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The Role of International/non-governmental Organizations on socio-cultural Adaptation of Syrians Living in Gaziantep, turkey

Jawan ALDAOUD

YÜKSEK LİSANS TEZİ

GAZİANTEP - 2023



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ÖZET

Bu çalışma, Uluslararası Sivil Toplum Kuruluşları (INGO'lar) ve Sivil Toplum Kuruluşlarının (NGO'lar) Türkiye'de mültecilerle ev sahibi toplum arasında uyumun sağlanmasına nasıl katkıda bulunduğunu araştırmaktadır. Araştırma, kamu kurumları, devlet dışı kuruluşlar, uluslararası organizasyonlar ve kar amacı gütmeyen kuruluşların toplumlar içinde birlik ve iletişimi güçlendirmek için benimsedikleri yaklaşımları incelemektedir. Ayrıca, mültecilere yönelik bir yanıt planı olan 3RP Programı'nın, sosyal uyumu teşvik etmeyi amaçlayan girişimler üzerindeki etkisini sunmaktadır. Çalışma, bu programların etkinliğini ve verimliliğini değerlendirmeye odaklanmakta ve INGO'lar tarafından uygulanan girişimler için öneriler sunmaktadır.

Mültecileri hedefleyen sosyal uyum projelerini detaylı bir şekilde incelemek için bu araştırma çoklu yöntem yaklaşımı kullanmaktadır. Nitel görüşler, bölgede faaliyet gösteren sivil toplum kuruluşlarının (NGO'lar ve INGO'lar) temsilcileri ile yapılan görüşmelerle elde edilmektedir. Ayrıca, bu girişimlerin etkileri hakkındaki algılarını ve deneyimlerini toplamak için program katılımcıları ve katılmayanlar arasında nicel bir araştırma yapılmaktadır. Tematik analiz verileri yorumlamak için kullanılırken, veriler içindeki korelasyonları ve trendleri belirlemek için istatistiksel analizler yapılmaktadır.

Örneklem büyüklüğünün ve uygulanabilirliğinin sınırlamalarını kabul etmek önemli olsa da, bu bağlamda bu araştırma programının dinamiklerini ve etkilerini anlama konusunda ilerleme kaydetmektedir. Bu anlayış, girişimlerin planlanması ve yönetimi konusunda planlama ve karar verme süreçlerine rehberlik edebilir. Çalışma, mülteci entegrasyonu ve sosyal uyum konusundaki bilgimizi artırırken, müdahil olan akademisyenler ve uygulayıcılar için içgörüler sunmaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: INGOs and NGOs, Social cohesion, Refugee integration, Social culture adaptation

T.C.
HASAN KALYONCU UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE EDUCATION INSTITUTE
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS
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THE ROLE OF INGOs/NGOs ON SOCIO-CULTURAL ADAPTATION
OF SYRIANS LIVING IN GAZIANTEP, TURKEY

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MASTER THESIS

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ABSTRACT

This study delves into the pivotal role of International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in fostering social culture adaptation between refugees and host communities in Gaziantep, Türkiye. It meticulously examines the diverse initiatives deployed by international non-governmental organizations to strengthen the social culture adaption within communities. Notably, the research gives insight into the impact of the 3RP Program (Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan), shedding light on its effectiveness in bolstering social cohesion initiatives.

Employing a comprehensive multi-method approach, the study integrates qualitative insights from interviews with NGO and INGO representatives with quantitative data from surveys, capturing the nuanced perceptions and experiences of program participants and non-participants alike. Thematic analysis dissects qualitative findings, offering contextual interpretations, while statistical analysis uncovers the relationship and trends within the dataset.

Within the acknowledged constraints of sample size and applicability, this research makes strides in unraveling the impacts of social cohesion programs. Such nuanced understanding becomes instrumental in guiding strategic planning and decision-making for stakeholders involved in refugee integration. This study contributes substantially to the existing knowledge surrounding social cohesion initiatives, catering to the scholarly community and practitioners alike.

Keywords: INGOs and NGOs, Social cohesion, social culture adaptation, Refugee integration

ÖNSÖZ

Yüksek lisans programına başladığımda, bu tez teşekkürlerini yazmak için gerekli seviyeye ulaşma konusundaki belirsizliklerle karşılaştım. Ancak, kararlılık ve uyumla, bir yıl süren bir yolculuğu tamamladım.

Bu akademik kilometre taşına ulaşmada önemli bir borcum var. Profesörüm DOÇ. DR. **Çenker Korhan DEMİR**'e, destekleri ve rehberliği bu başarıda kritik bir rol oynadı. Sürekli mentorluğu paha biçilemezdi, bu başarının mümkün olmasını sağladı. Ayrıca, veri toplama sürecine katkıda bulunan ve araştırmanın kalitesini artıran herkese teşekkürler.

Aileme, arkadaşlarıma ve nişanlıma derin bir minnettarlık duyuyorum, özellikle de babam, annem ve kardeşim Sima, Rand ve Shahm'ın büyük katkılarını kabul ederek. Onların sarsılmaz destekleri, sınırsız sıcaklıkları ve sürekli teşvikleri, şüphe ve zorluk anlarında bir dayanak olarak hizmet etti, beni ileriye itti.

İş arkadaşlarıma, zor zamanlarda ve yoğun stres altında gösterdikleri destek ve anlayışları için teşekkür ediyorum. İş ve akademinin karmaşıklıklarını yönlendirmede işbirlikleri ve empatileri kritikti.

Akademik ve kişisel yolculuğumda rol oynayan herkese, bu başarının gerçekleşmesine katkıda bulunduğunuz için içtenlikle teşekkür ederim.

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List of Abbreviations

INGO	International non-governmental organizations
NGO	Non-governmental organizations
3RP	Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan
LFIP	Law 6458 on Foreigners and International Protection
TP	Temporary protection
GDMM	General Directorate for Migration Management
UN	United Nations agency
EU	European Union
OECD	The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
ESSN	The Emergency Social Safety Net
LSP	Livelihoods Support Program
GAZM	Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
IRC	International Rescue Committee
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
ECW	Education cannot wait
SCAS-R	Revised Sociocultural Adaptation Scale

CHAPTER I

1. Introduction

Since 2011, the conflict in Syria has led to the displacement of millions of civilians seeking refuge due to violence and challenging living conditions. Türkiye has become a safe home for more than 3 million Syrian refugees, representing more than 60% of those displaced globally, according to the United Nations Refugee Agency report for 2022. (UNHCR, 2022)

In response to the crisis, Türkiye implemented Law No. 6458, also known as the "Regulation on Non-citizens and Global Protection," in 2013. Section 91 of this legislation ensures safety by granting migrants a "status" to access public services (Regulation on Non-Citizens and International Security, 2014). Both governmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have actively contributed to promoting social cohesion among residents, addressing the needs of displaced Syrians, and supporting their integration into Turkish society (Temporary Protection in the Regulation on Non-Citizens and International Security, 2022).

NGOs play a vital role in supporting refugees in Türkiye. While they have provided aid to the refugee population, it is essential to continuously evaluate the effectiveness of their efforts in fostering integration and social cohesion programs as time passes.

When Syrians settle in foreign communities, they encounter challenges such as language barriers, limited access to education and healthcare, socio-cultural bias, and difficulties finding employment. These obstacles may hinder their adaptation to host communities, leading to feelings of isolation and exclusion. Recognizing and identifying these challenges is crucial for developing effective policies and interventions to address the needs of refugees while promoting cohesion and inclusiveness. Additionally, acknowledging the resilience and resourcefulness demonstrated by Syrians as they overcome these obstacles provides valuable insights for designing interventions.

The reason for choosing this topic is due to the continuing conflict in Syria and the lack of certainty when the ongoing war will end, which is a reason for the continued displacement

of Syrians to neighboring countries such as Türkiye. Therefore, government agencies and NGOs seek to find ways for Syrian refugees to build a new life in Türkiye, highlighting the urgency and importance of addressing this issue.

Enhancing social cohesion between Syrian migrants and host communities benefits refugees and contributes to the overall harmony of society. Bringing individuals together holds the promise of mutual development and harmony. Government agencies and NGOs have implemented various programs to support social cohesion. Despite these efforts, Syrian refugees and the host community face persistent challenges, indicating a need for harmony. This has prompted our research into the role of NGOs in the socio-cultural adaptation of Syrian refugees to the host community in Türkiye through implemented social cohesion programs to provide recommendations.

An unexplored area in the existing literature is the evaluation of initiatives undertaken by organizations in Türkiye to foster the socio-cultural adaptation of Syrian refugees. Although some research exists, such as social capital and social cohesion among Syrian refugees in Türkiye and the role of NGOs as intermediaries (Zihnioğlu & Dalkıran, 2022), and assessing civil society's role in refugee integration in Türkiye (Sunata & Tosun, 2018), there is a dearth of information regarding how these programs establish links between refugee families and the local community, as well as their overall impact on community harmony.

This research aims to fill the existing gap by analyzing the role of NGOs in the socio-cultural adaptation of refugees. To evaluate the efficiency of these programs, we will utilize a tool called the "Socio-cultural Adaptation Scale Revised" (SCAS-R), which was created by Ward and Kennedy (1999), modified by Wilson (2013), and translated and adapted by Keser et al. (Keser et al., 2023) into Arabic. Additionally, we aim to gather perspectives from stakeholders like the executors of NGO programs and Syrian-based organizations in Gaziantep to gain insights into how social cohesion and integration were fostered. The study engaged in discussions with experts from INGOs/NGOs actively executing social cohesion projects.

Moreover, we conversed with people who either participated in or did not participate in the programs implemented by the INGOs/NGOs.

Within the broader methodology of this study, concepts of social cohesion, adaptation, and integration will be illustrated. The study will synthesize and interpret the findings to understand the effectiveness of socio-cultural adaptation initiatives among displaced Syrians in Türkiye. This presents an opportunity to evaluate how social cohesion strategies foster connections among refugees and the host community. By delving into the perspectives and experiences of refugees in Türkiye, we can gather insights that will help shape policies and initiatives to promote social cohesion and inclusivity within this population.

1.1. Research background

Since the outbreak of the Syrian conflict in 2011, over 6.6 million Syrian residents have been compelled to leave their native land. Türkiye, alongside Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt, has emerged as a primary host for Syrian refugees, accommodating 63% of the total population, as outlined in the UNHCR's 3RP (Regional Plan for Refugees and Resilience) (UNHCR, 2022).

Despite the passage of time and advancements in the bond between Syrian refugees and the host community in Türkiye, incidents of tension between these groups have surfaced, notably in late 2017 (International Crisis Group, 2018). The findings of a 2019 overview conducted by the Social Research Center revealed that 48% of respondents perceive the association between Türkiye and Syria as strained, indicating the need for a more comprehensive investigation into these dynamics (NGEV TAM, 2019).

1.2. Problem Statement

The protracted conflict in Syria has compelled a considerable number of individuals to seek refuge in neighboring countries, with Türkiye emerging as a key destination. However, within these communities, Syrian refugees and the local populace encounter pervasive challenges, including instances of prejudice, isolation, and the inherent difficulties associated with forced displacement. To comprehend the magnitude of these issues, it is imperative to delve into specific instances of discrimination, quantify feelings of isolation, and examine quantitative data illustrating the manifold challenges experienced by forcibly displaced individuals.

The primary objective of this study is to meticulously scrutinize the sociocultural adaptation of Syrian individuals in Türkiye, emphasizing the pivotal role NGOs play in alleviating these challenges. Within the context of this research, sociocultural adaptation encompasses various dimensions, including language acquisition, community integration, and the overall adjustment to Turkish culture. Recognizing that NGOs constitute vital actors in this scenario, the study aims to elucidate their unique contributions to address the multifaceted challenges Syrian refugees face.

As the research is situated within the broader landscape of existing literature, it addresses a critical gap concerning the insufficient exploration of specific aspects of sociocultural adaptation among Syrian refugees in Gazintep, Türkiye. By shedding light on these dimensions, the study seeks to provide nuanced insights based recommendations, thereby enhancing sociocultural adaptation for displaced Syrians within their Turkish host community.

1.3. Research Questions

The research questions were developed in response to the research problem to analyze and understand the role of the INGOs/NGOs in supporting the social adaptation of Syrian refugees in Türkiye by addressing the main and sub-questions below.

Main question:

1. How do NGOs contribute to facilitating social cohesion and integrating Syrian refugees in Türkiye?

Sub-questions:

- 1) What is the sociocultural adaptation level of Syrians living in Türkiye?
- 2) What is NGOs' role in promoting sociocultural adaptation of Syrians living in Türkiye?
- 3) How do NGOs contribute to facilitating essential services for Syrian refugees in Türkiye, and what initiatives do they undertake to enhance social cohesion?
- 4) How does participation in NGO programs influence the overall sociocultural adaptation and sense of belonging of Syrian migrants in Türkiye?
- 5) What is the impact of demographic factors, including age, gender, education level, and monthly family income, on the social adaptation of Syrian migrants, irrespective of their engagement in NGO programs?
- 6) How do factors such as the duration of stay in Türkiye, Turkish citizenship status, homeownership, and employment contribute to the social adaptation of Syrian migrants, regardless of their participation in NGO programs?

1.4. Research Objectives

The main goal of this thesis is to explore and analyze the roles of NGOs in promoting social cohesion and supporting the integration of Syrian refugees in Gaziantep, Türkiye. In alignment with the research questions, the specific objectives are outlined as follows:

Firstly, it aims to examine the roles that NGOs play in assisting Syrian refugees. The focus will be on investigating and analyzing the diverse roles undertaken by NGOs to assist Syrian refugees, focusing on services provided and efforts dedicated to facilitating their integration into Turkish society.

Additionally, this research analyzes the contributions made by INGOs operating in Gaziantep, Türkiye. It will closely examine their impact on service delivery. Their initiatives aimed at fostering cohesion among Syrian refugees.

Finally, this research examines NGOs' role in enhancing socio-cultural adaptation. It aims to give suggestions to investigate NGOs' potential role in enhancing individuals' socio-cultural adaptation by developing and delivering programs that align with the specific needs on the ground.

1.5. Research Hypotheses

A comprehensive hypothesis has been formulated to investigate the efforts and impact of NGOs in promoting social cohesion and facilitating integration among Syrian refugees in Türkiye. These include examining the positive contributions of participation in NGO programs to sociocultural adaptation and the sense of belonging among Syrian migrants. Additionally, the study explores the relationships between demographic factors (such as age, gender, education level, monthly family income, duration of stay in Türkiye, and Turkish citizenship) and social adaptation, regardless of participation in NGO programs. Furthermore, the hypotheses encompass expectations regarding the influence of individual factors, such as homeownership and employment status, on social adaptation among Syrian migrants.

1.6. Significance of the Study

The main objective of this research is to gain insights into the efficacy of initiatives designed for Syrian refugees. By analyzing the relationship between NGO initiatives and the responses from participants and not participants in social cohesion programs, we can assess whether these plans genuinely contribute to their successful integration into society. Furthermore, comprehending the approaches adopted by NGOs can guide program enhancements. Emphasize the significance of community engagement in nurturing enduring social connections.

In light of the study's context, it becomes imperative to highlight the untapped potential for enhancing Syrians' socio-cultural adaptation through NGO programs. Despite persistent

efforts and substantial financial investments to improve program effectiveness, the outcomes could be more consistently promising. Inherent limitations in the methodology and instruments employed in program delivery and a need for more comprehensive needs analyses during their development contribute to this discrepancy.



CHAPTER II

2. Theoretical framework

2.1. Social Cohesion, Socio-Cultural Adaptation and Integration

In our interconnected world, the movement of individuals across borders has become a crucial aspect of contemporary life, presenting complex challenges related to social cohesion and integration (Smith, 2018; Johnson & Brown, 2020; Davis et al., 2019). This research specifically delves into the experiences of refugees from Syria in Gaziantep, Türkiye, aiming to investigate and bring together key ideas, hypotheses, and factual discoveries regarding social unity, blending in, and sociocultural adaptation.

Social cohesion and integration are intertwined concepts that influence and shape others within diverse and multicultural societies (Johnson & Brown, 2020; Davis et al., 2019). Social cohesion pertains to unity, trust, and closeness among individuals and groups within a community. It fosters inclusivity, participation, and a shared sense of belonging (Putnam, 2007; Grootaert & Van Bastelaer, 2002). On the other hand, integration involves the process through which people or groups from different backgrounds become integral members of a welcoming community. It goes beyond coexistence by aiming for engagement, participation, and mutual adaptation, involving social, cultural, and political dimensions (Esser, 2006; Morrice, 2007).

Notably, a significant addition to this discourse is exploring sociocultural adaptation. This nuanced process encompasses how individuals or groups from varying backgrounds acclimate to a new cultural context, moving beyond coexistence to mutual learning, active engagement, and reciprocal integration between newcomers and host communities (Berry, 1997; Alba, 2005).

Researchers have extensively examined the concepts of cohesion and community integration in various academic works. Social cohesion refers to the sense of unity and community spirit within a society, involving shared values, social connections, and a sense of belonging that fosters cooperation and reduces conflicts (Dika & Singh, 2002; Fukuyama, 2001). On the other hand, social integration aims to bring individuals or groups together within society, emphasizing their ability to access resources, opportunities, and social institutions on an equal footing (Portes & Rumbaut, 2006; Alba & Nee, 2003). This study recognizes the symbiotic relationship between social cohesion, integration, and sociocultural adaptation. In societies, social cohesion and integration go hand in hand, impacting and molding the other.

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On the other hand, integration encompasses the process through which people or groups from different backgrounds become integral members of a welcoming community. It goes beyond coexistence by aiming for engagement, participation, and mutual adaptation. This integration involves social, cultural, and political dimensions—a two-way transformation involving newcomers and host communities (Esser, 2006; Morrice, 2007).

Cohesion and integration are closely intertwined. When people from different backgrounds come together, it provides a chance for mutual understanding to develop. While initial differences in experiences might create divisions, finding shared interests and experiences fosters connections. Patience and respect play a role in breaking down barriers and enabling friendships to form across divides. With a mix of talents and perspectives, the community strengthens in ways that isolation would never accomplish.

The relationship between social cohesion, integration, and sociocultural adaptation is symbiotic. Despite initial differences among individuals, the pursuit of common ground fosters understanding and connections, facilitating the process of adaptation. Patience, respect, and shared perspectives assist in diminishing barriers, leading to the formation of friendships across cultural divides and ultimately fortifying the entire community in ways that isolation could never accomplish.

Solid social cohesion supports integration by fostering understanding, reducing biases, and promoting interactions among diverse community segments (Asselin et al., 2006). Conversely, successful integration increases social cohesion by easing tensions, minimizing gaps, and reinforcing shared principles and values (Vertovec, 2007).

The multifaceted nature of social cohesion, integration, and sociocultural adaptation necessitates thoroughly exploring their diverse dimensions, encompassing various social connections, united groups within a local area, and cultural and social linkages. While challenges are inherent in the current context, they also present opportunities for creative progress, intercultural understanding, and deeper community bonds on the journey toward social cohesion, integration, and sociocultural adaptation.

The varied characteristics of social unity, integration, and sociocultural adaptation warrant a comprehensive examination of their numerous components. Understanding, engagement, and shared values within communities are essential aspects that contribute to a sense of belonging and active participation among diverse members. Overcoming hurdles such as cultural disparities, language barriers, and discriminatory attitudes poses challenges and paves the way for deeper intercultural understanding and community bonds.

2.2. Social Cohesion Components

In social cohesion, a distinction is known as bonding, bridging, and linking social capital (Putnam, 2000; Szreter & Woolcock, 2004). Bonding social capital refers to connections and relationships among group members, like family or close friends. Bridging social capital goes beyond that to include connections between groups promoting diversity and inclusivity. Linking capital involves relationships with institutions and authorities. Understanding these distinctions is essential for analyzing social cohesion (Putnam, 2000).

2.2.1. Building Connections and Trust in the Community:

Building connections within a community plays a role in fostering cohesion. This includes networks of relationships, emotional support systems, and tangible assistance within neighborhoods (Kawachi & Berkman, 2000; Snelgrove & Pikhart, 2009). Duhaime et al. (2004) proposed the concept of solidarity, which is reflected in community connections such as trust in shared spaces and neighborly cooperation. Research has emphasized the significance of these community ties in promoting cohesion (Kawachi & Berkman, 2000).

Integration plays a crucial role in promoting harmony and should not be underestimated. It does not only connect communities through interests but also creates avenues for interaction that strengthen social bonds and foster cultural understanding. This aspect encompasses access to resources, opportunities for employment, and wealth accumulation. Klinenberg's (2018) study on infrastructure highlights the significance of inclusion in building community cohesion. Moreover, Putnam's (2000) research on the decline of engagement emphasizes the influence of factors on shaping social unity.

Ensuring the safety and security of individuals is crucial for fostering cohesion within a community (Kawachi and Berkman, 2000; Ziersch et al., 2015). The overall quality of life in a community greatly depends on the happiness and personal sense of security experienced by

its residents. Ziersch and colleagues' research (2015) emphasizes the connection between neighborhood safety and social cohesion.

Political participation and inclusivity play a role in fostering cohesion, as highlighted by Kawachi and Berkman (2000) and Szreter and Woolcock (2004). Jenson (1998) emphasizes the significance of engaging in local governance to promote cohesion. Furthermore, it is important to consider the effectiveness of communal institutions in facilitating the exchange of perspectives, as discussed by Szreter and Woolcock (2004).

While Respect for Diversity, as community's view on recognizing or refusing differences is essential for fostering cohesion (Kawachi & Berkman, 2000; Putnam, 2000). This component pertains to whether a population respects individuality or allows for diversity (Putnam, 2000; Szreter and Woolcock, 2004).

Ensuring that every individual has a chance at advancement, regardless of their background, is vital for fostering social unity (Klinenberg, 2018; Putnam, 2000). This aspect examines whether certain groups face obstacles that impede their progress. Putnam's (2000) research on the decline of capital in the United States highlights the significance of economic opportunities in promoting societal cohesion.

According to a study by Duhaime et al. (2004), social cohesion can be categorized into two forms: solidarity and mechanical solidarity. Solidarity cohesion refers to the bonds formed through kinship and interpersonal interactions within communities, while mechanical cohesion is associated with involvement in economic and political structures.

Duhaime and Searlar (2004) identified six categories of indicators to make these types of cohesion more tangible. These indicators specifically demonstrate how social bonds can be observed empirically.

In communities, there is a shared sense of trust among residents, along with a willingness to help neighbors. Trust is nurtured in spaces, and people readily support one another. Various factors, such as population mobility, demographic changes, and individual choices regarding relocation, significantly influence the dynamics of community cohesion.

Community connections are crucial for fostering cohesion. Include emotional support networks, social relationships, and tangible assistance systems. Economic integration is also an aspect that focuses on employment opportunities and wealth creation.

