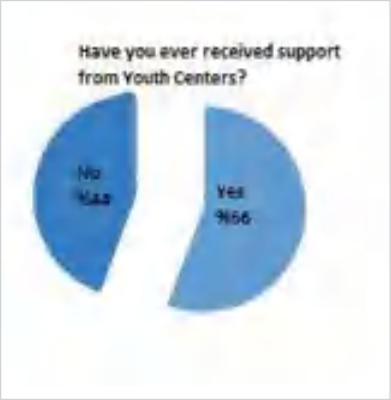


Graphic 81

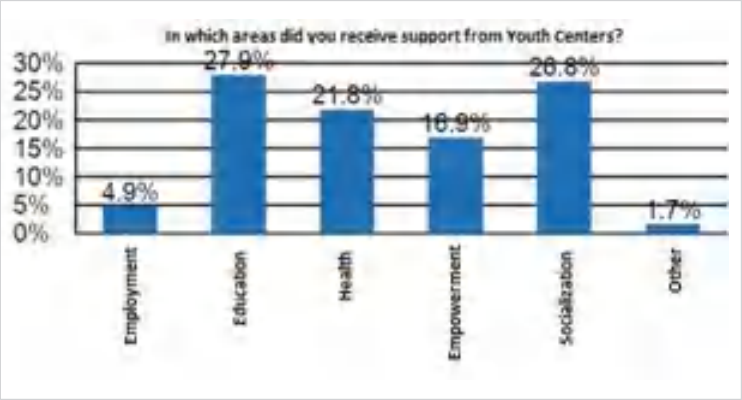


In this research study, it comes out that youth centers becomes more recognizable day by day for young refugees in cities taken as samples. 64% of respondents have heard about Youth Centers previously. More than half of them hear about youth centers from their friends (54.1%) whereas 28% of them are kept informed by volunteers of Community Volunteers Foundation. While *"relatives"* are also mentioned by some respondents as agents hereof with regard to youth centers and their activities, web page is just highlighted by 4.8% of respondents and thus not specified among information resources as much as expected.

Graphic 82



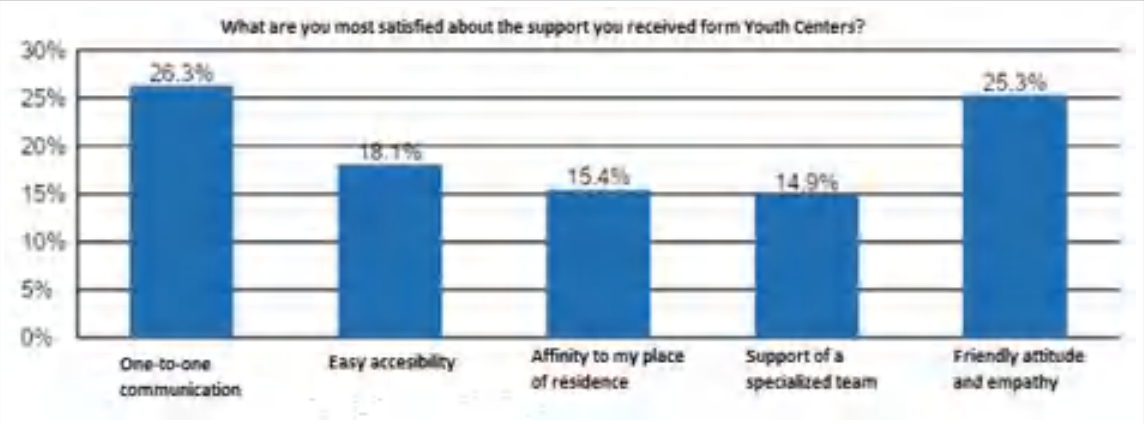
Graphic 83



More than half of young refugees (56%) benefit from services offered by youth centers at least once. The most commonly received supports are for education, socialization, health, empowerment, and employment. The weight of employment is 4.9% which is apparently lower than in other areas.

