For 150 years, the Turkish Red Crescent

Aims to provide mutual understanding, friendship, respect and cooperation among people in all geographical areas, in order to prevent and mitigate human suffering without distinction, to protect human life and health and to respect personal rights. The Turkish Red Crescent; is a rooted symbol of 150 years of neutrality, of unconditional aid at the time of need, of humanitarian assistance in the most difficult conditions of war and neutrality. The Turkish Red Crescent adopts the basic principles of the International Red Crescent-Red Cross Movement. These are humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, unity, voluntary service and universality. Turkish Red Crescent, serves effectively with its programmes and projects and provides aid in emergencies based on high humanitarian standards.

Turkey, faced with the largest migrant wave after the internal conflicts in Syria started in 2011, implements the most comprehensive humanitarian aid programmes through its KIZILAYKART Platform.

What is KIZILAYKART Platform?

KIZILAYKART is a cash-based assistance tool designed to provide support to the most vulnerable foreigners in a dignified way. Assistances are delivered to the beneficiaries via the KIZILAYKART Platform. The platform is designed to enable the simultaneous implementation of multiple cash assistance programmes.

In the platform where registration and application processes are regularly tracked, data management is provided securely through the integrated database and the process of transferring cash assistance to beneficiaries is carried out without interruption.

Through outreach activities, support is provided to those who have difficulties in accessing the programmes and provision of information, feedback and complaints mechanism are maintained regularly through communication strategies.

Call Center of the Platform serves in 5 different languages. Monitoring and evaluation activities are carried out to measure the productivity of the platform and application quality. Within the platform, the referral mechanism is operated and referral cases are followed up. Coordination activities and information sessions are held for the current situation of the platform at the field level and experience is shared among the working groups in the cash networks.

Who Can Benefit?

Foreigners who are eligible against eligibility criteria and living under International Protection, Temporary Protection or humanitarian residence in Turkey can benefit from the programmes within the platform. More than 1.8 million foreigners are benefiting from the programmes that meet the eligibility criteria.
History of the Platform

Turkish Red Crescent has been providing cash assistance to Turkish citizens by for a long time. Turkish Red Crescent started implementing cash assistance to Turkish citizens through a debit card model, KIZILAYKART in 2011. Due to the internal conflicts which began in Syria on March 11, 11 million people have been forced to leave their country. Turkish Red Crescent started the ‘Syrian Crisis Humanitarian Aid Operation’ on April 29, 2011 after the civil war that started in Syria. At the first stage of the operation, hot meal was provided at temporary accommodation centers for foreigners who had to leave their country as they were affected by the war.

In the first instance, despite the fact that the emergency food supply provided meets the needs of foreigners, KIZILAYKART Platform has been established as an alternative to hot meal distribution as it did not comply with the local taste and cultural habits of the Syrian people, so the practice of hot-meal distribution caused considerable food waste as well as operational costs. The pilot implementation of the KIZILAYKART started by the beginning of the Syrian Crisis for Syrians residing in Kilis-Öncüpınar temporary accommodation center. In October 2012, Turkish Red Crescent started to implement the In-Camp Programme in cooperation with the United Nations World Food Programme and in 2015, the foreigners living outside the camps were targeted with the Off-Camp Programme.

Through the KIZILAYKART Platform, Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) Programme has been established to support vulnerable foreigners living outside the camps in November 2016 and Conditional Cash Transfer for Education (CCTE) has been established in May 2017. Transition of off-camp beneficiaries on to ESSN has been finalized by April 2017, leaving an opportunity to apply for ESSN for those who could not transitioned by end date.

KIZILAYKART Programs for Foreigners

KIZILAYKART Cash-Based Assistance Programmes is a comprehensive platform targeting vulnerable groups and providing freedom of choice. Through the platform, the aim is to ensure social cohesion of the beneficiaries. Within the scope of the programmes, different transfer models such as cash and e-cards are used. Total number of KIZILAYKART beneficiaries are 1.8 M as of April 2018.

In-Camp Programme (E-Card)

Through the In-Camp Programme, in cooperation with the WFP, 150,000 people living in ten different camps in Turkey are receiving regular cash assistance. Within the scope of the In-Camp Programme, the beneficiaries can meet their basic needs with KIZILAYKART through the contracted markets. The consumption habits of the people can be analyzed through the contracted markets. Within the scope of the programme which started in October 2012, 50 TL per person per month is provided to the beneficiaries through KIZILAYKART.

- In-Camp Programme has a conditional and restricted cash transfer model.

Emergency Social Safety Net Programme (ESSN)

Programme has been designed to meet the basic needs of the foreigners residing outside the camps in Turkey under International Protection, Temporary Protection and humanitarian residence in a dignified way. 120 TL per person per month and periodic top up payments are provided through KIZILAYKART to beneficiaries. The ESSN Programme is funded by ECHO and is implemented in cooperation with WFP and governmental institutions. Designed as a social safety net, the ESSN Programme aims to support beneficiaries in meeting their basic needs and preventing them from being exposed to external risks. Under the ESSN Programme, the applications of 2.2 million people have been accepted since November 2016 and 1.3 million people receive regular cash assistance as of April 2018. Approximately 60% of beneficiaries are children aged between 0-18. Communication activities for the applicants and beneficiaries are carried out through SMSs, official social media accounts and 168 Call Center.

- ESSN Programme has an unconditional and unrestricted cash transfer model.

Conditional Cash Transfer for Education (CCTE)

The programme encourages families with children in school age and limited financial means to send their children to the school. Assurances within the scope of the Extension of the CCTE Programme for Foreigners have started to be made via KIZILAYKART as of May 2017. The CCTE Programme is funded by ECHO, BPRM of the U.S. State Department and the Government of Norway. The programme is implemented in cooperation with UNICEF and governmental institutions. The CCTE Programme supports students from kindergarten to 12th grade with the condition that they do not miss the school for more than 4 days in a month. Students attending Turkish Public Schools and Temporary Education Centres can benefit from the program. The last payment was made on March 2018 and 292 thousand children received regular assistance. - CCTE Programme has a conditional and unrestricted cash transfer model.