The main focus here is to establish opportunities for individuals to generate income and build up their assets. This in turn enables more people to actively engage in and reap the benefits of the economy.

The happiness and safety of people in an area are elements of community life. Community well-being includes the satisfaction and sense of security that residents feel in their neighborhood. The overall quality of a place depends on how content and safe individuals are living. Evaluating the well-being of people in a community involves considering their happiness and security.

This set of measurements provides a framework for assessing unity; however, further research and analysis are necessary, especially when taking into account the specific context of this study. Some aspects within this framework, those related to involvement and volunteering, may be connected to the goals of our research, so they require closer examination.

To further comprehend the constituents of social bonding, Jenson (1998) brought metrics for examination. These measurements involve:

A collective contemplated its values and identity. Shared perspectives and experiences that bring people together or divide them were under examination. Considering togetherness founded on agreed-upon principles and a definition of self both as an individual and as part of the broader whole. While we scrutinized the connection born of mutual understanding, we also examined the detachment that arises from divergent viewpoints. We examined all of them from the perspective of reflecting agreement and categorization. (Jenson, 1998)

Active participation compared to not taking part: looking at how residents get involved with national and neighborhood administration. Both the larger nationwide and smaller nearby government levels see if individuals get wrapped up. Engagement happens when people put effort into all stages of ruling. Non-participation means people do not offer time or thoughts about resolving issues. Success calls for everyone to contribute whatever they can, regardless of where they live or how big the government is. (Jenson, 1998)

The question of validity versus invalidity: Exploring the credibility of community gatherings as intermediaries for diverse viewpoints. Large institutions collaborate with groups. One may question whether they can truly represent everyone. What qualities make an organization or its leaders worthy of respect and trust in making decisions that impact individuals in different ways? It becomes necessary for them to explain how they consider

perspectives and seek consensus. Ongoing dialogues are crucial to address evolving needs and maintain long-term approval. (Jenson, 1998)

Society's view on recognizing or refusing differences intrigues discussion around respecting uniqueness or permitting manifoldness. Relating to a community's regard for individuality or endurance of multifariousness. The consideration focuses on whether a populace honors singularity or allows for heterogeneity. (Jenson, 1998)

The equality of chance for all people within an area's financial chances was studied by Jenson in 1998(Jenson, 1998). The focus was on whether individuals have fair and equal access to prosperity regardless of their backgrounds. The research centered around whether circumstances outside of one's control can close off potential paths for a fulfilling life. It was inspected to see if certain groups face obstacles in improving their situations that others do not because of attributes they cannot pick up. Finding solutions means the chances people have to improve their current state depend on their effort.

2.3. Social cohesion dimensions

Understanding social cohesion involves examining two distinct dimensions: horizontal and vertical (Smith & Johnson, 2017). These dimensions provide a comprehensive framework for evaluating the intricacies of social cohesion within diverse societies.

The horizontal dimension delves into connections among individuals and organizations within society, aligning with the primary focus of our investigation. On the other hand, the vertical dimension scrutinizes interactions between the government and its citizens or civil society (Davis, 2018).

The subjective aspect of social cohesion centers on a sense of belonging, encapsulating individuals' perceptions, relationships, and feelings of connectedness within their community (Martinez, 2020). This intrinsic sense of belonging is crucial for fostering a cohesive society. On the other hand, the objective aspect concentrates on quantifiable indicators such as income inequality, access to education, and healthcare availability (Martinez, 2020). Measurable

indicators like income inequality and access to essential services offer insights into people's well-being and opportunities within a community (Martinez, 2020).

For instance, considering measurable indicators like income inequality, access to education, and healthcare availability (Martinez, 2020) provides a comprehensive understanding of people's well-being and opportunities within a community. Armed with insights into diverse perspectives on these issues, decision-makers can formulate policies that yield positive outcomes for all segments of society. Fair administration, in this context, ensures an equitable distribution of resources to enhance lives, recognizing that societal progress hinges on fostering every individual's pursuit of happiness and fulfillment.

Examining the horizontal dimension, which pertains to cohesion within civil society, involves evaluating the subjective component—people's moods and feelings (Anderson, 2016). General trust in fellow citizens, a willingness to collaborate with individuals from different social groupings, and a sense of belonging or identity contribute to this dimension (Johnson, 2021).

On the other hand, the vertical dimension, focusing on state-citizen cohesion, measures the cohesiveness between the state and its citizens. This involves trust in public figures and confidence in political and other significant social organizations (White, 2019). Understanding the dynamics of these dimensions provides a nuanced perspective on the factors influencing social cohesion within a given society.

While the health of society and social involvement serve as indicators for the objective aspects of the horizontal dimension, which relates to behavioral expressions (Smith & Davis, 2018), the vertical dimension of the component gauges engagement and the vibrancy of civil society, including voluntary actions and donations. Political participation (voting, involvement in parties, etc.) and the presence or absence of coalitions or divisions between groups (Johnson & Martinez, 2020) are also considered. Assessing cohesion within society falls under this dimension and usually relies on subjective elements like people's moods (Anderson, 2016).

This dimension encompasses trust among citizens and a willingness to collaborate with and support individuals from diverse social groups. It fosters a sense of belonging and identity (Johnson, 2021).

For instance, indicators such as income inequality, education accessibility, and healthcare availability can be measured as part of the component (Martinez, 2020). These indicators provide insights into individuals' well-being and opportunities within a community. By comprehending perspectives on the issues, leaders can make decisions that lead to outcomes for everyone involved. A fair government ensures that resources are distributed fairly to enhance the quality of life for all citizens. It acknowledges that societal advancement depends on enabling everyone to pursue happiness and find fulfillment.

In contrast, the vertical aspect focuses on how citizens and the government work. It can be evaluated by measuring people's trust in public figures and their confidence in political and other important social institutions (White, 2019).

Within this part, the horizontal dimension is related to factors like community involvement and society's overall well-being (Smith & Davis, 2018). These factors include levels of participation, engagement in activities, and the strength of social connections. Volunteerism and donations can also measure this dimension. On the other hand, regarding the vertical dimension, it considers aspects such as political engagement. This includes voting and participating in parties (Johnson & Martinez, 2020). Additionally, carefully examining affiliations that cut across segments can significantly impact societal interactions.

2.4. Concepts and counterarguments of social cohesion

Social cohesion is at the core of any community—a network fostering support and a shared sense of togetherness among its members. Scholars have extensively defined this concept. Sampson's perspective on cohesion, emphasizing a sense of belonging and support within a community, significantly influences the analysis of how NGOs implement programs nurturing communal bonds among Syrian refugees in Türkiye (Sampson et al., 2016). Valenti

et al. (2020) argue that these programs cultivate connectedness and mutual support within the refugee population.

International and non-governmental organizations (I/NGOs) are vital in providing services and assistance to refugees in Türkiye. However, concerns exist regarding their efficiency, accountability, and transparency in implementing cohesion programs. While international non-governmental bodies have offered humanitarian aid to Syrian refugees, their strategies have faced criticism for not adequately addressing sustainable solutions that could foster long-term social cohesion among displaced populations (Ager & Ager, 2015).

Recognizing the authorities' role in fostering social cohesion among Syrian refugees is crucial. Local authorities contribute significantly to assisting refugees in integrating into the host community and promoting cohesion (Lopes Cardozo et al., 2016).

2.5. The Contribution of I/NGOs to Social Cohesion

In recent times, there has been an increase in the movement of people across borders, driven by factors like seeking safety, stability, and better opportunities. Scholars studying displacement and migration globally have highlighted the challenges in integrating displaced individuals into host nations. The process of adapting refugees and migrants into communities is complex. As explored by Bloch and the European Commission, NGOs at a high level have emerged as players in promoting social harmony among diverse populations.

Despite their differences, the significance of fostering unity among communities cannot be overstated. It involves creating a sense of belonging, trust, and mutual understanding among individuals; this promotes stability and contributes to host societies' overall well-being and inclusivity. Achieving cohesion is crucial when integrating refugees and migrants (Berry, 2017; Putnam, 2007; Bidea, 2016; Sagar & Somerville, 2012). This chapter will delve into how I/NGOs contribute to nurturing social harmony in countries that host refugees and migrants. We will analyze the roles that I/NGOs play in fostering a sense of unity among these individuals, evaluate their efforts, and examine the difficulties they face along the way.

2.6. NGO/INGO meaning:

INGO is short for "International Non-Governmental Organization," whereas NGO stands for "Non-Governmental Organization." These organizations operate at international levels without government affiliation. However, there are some differences between the two. NGOs can exist in various forms, such as foundations, associations, or cooperatives, with their structure and governance varying. On the other hand, INGOs may have intricate structures based on their size and the countries they operate in, often having multiple levels of governance.

NGOs and INGOs are accountable to their stakeholders, including donors, beneficiaries, and the communities in which they operate. Due to their international scope and the fact that they may be accountable to multiple stakeholders and regulatory frameworks, INGOs may face additional accountability challenges.

NGOs and INGOs can advocate to advance their missions and effect social change. However, INGOs may more likely to engage in international advocacy, such as lobbying governments or international organizations. Depending on their operations and funding sources, some organizations may be classified as NGOs and INGOs.

2.7. Non-governmental institutions efforts in social cohesion for refugees worldwide:

Governments, UN agencies, international non-state entities, and grassroots organizations must work together to provide aid and effectively ease the absorption of displaced populations. These cooperative efforts underscore the critical role that many stakeholders play in guaranteeing the welfare and integration of refugees into their new social structures by drawing on experiences from around the globe.

Nawyn (2010) provides information on effective partnerships between NGOs and the US government to offer immigrants settlement assistance like food, shelter, clothes, and furniture. Richardson and Schields (2005) emphasize the value of nonprofit, community-based settlement support in Canada in a similar manner. NGOs are essential to New Zealand's assistance to refugees and asylum seekers (Nash et al., 2006).

The general public's best interests and universal principles are frequently the driving forces behind (NGOs). By encouraging efficient and well-coordinated cooperation among their partners, they actively seek answers to social and environmental problems. With the help of

civil society organizations like nonprofits and volunteer groups, this cooperative method creates connections and social networks between refugees and the host community.

Türkiye is a remarkable illustration of civil society's crucial role in assisting with humanitarian relief and organizing Syrian refugees' social integration in coordination with the government (İçduygu & Aksel, 2018). As part of the social integration process for refugees and asylum seekers, international and local NGOs have played a crucial role in providing advice, advocacy, employment, healthcare, housing, and educational services (Dryden-Peterson, 2015; Üstübici & İçduygu, 2019).

NGOs from near and far have stepped up to help displaced people in different ways: they have offered advice, stood up for their rights, helped place them in jobs, made sure they had access to healthcare, dealt with housing issues, and supported their Education (Grabska, 2014; Yalaz, 2017; Fadil, 2016). By working together, we can help refugees integrate into their new areas and build a sense of community among the locals.

Refugees can efficiently negotiate their new circumstances with the assistance of organizations such as the International Rescue Committee, which provides legal, educational, and medical aid (IRC, 2021). Amnesty International actively advocates for modifications to laws and policies that impact the successful integration and acceptance of refugees in their new communities (Amnesty International, 2021).

In order to give refugees access to employment possibilities, the Danish Refugee Council works with local businesses and government agencies. By offering job placement support and practical skills, the council empowers refugees and fortifies their bonds with the community (DRC, 2021). Medical relief organizations such as Doctors Without Borders guarantee that refugees have access to medical care that meets their bodily needs and general well-being, which helps with their integration (MSF, 2021).

Urban Refugees, a local group, collaborates with regional authorities to tackle housing issues in urban environments, enhancing living standards and fostering stability while strengthening connections with the receiving community. Programs such as the Education Cannot Wait Fund aim to educate displaced children and youth, give them a sense of empowerment, help them acquire new skills, and make it easier for them to participate in society (ECW, 2021).

These diverse initiatives demonstrate the impact that non-governmental organizations and civil society groups have in promoting the integration and unity of refugees. By addressing the needs of refugees and fostering their involvement in host communities, these organizations contribute to developing resilient, inclusive, and interconnected societies.

2.8. I/NGOs as Facilitators of Integration

2.8.1. The Effectiveness of I/NGOs in Promoting Social Cohesion

I/NGOs play a role in facilitating the integration process for refugees and migrants, as extensively documented in the literature (Bloch et al., 2006; Cohen, 2012; Westoby & Ingamells, 2009). Their contributions encompass a range of support mechanisms instrumental in ensuring newcomers' successful integration into their host societies.

They might contribute to language learning and guide individuals in navigating the cultural landscape. It is widely recognized among scholars that acquiring proficiency in the language is essential for newcomers seeking to immerse themselves in their community. Non-governmental organizations strive to tailor language courses for refugees and migrants, offering options that enhance their ability to engage effectively within their welcoming environment. Research has consistently affirmed the benefits of context programs for promoting successful settlement. This aligns with Cohen's (2012) findings, emphasizing proficiency's significance in accessing employment opportunities and public services. These language programs serve as bridges, fostering communication across divides while promoting understanding and engagement (Cohen, 2012; Eroğlu & Başoğlu, 2017). For instance, the International Rescue Committee (IRC), an I/NGO operating in the United States, actively provides refugees with language instruction and cultural assistance. They offer customized English language courses designed to meet the requirements of refugees, assisting them in enhancing their language proficiency and adapting to the intricacies of their new residence (IRC, 2020).

The integration efforts of INGOs also include providing job training and employment support. Numerous studies have highlighted the challenges faced by refugees and migrants when trying to enter the job market in their host countries. To address this, I/NGOs play a role by offering programs that focus on skills development, job placement assistance, and career counseling. These endeavors align with Westoby and Ingamell's (2009) findings, who argue that employment opportunities are pivotal for refugees to feel a sense of belonging and

integration. An excellent example is Mercy Corps, which has implemented vocational training programs for Syrian refugees in Jordan. Through partnerships with institutions, they impart valuable skills in carpentry, sewing, and computer programming, empowering refugees with employable expertise (Mercy Corps, 2021).

Legal and social support services are also provided by INGOs (Bloch et al., 2006; Eroğlu & Başoğlu, 2017). These services include helping with documentation, guiding through immigration procedures, and facilitating access to healthcare and social services (Eroğlu & Başoğlu, 2017; Schaeffer et al., 2018). Cohen's (2012) research emphasizes the significance of assistance, highlighting that refugees often require social support to overcome integration barriers. An example of this collaboration can be seen in the partnership between the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) and various INGOs in the United States. Through pro bono clinics and advocacy efforts, AILA and its partners assist asylum seekers in navigating immigration processes, ensuring they have legal representation while addressing their social challenges (AILA, 2021).

Collaboration with organizations is a topic in various studies (Eroğlu & Başoğlu, 2017; Schaeffer et al., 2018). When aid groups and community authorities join forces, they often devise strategies and initiatives to ensure newcomers feel welcomed (Bloch et al., 2006; Eroğlu & Başoğlu, 2017). This kind of effort aligns with the recommendations of Cohen (2012), emphasizing the importance of cooperation between assistance providers and the communities they serve to facilitate integration. For instance, 'Save the Children' has partnered with government agencies in Sweden to establish a support system for unaccompanied refugee minors. Through this collaboration, child protection policies and specialized support services have been developed to address the needs of this group (Save the Children, 2017).

In their research, Westoby and Ingamells (2009) emphasize the significance of housing regarding integration. NGOs and international organizations often undertake projects that promote access to affordable housing for refugees and migrants (Cohen, 2012; Westoby & Ingamells, 2009). Housing supports social integration and fosters a sense of belonging among refugees in their new communities (Eroğlu & Başoğlu, 2017; Schaeffer et al., 2018). For instance, 'Habitat for Humanity,' an organization, collaborates with local municipalities to implement affordable housing initiatives for refugees across different countries. These efforts strive to create neighborhoods where refugees and residents can reside harmoniously (Habitat for Humanity, 2021).

2.9. I/NGOs as Promoters of Social Interaction

To promote cohesion among a host population and the refugees and migrants living among them, one of the factors is engaging in interactions. (NGOs) Moreover, (INGOs) actively encourage interactions through community engagement programs and initiatives focused on cultural exchange. As Bloch (2004) highlighted, these initiatives often involve organizing events, workshops, and community gatherings that facilitate connections between residents and refugees or migrants. By facilitating these encounters, NGOs create platforms for fostering understanding and empathy and establishing networks vital for building a unified society.

Furthermore, research conducted by Kern (2016) sheds light on the involvement of INGOs in promoting partnerships between newcomers and local volunteers. These partnerships can include mentorship programs, language exchange initiatives, or collaborative community projects. Such initiatives that encourage interaction play a role in breaking down barriers and challenging stereotypes. A study conducted in France by Bidea (2016) highlights the positive influence of I/NGO cultural exchange programs on appreciation and acceptance among refugees, migrants, and the local population. An excellent illustration of this can be seen in Berlin, where several non-governmental groups have connections between established community members and those who recently arrived after escaping their home countries from distant lands. One remarkable organization known as "Give Something Back to Berlin" (GSBTB) focuses on fostering understanding among communities.

2.10. The Effectiveness of I/NGOs in Promoting Social Cohesion

The success of NGOs in promoting integration among displaced people varies depending on the specific circumstances of each situation. Despite their role in fostering community cohesion for refugees and migrants, the effectiveness of these organizations can fluctuate. The Swedish Red Cross has launched a "for integration" initiative in Sweden to promote convergence between refugees and the local community. This initiative has enhanced cohesion by actively involving refugees and locals through various cultural exchange events, language courses, and mentorship programs. These activities involve interaction between the two groups (Strang & Ager, 2010; Dorais, 2002).

2.11. Contextual Variations

The ability of INGOs to promote social unity is greatly influenced by the specific circumstances in which they operate. Research conducted in locations in Germany and the United Kingdom has revealed similar outcomes. The political environment and policies of host countries can impede the work of INGOs. When restrictive immigration policies and anti-immigrant attitudes create divisions, it becomes more challenging for these organizations to foster cohesion among refugees and migrants, as explained by Phillimore in 2012. Therefore, the success of I/NGO initiatives largely depends on the context within which they function. In Lebanon, the impact of INGOs on promoting unity varies depending on the region. For example, NGOs have successfully implemented integration programs in areas such as Beirut, where resources are relatively abundant. However, in regions with resources far from urban centers, their effectiveness may be constrained due to differing conditions (Robinson, 1998; Ager & Strang, 2008).

2.12. Host Community Attitudes

The attitudes and perceptions of the community also impact how effective I/NGO efforts are. A study conducted in the United States (Kallick & Mathema, 2016) shows that having attitudes towards refugees and migrants can significantly contribute to their integration process. It is essential for I/NGOs to actively engage with the community and provide education to promote understanding and empathy among residents (Kallick & Mathema, 2016). Furthermore, research in France (Bidea, 2016) highlights the significance of having support networks in creating an environment. When I/NGOs collaborate with the community and individuals fosters a sense of belonging and mutual acceptance among refugees and migrants (Bidea, 2016). An organization called 'Welcoming Dortmund' has played a role in building connections across neighborhoods in Dortmund, Germany, through various meaningful initiatives to bring together the residents. The success of their initiatives, such as community festivals and workshops, heavily relies on the attitudes of host community members willing to engage with refugees. They highlight the vital role of host community attitudes (Hyndman & Hynie, 2016; Saggat & Somerville, 2012).

2.13. Resource Availability

The effectiveness of INGOs in promoting cohesion relies heavily on the availability of human resources. According to the 'European Council on Refugees and Exiles' (1999), having funding and skilled personnel is crucial for delivering services. More resources can make it challenging for INGOs to provide language classes, job training, and other necessary support systems. Furthermore, research conducted in Canada (Li, 2003) highlights the significance of tailored programs and services that address the needs of refugees and migrants. Allocating resources allows I/NGOs to adapt their strategies to contexts and individual circumstances, ultimately increasing their effectiveness.

For example, Greek NGOs like Doctors Without Borders have faced difficulties fostering harmony due to resource limitations, making their efforts to bring groups together more complex. Despite striving to offer psychosocial aid to refugees, restricted access to assets has hindered their ability to establish integration initiatives (Gineste, 2016; Kallick & Mathema, 2016).

The impact of I/NGOs in promoting unity is a matter that is influenced by several factors, such as the political environment, the attitudes of the local community, and the availability of resources. It is essential for policymakers and practitioners working on refugee and migrant integration to acknowledge these complexities. I/NGOs can further their role in fostering cohesion within host nations by addressing the hurdles created by these factors and utilizing their advantages.

2.14. Examples of The implementation of social cohesion programs

Applying social cohesion programs for refugees—especially Syrian refugees in Türkiye—is essential, as evidenced by a growing body of research and a thorough grasp of the opportunities and problems that host communities and refugees confront. This title explains the persuasive justifications and advantages of implementing social cohesiveness programs.

2.15. Improving Inclusion and Integration

Integrating refugees into host cultures involves aspects of economic and political domains. It aims to empower refugees to participate in their communities, improving their well-being and promoting social cohesion. This process is vital for providing assistance and

protection to refugees. Existing literature emphasizes factors and strategies to enhance inclusion and integration for Syrian refugees in Türkiye.

2.15.1. Education Access:

Access to education is one of the core components of integration. Due to linguistic problems and the disparities between the educational systems in their home country and Türkiye, Syrian refugee children in Türkiye have several obstacles while attempting to obtain formal education (Levent & Çayak, 2017). By offering language classes and supporting programs to guarantee that refugee children may attend school, NGOs and international organizations have substantially contributed to resolving these issues (Aras & Duman, 2018). Furthermore, to promote healthy relationships between Syrian and Turkish students, local initiatives and non-governmental organizations have concentrated on developing inclusive and intercultural learning environments (Çelik & Erdoğan, 2017).

2.15.2. Incorporated Labor Market:

Refugees' well-being and social unity heavily rely on their successful integration into the economy. Many scholarly studies highlight the importance of implementing policies and initiatives that facilitate refugees' entry into the workforce (İçduygu & Diker, 2017). These measures encompass services for job matching, vocational training programs, and campaigns promoting opportunities for refugees (Kadkoy, 2020). NGOs have played a role in assisting refugees in achieving self-sufficiency by providing job placement assistance and support for their livelihoods (Ilcan et al., 2018).

2.15.3. Social Capital and Community Building:

Integration relies on developing connections among refugees and between refugees and the host community. Over time, individuals and communities establish networks, bonds, and trust, contributing to cohesion. For migrants adjusting to their environment, this can be an asset (Adler & Kwon, 2002). To promote unity, non-governmental organizations, and community-based groups have collaborated on projects bringing Syrian communities together (Easton et al. 2020). These endeavors foster a sense of belonging and shared identity by encouraging relationships and interactions.

2.15.4. Legal and Civic Rights:

Access to legal rights and engaging in civic life is essential for integration. "Temporary protection" was the initial status of Syrian refugees in Türkiye (Directorate General of Migration Management, 2021). However, various initiatives aim to provide them with more secure legal statuses and pathways to citizenship (Akçapar-Köşer & Şimşek, 2018). Advocacy groups and non-governmental organizations have contributed to increasing public knowledge of refugee rights and facilitating their access to legal services (Akçapar-Köşer & Şimşek, 2018).