7.2. Services Deemed Satisfactory

Graphic 84

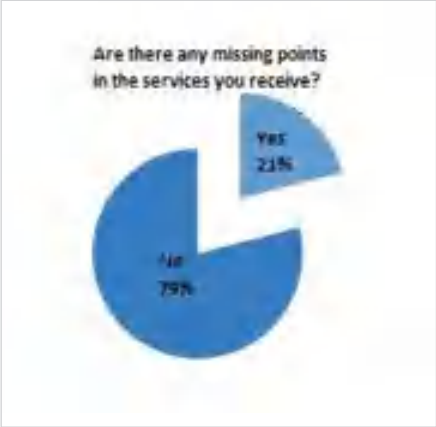


While receiving support, the most satisfactory item is *"a reliable and tolerant environment"* thanks to one-to-one communication. During all focus group interviews, it is particularly stated that *"team support is provided in parallel with a friendly attitude and by showing empathy."* Other items deemed to be satisfactory are *"easy accessibility", "affinity to the place of residence"* and *"provision of support by a specialized team."*

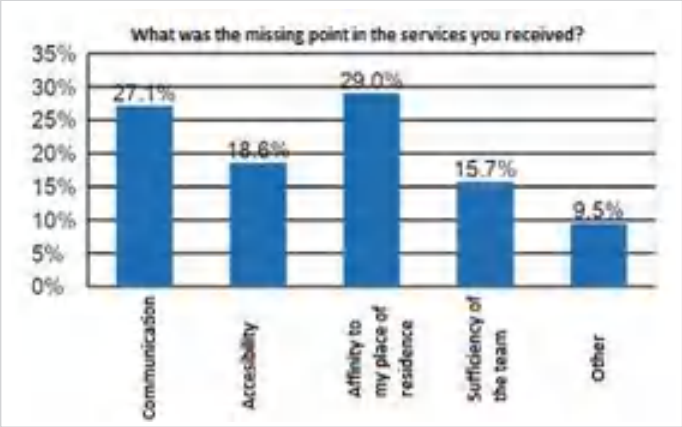
"I am highly satisfied. I assume people here as if my elder brothers and sisters. I wanted to transit to Europe from Turkey, but I changed my mind owing to them. Thanks to them, I stay here and enter the university. Thanks a lot." ." (H., Male, 21 years old, has been living in Diyarbakir for 3 years).

7.3. Services Deemed Inadequate

Graphic 85



Graphic 86



Almost 80% of those who receive services from youth centers think that the service is adequate and free of any missing points. One of the major issues is "distance to the place of residence" and *"providing access"* for those who think that the service is inadequate. In this respect, it is also possible to put some options to the agenda such as offering online service delivery for some certain services of youth centers and providing post-event accession to records and organizing some web-based events. Such an initiative has a potential to increase the number of beneficiaries given that a high percentage of young refugees own a smart phone although some main objectives of these centers such as socialization and mutual interaction might be downscaled to a certain extent.

"Communication" and *"team adequacy"* are also indicated among missing points. In parallel with the number of young refugees in Turkey, if we take the high amount of beneficiaries into account, it becomes evident that human resources of centers is required to be empowered to improve team adequacy. Other problematic issues are *"lacking further opportunities in fields of healthcare and language training"* and *"lacking sufficient support in terms of providing employment opportunities."*

Within focus group interviews, the strongest characteristics of youth centers are specified as an opportunity of socialization created, provision of psychological support, raising-awareness sessions, providing accompaniment and assistance while benefiting from healthcare services, and the competent and friendly attitude of working teams.

"When I first visited here. I felt that I started getting integrated with Turkish society. I learnt how to go to school thanks to guidance offered hereof. I keep attending Turkish language classes. They even support me to take an appointment from the hospital. I like being here." (R., Male, 23 years old, has been living in Ankara for 6 years)

