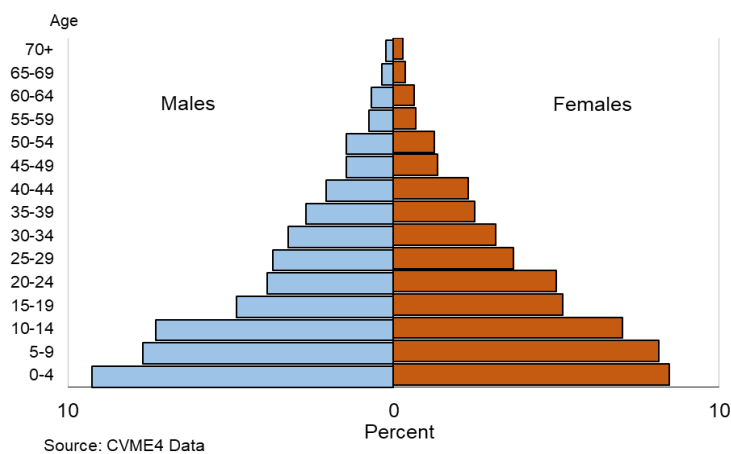


# Vulnerability Analysis & Gender: The Comprehensive Demographic Analysis of Female Refugees and Female-headed Households in Turkey

## 1. General Demographics

The refugee population in Turkey is very young and dynamic. As the population pyramid demonstrates, children aged 0 to 4 years are almost 18% of the total population. In order to have more detailed analysis on female refugees and female headed households, Comprehensive Vulnerability Monitoring Exercise<sup>1</sup> data have been used.

**Chart 1:** Population Pyramid of Refugee Population



Female-headed households are defined based on the declaration of the household. Hence, the family composition<sup>2</sup> can vary; some may include adult males in the household while others do not. As a result, vulnerability levels differ by the actual composition of each household. The results in Table 3 show that half of female-headed households are single parent households with children under 18, though 25% also include another family member (such as a child over 18 or another adult relative). The data also shows that almost a quarter of the female-headed households are two parent households.

- 12.1% of households are headed by women<sup>3</sup>.
- Half of female-headed households are single parent households.

<sup>1</sup> This paper uses the fourth round of Comprehensive Vulnerability Monitoring (CVME) data, collected from August to December 2018 by World Food Programme/ Turkish Red Crescent Turkey Country Office.

<sup>2</sup> 3 For more information on family types and how they are constructed, please refer to the document:

[https://www.ceped.org/IMG/pdf/understanding\\_the\\_family\\_composition\\_of\\_households\\_in\\_demographic\\_and\\_health\\_survey.pdf](https://www.ceped.org/IMG/pdf/understanding_the_family_composition_of_households_in_demographic_and_health_survey.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> 2 In the CVME, survey respondents are asked who the head of the household is. This is recorded by enumerators as it is declared, regardless of the family composition

## 2. Education Levels

The education level of female refugees decreases as they get older. However, data demonstrates that 27% of all adult females are illiterate. On the contrary, 14% of females have minimum high school diploma or above. This reveals the fact that refugee population is very diverse. When the illiteracy is disaggregated by nationality, it appears that females have higher level of illiteracy compared to adult males. Moreover, illiteracy rate is the highest for Afghans followed by Syrians. Iraqis are the most educated nationality among refugee population.

**Table 1:** Education Level of Adult Females by Age Groups

Education Level	18 to 35	36 to 54	55 or more
Illiterate	20%	44%	71%
Literate	8%	9%	9%
Primary School	33%	23%	13%
Secondary School	21%	15%	3%
High School	13%	6%	0%
University or above	4%	3%	3%

4.9% adult females had support on Turkish language courses while only 1.3% had support on technical/vocational courses. When it compared to adult males, data shows that 3.4% of adult males had vocational/technical training while 3.7% had Turkish language courses.

**Table 2:** Turkish Language Proficiency by Sex and Age

Turkish Level	Male		Female	
	6 to 17	18 to 59	6 to 17	18 to 59
Mother Tongue	4.1%	1.3%	0.9%	1.6%
Proficient	14.1%	10.1%	9.8%	4.5%
Medium	29.8%	18.9%	23.7%	8.2%
Basic	29.0%	37.3%	40.0%	22.8%

None	23.1%	32.5%	25.7%	62.9%
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### 3. Health

15% of adult females are pregnant or lactating. When having a household member who is pregnant/lactating observed through vulnerability indicators, the households who does not have any pregnant/lactating household member appear as less vulnerable.

Around 6% households indicated that they were in need of reproductive health services, but they cannot access. The main reason (51%) for not accessing is the fact that they cannot afford these services. Only 5.3% said that they cannot access because family does not permit.

### 4. Family Composition and Vulnerability

As mentioned, female headed households are the households headed by women as declared by the household. Hence, the family composition can vary; some might include adult males in the household, and some don't. As a result, vulnerability levels differ by family composition of the female headed household.

In order to measure vulnerability in this paper, Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)<sup>4</sup> results are used. Data demonstrates that single parent male headed households are equally vulnerable as female headed households.

**Table 3:** Family Composition of Female Headed Households

Female Headed Households	A parental family nucleus	A single-parent family nucleus	A conjugal family nucleus	Non-family nucleus
At least one secondary nucleus	7.7%	25.0%	2.2%	12.4%
At least one member outside the principal nucleus	4.6%	2.5%	.0%	.8%
No extended family	12.1%	25.8%	.3%	6.6%

When comparing results by the sex of the household head, the data shows that 60% of female-headed households are multidimensionally poor; this figure is only 39% among male headed households. When the poverty dimensions are considered separately (which, combined, make up the MPI), a higher proportion of female-headed households are deprived from income resources, health, education and living conditions. This may highlight the particular difficulties

<sup>4</sup> Construction of Multidimensional Poverty Index: <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/comprehensive-vulnerability-monitoring-exercise-multidimensional-poverty-index-may-2019>

of female-headed households in finding income resources, which can contribute to children’s absence from school, poor quality housing and lack of health services. When doing further demographic analysis, the data shows that single-parent households are a highly vulnerable group, worse off than two-parent households. For example, 35% of all two-parent households are multidimensionally poor, but this figure rises to 64% among single-parent households.

Finally, the data also shows higher levels of multidimensional poverty among single-parent households who have no other members of their extended family living in the household. The data shows that the sex of the household head is an important factor to consider within vulnerability analysis. However, it is perhaps more important to analyse the detailed composition of the household, including the number of parents and other family members living within the household; these are critical factors in household wellbeing.

**Chart 2: Vulnerability among Female Headed Households**