2.15.5. Local Projects and Community-Based Initiatives:

While both national and international organizations have certainly assisted refugees with their integration, it is equally crucial to acknowledge the contribution made by grassroots and local initiatives. These endeavors possess an understanding of the needs and unique characteristics of the communities they cater to. A prime example is the Istanbul Park Forums, which have emerged as platforms fostering engagement and community participation (Ramazanoğulları, 2021). These forums promote unity by offering spaces for discussions and collaborative endeavors.

2.16. Reducing Social Unrest

Sometimes, social unrest can arise when a host nation has a population of refugees and limited resources. This is especially true when there are differences at play. However, some techniques can help mitigate these conflicts and foster cohesion.

2.16.1. Improved Interaction and Cross-Cultural Learning:

Refugees and host communities can decrease tensions significantly by engaging in effective dialogue and cultural exchange. According to Banan, Ilcan, and Rygiel (2017), programs that support language acquisition and cultural awareness can close gaps and promote understanding. Initiatives to foster communication and engagement between the Turkish and Syrian communities have been established in Türkiye (Çelik & Erdoğan, 2017). NGOs and community-based organizations have frequently taken the lead in planning occasions and initiatives promoting these interactions (Easton-Calabria & Wood, 2020).

2.16.2. Economic Empowerment:

Economic inequities can exacerbate social tensions. Thus, initiatives promoting economic empowerment for host communities and refugees can support social cohesiveness. Initiatives can involve assisting local businesses that may be impacted by the presence of refugees while providing vocational training and job placement services for refugees (World Bank, 2015). Guaranteeing that economic possibilities are available to everyone can mitigate tensions arising from resource rivalry (İçduygu & Diker, 2017).

2.16.3. Community Involvement and Engagement:

Including host and refugee groups in decision-making and procedures can empower people and promote community. Better resource allocation and conflict resolution can result from community-driven initiatives incorporating all stakeholders (Akdemir, 2019). According to Ramazanoğulları (2021), local forums such as the Istanbul Park Forums have given Turkish citizens a place to address important topics, such as the presence of refugees.

2.16.4. Legal Support and Conflict settlement:

To prevent and reduce tensions, it is vital to ensure people can access assistance and methods for resolving conflicts. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have played a part in helping refugees comprehend their rights and responsibilities by providing aid (Akçapar et al., 2018). Additionally, endeavors that promote mediation and conflict resolution at the community level contribute to coexistence (World et al., 2020).

2.16.5. Political Involvement and Representation:

Guaranteeing refugees a say in the political process can also foster social cohesiveness. As part of this, İçduygu and Diker (2017) advocate for policies that attend to the needs of both host communities and refugees. NGOs have been involved in lobbying for refugees' rights and representing their concerns in policy talks (Akçapar-Köşer & Şimşek, 2018).

2.17. Making Use of Human Capital

Human resources play a role in both host communities and refugee populations. They encompass people's skills, potential, and knowledge, contributing to integration and unity.

2.17.1. Education and Skill Development:

Education stands out as a factor in enhancing resources. Numerous publications emphasize the significance of providing high-quality education opportunities to refugee communities. Research conducted in Istanbul (Akçalı, 2018) underscores the value of initiatives for refugees. For instance, language sessions facilitate integration and communication, enabling refugees to learn the language to engage with the host society and secure employment. Furthermore, tailor-made educational programs catered to the needs of refugees—such as those catering to students attending Turkish schools—serve as steppingstones for improving their human capital (Levent & Çayak, 2017).

2.17.2. Work and Economic Participation:

Using human capital effectively requires gainful work. Refugees can make the most of their abilities when given the chance to work and support the community's economy. Studies on labor market integration strategies for Syrian refugees have been conducted in Türkiye (İçduygu & Şimşek, 2016). By utilizing the human capital of refugees, these programs seek to lessen their need for aid by assisting them in becoming self-sufficient. Furthermore, the World Bank (2015) notes that the economic empowerment of refugees via job placement and vocational training programs utilizes their human capital to the mutual advantage of the host community and refugees.

2.17.3. Networking and Social Capital:

Developing social capital is an additional strategy to maximize human capital. Participating in social networks and groups makes it easier for people to share resources and expertise. By taking part in talks and debates, people in the Istanbul Park Forums utilize their human capital (Ramazanoğulları, 2021). These kinds of forums allow people to impart their knowledge, pick up tips from others, and work together to solve problems. In order to link refugees with local networks and resources, NGOs and community-based groups are critical (UNHCR, 2020).

2.17.4. Health and Well-Being:

Health and mental well-being are both aspects of human capital. Refugees need to have access to programs that provide support and healthcare services. Research suggests that social capital, which is a part of capital, can impact health outcomes (Carpiano, 2005). Programs aimed at improving the well-being of refugees also contribute to their development as

individuals. For instance, initiatives that address the needs of refugees can enhance their ability to engage in their communities actively (Gilbert et al., 2013).

2.17.5. Community Engagement and Leadership:

Recognizing the leadership potential within refugee communities represents another aspect of harnessing their resources. Refugees often possess knowledge and expertise that can greatly benefit their communities. To fully leverage their capital, empower refugee leaders and involve them in community initiatives (Eslen et al., 2020). One practical approach is encouraging refugees to participate in civil society groups and engage them in decision-making (Zihnioglu, 2019).

2.18. Alleviating Refugee Vulnerabilities

Due to their forced relocation, refugees frequently experience a variety of vulnerabilities, such as psychological, social, and economic difficulties. Reducing these vulnerabilities is crucial for fostering social cohesiveness and guaranteeing refugees' effective assimilation into receiving communities. The following conclusions are made:

2.18.1. Economic Vulnerabilities:

Because of their position and restricted access to formal employment, Syrian refugees, especially those in Türkiye, frequently face economic vulnerabilities (Akçapar-Köşer & Şimşek, 2018). International institutions and NGOs have acknowledged the value of livelihood initiatives in reducing these vulnerabilities. The primary objectives of these initiatives are to furnish refugees with a means of earning a living, vocational instruction, and assistance for small enterprises (World et al., 2020). Refugees can become more self-sufficient and less reliant on humanitarian aid by addressing their economic vulnerabilities, which is crucial for their integration.

2.18.2. Psychological Vulnerabilities:

Refugees who go through forced relocation might experience impacts, as highlighted by Baban et al. (2017). Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) often establish support programs to tackle these challenges. These initiatives aim to provide health care, trauma healing, and counseling to help refugees cope with the stress and trauma caused by displacement (World Health Organization, 2012). By addressing their vulnerabilities, refugees

are better equipped to engage in social activities, education, and employment opportunities. This ultimately fosters a sense of cohesion.

2.18.3. Legal and Administrative Vulnerabilities:

Depending on their status and paperwork, refugees frequently encounter legal and administrative obstacles (Soykan, 2012). Addressing these vulnerabilities is a critical function of NGOs and legal aid organizations. They provide legal aid to refugees so they may exercise their rights, get through complex asylum procedures, and get the paperwork they need (Aras & Duman, 2018). Resolving legal vulnerabilities is essential to guaranteeing the legal protection of refugees and promoting their integration.

2.18.4. Social and Cultural Vulnerabilities:

When refugees are adapting to their adopted communities, they may face challenges related to cultural aspects. The differences in culture and language can create obstacles in their integration process (Çelik & Erdoğan, 2017). To address these challenges, non-governmental organizations often organize language courses and cultural orientation programs (ILCM & Hacettepe University, 2016). These initiatives promote dialogue, understanding, and social unity between refugees and the local community.

2.18.5. Healthcare Vulnerabilities:

Although getting healthcare is a fundamental human right, refugees frequently encounter obstacles in getting access to it (Erdoğan, 2016). NGOs strive to reduce healthcare vulnerabilities in partnership with regional healthcare providers. To guarantee that refugees obtain necessary medical care, they provide health education, mobile clinics, and outreach initiatives for the healthcare industry (International Organization for Migration, 2016). The security of host communities' health as well as the welfare of refugees depend on addressing healthcare vulnerabilities.

2.19. Fostering Mutual Cultural Understanding

Improving intercultural awareness is essential to improving the social cohesion and integration of refugees in host communities. Below is insightful information about the tactics and programs I and NGOs use to accomplish this.

2.19.1. Language and Cultural Training:

According to Çelik and Erdoğan (2017), one of the main obstacles refugees encountered while integrating into a new society was language problems. To address this issue, I/NGOs frequently host cultural orientation and language classes (ILCM & Hacettepe University, 2016). Through these programs, refugees can better comprehend the host community's cultural norms and values and learn the area's language. Refugees can promote social cohesiveness through good communication, access to resources, and interaction with the community.

2.19.2. Intercommunal Activities:

Fostering communication and bridge-building across cultural divides between various refugee communities and the host community is essential (Akçalı, 2018). I/NGOs often plan intercommunal gatherings and events to promote interaction between residents and migrants (ILCM & Hacettepe University, 2016). These kinds of programs allow people from different backgrounds to exchange tales, customs, and experiences. These exchanges can foster a sense of unanimity and perpetuate stereotypes.

2.19.3. Community Dialogues:

Whether international or local, NGOs utilize tactics to encourage understanding. One effective method is creating spaces where people can come together for conversations and discussions. These platforms provide opportunities for both host community members and refugees to openly express their concerns, address any misunderstandings, and find ground. NGOs play a role in fostering society by dispelling misconceptions and easing tensions, thereby facilitating stronger connections between diverse groups of individuals.

2.19.4. Cultural exchange:

NGOs frequently coordinate cultural exchange programs to promote understanding and appreciation between refugees and local communities (ILCM & Hacettepe University, 2016). These initiatives enable refugees to gain insights into their host community's customs while highlighting their talents and cultural heritage. Participating in cultural exchange programs allows individuals to share their experiences, fostering compassion and encouraging tolerance.

2.19.5. Media and Communication:

Through media and communication initiatives, NGOs contribute to the narrative around refugees (ILCM & Hacettepe University, 2016). They can favorably affect public opinion by showcasing success stories, the contributions made by refugees to their new communities, and the advantages of diversity. Greater acceptance and understanding follow from this.

2.20. Building Social Capital

Improving refugees' social capital is essential to improving their integration and sense of belonging in host communities. Below is an insight into the many approaches and methods INGOs use to support this goal.

2.20.1. Community Mobilization and Networks

(I) NGOs frequently assist in creating networks among refugees and community mobilization (Woolcock, 1998). Through the planning of seminars, get-togethers, and support systems, refugees can establish connections, exchange stories, and obtain necessary resources. These networks produce two essential components of social capital: a sense of reciprocity and belonging (Putnam, 1993).

2.20.2. Promoting Social Cohesion projects:

Several articles (Akçapar-Köşer & Şimşek, 2018; Easton-Calabria & Wood, 2020) emphasize the function of INGOs in promoting social cohesion projects. These programs build collaboration and Trust between the host community and refugees through engagement. (I) NGOs frequently serve as bridges, uniting disparate organizations to collaborate on projects that share shared objectives, including cultural events or community development initiatives.

2.20.3. Establishing Trust:

According to Coleman (1988), trust is the foundation of social capital. (I) NGOs take part in initiatives to foster trust both within and between host communities and refugee populations. They offer secure environments for discussion, resolving disputes, and addressing issues (Akçapar-Köşer & Şimşek, 2018). Through the resolution of possible conflicts and mistrust, NGOs aid in the development of social ties.

2.20.4. Enhancing the abilities and capabilities of refugees:

NGOs employ capacity building, known as enhancing the abilities and capabilities of refugees, to fortify social capital (Landell Mills, 2021). Workshops and training courses enable refugees to take up leadership positions, volunteer work, or other forms of active community participation. As refugees grow more independent and involved, they add value to social capital.

2.20.5. Advocacy and Awareness:

To advance refugees' rights and inclusion, INGOs frequently participate in advocacy campaigns (Aras & Duman, 2018). NGOs use policy lobbying and awareness initiatives to decrease discrimination and marginalization. Consequently, this cultivates a feeling of inclusion and a common identity, essential elements of social capital (Putnam, 2000).

2.21. The Humanitarian Need

The humanitarian imperative emphasizes the necessity of providing relief, safety, and support to refugees and populations that have been forcefully displaced, which stands for a moral and ethical duty to do so. Below, shed light on the humanitarian imperative of NGOs' work with refugees.

2.21.1. Protection and aid:

Baban, Ilcan, and Rygiel (2017) state that governmental organizations (NGOs) often take the lead in providing assistance and support to refugees. Their primary focus is ensuring refugees access to food, shelter, healthcare, and education. NGOs prioritize refugees' safety and overall welfare during situations in line with the humanitarian duty outlined by the UNHCR (2020).

2.21.2. The Rights-Based Method:

The core of INGOs' activity is a human rights-based perspective (Aras & Duman, 2018). It entails acknowledging refugees' rights and intrinsic dignity, as stated in international agreements and treaties. (I) NGOs fulfill their moral obligation to protect and empower refugees by promoting and defending these rights (Biehl, 2017).

2.21.3. Emergency Response:

NGOs react quickly to humanitarian crises during times of crisis (Akdemir, 2019). This could entail offering aid that could save lives, such as food distribution and medical attention. The humanitarian imperative forces NGOs to respond to the pressing needs of displaced persons promptly and efficiently (World Food Program, 2020).

2.21.4. Reduction of Pain:

According to Gilbert et al.'s (2013) research, a crucial work principle is alleviating suffering. NGOs work to alleviate the physical distress experienced by refugees through various means. These measures encompass providing trauma treatment, offering support, and establishing zones for those who require it the most (UNHCR, 2021).

2.21.5. Conflict Resolution:

(I) NGOs frequently work to resolve conflicts and promote peace (Pelling & High, 2005). (I) NGOs help to stop more suffering and displacement of people by looking for peaceful solutions to disputes that result in displacement. The humanitarian need to avert and lessen crises aligns with this proactive strategy (International Crisis Group, 2018).

CHAPTER III

3. Methodology

This research aimed to understand how INGOs contribute to the sociocultural adaptation of Syrians to the host community in Türkiye. It focused on analyzing the impact of social cohesion programs. We examined the outcomes through interviews with organization representatives responsible for these programs. Furthermore, we surveyed to evaluate the effectiveness of these programs among both participants and non-participants from social cohesion programs implemented by NGOs; we will also conduct an in-depth interview with participants of these programs.

The study began by exploring the concept and various aspects of cohesion. It then examined both INGOs and NGO initiatives aimed at integrating worldwide Syrians in Gaziantep, Türkiye with the local community. Finally, it provided an overview of Descriptive Information On Syrian people living in Türkiye.

To collect qualitative data and attain a comprehensive understanding of social cohesion programs implemented in Gaziantep, Türkiye by NGOs and INGOs, the researcher sought diverse perspectives and opinions about this subject. The researcher conducted face-to-face and online semi-structured interviews with six key informants and experts from different backgrounds who work in INGOs or NGOs in the Syrian context. Two hundred twenty-nine open questions were developed for the semi-structured interviews, besides 32 in-depth interviews with beneficiaries from social cohesion programs (see Annex I: Interview Questions).

These questions have been designed as a guide during the interview, allowing flexibility to ask additional questions if needed due to the semi-structured nature of the interview.

For Survey Design, an online survey accessible to participants and non-participants of social cohesion programs was designed to collect quantitative data. The survey instrument (See Annex 2_Survey_En.) was carefully crafted to capture insights into the perceived impact of these programs, demographic information, and other relevant factors. Besides that, the survey included a SCAS-R question(Arabic version). A pre-testing phase ensured the clarity and relevance of survey questions.

The in-person interviews were conducted in Gaziantep, Türkiye, and online interviews were conducted when possible. Besides, the online survey was shared with participants and non-participants as needed.

Ethical considerations were paramount throughout the research process. Informed consent was obtained from all participants, ensuring transparency regarding the study's purpose and the use of collected data. Confidentiality measures were implemented to protect participants' identities.

Qualitative data from interviews underwent thematic analysis, identifying patterns and critical themes. The online survey data will be subjected to statistical analysis, including relationships and trends, providing quantitative insights into the effectiveness of social cohesion programs.

Data collection occurred between Jan and Nov 2023 to capture a snapshot of the current state of social cohesion programs. In-person interviews and the online survey were conducted during specific periods to ensure a focused and time-bound study.

3.1. Research Design Methodology

This study adopts a meticulously designed research methodology to unravel the intricate dynamics of social cohesion initiatives for Syrian refugees in Gaziantep, Türkiye, explicitly focusing on the role of NGOs and INGOs. The specific NGOs and INGOs actively fostering social cohesion will be expressly outlined to provide a more apparent contextual background. This will offer readers a nuanced understanding of the actors shaping the social adaptation landscape.

The research design employs a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods. The qualitative component entails Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with individuals closely associated with NGOs operating in Türkiye. These structured interviews delve deep into NGOs' perspectives, approaches, challenges, and successes in implementing social cohesion programs. By gaining insights from these critical informants, we aim to provide a comprehensive view of the strategies employed, collaborative efforts with local stakeholders, program design, and the perceived impact on social cohesion within the Syrian refugee community.

On the quantitative front, a participant and non-participant survey was administered to Syrians residing in Gaziantep. The SCAS-R, a validated tool for assessing social adaptation, will quantitatively measure participant and non-participant levels of socio-cultural adaptation, allowing for a thorough analysis of the data collected. This approach ensures a holistic exploration of the subject matter.

By adopting this research design methodology, we aim to bridge the gap in understanding the intricate dimensions of social cohesion initiatives and their impact on the adaptation of Syrian refugees in Gaziantep, Türkiye. This section sets the stage for a comprehensive analysis that combines qualitative and quantitative insights, enhancing the overall coherence and clarity of the research design.

3.2. Qualitative Component: Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)

This study employs Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) as a pivotal methodological tool to delve into the intricate facets of social cohesion initiatives targeting Syrian refugees in Türkiye. These KIIs are instrumental in capturing rich insights from individuals closely affiliated with NGOs operating in the region.

The rationale behind selecting KIIs is twofold. Firstly, these interviews allow for an in-depth exploration of NGOs' perspectives, approaches, challenges, and successes in their pursuit of fostering social cohesion. Through a structured format, we aim to extract valuable information regarding the strategies employed, collaborative efforts with local stakeholders, and the overall design of these initiatives.

Key informants, representing various backgrounds within the NGO sector, bring a diversity of viewpoints to the forefront. Their experiences and nuanced understanding contribute significantly to unraveling the complexities associated with social cohesion programs. By employing a structured interview format, we ensure consistency in data collection and facilitate qualitative data analysis.

Additionally, the emphasis on collaboration with local stakeholders and the design intricacies of these initiatives will be highlighted during these interviews. Unveiling these aspects adds depth to our understanding of how NGOs navigate the socio-cultural landscape, fostering connections between Syrian refugees and the host community.

3.3. Quantitative Component: Participant and non participant Survey, in depth interview

The quantitative facet of this study employs a Participant and non-participant Survey to comprehensively gauge the sociocultural adaptation of Syrian refugees in Gaziantep, Türkiye, with a specific focus on the impact of social cohesion programs. This section elucidates the survey's methodological nuances and underscores its significance in capturing diverse perspectives.

The survey, disseminated among Syrian residents in Gaziantep, meticulously aligns with the study's objectives. It strategically incorporates the Sociocultural Adaptation Scale-revised (SCAS-R) to probe into various dimensions, including language proficiency, social interaction, cultural adjustment, and overall adaptation. The SCAS-R serves as a reliable metric tailored to the unique challenges faced by Syrian migrants in Gaziantep, Türkiye.

Our survey aims to objectively measure Participant and non-participant levels of sociocultural adaptation, offering insights into their experiences and attitudes toward social cohesion programs. By quantifying domains such as Communication and Relationships, Personal Interests and Community Engagement, Educational and Professional Performance, and Ecological Adaptation, we strive for a nuanced understanding of the adaptation process.

In-depth interview questions mirrored those in the participant surveys, with the addition of a crucial inquiry: whether beneficiaries genuinely believe that the programs initiated by INGOs/NGOs contribute to social adaptation, and if so, why. The in-depth interviews were conducted face-to-face exclusively with the beneficiaries of the NGOs' social cohesion programs.

Emphasizing ethical considerations, this section highlights the need for informed consent, identity protection, and permissions from relevant organizations. This commitment ensures the integrity of the research process, safeguarding the rights and privacy of interviewees and survey respondents.

3.4. The Significance of Social Adaptation

3.4.1. Social Adaptation and the SCAS-R Scale: An In-depth Exploration

The phenomenon of migration, which is both complicated and widespread, impacts host countries, migrants, and society. Countless individuals relocate to nations for safe, improved lifestyles or new opportunities as the world changes its environment due to conflict, persecution, economic prospects, and climate change. The intricate relationship between migrant communities and their host cultures emphasizes the importance of understanding and assessing the adaptation process. In this chapter focusing on migrants in Türkiye, we delve into

the concept of social adaptation and utilize the Socio-Cultural Adaptation Scale Revised (SCAS R) for analysis.

3.4.2. The Global Migration Scenario

Migration is an issue that affects countries and regions to varying degrees. Türkiye, located at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, provides an interesting case study examining how it has historically welcomed and accommodated refugees. Türkiye plays a role in accepting and integrating refugees from Syria (MIPMM, 2022).

The significant increase in the number of people migrating to Europe in Germany has presented challenges in providing accommodation for this large population influx. A recent study on managing shifts in population across borders has highlighted these challenges. As countries grapple with these changes, it is crucial to understand how migrants adapt to their societies. Castro and Murray (2010) emphasize that this adaptation process not only impacts the lives of migrants but also has implications for the stability and social unity of host communities.

3.4.3. The Socio-Cultural Adaptation Scale Revised (SCAS-R)

Ward and Kennedy (1999) developed the SCAS as an evaluation tool. Later updated by Wilson (2013) to assess how well an individual adapts to a new cultural and social environment, it was named SCAS-R. It was adjusted by Keser et al. (2023) to be used for language and culture, with a focus on Syrian migrants in Türkiye. This adaptation aimed to bridge the gap between evaluating immigrants' social adaptation and facilitating policymaking (Henseler et al., 2015).

The validation of the SCAS-R was pivotal to ensure its reliability and credibility during the confirmation phase. Our approach focused on tailoring the scale's questions to suit the group under study, which comprised migrants. This involved employing face and content validity methods established by methodological standards (Smith & Johnson, 2017).