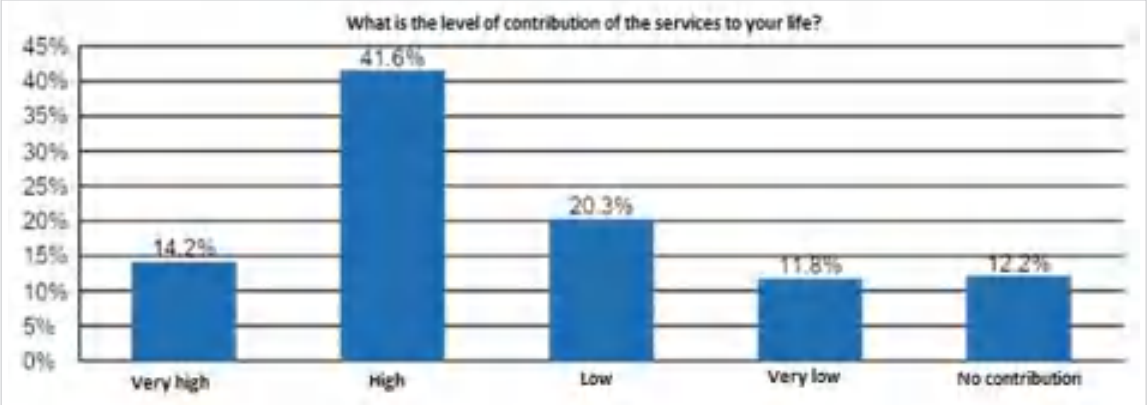
7.4. Demands

Requests from youth centers are mostly related with ***"launching new service areas."*** Consistent with the findings of questionnaires, it comes out that sports courses, football tournaments, picnic and recreational activities, language courses, musical instrument courses, museum and culture trips, computer trainings are also the most favorite areas according to the focus group interviews.

In addition, some young refugees particularly emphasize their need for further information and assistance with regard to ***"addiction"***. For centers, another commonly-expressed need and request are to ***"provide security of them continuously by means of security guards"***. Some young respondents put this issue forward so as to feel fully safe in centers thanks to the provision of such services.

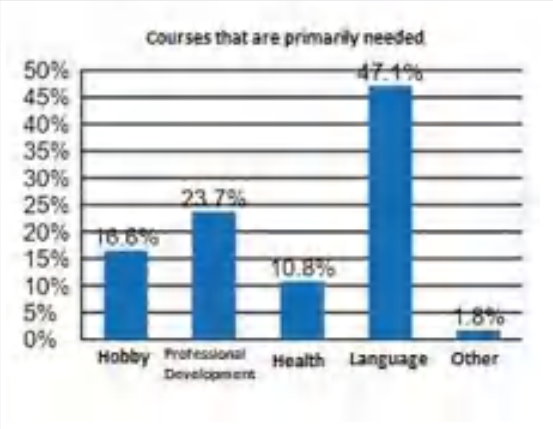
"Organizing trainings in different time intervals" and ***"keeping centers accessible in the evening"*** are also stated remarkably by respondents among their requests. It becomes apparent that ***"evening sessions"*** or ***"online sessions"*** are strongly emphasized for offering a remedy to those who can't attend daytime activities because of being either in school or at work.

Graphic 87

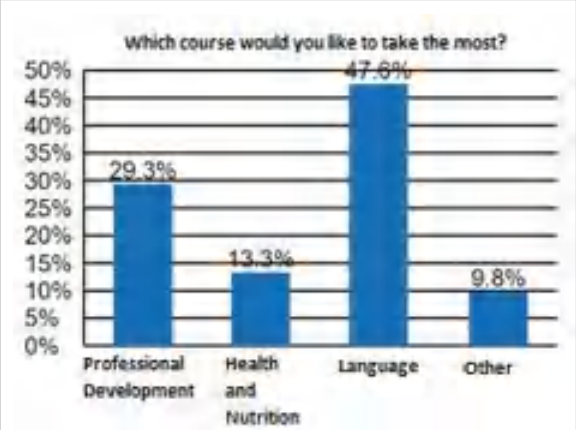


In sum, almost 60% of young refugees are of the opinion that the contribution of services offered by youth centers is either *"high"* or *"very high"* for themselves. Besides, this study also puts forth that diversification is highly demanded for services of centers.

