

GLOBAL PANDEMIC OF THE CENTURY

Türkiye's Successful Fight Against *Coronavirus*



GLOBAL PANDEMIC OF THE CENTURY
TÜRKİYE'S SUCCESSFUL FIGHT
AGAINST CORONAVIRUS

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TABLE OF CONTENTS ■

INTRODUCTION	09
FOREWORD	17
1. A QUICK REVIEW OF THE YEAR GONE BY	21
2. TÜRKİYE'S VISIONARY HEALTHCARE POLICY and INVESTMENTS	33
3. TÜRKİYE'S EXEMPLARY FIGHT AGAINST THE CORONAVIRUS	67
3.1. Inclusive Health Services	67
3.2. Supports and Measures for Economic Stability	115
3.3. Protection of Work and Social Life	133
3.4. Continuous and Distance Education	145
3.5. Continuity of Justice Services	191
3.6. Controlled Social Life and Inspection	201
3.7. Steps to Support the Industry	219
3.8. Measures in the fields of Transport and Communication	227
3.9. Agriculture Friendly Regulations	243
3.10. Contact-free and Non-stop Trade	253
3.11. Safe Tourism and Incentives	273
3.12. Complementary Works in the fields of Culture, Arts, Youth and Sports	285
3.13. Religious Services during the Pandemic Period	317
3.14. Scientific Studies, Projects and Publications	337
4. INTERNATIONAL AIDS AND THE GREATEST EVACUATION OPERATION IN THE HISTORY OF THE REPUBLIC	363
5. COMMUNICATION OF TÜRKİYE'S SUCCESSFUL FIGHT AGAINST CORONAVIRUS	437
6. TÜRKİYE'S SUCCESS IN THE INTERNATIONAL MEDIA	469

TÜRKİYE'S
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INTRODUCTION

We have been severely challenged as a country regarding the Covid-19 pandemic, which is the biggest crisis humankind has faced in modern times. Although the pandemic has gone on for a year and has not yet ended, we have made substantial progress thanks to our nation's perseverance, self-sacrifice, and faith.

Last year, many health systems, particularly those of some countries in Europe and the USA, which are considered developed countries, collapsed, and patients were even treated in hospital corridors. Unfortunately, many people lost their lives. As a nation, Türkiye has taken all measures during this period; we have carried out our work meticulously, and we have built modern hospitals that will fight off this disease, which the world has had difficulty coping with.

First of all, we have implemented a science-based management process for battling the pandemic. The Coronavirus Scientific Board was established on January 10, 2020, two months before the first case was seen in our country. Thus, we started to monitor and evaluate the pandemic globally with a board composed of

experts on the subject. As the government, we accepted and implemented many of the recommendations made by this scientific board during times when the disease incidence was at its peak.

As we grasped how serious the situation was at an early stage and took the necessary measures, we were able to delay the entry of the outbreak to Türkiye as long as possible. However, since the pandemic was first seen in our country, we have carried out extensive work in almost every area. While many countries of the world, unfortunately, were suffering from the pandemic, we mobilised all kinds of opportunities to protect our citizens, both at home and abroad, against it.

In this context, we steadily evacuated our citizens who live abroad and wanted to return to their country during the days when the pandemic caused great fear and countries' health systems collapsed. During this process, which was recorded as the largest-scale evacuation operation in the history of the Republic, we ensured the return of our citizens from 142 different countries. In addition, 368 of our citizens who were ill were brought to Türkiye by air ambulance, no matter where they were in the world.

Thanks to the health investments we have made during our term of administration, there has been no disruption in healthcare services during the pandemic. However, we were not satisfied with this, and as one of the two countries in the world that could achieve this, we built two large pandemic hospitals, each with a capacity of 1,008 beds, in as short as 45 days. In addition to this, during the pandemic, we inaugurated a total of 16 large hospitals in different cities of Türkiye by December 2020. The city hospitals in Istanbul, Konya, and Tekirdağ have lifted our country's healthcare infrastructure to a very high level. Thanks to the hospitals and healthcare facilities we opened in the last year, the total number of health facilities offering services in Türkiye increased by 55 per cent.

All types of machines and devices required for our hospitals to fight the Covid-19 pandemic were provided without delay. Many

of them began to be produced locally. For instance, we have shown our support to our own citizens as well as to countries that needed ventilators, especially vital for intensive care patients during Covid-19 treatment, by producing them domestically. During this period, we have exported approximately 4,000 ventilators labelled “Made in Türkiye” to 20 countries.

We have made extraordinary efforts in the public and private sectors to produce materials which are indispensable for the fight against Covid-19 and which many countries lacked, such as masks, face shields, gloves, and protective suits. Every citizen and every institution, ranging from the Ministry of Health to military factories under the Ministry of National Defence, from youth at the Youth Centres under the Ministry of Youth and Sports to students in the technical schools affiliated with the Ministry of National Education and to prisoners and convicts working in workshops under the Ministry of Justice have joined the effort to produce these materials in a spirit of mobilisation. By accomplishing this huge production operation, we have not only met the need in our country but also delivered these vital hygiene materials to many countries around the world.

Türkiye, inspired by Rumi’s words, has sent aid supplies to the whole world. We have provided aid to 157 countries in total, 44 of which are in Africa, 43 in Europe, 33 in Asia, 22 in the Americas, and 15 in Oceania, according to their specific needs. Regardless of their continent, religion, or status as a developed or underdeveloped country, we have provided aid to these 157 countries, among which are the USA, Germany, the United Kingdom, Finland, France, Norway, Palestine, Iraq, Iran, Syria, Afghanistan, Belgium, Brazil, and Cuba.

Today, our intensive domestic vaccine research continues in Türkiye’s Vaccine Institute and Clinical Research Centre. We have already supported 16 domestic vaccine projects in Türkiye, and six of them have passed to the phase stage. When these vaccine trials, which have reached the final phase are concluded, we will be a helping hand reaching out to the world, just like our support providing ventilators and medical equipment.

As it is a global pandemic and similarly affects all countries, Covid-19 has brought about a global economic contraction. Almost every country in the world has been affected by this crisis in economic terms, like a domino effect. However, despite the Covid-19 pandemic, our country showed the second highest growth globally, with growth performance of 5.9 per cent in the last quarter of 2020. Of course, being a country that has grown its economy in the global economic system, while the USA shrank by 2.5 per cent, Spain by 9 per cent, the UK by 7.8 per cent, and France by 5 per cent, is a valuable result that we have achieved together with our nation. Undoubtedly, the measures we have taken, the incentives and supports we have provided, and our nation's efforts lie behind this growth.

Türkiye has rapidly taken all measures in the economic domain as well as in the domain of health. At the very beginning of the pandemic, we announced the Economic Stability Shield package to the public on March 18, 2020. After the Economic Stability Shield Package was implemented, we continued to take additional measures at different points, taking into account the course of the pandemic and the needs of households. We have implemented many measures and incentives to meet the needs of all economic actors, especially SMEs from every sector, tradespeople, artisans, industrialists, and business operators. You will see all the details of our work in the domain of economics in this book. Our work will continue according to current needs.

We have put forward many measures and supports to eliminate the pandemic's adverse effects on work life and social life. In this context, the total amount of the resources we transferred directly to citizens through the Social Protection Shield package covering all citizens in all processes from the individual to the family, from the family to society, had exceeded 53 billion TL as of March 1, 2021. Many incentives, supports, grants, and aid practices have been implemented during this period, ranging from short-term working allowances to prohibition of dismissal, from cash wage support to unemployment premiums, from normalisation support to compensatory work, from rapid

return to work incentives to employment support, from insurance premium postponement to SSI debt restructuring, from rearrangement of pensions to the implementation of incapacity allowance within the scope of Covid-19, from a project for accommodation of the homeless to the National Solidarity Campaign, “We are self-sufficient, Türkiye”. All types of needs of citizens over 65 and those with chronic illnesses have been met by VEFA Social Support Groups all over Türkiye. The spirit of solidarity demonstrated by our public personnel, police units, and non-governmental organisations who have provided services to our elderly citizens is undoubtedly one of the most important values that makes us who we are. With this spirit of solidarity, unity, and benevolence, we have overcome the depression caused by the pandemic that nearly destroyed morale in the early days. This period in which our nation joined hands with the state showed the whole world how the unprecedented sense of conscience is still alive in these lands.

During the pandemic period, we have quickly taken the necessary steps in terms of controlled social life and supervision in order to prevent an increase in case numbers. Within the scope of Covid-19, we have sent a total of 222 circulars/directives/letters, 34 of which address borders and 188 about domestic issues, to 81 Provincial Governorates and related institutions and organisations. All these instructions have been implemented to make many areas of our social life compliant with pandemic conditions in order to reduce the course of the disease and to eliminate it. Several arrangements, from curfew restrictions to grocery shopping arrangements, from limiting participants at weddings, meetings, and events in accordance with pandemic conditions, to a set of rules to be applied in restaurants and similar businesses, have been implemented. I express my heartfelt thanks for all my citizens’ patience and the support they have shown in the face of these restrictions, which are essential measures in the fight against the disease and for which we received the utmost support from our beloved nation.

Within the scope of the measures taken after the first case was detected in Türkiye, we have suspended face-to-face

education and introduced a distance education model. We, as a state, were one of the first countries in the world to pioneer distance education. We have implemented a system that could set an example for other states from the very first day. We have maintained the education process by prioritising the health of our students and their families. To reduce the risk of the coronavirus transmitting to judicial personnel and citizens, we have taken radical and decisive measures in judiciary services without delay. We have ensured the necessary infrastructure for short-term delays and many remote proceedings.

We have also taken the necessary steps in the industrial sector to maintain production and economic life and to avoid interrupting the supply chain and social life. As well as providing sectorial support, we also increased incentives for new projects to meet new needs based on changing priorities. We have provided 48 million TL in support to 63 projects in the public and private sectors, universities, and non-governmental organisations within the scope of the “Resistance and Resilience against Covid-19” program, which we declared on March 31, 2020.

Before Covid-19 began to affect our country, we quickly made preparations in agriculture and food supply. We have taken the necessary measures at the highest level at every stage, from the procurement of raw material by food companies to product deliveries. In this process, product stocks were constantly checked by our relevant organisations, inspections for ensuring hygiene conditions were tightened, and strict follow-up practices were carried out to prevent price increases. Furthermore, we have attached great importance to taking the necessary precautions in the domain of trade. We have made many arrangements and provided financial support to protect all actors in commercial life and our citizens’ needs. As the state, we have implemented several initiatives to minimise the impact of this period on our foreign trade.

Türkiye has led the way in many tourism practices, setting an example all around the world, to strengthen our position as the most-preferred-country and leaving our competitors

behind. We have provided comprehensive measures, including financing and promotional support to the sector, in particular by offering “Safe Tourism” to our visitors. We have maintained our state’s promotional activities without slowing down during the Covid-19 period. We have hosted world-famous events such as Formula 1. We have gone through a better 2020 than rival countries in terms of tourism. As a matter of fact, the number of tourists visiting our country in 2020 was approximately 16 million.

The pandemic has negatively affected the domain of culture and the arts in our country as it has all over the world. We have exerted all kinds of efforts to minimise the problems in the domain of culture and the arts in both the public and private sectors. During the Covid-19 period, we have meticulously ensured that our citizens properly benefit from religious services. We have taken the necessary measures in order to perform worship practices in a proper, safe, and healthy manner and in a way that observes the rights of those who request services.

There have always been great crises, dangers, diseases, pandemics, poverty, problems, and trouble that humanity has overcome in history. Humanity has passed on the experiences gained while dealing with all these problems to future generations. Today, the world is trying to cope with a virus called Covid-19, despite its state-of-the-art technology, scientific advances, and thousands of years of knowledge and experience. Healthcare systems are collapsing, economies are falling apart, people’s psychology and almost all habits are being reshaped, there is a breakdown in trust between states and their citizens, and people feel desperate.

Contrary to the desperate and exhausted state of the world, Türkiye has set the most potent example of solidarity between the state and the nation. As children, the elderly, men, and women, no one hesitates to fulfil the responsibilities that fall to them. As a state, we implement many measures and supports that serve as examples to the world, faster and stronger than ever before. We have the means to bring every single citizen back to our country

from the other side of the world. We strive to pass through these days without denying the existence of problems but refreshing our hope every time the sun rises. We are experiencing one of the most valuable outcomes of our Presidential System of Government. We implement proactive, flexible, and effective policies with the coordination and governance capacity ensured by the Presidential System of Government. As we succeeded in distinguishing Türkiye in a positive way from many countries, we have shown the whole world that Türkiye is prepared for all kinds of different scenarios and is able to act quickly. We have evolved Türkiye from a state desperately demanding aid from developed countries into a confident and strong state that can help 157 other countries. The aid supplies emblazoned with our glorious flag, the symbol of our independence, convey our friendship, affection, conscientious approach, and efforts to ensure human dignity to every corner of the world.

Thanks to our nation's perseverance and self-sacrifice, we are passing through one of the most challenging periods in human history with less distress. I have no doubt that after a year of sorrow for our losses, we will reach a new hope, healthy days, and a new future in unity and solidarity. In the service of its nation, the State of the Republic of Türkiye will work with all its might for a country where future generations will be proud of their ancestors.



PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE
RECEP TAYYİP ERDOĞAN

FOREWORD

In the last year, we have witnessed one of the most profound crises in the history of humanity. The Covid-19 pandemic, which was one of the rare events that have affected the whole world, both developed and under-developed, north and south, rich and poor countries, has already left detrimental effects, the consequences of which concerned human life, health, the economy, trade, politics, psychology, and sociology. While some countries have failed to an unexpected extent in this pandemic, which will affect the coming decades, other countries have set an example to the world with the spirit of unity and solidarity.

Türkiye has taken its place among successful countries that acted in unity and solidarity between the nation and the state while fighting this pandemic, which shook the world deeply. Türkiye has not put up this fight for itself only, but it has also fought to help other countries. Under the leadership of our

President, our battle for a world where conscience, humanity, equity, justice, and truth prevail has also manifested itself during this pandemic period.

With the measures taken, the supports provided, the projects carried out, and the incentives offered from the very first days of the pandemic, our country spent a year with the coronavirus in much better condition than many other countries in the world. Of course, we are deeply saddened by the loss of many people close to us and our precious scientists during this period. However, numerous measures have been taken in all areas of life, from healthcare to the economy, social life to work life, and tourism to agriculture, to prevent the pandemic from causing mass deaths and to slow down the course of the disease, and our state has extended its helping hand to all citizens in every aspect. With our nation's perseverance, foresight, and wisdom, and our President's leadership as well as the coordination among institutions, we have left behind a year of this difficult period.

We have become one of two countries in the world that have built a hospital in 45 days. Our nation's confidence and trust in our robust healthcare system have increased even more with our two pandemic hospitals, three city hospitals, and all the other projects carried out. Contrary to people who have tried to access treatment under challenging circumstances in many developed countries, such as the United Kingdom, Italy, France and the United States of America, the Government of the Republic of Türkiye was able to provide opportunities for free-of-charge treatment not only for its citizens at home but also for its citizens abroad, even if they were on the other side of the world, by evacuating them and bringing them home.

This strength is the result of our will for independence. The spirit of sacrifice of our civilian volunteers who knock on every door to offer help to senior citizens, moreover, is the most powerful cement of this nation. Our nation, which has been struggling to

overcome the century's most significant health crisis through such solidarity, understanding, perseverance, and faith as to set an example for the world, must display a bit more patience, which is crucial for this pandemic period to come to an end. Our country, which has begun the vaccination process, free of charge for all citizens without discrimination, will also heal, in a relatively short period, all the wounds caused by the global pandemic. For we are a nation. For we are able to cultivate all the feelings needed to be a nation and to do what must be done.

The book in your hand is a document to mark history, presenting in detail every aspect of the battle our state and our nation have put up under our President's leadership against Covid-19 over the last year. It is my wish that the future generations who live in good health will remember with gratitude this epic struggle and better relay what we have done for humanity.

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS OF THE PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE

FAHRETTİN ALTUN

CHAPTER 1

A QUICK REVIEW OF THE YEAR GONE BY



Türkiye, thanks to its investments in healthcare infrastructure for about the last 20 years, has not had any interruption in the provision of healthcare services during the pandemic period.



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CHAPTER 1

A QUICK REVIEW OF THE YEAR GONE BY

The December of 2019 marked the first time the world had to meet with the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) that appeared for the first time in Wuhan, China, and in quite a short period, the world had to face a pandemic about which there was no knowledge and against which there was no known defence mechanism. Research gave their fruits, and the disease was identified as Covid-19 on January 13, 2020, whose primary symptoms were announced to be fever, coughing and respiratory distress. Though defined as a large virus family that causes diseases in humans and animals, the novel coronavirus identified to cause the contagious Covid-19 disease became the most important agenda item of the year 2020. The WHO published its coronavirus report on January 20, 2020, where it announced for the first time that the virus was communicable between humans, declared a global emergency on January 30, 2020, and announced the name of the disease caused by the novel coronavirus to be Covid-19 on February 11, 2020.

After Covid-19 was seen in Wuhan's seafood and animal market, it quickly spread to other provinces of China and then to the whole world. In January (2020), the first countries where Covid-19 was seen were Thailand, Japan, the United States of

America, and France. Before the end of January, India, the Philippines, Russia, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom joined the countries where the virus was seen, and the number of countries increased rapidly within a few days. The WHO announced that as of July 7, 2020, there were 11.4 million cases and more than 535 thousand people who lost their lives worldwide and that the pandemic had not reached its peak yet. On October 19, 2020, a warning was announced that the northern hemisphere was entering the winter, and the number of cases started to increase, especially in Europe and North America, and the next few months would be more difficult. Finally, another news that increased the fear and anxiety levels of people towards the end of 2020 was about the mutation of Covid-19 that was said to spread even faster. The WHO announced that the information obtained about the new variant seen in Britain and spreading 70% faster would be shared with the world public.

Covid-19, which is mainly transmitted through respiration, has shown its effect globally in many areas such as health, education, economy, judiciary, culture, tourism and highlighted the importance of the measures that need to be implemented swiftly. Türkiye was able to delay as much as possible the entry of Covid-19 with the measures taken, and the first case was seen on March 11, 2020. In our country, which prioritised science-based process management in combating the pandemic, the Coronavirus Scientific Board was established on January 10, 2020, about two months before the first case was seen, and started to conduct global monitoring and evaluation of the pandemic. Immediately after the first case was seen in Türkiye, a meeting on coronavirus was held at the Presidential Complex under the chairmanship of our President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and comprehensive decisions to prevent the spread of the pandemic were taken quickly. A day after the appearance of the first case, Türkiye, as one of the countries in the world to rapidly take such a decision, suspended face-to-face education and started the remote education period, regulated the public

officials' travel abroad to require a special permit, all sporting events to be held without spectators, suspended all flights to those countries in Europe where Covid-19 was widely seen, postponed all culture-art events, meetings and congresses, and many more decisions were taken in this meeting to prevent the spread of the pandemic. In the following period, with the Scientific Board's recommendation, citizens returning from abroad were placed, after health checks, in student dormitories and quarantined there for 14 days.

In addition to these preventive measures, the Coordination Meeting on the Fight against Coronavirus was held on March 18, 2020, under the chairmanship of our President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, and the "Economic Stability Shield" package of 100 billion TL was announced. Comprehensive support packages were implemented at specific intervals to minimise the adverse effects to be caused by the global pandemic on the economy, security, tourism, trade, working life and daily life.

Curfews were imposed on citizens aged 65 and older and people with chronic illnesses on March 22, 2020, and flexible working methods such as remote working and rotational working were implemented for public employees in order not to disrupt the service. Vehicle entries into and exits from 30 metropolitan cities and Zonguldak province were suspended for 15 days on April 3, 2020; a weekend curfew was imposed in the aforementioned cities on April 11-12, 2020, and weekend curfews were implemented at various times across the country, taking into account the number of cases in the subsequent period.

In this process, regulations covering all areas of life were made, and Pandemic Boards were established in all provinces. On the one hand, thousands of Turkish citizens were brought back to our country from various regions as part of the world's most significant evacuation operations; on the other, the VEFA Social Support Groups were able to meet all of the needs of

citizens aged 65 and older, as well as people with chronic illnesses, throughout Türkiye. Tens of thousands of our citizens were brought back to Türkiye from 142 countries in what was described as the most extensive evacuation operation in the Republic's history. Our 368 patients were flown to Türkiye via air ambulance. Furthermore, from March 17 to June 11, 2020, Türkiye assisted in the evacuation process of 91 countries and evacuated 37 thousand 682 foreigners from our country.

During the pandemic last year, VEFA Social Support Groups, which are made up of a total of 144 thousand 907 volunteers, including civil servants and NGO volunteers, responded to 9 million 805 thousand 462 requests from citizens. Within the scope of the "Social Protection Shield," developed by the Directorate of Family, Labour and Social Services, 3 million 124 thousand 580 households were visited. A total of 2 billion 926 million 956 thousand 599 TL were paid to citizens aged 65 and over as the elderly and disabled pensions in their household, including pension payments, İŞKUR payments and payments within the scope of the Economic Stability Shield Package. The Covid-19 pandemic process affected not only humans but also stray animals. Under the coordination of the Provincial Directorates of Agriculture and Forestry, all animal needs such as shelter, food, and disinfection of their living spaces were met in collaboration with non-governmental organisations in each city.

Due to the health investments made over the last 20 years, Türkiye's health services has not suffered any disruption during the pandemic process. Furthermore, Türkiye has entered the pandemic process well-equipped with city hospitals, the construction of which has been accelerated recently. Taking into account the possibilities that may arise during the pandemic's upcoming period, pandemic hospitals have begun to be built quickly, and these hospitals have been completed and made operational in a short period, ensuring that no citizen suffers.

A total of 48 health facilities, including three City Hospitals (Istanbul Başakşehir, Konya and Tekirdağ City Hospitals), 25 new hospital buildings, and 11 hospital wings, were put into service between March 1, 2020, and March 1, 2021. In order to ensure the successful administration of Covid-19 treatments, 177 pandemic hospitals in 81 provinces have been determined, each with at least two physicians specialising in infectious diseases, clinical microbiology, chest diseases, and internal medicine, as well as tertiary adult intensive care beds. During the pandemic period, the adult intensive care bed capacity of public hospitals was increased by 51%.

During the early stages of the process, when the entire world was attempting to overcome the pandemic crisis and recover from the initial shock, our country set an example of national unity and solidarity by launching the ‘We are Self-Sufficient, Türkiye’ campaign and uniting in support of the sectors most affected by the pandemic.

The Pandemic Isolation Tracking Project (ITP) was established by the Ministry of Health in early April 2020 and developed to alleviate the pandemic and isolate the patients, and the Directorate of Communications promoted it and conducted the relevant awareness projects. Likewise, the Ministry of Health launched the “Hayat Eve Sığar” (Life Fits into Home - HES) mobile application, where information on the risk zones, family tracking, Covid-19 tests, daily coronavirus outlook, as well as hospital and pharmacy information on the map could be accessed monthly. Following that, the persons’ risk situations were questioned using the code (HES Code) in this application, and thus the use of public transportation, travel, visits, entrance into social spaces such as shopping malls had been regulated, and such persons were prevented from leaving the isolation areas. Furthermore, the density map and risky areas could be accessed, warnings of contact could be sent, HES transactions could be completed, rule violations could be re-

ported, vaccine information could be followed, and side effect and service evaluation questionnaires could be completed using the HES application. HES, most effectively used by society, has been downloaded individually into citizens' mobile phones 62,104,776 times.

Türkiye has shared the number of tests and cases with the national and international public by following a transparent process since the beginning of the pandemic. The 'Filiation and Insulation Tracking System (FITAS),' described as a successful application by international media, sets an example for many countries; and it has been another critical element in the fight against Covid-19 conducted by our country. The FITAS application has been developed to carry out studies on identifying the source and the agent (filiation) after the field investigation and case notification during the pandemic process and implement protective and control measures, including those with contacts.

Filiation studies for cases have been completed, and a pandemic spread map has been created, resulting in a successful reduction in the number of cases with the measures implemented since the first Covid-19 case was announced in our country. Filiation teams of three people perform scanning using mobile devices as soon as a case emerges, reach out to the case and those who have contacted them, and carry out filiation using the FITAS application in 81 provinces across Türkiye. The medication required by our citizens who test positive according to the application is delivered directly to their homes, preventing a rise in the spread of the disease and enabling people in the risk group to begin receiving treatment with early diagnosis.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, while rapidly implementing the domestic decisions taken, Türkiye also aided many countries experiencing a shortage of medical supplies and an increase in the severity of the pandemic. Statements were made one after another by international actors on Türkiye's management of the pandemic process and intensive efforts carried out

within the framework of global cooperation. Pavel Ursu, the WHO representative in Türkiye, indicated that Türkiye was an exemplary country due to its tremendous efforts on the treatment process in the fight against Covid-19 and the diagnostic capacity, and the country has managed the process transparently. NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg stated in April 2020 that Türkiye was one of the countries that provided the most assistance to its allies and that Türkiye's military aircraft, which carried medical supplies and personal protection equipment to the UK, was the first one to use NATO's single flight number. WHO Regional Director for Europe, Hans Kluge, expressed his gratitude on behalf of WHO for the medical equipment assistance sent to the UK, Italy, Spain and the Balkan countries as well as Türkiye's display of solidarity.

By implementing domestic production of ventilators vital in Covid-19 treatment, particularly for the patients in intensive care, Türkiye has shown its support both to its own citizens and to the countries in need of ventilators. Under the guidance of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Industry and Technology, and in collaboration with the private sector, our country has quickly become a manufacturer and an exporter of ventilators. Indeed, in only one year, Türkiye, together with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of National Defence, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Red Crescent, TIKA, AFAD and other aid agencies, provided assistance to 157 countries and 12 international organisations within the scope of requests for assistance of different nature from 159 countries (49 African countries, 41 European countries, 33 Asian countries, 21 American countries, 15 countries from Oceania). In addition to the grants of medical aid, personal protective equipment and ventilators, Türkiye also sent food aid to the countries experiencing food safety problems during the pandemic process.

Following the curfews that began in April, a relatively relaxed period was experienced in the pandemic with the warming of the weather, the expansion of the opportunity to socialise in

the open areas and the relaxation of the restrictions after June 2020. During the months of July-August-September 2020, steps were taken to ease social life within the gradual normalisation process framework. Beginning in November 2020, Türkiye, along with the rest of the world, has entered a process in which the restrictions have been intensified due to the increased impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Countries implemented different degrees of restrictions and measures, taking into account the number of cases and deaths throughout 2020, and the measures varied by region throughout the process management.

The positive news about the vaccine developments in the last quarter of 2020 has given hope to the world struggling with the Covid-19 pandemic. Five vaccines, of which phase III studies had begun in the early period, were produced by three different methods. According to the results of phase III studies made in Türkiye of the Sinovac vaccine, an inactive vaccine developed with conventional methods, its efficacy was determined as 83.5%, and the rate of preventing hospitalisations was 100%. Viral Vector (Adenovirus) vaccines contained live microorganisms and were produced within the scope of new vaccine development technologies. Sputnik-V and Oxford/Astra-Zeneca vaccines (AZA-1222) were in this class of vaccines. Messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines were accounted for as the third vaccine production method and mRNAs produced artificially in the laboratory to warn us against the virus by working just like our own mRNAs. Biontech/Pfizer and Moderna vaccines fell into this category of vaccines. Türkiye Vaccine Institute and the Clinical Research Centre have come to the last phase in domestic vaccine development. Twelve days after the first case was seen in our country, on March 23, 2020, an R&D project call was made to develop a Covid-19 vaccine. On April 17, 2020, TÜBİTAK announced that it would support applications to be made through TÜSEB after completing pre-clinical trials. Currently, 16 domestic vaccine projects are supported in Türkiye, and six of them have started their phase trials.

The vaccination process has started at the beginning of 2021 on healthcare personnel and priority groups. All vaccines implemented in Türkiye are brought into service after being analysed by the Ministry of Health and evaluated in terms of safety. The process is managed with the Vaccine Tracking System (ATS) developed by the Ministry of Health Directorate General of Public Health (HSGM), and the system provides evidence-based product safety. Its national and international patents have been issued on behalf of HSGM as the world's first and only system to monitor temperature, expiry, and stock on a country basis. The social vaccination process in Türkiye after the completion of clinical trials began on January 13, 2021. With the Coronavirus Scientific Board's decision, vaccination is made primarily to healthcare personnel then continued gradually, starting from the highest age group. To date, a total of 11 million 27 thousand vaccinations have been administered in Türkiye under the Covid-19 vaccination programme, with 7 million 895 thousand first doses and 3 million 131 thousand second doses. (14.03.2021)

Our country has implemented province-based restrictions and measures as of March 2021. In this context, provinces were categorised as blue (low risk), yellow (medium risk), orange (high risk) and red (very high risk) based on the number of cases, and the issues such as face-to-face education, curfew restrictions, official ceremonies, activities of sports, culture and art and the service method of cafes and restaurants were organised according to the gradual normalisation principle.

Türkiye, with the economic and social policies implemented, has been one of the rare countries which survived the first year of the pandemic with minimal damage. A total of 311 billion TL was allocated on support and incentives, with special attention paid to each citizen. In the year 2020, when the Covid-19 pandemic took its toll, our country ranked second after China, with a 1.8 per cent growth rate.

At this point, despite the expectation that the normalisation process would be accelerated by vaccination, it is clear that more than a year of pandemic experience would result in a paradigm shift in the ways of social life, economy, education, trade, and production. Countries' transition to this new order, in which digitalisation is at the core of life, would be most successful in management and leadership processes. As an exemplary country that effectively manages the pandemic process in the fields of technical infrastructure, health, and economy, our country will be in a safe and guiding position in the future world. The importance of the principles of global cooperation, global justice, global equality, global prosperity, and a global, peaceful and secure future, emphasised by our President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in every field, have been better understood in this process and shed light on the vision of future of the world. Recalling that the fates of all the people in the world depend on each other, Covid-19 gives important clues about the post-pandemic period. It has been seen that the humanitarian policies of Türkiye were a requirement/an obligation not only in the pandemic process but for a viable world. After the vaccine developments, which are coming to their final stages, our country will also give a quick response to the issue of vaccination as it had given to the world's need for ventilators, medical supplies and protective equipment. On February 5, 2021, WHO announced that approximately 130 countries with a population of 2.5 billion have yet to receive a single vaccine dose. Türkiye will also be a pioneer in the issue of vaccines, for which WHO often emphasises equal access.