The SCAS-R proves invaluable for researchers, policymakers, and fieldworkers engaging with migrants in Türkiye. Its successful implementation underscores its effectiveness in evaluating migrants' social adaptation, providing crucial insights for informed policy decisions (Goldberg, 1978). This study, focusing on Arabic-speaking migrants in Türkiye,

contributes to developing assessment tools that address the complexities of social adaptation, emphasizing the SCAS-R's validity and reliability within this cultural context (Valenti et al., 2023). The findings aim to enhance the adaptability of government initiatives, ultimately benefiting migrants and their host communities. The decision to employ the SCAS in this study is grounded in its recognized relevance, cross-cultural adaptability, statistical robustness, and efficacy in evaluating programs tailored explicitly for assessing Syrian refugee integration in Türkiye. As acknowledged in social cohesion research, the SCAS-R is deemed well-suited for assessing adaptation, which is crucial in examining how Syrian refugees integrate into Turkish society (Valenti et al., 2020). Its effectiveness across diverse contexts, demonstrated by extensive research, makes it an ideal instrument for assessing heterogeneous groups, such as Syrian refugees in Türkiye (Keser et al., 2023). The SCAS-R makes it easier to look at the results of social cohesion programs that aim to connect the refugee community with the host society (Hair et al., 2014). This is backed up by studies that stress how reliable it is. Additionally, its structure proves apt for quantitatively evaluating initiatives by NGOs and stakeholders in fostering integration and social unity among refugees in Türkiye (Bryne, 2016). In summary, utilizing the SCAS-R ensures a comprehensive evaluation of cohesion, providing valuable insights into program effectiveness, all tailored to the unique challenges faced by Syrian refugees in Türkiye.

In exploring social cohesion dimensions, the SCAS-R identifies critical factors shaping the integration of refugees into their host communities. Communication and Relationships (CR) assesses the effectiveness of interpersonal dynamics, providing insights into social cohesion dynamics (Smith & Johnson, 2017). Personal Interests and Community Engagement (PICE) measures refugees' involvement in activities aligned with their interests, contributing to a sense of belonging (Brown, 2019). Educational and professional performance (EPP) highlights the importance of occupational pursuits in evaluating individuals' adaptation and performance in work environments (Martinez, 2020). The Ecological Adaptation (EA) scale gauges refugees' adjustment to environmental aspects, considering familiarity, adherence to community norms, and overall environmental adaptation (Davis, 2018). Language Proficiency (LP) is crucial in assessing refugees' language skills for effective communication and integration in the host country (Martinez, 2020).

3.5. Data Integration and Analysis

The data we have collected will go through an analysis process. We will transcribe the code. Analyze the data from the KIIs to identify common patterns, emerging themes, and variations in NGO approaches. This analysis will provide insights into aspects of social cohesion programs and help us better understand how these organizations strategize.

To analyze the data from the survey, we will employ descriptive statistics analysis, and the content will be used to address the research problems.

Combining quantitative and qualitative findings will help us better understand and interpret the research results. Regarding considerations, we need to ensure that interviewees and survey respondents have provided consent, their identities are protected, and we have obtained permission from the relevant organizations to access program participants.

The data collected will undergo a comprehensive analysis involving both qualitative and quantitative approaches. For the qualitative component, we will transcribe and code the data from Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), aiming to identify common patterns, emerging themes, and variations in the strategies employed by NGOs involved in social cohesion programs. This qualitative analysis will yield valuable insights into the nuanced aspects of these programs and enhance our understanding of organizational approaches.

Descriptive statistical analysis will be used to analyze the survey data quantitatively. We will employ descriptive statistics to summarize participants' and non-participants' responses, providing a clear overview of the survey findings. Integrating qualitative and quantitative findings will enable a holistic interpretation of the research results.

To ensure ethical considerations are met, obtaining informed consent from interviewees and survey respondents, protecting their identities, and securing necessary permissions from relevant organizations to access program participants is imperative.

3.6. Research Limitations

While this study provides valuable insights into the social adaptation of Syrian refugees in Gaziantep, Türkiye, it is essential to acknowledge certain limitations that may impact the interpretation of the findings and the generalizability of the results.

A. **Sample Size and Composition:** The study's sample size, although representative, may not capture the entire diversity of the Syrian refugee population in Gaziantep, Türkiye. Variations in demographics, experiences, and geographical locations may exist beyond the scope of this research.

B. **Cross-Sectional Nature:** The study's cross-sectional design provides a snapshot of social adaptation at a specific point in time. It may not capture the dynamic nature of adaptation over an extended period, limiting the understanding of long-term trends.

C. **Self-Reported Data:** The reliance on self-reported data, particularly for social adaptation and program impact, introduces the possibility of response bias. Participants may provide socially desirable responses, impacting the accuracy of the findings.

D. **Generalization to Other Contexts:** The study focuses on Syrian refugees in Gaziantep, Türkiye, and caution should be exercised when generalizing the results to other regions or refugee populations with different contextual factors.

E. **Program Specificity:** The study primarily evaluates the impact of NGO programs on social adaptation. Other factors influencing adaptation, such as governmental policies or community support, may need to be fully addressed, limiting the comprehensive understanding of the dynamics involved.

F. **Limited Number of NGOs with Social Cohesion Programs:** The study is constrained by the availability of NGOs with social cohesion programs. A broader representation of NGOs might provide a more comprehensive understanding of the impact of such programs.

G. **Lack of Experts Leading Social Cohesion Programs:** The effectiveness of social cohesion programs may be influenced by the expertise of individuals leading these initiatives. A need for more qualified experts could impact program quality and outcomes.

H. **Low Participation Rates in Social Cohesion Programs:** The number of Syrian refugees actively participating in social cohesion programs is relatively low. This low

engagement may limit the overall impact and generalizability of the findings to the broader refugee community.

Despite these limitations, this study lays a foundation for understanding social adaptation dynamics among Syrian refugees in Gaziantep, Türkiye, and suggests avenues for further research and targeted interventions.

3.7. Contribution to knowledge

This research can contribute to the body of knowledge about programs that foster social cohesion among Syrian refugees. Using a combination of qualitative and quantitative data through a mixed methods approach, this study presents an analysis that combines insights from interviews (KIIs) with data gathered from a survey completed by participants and non-participants. This comprehensive methodology will yield an understanding of these programs' strategies, outcomes, and obstacles, enhancing discussions on refugee integration and social cohesion.

Moreover, the outcomes of this research can provide insights for INGOs and other stakeholders involved in initiatives focused on fostering social cohesion among refugees. By illuminating strategies and identifying areas that require improvement, this study can support decision-making and improve the planning and execution of forthcoming programs. Furthermore, it can aid in creating evidence-based practices that enhance the impact on refugee communities.

To sum up, the main objective of this research is to fill a knowledge gap regarding social cohesion programs for refugees in Türkiye. By employing a methodology for conducting data analysis and considering any limitations, this study aims to make a valuable contribution to the broader field of refugee studies. Furthermore, it strives to provide insights that can guide practical implementation.

CHAPTER IV

4. Descriptive Information On Syrians people living in Türkiye and brief information on NGOs activities in Türkiye

4.1. Background: Displaced figures worldwide:

Every minute, an increasing number of individuals find themselves forced to leave their homes around the globe, and it has become a common trend for those displaced to remain outside their home countries for extended periods. According to the UNHCR report titled "Figures at a Glance," 89.3 million people have experienced displacement from their residences. Among the 27.1 million refugees, a significant majority are individuals under 18. Many face challenges such as access to healthcare services, education opportunities, and employment prospects (UNHCR, 2021).

Out of the displaced population, it's interesting that only five nations were responsible, or about 69%. Syrians comprised 27% of the displaced population, and Venezuelans comprised 18%. Afghans accounted for 11%. South Sudanese represented 9%, and Myanmar had a share of 5%. The remaining 31% consisted of individuals from nations (excluding those recognized as Palestinian refugees by UNRWA), as per the data from UNHCR in 2021.

Around 72%, or possibly all, of individuals compelled to seek refuge in countries tend to settle in nations that are geographically proximate to their home country. Türkiye currently hosts 3.8 million refugees, while Colombia accommodates around 1.8 million. Uganda houses about 1.5 million, Pakistan has 1.5 million, and Germany offers shelter to approximately 1.3 million individuals needing asylum (UNHCR, 2021).

4.2. Syrian figures in Türkiye:

According to a study published in April 2022 by the Refugees Association, 3 million, 762 thousand, and 385 Syrians were registered in Türkiye and receiving temporary protection.

4.2.1. Syrians reside in camps (temporary refugee centers):

As of 21 April 2022, the number of Syrians residing in temporary housing facilities was reported to be fifty thousand seven hundred two. This figure was fifty thousand eight hundred seventy-three people (24 March 2022), fifty-eight thousand seven hundred fifty-two people at the start of 2021, sixty-three thousand two hundred forty-seven people at the beginning of 2020, one hundred forty-three thousand five hundred fifty-eight people at the start of 2019, and two

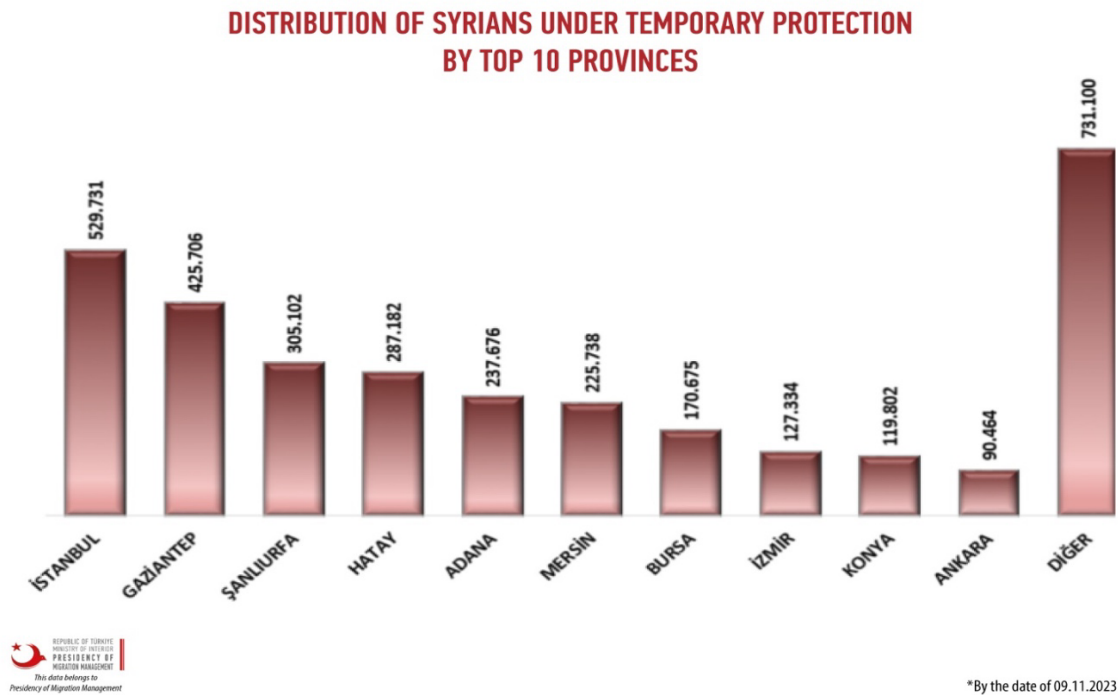
hundred twenty-eight thousand two hundred fifty-one people at the start of 2018. Camps are only home to 1.4% of Syrians (Refugees Association, 2022).

4.2.2. The percentage of Syrians who live in urban areas in Türkiye:

As of April 2022, cities were home to three million seven hundred eleven thousand six hundred eighty-three Syrians. Compared to the previous month, more than seven thousand nine hundred and sixty-five Syrians now reside in urban areas. 99.99 percent of Syrians live in urban areas. In Ankara, Antalya, Aydın, Bursa, Anakkale, Düzce, Edirne, Hatay, Istanbul, Izmir, Kırklareli, Kocaeli, Mula, Sakarya, Tekirda, Yalova, or any other city with a substantial foreign population, no foreigners of any nationality are allowed to file citizenship applications. Foreigners of any nationality are prohibited in these areas (Refugees Association, 2022).

4.2.3. Syrian Population by City

The following table lists the top cities regarding the number of Syrian residents under TP, based on data from the Directorate General of Migration Management dated 20 November 2023.



Figures 1.1 Distribution of Syrians under temporary protection by top 10 provinces

Syrians are most concentrated in these cities: Istanbul, with 529.731 people. Residents have the highest concentration of Syrians. Gaziantep 425.706. Sanliurfa, with 305.102, and Hatay, with 287.182, follow Istanbul in population. Kilis has the highest concentration of Syrians at

42.4% in terms of the local population. Kilis is home to 147.919. The city with the lowest Syrian population, Bayburt, has 27 residents (Directorate General of Migration Management, 2023).

DISTRIBUTION OF SYRIAN REFUGEES IN THE SCOPE OF TEMPORARY PROTECTION BY PROVINCE

NO	PROVINCE	REGISTERED	POPULATION	TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN THE CITY	RATE OF THE NUMBER REGISTERED SYRIANS TO THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN THE CITY	NO	PROVINCE	REGISTERED	POPULATION	TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN THE CITY	RATE OF THE NUMBER REGISTERED SYRIANS TO THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN THE CITY
1	ADANA	237.676	2.274.106	2.511.782	9,46%	42	KAHRAMANMARAŞ	90.375	1.177.436	1.267.811	7,13%
2	ADYAMAN	22.161	635.169	657.330	3,37%	43	KARABÜK	1.329	252.058	253.387	0,52%
3	AFYONKARAHİSAR	11.029	747.555	758.584	1,45%	44	KARAMAN	838	240.838	241.676	0,32%
4	AĞRI	1.176	510.626	511.801	0,23%	45	KARS	155	274.820	274.984	0,06%
5	AKSARAY	3.595	433.055	436.650	0,82%	46	KASTAMONU	1.555	378.115	379.670	0,41%
6	AMASYA	1.304	338.267	339.571	0,38%	47	KAYSERİ	81.878	1.441.523	1.523.401	5,37%
7	ANKARA	90.464	5.782.285	5.872.749	1,54%	48	KIRIKALE	1.645	277.046	278.691	0,59%
8	ANTALYA	4.817	2.688.004	2.692.821	0,18%	49	KIRIKLARELİ	931	369.347	370.278	0,25%
9	ARDAHAN	106	92.481	92.587	0,11%	50	KIRŞEHİR	1.635	244.519	246.154	0,66%
10	ARTVIN	60	169.403	169.463	0,04%	51	KİLİS	76.713	147.919	224.632	34,15%
11	AYDIN	8.412	1.148.241	1.156.653	0,73%	52	KOCAELİ	52.802	2.079.072	2.131.874	2,48%
12	BAKİRESİR	4.407	1.257.590	1.261.997	0,35%	53	KONYA	119.802	2.296.347	2.416.149	4,96%
13	BARTIN	404	203.351	203.755	0,20%	54	KÜTAHYA	1.512	580.701	582.213	0,26%
14	BATMAN	12.287	634.491	646.778	1,90%	55	MALATYA	31.175	812.580	843.755	3,69%
15	BAYBURT	27	84.241	84.268	0,03%	56	MANİSA	12.765	1.468.279	1.481.044	0,86%
16	BİLEÇİK	697	228.673	229.370	0,30%	57	MARDİN	80.719	870.374	951.093	8,49%
17	BİNGÖL	1.199	282.556	283.755	0,42%	58	MERSİN	225.738	1.916.432	2.142.170	10,54%
18	BİTLİS	1.017	353.988	355.005	0,29%	59	MUĞLA	10.381	1.048.185	1.058.566	0,98%
19	BOLU	4.018	320.824	324.842	1,24%	60	MUŞ	1.571	399.202	400.773	0,39%
20	BURDUR	8.784	273.799	282.583	3,11%	61	NEVEŞEHİR	12.951	310.011	322.962	4,01%
21	BURSA	170.675	3.194.720	3.365.395	5,07%	62	NİĞDE	6.545	365.419	371.964	1,76%
22	ÇANAKKALE	4.232	559.383	563.615	0,75%	63	ORDU	842	763.190	764.032	0,11%
23	ÇANKIRI	617	195.766	196.383	0,31%	64	OSMANİYE	38.390	559.405	597.795	6,42%
24	ÇORUM	3.039	524.130	527.169	0,58%	65	RİZE	1.375	344.016	345.391	0,37%
25	DENİZLİ	13.464	1.056.332	1.069.796	1,26%	66	SAKARYA	15.137	1.080.080	1.095.217	1,38%
26	DİYARBAKIR	21.790	1.808.880	1.826.670	1,19%	67	SAMSUN	9.175	1.368.488	1.377.663	0,67%
27	DÜZCE	1.437	405.131	406.568	0,35%	68	SİRT	4.062	331.311	335.373	1,21%
28	EDİRNE	598	414.714	415.312	0,14%	69	SİNOP	178	220.799	220.977	0,08%
29	ELAZĞI	12.010	591.497	603.507	1,99%	70	SİVAS	3.253	634.924	638.177	0,51%
30	ERZİNCAN	122	239.223	239.345	0,05%	71	ŞANLIURFA	305.102	2.170.110	2.475.212	12,33%
31	ERZURUM	915	749.754	750.669	0,12%	72	ŞIRNAK	2.082	557.605	559.687	0,37%
32	ESKİŞEHİR	6.805	906.617	913.422	0,75%	73	TEKİRDAĞ	12.132	1.142.451	1.154.583	1,05%
33	GAZİANTEP	425.706	2.154.051	2.579.757	16,50%	74	TOKAT	1.125	596.454	597.579	0,19%
34	GİRESUN	278	456.862	457.140	0,06%	75	TRABZON	3.263	818.023	821.286	0,40%
35	GÜMÜRHANE	100	144.544	144.644	0,07%	76	TUNCELİ	39	84.366	84.405	0,05%
36	HAKKARİ	375	275.333	275.708	0,14%	77	UŞAK	2.960	375.454	378.414	0,78%
37	HATAY	287.382	1.686.043	1.973.225	14,55%	78	VAN	1.647	1.128.749	1.130.396	0,15%
38	İĞİR	62	203.594	203.656	0,03%	79	YALOVA	3.547	296.333	299.880	1,18%
39	İSPARTA	7.364	445.325	452.689	1,63%	80	YOZGAT	5.158	418.442	423.600	1,22%
40	İSTANBUL	529.731	15.907.951	16.437.682	3,22%	81	ZONGULDAK	633	588.510	589.143	0,11%
41	İZMİR	127.334	4.462.056	4.589.390	2,77%						



*By the date of 09.11.2023

Figures 2.2 Distribution for Syrians refugees in the scope of the temporary protection by provinces

4.3. Syrian refugees in Türkiye

Migration from Syria to Türkiye, patterns in the influx of Syrian refugees, and the legislative procedure timeline may be separated into three eras (Doğuş, 2016). The first era began in 2011 with the initial influx of Syrians into Türkiye and lasted until the summer of 2015. To appear welcoming while avoiding legal obligations, the Turkish government took an informal approach to the crisis, establishing tents in southern regions near Syria and referring to displaced people as "guests" expected to pass through quickly despite having no rights, as documented in 2016 (Smith, 2016).

During the period known as the "open door policy," Türkiye generously welcomed millions of refugees based on humanitarian values, as various academic studies have stated (Aydoğdu et al., 2016; Bashour et al., 2016; Gedik et al., 2015). The Turkish government provided necessities to these refugees, including accommodation, healthcare, and education (Ercan et al., 2017; Fargues, 2012). However, Türkiye also faced security challenges due to this policy (Balta & Erdoğan, 2018). According to studies conducted by Esin (Esin, 2019; Gürel, 2016), there has been an increase in the number of Syrians living abroad (Kızılkoyun, 2013). Furthermore, Arı et al. (2016) and Kirişçi (2014) have raised concerns about preserving a shared language and cultural identity within society. Moreover, the burden of the refugee crisis affected Türkiye's economic stability (Ercan et al., 2017).

The sharp rise in Syrian refugees in the summer of 2015 presented Türkiye with an enormous dilemma that called for a significant revision to the nation's immigration laws. This shift in perspective—from seeing Syrians as transitory visitors to realizing they were permanent migrants—was strongly associated with the increasing number of refugees and the numerous scholarly publications that have investigated Türkiye's handling of the Syrian refugee crisis (Johnson & Brown, 2017; Kirişçi, 2014; Tolay, 2016).

In addition to receiving temporary protection, Syrian refugees now have the legal right to live in Türkiye under the new policy framework. The creation of Syrians' temporary protection status, which gave them legal access to necessities like work, healthcare, and education, was one particularly noteworthy change (Kirişçi, 2014; Gedik et al., 2015; Aydın, 2018). With this adjustment, Syrian refugees were essentially made into fellow citizens of Türkiye, allowing them to start new lives, look for work, and ultimately integrate into the local communities equally with locals (Kirişçi, 2014; Tolay, 2016).

This shift in Türkiye's approach to migration policy marked a turning point when the country adopted an inclusive strategy to address the needs of Syrian refugees. As pointed out by the authors (Doğuş, 2016; Gedik et al., 2015; Aydın, 2018), this approach has ensured that Syrian refugees received essential support and contributed to their feelings of safety and stability during these uncertain times. The second phase of Türkiye's response to the refugee crisis can be characterized as a period that highlights the country's commitment to humanitarian values while also recognizing the long-term consequences of hosting a substantial refugee population (Kirişçi, 2014; Tolay, 2016; Gedik et al., 2015).

In 2015, Syrian refugees entered European nations from Türkiye in unprecedented amounts. A period during which tens of thousands of migrants suffered tremendously as they faced immense difficulties upon arriving at the borders of Europe (Martinez, 2016). Some individuals sadly perished at sea. These occurrences represented the second stage of Syrian migration to Europe. Between 2014 and 2015, the staggering influx of refugees requiring international safeguards who came to Europe exponentially increased from slightly over 138,000 to nearly half a million by the end of the latter year. With the record numbers of refugees washing ashore on European shores in the summer of 2015 serving as impetus, officials from the European Union and Türkiye worked in unison on crafting a mutual plan to jointly address and stem the burgeoning tide of displaced people seeking safe harbor within the European Union's boundaries. On 29 November 2015, the EU and Türkiye agreed on a joint action plan to reduce irregular migration to the EU (Doğuş, 2016).

The third era of Syrian migration to Türkiye is characterized by policies and practices pushing toward integration. Having endured life within Türkiye's boundaries for more than six months, the nation began enabling those Syrian refugees who had been dwelling inside its borders since the year's commencement to securely acquire official consent to employ themselves, consequently opening a possible road toward steadiness and self-sufficiency for those displaced by armed combat (White, 2020). This substantial policy adjustment exemplified the Turkish government's evolution regarding Syrian refugees, moving beyond simply accommodating and sheltering them in the interim to cultivating their incorporation and participation in society over the long run. By enabling refugees from Syria to gain employment and access social amenities, this plan envisions helping them to eventually become financially independent of aid through boosted integration into Turkish society and increased self-sufficiency.