Graphic 88

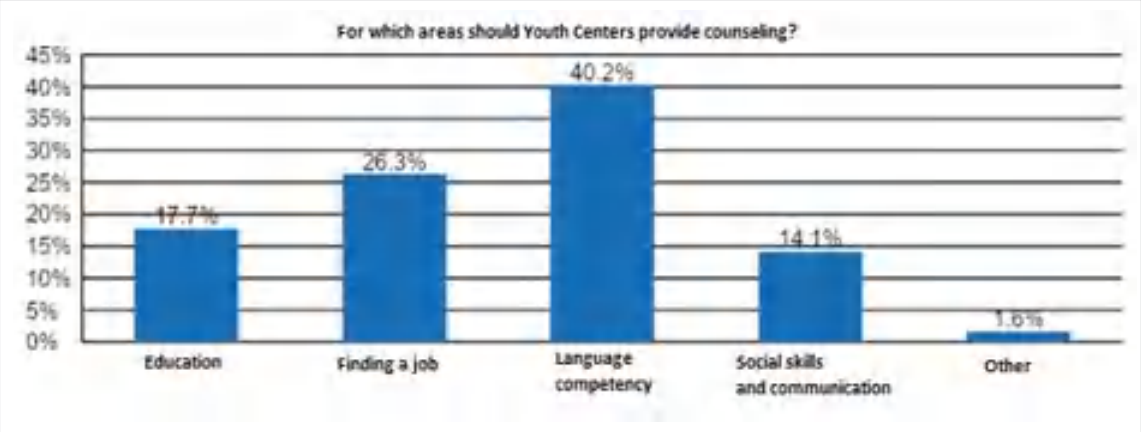


Graphic 89



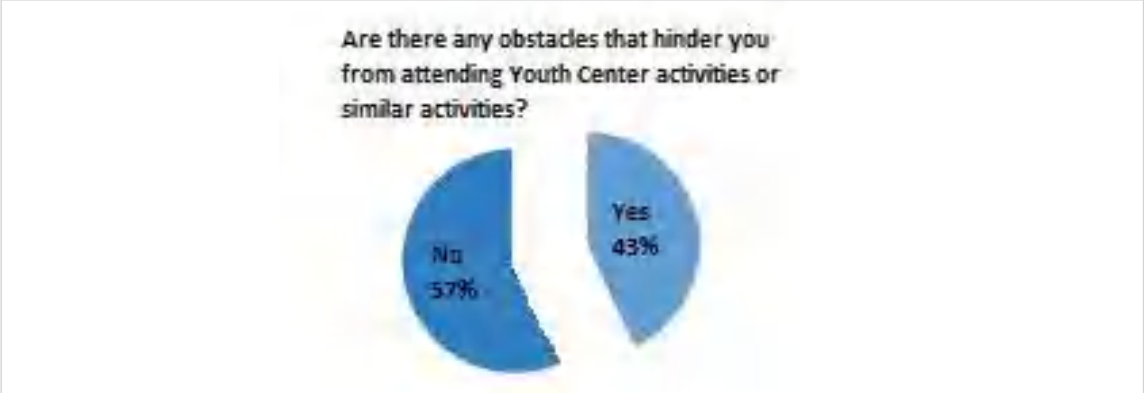
"Need of improving language skills and demand for relevant courses" are listed once again among responses to both general and youth center oriented questions and almost half of young refugees specify that they are primarily in need of such courses (47.1%). Language courses are followed by the needs of professional development courses, hobby courses, and trainings on health and nutrition. Under the option 'other', complementary courses (extra study program), courses on culture, job placement processes, university exam preparation, and sports are identified as the most important educational needs.

Graphic 90

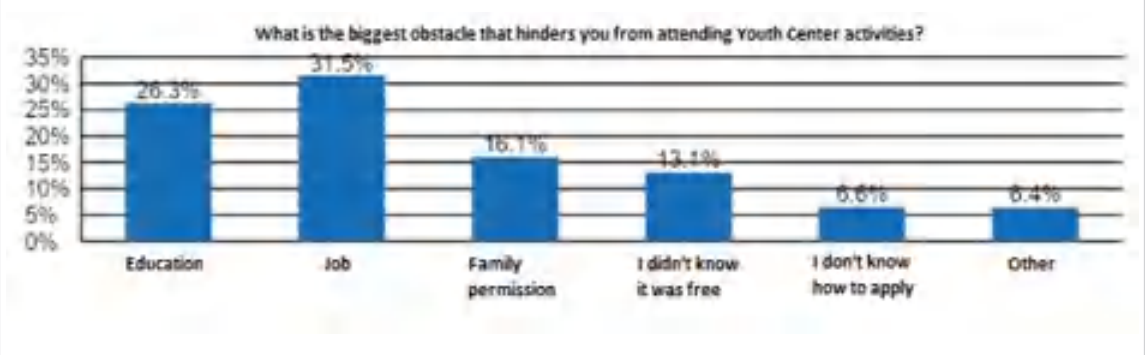


Youth centers do not only offer education, but they also provide counselling. Young refugees once again emphasize the need for counseling regarding their problems about language skills. Another topic in demand is deemed to be *"job placement processes."* The need for orientation and support for job placement is also confirmed by responses given to other questions of this study. Another prominent need is counselling for education. Young refugees also want to be provided with counselling services for social skills and communication in youth centers.