CHAPTER 2

TÜRKİYE'S VISIONARY HEALTHCARE POLICY and INVESTMENTS



Between the years 2002 and 2021, Türkiye has made significant progress both in terms of access to healthcare services and in relation to each of the health indicators. Türkiye, in terms of the number of intensive care beds per 100 thousand people, has surpassed many developed countries such as the United Kingdom, Germany and France.



CHAPTER 2

TÜRKİYE'S VISIONARY HEALTHCARE POLICY and INVESTMENTS

Since 2002, one of the main policy areas on which Türkiye has focused its efforts has been healthcare. Major reforms have been undertaken to provide citizens with better quality healthcare services, restructure the healthcare field, and make important achievements globally. During that period, significant progress has been made both in terms of access to healthcare services and in relation to each of the health indicators. Thanks to these breakthroughs in the field of healthcare, Türkiye has climbed up in the international healthcare indices and has also become an exemplary country on a global scale.

In the 2002-2021 period, in addition to many projects aimed at offering better quality healthcare services to citizens such as the “Central Physician Appointment System”, “TeleTıp”, “SABİM”, “e-Nabız Personal Health System” under the roof of “Transformation in Healthcare”, significant progress has been made in the fields of healthcare infrastructure, healthcare personnel, and hospitals.

As agreed by all experts on the matter, during such a rapidly spreading pandemic like Covid-19 around the world, healthcare infrastructure, healthcare staff, and the hospital capacity are becoming even more prominent.



INVESTMENTS MADE IN THE HEALTHCARE FIELD
IN THE 2002-2021 PERIOD
HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY BOLSTERED THE STRENGTH OF OUR COUNTRY
IN TERMS OF THE CAPACITY TO COUNTER AND THE POWER TO
RESPOND AGAINST THIS GLOBAL PANDEMIC.

In this context, regarding the leading health indicators in the event of a pandemic, the distance covered by Türkiye over the past 19 years and Türkiye's current international position are shown in detail in the graphics and tables below.

Number of Hospital Beds by Year and Sector

While the number of hospital beds in Türkiye was 164,471 in 2002, this number has increased to 253,106 by 05/03/2021.

NUMBER OF BEDS BY YEAR AND SECTOR

	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	UNIVERSITY	PRIVATE	TOTAL
2002	107.394	26.341	30.736	164.471
2003	107.771	26.619	31.075	165.465
2004	108.511	28.025	30.171	166.707
2005	110.109	29.014	31.849	170.972
2006	110.819	31.193	32.330	174.342
2007	112.037	30.978	34.985	178.000
2008	114.428	29.912	38.843	183.183
2009	115.443	30.112	43.083	188.638
2010	120.180	35.001	45.058	200.239
2011	121.297	34.802	38.405	194.504
2012	122.322	35.150	42.600	200.072
2013	121.269	36.056	44.706	202.031
2014	123.690	36.670	46.476	206.836
2015	122.331	38.361	48.956	209.648
2016	132.921	37.707	47.143	217.771
2017	135.339	41.324	49.200	225.863
2018	139.651	42.066	50.196	231.913
2019	145.403	42.925	51.031	239.359
2020	157.036	43.275	52.176	252.487
2021	157.439	43.380	52.287	253.106

Number of Intensive Care Beds by Year

While the number of intensive care beds in Türkiye was only 2,214 in 2002, this number has increased to 48,630 by 2021.

YEAR	SECTOR	NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE					TOTAL
		Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	Quaternary A	Quaternary B	
	ALL SECTORS						
2008	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	505	801	404	0	0	1.710
	UNIVERSITY	53	71	463	0	0	587
	PRIVATE	574	473	373	0	0	1.420
	ALL SECTORS	1.132	1.345	1.240	0	0	3.717
2009	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	650	952	539	0	0	2.141
	UNIVERSITY	88	86	519	0	0	693
	PRIVATE	598	633	530	0	0	1.761
	ALL SECTORS	1.336	1.671	1.588	0	0	4.595
2010	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	667	998	752	0	0	2.417
	UNIVERSITY	94	167	566	0	0	827
	PRIVATE	784	694	870	0	0	2.348
	ALL SECTORS	1.545	1.859	2.188	0	0	5.592
2011	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	802	1.113	1.046	0	0	2.961
	UNIVERSITY	89	218	551	0	0	858
	PRIVATE	891	697	1.247	0	0	2.835
	ALL SECTORS	1.782	2.028	2.844	0	0	6.654
2012	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	844	1.190	1.080	0	0	3.114
	UNIVERSITY	106	209	629	0	0	944
	PRIVATE	1.093	773	1.602	0	0	3.468
	ALL SECTORS	2.043	2.172	3.311	0	0	7.526
2013	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	926	1.173	1.128	0	0	3.227
	UNIVERSITY	109	201	792	0	0	1.102
	PRIVATE	1.170	889	1.928	0	0	3.987
	ALL SECTORS	2.205	2.263	3.848	0	0	8.316

2008 - 2013 PERIOD

YEAR	SECTOR	PEDIATRIC INTENSIVE CARE			
		Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	Quaternary A
	ALL SECTORS				
2008	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	0	0	0	0
	UNIVERSITY	0	0	0	0
	PRIVATE	0	0	0	0
	ALL SECTORS	0	0	0	0
2009	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	0	0	0	0
	UNIVERSITY	0	0	0	0
	PRIVATE	0	0	0	0
	ALL SECTORS	0	0	0	0
2010	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	0	0	0	0
	UNIVERSITY	0	0	0	0
	PRIVATE	0	0	0	0
	ALL SECTORS	0	0	0	0
2011	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	90	185	164	439
	UNIVERSITY	45	86	231	362
	PRIVATE	9	0	2	11
	ALL SECTORS	144	271	397	812
2012	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	37	259	176	472
	UNIVERSITY	28	102	242	372
	PRIVATE	7	8	0	15
	ALL SECTORS	72	369	418	859
2013	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	10	259	224	493
	UNIVERSITY	46	128	300	474
	PRIVATE	12	0	18	30
	ALL SECTORS	68	387	542	997

2008 - 2013 PERIOD

YEAR	SECTOR	ADULT INTENSIVE CARE				TOTAL
		Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	Intermediate Intensive Care	
	ALL SECTORS					
2008	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	2.060	1.478	1.173	0	4.711
	UNIVERSITY	319	401	1.821	0	2.541
	PRIVATE	1.202	920	874	0	2.996
	ALL SECTORS	3.581	2.799	3.868	0	10.248
2009	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	2.061	1.761	1.388	0	5.210
	UNIVERSITY	368	537	1.888	0	2.793
	PRIVATE	1.097	1.081	1.244	0	3.422
	ALL SECTORS	3.526	3.379	4.520	0	11.425
2010	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	2.342	1.944	1.536	0	5.822
	UNIVERSITY	509	603	1.787	0	2.899
	PRIVATE	1.492	1.152	1.352	0	3.996
	ALL SECTORS	4.343	3.699	4.675	0	12.717
2011	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	2.156	2.206	1.819	0	6.181
	UNIVERSITY	477	611	1.582	0	2.670
	PRIVATE	1.679	1.118	1.863	0	4.660
	ALL SECTORS	4.312	3.935	5.264	0	13.511
2012	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	2.295	2.352	2.088	0	6.735
	UNIVERSITY	500	634	1.786	0	2.920
	PRIVATE	1.966	1.371	2.312	0	5.649
	ALL SECTORS	4.761	4.357	6.186	0	15.304
2013	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	2.307	2.602	2.324	0	7.233
	UNIVERSITY	503	758	2.080	0	3.341
	PRIVATE	1.766	1.630	2.681	0	6.077
	ALL SECTORS	4.576	4.990	7.085	0	16.651

YEAR	SECTOR	TOTAL INTENSIVE CARE						TOTAL
		Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	Quaternary A	Quaternary B	Intermediate Intensive Care	
								2.214
2008	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	2.565	2.279	1.577	0	0	0	6.421
	UNIVERSITY	372	472	2.284	0	0	0	3.128
	PRIVATE	1.776	1.393	1.247	0	0	0	4.416
	ALL SECTORS	4.713	4.144	5.108	0	0	0	13.965
2009	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	2.711	2.713	1.927	0	0	0	7.351
	UNIVERSITY	456	623	2.407	0	0	0	3.486
	PRIVATE	1.695	1.714	1.774	0	0	0	5.183
	ALL SECTORS	4.862	5.050	6.108	0	0	0	16.020
2010	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	3.009	2.942	2.288	0	0	0	8.239
	UNIVERSITY	603	770	2.353	0	0	0	3.726
	PRIVATE	2.276	1.846	2.222	0	0	0	6.344
	ALL SECTORS	5.888	5.558	6.863	0	0	0	18.309
2011	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	3.048	3.504	3.029	0	0	0	9.581
	UNIVERSITY	611	915	2.364	0	0	0	3.890
	PRIVATE	2.579	1.815	3.112	0	0	0	7.506
	ALL SECTORS	6.238	6.234	8.505	0	0	0	20.977
2012	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	3.176	3.801	3.344	0	0	0	10.321
	UNIVERSITY	634	945	2.657	0	0	0	4.236
	PRIVATE	3.066	2.152	3.914	0	0	0	9.132
	ALL SECTORS	6.876	6.898	9.915	0	0	0	23.689
2013	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	3.243	4.034	3.676	0	0	0	10.953
	UNIVERSITY	658	1.087	3.172	0	0	0	4.917
	PRIVATE	2.948	2.519	4.627	0	0	0	10.094
	ALL SECTORS	6.849	7.640	11.475	0	0	0	25.964

2014 - 2019 PERIOD

YEAR	SECTOR	NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE					TOTAL
		Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	Quaternary A	Quaternary B	
	ALL SECTORS						
2014	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	974	1.215	1.133	0	0	3.322
	UNIVERSITY	92	214	845	0	0	1.151
	PRIVATE	1.079	973	2.771	0	0	4.823
	ALL SECTORS	2.145	2.402	4.749	0	0	9.296
2015	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	916	1.207	1.241	0	0	3.364
	UNIVERSITY	112	248	844	0	0	1.204
	PRIVATE	975	891	3.964	0	0	5.830
	ALL SECTORS	2.003	2.346	6.049	0	0	10.398
2016	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	959	1.247	1.379	0	0	3.585
	UNIVERSITY	131	247	854	0	0	1.232
	PRIVATE	976	681	4.465	0	0	6.122
	ALL SECTORS	2.066	2.175	6.698	0	0	10.939
2017	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	967	1.374	1.496	0	0	3.837
	UNIVERSITY	163	249	974	0	0	1.386
	PRIVATE	1.220	929	4.614	0	0	6.763
	ALL SECTORS	2.350	2.552	7.084	0	0	11.986
2018	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	987	1.451	1.428	78	30	3.974
	UNIVERSITY	157	260	997	34	0	1.448
	PRIVATE	1.240	1.110	4.630	0	0	6.980
	ALL SECTORS	2.384	2.821	7.055	112	30	12.402
2019	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	1.019	1.499	1.528	134	30	4.210
	UNIVERSITY	149	257	958	49	30	1.443
	PRIVATE	1.364	1.188	4.499	0	0	7.051
	ALL SECTORS	2.532	2.944	6.985	183	60	12.704

YEAR	SECTOR	PEDIATRIC INTENSIVE CARE			
		Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	Quaternary A
	ALL SECTORS				
2014	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	12	276	282	570
	UNIVERSITY	22	129	329	480
	PRIVATE	16	10	41	67
	ALL SECTORS	50	415	652	1.117
2015	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	0	289	352	641
	UNIVERSITY	0	147	361	508
	PRIVATE	0	28	26	54
	ALL SECTORS	0	464	739	1.203
2016	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	0	312	404	716
	UNIVERSITY	0	88	365	453
	PRIVATE	0	5	33	38
	ALL SECTORS	0	405	802	1.207
2017	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	0	365	536	901
	UNIVERSITY	0	135	421	556
	PRIVATE	0	13	56	69
	ALL SECTORS	0	513	1.013	1.526
2018	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	0	370	571	941
	UNIVERSITY	0	106	436	542
	PRIVATE	0	60	82	142
	ALL SECTORS	0	536	1.089	1.625
2019	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	0	392	651	1.043
	UNIVERSITY	0	103	485	588
	PRIVATE	0	53	94	147
	ALL SECTORS	0	548	1.230	1.778

2014 - 2019 PERIOD

YEAR	SECTOR	ADULT INTENSIVE CARE				TOTAL.
		Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	Intermediate Intensive Care	
	ALL SECTORS					
2014	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	2.228	3.197	2.557	0	7.982
	UNIVERSITY	489	886	2.123	0	3.498
	PRIVATE	1.572	1.788	3.319	0	6.679
	ALL SECTORS	4.289	5.871	7.999	0	18.159
2015	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	2.259	3.292	2.986	0	8.537
	UNIVERSITY	510	806	2.344	0	3.660
	PRIVATE	1.337	1.949	4.399	0	7.685
	ALL SECTORS	4.106	6.047	9.729	0	19.882
2016	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	2.406	3.543	3.375	0	9.324
	UNIVERSITY	505	916	2.314	0	3.735
	PRIVATE	1.221	2.044	4.593	0	7.858
	ALL SECTORS	4.132	6.503	10.282	0	20.917
2017	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	2.360	3.904	3.994	0	10.258
	UNIVERSITY	345	989	2.589	0	3.923
	PRIVATE	1.242	2.275	5.030	0	8.547
	ALL SECTORS	3.947	7.168	11.613	0	22.728
2018	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	2.488	4.123	4.560	0	11.171
	UNIVERSITY	311	1.036	2.702	0	4.049
	PRIVATE	1.404	2.485	4.967	0	8.851
	ALL SECTORS	4.203	7.644	12.229	0	24.071
2019	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	2.490	4.492	5.154	0	12.136
	UNIVERSITY	352	985	2.831	0	4.168
	PRIVATE	1.402	2.512	5.069	0	8.983
	ALL SECTORS	4.244	7.989	13.054	0	25.287

YEAR	SECTOR	TOTAL INTENSIVE CARE						TOTAL
		Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	Quaternary A	Quaternary B	Intermediate Intensive Care	
	ALL SECTORS							
2014	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	3.214	4.688	3.972	0	0	0	11.874
	UNIVERSITY	603	1.229	3.297	0	0	0	5.129
	PRIVATE	2.667	2.771	6.131	0	0	0	11.569
	ALL SECTORS	6.484	8.688	13.400	0	0	0	28.572
2015	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	3.175	4.788	4.579	0	0	0	12.542
	UNIVERSITY	622	1.201	3.549	0	0	0	5.372
	PRIVATE	2.312	2.868	8.389	0	0	0	13.569
	ALL SECTORS	6.109	8.857	16.517	0	0	0	31.483
2016	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	3.365	5.102	5.158	0	0	0	13.625
	UNIVERSITY	636	1.251	3.533	0	0	0	5.420
	PRIVATE	2.197	2.730	9.091	0	0	0	14.018
	ALL SECTORS	6.198	9.083	17.782	0	0	0	33.063
2017	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	3.327	5.643	6.026	0	0	0	14.996
	UNIVERSITY	508	1.373	3.984	0	0	0	5.865
	PRIVATE	2.462	3.217	9.700	0	0	0	15.379
	ALL SECTORS	6.297	10.233	19.710	0	0	0	36.240
2018	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	3.475	5.944	6.559	78	30	0	16.086
	UNIVERSITY	468	1.402	4.135	34	0	0	6.039
	PRIVATE	2.644	3.655	9.679	0	0	0	15.973
	ALL SECTORS	6.587	11.001	20.373	112	30	0	38.098
2019	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	3.509	6.383	7.333	134	30	0	17.389
	UNIVERSITY	501	1.345	4.274	49	30	0	6.199
	PRIVATE	2.766	3.753	9.662	0	0	0	16.181
	ALL SECTORS	6.776	11.481	21.269	183	60	0	39.769

2020 - 2021 PERIOD

YEAR	SECTOR	ADULT INTENSIVE CARE					TOTAL
		Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	Quaternary A	Quaternary B	
	ALL SECTORS						
2020	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	996	1.542	1.631	162	30	4.361
	UNIVERSITY	160	279	1.052	49	40	1.580
	PRIVATE	1.326	1.380	4.411	10	0	7.127
	ALL SECTORS	2.482	3.201	7.094	221	70	13.068
2021	MINISTRY OF HEALTH			1.241	0	0	4.341
	UNIVERSITY	160	279	1.052	49	40	1.580
	PRIVATE	1.326	1.380	4.411	10	0	7.127
	ALL SECTORS	2.482	3.201	7.094	221	70	13.068

YEAR	SECTOR	PEDIATRIC INTENSIVE CARE			
		Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	Quaternary A
	ALL SECTORS				
2020	MINISTRY OF HEALTH		354	784	1.138
	UNIVERSITY		121	530	651
	PRIVATE		62	105	167
	ALL SECTORS		537	1.419	1.956
2021	MINISTRY OF HEALTH				1.118
	UNIVERSITY		121	530	651
	PRIVATE		62	105	167
	ALL SECTORS		537	1.419	1.956

YEAR	SECTOR	ADULT INTENSIVE CARE					TOTAL
		Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	Intermediate Intensive Care		
	ALL SECTORS						
2020	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	3.052	6.666	8.722	0	18.440	
	UNIVERSITY	368	1.102	3.165	0	4.635	
	PRIVATE	1.139	2.673	5.717	0	9.529	
	ALL SECTORS	4.559	10.441	17.604	0	32.604	
2021	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	2.859	6.469	8.771	1.383	19.482	
	UNIVERSITY	368	1.102	3.165		4.635	
	PRIVATE	1.139	2.673	5.717		9.529	
	ALL SECTORS	4.366	10.244	17.653	1.383	33.646	

YEAR	SECTOR	TOTAL INTENSIVE CARE						TOTAL
		Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	Quaternary A	Quaternary B	Intermediate Intensive Care	
	ALL SECTORS							
2020	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	4.048	8.562	11.137	162	30		23.939
	UNIVERSITY	528	1.502	4.747	49	40		6.866
	PRIVATE	2.465	4.115	10.233	10	0		16.823
	ALL SECTORS	7.041	14.179	26.117	221	70		47.628
2021	MINISTRY OF HEALTH							24.941
	UNIVERSITY	528	1.502	4.747	49	40		6.866
	PRIVATE	2.465	4.115	10.233	10	0		16.823
	ALL SECTORS	6.848	13.982	26.166	221	70		48.630



Number of Intensive Care Beds Per 100 Thousand People

Türkiye has surpassed many developed countries such as the United Kingdom, Germany, and France in terms of the number of intensive care beds per 100 thousand people. While the number of intensive care beds per 100 thousand people is 56.9 in Türkiye, this figure is 33.9 in Germany, 9.5 in Spain, 8.4 in Italy, 8.2 in France, and 6.2 in the United Kingdom.

COUNTRIES	THE NUMBER OF BEDS	YEARS
TÜRKİYE	56,9	2020
GERMANY	33,9	2020
BELGIUM	29,4	2020
SPAIN	9,5	2020
AUSTRALIA	8,9	2020
ITALY	8,4	2020
FRANCE	8,2	2020
THE NETHERLANDS	6,7	2020
THE UNITED KINGDOM	6,2	2020

Number of Healthcare Staff in Türkiye By Year

While the number of physicians was 91,949 in 2002, this figure has increased drastically to 153,128 by 2018.

YEAR	2002	2014	2015	2016
SENIOR PHYSICIAN	45.457	75.251	77.622	78.620
RESIDENT PHYSICIAN	15.592	21.320	21.843	23.149
PRACTITIONER	30.900	39.045	41.794	43.058
TOTAL NUMBER OF PHYSICIANS	91.949	135.616	141.259	144.827
DENTIST	16.371	22.996	24.834	26.674
NURSE	72.393	142.432	152.803	152.952
MIDWIFE	41.479	52.838	53.086	52.456
PHARMACIST	22.289	27.199	27.530	27.864
OTHER HEALTHCARE STAFF	50.106	138.878	145.943	144.609
OTHER SERVICE STAFF + SUBCONTRACTED PERSONNEL	83.964	303.110	311.337	321.952
TOTAL NUMBER OF HEALTHCARE LABOUR FORCE	378.551	823.069	856.792	871.334

YEAR	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
SENIOR PHYSICIAN	80.951	82.894	87.359	87.464	92.400
RESIDENT PHYSICIAN	24.397	26.181	26.756	32.164	33.360
PRACTITIONER	44.649	44.053	47.164	53.858	48.427
TOTAL NUMBER OF PHYSICIANS	149.997	153.128	161.279	173.486	174.187
DENTIST	27.889	30.615	32.859	34.331	35.637
NURSE	166.142	190.499	198.517	218.615	230.048
MIDWIFE	53.741	56.351	56.129	57.578	59.329
PHARMACIST	28.512	32.032	34.221	35.355	36.045
OTHER HEALTHCARE STAFF	155.417	177.409	183.381	200.313	210.233
OTHER SERVICE STAFF + SUBCONTRACTED PERSONNEL	339.241	376.367	362.291	401.804	431.379
TOTAL NUMBER OF HEALTHCARE LABOUR FORCE	920.939	1.016.401	1.028.677	1.121.482	1.176.858



Number of Physicians Per 100 Thousand People in Türkiye By Year

There has been an increase in the number of physicians per 100 thousand people in Türkiye by year as a clear reflection of healthcare investments.

YEAR	THE NUMBER OF PHYSICIANS
2002	138
2003	141
2004	143
2005	146
2006	150
2007	154
2008	158
2009	164
2010	167
2011	169

YEAR	THE NUMBER OF PHYSICIANS
2012	172
2013	174
2014	175
2015	179
2016	181
2017	184
2018	187
2019	193
2020	207,5
2021 MARCH	208,3



City Hospitals

One of Türkiye's important investments in the healthcare system is the city hospitals. Despite drawing criticism from certain political circles and segments of society, city hospitals have once again proven essential to our country in this global pandemic. City hospitals boost our citizens' access to healthcare services while also providing major contributions to our country's bed capacity. In the event of a global pandemic, they reinforce our capacity to resist the pandemic in question. This global pandemic has once again proven fundamentally that no healthcare investments have been wasted and have corresponded to society's needs.

More than half of the city hospital projects have been completed and put into service for our citizens between 2017 and 2019. In 2020, İstanbul Başakşehir, Konya and Tekirdağ City Hospitals were put into service, and the on-going city hospital projects are expected to be completed in 2021.

Türkiye's capacity in terms of healthcare infrastructure and healthcare staff has provided a sound basis in the country's national fight against coronavirus. The steps taken on this basis by the state in cooperation with all of its institutions in order to minimise social interaction, encourage voluntary quarantine, and reinforce solidarity, as well as the economic and social support packages that have been introduced, have raised hopes for overcoming the pandemic with minimal damage.

CITY	CLOSED AREA	BED CAPACITY	THE NUMBER OF TOTAL ROOMS	THE NUMBER OF PHYSICIANS	THE NUMBER OF ASSISTANT HEALTHCARE STAFF	THE NUMBER OF OPERATING ROOMS	THE NUMBER OF POLYCLINICS	THE NUMBER OF INTENSIVE CARES
ADANA	539.824	1.595	1.190	983	2.267	58	407	334
MERSİN	374.601	1.330	1.005	509	2.201	51	227	288
ISPARTA	221.571	830	471	285	1.344	20	167	188
YOZGAT	141.120	475	251	149	820	18	119	106
KAYSERİ	466.379	1.607	1.411	732	2.616	43	395	363
MANİSA	178.204	558	470	268	821	19	129	188
ELAZIĞ	355.752	1.038	794	325	1.513	35	106	177
ANKARA BİLKENT	1.285.798	3.732	3.937	3.207	6.315	113	634	1.015
ESKİŞEHİR	333.303	1.235	995	354	1.686	37	254	289
BURSA	459.587	1.355	1.097	437	1.903	49	310	294
İSTANBUL KARTAL (1 st PHASE)	302.148	1.195	633	968	1.753	33	322	224



CITY	CLOSED AREA	BED CAPACITY	THE NUMBER OF TOTAL ROOMS	THE NUMBER OF PHYSICIANS	THE NUMBER OF ASSISTANT HEALTHCARE STAFF	THE NUMBER OF OPERATING ROOMS	THE NUMBER OF POLYCLINICS	THE NUMBER OF INTENSIVE CARES
İSTANBUL OKMEYDANI (1st PHASE)	180.000	965	639	886	1.387	31	283	118
İSTANBUL BAŞAKŞEHİR-İKİTELLİ	1.019.693	2.682	2.229	1.011	3.239	92	710	371
İSTANBUL GÖZTEPE	189.890	765	432	885	1.174	28	187	91
KONYA	278.776	838	469	509	1.978	49	247	216
TEKİRDAĞ	156.890	480	270	148	728	17	128	101
KÜTAHYA	180.799	610	363	TO BE PUT INTO SERVICE	TO BE PUT INTO SERVICE	20	197	79
KOCAELİ	383.160	1.210	786	TO BE PUT INTO SERVICE	TO BE PUT INTO SERVICE	71	258	188
ANKARA ETLİK	1.145.129	3.624	2.681	TO BE PUT INTO SERVICE	TO BE PUT INTO SERVICE	125	1.031	697
GAZİANTEP	638.038	1.875	1.235	TO BE PUT INTO SERVICE	TO BE PUT INTO SERVICE	62	475	277
İZMİR	629.447	2.060	1.381	TO BE PUT INTO SERVICE	TO BE PUT INTO SERVICE	54	457	374
ERZURUM	409.000	1.313	914	TO BE PUT INTO SERVICE	TO BE PUT INTO SERVICE	39	310	271



ADANA CITY HOSPITAL



MERSİN CITY HOSPITAL



ISPARTA CITY HOSPITAL



YOZGAT CITY HOSPITAL



KAYSERİ CITY HOSPITAL



MANISA CITY HOSPITAL



ELAZIĞ CITY HOSPITAL



ANKARA BİLKENT CITY HOSPITAL



ESKİŞEHİR CITY HOSPITAL



BURSA CITY HOSPITAL



İSTANBUL KARTAL (1ST PHASE) CITY HOSPITAL



İSTANBUL OKMEYDANI (1ST PHASE) CITY HOSPITAL



İSTANBUL BAŞAKŞEHİR İKİTELLİ CITY HOSPITAL



İSTANBUL GÖZTEPE CITY HOSPITAL



KONYA CITY HOSPITAL



TEKİRDAĞ CITY HOSPITAL



KÜTAHYA CITY HOSPITAL



KOCAELİ CITY HOSPITAL



ANKARA ETLİK CITY HOSPITAL



GAZİANTEP CITY HOSPITAL



İZMİR CITY HOSPITAL



ERZURUM CITY HOSPITAL

CHAPTER 3

TÜRKİYE'S EXEMPLARY FIGHT AGAINST THE CORONAVIRUS



Türkiye, through its economic and social policies, has been one of the few countries to overcome the first year of the pandemic with the least amount of damage. A fund of approximately 311 billion liras was utilised for the supports and incentives that were carried out, and strict attention was paid to standing by each and every citizen.



CHAPTER 3

TÜRKİYE'S EXEMPLARY FIGHT AGAINST THE CORONAVIRUS

3.1. Inclusive Health Services

Strategy Relating to the Pandemic

Türkiye has delivered a more successful performance in the healthcare field compared to several developed countries. While developing a strategy for the pandemic in this process, great attention has been paid to inclusiveness, scientific data as well as information and communication technologies. Within this context, several factors such as the establishment of the Operation Centre, risk assessment and planning, the formation of scientific boards, strict case tracking, the meticulous implementation of the quarantine process have significantly contributed to the success of the process. This strategy, which involves taking multi-actor and multi-dimensional action, has brought success in its wake.

Operation Centre

Following China's official announcement of 44 cases on January 3, the Ministry of Health set up the Operation Centre within the body of the General Directorate of Public Health by assigning 15 personnel as part of the initial measures in contemplation of a possible global pandemic. The Operation Centre gave instant briefings to related units by monitoring and reporting all the developments in the world related to the probability of a pandemic with the purpose of mapping out a strategy.



Risk Assessment and Planning

The first Covid-19 death case was reported On January 9, 2020, and the coronavirus started spreading gradually around the world. On January 15, 2020, the Ministry of Health started risk assessment meetings and efforts to create a guideline for treating the disease. Besides, personnel training was commenced simultaneously to expand the capacity in the fight against the pandemic. On the same day, 25 reference hospitals were determined for the regional-scale pandemic by inspecting the conditions of all the public hospitals in Türkiye.

Coronavirus Scientific Board

On January 10, 2020, Coronavirus Scientific Board, formed under the Ministry of Health, held its first meeting. During the Coronavirus Scientific Board Meeting, which brought together the faculty members in the fields of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Paediatric Infectious Diseases, Public Health, Pulmonology, Intensive Care, Anaesthesiology and Reanimation, Emergency Medicine and Medical Microbiology,



decisions that included taking precautions against the flights arriving from China, setting up fever screening thermal cameras at the airports for the flights abroad and developing educational materials about Covid-19 were made.

Within the scope of a cumulative strategy, the Coronavirus Scientific Board not only focused on a clinical fight against Covid-19 but also prioritised the thematic sub-committees that encompass all the phases of the fight from the perspective of good governance.

Sub-committees

- Pandemic Management in Society
- Infection Control at Hospitals and Healthcare Personnel's Health
- Laboratory and Radiological Diagnosis
- Patient Triage
- Treatment Management

- Treatment Management in Intensive Care
- Hospital and Intensive Care Units Planning
- Precautions to Be Taken in Public Institutions and Organisations
- Digital / Communication Materials Design and Sharing of Updates

Social Sciences Board

The processes taking place outside of the natural flow of life during the pandemic pointed to the need to introduce policies for adaptation to the new normal in the post-pandemic period. The Ministry of Health formed the Social Sciences Board on June 8, 2020, for the traumas created by Covid-19 to be eliminated as soon as possible. The Social Sciences Board was composed of faculty members in the fields of sociology, psychology, psychiatry, public health and history of medicine, and the Ministry of Health executives.



2019-nCoV Disease Guide

Prepared as an outcome of the Coronavirus Scientific Board's efforts, the 2019-nCoV Disease Guide was shared on the website of GDPH (General Directorate of Public Health) on January 24, 2020.