4.4. Role of INGOs and NGOs in Facilitating Access to Essential Services for Syrians in Türkiye:

The participation of organizations (INGOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Türkiye is crucial for ensuring refugees' long-term stability and well-being as they integrate into the local community. This section will explore how INGOs and NGOs contribute to the integration process by helping refugees access services. Additionally, we will examine the impact of social cohesion programs on fostering acceptance within the community. Syrian

refugees often encounter difficulties when trying to access services like healthcare, education, and housing support. To address these challenges, INGOs and NGOs provide resources and assistance (Smith, 2018).

4.4.1. INGOs and NGOs provide financial resources for basic needs such as healthcare, education, and housing assistance:

INGOs and NGOs collaborate with various stakeholders to secure funding for essential services. For instance, Save the Children has implemented programs to improve access to education for Syrian children in Gaziantep through financial support and school supplies (Save the Children, 2019). There is little doubt that this crucial financial backing holds profound ramifications for Syrian refugees' welfare and their capacity to attain high-caliber instruction. Furthermore, UNHCR's Emergency Cash Assistance program provides Syrian refugees financial aid, enabling them to cover essential expenses, including healthcare and housing (UNHCR, 2021).

4.4.2. INGOs and NGOs facilitate interactions with local authorities, service providers, and community leaders to ensure access to these services:

These organizations play a role in connecting refugees to local authorities and service providers. Mercy Corps has partnered with the Gaziantep municipality and local healthcare providers to ensure Syrian refugees can access healthcare services (Mercy Corps, 2017). The collaboration between nongovernmental organizations bridges the gap between refugees and local service providers, making it possible for Syrians to receive the necessary care and promote their overall integration. Moreover, the Red Crescent's coordination with authorities has made it easier for Syrian refugees in Gaziantep to access housing assistance programs (Turkish Red Crescent, 2020).

4.5. Impact of Social Cohesion Programs on Enhancing Community Acceptance:

Programs implemented by nongovernmental organizations (INGOs and NGOs) significantly cultivate acceptance and unity between Syrians, Turks, and other minority groups in Gaziantep (Jones, 2019). These initiatives are crucial in fostering comprehension, admiration, and inclusivity among the communities in the area.

4.5.1. Promotion of Mutual Understanding, Respect, and Tolerance:

Social cohesion programs promote understanding and harmony between refugees and the local community by addressing differences and minimizing biases. These initiatives involve various activities focused on breaking down barriers and encouraging interactions. For instance, exchange events bring together Syrian refugees and Turkish residents, providing a platform to share traditions, food, and stories. These events create an atmosphere that values diversity, fostering connections among individuals from different backgrounds (International Organization for Migration, 2017).

Language courses offered by organizations like the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) play a crucial role in integration by enabling refugees to communicate with the host community and promoting linguistic and cultural assimilation (UNHCR, 2018).

NGOs, such as Oxfam, organize community events like festivals and sports tournaments, providing opportunities for socializing and teamwork. These events bridge gaps and foster unity among diverse groups (Oxfam, 2019).

Interfaith dialogues facilitated by local religious organizations encourage understanding and dialogue among religious groups. These initiatives contribute to coexistence by promoting harmony and mutual respect (Smith, 2020).

Collectively, these efforts create an environment where Syrians, Turks, and other minority groups can share experiences, fostering empathy, acceptance, and a stronger sense of belonging. The "Cultural Integration Program" of the Red Crescent exemplifies how such initiatives achieve success by fostering interactions and dialogues that enhance cohesion and create a more inclusive environment for all residents (Turkish Red Crescent, 2020).

4.6. Governmental institutions efforts in social cohesion: effort Local authority effort In social cohesion, the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan 3RP:

The ongoing conflict in Syria has led to a crisis that has forced millions of people to leave their homes and jobs in the war-torn country. Türkiye has been dramatically affected by this issue, as it currently hosts over 3.6 million refugees within its borders. As a result, Türkiye is acknowledged as the leading nation in providing refuge, according to the UN Refugee Agency's report for 2021.

In order to tackle this crisis effectively, Türkiye has implemented the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan as one of its strategies. This comprehensive approach aims to address the needs of refugees while also focusing on their integration into communities. The objective is to offer opportunities for refugees to build lives and actively contribute to their host communities through cooperation and support.

4.6.1. Background

In 2015, the government launched the 3RP project to address the refugee crisis in the region. They collaborated with United Nations organizations and humanitarian groups to assist displaced populations. The main goal of this initiative was to help refugees in Türkiye integrate into society by offering them access to healthcare, education, and employment opportunities, ensuring their safety, and providing psychological support—the program aligned with UNHCR's objectives in 2019, which focused on empowering refugees.

The multi-stakeholder strategy underlying the 3RP program convenes the Turkish government alongside UN agencies, NGOs, and other involved humanitarian parties. The UNHCR's tripartite program in 2019 had as its three central pillars the aims of providing humanitarian assistance as well as protection to refugees, assisting surrounding local communities who were hosting them, and promoting self-sufficiency and resilience amongst refugees and communities alike through helping each gain the ability to recover from hardships on their own in the future. By meeting refugees' urgent needs, the program aims to facilitate their eventual integration and self-sufficiency within the community.

4.6.2. Introduction to the 3RP Program

Several initiatives and projects have been carried out to implement the 3RP program. The Emergency Social Safety Net program, which distributes monetary assistance to destitute Turkish families hosting Syrian refugees, constitutes one of the critical undertakings. The World Bank's (2021) program aims to satisfy families' most fundamental needs for sustenance, housing, and medical care while cultivating their self-sufficiency and ability to withstand hardship through these objectives. The most extensive cash transfer program globally, which has aided over 1.7 million individuals, is the ESSN initiative, which has massively impacted the lives of thousands worldwide.

A significant project of the 3RP program, the Livelihoods Support Program (LSP), seeks to help Syrian refugees in Türkiye obtain jobs and launch their enterprises. The initiative offers

young women and refugees financial access, business development support, and vocational training (UNHCR, 2021). Over 150,000 migrants have received help from the LSP in obtaining employment or launching their enterprises.

The 3RP program also supports educating Syrian refugee children in Türkiye through initiatives. To promote their learning and development, the initiative gives refugee children access to formal and informal education activities (UNICEF, 2021). By helping every young Syrian refugee get an education, this program hopes all can smoothly integrate into life in Türkiye in the long run by gaining skills and knowledge commonly only available to locals.

4.6.3. Contribution of the 3RP program

The 3RP Program in Türkiye has impacted the lives of Syrian refugees. This initiative has provided assistance and protection to millions of refugees affected by conflicts, helping them fulfill their needs and cultivate their independence and resilience. The Emergency Social Safety Net program has enabled families to meet their essential requirements and navigate the challenges of displacement by providing cash support (World Bank, 2021). The Livelihoods Support Project has shown promise in aiding refugees in finding employment and even starting their businesses, facilitating their long-term social integration.

4.6.4. The 3RP program's educational initiatives

The efforts made by the government to support the education of refugee children have been successful. The inclusion of children in society and their prospects for relying on access to information Thanks to the implementation of informal training initiatives through the 3RP program, Syrian refugee children now have opportunities to learn and grow (UNICEF, 2022).

Moreover, the local communities in Türkiye have also benefited from the 3RP plan. The strategy recognizes the importance of assisting locals and refugees to encourage coexistence and decrease tensions. The plan aimed to ease the burden on residents and promote harmony by offering support for community development, such as enhancing infrastructure, ensuring access to essential services, and creating financial prospects (UNHCR, 2019).

4.6.5. Difficulties and Future Course

Despite the achievements made through the 3RP initiative in helping Syrian refugees assimilate into the local area, several barriers remain. The immense scale of the refugee crisis and its pressure on assets and frameworks are sizeable barriers. The tremendous number of refugees in Türkiye has pressured the country's pre-existing social and economic structures, making it challenging to give complete assistance to all refugees and host communities equally (World Bank, 2021).

Moreover, individuals' diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds can present challenges when it comes to their integration. For example, refugees may need help adapting to the language, customs, and way of life. This could impact their ability to find employment, access education, and actively participate in the community (Kadirbeyoglu, 2019). To tackle these obstacles and foster a sense of belonging, it is crucial to implement programs that focus on language acquisition and cultural orientation. Such initiatives can help overcome barriers and encourage involvement.

Furthermore, how long the attempts to bring things together may last remains a worry. As the drawn-out essence of the struggle in Syria continues, it is essential to build plans beyond just helping immediately and instead focus on long-term blending in and self-support. This involves giving those who fled Syria admission to medical care and dealing with their psychological state and social requirements (UNHCR, 2019).

4.7. Efforts of international nongovernmental organizations to promote social cohesion among Syrian refugees in Türkiye:

Various non-governmental organizations in Türkiye have implemented various projects and programs to foster connections among refugees. These initiatives aim to support their integration into the community, provide employment opportunities, and nurture a sense of belonging in the broader society (Aytac & Isik Ercan, 2018; Başaran & Akkoyun, 2017).

The International Rescue Committee has dedicated efforts to promote unity among refugees in Gaziantep. They have implemented initiatives in the city, such as language classes, vocational training, and legal assistance. Recognizing the importance of health and psychological well-being in integration, they have also worked towards enhancing Syrian refugees' mental and emotional prosperity. For example, they partnered with schools to educate children, fostering a sense of belonging and community cohesion. Additionally, they

collaborated with businesses to create job opportunities for refugees, facilitating their integration into the local economy and nurturing a shared sense of purpose.

Mercy Group has been actively involved in facilitating connections among refugees. They have introduced programs such as language classes, vocational training, and business assistance. Furthermore, the organization has worked closely with authorities and community organizations to foster unity between refugees and the wider community. This involves organizing events and activities that encourage interaction and cultivate a feeling of belongingness.

Numerous non-governmental organizations with a focus, such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children's Fund, and the International Organization for Migration, have played a role in bringing Syrian refugees together. These organizations have implemented projects and initiatives in the city, including programs for education, vocational training support for businesses, and legal assistance (UNHCR, UNICEF, and IOM).

One of these initiatives is the "Community Day Centers" program, which provides refugees access to education, vocational training, and social and legal support. This program exemplifies how UNHCR has actively supported the community in Gaziantep. Additionally, it offers activities. Promotes psychological well-being. Another noteworthy initiative by UNHCR in Gaziantep is the "E-Schools" program developed collaboratively with UNICEF and the Turkish Ministry of National Training (UNHCR 2022).

CHAPTER V

5. Finding & discussion

Between June 2023 and November 2023, the researcher conducted 229 questionnaires with Syrians living in Gaziantep in person and online. The questionnaire included demographic and socio-economic information about each respondent, semi-structured questions on the NGO's social cohesion programs, and the SCAS-R scale(Annex 2: Survey Questions). Additionally, to get a complete picture of the effectiveness of the social cohesion programs, 32 face-to-face, in-depth interviews have been carried out with beneficiaries, and six key informant interviews have been conducted with the representatives of INGOs and NGOs by using semi-structured interview forms with open-ended questions(Annex 1: Interview Questions).

This data collection method aimed to obtain quantitative and qualitative data while allowing interviewees to clarify and add what they believe is necessary while avoiding questions that cause them embarrassment or discomfort or simply not answering questions they believe lack accurate information or adequate real-world experience to answer. As previously mentioned in the methodology, the researcher drew the sample from context-related interviewees or experts. In addition, there was a significant effort to diversify the sample in terms of gender, age, nationality, place of residence, occupation, and academic background in an attempt by the researcher to diversify the answers, enrich the analysis, and avoid bias. All interviewees for KIIs had a good to high level of education and had a senior professional level in leading social cohesion programs, which some might consider an elite sample.

In a deliberate order, the KII interview questions covered various aspects of the interviewee's engagement in social cohesion programs. The conversation touched upon the individual's background and affiliation, delving into the specifics of their organization's initiatives. The main topics explored included the program's objectives, beneficiary selection criteria, the number of participants, factors influencing program selection, targeted social cohesion dimensions, encountered challenges, and methods for assessing program effectiveness. The interviewer also inquired about the existence of reports on program results and concluded by seeking permission to share the survey link with program participants.

The survey questions, designed to glean comprehensive insights from participants, non-participants, and in-depth interviews, cover diverse aspects of respondents' profiles and

experiences in Gaziantep, Türkiye. They include demographic information like age, gender, education level, and monthly family income. Moreover, the survey explores the individual's tenure in Türkiye, citizenship status, homeownership, employment status, and engagement with NGO programs.

Furthermore, the survey and in-depth interviews gauge the respondent's answers. The survey explores the respondent's social adaptation experience using the SCAS-R scale, seeking nuanced feedback on daily life and cultural integration.

The respondent asked to provide details if they have participated in an NGO program, including the NGO's name and program. Lastly, the respondent is presented with a series of skill and behavior assessment questions, requiring them to score their competence and harmony in various social behaviors, reflecting the adaptability and integration aspects of living in Türkiye. Only one question was included in the in-depth interview to illustrate the participants' overviews of whether they believe that INGOs/NGO programs serve their social adaptation. Finally, the data collection is stopped because we reach a point where the respondents start repeating similar answers without any significant contribution.

In the following paragraphs, the researcher narrated the findings and their analysis in a discussion manner within the same sequence of the interview questions' topics mentioned in the previous paragraph. First, the researcher started with an analysis of the KIIs with the INGOs/NGO representatives; after that, the researcher analyzed the surveys and in-depth interviews.

5.1. Social Cohesion Programs for Syrian Refugees in Gaziantep: A Comparative Analysis of KII:

Examining the perspectives of six organizations shows the various social cohesion programs. These specific INGOs/NGOs were chosen to ensure a wide range of viewpoints on cohesion. Through KIIs, The research explores the landscape of interventions to foster cohesion among displaced communities. In this chapter, The researcher analyzes the similarities, distinct approaches, collaborative recommendations, and challenges that define each organization's commitment to strengthening the fabric within this context.

The interviews conducted with representatives from INGOs and NGOs serve as an introduction to their social cohesion initiatives. Focusing on participants' perspectives, program goals, targeted dimensions, encountered challenges, effectiveness measurement, and reporting

practices are all analyzed to reveal the dynamics that shape the success and impact of these programs. In this analysis, we aim to contribute to creating cohesion programs that will benefit Syrian refugees in Gaziantep, Türkiye.

5.1.1. Overview and Analysis of Social Cohesion Programs:

The comparative analysis of social cohesion programs reveals shared practices such as Community Engagement, Capacity Building, and Cultural Sensitivity and distinctive practices like Tailored Interventions, Innovative Technologies, and Cross-Sectoral Collaboration among organizations. The insights from KIIs generate a narrative encompassing common threads, unique approaches, shared challenges, and collaborative recommendations.

In response to the imperative need to enhance social cohesion in Türkiye, several leading INGOs and NGOs have implemented diverse programs with distinct approaches. KII-1, operating within the protection sector, collaborates with the Turkish government to bridge the coordination gap between Turks, Syrian refugees, and non-Syrian refugees. Utilizing a peer education model, their community-based approach ensures sustainable impact by fostering understanding and trust within communities and encouraging active participation from community leaders. KII-5, mainly focusing on the southern regions of Türkiye, addresses language and cultural differences challenges, emphasizing language education, cultural integration, and awareness programs for refugees, thus facilitating harmonious coexistence. KII-3, operating in Kilis and Gaziantep, responds to psychological and physical needs, promoting social integration by dispelling stereotypes and collaborating with partners in Istanbul. The organization's emphasis on psychological support and physical therapy sessions reflects a holistic approach to well-being. KII-4 emphasizes creating opportunities for integration, supporting communal meals, covering tuition fees, and fostering peaceful coexistence between refugees and the host community. KII-2 takes a comprehensive approach to addressing labor market needs, engaging with various departments and partners, and fostering interdependence, thus promoting a holistic and integrated response. The program's cooperation with 47 implementing partners underscores its commitment to collaboration and knowledge-sharing. KII-6 promotes social cohesion among individuals with special needs, providing treatment, psychological support, and activities to break the isolation barrier. The organization's focus on tree planting and awareness sessions demonstrates its commitment to fostering connections and understanding. Each organization contributes uniquely to enhancing

social cohesion, reflecting a collective and comparative effort to address the multifaceted challenges faced by refugees and the host community in Türkiye.

5.1.2. participants Selection: Overview and Analysis of Social Cohesion Programs

The participant's selection processes in social cohesion programs are pivotal in shaping the effectiveness and inclusivity of interventions. KIIs with six organizations highlight nuanced approaches and considerations in participants selection.

KII-1 employs a comprehensive and inclusive strategy, utilizing vulnerability assessments that consider economic constraints and cultural differences. KII-1 is dedicated to fostering social cohesion through tailored interventions that address diverse factors such as livelihoods and mental health. While KII-2 prioritizes vulnerable groups, focusing on women and youth, Considering regional factors and partner capacity, the KII-2 NGO aims to enhance inclusivity by concentrating on economic integration through support for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises and startups, contributing to broader social cohesion objectives.

On the other hand, KII-4 emphasizes need assessments, consultations, and gender balance in participant selection. To integrate refugees into Turkish society, KII-4 focuses on community building and a sense of belonging, striving to enhance social inclusion and trust. KII-6's unique focus on individuals with special needs guides its participants selection process. Relying on recommendations from psychological support and case management teams, KII-6 breaks isolation barriers and fosters social integration among this group, reflecting a commitment to a more inclusive understanding of social cohesion.

The KII-5 underscores the importance of understanding specific participants needs. This approach emphasizes tailoring interventions effectively to address the root causes of social cohesion challenges, acknowledging that diverse needs require tailored and flexible approaches.

While KII-3 recognizes the importance of community involvement and understanding local dynamics in participant selection, Emphasizing community-based approaches, KII-3 ensures interventions align with unique community needs, reflecting a commitment to promoting health and social cohesion hand in hand.

The analysis unveils a rich tapestry of approaches, emphasizing the importance of tailored interventions, inclusivity, and a nuanced understanding of local contexts. As

organizations navigate complexities, the overarching goal is to contribute to broader social cohesion and community well-being. Considering economic, cultural, and individual factors in participant selection reflects a commitment to positive and sustainable outcomes for refugees and host communities.

5.1.3. Program Objectives: Overview and Analysis of Social Cohesion Initiatives

Comprehending the program objectives of social cohesion initiatives is vital for evaluating their efficacy in cultivating harmonious community relationships. KII-1 adopts a holistic approach, integrating livelihoods, mental health, and psychosocial support to create an inclusive environment for peaceful coexistence. KII-2 strategically targets economic prospects, emphasizing sustainable livelihoods and addressing the labor market's supply and demand sides. KII-4 focuses on reducing tension, building trust, and integrating refugees into Turkish society, acknowledging the challenges of prolonged displacement.

KII-6's unique project concentrates on individuals with special needs, breaking isolation barriers and fostering collaboration within this demographic. Insights from the KII-5 underscore context-specific program objectives, emphasizing adaptability to address the root causes of social cohesion challenges. KII-3 prioritizes community health and well-being through community-based approaches, reflecting a comprehensive understanding of dimensions contributing to community cohesion.

By presenting the objectives, many organizations share the sub-objectives through which they seek to implement social integration programs, while they differ from other organizations. For example, the NGOs we interviewed collectively underscore a commitment to enhancing social cohesion within communities, emphasizing the interconnectedness of various dimensions such as livelihoods, mental health, psychosocial support, economic prospects, and protection. In the KII-1, their comprehensive approach integrates multiple facets to create an environment conducive to peaceful coexistence between refugees and host communities. The NGO we interviewed in KII-2 emphasizes strategically targeted employment, skills development, and business formalization to strengthen the social and economic fabric. KII-4 addresses challenges faced by refugees by focusing on social inclusion, trust-building, and integration into Turkish society. KII-6, a unique project, concentrates on

individuals with special needs, breaking isolation barriers and fostering interaction within this vulnerable demographic. The KII-3 dual focus on health and social cohesion reflects a comprehensive understanding of the dimensions contributing to community well-being. The insights from the KII-5 highlight the importance of context-specific program objectives, emphasizing the need for flexibility in addressing the root causes of social cohesion challenges. In navigating their distinct paths, these organizations collectively contribute to a nuanced and holistic approach to community development and cohesion.

Essentially, these organizations are committed to fostering positive connections, inclusion, and sustainable development within their communities. Navigating the complexities of displacement and cultural diversity, their holistic consideration of economic empowerment, cultural integration, and health underscores the comprehensive nature of social cohesion programs. Ultimately, their efforts contribute to building resilient, cohesive communities rooted in understanding, collaboration, and shared well-being.

5.1.4. Social Cohesion Dimensions Analysis of Social Cohesion Programs Is the mentioned NGOs:

Exploring the dimensions targeted by social cohesion programs reveals diverse approaches to enhancing social cohesion across different domains. KII-6 concentrates on individuals with special needs, aiming to break isolation barriers, promote inclusion, and create common ground. Insights from the KII-5 underscore the contextual nature of social cohesion dimensions, emphasizing the need for targeted interventions responsive to local dynamics. Insights from the KII-3 integrate health and social cohesion dimensions through community-based approaches, recognizing the interconnectedness of health and social well-being. KII-1 focuses on multiple dimensions, emphasizing social inclusion, trust-building, and fostering belonging. KII-2 adopts a comprehensive approach targeting various sizes, from employment promotion to gender equality. KII-4 primarily focuses on building trust and fostering belonging between refugees and the host community, mitigating tensions through initiatives encouraging attachment and understanding.

Most organizations share a joint commitment to promoting social inclusion through various strategies. They collectively recognize the importance of tailoring interventions to address the unique circumstances of individuals from diverse backgrounds. Employing a

comprehensive approach, these organizations acknowledge the interconnectedness of health, employment, trust-building, and community engagement in fostering social cohesion. Despite these shared goals, differences emerge in their specific focuses, target demographics, geographic specificity, dimensional emphasis, program duration, and the challenges they address. For instance, while KII-6 concentrates on individuals with special needs, KII-2 emphasizes economic dimensions like employment, and KII-4 focuses on building trust and fostering a sense of belonging. Geographic specificity varies, with some organizations targeting specific regions and others adapting strategies based on regional contexts.

Additionally, program durations and modes of implementation differ, reflecting the nuanced understanding these organizations have of the challenges related to social cohesion. These distinctions collectively contribute to the rich tapestry of strategies to navigate the complexities of fostering social cohesion in diverse contexts. Overall, the diversity in strategy reflects a commitment to addressing unique needs and challenges, contributing to developing cohesive and resilient communities.

5.1.5. Challenges: Overview and Analysis of Social Cohesion Programs Is the mentioned NGOs:

Understanding the challenges organizations encounter when implementing social cohesion programs is crucial for navigating the complexities of fostering community integration. KIIs with six organizations uncover both common and unique challenges in their initiatives.