Graphic 91



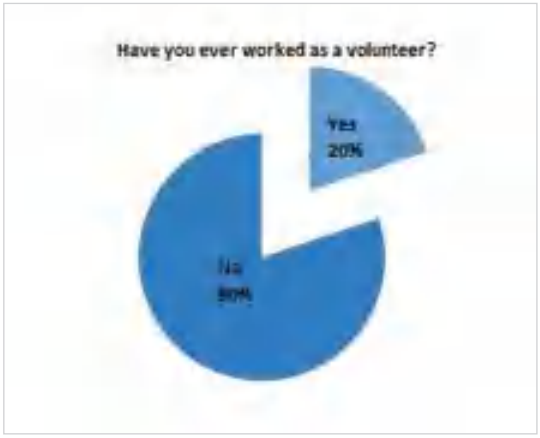
Graphic 92



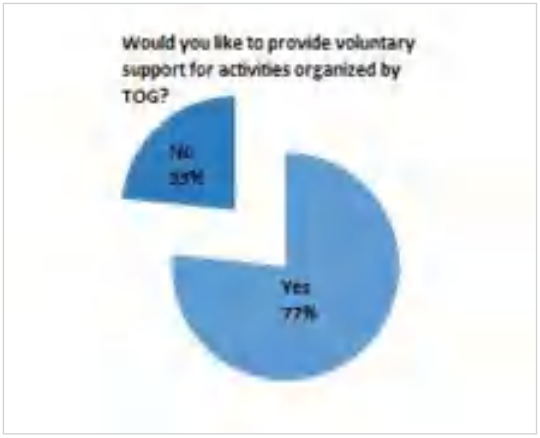
A number of additional measures might be required to increase beneficiaries of Youth Center services. 43% of young refugees state that they are exposed to obstacles to benefit from such services. It comes out that major obstacle hereof is either to be in school or at work during the realization time of activities as a matter of obligation. Therefore, they request repetition of daytime activities also in the evenings from time to time since they are either in school or at work during the day. *"Failing to obtain permission from the family"* appears to be a reason for obstructing attending activities of youth centers almost with equal prominence. Detailed analysis of data makes it clear that the principal obstacle is deemed as the obligation of working by the men (52%), whereas obtaining permission from the family (27%) and being at school during

service hours (30%) comes out as important obstacles for the women. On the other side, a certain portion of respondents say that they are not aware of such free services or how to apply for them.

Graphic 93



Graphic 94



Only 19.8% of young refugees had worked within the context of civil society activities on a voluntary basis previously, but 76.7% of them state that they may want to provide voluntary support for activities to be organized by TOG. Therefore, it is possible to fulfill their potential by integrating young refugees into civil society activities not only as beneficiaries but also as volunteers; and it will not only serve to socialization of young refugees, but wider groups can also be addressed through peer to peer communication.

PART 8:
CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- As it is also mentioned in the introduction part, this research study does not claim to be representative for all young refugees living in Turkey by taking their geographical, cultural and other differences into account. Nonetheless, a general and comprehensive picture is aimed to be provided on the basis of the data acquired with regard to topics discussed in the field and academic literature. It is also designed for the target of presenting remarkable and referable outputs both for policy-makers and practitioners.

  It is recommended to read the findings of this research by considering two important aspects of the current situation. The first one is the huge financial, social and political burden undertaken by Turkey especially within the context of migration flow from Syria as per 2011, and thus it shall be noted that both public institutions and civil society put so much effort in this respect. In this context, reasonable solutions and an effective discussion platform might be developed by taking the impact of speed and intensity of the process regarding deficiencies and problems emerging in accordance with the situation of young refugees described herein. Therefore, the findings might be used as constructive feedbacks for improving the situation of young refugees in Turkey rather than just problematizing the current situation.