Domestic Diagnostic Kit

Two different kits were developed based on a reference protocol published by the WHO for the SARS-CoV-2 molecular test on January 17, 2020. The manufacturing and commercialisation rights of the product belong exclusively to USHAŞ International Health Services Inc.

In 2020, approximately 5 million diagnostic kits were delivered within Türkiye, while over 2 million diagnostic kits were sold to over 20 countries. The domestic distribution of the kits started on February 4, 2020, while the distribution abroad was launched out on March 5, 2020.



Integrated Pandemic Management and Case Tracking

Some systems and applications devised within the body of the Ministry of Health enabled the pandemic period to be managed and the case tracking to be carried out based on an integrated pandemic approach. These systems can be briefly summarised as follows:

Public Health Management System

Public Health Management System, which would do both case and contact tracing, was brought into effect starting from the day the first Covid-19 case was diagnosed. Public Health Management System became the primary data source in the pandemic period.

Public Health Management System is the primary information source of the pandemic. Citizens who show symptoms or have contacted a positive case are registered to the system after taking a PCR test so that their treatment and patients in home isolation can be monitored, and daily follow-ups can be carried out. All the treatment data are stored in the system, which is also the primary registry for physicians' clinical studies. So far, a total of 21,315,454 citizens have been registered to the Public Health Management System, and family practitioners have made 82,781,903 follow-ups on the system. Public Health Management System constitutes the framework of the Ministry of Health system architecture in the fight against the pandemic. Public Health Management System offers an integrated pandemic management service by providing direct interfaces not only to the Ministry of Health but also to the systems that all the external shareholders utilise.

The Public Health Management System has turned into an integrated pandemic management system. It is integrated with the Laboratory Information Management System for the test results to be available right after they are submitted by the laboratory,

with the Teleradiology System for the follow-up of the imaging examinations, especially Computed Tomography (CT) of the cases, with the e-Nabız Personal Health System for the patients to access their own results and the doctors to detailed health data of the cases, with the Death Notification System for the tracking of death cases, with the Filiation and Isolation Tracking System for the filiation (source research) works, and with the AŞILA System and Vaccine Tracking System (VTS) for the tracking of the vaccination.

In the system, while people who tested positive for Covid-19 can be monitored, their infection source and contact tree graphics are also produced by adding the lists of the contacted persons. Thus, an elaborate tracking system has been put into use.

Starting from March 1, all citizens arriving from abroad have been registered to the system and assigned to family practitioners. Up to this date, family practitioners have made 3,923,826 follow-ups of 803,923 individuals coming from abroad.

Upon the first Covid-19 case diagnosed on March 11, the system integrated with the entire healthcare system, including all public, private, and university hospitals. The system also contains details such as arrivals from abroad, isolation details, laboratory test results, imaging test reports, patients' health history, contact information, treatment information, information on isolation at home or dormitory and vaccination status. By bringing together 40 different applications under one roof, austerity is ensured. The application has over 300 thousand active users.

Health Statistics and Causal Analysis (SİNA)

During the pandemic, SİNA serves as data-oriented management and administration infrastructure at every stage of the decision-making process in the central and provincial organisations of the Ministry of Health. The Daily Coronavirus Table,

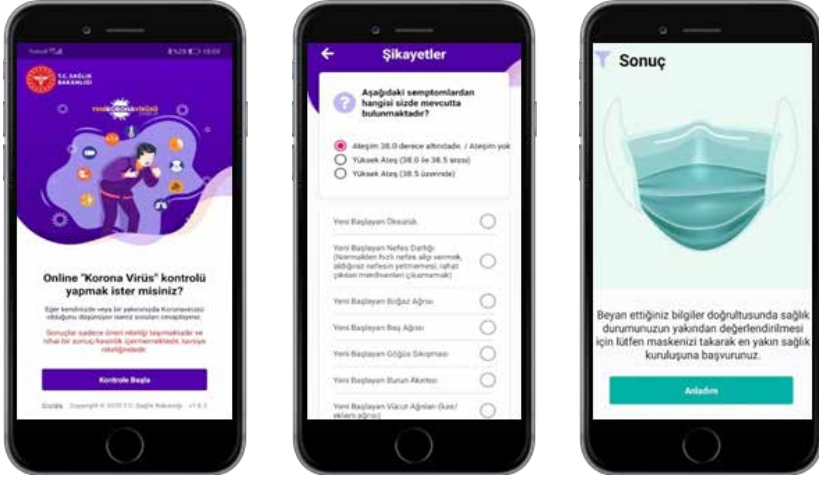


published daily and referred to as the turquoise table by the public, is also created within the SİNA system. The Covid-19 process has been tracked instantly through the e-Nabız infrastructure, SİNA has been put into service in the central organisation of the Ministry of Health to help the executives make much more effective and efficient decisions, make the necessary interventions and take the necessary precautions immediately by tracking the 81 provinces simultaneously.

Through the SİNA system, right after when the first Covid-19 case was identified in the country, graphical screens relating to the tracking Covid-19 were created on the system and were opened to both the top executives' access of the Ministry and the provincial executives. Here, they can make a detailed data analysis of case profiles based on anonymous data and the progression rate of the pandemic, filiation tracking and treatment processes. The vaccination and vaccine stock status can also be tracked instantly on SİNA.

Corona Prevention Application

The diagnosis and symptom algorithms developed by the Coronavirus Scientific Board have been transferred to the



digital sphere, thus enabling the citizens to check their Covid-19 symptoms on mobile medium.

With the Corona Prevention application, questions are directed at citizens about whether they have been abroad, contacted a case, have symptoms etc., and in line with the replies, those who appear to be risky in terms of Covid-19 are urged to visit the nearest health facility.

This application started providing web-based and mobile services on March 19. Up to now, 2,000,200 people have performed symptom checks through the system. Approximately 135 thousand people were found to be risky and directed to the nearest health facility. Around 12 thousand of them were put under medical treatment as a result of positive PCR test results.

Filiation and Isolation Tracking System (FİTAS)

FİTAS has been developed to identify the source or agent (filiation) following field inspection and the notification of the case and to take protection and control measures, including the contacted during the pandemic. In Türkiye, since the day the first Covid-19 case was announced, filiation works have been



carried out for the cases, the spread of the pandemic has been mapped out, and success has thus been achieved in decreasing the case growth rates through the measures taken.

Filiation teams consisting of 3 individuals carry out the filiation procedure through the FİTAS application in 81 provinces by scanning via mobile devices as soon as the case is reported and reaching the case and their contacted ones. The system initiates the process by informing the citizen via SMS before reaching the contacted or the positive case and getting the citizen's approval when they arrive at the door. Hence, the whole process takes place reciprocally and smoothly, without any hiccups.

With the FİTAS application, medicine is delivered to positive cases personally through visits to their homes, thus hindering the growth of the spread. Filiation works prevent the spread of the disease, and people in the risk group start receiving treatment through early diagnosis.

The number of filiation teams has reached 23,096. The number of contacted persons per case is 3 on average, and the filiation time has been reduced to 7 hours thanks to the filiation teams' dedicated efforts.

Filiation practice is the primary practice that facilitates the prevention of the spread of the pandemic by identifying the contacted people and locations after detecting the positive or the contacted case.

The Ministry of Health has made this application available on mobile medium to help make the fastest contact tracing possible. The interfaces that the FİTAS infrastructure has provided to other public institutions enable uninterrupted supervision of isolation and notifications. Especially the Ministry of Interior implements the necessary safety measures by querying via the system the contacted or positive citizens who do not abide by the rules. Moreover, the individuals or businesses that violate the Covid-19 rules are also audited by the citizens via the system. The application has 190 thousand active users.

Health Screen (Sağlık Pano) Application

For the momentary tracking of the Covid-19 country-wide, the Health Screen application has been developed. On the Health Screen application, momentary filiation spots, province-district filiation status, filiation distance statistics, hospital-based cases, active case density, and vaccination spots can be monitored on the live map.

This application allows the process of Türkiye's fight against the pandemic to be tracked and managed instantly through the map.

Life Fits Into Home Application

Life Fits into Home (HES) application was developed in order to prevent risky people from joining social life and to minimise the spread. With the HES Code, individuals' risk status is checked, and they are prevented from using public transport, travelling, visiting, entering social areas such as shopping malls etc. and leaving the isolation areas.



In addition, with the HES application, risky areas can be seen on the density map, contact warnings can be made, HES Code procedures can be carried out, rule violations can be notified, vaccination information can be followed, and side effect and service evaluation questionnaires can be filled. The HES application is the Ministry of Health's application that is most effectively used by society in the fight against the pandemic. Citizens have personally downloaded HES 62,104,776 times to mobile phones from Android and iOS stores. Thanks to the application, 119,440,875 HES Codes were created by 68,136,524 people. HES code was questioned 3,307,938,306 times by the relevant individuals and institutions in social life. 107,290 risky people have been prevented from using intra-city transportation, and 12,632 people have been prevented from boarding the plane as a result of the instant inquiries made through the application.

Mobile/Digital Applications

In addition to the systems and applications that enable integrated pandemic management, some applications have been developed to psychologically support healthcare professionals, families and citizens during the pandemic process and increase their motivation.



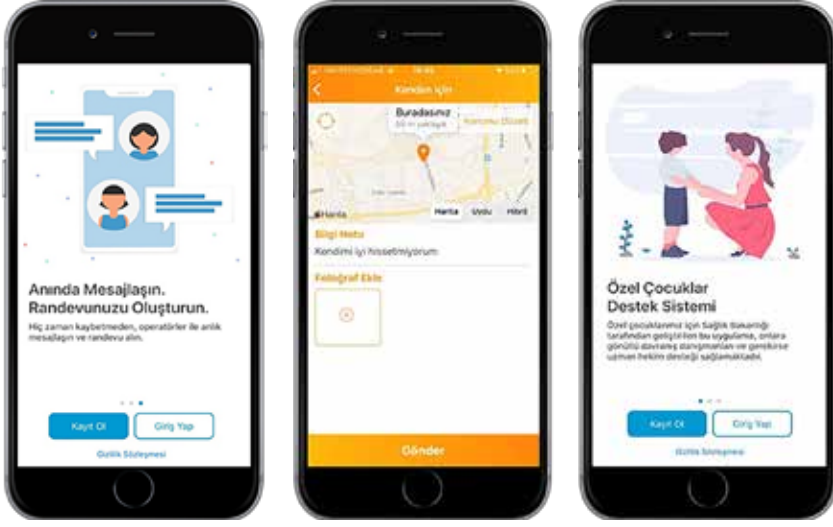
Psychosocial Support Line

Psychosocial Support Hotlines have been activated in all 81 provinces as of April 2020. The Psychosocial Support Systems Usage Guide, which includes the psychological and social support services offered by all official and non-governmental organisations as well as the conditions and methods of their use, was prepared and presented to the use of all institutions, organisations and NGOs serving in this field.

A Psychological Information Guide for the citizens who are under quarantine in their dormitories or at home and healthcare professionals has been prepared and put into use. In addition to 14 rules for protection from the disease, 14 suggestions for the protection of mental health were created and published as posters.

Mental Health Support System (RUHSAD)

In the fight against Covid-19, it is vital that physical and technological infrastructures are maintained in healthcare services. Another critical issue during this process is to support the motivation of healthcare professionals at the highest level. The



Healthcare Personnel Mental Support Application (RUHSAD) has been developed to protect and support the mental health of healthcare professionals who have made great sacrifices in the fight against Covid-19, which has swept the whole world, and their family members involved in this challenging process. With RUHSAD, healthcare professionals can receive online psychological consultation support for themselves or their families. During the pandemic, more than 3 thousand healthcare professionals and their relatives have used this service.

Support System for Children with Special Needs (ÖZDES)

During the pandemic, Support System for Children with Special Needs (ÖZDES) has been developed for online psychological consultation and support services when needed by the children who have special needs and receive mental and psychological rehabilitation and training, and their families. For ÖZDES, it is aimed to continue the implementation where nearly 60 pedagogues, child and adolescent psychiatrists and behavioural trainers serve voluntarily, to actively serve the families of disabled individuals also after the pandemic. ÖZDES also serves Turkish citizens abroad during the Covid-19 process.

Dr. e-Nabız Application

The telemedicine applications, which are thought to assist in delivering healthcare service and are integrated with some processes, have been used commonly in the fight against Covid-19 both in Türkiye and throughout the world. With the e-Nabız Personal Health System, the Telemedicine application, all infrastructure works of which have been completed and is used effectively, especially in radiology, has been offered to the use of physicians during the pandemic. In this way, in order to ensure that risky citizens can access health services without leaving the isolation areas, Covid-19 patients and citizens were provided examination online by making an appointment via MHRS.



Services During the Quarantine Process

In the field of health, an essential aspect of the pandemic process is the issue of taking domestic and foreign citizens under quarantine. During this process, especially the Ministry of Youth and Sports played an important role.

In cooperation with relevant ministries and institutions, the Ministry of Youth and Sports accommodated citizens who need to be quarantined at the dormitories and met all their needs during this process.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the following number of people have been accommodated in 293 dormitories in 81 provinces so far;

- 65,824 citizens of the Republic of Türkiye coming from 97 countries,
- 7,371 personnel of the Ministry of Health,
- 3,092 personnel of the Ministry of Justice,
- 8,668 military personnel,
- 4,325 civilian citizens who were quarantined for preventive purposes,
- 5,273 citizens receiving treatment at social isolation and observation centres,
- 24,745 citizens taken under compulsory isolation,
- 613 people coming to Türkiye by air from the United Kingdom, including those subjected to 7-day quarantine,

A total of 119,911 people have been accommodated at the dormitories.

In line with the Ministry of Interior's circular dated September 11, 2020, 118 dormitories have been allocated in 81 provinces to host a total of 121,824 citizens who violated the quarantine conditions and were put under mandatory isolation.

As of February 24, 2021, at 89 dormitories in 72 provinces,

- 230 personnel of the Ministry of Health,
- Citizens receiving treatment in 51 social isolation and observation centres,
- 2,332 citizens under compulsory isolation,
- 45 people, including those who have come from the United Kingdom by air and have been subjected to 7-day quarantine,

A total of 2,658 people continue to be accommodated at the dormitories.

TRNC Dormitories

Within the scope of the Covid-19 pandemic, dormitories in the TRNC were closed until a second order on March 22, 2020, and the dormitories were used as quarantine dormitories for TRNC citizens and Turkish military troops in the ongoing process.

- Service is provided at five dormitories in the TRNC with a total capacity of 6,194.
- During the Covid-19 pandemic, most of the students returned to their countries due to the interruption of education in the TRNC between March 16-April 5, 2020.

- A decision was taken to close the dormitories serving in the TRNC on March 18, 2020, starting from March 22, 2020, until further notice, and it was announced to the dormitories and students.
- However, as of March 21, 2020, 17:00, it has been decided to close the sea-air and land border gates between Türkiye and the TRNC, and it was decided to provide the security and evacuation of the students whose flights were cancelled and bring them to Türkiye with under special permission.
- In this context, 398 students and four staff were brought to our country by the private ship sent from Türkiye on March 22, 2020.
- All 398 students, who arrived in Türkiye by ship on March 22, 2020, were quarantined. At the end of the quarantine, no student was diagnosed with Covid-19.
- Refika Teachers' Dormitory served as a quarantine dormitory for TRNC citizens on April 8-27, 2020. Turkish troops have been accommodated for quarantine at Necmettin Erbakan Dormitory Directorate, as of April 21, 2020, at II. Selim Dormitory Directorate, as of April 22, 2020, at Refika Teachers' Dormitory Directorate between April 30-June 01, and at Bülent Ecevit Dormitory Directorate between May 4-25, 2020. The quarantine of Turkish troops continues at II. Selim and Necmettin Erbakan Dormitories.

Corona-Meter Diaries

To enable university students to stay at the dormitories to use their time more efficiently and keep their productivity alive during the Covid-19 pandemic, "Corona-Meter Activities" have

been held. In this context, a unique initiative named Coronameter is being implemented, which involves four separate activities and reaches thousands of university students, with the winner receiving a reward.

Assistance for International Students at Dormitories

Until June 12, 2020, food assistance was provided to the international students staying at dormitories and not able to go abroad due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and students who were hosted at the dormitories without paying a dormitory fee and guarantee fee (those who were raised at the dormitories of the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services, those who did not have parents, those who were under state protection, etc.)

Strengthening Healthcare Service Capacity

At the beginning of 2020, during the first wave of the pandemic, the healthcare service capacity and healthcare service provision almost collapsed even in developed countries such as the United Kingdom, France, Spain, Italy, and the US. Türkiye has not experienced any disruptions during the pandemic thanks to healthcare services investments in the last 20 years. Upon the anticipation that the pandemic would deepen, Türkiye further developed its existing infrastructure with a very swift decision.

Our President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan announced in his statement after the Cabinet Meeting held on April 6, 2020, that two pandemic hospitals would be established in Istanbul's Atatürk Airport and Sancaktepe. Immediately after the announcement, the construction of the hospitals began on April 9, 2020. 4 thousand workers worked in 3 shifts for each hospital in only 45 days, completing the construction on a very tight schedule. The name of the hospital in Sancaktepe is Prof. Feriha Öz Emergency Hospital; the name of the hospital at Yeşilköy Airport is Prof. Murat Dilmener Emergency Hospital.

One of the pandemic hospitals built in Sancaktepe as a fully equipped hospital, including landscaping procedures, Prof. Feriha Öz Emergency Hospital opened on May 29, 2020. The hospital, which has a strategic location with its proximity to the airport, will ensure that the patients brought from outside the city and from abroad will have access to healthcare services as soon as they get off the plane. Built on an indoor area of 75 thousand square meters, the hospital has a capacity of 1,008 beds, and each room can be converted into an intensive care unit when necessary. The needs of chronic kidney patients can be met with nearly 100 dialysis units in the facility. The hospital, which has 16 fully-fledged operating rooms, is equipped with expert medical personnel and advanced medical technologies in every field. Prof. Murat Dilmener Emergency Hospital in Yeşilköy and Hadımköy Dr. İsmail Niyazi Kurtulmuş Hospi-



tal opened on May 31, 2020. Prof. Murat Dilmener Hospital has a horizontal architecture resistant against earthquakes and a healthcare facility that will contribute significantly to health tourism. The healthcare facility is established in an area of 125 thousand square meters, while 50 thousand square meters are reserved for landscaping and parking areas. The hospital, which has a parking lot for 500 vehicles, has a closed area of 75 thousand square meters. The hospital has a capacity of 1,008 beds capacity hospital, and each room can be converted to an intensive care unit when desired. In addition, there are 16 fully equipped operating rooms, 576 patient bedrooms with bathrooms, 36 of which have dialysis and intensive care infrastructure, 432 intensive care beds, 36 of which have dialysis patient infrastructure, 36 emergency observation beds, eight triage, 2 CRP, four tomography, 4 MR, 2 X-ray rooms.





Hadımköy Dr. İsmail Niyazi Kurtulmuş Hospital was built in 1881 by Sultan Abdülhamit II. The restoration project of this building, which served as a military hospital until 1985 and barracks until 2012, was prepared. The ancestral heritage restored per the original in 45 days was put into service upon the instruction of our President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

The hospital, which provided significant services during the Balkan War, First World War and Çanakkale Battle, is currently making essential contributions to the fight against Covid-19. This hospital, which has an indoor area of 4500 square meters and is spread over 23 decares of land, is designed as a smart building and has 101 beds, including 59 intensive care beds.

The pandemic hospitals, the construction of which was completed in only 45 days, are impressive with their quality and features.



The pandemic hospital has a fully equipped hospital infrastructure with all of the new technological equipment that a hospital can have.

During the pandemic, a total of 16 giant new hospitals were inaugurated until December 2020. The names of these hospitals are Malatya İnönü University Turgut Özal Medical Centre Oncology Hospital, Erzurum, Tekirdağ, Konya, Kartal Dr. Lütfi Kırdar, İstanbul Göztepe Prof. Dr. Süleyman Yalçın, Okmeydanı Prof. Dr. Cemil Taşçıođlu and Başakşehir Çam and Sakura City Hospitals, Bilecik and Milas State Hospitals, Sakarya Gynecology and Pediatrics Hospital, Yeşilköy Prof. Dr. Murat Dilmen-er and Sancaktepe Prof. Dr. Feriha Öz Emergency Hospitals, Hadımköy Dr. İsmail Niyazi Kurtulmuş Hospital, Sivas Cumhuriyet University Faculty of Medicine Hospital Gynecology, Obstetrics and Pediatrics Additional Service Building, Mersin

University Oncology Hospital and Malatya İnönü University Turgut Özal Medical Centre Oncology Hospital. In these hospitals, Covid-19 treatment was also offered to patients free of charge.

Başakşehir Çam and Sakura City Hospital is the particularly prominent one among these hospitals, and it is Türkiye's 3rd largest health investment project carried out through the model of public-private partnership by the Ministry of Health, providing service to Istanbul and the surrounding provinces in particular. The hospital, which can render service to 23,600 patients, was completed in 2020. In October, November and December, when the second wave of the pandemic hit, Türkiye continued to provide high-quality service to each citizen without facing any significant problems thanks to the urgent healthcare projects and investments, in addition to its visionary health policies and investments.

Between March 1, 2020, and March 1, 2021, a total of 48 healthcare facilities began to provide services, including 3 City Hospitals (Istanbul Başakşehir, Konya and Tekirdağ City Hospitals), 25 new hospital buildings, 11 additional hospital buildings. Compared to the data on the same period last year, the number of healthcare facilities providing services rose by 55%.

177 hospitals in 81 provinces were designated as pandemic hospitals, each with at least two physicians from the specialities of infectious diseases, clinical microbiology, chest diseases, and internal medicine and also tertiary care adult intensive care beds. During the pandemic period, the adult intensive care bed capacity of public hospitals was expanded by 51%. The number of intensive care beds increased by 6,395 in total, including 6,120 intensive care beds for adults (3,653 of which are for tertiary care), 107 for children, and 168 for newborns.

As a result of the new hospitals and additional buildings inaugurated due to the pandemic, as well as the demand for increasing the number of beds, the total bed capacity was increased by 8.2% (11,792) as of March 1, 2020, reaching 155,545 beds.



The construction of healthcare facilities with an average bed capacity of 5,500 has been completed every year since 2002, making a total of 100,000 beds. Only during the pandemic period, the construction of a 16,159-bed healthcare facility was completed. The capability to complete construction increased three folds each year.

Between March 1, 2020, and March 1, 2021;

- The total capacity was increased by 42% through the purchase of 5,673 ventilators.
- The number of high flow nasal oxygen devices increased from 216 to 1,847, and the total capacity grew by approximately 700%.
- 6,047 monitors were purchased, and the total capacity grew by 14%.
- As a result of maintenance and repair efforts for ventilators, 467 ventilators in 81 provinces were repaired and made operational.



Increasing the Capacity of Laboratories

The capacity of laboratories, which can perform SARS-CoV-2 RNA PCR tests, has been improved in 81 provinces. All of the tests distributed to the whole country are conducted by 197 microbiology laboratories, which are authorised by the Ministry of Health and subject to an external quality control programme.

There are currently 265 laboratories in the private sector that are authorised to perform screening tests for a fee. Based on 13,657 test results analysed as part of the quality control programme, the accuracy of the test data was found to be 93.06%. While the number of laboratories that could perform PCR tests was 73 before the pandemic, the figure rose to 461 during the pandemic.

Production and Distribution of Medical Equipment

In an era when wars over medical equipment, especially masks, are waged, Türkiye once again handled the crisis successfully.

Manufacturing

Based on the principle of “domestic and national” manufacturing regarding medical equipment, Türkiye has manufactured medical equipment in line with the pandemic requirements in cooperation with all ministries, public agencies and the private sector. The medical equipment manufactured involves a wide range of products such as masks, face shields, protective goggles, protective coveralls, ventilators, drugs, disinfectant, thermal camera, and portable devices.

Masks/Face Shields/Gloves/Protective Coveralls

As of March 2020, when the Covid-19 pandemic began to emerge in Türkiye, we started to make efforts to use the capabilities of military factories affiliated to the Ministry of National Defence for the fight against the pandemic. Today, manufacturing operations continue uninterruptedly. Sewing Workshops manufactured surgical masks and protective coveralls. As of March 31 2020, a total of 93,304,850 surgical masks and 64,676 protective coveralls were manufactured by the Sewing Workshops of the Land, Sea and Air Forces.



MAKSAM Machinery and Mask Factory of the Mechanical and Chemical Industry Company also produced many types of medical equipment such as masks and protective coveralls during the pandemic period.





In the pilot Youth Centres designated by the Ministry of Youth and Sports in 81 provinces, face shields were manufactured with 3D printers as part of “Person of Many Talents” workshops. Young volunteers of Youth Centres and the staff took part in the manufacturing that started on March 26, 2020. The Provincial Directorates of the Ministry of Youth and Sports delivered the manufactured masks to the Provincial Health Directorates as well as to the hospitals and citizens who requested them, and healthcare professionals were supported in this challenging period. Approximately 1,000,000 masks have been manufactured and distributed so far.

In addition, the Youth Leaders of the Ministry of Youth and Sports introduced the “Transparent Communication” project to reduce the communication problems that hard of hearing people experienced during the pandemic due to the failure to read lips while wearing masks. Masks developed with clear panel over the mouth attracted a great deal of attention by hard of hearing individuals as they ease communication with other people.

As part of the fight against the pandemic, vocational and technical training schools and institutions, which are the revolving fund enterprises affiliated to the Ministry of National Education, manufactured and continue to manufacture a wide variety of



products. As a consequence of expanding schools' capacities and making new investments, daily mask production capacity has reached 2.5 million (5 million in case of double shifts). 150 million surgical masks, 60 thousand N95 masks, 1.6 million protective face shields, 1.4 million coveralls/gowns have been manufactured at schools so far.

Approximately 255,864,468 masks, 92,715 gowns, 53,440 gloves, 7,708 covers, 9,771 medical bonnets and 100,192 coveralls have been produced by the Ministry of National Education Directorate General of Lifelong Learning since the beginning of the process as part of the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic. In science and art centres for the gifted and talented, 152,803 face shields, 430 laryngoscopes, 40 health cabinets were manufactured, and over 1 million surgical masks were produced at special education workshops of vocational schools.

In addition, during the pandemic, prison workshops of the Ministry of Justice channelled their manufacturing capacity to the areas of need, such as the production of cologne, disinfectant, masks, gloves and coveralls. It was, so to speak, a mobilisation for production in this area. In this regard, the production of 80 varieties of materials started. Since the beginning of the fight against the pandemic, a total of 55,235,538 masks, 4,132,482 coveralls, 9,905,985 sponges, and 1,244,176 goggles have been produced.

Ventilator Production and Export



During the pandemic, countries have prioritised their own needs and imposed restrictions such as export prohibitions or export permit requirements for ventilators and their critical components, making these devices inconvenient for international procurement. Hence the need for ventilators has increased all over the world. Under the leadership of the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Industry and Technology and with the involvement of the private sector, Türkiye, in a short time, has become a manufacturer and exporter of a medical device on which it depended abroad.



The domestic intensive care ventilator developed by the start-up company BIOSYS, which was established with the support and incentives of the Ministry of Industry and Technology, started mass production under the coordination of the Ministry and with the involvement of the companies ASELSAN, BAYKAR and ARÇELİK.

In this process, approximately 5,000 ventilators have been delivered by USHAŞ International Health Services Inc. Around 4,000 ventilators labelled “Made in Türkiye” have been exported to 20 countries.

Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, United Arab Emirates, Brazil, Ecuador, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, TRNC, Colombia, Libya, Lebanon, Niger, Nigeria, Romania, and Somalia are among the countries to which domestic intensive care ventilators were exported. Domestic distribution of ventilators started on May 5, 2020, and international distribution on May 14, 2020.

Since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in Türkiye, Mechanical and Chemical Industry Company (MKE) has further increased its capabilities and produced SAHRA Portable Venti-



lator in response to the needs that have arisen both in Türkiye and abroad. Surgical Mask Body Making Machine and Surgical Mask Fully Automated Earloop Welding Machine have also been produced.

As part of the fight against the pandemic, vocational and technical training schools and institutions affiliated with the Ministry of National Education produced a significant number of products ranging from surgical mask making machines to ventilators, UVC air purifiers to N95 standard mask making machines, video laryngoscopes to isolated sample collection booths, non-contact infrared (IR) thermometers to intensive care beds, and delivered them to healthcare institutions.

Diagnosis and Diagnostic Systems

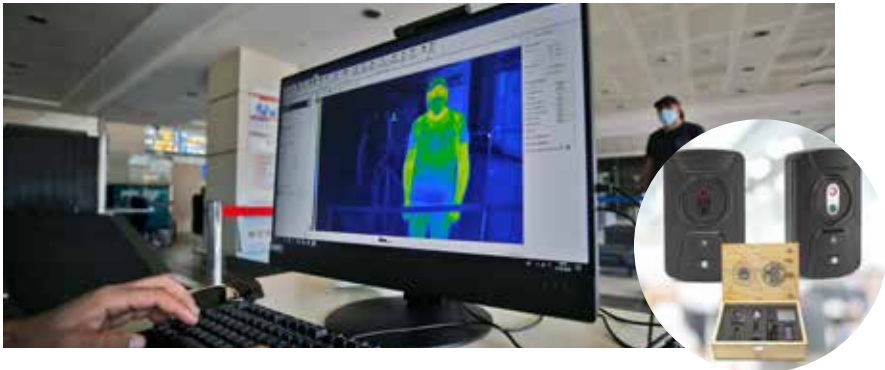
Within a short period of three months, RNA-based diagnostic kit reference materials for rapid and reliable diagnosis of the SARS-CoV-2 virus were produced and made available for purchase under the codes UME RM 2019 and UME RM 2020. The produced RNA-based reference materials will be both used in the diagnosis of Covid-19 disease by all laboratories in Türkiye and can be included in the kits as a quality control material by kit manufacturers in Türkiye and abroad. Besides, innovative diagnostic kits and systems are being developed by ecosystem actors as part of the “Call for the Fight Against Covid-19” launched as part of the TUBITAK 1507 SME R&D Startup Support Programme, specifically for the Covid-19 pandemic, and the TUBITAK 1001 Scientific and Technological Research Proj-



ects Support Programme. Under the “Call for the Fight Against Covid-19”, ten projects focusing on the diagnosis and diagnostic systems have been supported with 4.5 million TL, and an innovative diagnostic kit for Covid-19 was developed under TUBITAK 1001.