- **Common Themes:**

- i) Economic Factors (KII-1-2-4-6):

Economic challenges, including inflation and perceived resource competition, emerge as common themes. The financial strain experienced by host communities, coupled with the perception that refugees contribute to these challenges, creates tension. This economic dimension underscores the importance of effectively addressing financial concerns to promote social cohesion. Initiatives must recognize and address the economic disparities that may hinder community integration.

- ii) Cultural Differences (KII 4-6):

Cultural disparities between refugees and host communities present a significant challenge. KII-4 notes difficulties in cultural understanding, while KII-6 highlights the reluctance of families to allow their children to participate in activities due to cultural stigma. Bridging these cultural gaps becomes imperative for successful social cohesion initiatives. Organizations need culturally sensitive approaches to create an environment where diverse communities can interact and understand each other.

- **Unique Approaches:**

- iii) Donor Influence (KII-4):

KII-4 faces challenges related to donor preferences, with some donors wanting to support specific groups over others. This challenge underscores the importance of aligning donor priorities with the intended outcomes of social cohesion programs. Balancing donors' expectations with the contextual needs of communities becomes crucial, requiring strategic communication and negotiation to ensure effective program implementation.

- iv) Informal Labor Market (KII-2):

KII-2 encounters a unique challenge related to the informal labor market. Encouraging workers to register officially is met with reluctance due to concerns about losing social support benefits. Balancing the transition to formal employment with the needs of beneficiaries in the informal sector becomes a specific challenge for the NGO we interviewed in KII-2. This situation emphasizes the need for innovative solutions to address the complexities of labor market dynamics and social welfare considerations.

- v) Media Campaigns and Public Perception (KII-1-6):

Both KII 1-6 highlight media campaigns and public perception challenges. Negative portrayals of refugees during election periods and the fear of negative impacts on children's well-being contribute to difficulties in community acceptance and participation. Organizations must actively engage with media narratives and public perceptions, advocating for accurate representations and countering misinformation to foster a supportive environment for social cohesion initiatives.

- **Cross-cutting Challenges:**

- vi) Reluctance to Participate (KII 1-2-6):

Across organizations, a common challenge is the reluctance of participants to participate in social cohesion activities. Whether driven by economic concerns, cultural stigma, or fear of negative consequences, addressing this reluctance is critical to the success of social cohesion programs. Strategies that address the root causes of reluctance, such as economic insecurity or cultural misunderstandings, are essential for fostering community engagement.

vii) Impact of Historical Events (KII 3-5):

Insights from the KII-3-5 acknowledge the impact of historical events on community dynamics. Displacement, conflicts, and political changes influence social cohesion efforts, emphasizing the need for context-specific strategies. Organizations must recognize and adapt to the historical context of their communities, considering past events' long-term effects on social relationships and dynamics.

In conclusion, the challenges faced by organizations in fostering social cohesion reveal a complex interplay of economic, cultural, and contextual factors. Identifying common themes and unique challenges provides a foundation for developing targeted interventions that address the specific needs of communities and contribute to sustainable social cohesion. By acknowledging and overcoming these challenges, organizations can foster environments where diverse communities thrive and collaborate harmoniously.

5.1.6. Measurements of effectiveness for social cohesion programs for NGOs:

In the meticulous examination of the measures of effectiveness within the landscape of social cohesion programs, a prevailing theme among organizations revolves around adopting robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks. These frameworks, constituting a cornerstone in assessing program effectiveness, entail periodic evaluations, comprehensive surveys, and data analysis.

Incorporating diverse monitoring tools, such as indicators and benchmarks, ensures a systematic approach to gauging interventions' success and maintains stakeholders' accountability. Noteworthy is the emphasis on beneficial feedback as a core component, as KII 2–6 highlights. Actively engaging participants through surveys, focus group discussions, and participatory workshops ensures that their voices play a pivotal role in assessing the impact of social cohesion programs aligning outcomes with their lived experiences.

KII-6 introduces a pioneering approach through Advocacy Teams, which are composed of former beneficiaries actively engaged in program activities. This innovative strategy amplifies the authenticity of evaluations and empowers participants to actively shape the narrative of social cohesion initiatives.

Acknowledged by KII 2-4, challenges related to data reliability underscore the necessity of third-party monitoring and evaluation entities to ensure impartial and accurate assessments. Additionally, organizations grapple with the challenge of encouraging beneficiary participation, necessitating strategies to overcome reluctance and foster meaningful engagement.

In conclusion, measuring effectiveness in social cohesion programs necessitates a holistic approach, encompassing robust monitoring frameworks, active participant engagement, and innovative strategies. Overcoming challenges and implementing recommendations are essential for obtaining meaningful insights and optimizing the impact of social cohesion initiatives, ultimately contributing to sustained positive outcomes for the communities served.

5.1.7. Reporting methodology in the NGOs for their programs:

Internal reports are standard for all organizations, contributing to organizational learning. The need for external reports is notable, attributed to donor restrictions and resource constraints. KII-6 advocacy team reports offer a unique approach. Recommendations include enhanced transparency, capacity building, and collaborative learning platforms, while other INGOs use third-party monitoring to generate effectiveness reports for their programs.

5.2. Social Cohesion Programs for Syrian Refugees in Gaziantep: Participance and non- Participance response analysis:

The social adaptation of Syrian refugees in Gaziantep, Türkiye, is a complex interplay of cultural, economic, and socio-political factors that shape the experience of forced migration. An analysis is conducted in this chapter, using 229 surveys conducted in Gaziantep, Türkiye,

to gauge the social adaptation levels among Syrian refugees. The sample encompasses two distinct groups: individuals participating in NGO-implemented social cohesion programs and those who do not have access to such initiatives. The descriptive analysis and charts present the percentages of each group. Responses from individuals participating in NGO-implemented social cohesion programs are labeled "yes" in the charts, while reactions from those not participating in such programs are labeled "no." These surveys offer crucial snapshots, illuminating the multifaceted challenges and successes experienced by this displaced population.

The primary aim of this analysis is to assess the social adaptation level of Syrian refugees, utilizing a comprehensive scale comprising 21 questions, each graded on a scale of 1 to 5. The cumulative scores of the respondents range from 36 to 105, indicating their adaptation level from the lowest to the strongest. These 21 questions, derived from the SCAS-R scale, evaluate individuals' ability to adapt to new cultural and social environments. We have segmented this numerical range into seven categories, each spanning ten points, starting from the initial category of 36 to 45 and concluding with 96 to 105. This categorization allows for a detailed interpretation, ranging from low to exceptional adaptation, within social cohesion programs for Syrian refugees in Gaziantep. The contextual interpretation serves as a guiding framework for comprehending the diverse levels of adaptation observed among the respondents.

In delineating the social adaptation landscape, this chapter investigates various independent variables influencing this dynamic process. These variables encompass critical facets such as age, gender, education level, family monthly income, employment status, Turkish nationality status, home ownership in Türkiye, and the year of arrival in the host country. By scrutinizing these variables, the analysis aims to unveil the intricate associations and discrepancies that underpin the social adaptation experiences of Syrian refugees in Türkiye.

The chapter embarks on a meticulous exploration of the social adaptation scale, dissecting the results obtained from these surveys to reveal patterns, relationships, and disparities. By parsing through the myriad aspects that influence social adaptation, it strives to uncover the challenges faced by Syrian refugees and the potential pathways for fostering smoother integration and community acceptance.

The analyses presented herein encapsulate the essence of the Syrian refugee situation in Gaziantep, Türkiye, as pivotal insights into the larger discourse on migration, resilience, and

societal integration. The ultimate goal is to offer comprehensive findings that contribute to academia and serve as actionable intelligence for policymakers, NGOs, and stakeholders, enabling them to tailor interventions that amplify positive social adaptation and facilitate the creation of more inclusive and supportive communities for Syrian refugees in Türkiye.

5.2.1. Gender-based social adaptation scores:

Examining gender-based social adaptation scores among Syrian refugees in Gaziantep, Türkiye reveals intricate patterns that underscore the nuanced relationship between gender and social adaptation challenges. Among female respondents, a substantial majority (76.75%) did not benefit from NGO programs, with the majority (29.47%) scoring between 66 and 85 on the social adaptation scale. Notably, 8.77% faced challenges in the 56–65 range. In contrast, 23.25% of females participated in NGO programs, and 14.04% showcased positive impacts on social adaptation, scoring between 56 and 65. A considerable improvement was noted in the subgroup, scoring between 66 and 75 (16.67%).

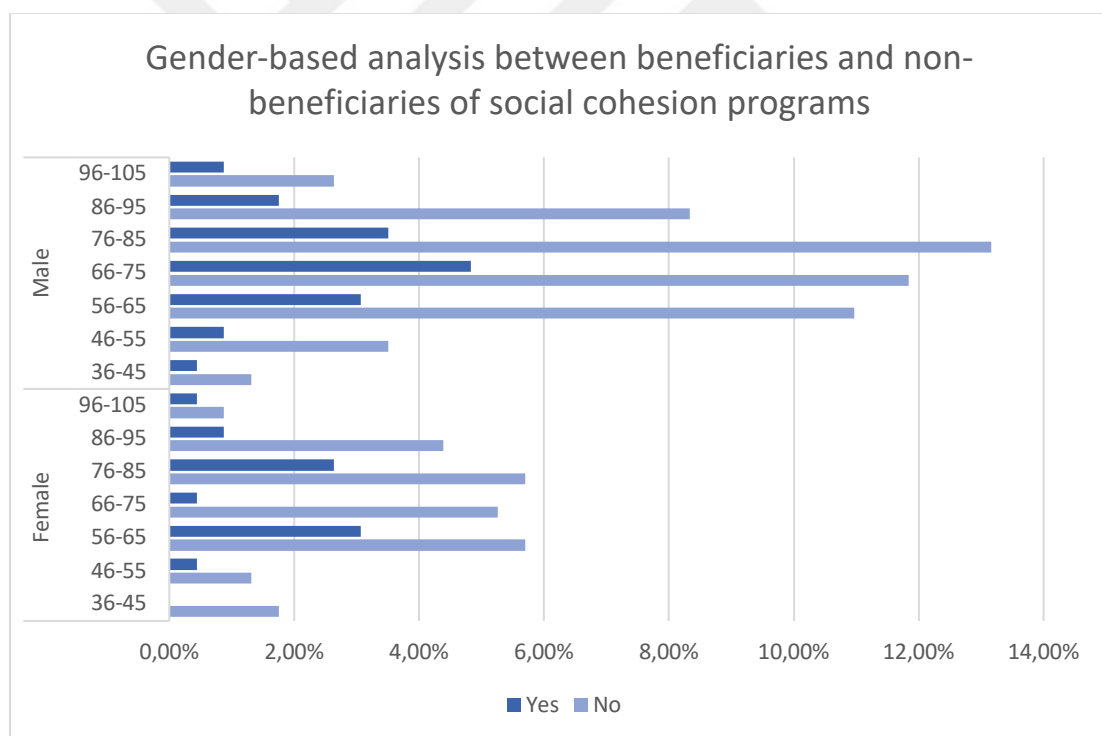


Figure 3.3 Gender-based analysis between beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of social cohesion programs

Similarly, among male respondents, a significant percentage (80.28%) did not participate in NGO programs, with 29.47% scoring between 66-85, indicating shared challenges in this range. However, 19.72% of males participated in NGO programs, and

10.96% experienced positive program influence, scoring between 56-65. Another 13.16% scored between 76-85, highlighting enhanced adaptation in this subgroup.

The overall social adaptation distribution reveals that most respondents, irrespective of gender, scored between 66-85, indicating a standard range with potentially shared experiences. Notably, 29.47% of both genders fell within this range, signaling a critical segment facing moderate social adaptation challenges.

Descriptive statistical analysis highlights high variability in the 56-85 range, indicating diverse social adaptation experiences among respondents. The weak positive relation between program participation and social adaptation scores in the 56-85 range suggests potential poor program impact, emphasizing the need for targeted interventions.

Comparative insights indicate that females participating in NGO programs exhibit slightly higher scores than males in the same category, emphasizing potential gender-specific impacts. Further analysis based on demographic factors within each gender may reveal distinctive trends, necessitating a detailed exploration.

Through the analysis, we find that among female respondents, 76.75% did not participate in NGO programs, with the majority scoring between 66-85. For males, 80.28% were non-participants, with a similar score distribution. Notably, 29.47% of both genders faced moderate social adaptation challenges in the 66-85 range. Participants, particularly females, exhibited slightly higher scores, suggesting potential gender-specific impacts. The weak positive relation between program participation and social adaptation in the 56-85 range underscores the need for targeted interventions. Further exploration based on demographics within each gender is recommended for tailored interventions.

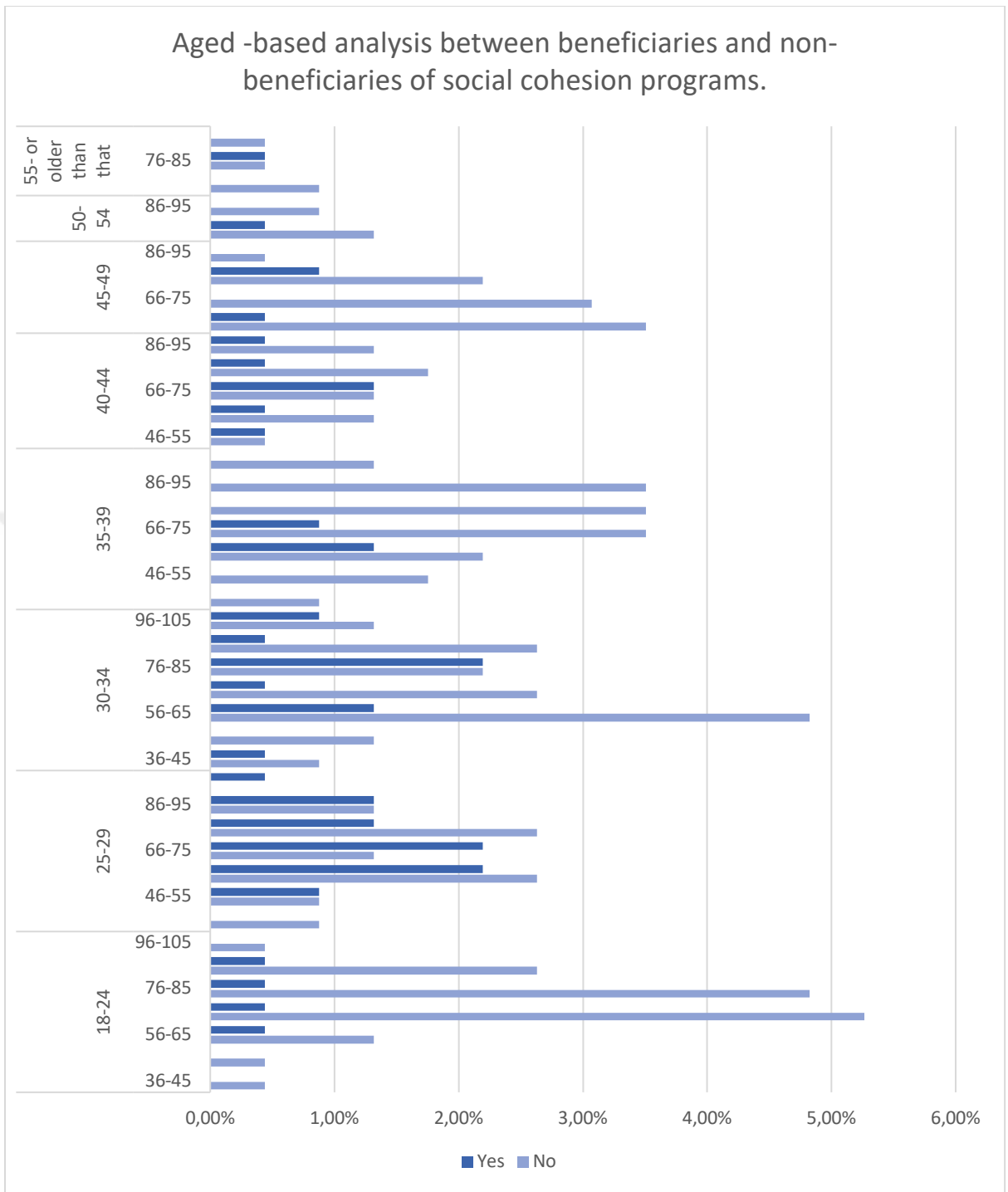
5.2.2. Age group-based social adaptation scores:

Exploring age-group-based social adaptation scores among Syrian refugees in Gaziantep, Türkiye elucidates a comprehensive understanding of the intricate dynamics between age and social adaptation challenges. Within the 18–24 age group, a significant majority (76.75%) did not participate in NGO programs, with the majority (27.19%) facing substantial challenges in social adaptation, scoring between 66 and 85. Notably, 23.25% of respondents in this age group experienced some impact from NGO programs, with 3.07%

scoring between 56 and 65 and 5.26% achieving improved adaptation within the 66 and 75 range.

Similarly, respondents in the 25–29 age group encountered comparable challenges, with 76.75% not participating in NGO programs and the majority (27.19%) scoring between 66 and 85. Nonetheless, 23.25% of this group experienced impact program influence, as evidenced by 5.26% scoring between 56-65 and 10.96% achieving enhanced adaptation in the 66-75 range.





Figures 4.4 Aged -based analysis between beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of social cohesion programs.

The pattern persists across subsequent age groups, with a consistent trend of a majority not participating in NGO programs and encountering challenges within the 66–85 range. However, the percentage of participate in NGO programs and experiencing positive adaptation in the 56–75 range varies among age groups.

The overall social adaptation distribution underscores that irrespective of age, most respondents fall within the 66–85 range, signifying a common critical segment facing challenges in social adaptation.

Descriptive statistical analysis reveals high variability in the 66–85 range, indicating diverse social adaptation experiences among different age groups. Moderate positive relations between program participation and social adaptation scores in the 56–75 range suggest potential program impact in these segments. The limited extreme values identified in outlier detection imply a consistent distribution of social adaptation scores across age groups.

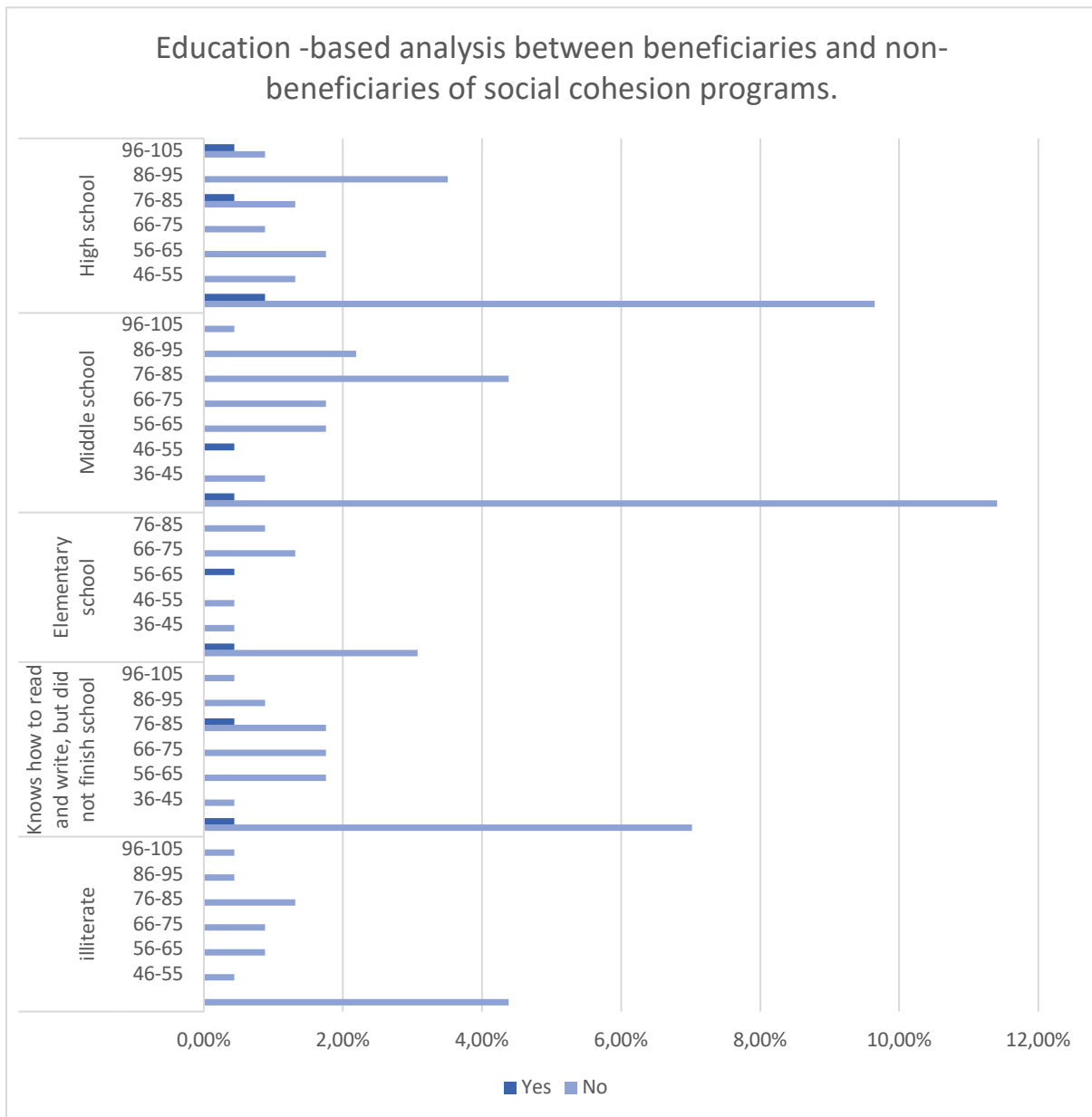
Comparative insights highlight similar social adaptation challenges across age groups, emphasizing the necessity for age-specific interventions. Further analysis based on additional demographic factors within each age group may uncover nuanced patterns, guiding targeted program development.

Through the age-based analysis, we observe that a significant majority in the 18–24 and 25–29 age groups (76.75%) did not participate in NGO programs, encountering challenges in the 66–85 range. Notably, 23.25% of these age groups experienced an impact from program influence within the 56–75 range. Similar patterns persist across subsequent age groups, highlighting a common challenge in the 66–85 range. Regardless of age, most respondents face social adaptation challenges in the 66–85 range. Descriptive analysis indicates high variability in social adaptation experiences, and a moderate relationship between program participation and scores in the 56–75 range suggests potential impact. Targeted age-specific interventions are necessary, with further exploration based on additional demographic factors within each age group recommended for nuanced program development.

5.2.3. Education level-based social adaptation scores:

The comprehensive analysis of education level-based social adaptation scores among Syrian refugees in Gaziantep, Türkiye, unveils a nuanced perspective on the intersection of education and social adaptation challenges. Individuals with an elementary school education comprise 76.75% of respondents who did not participate in NGO programs. The majority (27.19%) within this group faced significant social adaptation challenges, scoring between 66 and 85. Conversely, 23.25% participate in NGO programs, with 0.44% experiencing limited positive impact in the 36–45.

