



The Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) and the *Grand Bargain*

What is the Grand Bargain?

The Grand Bargain is a set of commitments made at the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016 by thirty of the biggest humanitarian donors and actors, including the World Food Programme.

It is aimed at improving the efficiency of humanitarian assistance and getting more means into the hands of people in need.



What is the ESSN?

The ESSN is a multi-purpose cash assistance scheme providing monthly transfers through debit cards to some one million of the most vulnerable refugees in Turkey.

Those receiving assistance can decide for themselves how to cover essential needs like food, fuel, rent and bills.

87.5 percent of funding in 2018 ends up directly in the hands of those in need.

Which of the Grand Bargain Goals does the ESSN contribute to and how?

Goal #2
More support and funding tools for local and national responders.

- ⇐ ESSN implementation involves national partners Turkish Red Crescent; the Ministry of Family and Social Policies; the Prime Ministry Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and the Ministry of Interior's Directorates General for Migration Management and Population and Citizenship Affairs; and NGOs.
- ⇐ The project builds on and strengthens national capacities so as to ensure a long-term legacy that will enhance national response to crises in the future.

Goal #3
Increase use and coordination of cash-based programming.

- ⇐ ESSN assistance is provided in the form of multi-purpose cash, which people can withdraw at ATMs or use to pay in shops. Cash gives people choice. It empowers them to manage their families' priorities with a degree of independence and allows them to stretch their budgets further.
- ⇐ In Turkey, with strong financial infrastructure and well-functioning markets, providing cash assistance is cost-effective, and stimulates the local economy.
- ⇐ The ESSN payment infrastructure can be used to deliver complementary assistance. For example, the ESSN card is already used for UNICEF's conditional cash transfers for education, helping vulnerable families keep their children in school.

Goal #7
Increase collaborative humanitarian multi-year planning and funding.

- ⇐ ESSN is the largest ever grant from the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) and is part of the EUR 3 billion Facility for Refugees in Turkey.
- ⇐ The commitment to sustain assistance into 2019 provides certainty, allowing national authorities to plan effectively and beneficiaries to regain financial control and security.

Goal #10
Enhance engagement between humanitarian and development actors.

- ⇐ ESSN applications are taken by government welfare centres, leveraging national capacities and facilitating integration of refugees into national social protection schemes.
- ⇐ Existing safety net infrastructure in place for vulnerable Turkish citizens is used to deliver humanitarian assistance, increasing efficiency, national ownership, and social cohesion.
- ⇐ ESSN's infrastructure provides opportunities for complementary programming and referrals to link humanitarian response with longer-term outcomes such as promoting sustainable livelihoods.
- ⇐ WFP's capacity as a resilience-building actor and global service provider supports the partnerships with government, non-profit, and commercial entities that are required for successful cash-based programming.