Hybrid IP camera with thermal and visible light, which was the first product commercialised under the call in the first three months, became a commercial product. The innovative camera developed contributes to the prevention of the uncontrolled spread of the pandemic in society. In addition, RT-qPCR kit, multiplex qPCR diagnostic kit, biosensors, and artificial intelligence supported system software are among the diagnostic system-focused project accomplishments.

MKE Thermal Camera System



MKE Thermal Camera System, which can be used in various areas such as airports, hospitals, public vehicles, shopping malls, educational institutions, prisons, banks, stadiums, military in-

stitutions, critical facilities, and workplaces, has been produced by the MAKSAM Machine and Mask Factory.

Drug and Oxygen Production

On April 10, 2020, the Drug Factory of the Ministry of National Defence started work on the development of Hydroxychloroquine Sulphate 200 mg tablets. The laboratory analyses conducted by the Turkish Medicines and Medical Devices Agency were approved, and 9,600 tablets were produced. In addition, the 2nd Air Maintenance Factory Directorate produced and delivered 100,160 kg of oxygen in response to a request for oxygen from the Kayseri Provincial Health Directorate

Production of Disinfectants/Surface Cleaners/Personal Care Products/Cologne



BOREL (boron-based hand sanitiser) and BORTAM (boron-based surface disinfectant) production solved the problem of disinfectant supply during the pandemic. In addition, price fluctuations caused by disinfectant demands were avoided, and prices on the market became balanced. Upon the instructions of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, mass production of BOREL hand sanitiser was commenced after the R&D process was completed. As part of the fight against the Covid-19, BORTAM was put on the market to disinfect the environment and the surfaces.

Throughout this process, 323,060 litres of hand sanitisers were produced by the military factories belonging to the Ministry of National Defence, and 13,758 litres of disinfectant were produced by the Directorate General of Life-long Learning affiliated to the Ministry of National Education.

Vocation and technical training schools and institutions affiliated with the Ministry of National Education have produced 2.5 litres of hand sanitisers, 10 million litres of surface cleaners and 110 thousand litres of cologne so far.

With the support of the Ministry of Justice in this period, a total of 4,890.69 tonnes of cleaning and personal care products as well as 68,517 soaps were produced in the production workshops operating under the prison workshops to produce detergent and personal care products

Measures Taken for Medical Equipment Manufacturing

Certain measures have been inevitable to solve the problems before or during the manufacture of medical equipment.

Use of Ethyl Alcohol

Following the outbreak of the pandemic, the demand for disinfection products and ethyl alcohol has sky-rocketed all over the world. To boost cologne and disinfectant production, Energy Market Regulatory Authority suspended the regulation requiring 3% bioethanol blending in gasoline, which obliges ethyl alcohol manufacturers to supply products to the fuel sector, on March 13, 2020, for three months. As a result, the amount of domestic ethyl alcohol for disinfectant production increased five folds. On March 18, 2020, it was decided to close the student dormitories serving in the TRNC beginning March 22, 2020, until further notice, and this was communicated to both dormitories and students.

Cologne Production

Starting from the early days of the pandemic, the price of ethyl alcohol, 350 thousand litres of which are needed daily by the cologne and disinfectant manufacturers, was fixed on March 20, 2020, as a result of negotiations with Konya Şeker (Sugar Factory), Turk Şeker (Sugar Factory), TEZKİM (Agricultural Chemical Industry and Trade Inc.) TARKİM (Tarkim Plant Protection Industry and

Trade Inc). This alcohol was directed to the largest cologne and disinfectant manufacturers of Türkiye.

Mask Production

After receiving information about a shortage of masks on the market and high sales prices, the contact information of mask and mask fabric manufacturers was obtained from the registries in the Industrial Registry Information System kept under the Ministry of Industry and Technology. Both actual capacity and production capacity of companies, as well as the companies, which are not included in the industrial registry but engaged in mask production, were identified along with their capacities through the provincial directorates across Türkiye. Furthermore, production capacities of factories manufacturing mask fabric were identified along with their products through the industrial registers and on-site visits, and those companies were warned about stocks and sales. A restriction has been imposed by ensuring that the exportation of masks is subject to prior permission and mask fabric is subject to registration.





Critical steps have been taken in mask production with the assistance of the Turkish Exporters' Assembly, Istanbul Chamber of Commerce, Turkish Clothing Manufacturers' Association, Gaziantep Exporters' Association and other relevant stakeholders. Many issues have been resolved, ranging from the fact that the largest textile companies of Türkiye used their production machines for mask production to the fact that industrialists could satisfy the need for raw materials used for masks at fixed prices.

To increase the production capacity for surgical masks, the Directorate General of Military Factories of the Ministry of National Defence supplied eight automatic mask production machines in 2020, increasing the daily production capacity to 500,000 masks.



Distribution of Manufactured Medical Equipment

Distribution of Surgical Masks/Medical Gowns/Gloves/ Protective Goggles/Protective Coveralls

USHAŞ International Health Services Inc. signed 248 contracts with surgical mask manufacturers and authorised dealers as the only authorised administration due to the scarcity of surgical masks in the world and raised daily distribution from 1 million masks to 25 million masks between March 10 and April 20, 2020. As a result, the supply chain that had collapsed all over the world did fail in our country. Throughout the pandemic, USHAŞ delivered and distributed a total of



375,800,278 3-layer surgical masks,
15,876,308 FFP2 / N95 masks,
6,504,801 protective coveralls,
2,084,044 protective goggles,
861,157 gowns,
104,613,047 examination gloves.

Free Mask Distribution

The supply process, which began with satisfying the needs of public hospitals, was later extended to include free distribution of masks to university hospitals, private hospitals, public institutions and organisations, industrial organisations and finally, the general public.

USHAŞ, the authorised purchaser and distributor of personal protective equipment in the market, increased the daily supply of personal protective equipment and thus contributed to reducing prices. Purchasing guarantee was given, which encouraged the sector to make new investments and use higher production capacity. The supply chain was secured, and raw material was supplied to manufacturers to support uninterrupted production.



Free Distribution of Cologne and Masks to Citizens over the age of 65

In the early days of the Coronavirus pandemic, one of the items in the package of measures announced by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan was the “free distribution of cologne and masks to citizens aged 65 and older”.

Hygiene kits containing 200ml cologne and five masks were prepared to be delivered to citizens under the coordination of the Ministry of Industry and Technology and with the support of Türkiye’s largest cologne and alcohol manufacturers, logistics companies, public and private organisations.

Thanks to the Ministry of Interior’s support for distribution and the Ministry of National Defence for supplies, hygiene kits were delivered to the doors of citizens through Vefa Social Support Groups under the coordination of the governors in charge of 30 metropolises and the Ministry of Industry and Technology. As a result of this organisation, hygiene kits were delivered to 6.5 million citizens over the age of 65 living in 30 metropolises, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and Zonguldak.

Türkiye's Vaccine Trials and Vaccination Programme

Turkish Vaccine Institute and Clinical Research Centre

The Turkish Vaccine Institute and Clinical Research Centre, officially established on December 12, 2019, began its activities to develop a domestic vaccine and train qualified human resources. The Turkish Vaccine Institute, which was established before the outbreak and became even more strategic as it progressed, reached the final stage of developing a domestic vaccine.

Türkiye is at the forefront of Covid-19 vaccine development trials. There are 256 vaccine candidates on the WHO list dated February 26. 74 of those trials are in the clinical stage, and 182 are in the preclinical stage. Only 12 days after the first case was confirmed in Türkiye, a call for R&D projects to develop the Covid-19 vaccine was made on March 23, 2020. After that, TUBITAK (Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye) completed pre-clinical trials on April 17, 2020, and announced that the applications to be made through the Health Institutes of Türkiye (TUSEB) would be supported.

Currently, 16 domestic vaccine trials are being supported in Türkiye. Phase trials have started for 6 of them.

Vaccine Supply of Türkiye

Türkiye made its first deal on the Covid-19 vaccine for the vaccine of Sinovac Company (CoronaVac) with the People's Republic of China. On February 10, 2021, the Minister of Health announced that another agreement was signed for an additional 50 million doses of the vaccine, and Türkiye already received approximately 15 million doses of vaccine. Minister of Health Koca emphasised that Türkiye became one of the fastest-acting countries in the challenging race of vaccine supply.

Negotiations for the supply of the vaccine, which was developed in Germany by Turkish-origin Uğur Şahin's company

BioNTech in collaboration with the US-based company Pfizer (Comirnaty), were concluded on December 24, 2020. In a statement issued on February 10, 2021, Minister of Health Koca stated that the agreement with BioNTech covered 4.5 million doses of vaccines (with an “optional” 30 million doses of vaccine), that 4.5 million doses (likely to be rounded up to 5 million) of vaccines would arrive in Türkiye by the end of March, and that over 500,000-800,000 doses of vaccines were expected to arrive on short notice. Fahrettin Koca also expressed an additional demand for 50+50 million doses of the Sinovac vaccine and said that an agreement was reached with two separate vaccine producers for a total of 130 million doses of vaccines.

On March 3, 2021, Minister of Health Fahrettin Koca made statements about the findings of Phase III trials of the Sinovac vaccine in Türkiye. Koca indicated that, according to the findings of Phase III trials in Türkiye, the overall efficacy of the Sinovac vaccine was 83.5%, the vaccine prevented hospitalisation by 100%, and the clinical trial included over 10 thousand volunteers.

Vaccine Demands from Türkiye

Türkiye receives requests for assistance from other countries for the vaccine supply. Until now, sixteen countries have sought



vaccine grants from Türkiye. Türkiye has pledged to provide vaccines to 3 countries. Bosnia and Herzegovina, Palestine, Georgia, Montenegro, Kyrgyzstan, TRNC, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Mongolia, and Moldova are among the countries demanding vaccines. Albania, Afghanistan and Bosnia and Herzegovina were given pledges of a vaccine. Türkiye sent 80,000 doses of Sinovac vaccine to the TRNC.

The Ministry of Health and other relevant institutions continue their efforts in coordination to dispatch vaccines from Türkiye to vaccinate public officials abroad.

Vaccination is ongoing in 95 countries as of February 28, 2021. Although Türkiye began vaccination later than many of these countries, vaccination plans are moving forward quickly. From this date forward, Türkiye ranks 5th in terms of the vaccinated population per 100 people.

So far, 11 vaccines have been approved for use around the world: Oxford/ AstraZeneca (UK), BionTech/Pfizer (Germany/USA), Sinovac (China), CBBG Beijing (China), Cansino (China), CNBG Wuhan (China), EpiVacCorona (Russia), Sputnik (Russia), Moderna (USA), Bharat Biotech Int/ICMR (India), Johnson&Johnson (Belgium).

To date, bilateral/multilateral agreements have been signed for a total of 10.2 billion doses of vaccines worldwide, with the EU countries and the USA guaranteeing a total of 6,310 billion doses.

Vaccination Schedule

Following the conclusion of clinical trials, community vaccination started in Türkiye, with the first vaccine administered to Minister of Health Fahrettin Koca on January 13, 2021. Starting initially with healthcare professionals and then moving on to older age groups, vaccination continues gradually based on age groups in line with the Coronavirus Scientific Board's decision.

AŞILA (Vaccinate) Application

AŞILA, developed by the Ministry of Health to be used for vaccination, is an application managing the entire process from end-to-end, from vaccine logistics to vaccine administration to citizens. AŞILA application, which can be used in public, private and university healthcare facilities and makes the vaccination process very fast and easy due to its mobile infrastructure, has made a significant contribution to Türkiye, especially to the vaccination processes in rural areas. The system informs the authorised physician about the supply of vaccines, citizens'



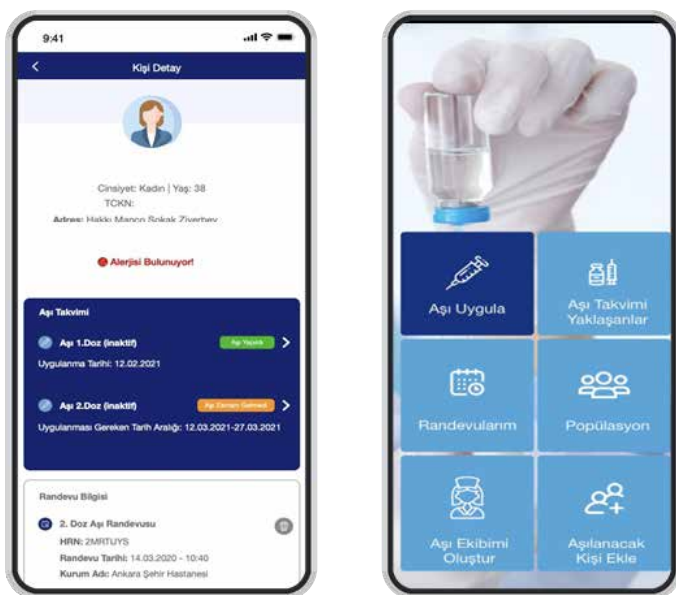
Total Number of Vaccines Administered	Number of People Receiving 1 st Dose	Number of People Receiving 2 nd Dose
10.992.961	7.892.842	3.100.119

TÜRKİYE'S VACCINE OUTLOOK March 14, 2021 Sunday 11:10



vaccination rights, their appointments and allergic diseases.

Furthermore, through integrations with major systems such as MHRS (Central Physician Appointment System), e-Nabız (Personal Health Information System), and Vaccine Monitoring System, instant data flow is provided. The vaccine to be administered to citizens can be scanned by the physician in seconds through a square code reader integrated into the system and automatically registered in the system.



Drug Trials

Three drug molecular modelling and drug development projects; 2 domestic synthetic drug synthesis and production projects; and two convalescent plasma and three recombinant neutralising antibody projects are among drug development trials. These trials include biotechnological drug methods as well as drugs developed using chemicals and synthetic processes.

The drug, which contains the active substance Favipiravir and has a key role in the treatment methods used by Turkish physicians, was synthesised using domestic and national means and turned into a licensed commercial product under the brand name “Favicovir”. Favicovir, which was synthesised using domestic and national means, is still used and effective for the patients.

Apart from the project that converted the drug into a commercial product, treatment-oriented drug development processes are ongoing successfully. Three of these projects will begin Phase 1/2 clinical trials, and there are three projects undergoing animal experiments.

Treatment-Oriented Methods	Covid-19 Türkiye Platform Research Team, Leading Institution	Phase
Domestic Drug Synthesis and Production	Istanbul Medipol University	Commercial Product / Domestic and National Synthesis
Hydroxychloroquine sulfate synthesis	TÜBİTAK MAM (Marmara Research Centre) Institute of Chemical Technology	Pilot production completed
Nature-identical synthetic protein	Ankara University Biotechnology Institute	Phase 1 To be started
Drug Active Substances	Ankara University Stem Cell Institute	Phase 2 To be started
Specific Natural Molecule Synthesis	Bahçeşehir University	Phase 2 To be started
Recombinant Neutralizing Antibody	TÜBİTAK MAM Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology Institute	Animal Experiments ongoing
Sarseptin Antibody Candidate	İzmir Biomedicine and Genome Centre	Animal Experiments ongoing
Recombinant IL-1Ra	İstanbul University	Animal Experiments ongoing
Convalescent Plasma	İstanbul Medeniyet University	Clinical Stage / Plasma Production
Convalescent Plasma	Acıbadem Labmed Clinical Laboratories	Completed



65.32

-12.14

55.01

11.08

3.2. Supports and Measures for Economic Stability

The Economic Stability Shield package, which was prepared to reduce the effects of the pandemic, was shared with the public on March 18, 2020. After the Economic Stability Shield package was implemented, some additional measures were taken at different dates by considering the course of the pandemic and the needs of households.

Declaration of Force Majeure and Postponement of Tax Liabilities

- Under the regulation made, the declaration periods of the recovery share were designated as six months for 2020 and three months for the following years and postponed.
- In the sectors to be considered within the scope of force majeure, the opportunity to postpone withholding, VAT and premium payments for six months was provided, and more than 2 million taxpayers have benefited from this opportunity.
- Taxpayers and members of a profession who are under curfew due to being 65 years old or over or having a chronic illness, and those whose declarations/noti-

fications are made by members of such profession are also deemed to be in force majeure, and their declaration and payment obligations have been postponed.

- The grace period for withholding, VAT and premium payments has been re-determined in relation to the date on which the force majeure will end. In addition, suspensions were made in the declaration periods.
- It was decided to terminate all enforcement and bankruptcy proceedings, except for the enforcement proceedings regarding maintenance receivables, until April 2020, and then this period was extended to June 15, 2020.
- In the application of postponement-cancellation within the scope of the export exemption, the export periods of the goods delivered by manufacturers to exporters with an exemption from VAT has been extended for three months within the scope of force majeure without any application requirement for those that expire between April 1, 2020, and June 30, 2020.
- Regulations have been made to facilitate VAT refund requests' fulfilment in the purchase of goods or services from taxpayers who are covered under force majeure.

Tax Rate Discounts

- It has been ensured that the part of annual announcement and advertisement taxes and annual environmental cleaning taxes of the enterprises, whose activities are suspended or who are unable to operate, which corresponds to the periods when their activities are suspended or when they are unable to operate, were not collected.

- To be applied temporarily until December 31, 2020:
- VAT was decreased from 18% to 8% in tradesmen services subject to general rate such as workplace leasing, passenger transport, minor maintenance and repair of automotive, motorcycles and bicycles, minor home appliance maintenance and repair, wedding, marriage organisations, house cleaning, maintenance and repair, tailoring and dry cleaning; and VAT was reduced from 8% to 1% in food and beverage, cinema, theatre, museum and accommodation services.
- Under the regulation made on December 23, 2020, the rate reduction in goods and services with the mentioned reduced VAT rates was extended until May 31, 2021.
- Workplace rent withholding payable was reduced from 20% to 10%, and the withholding rates to be applied in accordance with the Income Tax Law and Corporate Tax Law on various lease payments were re-determined.
- The validity period of the withholding rates temporarily determined on December 22, 2020, has been extended for five months, starting from January 1, 2021, until May 31, 2021.
- The VAT rate in education and training services to be provided by private education and training institutions such as pre-school education, primary school, secondary school, high school, university and colleges, etc., has been reduced from 8% to 1%.
- The VAT rate in import and delivery of Covid-19 vaccines approved by the Ministry of Health has been reduced to 1% until December 31, 2021 (date included).

- The withholding rates to be made on some earnings and revenues have been amended.

Support Payments Made

- A monthly support payment of 1,000 TL, namely, 1,000 TL, began to be made to those whose commercial earnings are determined simply, to the tax-exempt tradesmen, and other tradespeople, and artisans and natural person merchants. It is envisaged that taxi, minibus and service operators, marketers, tailors, auto repair shops, restaurants, patisseries, men and women hairdressers, hostels, dormitories, kindergartens and wedding hall operators will benefit from such supports to be provided as grants.
- Three-month lease support has been initiated for tradespeople whose workplace is rent, and the amount of support is 750 TL in metropolitan cities and 500 TL in other cities.
- Turnover loss support has been initiated for businesses such as restaurants, diners and cafes in the food and beverage sector whose activities are restricted. 39,059 taxpayers were included in the scope of such support.

Measures Taken and Support Made within the Scope of the Treasury-Backed Credit Guarantee System

- The Credit Guarantee Fund (KGF) limit has been increased from 25 billion TL to 50 billion TL, providing easy access to financing for businesses and citizens experiencing collateral shortages. Various loan packages have entered into force under the KGF:
 - Continuation Support Package,
 - OPEX Loan Support Package,

- Check Payment Support Package,
 - Eximbank Loan Support Package,
 - Basic Needs Loan Support Packages
- Basic Needs Loan Packages worth 44.3 billion TL in total were offered to citizens affected by the pandemic to meet their basic needs.
 - TOBB Nefes Loan Support Package has been put into effect.
 - Eximbank Stock Support Package has been put into effect.
 - The opportunity to benefit from support packages of 30 billion TL was made available through Türk Eximbank.
 - Credit Support Package of Investment and Development Bank of Türkiye entered into force on July 14, 2020.
 - The Financing Support Package was put into effect on August 27, 2020.
 - In the tourism sector, a Tourism Support Package of 10 billion TL has been implemented to reduce the pandemic's effects and support the protection of production and employment.
 - Micro Enterprises Support Package has entered into force.
 - Thanks to the announced pandemic period packages, the financing needs of approximately 345 thousand enterprises and seven million citizens were met with the Treasury guarantee.
 - Within the scope of these packages, 322 billion TL of loan have been offered with total guarantees of 261 billion.

Measures to Maintain and Support Financial Stability

- The delay time of 30 days envisaged for transferring the loans to the second group, in other words, to close monitoring accounts, was increased to 90 days, but sufficient provisions were required to reflect the risk.
- Nearly 2.5 million taxpayers have benefited from the flexibility provided by the deferral of income tax and VAT declarations and payments of March 2020 until April 2020.
- The delay time of 90 days envisaged for transferring the loans to follow-up accounts has been increased to 180 days. However, sufficient provisions were required to reflect the risk.
- The number of delay days had also been extended for the nonbank financial sector. The application ended on December 31, 2020.
- To prevent the misuse of the support and loan programmes implemented by banks and increase the efficiency of the implementation, the banks were instructed not to use them except for the current or near-term needs of the customer or the activities for the purpose of the loan.

Measures to Protect and Support the Real Sector and Citizens

- The Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye has taken additional measures to enhance the monetary transmission mechanism against the economic and financial effects of the coronavirus and to support the companies exporting goods and services.

- Necessary facilities were provided, including offering additional financing support to the companies and natural persons whose cash flow was disrupted due to the measures related to the Covid-19 pandemic and deferring the principal and interest payments of the loans made available for them for a minimum of three months upon the request of customers.
- It was enabled to postpone the principal and interest payments of consumer and vehicle loans made available by banks, financial leasing, factoring and financing companies until December 31, 2020, upon customers' request.
- By determining the minimum amount in credit cards as 20% of the period debt, banks have been enabled to postpone the card debts of their customers and to define grace periods by not demanding their receivables from cardholders, including the minimum amount, during the period when they postpone their card debts. The application has been extended until June 30, 2021.
- The credit card limit, which was determined as 1,300 TL for people who could not declare their average income or whose average income could not be determined by banks, was increased to 2,000 TL, and flexibility was made available that the provisions regarding the termination of the use of credit cards, for which minimum payment amount is not paid three times in a year, may not be implemented until the end of 2020.
- Within the scope of the “Economic Stability Shield Programme,” the opportunity of remote-identification without the need to go the bank regarding the loans to be given by the commercial banks with public capital to individual customers with a household income of 5,000 TL or less to enable them to finance their basic needs under favourable conditions.

Public Banks' Support

Halkbank

- Those who do not make the payments of instalment, interest and principal until March 31, 2020, were enabled to postpone their payments for this period.
- Corporate card limits of companies were increased.
- Additional card limit equal to the cost of employees' salaries was provided to the companies during the three-month period, on condition that they do not decrease the number of their employees.
- The grace period was extended up to 12 months in sectors with periodic activities such as tourism.
- The opportunity to restructure their loans with a maturity term with a grace period of up to six months were offered to bank customers.
- "Business and financial support" and "paraf merchant card support" packages were implemented for merchants.

Ziraat Bank

- Those who fail to make payments of instalment, interest and principal until March 31, 2020, were offered the opportunity to postpone their payments for this period.
- Corporate card limits of companies were increased.
- Additional card limit equal to the cost of employees' salaries was provided to the companies during the three-month period, on condition that they do not decrease the number of their employees.

- The grace period was extended up to 12 months in sectors with periodic activities such as tourism.
- The current loans were restructured with a grace period of up to six months.

VakıfBank

- Instalment and credit card payments of personal loan customers will be able to be deferred for up to three months.
- “Check Payment Support Loan” was prepared in order to ensure that the checks made out by customers in the fields of Corporate, Commercial and SME are paid.
- Flexibility was introduced for all principal and interest payments up to June 30, 2020, including companies’ end of the quarter of interest rates on March 31, 2020.
- The cash management limits of the companies were increased, and the payments to be made at these limits were provided with a three-month grace period and up to 12 months of instalments.
- Sector-oriented loans, including tourism and inner-city public transportation, were restructured for up to a 12-month grace period.
- The businesses were provided with a long-term loan equal to the salary cost of three months.
- “Stay in business” credit package was granted to all companies affected by the pandemic.

Lease Fees from Commercial Units on Allocated Treasury Real Estates

- A measure has been put into effect for deducting, returning or offsetting the rental fees of the leases corresponding to the non-operating period of the commercial units leased by the administration on the Treasury real estates and the places where the Ministry of Internal Affairs has decided not to operate; in the case of commercial units maintaining their operations, for deducting, returning and offsetting by re-determining the rent amount, taking into account the changes in the number of personnel and the operating periods. Approximately 29 thousand 267 commercial units will be able to benefit from this measure applied.

Treasury Real Estate Tenders

- Sale and lease tenders for Treasury real estates were suspended in April and May.

Mass Housing Payments

- In order to prevent the house buyers from having difficulty in payment, the instalments of April 2020 and May 2020 of those who bought housing from TOKI were postponed, and these instalments were collected in six equal instalments by adding them to the existing instalments without an increase, starting from July 2020. Approximately 234 thousand house buyers benefited from this measure.
- While the rules on determining the beneficiaries of the 100 Thousand Social Housing Project were determined in the presence of a notary public, within the scope of Covid-19 measures, the online lots were

made live in the presence of the notary public, and the beneficiaries of 64,524 houses were determined.

Support Provided for Local Governments

- During the Covid-19 pandemic, İller Bank provided a loan of 1.2 billion TL with low interest, 36-month instalments, no principal payment for three months, in line with their demands, to 433 local governments which had difficulties in paying personnel salaries and for urgent current expenses.

Land Registry and Cadastre Operations

- The applications to be made to the Land Registry and Cadastre Directorates started to be made on the Web-tapu system (<https://webtapu.tkgm.gov.tr>), which have been put into effect as of March 18, 2020, and operation (appointment) requests (including foreign nationals) via the Alo-181 call centre or online at www.tkgm.gov.tr. Manual applications to the Land Registry and Cadastre Directorates without an appointment have been cancelled. In the case of applications received through the Web-tapu system, citizens were allowed to come to the directorates only at the signature stage.
- In accordance with the Ministry of Interior's Supplementary Circular on the Curfew for Citizens Aged 65 and Over and with Chronic Illnesses, dated March 22, 2020, those who have a travel document issued by an administrative authority have been provided with permit documents upon their request.
- Individual requests for information and documents from citizens, lawyers, appraisers, etc., are provided from the address <https://webtapu.tkgm.gov.tr/>.

- Instruction on the “Decree on the Suspension of Execution and Bankruptcy Proceedings” was sent to the Regional Directorates on March 25, 2020, within the scope of the measures against Covid-19 regarding the land registry operations.
- An instruction on “Suspension of Periods within the scope of temporary article 1 of Law no. 7226 on the Amendment of Certain Laws” was sent to the Regional Directorates on March 30, 2020, within the scope of the measures against Covid-19.

Capital Markets

- It was decided to sustain the daily short-selling ban, imposed on February 28, 2020, for shares traded on Borsa Istanbul until further notice.
- The transactions of the public offerings of the shares owned by non-public partnerships, which were to be made during the February - May 2021 period, were facilitated.

Supports Provided for the Mining Sector

- The declarations of the miners, such as inspection reports, exploration projects, annual reports, and operating projects, which were required to be submitted until the end of April, were postponed and extended until September 30, 2020.
- Payment periods of the state rights and the license fees that are of financial obligations were postponed until December 28, 2020.
- Declarations such as reports and projects that are required to be submitted by the mining license

owners and royalty holders who are directly affected by the earthquakes that occurred in Elazığ and Malatya provinces on January 24, 2020, were also extended until September 30, 2020. In addition, the state rights and license payments they are required to make were extended until December 28, 2020.

Supports Provided for Underground Coal Enterprises

- In 2020, within the scope of the “Communiqué on Support for Employment Costs in Underground Coal Enterprises,” a coal support payment of 247,808,681.31 TL was made to 44 underground lignite or hard coal mining enterprises.

Supports Provided for the Oil Exploration and Production Sector

- State share payments for the period of March 2020 with a deadline of April 30, 2020, were postponed to July 31, 2020, and the deadline for submitting declarations was postponed to July 20, 2020.
- State share payments for the April 2020 period, with a deadline of May 31, 2020, were postponed to August 31, 2020, and the deadline for submitting declarations was postponed to August 20, 2020.
- State share payments for the May 2020 period, with a deadline of June 31, 2020, were postponed to September 30, 2020, and the deadline for submitting declarations was postponed to August 20, 2020.
- The periods for companies to fulfil their obligations arising from their exploration and operating licenses were postponed for six months.

Regulations in the Electricity and Natural Gas Market

- It was decided not to cut off electricity for three months due to the debt of subscribers over 65 years old, disabled consumers, families of martyrs, retirees on disability and war veterans.
- During the pandemic, electricity and natural gas of all residential subscribers and small businesses with debts of less than 1000 TL were not cut off.
- The Covid-19 pandemic was evaluated as “force majeure”, and within this scope, 3 (three) months of additional time was given to the legal entities holding pre-licenses or production licenses operating in the electricity market for their periodic obligations.
- It has been made possible to invoice by comparison in cases where the electricity meters cannot be read due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Technical quality measurement devices, which are required to be installed in the network by the end of April every year by electricity distribution companies, were allowed to be installed at the declared points until the end of August 2020.
- An e-application has been initiated for licenses granted in natural gas license and certificate operations.
- In April-May-June 2020 (to be applied for three months), invoicing by comparison was allowed to be made in cases where the electricity meters could not be read due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Regulations in the Petroleum and LPG Market

- In 2020, flexibility in the obligation to blend ethanol with gasoline types was made available to help meet the growing demand for disinfectants and cologne.
- An e-application has been initiated for licenses granted in all LPG license operations

Measures for Tradesmen and Craftsmen

- Income Loss Support and Rent Support are provided to tradesmen and craftsmen, and natural person merchants. In this context; as of February 24, 2021, 1,545,645 people applied for Income Loss Support, which is given as 1,000 TL per month for three months, and 974,639 people had their applications approved; as of February 24, 2021, 766,798 people applied, and 135,098 applications were approved for the Rent Support, which is given for three months as 750 TL per month in metropolitan cities and 500 TL per month in other cities.
- It was decided to pay turnover loss support to businesses with the value-added tax obligation, who were operating in the field of food and beverage, maintaining their operations that they had started before or in the calendar year 2019, and having an active duty as of January 27, 2021; with a turnover of 3 million TL or less in the calendar year 2019, and a decrease in turnover by 50% or more in the calendar year 2020 in proportion to the turnover of the aforementioned year. In this context, it was decided that the amount to be paid would be 3% of the decreasing amount of the turnover, not less than 2,000 TL and not more than 40,000 TL.