Respondents with a university degree, 76.75%, exhibited a similar pattern, with the majority (27.19%) facing challenges in the 66–85 range. However, 23.25% participated in NGO programs, and 7.89% achieved enhanced adaptation within the 86–105 range.



Figures 5.5. Education -based analysis between beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of social cohesion programs.

Similar trends persist across various education levels, including high school, the illiterate, those who know how to read and write but did not finish school, middle school, Ph.D. holders, postgraduates, postgraduate students, and university students. In each category, a significant majority did not participate in NGO programs, and the majority scored between 66 and 85 on the social adaptation scale, indicative of prevalent challenges.

The overall social adaptation distribution highlights a consistent trend, with most respondents across education levels falling within the 66–85 range—a critical segment facing challenges in social adaptation.

Descriptive statistical analysis reveals high variability across education levels in the 66–85 range, indicating diverse social adaptation experiences. Moderately positive relationships between program participation and social adaptation scores in the 56–75 range suggest potential program impact. The limited extreme values identified in outlier detection imply a consistent distribution of social adaptation scores across education levels.

Comparative insights underscore the similarity in social adaptation challenges across education levels, emphasizing the imperative for tailored interventions. Further analysis based on additional demographic factors within each education level may unveil nuanced patterns, guiding targeted program development.

Through the analysis, we observe that, regardless of education level, most Syrian refugees in Gaziantep (76.75%) faced social adaptation challenges in the 66–85 range. For those with elementary school education, 23.25% participated in NGO programs, while respondents with a university degree saw 23.25% participate, notably achieving enhanced adaptation in the 86–105 range. This pattern holds across various education levels, signifying prevalent challenges.

Statistical analysis indicates high variability in social adaptation experiences, with a moderate relationship between program participation and scores in the 56–75 range, suggesting potential program impact. Despite diverse education levels, tailored interventions are imperative, with further analysis based on demographic factors within each education level recommended for nuanced program development.

5.2.4. Family monthly income-based social adaptation scores

Exploring family monthly income-based social adaptation scores among Syrian refugees in Gaziantep, Türkiye, reveals critical nuances in the intersection of income levels and social adaptation challenges. In the lowest income bracket (-9999), 76.75% of respondents did not participate in NGO programs, and a substantial majority (27.19%) faced challenges scoring between 66 and 85 on the social adaptation scale. Only 23.25% participate in NGO programs, with a mere 0.44% experiencing limited positive impact in the 96–105 range.

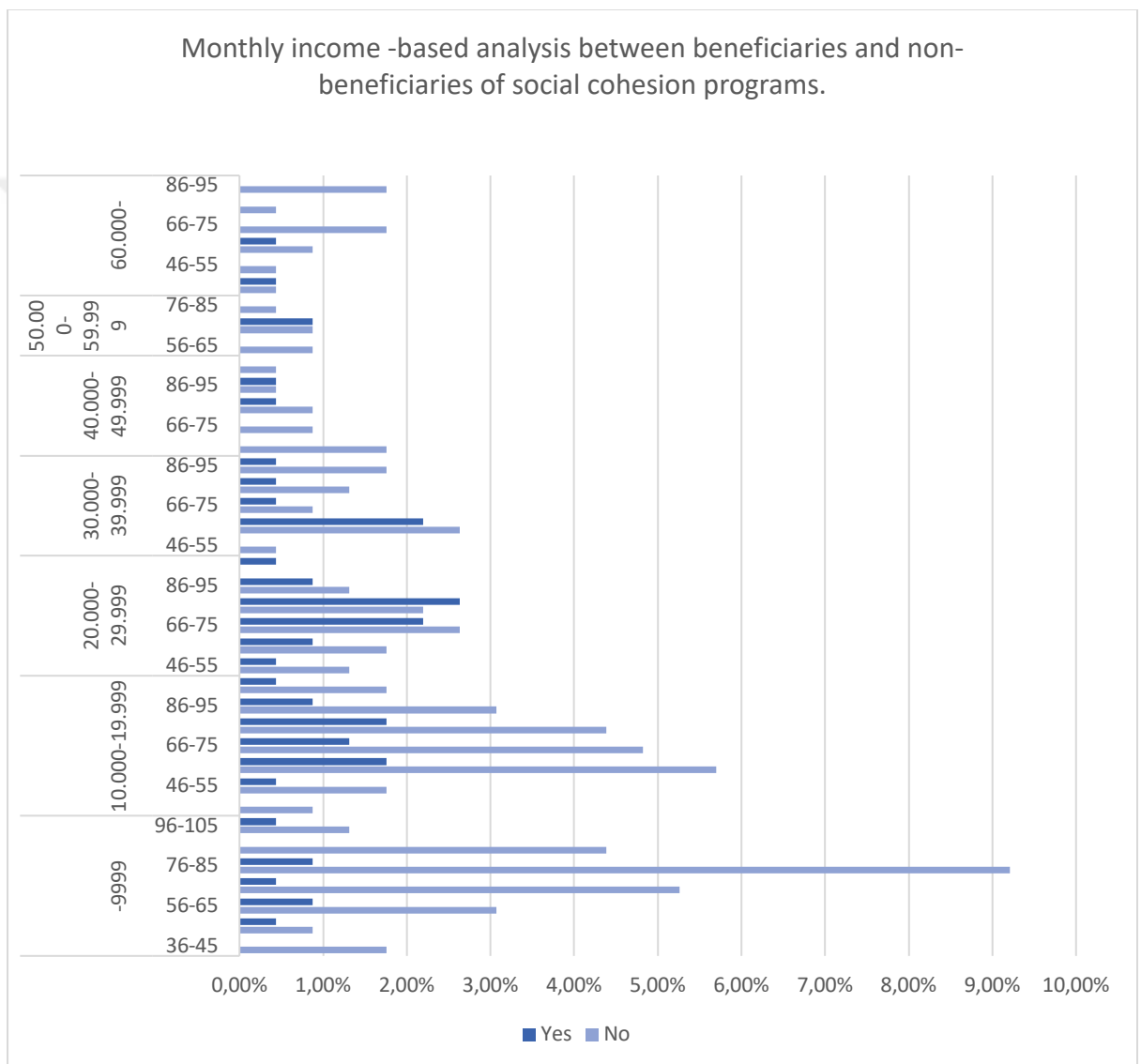


Figure 6.6 - Monthly income -based analysis between beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of social cohesion programs.

Similar trends persist across varying income groups, such as 10,000–19,999, 20,000–29,999, 30,000–39,999, 40,000–49,999, 50,000–59,999, and 60,000 and above. The majority

did not participate in NGO programs in each category, with the predominant social adaptation challenge observed in the 66–85 range.

The overall social adaptation distribution underscores a consistent theme where most respondents, regardless of family income, scored between 66 and 85—a critical segment facing challenges in social adaptation.

Descriptive statistical analysis delves into the variability across income groups, revealing high variability in the 66–85 range and indicating diverse social adaptation experiences. A moderate relationship between program participation and social adaptation scores in the 76–85 range suggests a potential impact of programs in this segment. The limited extreme values identified in outlier detection imply a consistent distribution of social adaptation scores across income groups.

Comparative insights shed light on the similarity of social adaptation challenges across income groups, emphasizing the imperative for tailored interventions. Further analysis based on additional demographic factors within each income group may unveil nuanced patterns, guiding targeted program development.

The analysis reveals that, irrespective of family income among Syrian refugees in Gaziantep, the majority (76.75%) face social adaptation challenges in the 66–85 range. In the lowest income bracket (-9999), 76.75% did not participate in NGO programs. Similar trends persist across varying income groups, with most not participating in programs and encountering challenges in the 66–85 range. Descriptive analysis highlights high variability, suggesting diverse social adaptation experiences.

5.2.5. Turkish citizenship and its relation with social adaptation scores

The comprehensive examination of Turkish citizenship and its relationship with social adaptation scores among Syrian refugees in Gaziantep, Türkiye, unveils distinctive patterns highlighting the intricate relationship between citizenship status and adaptation challenges. For respondents without Turkish citizenship, a substantial 76.75% did not participate in NGO

programs, and a predominant 27.19% faced significant adaptation challenges, scoring between 76 and 85 on the social adaptation scale. Conversely, respondents with Turkish citizenship demonstrated a more favorable scenario, with 23.25% participating in NGO programs. Notably, 6.14% scored between 66 and 75, indicating a moderately positive impact on social adaptation for respondents with Turkish citizenship.

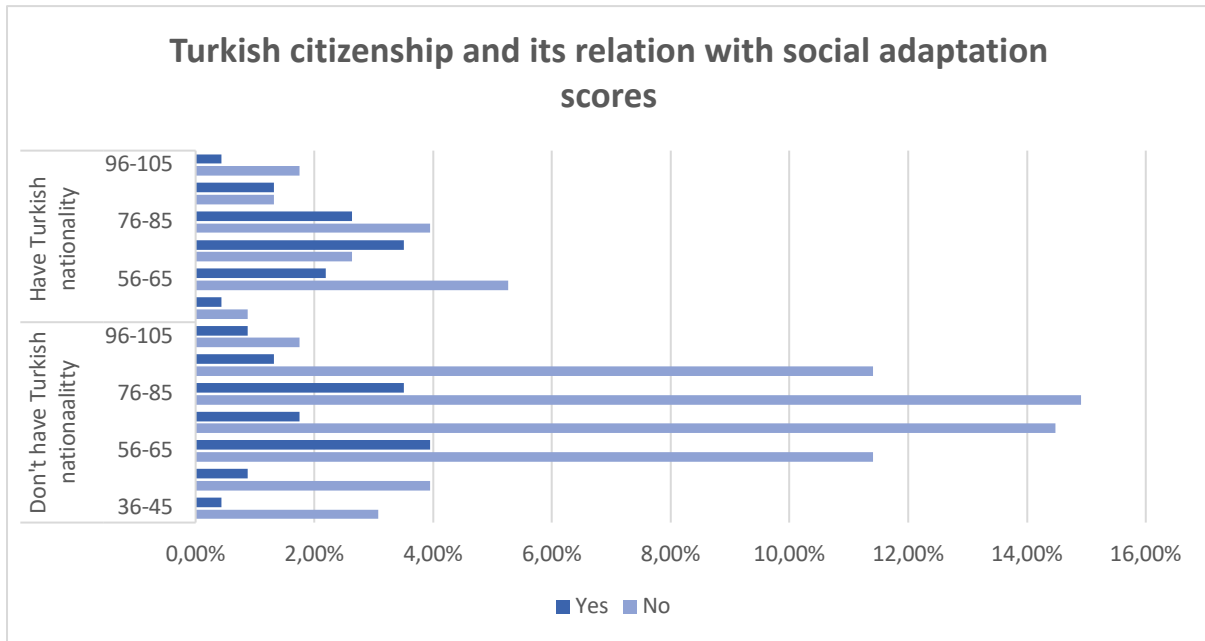


Figure 7.7 Owning Turkish nationality -based analysis between beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of social cohesion programs.

A comparative analysis shows that citizenship affects social adaptation. It shows that not having Turkish citizenship is linked to more people having big problems with adaptation. Additionally, Turkish citizenship correlates with slightly higher positive impacts on social adaptation than those without citizenship.

Statistical insights delve into the nuances, with notably higher scores in the 76–85 range among respondents without citizenship, signifying a consistent trend of social adaptation challenges for this group. The relation assessment indicates a moderately positive relationship between citizenship and social adaptation scores in the 66–75 range, suggesting some positive impact. Moreover, the effectiveness of NGO programs appears more prominent among those with Turkish citizenship, reflected by moderate improvements in social adaptation scores.

Comparative patterns reveal consistently higher scores within the 76–85 range among respondents without citizenship, indicating persistent social adaptation challenges for this subgroup. However, there is a discernible trend of improvement in social adaptation scores for those with Turkish citizenship, emphasizing the potential benefits of integration initiatives and inclusive policies.

Through the analysis, we can find that Syrian refugees without Turkish citizenship (76.75%) face significant adaptation challenges in the 76–85 range. In contrast, those with Turkish citizenship (23.25%) experience a more favorable scenario, with 6.14% showing a positive impact in the 66-75 range. Descriptive statistics indicate consistent challenges for those without citizenship, emphasizing the effectiveness of NGO programs among Turkish citizens. These results underscore the need for inclusive policies and integration initiatives.

5.2.6. Home ownership in Türkiye and its relationship with social adaptation scores

The exploration of home ownership in Türkiye and its relationship with social adaptation scores among Syrian refugees in Gaziantep, Türkiye, provides valuable insights into the nuanced experiences of this demographic based on their housing status. For respondents without home ownership, a substantial majority (76.75%) did not significantly participate in NGO programs, with a noteworthy 21.49% score between 76 and 85 on the social adaptation scale, indicating considerable challenges in adaptation. In contrast, among those who own a house in Türkiye, 23.25% experienced some benefits from NGO programs, and a moderate proportion (3.51%) scored between 66 and 75, suggesting a relatively positive impact on social adaptation.

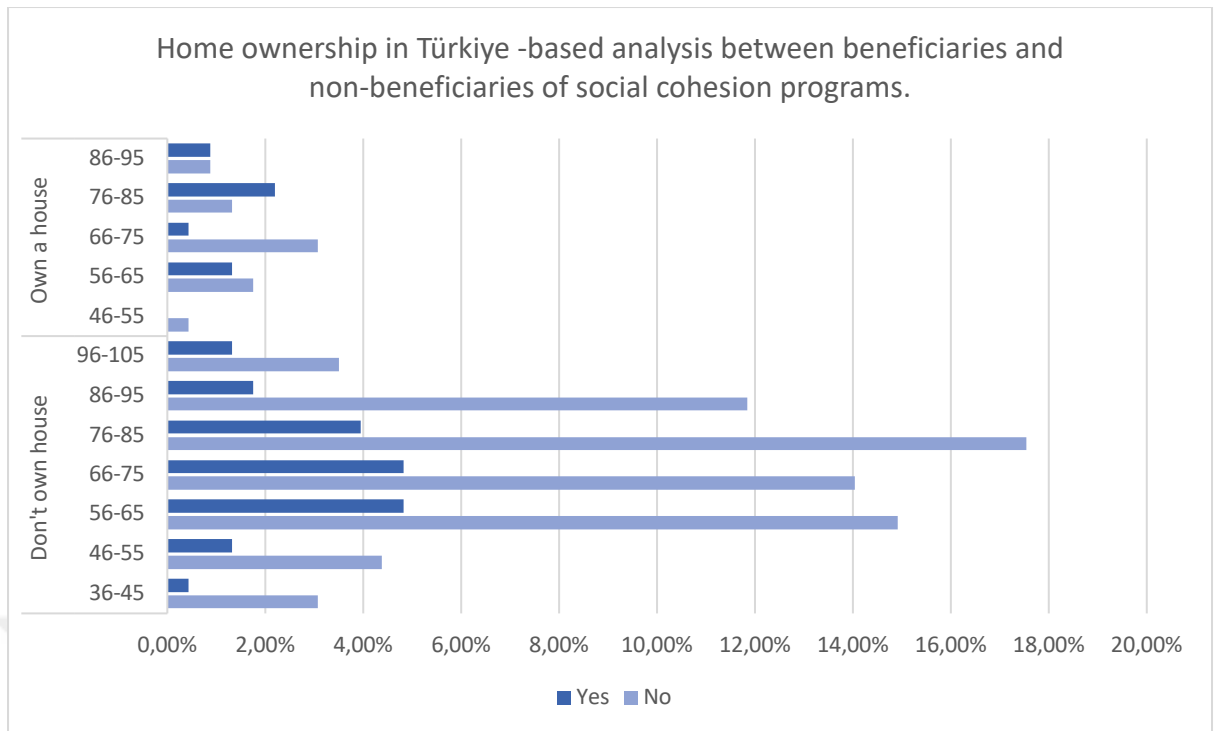


Figure 8.8 - Home ownership in Türkiye -based analysis between beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of social cohesion programs.

Descriptive analysis underscores the impact of home ownership, revealing that the absence of home ownership is associated with higher proportions of respondents facing significant social adaptation challenges. Furthermore, owning a house in Türkiye has a slightly higher positive impact on social adaptation than those without home ownership.

Statistical insights highlight notably higher scores in the 76–85 range among respondents without home ownership, indicating a consistent trend of social adaptation challenges in this group. The relational assessment indicates a moderately positive relationship between home ownership and social adaptation scores in the 66–75 range, suggesting some positive impact. The effectiveness of NGO programs appears more prominent among those who own a house in Türkiye, as reflected by moderate improvements in social adaptation scores.

Comparative patterns consistently show higher scores within the 76–85 range among respondents without home ownership, emphasizing this group's persistent social adaptation challenges. However, the trend also indicates some improvement in social adaptation scores

for those who own a house in Türkiye, highlighting the potential benefits of stable housing in fostering integration.

The analysis shows that Syrian refugees in Gaziantep without home ownership (76.75%) face significant adaptation challenges in the 76–85 range. In contrast, homeowners (23.25%) experience benefits, with 3.51% showing a positive impact in the 66–75 range. The comparative analysis underscores the effect of home ownership, indicating higher proportions of people facing challenges without it. Statistical insights highlight notably higher scores in the 76–85 range among respondents without home ownership. The relationship assessment suggests a moderately positive relationship between home ownership and social adaptation scores in the 66–75 range. NGO programs appear more effective among homeowners, as reflected by moderate improvements in social adaptation scores. The results emphasize persistent challenges for homeowners without home ownership but also indicate improvement, highlighting the potential benefits of stable housing in fostering integration.

5.2.7. Duration of stay in Türkiye and its relationship with social adaptation scores

The exploration of the duration of stay in Türkiye and its relationship with social adaptation scores among Syrian refugees in Gaziantep, Türkiye, provides insightful observations into the evolving experiences of this demographic over time. Among respondents who arrived in 2011, a substantial majority (76.75%) faced challenges in social adaptation, notably lacking any respondents with a social adaptation score in the 96–105 range. Similar social adaptation challenges were observed for those arriving in 2013, 2014, and 2015, with most facing notable hurdles in adaptation and a concentration of scores in the 56–75 range.

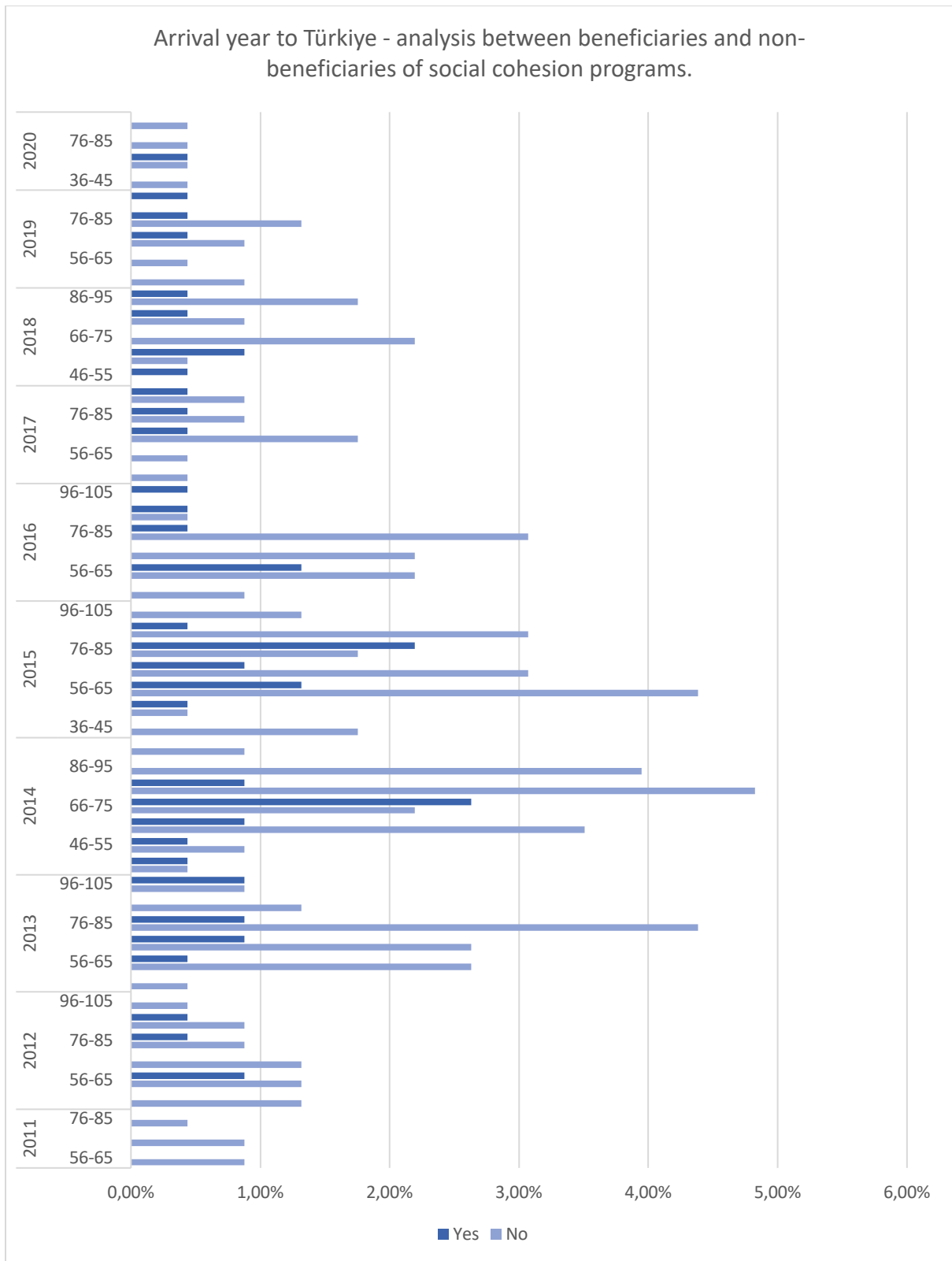


Figure 9.9 - Arrival year to Türkiye - analysis between beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of social cohesion programs.

A notable shift occurred among those arriving later, particularly in 2012, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020. In these groups, there was a slight improvement in social adaptation scores, with a proportion of respondents experiencing some benefits from NGO programs. The distribution of social adaptation scores for these later arrivals showed a more dispersed pattern across varying ranges compared to the concentrated challenges faced by earlier arrivals.

Descriptive analysis highlights this trend, indicating that earlier arrival years are associated with higher social adaptation challenges, while there's a noticeable, though slight, improvement among those arriving later. Statistical insights reveal a pronounced concentration of respondents facing social adaptation challenges among earlier arrival years, whereas later arrival years show a more dispersed distribution of social adaptation scores. Negative relationship between arrival year and social adaptation scores indicate a trend of improvement for later arrivals, reflecting a potentially positive adaptation trajectory over time.