  Secondly, it should be noted that shortcomings and needs for refugees are presented in 7 major areas, and such deficiencies may give way to challenges for all young people living in Turkey to different extents due to existent economic and social differences. The severity of such challenges may vary depending on regions and socioeconomic situations. If steps are taken forward in accordance with the perception of *"common challenges"* for developing support mechanisms and initiatives for all young people living in Turkey within the context of challenges specified in the report, then the local population will not feel uncomfortable about the situation, and hence required setting can be provided for necessary dialogue.

  As it is also mentioned among the objectives of this study, youth is the key point of relations between Turkish society and Syrians as the largest group seeking protection in Turkey. However it is herein set forth that dialogue between young refugees and youth in Turkey is underdeveloped due to a high number of young refugees who are drop-outs in the education system and stay out of employment field, and even in case of getting integrated into such fields, lacking language skills appears as another relevant reason.

As it is common in several countries, an increase in the refugee population provokes anxieties regarding employment, economy, and social security especially among the youth, but also the local population in general. Instead of considering such concerns among the Turkish youth only as an indicator of "xenophobia", it will be better to organize activities and initiatives by noting that similar factors might pose a problem and create a disadvantage also for Turkish youth, and appreciating such concerns for providing inclusion of local youth as well. Common initiatives bringing young refugees and local youth together might create required dialogue mechanisms and prevent infollution.

- This study reveals that 46% of young refugees get integrated into neither professional life nor education system in Turkey. It is of paramount importance that in case of failing to provide inclusion of young refugees into these fields, then they can be subject to the risk of breaking ties with the society and getting encircled by different types of danger. This is a reality that sheds even more light on the prominence and delicacy of services to be provided for young refugees. Herein, it is better to share with the public that long-term social costs would be much more than the financial cost of current activities if these young refugees are excluded in the relevant fields, and awareness-raising activities on these issues are equally important as much as the activities directly addressing young refugees.

- Hereby study demonstrate that young refugees are not abstaining, but on the contrary enthusiastic about integration. As a foremost item, it is possible to observe the eagerness and persistence of young refugees about gaining Turkish language skills as it is indicated both by focus group studies and questionnaire implementation process. Therefore it becomes obvious that all stakeholders are required to play an active role.

- This research shows that most important source of information is "friends" for young refugees, in particular for employment and healthcare areas. Therefore, it is recommended stakeholders which work for young refugees, to organize more “peer to peer” learning activities and multiplier trainings for reaching out larger young refugee groups.

- In fact, educational integration can be deemed satisfactory for Turkey at primary school level, in particular, as a result of activities of Turkish Ministry of National Education (MONE), but it is observed that attendance is subject to a constant decline starting from secondary education and thereafter. Financial and social responsibilities may play an obstructive role in the participation of young refugees in the education system, and it becomes evident that courses serve as complementary tools. It is likely to create alternative opportunities for the access of many young refugees to such services if relevant courses of NGOs are offered at different times

or in a web-based manner or through smartphone applications by adopting innovative methods.

- Due to age groups, intensive ties of young refugees with their families shall be taken into account as another item. For example, families are major factors at the beginning of the process for most young refugees regarding both education and integration into employment. From this point of view, it can be useful if relevant public institutions and NGOs provide inclusion of families into some activities addressing young refugees.

- Related with refugees, especially Syrians living in Turkey, another concern of the local population is associated with the perception which can be expressed as such; "uneducated and unqualified Syrians stay in Turkey." Among young refugees, it is observed that education rates are low for high school and upper level education on the basis of the relevant data. But it is also implied herein that young refugees have a huge potential for creating an added value for the society especially if their professional skills and competencies are discovered and developed. In this context, it can be contributive to the maximum effect if courses and professional certification initiatives as well as relevant programs are scaled up especially for those offered by NGOs.

- In conclusion, this study presents a general picture of current situation of young refugees in Turkey for providing a comprehensive information resource for the stakeholders, which develop or aim to develop relevant initiatives for this group. However, it is still possible to go into details of this picture by addressing several underrepresented topics such as gender and situation or empowerment of more vulnerable sub-groups. In this regard, this study is also designed and published by hoping to pave the way for further studies and research about young refugees.

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