- Instalment payments in 2020 of the debts of agricultural sales cooperatives loaned by the Support and Price Stability Fund (DFIF), which are restructured and paid in one annual instalment, were postponed to 2021 without interest, and the instalment amounts to be paid in the following years, including 2021, were also postponed for one year, free of interest.
- Central Union of Turkish Tradesmen and Craftsmen Credit Guarantee Cooperatives (TESKOMB) has provided the opportunity to restructure the delayed debts of tradesmen and craftsmen to credit and surety cooperatives due to the pandemic conditions. Approximately 30 thousand tradesmen and craftsmen benefited from this opportunity, and the total amount structured within this scope amounted to 650 million TL.
- With the pandemic, 3,095,478 tradesmen and artisans were provided with a Treasury interest supported loan of 163 billion TL in total until January 31, 2021.
- From January 1, 2020, to December 31, 2020, 984,937 tradesmen and craftsmen were provided with a total of 42.6 billion TL of Treasury interest supported loans. Included in the aforementioned data, 760,071 tradesmen and craftsmen were provided with a new business loan with the interest support of the Treasury, totalling 18.8 billion TL within the framework of the Tradesmen Support Package implemented within the scope of the “Economic Stability Shield” measures in the period of March 11, 2020 - February 5, 2021.

- Repayment of the loans totalling 3 billion 397 million TL of 456,238 tradesmen and craftsmen to Halkbank with the Treasury interest rate discount, which was to expire in the period of April 1, 2020 - June 30, 2020, were postponed for three months.
- A three-month postponement opportunity was provided for 371,858 tradesmen and craftsmen in their loan repayments to Halkbank, with a total amount of 2 billion 286 million TL, which were to expire in the period of July 1, 2020 - September 30, 2020, with the postponed portion to be distributed to the remaining total without a change in the number of instalments.
- In addition, a six-month postponement opportunity has been provided for the loan repayments of tradesmen and craftsmen to Halkbank, which will expire in the period from January 1, 2021, to June 30, 2021. As a result of the aforementioned postponement programme, it is predicted that the loan repayment of approximately 1 million 161 thousand tradesmen and craftsmen totalling 11.9 billion TL will be postponed.
- With the decisions on postponement taken due to the pandemic in 2020, the balance of 5.6 billion TL from the Treasury interest supported loans of tradesmen and craftsmen was included in the scope of postponement, 828 thousand tradesmen benefited from the postponements, and approximately 600 million TL were transferred from the budget.
- Under the third postponement decision published in February 2021, it is estimated that the debt of 1,161,892 tradesmen totalling 13 billion TL will be postponed in 2021, and approximately 400 million TL will be transferred from 2021 budget.



3.3. Protection of Work and Social Life

Many measures were taken and support provided to eliminate adverse effects of the pandemic on working life and social life, and, in this context, within the framework of Social Protection Shield, which covers all citizens in all processes related to individuals, families and society, the total amount of relief directly delivered to citizens has exceeded 53 billion TL as of March 1, 2021.

Short-time Working Allowance

- During the pandemic, the coverage of short-time working allowance was expanded, its preconditions were facilitated, and the whole process was accelerated.
- A short-time working allowance totalling 27.7 billion TL was distributed to 3.7 million employees during this period.
- The practice, which was started for a period of three months in March 2020, was allowed to continue until March 31, 2021.

Restrictions on Termination of Employment Contracts

- Restrictions on termination of employment contracts were regulated within the framework of the measures taken for employers to protect employment and maintain the production supply chain.
- The newly imposed restrictions on termination of employment contracts will be removed on March 17, 2021.

Cash Wage Support

- Cash wage support payments were initiated for the employees who fail to meet the criteria to receive a short-time working allowance and are placed on unpaid leave.
- Within this framework, a total amount of approximately 8.3 billion TL was paid to 2.5 million employees in cash wage support.

Unemployment Allowance

- Within the scope of the unemployment allowance, a total amount of approximately 5.1 billion TL was paid to 995 thousand citizens.

Normalisation Support

- Employers are encouraged to stop the short-time working scheme and return quickly to the normal working scheme.
- Private sector businesses returning to the normal working scheme were provided with insurance premium settlement relief up to three months based on minimum wage pro-rata their benefit from the short-time working allowance.
- Within the framework of normalisation support, a total amount of 3.5 billion TL was paid in the settlement of premium balances.

Compensatory Working

- In order to ensure continuity of employment, the current time regulation of two months was increased to four months.

“Fast Return to Work” Incentive

- It was regulated within the framework of facilitation of fast return to work that in the event that persons who became unemployed were employed again within 90 days and worked for at least 12 months, their long-term insurance premiums during the period of unemployment would be covered.

Help and Support for Returning to Work

- Within the framework of help and support for returning to work, the following options were regulated to be applicable in the event that they became unemployed between January 1, 2019, and April 17, 2020, and applied for re-employment by the same employer until December 31, 2020:
 - If the employer employs the applicant and the employee works actively, the employer will be provided with a premium support payment of 53.67 TL per day;
 - If the employer employs the applicant and places the employee on unpaid leave, she/he will be provided with a cash wage support payment of 47.70 TL per day,
 - If the employer rejects the application of the applicant, she/he will be provided with a temporary workforce support payment of 41.75 TL per day.

Surplus Employment Incentive

- Within the framework of surplus employment in-

centive, employers who employ persons over the legal number of insured employees between January 1, 2019, and April 17, 2020, will be paid daily 53.67 TL for every person so employed, and they will be paid 53.67 TL per day if they are placed on unpaid leave.

Additional Employment Incentive

- Additional Employment Incentive provided for employers who offer employment in addition to the average number of insured employees of the previous year was extended until December 31, 2022.

Premium Support Payment for Persons Holding Women, Youth and Professional Competence Certificate

- The incentive provided for persons holding women, youth and professional competence certificate was extended until December 31, 2022.

Employment Incentives

- A total of 22 distinct insurance premium incentives, supports and reductions were put in place to protect and increase employment.
- A total of 73 billion TL in incentives have been provided, including the measures taken to protect employment as part of Social Protection Shield, since the beginning of the pandemic (March 2020 - January 2021).

Occupational Health and Safety

- From the very beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, over 45 thousand occupational health and safety professionals were mobilised on the ground in order to prevent the spread of the disease in workplaces.
- Guides, videos and checklists that include measures specific to 28 different sectors and areas of work, es-

pecially the sectors with a high risk of contamination, were made available to all parties.

Insurance Premium Deferral

- Employers and employees have been supported by deferring insurance premium payments due to disasters such as earthquakes and floods in 2020 and the Covid-19 pandemic.
- A total of 40 billion TL in premium debt of 1.3 million businesses was deferred for six months.
- The total amount of 2.8 billion TL in premium debts of metropolitan municipalities, municipalities and affiliated organisations was deferred for three months.
- The total amount of 1.5 billion TL in premium debts of employers and insured employees residing in Elazığ, Malatya and Giresun provinces hit by natural disasters was deferred, and the opportunity was provided for such persons to make their payments in interest-free instalments.
- The total amount of insurance premiums deferred reached 44.3 billion TL within this framework.

Debt Restructuring

- In order to provide ease of payment to indebted citizens and employers, the opportunity of debt restructuring was provided under Law no. 7256 in November.
- In this context, our citizens who had debts to the Social Security Institution were provided with the opportunity to have their debts until August 2020 restructured on the condition that they apply until February 1 for deferral.

- In this context, a total of two million persons benefited from debt restructuring and a total amount of 100 billion TL was provided in restructuring.

Retirement Pensions

- The minimum retirement pension that was increased to 1.000 TL in 2019 was increased to 1.500 TL.

Convalescent Plasma Treatment

- The convalescent plasma treatment recommended by the WHO against the Covid-19 pandemic was included in the coverage provided by the Social Security Institution.

ICU Treatment Costs

- The coverage of ICU treatment costs was doubled with the regulation made in the Health Implementation Communiqué.

Health Reports

- In order to facilitate the lives of people with disabilities and chronic patients, the validity period of their expired health reports and prescriptions were extended.

Incapacity to Work Allowance

- Incapacity to work allowance was regulated to be paid to those holding a Covid-19 diagnosis and quarantine report, which can also be issued in electronic form by filiation teams.
- A total of 2 billion TL was paid in temporary incapacity to work allowance during the pandemic period.

Payment Relief for Coronavirus Treatment

- Regulations were made to provide an additional payment of 660 TL per day for hospitals serving for each patient diagnosed with Covid-19.

- Regulations were made for drugs and medication used for the treatment of Covid-19 in intensive care to be invoiced and paid by the Social Security Institution.
- Regulations were put in place for our citizens to be exempt from paying a patient share and additional fees in pandemic cases that were included in force majeure.
- Costs and fees arising from Covid-19-related testing, treatment and care services covered under the General Health Insurance exceeded 7.2 billion TL.

Declaration of Force Majeure

- The pandemic period was declared to be part of force majeure in order to include not only persons who meet the criteria to be considered in need but also those persons who are in periodic need to be covered under social assistance.

Social Support Programme for the Pandemic

- A total amount of over 6.5 billion TL was paid in cash relief of 1.000 TL to 6.5 million households.

Periodical Share

- The amount of “periodical share” resource transfer made regularly every month was increased from 135 million TL to 180 million TL to enable Social Assistance and Support Foundations to sustain their social aid activities.
- In addition, an additional periodical share transfer amount of 902 million TL was made to ensure the provision of further aid to citizens during the pandemic period.

Social Assistance Programmes

- Within the scope of combating the adverse effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, steps were taken to protect the vulnerable groups who were more likely to be affected by the pandemic period by increasing the amount of certain social assistance programmes.

Project on Accommodation of Rough Sleepers

- Accommodation in public guesthouses or hotels-hostels was offered for persons who, for various reasons, have become homeless or who have no place to go.
- For the project for which 6 million TL was allocated in 2020, 15 million TL was allocated for 2021.

“We Are Self-Sufficient, Türkiye” National Solidarity Campaign

- President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, in his Address to the Nation following the Presidential Cabinet Meeting on March 30, 2020, announced that an aid account was created by the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services in order to provide additional support to the low-income citizens who had to suffer from the measures taken against the pandemic and launched the “We Are Self-Sufficient, Türkiye” National Solidarity Campaign in the fight against Covid-19. The campaign also aims to coordinate the needs of people who might suffer from victimisation due to the measures taken in this period to meet their needs more effectively. Within the scope of the campaign, over 2 billion TL of aid was collected, and these aids were delivered to the households in need.



Social Isolation Organisations

- For women, children, people with disabilities, the elderly and all our citizens in need, 89 social isolation organisations were set up with a total capacity of 2,130 beds in 67 provinces.
- In 14 provinces, isolation floors were set up in existing organisations.
- People discharged from a hospital, people returning from leave, and people with disabilities and elderly people to be admitted to a new accommodation place were accommodated at these organisations.
- Legal regulations were put in place for such isola-

tion organisations to provide services for our elderly citizens and citizens with disabilities regardless of their income level and disability level.

Services for Children

- Necessary cleaning measures were taken, and visits were restricted in children's organisations.
- Services of private nurseries holding a licence, day-care centres and children's clubs were suspended between March 16, 2020, and June 1, 2020.

Services for Elderly People and People with Disabilities

- The working scheme of 10-14-day fixed overnight was introduced for the staff working in institutions who serve people with disabilities and elderly people, and PCR testing was conducted on such staff before the beginning of the shift.
- People with disabilities and the elderly were enabled to engage in physical activities, leisure time activities, cognitive skills improvement activities, in addition to daily life activities, to enable them to develop strategies to fight against Covid-19.
- Thanks to the strict measures taken, Türkiye was considered by the WHO as an example for best practices in centres for people with disabilities and elderly people.

Services for Women

- No interruption has been allowed to take place in the provision of services at women's guesthouses and the

Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centre (ŞÖNİM) since the beginning of the detection of the first cases during the Covid-19 period.

- In addition to the existing institutions affiliated to the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services, 65 facilities in 49 provinces were used for accommodation. A total of 1,450 women and their children were referred to such facilities for accommodation.
- A prioritisation process was started for women in line with the increased number of calls made to Alo 183 for Social Support Line due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



3.4. Continuous and Distance Education

After the detection of the first coronavirus case in Türkiye, face-to-face education was suspended in the scope of the measures taken in order to protect public health. However, Türkiye was among the leading countries across the world that have transitioned to distance education. Thus, with the implementation of an exemplary distance education model, education has continued uninterrupted in our country. With the controlled normalisation following the spring, the opportunity for face-to-face education emerged in the new school year. However, with the increase of cases, distance education was reintroduced. Finally, as of March, steps have been taken to start face-to-face education again. In line with the decisions taken after the Presidential Cabinet Meeting on March 1, 2021, the implementation of on-site decision-making was initiated on a provincial basis in education and training as in every field. In this context,

- As of March 2, 2021, face-to-face education has started throughout the country in all pre-school education institutions, primary schools, and 8th and 12th grades.
- In provinces defined as low and medium risk, face-to-face education has started in all pre-school education institutions, primary schools, secondary schools and high schools.

Face-to-face education in provinces defined as low and medium risk started;

- Full-time in pre-school education institutions,
- Two (2) days a week in diluted classes in primary schools,
- Two (2) days a week in diluted groups in the 5th, 6th, 7th grades of secondary schools,
- 12-22 hours a week in diluted groups in the 8th grades of secondary schools,
- Two (2) days a week in diluted groups in the preparation classes, 9th, 10th, 11th grades of high schools,
- 16-24 hours a week in diluted groups in the 12th grade of high schools.

Face-to-face education in provinces defined as high and very high risk started

- Full-time in pre-school education institutions,
- Two (2) days a week in diluted groups in primary schools,
- 12-22 hours a week in diluted groups in the 8th grades,
- 16-24 hours a week in diluted groups in the 12th grades,
- Special education schools and classes serving students with special needs have started full-time face-to-face education throughout the country.

- Education at all school levels and grade levels, to start the face-to-face education, started on Tuesday, March 2.
- As of Monday, March 8, exams in high schools has been started to be held face-to-face in all provinces within the framework of pandemic measures.
- Decisions in place in villages and sparsely populated settlements were continued to be implemented in educational institutions.
- Distance education continues in applications outside the scope of face-to-face education. Participation in face-to-face education is carried out in all provinces, subject to the consent of the parents.

Distance Education

After public health was prioritised with the pandemic, no face-to-face education was possible due to restrictions. The continuation of education, which is a social right, is the duty of every state. Türkiye is one of the first countries during the pandemic to implement distance education in the world. Distance education in Türkiye was carried out on different platforms according to the level of education.

- TRT EBA TV Channels: TRT EBA Primary School, TRT EBA Secondary School and TRT EBA High School.
- EBA Digital Education Platform: www.eba.gov.tr website and its contents.



- **EBA Academic Support (ADES):** It is an exam preparation platform that provides feedback to students with artificial intelligence support for 11th and 12th grade students preparing for the university exam.
- **EBA Live Classes:** It is an application where teachers can teach synchronously with their classes via eba.gov.tr.
- **EBA Professional Development:** It is an application where teachers can access online professional development contents synchronously and asynchronously via eba.gov.tr.
- **EBA Assistant:** It is a virtual support robot that provides 24/7 instant answers to the questions of EBA website users with its artificial intelligence infrastructure.

TRT EBA TV and EBA Digital Platform Contents

- Within the scope of the cooperation with TRT for all grade levels (1 - 12), TRT EBA TV (TRT EBA Primary School, TRT EBA Secondary School and TRT EBA High School) channels, as 3HD and 3SD channels, started broadcasting on March 23, 2020.
- More than 1,000 teachers worked in front of and behind the camera in 13 television studios for television broadcasts between March 23, 2020, and February 19, 2021. In this context, a total of 10,000 course contents and 982 extracurricular activities were prepared in many areas such as physical education, games, music, guidance, smart break, hobbies, experiments, special education awareness, family activities, time for teachers and parents.
- A total of 12,415 hours of broadcasting took place from television channels between March 23, 2020, and February 19, 2021.
- As of June 29, 2020, “Summer School” programs, which lasted nine weeks and ended on August 28, has been broadcast on EBA and TRT EBA TV channels.
- The “English Summer School” course package for secondary school students has been added into the stream on the EBA platform as of July 1.
- For the 2020-2021 academic year, all of the content broadcast on TRT EBA TV channels started to be broadcast with sign language translation in accordance with the principles of inclusiveness and accessibility in education.
- In the scope of the Production with Informatics Pilot Implementation, a total of 314 activities were produced for 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th grade students at the primary and secondary school level and broadcast on EBA.



- Digital contents for the 1-4th grade curriculum have been prepared to support music lessons with distance education. A digital instrument has been created and put on digital stores.
- The digital contents of the museum education and professional development course have been prepared for the Topkapı Palace Museum and Pera Museum.
- The “Gray Walnut” application has been offered to all teachers and students free of charge.
- The platform infrastructure established to enable public education courses to be held remotely has been combined with EBA (hboakademi.eba.gov.tr).
- EBA sub-portal has been created for basic training contents (tegmateriyal.eba.gov.tr).

- More than 20,000 new course contents, more than 2,000 EBA Library contents, more than 200 supplementary resource books, more than 200 new course references have been added to EBA. The number of courses in EBA has been increased from 1,600 to 1,900, and the number of contents has been increased from 40,000 to 60,000.
- Audio-depicted versions of distance education contents for visually impaired students and content with lectures in Braille are added weekly.
- Distance education infrastructure studies have been carried out. The total live lecture capacity has been increased to 3 million lessons per day.
- In the Ümitköy data centre, new hardware with larger capacities has been integrated into the system.

New Features of EBA Platform

- All videos broadcast on TRT EBA TV channels have also been added to the EBA digital platform so that they can always be on hand for students.
- With capacity increases, it has been ensured that 865 thousand users can be served simultaneously.
- The EBA Live Classroom feature was released on April 13, 2020.
- On September 22, 2020, the EBA Live Class feature was made available to all grade levels, and the quota was increased.
- With these improvements, it is possible to assign nine lessons per day to all levels and 54 hours per week. These numbers are kept high in order to have

alternatives. (These numbers are also higher than the maximum daily and weekly hours of live lessons determined by the Board of Education according to school levels.)

- Improvements have been made to allow users to participate in live lessons from all platforms (mobile, web).
- To meet the demand for immigrant students living in Türkiye and Turkish students living abroad, the feature of assigning Live Lessons not only to classes but also to groups formed by the school administration/teachers has been developed.
- Live practice exams were held before the Higher Education Institutions Examination (YKS) for 12th grade students from the EBA Academic Support platform.
- The opportunity to conduct EBA Live Lessons from interactive boards installed with Pardus has also been made available to teachers.

Activities Supporting Distance Education

- For every field that users may need for the distance education process, help videos were shot and broadcast on “How? EBA” pages and YouTube channel.
- Five different teachers training were prepared and made available to all teachers via EBA Professional Development Area. These courses have reached 583,610 teachers since March 2020.
- The opportunity of free access to EBA (6GB and 8GB) content has been increased in agreement with GSM operators providing services in Türkiye.

- An EBA control centre and call centre operating 24/7 were established on March 28, 2020.
- EBA Assistant, an online help system, was put into use on April 13, 2020, in order to respond quickly to users' questions.
- The "EBA Parent Information System" service has been added to the e-government portal.
- Webinars and MOOC-based training were held within the scope of eTwinning, FCL and Scientix Projects, and 834,644 teachers benefited from this training.
- Within the scope of digital game development, 3D design and innovative idea development under the Production with Informatics Pilot Implementation, the target audience of six remote education activities was approximately 330 information technology teachers and 41,000 students.
- EBA Support Points have been established to provide access to EBA for students who do not have access to computers and the Internet. (14,757 centres and 176 mobile support vehicles as of February 24, 2021).
- The distribution of 512,000 tablet computer sets, together with a 25 GB quota Internet package with a 4.5G GSM sim card, was completed in order to provide distance education opportunities to students who cannot continue their distance education due to unfavourable socioeconomic conditions.

- 90 thousand webcams were procured and distributed to schools to help teachers conduct live lessons using interactive boards and whiteboards.
- As of March 23, 2020, the distance education statistics are prepared under the heading “Distance Education by Numbers” and shared with the public on a weekly basis.
- In order to provide more comprehensive distance education and provide it with more users simultaneously from EBA, “Safe Schooling and Distance Education Project” with a budget of USD 160 million and lasting for three years has been initiated.

Primary Education

School Adaptation and Vocational Preparation

- In the 2019-2020 academic year, a work plan was prepared to eliminate the learning deficits of the students on subjects that could not be handled face-to-face and sent to schools on August 28, 2020.

Gradual and Diluted Face-to-Face Education

- Considering the pandemic process, face-to-face education has been started only in pre-school education and 1st-grade primary school as of September 21, 2020.
- Written consent of the parent who did not want to send their child to school for face-to-face education was obtained, and the student was not considered absent.



- In line with the recommendations of the Scientific Board, in planning, the priority has been given to pre-school, 1st and 8th-grade primary school students who are preparing for the High School Entrance Examination (LGS) for them to receive face-to-face education.
- The two-week mid-term break was extended to three weeks due to the pandemic.

Supply of Supplementary Resources

- The material platform tegmmateryal.eba.gov.tr was created and published on the EBA Platform. All textbooks, teaching materials and digital contents in use have been published on the site, and approximately 3,400 pieces of content have been uploaded to the mentioned site.

- 17 workbooks were distributed to students in a specially designed folder bag and published electronically, especially for students in schools where unified classroom practice was carried out in rural areas.
- At the secondary school level, 16 books consisting of 112 fascicles have been prepared and published electronically.
- A total of 107 digital content have been prepared for primary and secondary schools in order to support students during the pandemic.
- Commissions established in 50 Provincial Directorates of National Education are continuing workbooks and digital content studies. Approximately 1000 teachers were assigned to the commissions. A digital review system (ydil.tegmmateryal.eba.gov.tr/panel/) has been created for content review.
- A “READING FISH ELECTRONIC AUDIO LIBRARY” was created in order to present primers prepared in a way to support the emotional, social and language development of students in a digital environment to primary school students and was published at <https://okuyan-balik.com/>.
- In order to increase the writing skills of children and support their imagination during the stay at home period, the work named “Home Made Stories from Children” (Children’s Publications Series) has been published consisting of the selected stories sent by students from 81 provinces.

Assessment and Evaluation

- While determining the first-semester score of the 2020-2021 academic year, the exams held in the primary school in the 4th grade and the first semester in secondary schools are not included in the score calculation at the end of the semester. However, the scores obtained from the exams made upon the parent's application were included in the semester score calculation. In the 4th grades of primary school, the semester score was calculated only with the arithmetic average of the participation scores in the class activities. In the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grades of secondary school, it was ensured that the semester score was calculated by the arithmetic average of only the participation scores in the class activities and the project scores if any. The report cards were not printed and distributed, but the reports have been made available electronically.
- It was ensured that students who have chronic diseases themselves or in any of their family members they are staying with were able to take the exam at an appropriate time in the school and an isolated environment.

Secondary Education

Teaching Materials and Content Development

- 664 videos about Science, Culture, Art and Sports were broadcast on the TRT EBA TV High School channel.
- All textbooks are made interactive. (97 Interactive textbooks)

- A mobile question bank has been prepared that students and teachers can always access. It contains 25,000 questions.
- Interactive question solutions were prepared and brought together with students at YKS Camp.
- An online competition platform has been prepared.
- Webinars (Web seminars) have been prepared for students preparing for the university.

Teaching Programs and Textbooks

- 146 textbooks and educational tools were prepared for the 2020-2021 academic year.
- In the 2020-2021 academic year, 11 skill-based activity books and totally 2247 skill-based activities were prepared to be used in 9th grades and published on EBA.
- Nine skill-based activity books and totally 980 skill-based activities were prepared for the 10th grades in History, Geography, Philosophy, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Turkish Language and Literature and English courses.
- In order to prevent student losses, nine online contests, four contests, seven social media activities, four special broadcasts, one webinar were organised, and in addition to these, one digital booklet (23 Days Together) was prepared.

- Supporting and training courses (DYK) have been opened since August 31, 2020, for entrance to high schools and university preparation exams. A “Pandemic Permit Certificate” has been added to the e-Course Module for the curfew restriction exemption for students, teachers and administrators attending the course.

Student Lodgings and Scholarships

- Information activities were carried out to 20,488 people in total, including 2,965 administrators, 11,084 instructors and 6,439 auxiliary staff working in official student lodgings affiliated to the Ministry of National Education by the members of the Scientific Board and experts.
- A guide on the measures to be taken in student lodgings has been prepared.
- Student lodgings have been put into service within the framework of quarantine practices for the purpose of sheltering citizens, healthcare professionals and members of the police.
- Due to the pandemic, the system of paying the pocket money of free boarding students through the bank has been introduced.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- In the event of the prolongation of the global pandemic that started in the 2nd semester of the 2019-2020 academic year, considering the possibility of

carrying out educational activities based on technology, in order to determine the possible malfunctions and the measures to be taken in advance, a total of 93,783 people including students, teachers, school administrators and 24,489 parents participated in the survey, and as a result of the evaluation of the survey results, significant progress was made in tablet distribution, EBA support points and improvement of infrastructure works.

Vocational Education

Curriculum and Distance Education

- 27 fields and 142 branches have been updated, and education in 33 fields and 181 branches has been started in vocational education centre programs.
- In Vocational Education Centres, distance learning materials for journeyman and mastership theoretical exams in 33 fields and 181 branches, and course schedules, course contents, sample tests and exam criteria distance learning materials for journeyman/mastership exams in 7 fields and 50 branches were prepared.
- In order not to interrupt the education processes of the students during distance education, primarily 3 million lira resources were transferred, and the infrastructure of the schools was strengthened. As a result, 6,177 distance education lecture videos were shot. 5,441 of them are broadcast on TRT EBA TV high school channels and EBA Digital Platform.

Special Education

Students with Special Educational Needs

- “Adaptation Programme for Special Education Students” and “Adaptation Training Guidance Programme for Special Education Students” were prepared, considering that students with special educational needs were not able to receive face-to-face education for a long time.
- A total of 1,000 special education contents were prepared on TRT EBA TV primary and secondary school channels.
- The “Özelim Eğitimdeyim (I am special, I am in education)” mobile application, which was held up as an example to other countries by the OECD, was downloaded by 491,387 mobile users and visited approximately 30 million times.
- The “EKPSMEBÖZEL” mobile application was introduced, and rich special education contents with questions and lectures were provided to individuals who would take the Disabled Public Personnel Selection Exam (EKPS).
- Twenty digital applications related to special education were released on EBA and mobile applications.
- The “I Read and Write Based on Sound” education material set consisting of 6 books for stage students was completed and published digitally; 5,000 copies of the set were printed and sent to schools.
- The “Fun Learning Box” education set for pre-school special education students and the “Teacher’s Road

Map in Inclusive Education” book for their teachers were published digitally, printed and sent to all schools.

- “Turkish Sign Language: Book 1, 2 and 3” was made interactive and published on EBA’s website, a digital Turkish sign language dictionary was prepared, and sign language videos of 5,040 words were made accessible.
- The “I am Learning How to Read and Write Set for Hearing Impaired Students” set was completed and published digitally.
- 400 “Orbit Reader - Braille Display, Book Reader and Note Taker”, which enables visually impaired students to convert any source to audio and take notes, continue to be distributed.
- 170 course contents with audio description for visually impaired students were prepared and broadcast on the EBA platform.
- Teachers voluntarily carried out distance education activities and provided contents within the scope of the “Framework Programme for the Summer Vacation”.
- “Special Children’s Calendar of Fun Activities” (ÖÇEET) was published on digital platforms.
- The “Are you ready?” quiz show, which includes activities involving cultural and sports skills for hearing, visually or mentally impaired students, was broadcast on TRT EBA TV during the summer vacation.

- Social media accounts were created with the username «mebozelegitim». Informative videos for families, EBA TV content, announcements, etc., are shared on these accounts.
- A set of 24 interactive books for students receiving inclusive/integrated education was published at orgm.meb.gov.tr/uyet.

Gifted Students

- As of the second academic term, the videos prepared with teachers from 16 different branches are planned to be broadcast on TRT EBA TV under the Science and Arts time once a week.

Counselling Service

- 38,548,968 counselling and psychological counselling services were provided to students by school counselling services and counselling and research centres (RAM).
- Within the consultancy services, teachers, students and parents were supported with 51,303,169 counselling and psychological counselling services in total.
- Informative activities regarding psychoeducational programs for the pandemic were carried out for teachers/administrators and parents through school counsellors/psychological counsellors working at schools. In this context, 552,639 teachers and 3,479,428 parents were reached. The programme was completed by applying face-to-face and distance education modes to 6,500,000 students.

- “Elif and Alp: The Psychoeducational Activities for Children Series 1, 2 and 3” were prepared and printed for pre-school and primary school students. In addition, the 4th book of “Elif and Alp: The Psychoeducational Activities for Children” series, namely “School Excitement”, was prepared digitally on the occasion of going back to schools.
- “Maintaining Our Psychological Resilience During the Pandemic - A Guide for Parents to Help Their Children” was published.
- The digital psychosocial support programme was introduced at <http://orgm.meb.gov.tr/psikososyaldijitaldestek>.
- The “Special Education Kids” journal was made available digitally.
- For the 2020-2021 academic year, “Informed Use of Technology and Psychological Resilience” was determined as the general aim in providing counselling and psychological counselling services in schools.

Life-long Learning

- Approximately 800,000 international students studying at schools affiliated to the Ministry of National Education receive education via TRT EBA TV and Educational Informatics Network (EBA).

