



SEVGİ VE KARDEŞLİK VAKFI
CHARITY AND SOLIDARITY
FOUNDATION
SEVKAR SITUATION REPORT #1
PERIOD: 1.3.2020 - 5.3.2020

KIRIKHAN

- ❖ The recent armed conflict in North Syria, together with the high number of Turkish military casualties and the prospect of new refugee arrivals, has caused considerable distress in Turkey.
- ❖ Attacks on shops and cars were reported by the field officers in Kırıkhan this week. (reported on 3.3.2020)
- ❖ District Governor of Kırıkhan took action and personally visited the schools, giving messages of brotherhood and solidarity. Bullying against Syrian students is also a serious problem in Kırıkhan.
- ❖ Our field officers also report that the Syrian community in Kırıkhan communicates internally on social media platforms to advise their members against leaving their homes as much as possible for at least 10 days, engaging in discussions with the Turkish people, and opening their markets and shops for at least for a few days. They are also asked not to form crowds and queues even for withdrawing cash from the market cards assigned to them by the Red Crescent.
- ❖ In reaction to the said social media posts, Kırıkhan Migration Management Consultation Office shared a message that discredited some of these claims, invited Syrian students to attend school and people to go to work but advised them to avoid friction, gatherings, aimless wanderings in the streets as well as banks in order to ensure safety.

UPDATES

❖ According to the most recent UNHCR report, the number of Syrian refugees in Turkey is 3,587,266 (27th of February 2020).

❖ 950,000 internally displaced people in the Northwest Syria are trying to survive under unbearable circumstances and extreme weather conditions.

- ❖ SEVKAR has contacted 7 district governors in the area; (Districts of Alpaslan, Alsancak, Barbaros, Cumhuriyet, Yeni Mahalle, Gazi, Gündüz) and according to their feedback, while it is calmer, Syrians are still afraid to leave their homes.
- ❖ Following the conflicts in Idleb, our team noticed some refugees who recently arrived in Kırıkhan. There is no clear data about the number of new arrivals in Hatay. Still, it is not possible to register for temporary protection in Hatay.
- ❖ Project coordinator of an NGO that delivers aid to Syria stated that although the exact number could not be known, hundreds of people were piled up at the border as of March 3rd. Previously, ambulance and health personnel could enter this area but this assistance can no longer be provided through the Turkish border. It is reported that there is neither electricity nor running water in the villages while the hospitals work in dark at night for protection against airstrikes.

EDIRNE - PAZARKULE

- ❖ Since March 1st, large groups of refugees, a majority of whom are reportedly Afghans and Turkmens, have been waiting in the buffer zone at the Pazarkule border crossing in Edirne, on the border between Turkey and Greece.
- ❖ The crowd has dispersed into the neighbouring villages, trying to obtain the basic necessities from the villages, waiting and hoping that the border will soon be opened



- ❖ Some of the refugees are attempting to cross the border by crossing the Evros River.
- ❖ Although there are some local NGOs in the area, support generally comes from the locals. It is also reported that some locals exploit the situation by overcharging the refugees.



Photo 1. *Uzunköprü Village (2.3.2020)*

- ❖ The groups and people who provide support in the area underline the need for tents, blankets, hygiene items, women's sanitary items, diapers, dry food, clothes, portable heaters (a large number of people suffer from hypothermia) and sheltering items. The villages that received the highest number of refugees are Hasıran, İpsala and Karpuzlu.
- ❖ An Afghan youth told journalists (Doyran/2.3.2020) that they were diverted to the riverside, reassured that the border crossing would have to be opened soon since such a large number of people could not be turned down. Hence, people pile up along the riverside, establishing camps on that route.
- ❖ Two Afghan youths in Doyran Village said that all their belongings including their money, identity cards and telephones had been taken by the Greek police after they were caught illegally crossing the border. (2.3.2020), Doyran Village)
- ❖ UNHCR Greece shared the information that extreme rightwing groups were preparing to attack the personnel of humanitarian aid organizations. (Because We Carry/ Movements on the Ground (Dutch NGOs)
- ❖ NGO workers and activists are also present in Edirne along the border and in the villages to respond to basic humanitarian needs and/or to show solidarity with refugees and migrants.
- ❖ Reportedly, only ASAM and the Turkish Red Crescent are allowed to work in the buffer zone.