5.2.8. Employment status and its relationship with social adaptation scores

Examining employment status and its relationship with social adaptation scores among Syrian refugees in Türkiye sheds light on the multifaceted relationship between these factors. Among students, a considerable majority (76.75%) face challenges in social adaptation, with an absence of individuals scoring in the highest adaptation range (96–105). Similarly, a majority (76.75%) of unemployed respondents encounter social adaptation challenges, with their scores dispersed across various ranges, notably concentrated in the 56–65 range.

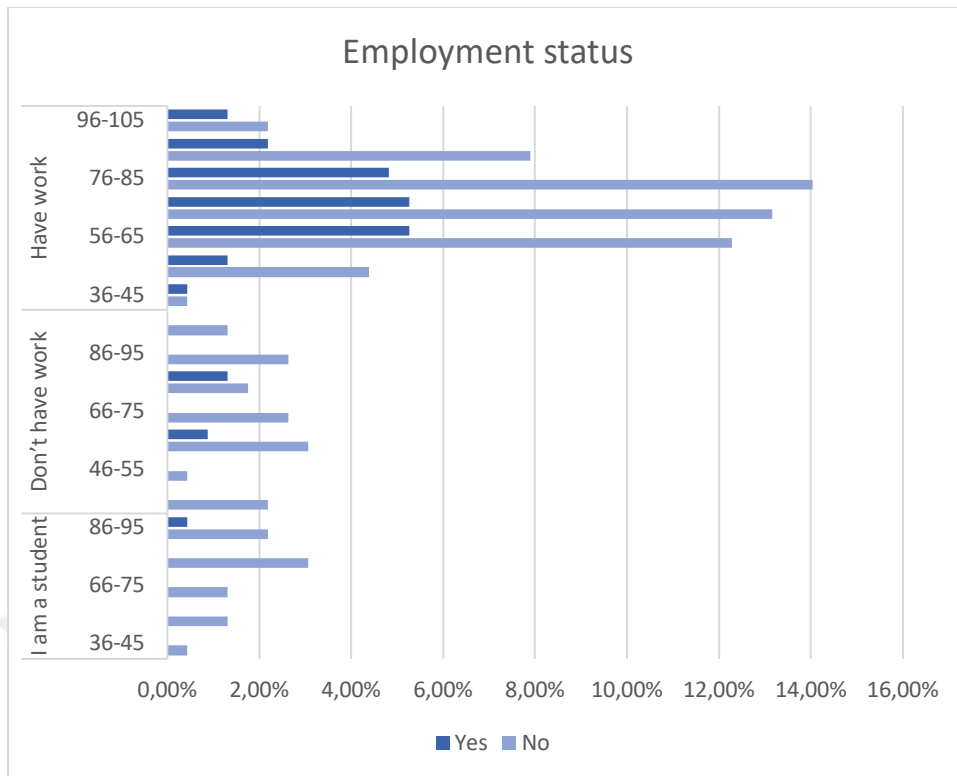


Figure 10.10 – Employment status analysis between beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of social cohesion programs.

Conversely, employed individuals show a more varied scenario, with 23.25% experiencing some participants from NGO programs. The social adaptation scores among this group demonstrate a mixed distribution, with concentrations in the 56–65 and 66–75 ranges.

A comparative analysis underscores that students and unemployed individuals generally face higher social adaptation challenges, while employed individuals exhibit a more diversified scenario, with some experiencing participation in NGO programs.

Statistical insights reveal further nuances. Unemployed individuals showcase a more dispersed distribution of social adaptation scores compared to students, suggesting a broader range of adaptation experiences among the unemployed. In contrast, employed individuals present a more polarized social adaptation scenario, with a more concentrated distribution of scores.

Moreover, while some employed individuals benefit from NGO programs, this analysis suggests a need for more targeted interventions tailored to address social adaptation challenges among students and unemployed individuals.

The analysis shows varied social adaptation scores among Syrian refugees in Türkiye based on employment status. Students (76.75%) and unemployed individuals face higher challenges with concentrated scores. Employed individuals (23.25%) show a diverse scenario, benefiting from NGO programs.

Statistical insights highlight nuances: dispersed scores for unemployed individuals polarized scenarios for employed ones. Weak negative correlations between employment status and social adaptation suggest a nuanced relationship. The analysis stresses the need for tailored interventions for students and unemployed individuals.

5.3. Analysis of participation Responses on NGOs' Social Cohesion Programs- in-depth interviews:

A thorough look at the answers given by 32 people who actively participated in social cohesion programs for Syrian refugees in Türkiye, which were run by NGOs, gives us helpful information about the different points of view on how well and what effect these programs have. Through in-depth interviews, we aimed to delve into the participants' perceptions, focusing on critical points illuminating these initiatives' role in their social adaptation.

To ensure a diverse range of perspectives, we selected the participants anonymously. This approach encouraged candid and unbiased responses, allowing us to capture a more representative picture of the participant's experiences with the social cohesion programs implemented by NGOs. It is essential to note that all the participants included in the study actively participated in these programs, emphasizing their direct engagement with the initiatives under examination.

The interview sought to address various aspects of social adaptation, including whether the participants believed the NGOs' programs contributed to their social adaptation and the reasons behind these perceptions. Exploring these viewpoints was enriched by considering different participant characteristics, such as age, gender, education level, monthly income, and other factors. This diversity in the sample ensures a nuanced understanding of how various factors might influence the participants' opinions on the efficacy of social cohesion programs.

The anonymous selection of participants and the inclusion of diverse demographic factors in our study aimed to capture a comprehensive range of perspectives on the social adaptation programs facilitated by NGOs. The forthcoming analysis will delve deeper into the main points raised during the interviews, providing a clearer picture of the participants' experiences and perceptions.

5.3.1. Perspectives on Social Cohesion Initiatives: Unveiling Complexity and Contrasts in the Experiences of Syrian Refugees in Gaziantep, Türkiye

The examination of responses from 32 participants in social cohesion initiatives for Syrian refugees in Türkiye facilitated by NGOs unveils a nuanced spectrum of perspectives regarding the impact and efficacy of these programs.

Participant 2's positive outlook stands out, acknowledging immediate support and contributions to overall integration, in contrast to Participant 1's emphasis on long-term effects crucial for fostering understanding and cooperation between communities. This divergence reflects the multifaceted nature of perceived program outcomes.

Critical voices, including participants 3, 9, 14, and 17, cast doubt on the NGOs' genuine intentions. Their concerns range from a perceived focus on fundraising to a lack of conviction among project employees and a failure to address the root causes of inter-community tensions, particularly those perpetuated by the media.

A positive theme emerges around cultural exchange, as noted by Participant 6, crediting the programs for introducing the country's culture and traditions. However, participant 5

expresses disappointment, highlighting a discrepancy between expectations and outcomes and underscoring the need to align program objectives with participants' perceived needs.

Acknowledgment of positive outcomes in creating common ground, building consensus, and facilitating relations comes from participants 7, 8, 11, and 12. Yet, criticisms by participants 14 and 17 regarding efficacy highlight the need for careful evaluation and improvement. Participant 13 introduces the importance of creating a safe environment.

Additional layers of complexity emerge with criticisms regarding media capture (participants 16 and 18) and doubts about the authenticity of provided work permits (participant 18). These voices suggest potential discrepancies between NGOs' intended objectives and the actual outcomes experienced by participants.

In conclusion, the diverse range of opinions underscores the complexity of social cohesion programs. Moderate aspects, such as cultural exchange and attempts to build consensus, coexist with concerns about authenticity, effectiveness, and the ability to address deeper societal issues. This analysis underscores the necessity for continuous assessment, adaptability, and transparent communication in designing and implementing social cohesion programs to meet Syrian refugees' varied needs and expectations in Türkiye.

5.3.2. Unveiling Perspectives :Outcomes and insights gleaned from in-depth interviews

The researcher found that examining responses from people participating in social cohesion initiatives for Syrian refugees in Türkiye reveals a rich diversity of perspectives on the impact and efficacy of these programs. The multifaceted nature of perceived program outcomes becomes apparent, with positive themes such as cultural exchange and consensus-building coexisting alongside concerns about authenticity, effectiveness, and the ability to address deeper societal issues.

Notable contrasts in perception emerge, with some emphasizing immediate support and contributions to integration, while others stress the importance of long-term effects for fostering understanding between communities. Critical voices express skepticism about NGOs' intentions, encompassing concerns about fundraising focus, doubts about the conviction among project employees, and a perceived failure to address root causes of inter-community tensions.

Aligning program objectives with participants' needs is essential, as it highlights discrepancies between expectations and outcomes. Criticisms regarding efficacy indicate a need for continuous evaluation and improvement in program design. Furthermore, it is essential to emphasize NGOs' role in creating a safe environment for secure interactions among beneficiaries.

The analysis introduces additional complexities, including concerns about media capture and doubts about the authenticity of provided work permits, suggesting potential discrepancies between intended objectives and actual outcomes. Overall, the findings underscore the complexity of social cohesion programs, necessitating continuous assessment, adaptability, and transparent communication to meet the varied needs and expectations of Syrian refugees in Türkiye.

CHAPTER VI

6. Conclusion & Recommendations

6.1. Conclusion

The intricate analysis of Syrian refugee social adaptation in Gaziantep, Türkiye, has provided a rich tapestry of insights into the multifaceted challenges shaping the experiences of this resilient community. Our exploration across various dimensions, including gender, income, Turkish citizenship, home ownership, duration of stay, and employment status, has deepened our understanding of the challenges and illuminated the intersecting factors that influence the adaptation journey of Syrian refugees.

6.1.1. Gender Dynamics:

The gender-based analysis not only revealed challenges faced by females, especially those not benefiting from NGO programs but also underscored the potential differential impacts of these programs on diverse gender groups. It is crucial to design interventions with a keen awareness of these nuances to ensure a more equitable and inclusive adaptation process. Emphasizing education and empowerment programs for females and fostering gender-sensitive environments will significantly contribute to a fairer and more inclusive adaptation process.

6.1.2. Income Disparities and Social Adaptation:

Across income groups, the pervasive trend of challenges clustered in the 66–85 social adaptation score range demands a targeted response. It is imperative to delve further into the specific needs of each income bracket, ensuring that economic disparities do not serve as barriers to comprehensive social adaptation. Strengthening vocational training programs and creating income-generating opportunities can play a pivotal role in addressing these challenges.

6.1.3. Citizenship, Home Ownership, and Policy Implications:

The relationship between Turkish citizenship and slightly improved social adaptation outcomes emphasizes the importance of inclusive policies. This warrants a reevaluation and enhancement of integration initiatives. Furthermore, the impact of home ownership on social adaptation underscores the need for stable housing initiatives. Collaborative efforts between NGOs and local authorities can explore innovative policies that facilitate home ownership and stability for Syrian refugees in Gaziantep.

6.1.4. Temporal Dynamics and Employment Realities:

The temporal analysis showcasing evolving adaptation experiences suggests that interventions should be dynamic and tailored to the varying needs of refugees at different stages of their stay. Additionally, the nuanced relationship between employment status and adaptation highlights the need for diversified interventions. Strengthening vocational training, language proficiency, and mentorship programs can enhance the adaptive capacity of refugees in different employment situations.

In summary, the Syrian refugee community in Gaziantep faces various challenges that necessitate a holistic, adaptive, and inclusive approach. The evolving nature of these challenges requires continuous research, collaboration, and flexibility in program design. The recommendations provide actionable steps for stakeholders to refine and develop interventions, ensuring they are responsive to the unique needs of the Syrian refugee population. By fostering a community-centric approach, Gaziantep can serve as a model for inclusive refugee integration, contributing to the social and economic vibrancy of the region. This conclusion serves as a call to action, urging stakeholders to remain committed to improving support systems and facilitating the successful social adaptation of Syrian refugees in Gaziantep, Türkiye.

6.2. Recommendations

The depth of analysis into the social adaptation of Syrian refugees in Gaziantep, Türkiye, has unearthed multifaceted challenges and opportunities, prompting comprehensive

recommendations to enhance existing interventions and foster a more resilient and inclusive support framework. Building upon the nuanced insights gleaned from the intricate social landscape, the following expanded recommendations are proposed:

I. Tailored Gender-Specific Interventions:

a) Expanded Approach: Collaborate with women's advocacy groups and organizations to ensure the inclusion of female refugees in decision-making processes. This can provide a platform for voicing their unique challenges and needs.

b) Holistic Empowerment: Extend empowerment initiatives to encompass not only vocational skills but also leadership training, mentorship programs, and initiatives that amplify the voices of female refugees within the community.

II. Economic Empowerment Across Income Groups:

a) Community-Driven Development: Implement community-driven development initiatives involving refugees in economic project decision-making. This ensures the relevance and sustainability of interventions.

b) Microfinance Programs: Explore the feasibility of microfinance programs tailored to different income brackets, providing financial resources for entrepreneurship and small-scale businesses.

III. Strengthening integration policies:

a) Cultural Competency Training: Integrate cultural competency training for refugees and the local population to foster mutual understanding and collaboration.

b) Accessible Information: Create accessible information channels about Turkish citizenship and homeownership benefits, leveraging community leaders and influencers to disseminate information effectively.

IV. Dynamic Interventions Based on Duration of Stay:

a) Integration Milestones: Develop integration milestones that acknowledge and celebrate achievements at various stages of a refugee's stay. This could include language proficiency certifications, community involvement recognition, and other tangible markers of successful integration.

b) Peer Support Networks: Establish peer support networks where refugees who have been in Gaziantep for an extended period can mentor and guide newer arrivals, fostering a sense of community and shared experiences.

V. Diversified Employment Support:

a) Flexible Learning Opportunities: Introduce flexible learning opportunities for students, allowing them to acquire skills relevant to their fields of interest while pursuing education.

b) Industry Partnerships: Forge partnerships with local industries to align vocational training programs with the current needs of the job market, ensuring higher employability for refugees.

VI. Mental Health and Social Support Programs:

a) Culturally Competent Counseling: Train counselors and mental health professionals to be culturally competent, addressing the unique traumas and stressors faced by Syrian refugees.

b) Art and Expression Initiatives: Introduce art and expression initiatives as therapeutic outlets, providing refugees with creative spaces to share their stories and experiences.

VII. Continuous Evaluation of NGO Programs:

a) Real-time Feedback Mechanisms: Implement real-time feedback mechanisms, such as mobile-based surveys or community forums, to ensure immediate insights into the effectiveness of ongoing programs.

b) Independent Audits: Conduct independent audits of NGO programs to provide an unbiased evaluation of their impact, transparency, and alignment with community needs.

VIII. Collaboration and knowledge sharing:

a) Innovation Hubs: Establish innovation hubs that collaborate with NGOs, local businesses, and refugees to ideate and implement innovative solutions for social adaptation challenges.

b) Cross-Sectoral Training: Facilitate cross-sectoral training sessions encouraging knowledge exchange between NGOs, local authorities, and businesses, fostering a holistic understanding of refugee needs.

IX. Community-Centric Approach:

a) Community Task Forces: Create community task forces comprising refugees and locals to co-design and co-implement programs, ensuring cultural relevance and community ownership.

b) Regular Town Halls: Organize regular town hall meetings where refugees can directly voice their concerns, ideas, and feedback, fostering a sense of active participation in decision-making processes.

X. Research and Innovation:

a) Longitudinal Studies: Support longitudinal studies that track the social adaptation journey of refugees over an extended period, providing insights into long-term challenges and successes.

b) Technology for Education: Explore the use of technology, such as online education platforms and vocational training apps, to enhance the accessibility and effectiveness of educational programs.

In conclusion, these expanded recommendations delve deeper into the nuances of fostering social adaptation among Syrian refugees in Gaziantep. By addressing the unique challenges highlighted in the analysis and incorporating community-driven, culturally sensitive, and innovative approaches, stakeholders can collectively contribute to a more resilient, inclusive, and successful integration of Syrian refugees into the fabric of Gaziantep, Türkiye.

To further enrich and broaden the scope of this research, three additional recommendations are proposed for consideration by future researchers aiming to build upon this comprehensive study. Firstly, expanding the geographical focus beyond Gaziantep to include all provinces in Turkey would offer a more holistic understanding of the diverse challenges and opportunities faced by Syrian refugees across the country. This broader

perspective could uncover regional variations and help tailor interventions to specific contexts, contributing to a more nuanced and comprehensive approach.

Secondly, it is recommended that researchers delve into government initiatives related to refugee social adaptation. Analyzing the systemic approaches adopted by the Turkish government could provide valuable insights into the overarching policies, strategies, and frameworks that shape the social integration landscape. Understanding the role of government initiatives in conjunction with grassroots efforts can offer a more comprehensive picture of the overall support ecosystem for refugees.

Lastly, a comparative analysis of social cohesion programs for refugees in Germany, Canada, and Turkey would provide a valuable international perspective. Examining the approaches of these countries, known for their diverse strategies in refugee integration, could shed light on best practices, innovative solutions, and lessons learned. By exploring the similarities and differences in social cohesion programs, researchers can identify transferable strategies that may contribute to the success of refugee integration efforts across varied cultural and political contexts. Incorporating these three suggestions into future research endeavors will undoubtedly contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of social adaptation and integration for refugees.

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ANNEXES

Annex I: Interview Questions¹¹

Introduction:

1. Would you please introduce yourself to us, and the organization that you are affiliated with?

Personal Information:

Name (Optional):

Name of INGOs/NGO:

Position:

Main questions

1. Could you please provide us with an overview of your social cohesion programs and the department responsible for its implementation? We would like to understand the goals, objectives, and key activities of your program, as well as the role of your department in promoting social cohesion among the target population or community.
2. How did you select the beneficiaries for your social cohesion programs? What factors did you consider, such as gender, age group, or other criteria?
3. Could you provide an estimate of the number of beneficiaries involved in your social cohesion programs?
4. When selecting the programs to promote social cohesion, what factors or considerations influenced you to select this specific kind of social cohesion program (the one that your organization implemented or is still implementing it)? Did you rely on reports, conduct need assessments, adhere to donor requirements, or take other factors into account?
5. What are the objectives of the social cohesion programs that you have implemented?
6. What social cohesion dimensions have you targeted in your programs (e.g., social inclusion, trust, sense of belonging)?
7. What challenges have you encountered in implementing social cohesion programs?
8. How do you measure the effectiveness of your social cohesion programs?
9. Is there any reports that you published regarding the results of your programs, if so, would you please share it with us?

Final Question:

1. Do you mind the share the link for our survey with the beneficiaries of your programs?

Based on the semi-structured nature of the interview, these questions have been designed as a guide during the interview with the flexibility to ask more questions as needed. ¹¹

Annex 2: Survey Questions

1. Age

18-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55 and older
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2. Gender

Male	Female
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3. Education level

Illiterate		University student	
Literate but not completed a school		University graduate	
Elementary school		Post-graduate student	
Secondary school		Post-graduate	
High school		Doctorate (candidate or having a degree)	

4. Monthly family income (in Turkish lira):

A.60.000- B.50.000-59.999 C. 40.000-49.999 D.30.000-39.999 E.20.000-29.999 F.10.000-19.999 G.-9.999

5. When did you come to Türkiye?

Year:.....

6. Do you have Turkish citizenship?

A.No B.Yes

7. Do you own a house in Türkiye? (Ownership of the house belongs to you, not rent)

A. no B. Yes

8. Do you currently have work in Türkiye?

A. I am a student B. No C. Yes

9. Have you ever participated in an NGO program? If the answer is "no", skip the question. If yes, please answer the following questions:

9.1. Address of the NGO:

9.2. Main topic of the program:

9.3. Program time (dd/mm/yyyy):

9.4. program duration:

Living with different cultures often prompts people to learn new skills and behaviors. In this questionnaire, we are keen to listen to an evaluation of your personal experience in social adaptation in Türkiye about your life in the city where you reside. Please rate your competence and harmony in each of the following social behaviors by giving a specific score, noting that the scores are ascending:

1 = I can't at all. 2 = I can hardly. 3 = I can. 4 = I can often. Five = I can always and strongly.

10. I can build and maintain social relationships.

A)1 B)2 C)3 D)4 E)5

11. I can manage and organize my tasks well and arrange my academic or professional priorities.

A)1 B)2 C)3 D)4 E)5

12. I interact and integrate with social events

A)1 B)2 C)3 D)4 E)5

13. I can maintain my interests and hobbies and practice them continuously

A)1 B)2 C)3 D)4 E)5

14. I can adapt to the noise level in the neighborhood

A)1 B)2 C)3 D)4 E)5

15. I can interpret and respond to others' gestures and facial expressions accurately.

A)1 B)2 C)3 D)4 E)5

16. Work effectively with other students/coworkers

A)1 B)2 C)3 D)4 E)5

17. I can get the social services I request

A)1 B)2 C)3 D)4 E)5

18. I can adapt to population density

A)1 B)2 C)3 D)4 E)5

19. I can understand and speak Turkish

A)1 B)2 C)3 D)4 E)5

20. I can control the tone of my speech in a culturally appropriate way

A)1 B)2 C)3 D)4 E)5

21. Listen to the opinions and comments of other students/coworkers to help improve my performance.

A)1 B)2 C)3 D)4 E)5

22. I can accurately interpret the feelings of others and interact with them based on those feelings.

A)1 B)2 C)3 D)4 E)5

23. Attend and participate in community activities

A)1 B)2 C)3 D)4 E)5

24. I can find the places I need in the city where I live

A)1 B)2 C)3 D)4 E)5

25. I can interact with members of the opposite sex

A)1 B)2 C)3 D)4 E)5

26. I can express my ideas to other students/coworkers in a culturally appropriate way.

A)1 B)2 C)3 D)4 E)5

27. Dealing with bureaucratic processes

A)1 B)2 C)3 D)4 E)5

28. I can adapt to the pace and changes of life

A)1 B)2 C)3 D)4 E)5

29. I can read and write in Turkish

A)1 B)2 C)3 D)4 E)5

30. I can change my behavior to suit local social norms, attitudes, beliefs, and customs.

A)1 B)2 C)3 D)4 E)5



ÖZGEÇMİŞ

KİŞİSEL BİLGİLER

Adı Soyadı : Jawan Aldaoud
Uyruğu : Suriye

EĞİTİM

Derece : **Adı** : **Bitirme Yılı**
Üniversite : Gaziantep Üniversitesi 2019
Yüksek Lisans:
Doktora :

İŞ DENEYİMLERİ

Yıl	Kurum	Görevi
2013	Yardım koordinasyon birimi	Operasyon görevlisi
2016	Uluslararası Savaş ve Afet Mağdurlarının Bakımı Derneği	lojistik Yöneticisi
2018	MSF	lojistik koordinatör yardımcısı
2022	RMTeam	koordinatör

UZMANLIK ALANI: İnsani Yardım Uzmanı

YABANCI DİLLER: İngilizce – Arapça

BELİRTMEK İSTEĞİNİZ DİĞER ÖZELLİKLER: Yok

YAYINLAR: Yok