Material Support for Foreign Students

- In March 2020, 35,000 copies of the “Life-long Turkish: Book 1, 2 and 3” set were printed and distributed in 55 provinces, where foreign students mostly resided, in cooperation with the UNHCR.
- A total of 75,504 Syrian and disadvantaged Turkish students were distributed training sets in order to provide support to those who continued distance education or did not have the opportunity to receive distance education due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- A total of 112,017 Turkish teaching books, 60,403 of which were Turkish Practice Books for Foreigners, and 266,614 Salih’s Story Series were printed for international students. The books have been distributed to international students in 55 provinces as of August 2020.

Informative Activities

- Within the framework of the Covid-19 pandemic, 84,716 Arabic and 15,101 Turkish brochures were sent to foreign families in 55 provinces in order to inform students and parents about the hygiene rules published by the Ministry of Health and to ensure international students’ access to distance education.
- In August and between November - December 2020, 240 teachers who teach Turkish to students between the ages of 6-13 were trained by experts on effective methods for distance teaching of the Turkish language, supporting the well-being of students remotely in cases of disasters and emergencies, coping with stress and health measures that could be taken in classrooms during the Covid-19.

Distance Education

- Distance education applications have started with 12 life-long learning institutions as of December 2, 2020.
- In this context, a hygiene training course programme was initiated for those working in the food and water sectors, which is crucial for public health and hygiene.
- Within the scope of the “Language Education for Adults” project, language training continues with a blended learning model at hboakademi.eba.gov.tr. Approximately 25 thousand trainees have benefited from this training since March 2020.

Open Education Schools

- For the 2019-2020 academic year, students who continued their formal education were ensured to pass to the next grade or graduate with their exam scores in the first semester, students who were enrolled in Open Education Schools or out of the formal education age were considered successful by treating them as having passed all their exams so that they would not suffer during the pandemic period.
- Through e-Government application, citizens studying at open education schools were given the opportunity to receive their documents (graduation certificate, student certificate, etc.) without going to any related contact office.

Foreign Education and Foreign Relations

Selection and Placement of Students to be Sent Abroad for Postgraduate Studies (YLSY) Scholarship Holders under Law no. 1416

- In order to provide financial support to students returning to the country due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Communiqué on payments was amended, and domestic scholarships were increased from 1150 TL to 1650 TL.
- Of the students studying in countries affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, related procedures of those who wished to return were carried out in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In this context, 383 students from 12 different countries have returned to the country.
- Necessary extension periods were given to the scholarship holders who were entitled to extension with or without scholarships, on the condition of their requests, wishing students were offered to freeze their education up to a semester or take unpaid leave, and these intervals were added to the education periods. Those who received their full scholarship within these periods were not requested to return their scholarships, and it was decided to be deducted from the first months of starting their education.
- By adding provisions on distance education to the “Procedures and Principles Regarding Foreign Language Learning within the Scope of Law no. 1416”, students were enabled to continue their distance education without any time loss.
- An additional period of up to one year was given to scholarship holders who could not start their for-

foreign language education or could not obtain their certificate of acceptance.

- Postgraduate education was made available through distance education for the 2020 Fall Semester.
- It was announced that notice for compensation proceedings would not be sent to the students sent abroad under Law no. 1416 first until April 30, 2020, and then until June 15, 2020.

Schools/Institutions and Teachers/Instructors Operating Abroad affiliated to the Ministry of National Education

- Educational activities and Turkish language and Turkish Culture courses in schools/institutions that operate abroad under the Ministry of National Education are carried out using the distance education method.
- Instructors and teachers who were unable to return to their duties due to the restriction of international flights were enabled to receive 1/3 of their salaries abroad from the end of their leave until the travel restriction was lifted.
- EBA has been opened to use abroad. EBA Portfolio, which makes it easier to monitor the students' development process, has also been presented to users abroad.
- "SEYYAH", a digital game that teaches the Turkish language and introduces the Turkish Culture, was produced and uploaded to EBA. At the same time, the game can be downloaded for playing from the App Store and Google Play Store.
- A short film, social media content and posters have been made regarding the benefits of its multilingual

and multicultural nature to promote the Turkish language and Turkish Culture courses abroad. The public service advertisement prepared was forwarded to the TRT General Directorate for broadcasting. In addition, short documentary films were shared with the TRT General Directorate in 4 languages (German, Dutch, French and English) with subtitles.

Assessment and Evaluation

Central Examinations, which were postponed in advance and rescheduled in 2020 in order to ensure the continuation of education life in addition to social life in the new normal framework, were carried out in the later period with special measures taken against the Covid-19 pandemic, which had its effect all over the world

Resource Supports

- Example questions published are also solved on EBA.
- In this period where it is unfavourable for children to go outside, thus making it harder for them to find necessary resources, fascicules of study questions on different subjects were prepared and published for all grades in order to support students who will take examinations and relieve their anxiety over finding and accessing resources.
- 3,796 Study Questions have been published for 8th graders. These questions were viewed 4,552,008 times.
- Skill Based Questions have been prepared for 5th, 6th and 7th graders. Skill Based Questions, which consist of 2,640 questions, were viewed 7,295,652 times.
- For 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade students, 2,736 Study Questions have been published, and these questions were viewed 701,097 times.

- Study Fascicules consisting of 13,849 questions for 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th-grade students were viewed 6,350,045 times. Study fascicules have been designed so that students gain experience in different question types, supported by various activities. Fascicules prepared on a unit basis for each course continue to be published.
- In order to support the distance education activities planned within the scope of the Covid-19 pandemic measures and to enable students to reinforce the subjects they have learnt face-to-face in the 2019-2020 academic year, review tests were prepared that consist of a total of 2,740 questions covering the first semester subjects at the 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th-grade levels.
- In order to deliver these questions physically to those students in need and to support 1,000 Schools in Vocational Education Project; Grade 5 Skill Based Tests Book, Grade 6 Skill Based Tests Book, Grade 7 Skill Based Tests Book, High School Entrance Exam (LGS) Workbook (Verbal), LGS Workbook (Numerical), Grade 9 Review Tests Book, Grade 10 Review Tests Book, Grade 11 Review Tests Book, Grade 12 Review Tests Book were printed in December 2020, at a total of 2,758,562 copies, and they were brought to students across the country in coordination with Assessment and Evaluation Centres.
- A total of 22 fascicules consisting of 1,978 questions covering the first four units of Turkish, Mathematics, Science, Religious Culture and Moral Knowledge, Social Studies and English subjects for 4th graders were presented to the students.

E-Exams

- 2019-2020 Academic Year Second Semester Open Education Institutions Exams were done online for the first time for the students residing abroad and enrolled in Open Education Institutions.
- Open Education Institutions 2020-2021 Academic Year First Semester exams were pre-scheduled to be held online.
- The number of existing e-exam halls was increased. The number of e-exam halls, which used to be 125, was increased to 179 halls, and the planning efforts for the creation of approximately 130 new exam halls have been completed.

Human Resources and Hygiene Preparations in Schools

- It has been determined how administrators and teachers on administrative leave will benefit from additional course payments.
- The optional relocation procedures of teachers, carried out by the Ministry of National Education in May every year, were carried out between July 20-28, 2020, within the scope of the measures taken due to the pandemic.
- The inter-provincial relocation based on option and the obligation of compulsory labour procedures of teachers, which are carried out by the Ministry of National Education in June every year, was carried out between August 6-11, 2020, within the scope of the measures taken due to the pandemic.
- “The Improving of Hygienic Conditions in Educational Institutions, Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines” has been prepared.

- Informative guidebooks for students, parents, administrators and teachers have been prepared.
- 4,000 supervisory officers were trained to check compliance with school administrators.
- As of February 8, 2021, 49,567 schools (98%) affiliated with the Ministry of National Education and applied to and complied with the Guidelines have been awarded “My School is Clean Certificate”. Certificate renewal inspections will be carried out every year through a portal.
- Health and safety inspections were carried out on 483 teachers’ guesthouses, which operate under the Ministry of National Education. To secure the distance between the pupils and reduce the risk of infection in face-to-face education, 405 thousand single row desks were manufactured and distributed to schools in Istanbul in addition to 305 thousand double row desks that were distributed to schools nationwide.
- 33,995,496.00 TL of allowance was sent to a total of 440 institutions, which includes 401 teachers’ guesthouses and evening art schools, 37 practice hotels (vocational and technical education high schools) and two in-service training institutes belonging to the Ministry of National Education for accommodation and catering services provided to 498,116 health workers.
- An allowance of 168,805,393.81 TL was sent to 81 provincial Directorates of National Education for the purchase of masks, disinfectants and hygiene materials.
- A cash capital of 2,585,000.00 TL was sent to the revolving fund enterprises producing masks and disinfectants.

- Necessary instructions were given to 81 Provincial Governorships in order to ensure hygiene conditions in school buses, and monitoring works regarding the issue were carried out by the provincial and district national education directorates.
- In line with the provisions of Law no. 4735 on Public Procurement Contracts, the contractors who were adversely affected by the pandemic were paid 80% of the contract price for actual expenses and contractor' profit as well as 5% of the difference between the contract price and the work done, for tenders completed with a price less than 80%.

Educational Expenses in the Global Pandemic Period

- During the Covid-19 period, 416 million 591 thousand 185 TL was spent by our Ministry departments in order to acquire necessities to use in schools and institutions such as masks, hand disinfectants, surface disinfectants and face shields and to buy raw materials for the production of masks and disinfectant.
- 1 billion 398 million 54 thousand 321 TL was spent within the scope of the payments to be made to the qualified instructors and the fees of those assigned in return for the course fee.
- A total of 606 million 385 thousand 344 TL was paid for the Safe Schooling and Distance Education Project, Data Centre, Mobile EBA Support Points, EBA Control Centre and other activities carried out in the distance education process.
- 196 million TL was spent for the production of 405 thousand single row and 300 thousand double row desks for the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic.

HIGHER EDUCATION

First Steps in the Field of Higher Education

- With the start of the pandemic period in the world, the letter on “Coronavirus Protection and Control Measures” from the Ministry of Health was sent to all higher education institutions in the first week of February 2020.
- Before a case was detected in Türkiye, all the measures which were needed to be taken in higher education institutions against coronavirus were collected under three headings that are “Travel and Overseas Meetings”, “Meetings with International Participation” and “Measures to be Taken against Discrimination” by the Council of Higher Education and by taking the foreign students into account, the document was sent to higher education institutions in three languages on March 6 (approximately one week before the first Covid-19 case was detected in Türkiye).
- A meeting with the “Covid-19” agenda was held at the Council of Higher Education (CoHE) on the day the first Covid-19 case was detected in Türkiye, on March 11, 2020, with the participation of both the rectors of universities with a high number of international students and elite scientists in the field of health.
- With the state decision on March 12, face-to-face education was suspended for one week in higher education institutions as of March 16, during which the distance education facilities and capacities of the universities were determined by the CoHE.

Digital Steps in Higher Education during the Pandemic Period

Distance Learning Practices Roadmap of the Pandemic Period

- On March 13, 2020, universities were urgently asked for information about their distance education infrastructures and the status of human resources, and “Pandemic Advisory Commissions” were established at universities.
- This process was planned rapidly in one-on-one meetings with deans so that the education and training processes were not interrupted.
- As of March 16, education was suspended for a week, and the distance education facilities and capacities of universities were determined during this period.
- A “Higher Education Digital Transformation Commission” was established within the body of the CoHE, which also included academicians from different universities who were experts in their fields. In this roadmap, studies were carried out in 5 fundamental areas: legislation, infrastructure, human resources, content and implementation.

Open Access of the CoHE Courses Platform

- On March 23, Türkiye made the transition to digital education in higher education institutions. The transition from the face-to-face education model to the digital education model and rapid adaptation have been achieved in all higher education institutions.
- In order to meet the digital course material needs of the universities, the CoHE Courses Platform has been established within the CoHE, which has been open to the access of universities since March 25.

- In the first stage, the CoHE Courses Platform opened for access, which included the course contents of Anadolu University, Atatürk University and Istanbul University, via the <https://yokdersleri.yok.gov.tr/> internet address. It is also possible to log into the system via different channels such as the CoHE's institutional website and mobile application.
- As a result of various contacts with the mobile operator, students who benefited from the CoHE Courses Platform were given a free internet usage package under "6 GB Support Quota for Distance Learning".

Digital Transformation Project in Higher Education

- The "Digital Transformation Project in Higher Education" launched by the CoHE two years ago has made significant contributions to this process. Within the scope of this project, nearly 6 thousand lecturers from 16 universities were given the "Learning and Teaching in Higher Education in the Digital Age" course, and more than 50 thousand students were given the "Digital Literacy" course.

Protocol on the Provision of Distance Learning Platform

- In another phase of the Digital Transformation Project in Higher Education, the "Protocol on the Provision of Distance Learning Platform" was signed between 15 universities and Sakarya University under the coordination of the CoHE and in cooperation with the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye-Turkish Academic Network and Information Center (TÜBİTAK-ULAKBİM).

- In the fall semester of the 2020-2021 academic year, 15 universities within the scope of the project started to conduct their distance education courses through this domestic platform.



Committee on Distance Learning Policies

- A “Committee on Distance Learning Policies” was established within the body of CoHE with the participation of academicians from different disciplines of various universities, who were experts in the field of distance education.

CoHE Virtual Laboratory Project

- With the project, “general chemistry and general physics laboratory” courses, in which laboratory practices happen the most, could be given in a virtual environment. It was planned that approximately 15 thousand students studying at various faculties of 18 universities would benefit from this in the first stage

Facilitative Decisions for the Education Process in Higher Education

Intern Students

- Decisions were taken in the Executive Board of the CoHE regarding the evaluation of the situation of intern students in the medical faculty and the practices in these locations, and all universities were notified of this decision.

Practice-Based Programs



- The decision was made to use the digital facilities and distance education methods for theoretical courses in practice-based programs, to give the practical courses at the most appropriate time, including the extension of the calendar determined by the universities, to enable this practice and approach used in the associate and undergraduate level also at the postgraduate level, to ensure that there are no interruptions in these processes using distance education and digital facilities provided that they are controllable and to allow the students with the Republic of Türkiye citizenship studying in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus to have the same facilities.
- In the context of senior students of medical faculties, due to the strength of the health infrastructure of the

country, since there was no urgent need for the senior students of the medical faculties, unlike many countries, they were not graduated early, it was deemed appropriate for them to continue their education in their own university hospitals, provided that their consent was obtained. In addition, if they wish, it was decided that the field practices they would make in units such as family medicine and public health centres in the provincial organisations of the Ministry of Health or at the hospital of another university in their city, based on the consent of the relevant units, would be counted as the remaining part of their internship practices.

Right to Freeze Registration

- Students were also given the right to freeze their registration in the spring semester of the 2019-2020 academic year upon request. It was decided that the frozen period would not be counted as a part of the maximum period, and the decisions regarding graduate education were left to the university administrative committees.
- Decisions were taken to ensure that thesis submission, defence and proficiency exams could be carried out in a controllable environment and conditions and recorded using digital means and that students could also benefit from the right to postpone and freeze registration.

Placement Exams

- It was decided that the Placement Exam and Equivalent Exams (Scientific Identity Determination and Structured Clinical Exam) would be postponed to the dates determined by the CoHE.

Decisions Regarding Prospective Teachers and Nursing, Dentistry, Pharmacy and Health Programs

- Decisions were taken for prospective teachers to compensate for their shortcomings in the applied courses with “lessons, homework and file preparation”.
- The issue of how the students in Nursing, Dentistry and Pharmacy programs would complete their internships was left to the considerations of the universities.
- Students in other healthcare programs of higher education institutions continued their applied education in hospitals for approximately 5-6 weeks.
- Due to the difficulties, it was deemed appropriate for the relevant boards of the higher education institutions to consider and decide upon students who were at the graduation stage in other health programs to complete their internship/applied training either in health units at an appropriate time, including the summer period, by taking protective measures or through distance education with digital means, simulated training, projects, case analysis, etc.

Decisions Regarding Vocational Schools and Engineering Programs That Require Hands-on Training

- Many businesses also suspended their activities due to the pandemic or started implementing flexible and part-time work, so there was no opportunity to continue hands-on training in businesses. In this context, it was decided that the higher education institutions could complete the incomplete hands-on training of the students and its period by distance education method or in the form of summer education.

Decisions Regarding the Teaching Staff Training Programme (ÖYP) and the Priority Areas Project

- All higher education institutions were informed about the freezing of the registrations of the research assistants within the scope of ÖYP and the Priority Areas Project.

Data Analysis of the Evaluation of the Distance Learning Processes

- According to the data results collected from 189 universities, including 127 public universities and 62 private universities in different fields, it was determined that universities succeeded in speedy transition to distance education, 90% of the courses in the spring semester were opened via distance education and the field to which distance education was most intensely applied was Social Sciences.
- An “Introduction to Digital Learning Environments” course has been started online for all academics.

Works on the Higher Education Institutions Examination (YKS)

- As per the decision, the YKS is set to be held on June 27 & 28, 2020, with required protective measures to be taken by the Assessment, Selection and Placement Centre (ÖSYM).
- For this year only, as an exception, the exam’s duration has been extended to 165 minutes with an additional 30 minutes.
- To apply for undergraduate programs, the minimum passing score of 180 has been decided to be lowered down to 170.

Contributions to Scientific Studies with the Council of Higher Education (CoHE) 100/2000 PhD Programme

- Several scientific studies against the Covid-19 pandemic have been initiated in Turkish universities and health units.
- A brainpower of 800 people who are currently studying for a PhD degree is contributing to the Covid-19 Diagnosis Centres Project, which is to be established by the Turkish Ministry of Health in coordination with the Directorate of Health Institutes in Türkiye (TÜSEB) for the R&D, vaccination, and drug studies to be conducted against the coronavirus pandemic.
- As for the call on the 2020-2021 academic year, a Pandemic Period Special Call was made considering the global Covid-19 pandemic. A CoHE Scholarship is granted in 22 thematic areas at domestic public universities with the intention of meeting the need for human source with PhD degrees and cultivating human source for the next generations in prioritised fields determined by the CoHE, specifically for the pandemic period that Türkiye and the world are going through.

Measures Taken for Students with Disabilities and Amenities Provided for Their Access to Education

- Specific measures were taken for the problems that hearing, visually, mentally impaired students and students with autism spectrum disorder have with distance education, and universities have been notified of the decisions concerning the arrangement.

- Arrangements for taking necessary measures for making distance education accessible for students with chronic illnesses and disabilities as much as possible were included in the Guide for the New Normalisation Period in the Global Pandemic and the Guide for the Improvement of Healthy and Sanitary Environments in Higher Education Institutions in the Context of the Global Pandemic.

Covid-19 Information Website

- Covid-19 information website has been opened to access, to announce the decisions made and studies conducted by the CoHE.

Discover Your University YÖK (CoHE) Virtual Fair

- The “Discover Your University YÖK Virtual Fair 2020” was organised for the first time to introduce universities and programs in digital media to the candidates to choose from.

Increase of the Rate of Courses Suitable for Distance Learning up to “Forty Percent” in Formal Education

- The rate of courses suitable for distance education informal programs at associate, undergraduate and postgraduate levels was raised to forty per cent. Hence, Turkish universities can also switch to mixed-mode learning, which is adopted by several countries globally.

Permission for an Extension of Time for Students at Their Dissertation Stage

- It was decided by the higher education institutions

to grant postgraduate students at their dissertation stage with a time extension for a maximum of two semesters; one semester upon their requests in case of disaster and pandemic, and one more semester, upon requesting again, according to the stage of the disaster and the pandemic.

The Possibility for Higher Education Institutions to Make Decisions According to Regional and Local Requirements

- The CoHE leaves the authority to the relevant boards of universities for the implementations to be made for different programs according to the regional and local course of the pandemic.

The Amenity of Health Board Report

- CoHE, due to the pandemic period, decided that the candidates who are placed in the programs of higher education institutions for which health board reports are requested for the 2020-2021 academic year could enrol in the programme they are placed in, with a medical report from a single physician stating that they do not have any illnesses.

Arrangement Regarding the Enrolment Dates

- It has been decided that the enrolment title of those who are placed in a university but cannot register due to the fact that they are infected with Covid-19 and in quarantine is reserved for a period of 15 days.

Arrangement Regarding the Submission of a Foreign Language Examination Document

- Due to the coronavirus pandemic, candidates to apply for graduate programs such as “Master’s De-

gree, Doctor of Philosophy or Doctor of Arts” and research assistants “to apply for a doctorate or doctor of arts” have been given the right to submit their documents regarding their Foreign Language Exam scores to higher education institutions after the exam results are announced.

Precautions against the Pandemic with the E-Registration System

- According to the CoHE data, with 627 thousand 532-university students registering digitally via electronic registration (e-registration), measures were taken against the coronavirus pandemic by reducing the density of the procedures, while approximately 400 million TL were saved at the same time.

Decisions to Ease the Education Process of International Students Studying in Türkiye

Due to the Covid-19, a series of relieving decisions regarding the enrolment and education processes of international students to higher education institutions in Türkiye. Within this context;

- For just the autumn semester of the 2020-2021 academic year, international students have been allowed to pre-register on the condition that they complete their high school graduation. The application and registration period has been extended.
- Students who registered after the academic year started were provided with the opportunity to receive accelerated make-up education, and upon their request, students who registered in this semester were provided with the opportunity to freeze their registrations in the autumn semester and continue their education in the spring semester.



- For students who had already registered when the academic year started and were not able to come to Türkiye during this semester due to the measures taken against the Covid-19, they were provided with the opportunity to attend their classes via digital facilities through distance education in the autumn semester of the 2020-2021 academic year, until said measures are lifted.
- For international students with expiring residence permits, an initiative has been taken by the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to automatically extend their permits for six months and extend their visa exemption duration to 90 days and to quickly finalise student visa applications received by the representations in foreign countries.



Study in Türkiye YÖK Virtual Fair 2020

- The “Study in Türkiye YÖK Virtual Fair 2020” was held by the CoHE in July to introduce Turkish universities internationally in digital media during the pandemic period.
- During the global pandemic, universities were encouraged to enrol international students, keeping higher education as a local attraction spot. Despite the pandemic, the number of international students has reached over 200 thousand as a result of the policies followed.

Decisions Regarding Turkish Students Studying Abroad

- International undergraduate transfer quotas have been increased; limitations have been lifted. The 50% limitation on higher education programs for international undergraduate transfers has been lifted with the exception of “Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Law, Teaching, Engineering and Architecture” programs; allowing these programs to be reserved with an international quota, which now equals to the domestic undergraduate transfer quota.
- It has been decided that the quota limitation for international undergraduate transfer, which is mandatory for “Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Law, Teaching, Engineering and Architecture” programs are to be lifted for the students in the programs of universities ranked in the top 1000 in any of the world university rankings created by the ranking organisations determined by the CoHE.
- On the condition that they meet the requirement of holding a Student Selection and Placement System (ÖSYS)/ Higher Education Institutions Examination (YKS) score or equivalent documents, wishing students have been allowed to apply for an undergraduate transfer for any open education programme in Türkiye.
- Considering the global pandemic and being limited to the autumn semester of the 2020-2021 academic year, students have been allowed to apply for an undergraduate transfer to all grades.

- A series of decisions were made by the CoHE to make the learning process easier for students who study in “joint programs” started by universities with their higher education institutions abroad.
- The equivalence procedures for the diplomas of the students who studied and graduated from universities abroad continued.



3.5. Continuity of Justice Services

To reduce the risk of coronavirus transmission to judicial employees and citizens and prevent citizens from being aggrieved during this period, radical and decisive measures have been taken in judicial services without delay. Throughout the process, it is ensured that the spread of the coronavirus is prevented, on the one hand, and that citizens' access to justice services is not blocked, on the other.

From the first moment, the pandemic was detected in Türkiye, works have been conducted with the Ministry of Health and Coronavirus Scientific Board. Likewise, it has been ensured that the works at the local level are carried out in cooperation with the relevant institutions. Chief Public Prosecutors have joined the provincial pandemic boards established within the governorships from the first moment, and the measures have constantly been reviewed. Views have been exchanged continuously with all judicial institutions, and all institutions have been informed on time about the measures to be taken. In addition, the states that have taken similar measures have been followed up in the framework of the activities of international organisations such as the Council of Europe and the OECD, and the works in Türkiye have also been shared with these institutions. Within this scope;

- First, an effective crisis centre was established within the Ministry of Justice. This crisis centre has coordinated the measures taken in courthouses, penal institutions, Forensic Medicine Institute and notaries from the beginning and followed the developments throughout the process.
- On March 13, 2020, the preparations for the “Ministry of Justice Action Plan for Fighting against Dangerous Pandemics” were completed and put on implementation. In the same period, separate action plans for the Justice Academy of Türkiye, the penal institutions, and prison workshops were also prepared.
- In the process of transition to the new normal, a New Working Principles Guide was prepared for both courthouses and penal institutions in line with the decisions of the Ministry of Health and the Coronavirus Scientific Board, and it was sent to the organisation on May 29, 2020.
- During this period, some legislative regulations were also made. The Council of Judges and Prosecutors was authorised to postpone the hearings with Law no. 7226, which entered into force on March 26, 2020. With the same law, all time limits in the judiciary were suspended to prevent citizens from being aggrieved. It was ensured that the citizens overcome this difficult period without losing their rights. In the same framework, the first measures were taken regarding the enforcement and bankruptcy offices. Only the urgent works were carried out in courthouses to preserve the public order. In this context, all hearings and discoveries were postponed, except for detainees and urgent affairs, suspension of execution, works that will lapse in a short time, and other urgent works.

- The periods in the judiciary were suspended from March 13, 2020, to April 30, 2020. It was stipulated that in case the pandemic continued, the President might extend the suspension once for no more than six months. The Council of Judges and Prosecutors postponed the hearings, negotiations and discoveries in the first instance courts of ordinary and administrative justice and regional courts of appeal until the same date, except for urgent matters such as detention and suspension of execution, with the decision taken on March 30, 2020, with the authority granted by Law no. 7226.
- With the Presidential decision promulgated in the Official Gazette dated April 30, 2020, and numbered 31114, the suspension period was extended until June 15, 2020, and the Council of Judges and Prosecutors extended the period of postponement of hearings, negotiations and discoveries in the first instance courts and regional courts of appeal, excluding urgent matters, until June 15, 2020.
- Enforcement and bankruptcy proceedings had been suspended as of March 22, 2020. This measure also continued until June 15, 2020, based on the legislative regulation.
- Flexible working and shift system was launched in the first instance courts, and regional courts appeal.
- In the process of transition to the new normal, densities that may pose a danger have been prevented within the framework of the measures in the guide prepared with the approval of the Ministry of Health and the Coronavirus Scientific Board. Taking the front offices out of the courthouses, activating all the courthouses' doors, changing the working hours on busy days are some of

the measures taken for this purpose. Significantly as of the beginning of the new judicial year, measures have been revised and increased.

- Comprehensive measures have also been taken for forensic services during the pandemic period. In this period, there was no disruption in the provision of forensic medical services. From the beginning of the pandemic, guidelines specific to Covid-19 were prepared and shared with all relevant stakeholders. Thus, standardisation was achieved throughout the country in the management of risky cases. Besides, negative pressure autopsy rooms at international standards were immediately put into service in Adana, Ankara, Antalya, Gaziantep, Erzurum, Istanbul, Izmir, Trabzon and Van for autopsies of Covid-19 cases.
 - Necessary measures have been taken for the Penal Institutions, and the institutions have been entirely isolated;
 - From the first moment, the contact of institutions with the outside world has been minimised. The practice of providing free cleaning supplies and masks to convicts and detainees has been initiated.
 - The visits were postponed, the transfer of detainees and convicts except for the reasons of health and safety were postponed, and special permissions of convicts and detainees were cancelled. In addition, in order to prevent convicts and detainees from being aggrieved, the time they could talk to their relatives by phone was extended.

- Some practices within the scope of probation have been suspended.
- With Law no. 7242, which entered into force on April 14, 2020, Covid-19 permission has been introduced for some convicts. In this context, convicts in open penal institutions or entitled to be transferred to open penal institutions and convicts whose sentences to be executed via probation were included in the permission.
- It was ensured that reports from hospitals were obtained for the convicts and detainees who were brought to penal institutions for the first time. PCR tests were carried out for convicts and detainees who entered the penal institutions for the first time or came for reasons such as transfer or referral. Even if the test results had been negative, they had been kept in an isolated environment to prevent contact with other convicts and detainees for 14 days, and when the second PCR test came negative, they were placed in the wards.
- In cooperation with the Ministry of Health, it was ensured that examinations by family physicians and specialist physicians were done in penal institutions, considering that their transfers to hospitals outside the institution would increase the risk of coronavirus.
- During the process, the working pattern of the personnel was also changed. The PCR test was performed 48 hours before they started to work, and they were allowed to work according to the test results. After their shifts, prison staff was provided to stay in designated special places.

- It has been ensured that prisoners and convicts over 60 years old or with chronic illnesses, even if under 60, whose test results are positive, receive treatment in hospitals.
- Moreover, within the framework of the Ministry of Health and the Scientific Board's decisions, the HES code obtained from the Hayat Eve Sığar (Life Fits Home) application has become compulsory to enter into the institutions. In order for the citizens not to have difficulties, personnel who would help those who need to get the HES code have been assigned.
- Convicts and detainees over 65 and convicts with chronic diseases were ensured to be vaccinated against pneumonia (pneumococcal) upon their consent within the scope of Covid-19 preventive measures. And again, in accordance with the Ministry of Health's Covid-19 vaccine algorithm, convicts and detainees over 65 were started to be vaccinated against the Covid upon their consent.
- Throughout the process, the attendance of convicts and detainees to the hearings through SEG-BİS (Audio Visual Information System) was preferred. Thus, the penal institutions were completely isolated, and the circulation in the courthouses was also lowered.
- Digital transformation efforts that had been initiated earlier in penal institutions were accelerated during the pandemic. The works for the new practises model, such as video calls of convicts with their families and electronic petition submission, have also been accelerated during the pandemic.

- E-hearing activities, which were initiated previously in order to maintain the judicial services without interruption during the pandemic period, have also been accelerated. E-hearing is a system developed to provide audio and visual attendance to the hearings in civil courts. The e-hearing application will be used primarily by lawyers and then will include parties, witnesses, and experts within the course of the process. The application will operate on an original and exemplary system developed entirely by the Ministry's engineers. E-hearing will save time and effort for judges, prosecutors, lawyers, and personnel. In this way, citizens will enjoy judicial services more effortlessly. It will be possible to connect to the e-hearing system from all devices such as computers, tablets, and mobile phones. Through the system, lawyers will be able to attend the hearings from different or same provinces through video conferencing.
- All the exams previously planned by the Ministry were cancelled, and thus, both the spread of the pandemic and the suffering of those who would attend the exams were prevented.
- The practice of notary public on duty at the weekend was suspended. The working of notary publics in rotation was initiated. Furthermore, digital transformation efforts in notary services have continued without slowing down during the pandemic. Within this framework, the facilities provided by the "e-Notary" application are as follows:
 - Making an appointment from the desired notary public with only the minimum information without the relevant party signing in the e-application,

- For the relevant person to have the notary work prepared by signing in the Turkish Notaries Union's (TNB) Information System as a member and only to go to the notary for signature,
- Being able to perform some notary works such as notification, written warming, and translation from the place where the relevant person is without going to the notary office, on the condition of holding an e-signature,
- Sending notification SMS containing the appointment status/time information to the GSM number notified by the applicant after the application and at the approval/rejection stage by the notary office,
- For the relevant person to request an appointment date/time for the notary public s/he has selected through the e-application and for the relevant notary public staff to see the date and time information through the Notary Information System (NBS) application,
- For the applicant to be able to enter the details/information of the proceedings for certain proceedings,
- Adding "Find Notary" and "Find Nearest Notary" links in the TNB portal under the "notary office to proceed" field in the e-application.

- **During the pandemic period, it has also been focused on information services, and many measures have been taken in this context:**
 - Improvements have been made in the Lawyer Portal, the Institution Portal, and the Citizen Portal, and it has been ensured that the concerned can carry out their proceedings without going to the courthouses.
 - Improvements have been made on the pages of the enforcement offices, and the reasons that would require lawyers to go to the courthouses have been reduced, thus paving the way for the Paperless Enforcement Office Application.
 - Mobile applications of Mediation, Reconciliation, and Legal Expert have been developed, and it has been ensured that the works of mediators, reconcilers, and legal experts are carried out via the mobile application regardless of time and place.
 - It has been ensured that the applications for personnel recruitment are received completely electronically via e-government.
 - The CELSE Application and the e-Justice Citizen Mobile Application have been further improved so that the lawyers in which they are representatives and citizens to which they are a party can follow up the case files, and additional features have been introduced to reduce the number of visits to courthouses.



**SOCIAL
DISTANCE**



3.6. Controlled Social Life and Inspection

During the pandemic, as in all other areas, Türkiye quickly took the necessary steps in controlled life and inspection to reduce the risk of transmission. To date, the Ministry of Interior has sent a total of 222 circulars/instructions/official letters within the scope Covid-19 to 81 Provincial Governorates as well as relevant institutions and organisations, 34 of which are border-related and 188 of which are country-related in line with the recommendations of the Ministry of Health and the Coronavirus Scientific Board, and upon the instructions of our President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

In this regard, the circulars/instructions/official letters sent by the Ministry of Interior between January 2020 and March 2021 can be summarised as follows:

One circular was issued in January 2020.

- To prevent the Covid-19 pandemic from spreading into Türkiye, health measures were taken against the virus at civil airfields, ports, and border gates at the first stage.

Three circulars were issued in February 2020.

- Due to the spread of the pandemic in Iran, border gates at the Iranian border were closed for both entry and exit.
- The vehicle transits from Türkiye to Iran were permitted to exit through the Iranian border gates.

47 circulars were issued in March 2020.

- Entry/exit/flights were suspended with 70 countries, particularly South Korea, Italy, Iraq, Germany, Spain, France, Austria, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Belgium and the Netherlands. Those with a residence permit in Türkiye and the Blue Card holders were allowed to enter Türkiye.
- An instruction was given to remain on alert against the possibility of an increase in illegal border crossings to Türkiye.
- An instruction was issued to call off ceremonies, meetings, and citizen gatherings and take necessary hygiene measures in all Ministries' units.
- Administrative leave was granted to public officials in the risky group.
- Measures were taken against the price gouging arising in some products (masks, cologne, disinfectants, cleaning materials, food, etc.).
- Measures were taken for our citizens who would be kept under observation for 14 days in the dormitories belonging to the Higher Education Student Loans and Dormitories Institution.

- It was decided to detect the equipment stocks in the places where medical equipment is manufactured or traded and confiscate them when necessary (black marketing, etc.).
- It was instructed that all diners and restaurants, patisseries and similar workplaces with or without alcohol could continue to offer only takeaway or delivery services.
- In order to prevent the spread of the virus within the country, the activities of barbers, hairdressers, beauty salons, public recreation and entertainment places were temporarily suspended.
- Citizens aged 65 and over were restricted from going out. Vefa Social Support Groups were established to assist citizens who were restricted/banned from going out and who live alone and/or have no relatives.
- “Travel Permit” was introduced for those who are obliged to travel/go out, especially those in places other than their residence.
- An order was issued to postpone the council meetings of local administrations.
- A circular was issued regarding the measures to be implemented in the open markets.
- The working hours of grocery stores and the passenger capacity of public transportation were both limited (by 50%).
- The practice regarding licence plates that end with even-odd numbers was introduced for commercial taxis in Istanbul, Ankara and İzmir.

- Restrictions were imposed for the activities such as picnic, fishing, hiking, etc., in coastlines, recreational and archaeological sites, and picnic sites.
- Intercity bus services and air travel were subjected to permission.

25 circulars were issued in April 2020.

- A circular detailing the rules to be applied for international freight transport was released.
- Foreign spouses and children of Turkish citizens were allowed to enter Türkiye on the condition that they certify their situation.
- Employees in key-strategic sectors were instructed to be provided with the necessary convenience in their travels in order to avoid disrupting the supply chain.
- In order not to interrupt agricultural production, it was instructed that the necessary measures should be taken for seasonal agricultural workers who need to travel between cities and those occupied with animal husbandry.
- Between April 10-12, April 17-19, and April 22-26, all citizens within the borders of Zonguldak and 30 provinces with metropolitan status were restricted from going out.
- The scope of the travel permits to be issued was identified in the additional circular regarding the 30 provinces subject to restrictions (establishment of a travel permit unit within GAMER (Security and Emergency Situation Coordination Centre), e-application system and ALO 199).

- Instruction to take the necessary precautions for feeding stray animals was given.
- It was announced that children and adolescents diagnosed with “Special Needs” such as autism, Down syndrome would be exempted from the curfew imposed on those under the age of 20.
- For Zonguldak province and 30 provinces with metropolitan status, all entries/exits from the provincial borders by land, air and sea (public vehicle, private vehicle and pedestrian, etc.) were temporarily suspended for 15 days starting from 00:00 on Saturday, April 18, 2020.
- Youth aged under the age of 20 and children were restricted from going out.
- Measures were taken for iftaar (fast-breaking meal), shrine visits, cemetery visits, pita sales, etc.

29 circulars were issued in May 2020.

- A circular was released regarding entrance into the country of the patients and their caregivers who would come to Türkiye.
- All citizens were restricted from going out in 30 provinces with metropolitan status and Zonguldak between May 1 and 3; in 23 provinces with metropolitan status and Zonguldak between May 9 and 10; in 15 provinces between May 16 and 19, in 81 provinces between May 23 and 26; and 14 provinces with metropolitan status and Zonguldak between May 30 and 31.

- Travel restrictions for some provinces were lifted as a result of a decrease in cases.
- Some restrictions on Barbershops/Beauty Salons/Hairdressers were lifted.
- Those aged 65 and over and those aged 20 and under were allowed to go out on the specified days and times.
- It was decided to issue travel permits for tea producers so that they can harvest tea.
- Measures regarding the working procedures of the shopping malls were announced as instructions.
- It was decided to conduct simultaneous inspections in all provinces on Friday, May 15, 2020, and Thursday, May 21, 2020.
- The 14-day isolation of citizens coming from abroad in the dormitories belonging to the Higher Education Student Loans and Dormitories Institution was terminated.
- Citizens aged 65 and over were allowed to travel one way to settlements they prefer, provided that they did not return for at least one month.
- As of Friday, May 29, 2020, the rules specified by the relevant Ministries and the Presidency of Religious Affairs were notified in order to perform prayers in congregation in the mosques.
- Diners, restaurants, cafes, patisseries, cafeterias, coffee houses, tea gardens, association clubs (excluding playing cards, okey game, backgammon

games and hookah sales and live music activities for dance and games that cause direct contact), swimming pool, spa, Turkish bath, sauna, SPA centres, etc., park/picnic areas and high-end flea markets, whose activities were temporarily suspended/restricted by the circulars, were decided to be opened as of June 1, 2020, within the specified rules.

- The restriction on entry/exit to 14 provinces with metropolitan status and Zonguldak province was lifted.
- The obligation to get an HES code to use intercity buses was enforced.

32 circular were issued in June 2020.

- A circular on the removal of restrictions on entry and exit to Türkiye, excluding land border gates with Iran, was released.
- With the opening of the tourism season, the standards to be implemented in accommodation facilities and the measures to be taken as part of Covid-19 were identified.
- It was decided to hold the council meetings of local government units in accordance with identified measures.
- The curfew restriction for persons under the age of 18 was lifted, and the curfew for persons aged 65 and over was re-regulated.
- It was decided that the wedding halls could begin serving as of June 15, 2020, and the wedding-ceremony halls as of July 1, 2020, according to the identified measures.

- A circular was issued on the travels of citizens aged 65 and over for touristic purposes.
- The circulars were issued regarding the opening of internet cafes & halls, electronic game centres, theatres, cinemas, concert halls and performance centres.
- Measures were taken for the places authorised to perform sacrifices.
- It was decided to establish Provincial/District Pandemic Control Centres.
- It was decided to conduct a simultaneous inspection in all provinces on June 5, 2020.

13 circulars were issued in July 2020.

- Amusement parks and theme parks were decided to be opened.
- Restrictions on working hours of the enterprises such as diners, restaurants, cafes, cafeterias, soup shops, grilled sheep's intestines (shops, steak tartar a la Turca shops, coffee houses, tea gardens, association clubs etc. were decided to be lifted.
- A circular was issued on the prohibition of soldier send-off ceremonies.
- Contact Tracing Activities Follow-up Boards were decided to be established.
- It was decided to conduct simultaneous inspections in all provinces on July 8 and July 22, 2020.

15 circulars were issued in August 2020.

- Arrangements were made regarding the opening of football field carpets and billiard halls.
- It was decided to establish Provincial/District Pandemic Control Centres and Neighbourhood Inspection Teams affiliated with those centres.
- It was decided that curfews for citizens aged 65 and over would be carried out on a provincial basis by the Governorates, depending on the situation in the provinces.
- Activities such as weddings, engagement, etc., were decided to be banned in 15 provinces.
- It was decided to conduct simultaneous inspections in all provinces on August 6, August 11 and August 19, 2020.

14 circulars were issued in September 2020.

- As part of additional measures against Covid-19, various restrictions were imposed on some activities such as wedding, henna night, engagement etc.
- It was decided that people diagnosed with Covid-19 who did not comply with the isolation rules or lacked the opportunity to provide necessary conditions for isolation would be isolated in dormitories and hostels.
- The obligation of wearing a mask in 81 provinces was enforced.
- It was decided to file a criminal complaint in accordance with the relevant laws if patients diagnosed

with coronavirus provided incomplete information about their contacts.

- A circular was issued regarding HES code inquiries for intracity and intercity public transportation vehicles.
- A circular was released concerning the HES code inquiry of people who would stay in accommodation facilities.
- A circular was issued regarding the places that mainly operate as music hall, club, discotheque, pub, beerhouse, tavern or nightclub.
- It was decided to conduct simultaneous inspections in all our provinces on September 4, September 10, September 17, September 23 and September 29, 2020.

Seven circulars were issued in October 2020.

- It was decided that the activities to be organised by non-governmental organisations, public professional organisations, senior organisations, unions, and cooperatives should be postponed from October 2, 2020, until December 1, 2020.
- A circular was issued regarding the standardisation of the administrative fine report.
- The obligation to obtain a Safe Tourism Certificate was imposed for accommodation facilities of 30 rooms or more.
- It was decided to conduct simultaneous inspections in all provinces on October 7, October 15 and October 18, 2020.

Ten circulars were issued in November 2020.

- In 81 provinces, it was decided to increase inspections in areas where citizens can gather in large numbers, close the identified workplaces at 22:00 at the latest, and change the working hours for public personnel in order to facilitate the transition to flexible working hours.
- It was decided to continue face-to-face education activities in kindergartens and daycare centres.
- Curfew was implemented at certain times during the weekdays and throughout the weekend.
- In all provinces, the smoking ban was imposed in open areas where citizens gather.
- A circular was issued for the postponement of the general assemblies of non-governmental organisations, associations, public professional institutions, senior organisations, unions and cooperatives.
- Accommodation facilities were instructed to provide services only for in-house customers.
- Additional measures were taken for the citizens aged 65 and over and under 20 to use public transportation, and for hosting guests, ceremonies for religious holidays, condolences, New Year's Eve celebrations to stop, and funeral ceremonies, wedding ceremonies, shopping malls, bazaars, crowded streets and squares and kindergartens for the fight against the pandemic.
- A circular was issued regarding citizens aged 65 and over to go out between 10:00-16:00.

- It was decided to conduct simultaneous inspections in all provinces on November 25, 2020.

Eight circulars were issued in December 2020.

- It was decided that New Year's Eve celebrations and entertainment events held in hotels/accommodation facilities would not be permitted.
- Measures to be implemented on the streets, boulevards and squares on New Year's Eve were determined.
- It was decided to introduce a lockdown between December 31, 2020, and January 4, 2021.
- Measures were taken for amateur hand-line fishing.
- On weekdays and weekends, online food and supermarket ordering companies were permitted to operate between 10:00 and 24:00 hours.
- A circular on preventing the abuse of lockout restriction exemptions was issued.

Five circulars were issued in January 2021.

- Measures were taken against non-compliance with the rules in ski hotels/facilities.
- It was decided that courses providing vocational education as well as certain course instructors affiliated with the Ministry of National Education and students who attended these courses would be considered exempt from lockdown restrictions.
- Measures were taken at the border crossings in response to the emergence of a new variant of the Co-

vid-19 virus. Flights to the UK, Denmark, Brazil and South Africa were halted.

12 circulars were issued in February 2021.

- A regulation was made for granting exemption to students/teachers/personnel that would begin formal education.
- Due to the February 14, flower stores were granted an exemption.
- A regulation was put in place, enabling citizens to pay their tax obligations at tax administrations on Saturday, February 27, and Sunday, February 28.

One circular was issued in March 2021.

- It was decided that the measures and rules that have already been implemented in the new controlled normalisation process could be eased gradually after March 1, 2021, taking into account the progress of the outbreak on a provincial basis according to the established criteria, and it was communicated to the public.

Inspection

As part of the fight against the Coronavirus pandemic, inspection activities have been carried out to ensure the compliance of measures/rules laid down for all branches of businesses and living environments as well as hygiene, mask and distance rules which are fundamental principles of controlled social life, under the coordination of governors/district governors in order to effectively counteract the pandemic.

Inspection Numbers

Inspections carried out by Governorates/District Governorates

Number of ex officio inspections	40.835.313
Number of inspections on denunciation	469.098
Total number of inspections	41.298.748
Number of Inspections of persons under isolation	31.394.762

Administrative Sanctions after Inspections:

As a result of inspections performed from March 15, 2020, when the outbreak began, to the present, the governorates/district governorates have imposed the following sanctions:

Number of people against whom a criminal complaint was filed	71.011
Number of people receiving administrative fines	2.001.920
Number of workplaces against which a criminal complaint was made	28.336
Number of workplaces on which closing sanction was imposed	13.663
Number of workplaces that received administrative fines	76.808
Number of people who disobeyed the mask rule	1.148.145

Vefa Social Support Group

Vefa social support groups have been established to meet the needs of citizens aged 65 and above and with chronic diseases. A total of 144,907 individuals, consisting of public personnel and NGO volunteers, serve in Vefa Social Support Groups.

From the citizens aged 65 and above:

- A total of 10.613.001 service requests were received through hotlines such as 112, 155 and 156.
- About 10 million of these requests were fulfilled.

Within the scope of the services provided through Vefa Social Support Groups;

- 3,124,580 residences were visited as part of the “Social Protection Shield” developed by the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services.
- A total of 2,926,956,599 TL was paid to citizens aged 65 and above in their homes, including pensions for the elderly and disabled, retirement pensions, İŞKUR (Turkish Employment Agency) payments and payments under the economic stability package.
- Citizens received a total of 5,991,887 gift packages (mask-cologne) prepared by the Presidency and distributed through Vefa Social Support Groups.

E-Application

It is a system that aims to receive all service applications provided by the Ministry of Interior to citizens in an electronic medium. The system architecture is designed as a structure in which the application is made via e-Government, and the service is completed via the preferred method of the citizen (SMS, e-mail, official letter). The e-application, which began on January 27, 2020, with the integration of the first 11 services into the E-Government Gateway, was also used as a key tool in the Covid-19 period.



In the fight against the pandemic, the “Travel permit” module, which was integrated into the Ministry of Interior’s e-application system, received travel permission requests from citizens who required them during the periods when travel restrictions were imposed. The practice of issuing travel permits via e-application began on May 21, 2020, and the following are the numbers of applications received up to date:

The number of travel permit applications	3.819.684,
The number of approved applications	2.097.690,
The number of rejected applications	1.674.254.

112 Vefa Communication Application

112 Vefa Communication Application was introduced by the Department of Information Technologies in order to manage emergencies during the pandemic. The function that allows the personnel to display and approve citizen's "Travel permit" requests via the 112 Vefa Communication Application was quickly integrated into the application and put into use.



3.7. Steps to Support the Industry

In addition to taking necessary measures in the field of industry to ensure the continuity of production and economic life and to avoid interruption of the supply chain and social life, sectorial supports were provided; and incentives were increased for projects in order to meet new production needs on the basis of shifted priorities.

Ensuring the Continuity of Production in Industry

- It was crucial in some industrial sectors to continue the production during the lockdown imposed as part of the pandemic response. Aside from meeting the basic needs of citizens, the sectors in which it is obligatory to continue the production processes were determined, and production activities in those sectors were exempted from the lockdown.
- Antibody and PCR tests were performed on more than 50 thousands industrial workers within organised industrial zones, ensuring both the safety of workers and uninterrupted production.

Covid-19 Combat and Resilience Programme of Development Agencies

- 63 projects from the public, private sector, and non-governmental organisations received a funding of 39 million TL as part of the Covid-19 Combat and Resilience Programme, which was announced on March 31, 2020, and the project size totalled 48 million TL when the co-financing amounts were included.
- Prevention and containment of the virus, emergency preparedness and response for the public health, and mitigating the adverse effects of the pandemic on national and regional economies were determined as three priorities of the programme.

SME Techno Investment Programme

- SMEs manufacturing disinfectants, cologne, protective clothing, safety goggles, masks, gloves, etc., received a support of up to 6 million TL as part of the SME Techno Investment Programme.

Remote Working and Rental Support to R&D Centres and Technology Development Zones (TDZ)

- An infrastructure was established to carry out R&D and design activities, which are conducted in technoparks as well as R&D and Design Centres, in areas other than those places for a period of 7 months beginning on March 11, 2020, and the staff was enabled to work remotely without difficulty. After the expiration of that period, it was extended for another year, and any interruption and delay in implementation were avoided.

- Incubation companies in technoparks as well as commercial establishments such as restaurants and cafés operating in those Technoparks were exempt from paying rent for two months. Similarly, 2-month rental payments of companies engaged in R&D and Design activities in Technoparks were postponed, and their payment schedules were made more convenient.

Additional Time for Investment Projects in Organised Industrial Zones (OIZs)

- Investors who were unable to obtain a building licence were granted an additional six months, and those who were unable to complete their investments within the additional period allowed could be given an extension of 1+1 year.

Extension of Project Time and Facility of Payments for SMEs

- Enterprises, which benefitted from the Small and Medium Industry Development Organisation's (KOSGEB) project-based support programmes and entrepreneurship supports and project duration of which ended on and after March 11, 2020, were granted an extension of up to 4 months.
- Instalment payments of enterprises receiving repayable supports included in KOSGEB's project-based support programmes were deferred by three months.
- In the programs implemented by KOSGEB as part of the Credit Interest Support Regulation, April, May and June 2020 credit instalments due to debts of

713 million TL to be paid to banks by 136,255 enterprises who continue to prepay their credits were deferred for a period of three months at no expense.

Additional Time to the Annual Operating Statement

- Industrialists who were unable to provide an annual operating statement, which needs to be completed by the end of April each year, were granted an extension of up to 4 months. In this context, 56,235 industrialists' requests via e-government to notify force majeure and defer data entry beginning April 17, 2020, were quickly fulfilled.

Credit Support for Investment Financing

- Covid-19 pandemic is considered a force majeure; investors' requests for interest and dividend support were met without leaving them unassisted if credits used to finance investments were fulfilled after the maturity of the repayment obligations or if a restructuring request was made.

Additional Time to Investment Incentive Certificates

- In order to ensure that investments that were left unfinished or could not be completed due to natural or biological disasters such as earthquakes or pandemics were completed, an extended duration of up to one year could be granted when required.

Prevention of Industrial Property Right Losses

- In an attempt to provide industrial property application and registration services in an uninterrupted and efficient manner, the Turkish Patent and Trade-

mark Institution built the technical infrastructure required for remote work, and industrial property registration activities were carried out remotely.

- In addition to other administrative periods, periods of prescription for industrial property rights were halted until June 15, 2020, avoiding potential right losses related to industrial property.

Extension of Inspection Periods for Measuring Instruments

- Inspections were allowed to proceed in 2021 to avoid leaving citizens and authorised services, who applied for inspection in 2020, without assistance.

Electronic Industry Registry Certificate (E-Document) Application

- As a result of the update in the Industrial Registry Information System, it was moved to the Industrial Registry Certificate (e-document) Application in which all transactions related to an industrial registry such as first registration, documentation, visa, modification, etc. are offered (e-document) by the e-government without the need to apply in person. In this context, 52,543 transactions have been carried out in electronic medium since April 17, 2020.
- “Covid-19 Hygiene, Infection Prevention and Control Guide for Industrial Enterprises” was prepared in order to keep our industrial infrastructure and production capacity running in all situations, including a challenging pandemic. This guide, whose goal is to establish a working atmosphere that is “reliable”, “not impacted by the pandemic”, and “hygienic”, provides organisations with the opportu-

nity to build a preventive mechanism in response to negative scenarios, which might arise during the pandemic. Under the logo of TSE (Turkish Standards Institute) COVID-19 SAFE PRODUCTION, information programme for Covid-19 Hygiene, Infection Prevention and Control Certification Programme was prepared based on the guide, and certification has been carried out through inspections in industrial organisations.

- TSE created the “Covid-19 Hygiene, Infection Prevention, and Control Guide for the Service Sector” by incorporating the service sector as well as industrial organisations to its initiatives conducted during the Covid-19 period. Unique to a given sector, the TSE COVID-19 SAFE PRODUCTION logo was developed, and certification for organisations operating in the service sector has begun as part of the programme.
- Safe Tourism Criteria were established under the leadership of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and with the support of TSE, and a certification programme was introduced. TSE has been authorised to carry out transactions of this nature. Inspections are carried out as part of the SAFE TOURISM certification programme at tourist facilities that have applied.
- In order for all stakeholders of educational institutions to continue their education and training activities in a healthy and safe environment as part of the pandemic response, the “Guide for the Creation of Hygiene Conditions for Educational Institutions, Infection Prevention and Control” was prepared in collaboration with the Ministry of National

Education. Following that, another certification programme was established under the name of MY SCHOOL-CLEAN for educational institutions with the goal of certifying that a safe environment is created for school stakeholders; and certificates have been issued by carrying out investigations in private schools that have applied.

- The Council of Higher Education and TSE signed a cooperation protocol with the aim of establishing the general criteria, including the measures to create a healthy and clean environment in the campuses of higher education institutions. “Guide to Developing Healthy and Clean Environment in Higher Education Institutions in the Context of a Global Pandemic” was published. A certification programme was established under the logo of “SAFE CAMPUS CERTIFICATE in the Context of a Global Pandemic”, and applying universities have been certified.



3.8. Measures in the fields of Transport and Communication

During the pandemic period, the need for electronic communication services has further increased, and to be able to provide service uninterruptedly has become more critical. In addition to this, to prevent the supply chain from being interrupted, exerting extra efforts in carrying out the transport activities had particular importance. The works carried out by public institutions within this scope are the following:

Correspondence and Communication Services

- Within the scope of continuity in communication, no disruptions/interruptions have been in the Satellite Communication, Cable TV and Cable Internet, e-Government Gateway and public informatics projects.
- TRT-EBA TV channels have been ensured to be broadcast through the satellites and Cable TV with high-speed by joint efforts of Turkish Radio and Television Corporation (TRT) and the Ministry of National Education (MEB).
- Services such as PTT (General Directorate of Post and Telegraph Organisation) Mask Application, Ministry of

Family Social Aid Application, Ministry of Interior e-Application Query, Ministry of Health HES code Generation and Query were put into immediate use.

- Through the efforts made, over 50 million citizens have been enabled to reach over five thousand public services without leaving their homes.
- Within this context, the e-Government Gateway used 3.8 times in 2019 with a 319 million monthly average, was used 5.7 billion times in 2020 with a 477 million monthly average.

Electronic Correspondence Services

- As an outcome of the coordination initiatives carried out by the Information Technologies and Communications Authority (BTK), the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure and the Ministry of Interior aiming for the electronic correspondence service provided by the operators not to be disrupted, the care and maintenance and new facility activities required in the communication services were enabled to be carried out smoothly, and the issue of a service breakdown was not experienced as the personnel assigned to maintain the operators' service delivery were exempted from the lockdown measures, the bureaucratic processes in frequency allocations aimed at the installation of some of the infrastructures (radio link) of BTK were minimised, and the required information was obtained afterwards.
- The regulation was introduced to implement contact-free delivery methods at the delivery of the e-commerce mails without requesting signatures or ID numbers, ag-grieving the user, and with sufficient informing.

- All necessary measures to sustain cyber-security during the pandemic period were taken. Within this framework, the “Measures against Remote Access Services” document, the document regarding the measures to be taken against phishing with “Coronavirus” and “Covid-19” subjects and fake applications in this context, the recommendation document which included the matters to pay attention to from the point of cybersecurity during the use of software for videoconferences and meetings were prepared and published.
- The constant monitoring of the increases in the network data traffic due to the changes arising in this period, such as the shift in social life, working at home and distance learning implementations and implementation of necessary measures in case of congestion that could arise in emergencies are ensured by the operators in coordination with TRCERT. The consistency of the distance learning services of MEB, EBA (Educational Informatics Network) and the universities are monitored. The daily reporting of the traffic relating to the service quality has been provided to TRCERT by the operators.
- Through domestic and national applications called AVCI, AZAD and KASIRGA, 25,380 vulnerabilities have been detected in 750 different fake conference applications and distance management services by utilising artificial intelligence technologies.
- Through the Sinkhole application, the institutions and organisation accessing the harmful links banned by TRCERT are being identified and informed.
- 119 detailed harmful software inspections on Covid-19 have been carried out.
- At the beginning of the pandemic period, information

on 569 harmful software was shared with the SOMEs. 1,657 harmful droppers and command control centres relating to Covid-19 were banned.

- Through the ATMACA project developed by the internal human resource, which operates integrated with KASIRGA, the risk from 436 vulnerabilities has been proactively prevented through the regular controls carried out for each of the 16 million IP addresses.
- The national and domestic KULE software has been developed for the data to be managed more efficiently by the analysts and to communicate the information relating to cybersecurity shortages detected to the interested parties faster.

Civil Aviation Services

World aviation is the sector most adversely affected by the pandemic, experiencing 60% downsizing with the Covid-19 breaking out in 2020. According to the reports of the international organisations, it is estimated that the passenger revenues of the airline businesses will decrease by approximately 350 billion dollars in 2020 compared to the previous year, and the jobs of approximately 26 million employees within the sector will be at risk.

Measures

- Before the Covid-19 pandemic had been declared to be a pandemic, the growth rate of the pandemic in the world occurred at a scale greater than it had been presumed, and the role of air travel, which provided fast transport to faraway locations, in the rate of this growth began to be discussed. Therefore, the need to take a series of measures arose in the airports of Türkiye, where no case had yet been detected.

- International flights gradually began to be cancelled in coordination with the Ministry of Health starting from February 5, 2020, and all the flights were cancelled on March 27, 2020.
- During the normalisation period, activities were sustained in accordance with the precautions and measures adopted by the international organisations of which Türkiye held a membership. Within this framework:
 - The legislation has been revised according to the pandemic conditions.
 - Domestic flights have been gradually given a start as of June 1, 2020.
 - International flights have been gradually reopened as of June 11, 2020, after having separate correspondences and negotiations with all the countries our country holds a bilateral aviation agreement.
- To help the sector recover, support and incentive payments have been provided.
- The requirements on the Airport Pandemic Precautions and Certification Circular and its annexe, the Airport Covid-19 Standards Guideline, have been met in all our operating airports and within this scope, our airports have become certified.
- As a result of the R&D works conducted by the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye, the required planning has been done for the use of the UV-C disinfection devices in the airports, the inactivating Covid-19 property of which has been proved in the Erciyes University Laboratories of Kayseri by the test done using 100% active Covid-19.

- Within this framework, procurement and installation of 20 Tunnel Type Ultraviolet Sterilisation Devices and 27 Escalator Handrail Ultraviolet Sterilisation Devices have been carried out.
- All publications released by relevant international organisations such as ICAO, ACI, IATA, EASA etc., have been closely followed; the ones that could suggest importance have been made available for the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure after being translated.
- In June 2020, the Covid-19 Aviation Health Safety Protocol programme was initiated by EASA and ECDC (European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control). The airline operators have been regularly participating and providing the requested data to EASA within the scope of the programme in question. Türkiye joined the programme in question on July 14, 2020.

Sectorial Supports

- During this period, a postponement was made in order to support the airline operators providing service in airports, ground handling companies and individuals and organisations operating commercial volumes by adding 90 days to their payment periods starting from the beginning of the pandemic process to all the invoices issued for March, April and May; and later, due to the continuation of the pandemic, the monthly invoices issued in March, and the invoices issued in April, May and June for three months and delayed for 90 days were postponed to January 31, 2021.
- 38 million TL debt belonging to the operators of airport, terminal and ground handling services for the license and renewal payments was postponed.

- Seven million TL of contribution was made through deciding on a 50% discount in the 2020 service rate of the Directorate of Civil Aviation.
- Fifteen million TL debt of the hot air balloon operators for the license and renewal payments was postponed.
- With the regulation on passenger rights, 750 million dollars of uncontrolled cash outflow from the airlines due to ticket refunds were prevented. It was guaranteed that the ticket refunds would be made two months after the commencement of the flights in terms of passenger rights.
- All licensed aviation personnel's licence validity periods were extended.
- Payments of the invoices relating to the aircraft services of Turkish Airlines (THY) and the other airline organisations taking place between July 1, 2020, and December 31, 2020, that were/would be issued were postponed to January 31, 2021, without requesting overdue interest. Payment of a total of 78 million TL was postponed.
- The fees collected for the prolongation of the airport working hours due to the evacuation flights carried out by THY aiming to bring our citizens residing abroad back to our country were also cancelled.
- For ground handling companies, the deadline for work license renewal payments corresponding to March, April and May, which had been postponed, and the invoices of June were postponed to January 31, 2021, without overdue interest. A total of 910,600 Euros of Work License Renewal payment was postponed for three months.
- Sums of the rental invoices issued in 2020 for the airline, ground handling companies and renters managing commercial volumes operating at airports, the due of which

had been postponed to January 31, 2020, were cancelled.

- Sums of the rental invoices of the areas allocated to the relevant persons and organisations, which were issued for a 3-month-period in April, May, June last year and for a 6-month-period between July 1 and December 31, 2020, the dues of which were postponed, were cancelled. The rents for the period of 2021-2022 will be implemented with a 50% discount for two years.
- No increase has been reflected on the rents of 2021 and the Directorate General of State Airports Authority's tariff of fares of 2021.
- Renewal payments of 2021 have been postponed till September.
- Necessary precautions were taken relating to the contracts signed with the airport/terminal operator companies.
- E-tendering via videoconference has been carried out and will continue to be carried out.
- E-Direct Procurement Application was initiated on February 1, 2021, as the pilot application.

Postal Services

During the pandemic that spread in our country as well as the whole world, almost all of the efforts in transporting the government aids within the scope of the struggle against Covid-19 have been carried out by the PTT.

Measures

- The measures have been taken in accordance with the precautions applied in the member countries of the Universal Postal Union.

- Within the scope of combating the Covid-19 pandemic, measures are taken at the level of both the country's postal administrations and international organisations and unions to ensure that the postal sector continues its services safely.
- The delivery of the masks sent by our government to our citizens free of charge at their residences was conducted by PTT.
- The delivery of salary and social aid payments of the citizens over 65 at their residences, delivery of their e-Government passwords to their residences if they filed their applications through the e-Government gateway without going to PTT branches, and the transportation of the masks sent to the institutions by the State Supply Office were carried out.
- In order to reduce the possible risks that could occur during the delivery of the mail, the application that enables verification with an SMS code without requiring a TR identification number and signature has been put into use.
- Our "PTT SMS Loan" service has been initiated in order to receive loan applications from our retired customers via SMS.
- Among the face-to-face trainings cancelled due to Covid-19, the contents of which are available on PTT Academy have been provided to the personnel in the form of e-training.
- The Payments of the Economic Stability Shield Support Programme were started to be made to the right-holders with the delivery at residence.



Highway Works

It has been ensured that the personnel and suppliers are exempted from the travel and transportation restrictions so that the construction site activities are not interrupted in order for the investments to proceed during the pandemic process. Investments carried out in this context are as follows:

- 1,014 km-long Divided Road (463 km-long Motorway included),
- 1,756 km-long Hot Bituminous Mixture coating,
- 588 km-long Single-track Road,
- 352 of 42,9 km-long bridges
- 45 of 75,5 km-long tunnels

were put into service upon the completion of their construction.



- Some of the motorways constructed through the Build Operate Transfer Model:
 - Ankara – Niğde Motorway (330 km-long) and
 - Menemen – Aliğa – Çandarlı Motorway (96 km-long) were put into service.
 - Northern Marmara Motorway (398 km-long) have been completed except for its 9,1 km-long 7th section. (The remaining 9,1 km-long section is aimed to be opened to traffic during the first half of 2021.)
- The tenders of the Aydın-Denizli Motorway and Northern Marmara Motorway 8th Section (between Başakşehir-Nakkaş) Motorways were made as a part of the motorway projects set to be realised through Public-Private Sector Cooperation.

- The tender for the Aydın-Denizli Motorway's Construction, Operation and Transfer work utilising the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) Model was made on July 3, 2020. And on November 16, 2020, its ground-breaking ceremony was performed, and the work was started.
- On June 30 2020, the Northern Marmara Motorway (Including the 3rd Bosphorus Bridge) Project Nakkaş-Başakşehir Section (including Link Roads) Construction, Operation and Transfer Work with the Build-Operate-Transfer Model was made through the Sealed Bidding Procedure.
- Emergency response teams have been determined and assigned to ensure traffic safety, including the supply chain, and avoid disruptions in transportation. The sustainability of the correspondence officers on the Highway Consultancy Hotline Unit ALO 159 and the readiness of on-duty snow removal and emergency response teams in the Highways Branches were planned, and uninterrupted continuity in the works was ensured.
- The restaurants, cafés and shopping malls located inside the Highway Service Facilities were kept open while limited to the working hours in strict social distancing terms and by practising the hygiene rules.
- Via the VTS (Variable Traffic Signs) along the roads, the citizens using the Highways were informed about the Covid-19.
- Necessary changes were made temporarily on the letter of conveyance, qualifying the contractors working with our institution to be fiscally supported.

Railway Services

Passenger Transport Services

- Within the scope of Covid-19 measures, all passenger trains and sets are subjected to disinfection along with the compartments where passengers travel.
- The first fever measurement was made with our thermal cameras at the entrance of passenger trains through Kapıkule from Europe and Kapıköy, if and when the Iran Transasia services start, and the necessary measures were taken to make a comprehensive health check and to determine the quarantine place and time.
- High-speed trains were operated between May 28, 2020, and March 1, 2021, with a 50% capacity and seating arrangement convenient for social distance.
- Başkentray in Ankara and Marmaray in Istanbul continued to be operated for healthcare professionals and our citizens who had to go to work on weekends when the lockdown was imposed.
- A seating arrangement was established in the Marmaray and Başkentray routes in line with the decisions of the Provincial Sanitation Boards.
- Healthcare professionals have been granted the right to travel free of charge with Marmaray and Başkentray; within this scope, 113,120 health workers in Başkentray and 2,322,971 health workers in Marmaray have travelled free of charge since March 24, 2020.

Freight Transport Services

In order to prevent the Covid-19 pandemic, the restriction of cross-country transitions has disrupted the supply chain all over the world. In this period, after the measures and restrictions imposed by the countries on border crossings, our government immediately took the necessary precautions for the continuation of rail freight transport, kept the borders open for rail transport, and there was a significant amount of freight flow from road transport to the railway.

- Necessary measures have been taken in order to meet these increasing demands and not to disrupt the supply chain, and transportation at all our railway border gates has started to be carried out without human contact.
- A wagon disinfection system was established on both our Border Station's Türkiye side and on the other side. In this regard, at the Kapıköy border station with Iran, the international freight transportation continued without human contact, provided that locomotives remain within their own borders and freight wagons are disinfected.
- International freight transportation continued without any restrictions at the border stations Kapıkule with Bulgaria and Ahılkelek with Georgia.
- A wagon disinfection system was established at the Iran-Türkiye railway border station, thereby ensuring the disinfection of coming and going wagons.
- An initiative was made to transport 3,500 tons of cargo per day in addition to the current load carried on the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway line.
- In 2020, international freight transportation increased by 35% to 3.4 million tons, and total freight transportation increased by 2% to 29.9 million tons.

Social Support Services

- The Social Support Service was established to support railway workers who or whose relatives became ill due to Covid-19.
- Based on the fact that individual efforts, as well as institutional measures, are very important against coronavirus, passengers and staff are made aware of careful compliance with hand hygiene and other recommendations with posters and videos prepared by the Ministry of Health.
- In the first stage, the General Directorate of State Railways of the Republic of Türkiye (TCDD) Occupational Health and Safety Board convened with an urgent agenda and made a decision to set an example for the staff.
- In the second stage, additional decisions were taken to include passenger services at the terminals and stations.
- In the third stage, the Pandemic Risk Assessment, which included all these decisions and additional measures to be taken depending on the progress of the pandemic, and the Pandemic Emergency Plan Covid-19 Guide, which defines the actions to be taken in case of an infected employee/passenger, were published.

Coastal Safety

- The Coastal Safety General Directorate Teams, who work 24/7, provided 270 patient transfers from the regions with difficulty in transportation in all weather conditions, especially in the islands region, and from the ships navigating when needed.



3.9. Agriculture Friendly Regulations

All preparations were made in agriculture and food supply before the Covid-19 started to affect our country in order to develop new policies and strategies by taking into account the social demands emerging in the sustainable management of resources and global developments and changes. Within this context, quick and effective meetings were held with retailers, suppliers, producers and agricultural NGOs, the necessary measures were taken at the highest level at every stage ranging from the raw material procurement to product deliveries of food enterprises, the product stocks were checked, and the inspections to ensure hygiene conditions were tightened and strict monitoring was carried out to avoid price increases. Continuity has been achieved in the supply of agricultural and food products. While the supermarket shelves were quickly emptied globally, the food needs of more than 83 million citizens were met in Türkiye with the activities conducted.

Ensuring Continuity of Production in Agriculture and Animal Husbandry

- All necessary measures have been taken to ensure that the food production and value chain remain alive and to keep the entire system, from supply to logistics, working.

- Citizens engaged in agriculture and animal husbandry activities were exempted from the lockdown.
- Intercity travels of seasonal agricultural workers are also facilitated. Permits of seasonal workers for tea harvest have started to be obtained via e-government, and they have been provided to go to the provinces for tea harvest as of May 20, 2020.
- In order to avoid problems in the sustainability of production and food supply during the Covid-19 period, a Scientific Board was established in the field of Agriculture and Food.
- Stocks of products to meet the demand were controlled, inspections for ensuring hygiene conditions were tightened, and a strict follow-up was made to prevent the price increases.
- During the pandemic, farmers, those engaged in animal husbandry and food-processing enterprises, continued their activities without interruption.
- The Digital Agricultural Market (DİTAP), which will ensure planned production and is a very significant project for digitalisation in agriculture, has been implemented.
- The continuation of the activities such as sowing, planting, fertilisation, irrigation, agricultural spraying, hoeing, upkeeping has been ensured in 81 provinces.
- All farmers were able to reach their fields, gardens, greenhouses and farms easily.
- The production, access and distribution of agricultural inputs such as fertilisers, seeds, pesticides, feeds, etc., continued uninterruptedly.

- Veterinarians and agricultural engineers have been with the producers in the field.
- Agricultural worker' access to hygiene and protective equipment has been facilitated.
- ALO174 Food Line and WhatsApp Denunciation Line (0 501 174 0 174) provide 24/7 service regarding the denunciations, complaints, questions and problems of the citizens.
- The e-Farmer portal was launched.
- All measures have been taken to prevent the animals from being ignored for any reason and not to be left without food or water during the pandemic through 15 regional offices, 81 provincial directorates and 159 chief offices under the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks.

Agricultural Supports

- 60% of the agricultural support was paid to the farmers in the first five months.
- The amount of agricultural support was increased by 37% compared to the previous year and reached 22 billion TL in 2020.
- Plant production support worth 11.5 billion TL has been paid so far, 80% of which (9.86 billion TL) was paid in the first six months of 2020.
- Acting in a limited time, during the period when there were restrictions in intercity transportation, 6,100 tons of wheat, barley, lentil, dry bean, corn, sunflower and paddy seeds were distributed through a 75% grant.
- The existing fertiliser support has been increased by 100% to ensure that agricultural production continues uninterruptedly.



- Fertiliser supports for cereals (wheat, barley, rye, oats, triticale) was increased from 8 TL to 16 TL per decare, for other products from 4 TL to 8 TL per decare, and in addition to producers using organic and organo-mineral fertilisers, the support payment was increased from 10 TL to 20 TL per decare.
- Within the context of Plant Production Supports, in order to prevent our producers from having difficulties during the Covid-19 period, the difference (premium) supports and Good Agricultural Practices and Organic Agriculture supports application periods were extended.
- The deadline for the application to premium supports for oilseed plants, and table olives was extended to April 30, 2020, premium supports for cereals, legumes and grain corn to May 29, 2020, and support for 'Good Agricultural Practices and Organic Agriculture' to April 30, 2020.
- The lease payments for April, May and June of the farmers who rented the agricultural lands belonging to the



Treasury were postponed for six months. 10 thousand 375 farmers benefited from this postponement.

- Efforts have been accelerated to enable the uncultivated treasury lands to be opened for production. In addition to the effective fight against Covid-19, Treasury properties with a total area of 14 million m² in seven provinces determined by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, including particularly the Eastern Anatolian Region, to ensure sustainability in the agricultural production and to protect food supply security, to be used within the scope of the initiatives that will improve plant production, especially cereals, legumes, oilseeds and feed plants have been allocated to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry to be utilised within the framework of the projects to be carried out with farmers as part of the 'Plant Production Development Project'.
- Soil Products Office (TMO) cereals and legumes purchase prices were announced on May 4 before the harvest.

- Bread wheat purchase price was increased by 22% compared to the previous year and reached 1,650 TL per ton.
- The supply of rice and legumes in TMO stocks was increased.
- For consumers who do not have access to its offices, retail sales continue increasingly at TMO's online sales system <https://www.epttavm.com> and TMO's 150 sales points across the country.
- The tea purchase price in 2020 was increased by 12.8% compared to the previous year and reached 3 TL 27 kuruş. With the support of 13 kuruş, the amount received by the producer per kilogram reached 3 TL and 40 kuruş.
- With R&D activities, a total of 79 varieties consisting of field crops, 25 of which are wheat, 16 fruit varieties, nine vegetable varieties and six ornamental plant varieties, have been registered and brought into production.
- Loan terms and interest rates were changed in order to reduce the adverse effects on the wood industry during the pandemic.
- Interest rates were revised as 0.5% on a monthly basis and 6 points on an annual basis.
- The term (depending on the sales status) has been extended by two months.
- In sales, the amount of down payment has been reduced by 20% to 25% according to product types.
- A grant of 17 million TL was given to villages for afforestation projects.

Animal Husbandry Support

- Animal husbandry support reached 6.6 billion TL in 2020, with an increase of 32% compared to the previous year.

- Raw Milk Premium Support for December 2019, January, February and March 2020 was increased up to 15 kurus in order to protect the milk producer and ensure sustainability in production.
- The second-period calf support applications were received for once without the need for a written request from the breeders.
- For dairy and stock businesses, 65 TL support per animal was provided to the enterprises registered in the Ministry Registration System, with up to 20 dairy cows meeting the specified conditions.
- In small cattle, support of 6.5 TL per animal was provided to the enterprises with up to 50 maternal sheep and goats registered in the Sheep-Goat Information System.
- During the Covid-19 period, feed support was initiated for small family businesses in order to protect our milk producers and livestock.
- In order to avoid any problems in the feed industry, TMO's product allocation amount to the feed industry and to our breeders has been increased.
- TMO started the sale of barley to livestock raisers in March, April and May 2020, with a 90-day maturity and no maturity difference.

Loan Support

- A low-interest loan has been provided to meet the financing needs of the farmers. Loans from Ziraat Bank and Agricultural Credits Cooperatives are subsidised at the rate from 25% to 100%.

- Ziraat Bank and Agricultural Credit Cooperatives' principal and interest amounts of the loans, which will expire in April and May 2020, have been postponed for six months without interest.
- With the Presidential Decision dated February 3, 2021, and numbered 3489, the loan instalments of approximately 161 thousand agricultural producers reaching 6 billion TL were included in the scope of postponement, and as a result of the applications, 97 thousand agricultural producers preferred to postpone the instalment amounted to 4.5 billion TL for six months without interest. Within the context of the aforementioned postponement, approximately 270 million TL of resources were transferred from the budget.
- With the measures taken by the Agricultural Credit Cooperatives, flexibility was allowed for delays in loan payments.
- The delayed loans were allowed to wait 180 days instead of 90 days before being transferred to follow-up accounts.
- Due to the credit debts of the farmers, force majeure was noted in their registry in the Risk Centre, and their aggrievement was prevented.
- Ziraat Bank provided a 36-month low-interest loan facility for farmers for outright payment of their accumulated agricultural electricity and irrigation debt.

Project Support

- For the continuation of agriculture and animal husbandry investments, a call for a project grant of 158 mil-

lion Euros (1.2 billion TL) has been made within the scope of Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance Rural Development (IPARD) supports.

- The process of signing the grant contract of the 13th Stage Rural Development Investments Support Programme (KKYDP) has been extended for one month.
- Within the context of the Göksu Taşeli Basin Development Project (GTHKP) supported by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), grant calls in Konya and Karaman Provinces as part of the Project were postponed until the pandemic threat disappears.
- Within the scope of KKYDP, IPARD, Experts in Rural Areas, and Forest and Village Relations (ORKÖY) support, 1.1 billion TL support was paid to a total of 16,629 projects.
- KKYDP support has been extended until 2025.



3.10. Contact-free and Non-stop Trade

The difficulties in meeting the needs of restricted social life and the measures taken during the pandemic process increased the importance of the support and decisions taken in trade. In this context, a number of measures, supports and projects had been implemented in order to protect the health of those engaged in trade and meet the needs of the millions who had to spend most of the process at home and also protect the economy.

Contact-free and Smooth Continuation of Trade

- Following the closure of the Habur Customs Gate on March 1, 2020, and the start of the Contact-free Trade implementation, trade was conducted in the buffer zone by exchanging containers/trailers/drivers without human contact in order to prevent trade disruption. Vehicle crossings at the aforementioned Customs Gate are currently proceeding normally, as they were prior to the pandemic.
- The safe continuity of trade was ensured in the GTI TIR Park located at the Kapıkule Customs Gate, which opens to Bulgaria, by means of trailer/driver/container exchange without any human contact within the framework of necessary health measures.

- Within the scope of the implementation of Contact-free Trade, two-way railway operations were carried out in a controlled manner at the Kapıköy Customs Directorate opening to Iran. This implementation was terminated as of June 4, 2020.
- All measures have been taken in order to prevent congestions at Sarp Customs Gate and to ensure more effective use of Aktaş and Türkgözü Customs Gates on the condition that the number of departures, as well as those on the previous day from the aforementioned gates, were checked from the address <http://kackar.ticaret.gov.tr/duyurular/gunluk-tir-sayilari> and coordination with the aforementioned gates was sustained for conducting transportations to land border gates which open to Georgia.
- After the Gürbulak Customs Gate was closed due to the pandemic, transportations were directed to alternative routes. Transaction capacities of Sarp, Aktaş and Türkgözü gates, which are land border gates with Georgia, have been increased in order to conduct the crossings through Georgia-Azerbaijan and the Caspian. In the direction of exit on the BTK (Baku-Tbilisi-Kars) line, the carrying value of goods, which was 4,219 tons in January 2020, reached approximately 28,000 tons in June.
- Thanks to the implementation of contact-free trade conducted on the railway line with an average of 659 wagons in January-February, the total departure reached 1,797 wagons in April. As of June, 21,718 tons of goods entered on 746 wagons, and 45,354 tons of goods departed on 1,405 wagons.
- It has been ensured that the operators conduct their transactions with as little contact with our customs administrations as possible by making it possible to

provide various services offered by the customs administrations through the use of e-government or programmes accessible via the Ministry's website.

- Within the scope of the Paperless Customs Project in Exports, it was ensured that all transactions related to customs declaration were carried out in a paperless environment.
- During the pandemic, on-site customs clearance in imports was implemented for the first time, and it was ensured that all customs transactions were finalised entirely electronically and without contact.
- The authentication process for the Certificate of Origin and the Certificate of Origin Form A issued for exports by chambers and unions has been discontinued, and it has been ensured that it would be fully electronically issued and approved as of April 8, 2020.
- The implementation regarding the wet signature of customs officers sought by the authorities of the relevant country in the customs visa section of the proof of origin and circulation documents issued and approved electronically was terminated as of July 1, 2020, and the whole procedure was transferred to the electronic environment.
- The implementation of sending instant notification to the registered e-mail address in the Tracking and Following System of the operator whose name appears in the section of the declarant in the declaration has been put into use as of May 4, 2020, in customs declarations changed from yellow line to red line in order to minimise the time that the operators spend in customs administrations and ensure that trade is not disrupted.

- The declaration process of samples, exhibition and fair goods brought with the passenger, as well as samples, exhibition and fair goods temporarily taken abroad and returned with the passenger, was made faster and easier electronically.
- With the Single Window System, the necessary permit applications and approval processes for the import and export of goods were made electronically.
- Guarantee letters addressed to customs administrations within the scope of the E-Guarantee project began to be issued electronically.
- The follow-up of the risk profiles involving the determination of goods has been halted in order not to direct the goods to the red line for the determination of goods in customs administrations.
- Contact has been reduced to zero thanks to cutting-edge systems such as the CT baggage scanning system at Istanbul Airport, which takes three-dimensional high-resolution images and rotates the image 360 degrees on the operator screen.
- The detection of undeclared or prohibited items has been made possible without the need for physical intervention, thanks to passenger imaging systems that can detect goods on the passenger utilising Terahertz waves.
- Without any application from the operator, the time of permission granted by customs administrations within the scope of temporary import regime, processing regime under customs control, processing regime abroad, and temporary export has been extended until June 30, 2020. The determination of goods was completed by taking into account the document/information such as invoice information, photograph, serial number, etc.

- Temporary import permits pertained to temporarily imported goods' transportation, or packaging was also extended until December 31, 2020.
- The requests for extension of waiting periods until the goods submitted to the customs administration were subject to a customs-approved transaction and used were deemed force majeure.
- It was ensured that no fines would be imposed for arrival/departure changes in customs administration and exceeding all transit time limits in the transit regime.
- It was ensured that time proceedings in shortages and surplus detected by arrival customs would not be carried out in the transit regime.
- Deadlines for the Authorised Economic Operator Certificate application process were suspended, and the negative consequences for companies that resulted from application deadlines were avoided.
- Additional time has been granted within the scope of the Authorised Economic Operator Certificate application and post-control procedures.
- Additional time has been granted for the renewal of Approved Person Status Certificates.
- The six-month period for the late submission of the Certificate of Origin was suspended between February 1, 2020, and June 30, 2020, and the aforementioned period was reinstated as of July 1, 2020.
- The validity of precedent test reports was extended.

Flexibility in Times

- The period of permission granted by the customs administration under the temporary import, processing

under customs control, outward processing, and temporary export regimes was extended until June 30, 2020, without the need for any application by the obliged party. In these regimes, it was ensured that goods would not be directed to the red line solely for identification, except in mandatory situations requiring physical control of all goods, and that identification procedure was carried out by taking into account invoice information, photograph, serial number, and similar documents/information.

Supports Under Foreign Trade Policy

- Expenses related to virtual fair participation began to be supported by 50% and up to 50,000 USD per activity, and expenses for virtual fair organisations were supported by 50% and up to 100,000 USD per activity.
- Virtual fairs and virtual delegation events, organised for the market entry and marketing of resident cooperation organisations, companies, institutions, and organisations in Türkiye that operate in service sectors such as health tourism, informatics, cinema, education, management consulting, publishing, logistics, overseas contracting, and technical consultancy that brings in foreign currency, are being supported.
- Approximately 9,500 (9,432) business transactions were carried out by 1,100 companies with more than 2,500 (2,547) foreign companies during the 62 different virtual trade delegations were held. Nineteen virtual fairs were realised with over 154 thousand (154,065) participants.
- Membership charges for e-trade sites approved by the Ministry of Trade are subsidised at a rate of 60% and up to 8,000 TL per year for each e-trade site. The mem-

bership charges to be collected until December 31, 2020, were subsidised at a rate of 80%.

- In March 2020, the Virtual Trade Academy was made accessible to citizens, and approximately 32 thousand users entered and viewed 1 million 140 thousand pages.
- The Decision to establish Foreign Logistics Centers, where Turkish products could be stored, handled, and distributed abroad, came into effect on October 14, 2020, in order to eliminate both supply chain problems and the adverse effects of the Covid-19 pandemic in our main export markets.
- Meetings for the Export Academy training programme were transferred to a digital platform in April 2020 and continued to be held monthly for all SMEs.
- In addition to their current period, the relevant projects and activities within the scope of the systematics of enhancing international competitiveness, Global Supply Chain Competence Projects, Turquality support, systematics of design support, Türkiye Trade Center, and systematics of overseas unit-brand and promotion were given an additional 6-month period.
- Within the Development of International Competitiveness Support (UR-GE) projects, a regulation has been put in place to allow Turkish companies participating in foreign marketing and procurement delegation activities to benefit from support, even when they were carried out online.
- The “Export Academy of Women and Young Entrepreneur Exporters Development Programme,” “Türkiye Women Entrepreneurs Online/Physical Network,” and “Young Entrepreneur Online/Physical Network” projects have been developed to provide educational activi-

ties for informing women and young entrepreneurs on a variety of topics.

- Difficulties in the supply of certain products have been overcome through providing tax deductions and conveniences related to the products Türkiye required with the measures taken against the low-cost pressure of import on domestic production caused by the decrease in global demand during the pandemic process.
- Additional Customs Duties, which were previously introduced and in force for 3,193 products, were reviewed due to the pandemic process, and a significant number of them were increased until December 31, 2020; furthermore, by introducing Additional Customs Duties to 2,027 new products in 2020, the total number of product groups with Additional Customs Duties amounted to 5,220.
- Additional Customs Duties, which were previously imposed at a low rate for certain preferred country groups in textile and apparel products, have been raised to the level of “Other Countries.”
- Customs duties on iron and steel products (such as slab and billet, flat-rolled products, alloy products, profiles and stainless steel) have been temporarily raised until December 31, 2020.
- The necessary arrangements have been made in accordance with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry/Food Committee’s demands in order to ensure periodic supply security and prevent price speculation in a manner that does not put the farmers/producers at a disadvantage.

- Additional Customs Duties, particularly on products that are inputs and have a negative impact on domestic industry, have been reduced to lower levels than anticipated, taking into account sector feedback, and due to Harmonised System Code mergers, the number of products with Additional Customs Tax has decreased from 5,220 to 4,819 as of January 1, 2021.
- The importance of entering the market through e-trade, which has increased in pandemic conditions, has been emphasised in the “Market Research” studies. The “People’s Republic of China E-Trade Market” Report has been completed; the Russian Federation and Mexico E-Trade Market Reports will be finalised in the first half of 2021.
- Current Covid-19 developments were presented to exporters on the Ministry of Trade’s website as part of the country desks activities.
- In 2020, more than 10,000 company representatives took part in the 50 “Electronic Conversations with Our Trade Counselors” events held in 48 target countries.
- Programs for General Trade Delegation, General Qualified Procurement Delegation, and Special Qualified Procurement Delegation have been conducted virtually since May 2020. In 2020, 267 manufacturers/exporters companies held 1,903 bilateral business meetings with 804 foreign import companies through the 12 Virtual General Trade Delegations and one Virtual General Procurement Delegation programs.
- In the promotion activities of Türkiye’s Promotion Group (TTG), a promotional approach dominated by digital media that went beyond the traditional methods and responded to the needs of the new era was adopted.

- Due to the global pandemic, the official programme of the Izmir International Fair (IEF) and the “Izmir Business Days” programme within the Fair, which were scheduled to be held between September 3 and 8, 2020, as part of promotional activities, were revised to be held virtually this year.
- In order to prevent the loss of rights that the beneficiaries and cooperation organisations may experience due to the pandemic in the support application or submission of missing documents within the scope of Decision No. 2015/8 on Supporting Foreign Exchange Earning Service Trade and Decision No. 2564 on Branding Supports for Foreign Exchange Earning Service Sectors; it was deemed appropriate to evaluate the incurred pandemic announcement within the scope of the special and compulsory situation and force majeure and to give additional time for the right holders whose support application period or missing completion period expired between March 11, 2020, and June 30, 2020 (including these dates), by implementing the so-called dates as July 27, 2020.
- It was deemed appropriate to conclude support applications without seeking an on-site examination form.

Türk Eximbank Supports

- Türk Eximbank provided the opportunity for a 3-month maturity extension for loans originating from the CBRT and a 6-month extension for loans originating from Türk Eximbank. In 2020, the maturity of the loan of 4.4 billion USD was extended.
- The maximum maturity in FX Rediscount Credits limited with a maturity of 360 days was increased to 720 days. An FX Rediscount Credit of more than 360 days in 4 billion USD was granted in this context.

- TL Rediscount Credits have been offered to our exporters with an option of a maximum maturity of 360 days. As of the end of the year, the total amount of support in TL Rediscount Credits was 7.9 billion TL.
- The Türk Eximbank Support Package and the Stock Financing Support Package were also provided with the KGF guarantee as part of the protocols signed with the KGF (credit guarantee fund), providing a variety of security.
- The period given to exporters to fulfil their export commitments was extended for 12 months.
- Limit maturities offered to buyers in the Türk Eximbank's credit insurance programme, which offers exporters safe sales, have been extended without additional fees. In addition, the maturities of insurance premiums and buyer analysis fees paid by insured companies have been postponed.

Measures Taken Under the Internal Trade Policy

- The solidarity campaign “We Support SMEs as E-Trade” was held between May 8 and June 24, 2020. 29 enterprises/e-trade sites participated in the campaign, and approximately 135 thousand SMEs benefited from the campaign. Within the scope of the campaign, 7,076 people were employed, 3,761 SMEs were introduced to e-trade, and 1.2 billion TL was transferred to our SMEs before maturity.
- The regulation on the suspension of the execution of the punishments imposed on those convicted with bad checks and in the event that the convict pays one-tenth of the unpaid part of the check amount to the creditor within three months at the latest from the date of his

release, and the remaining part of the debt in fifteen equal instalments at two-month intervals after the end of this three-month period, the court would decide on the abolishment of the criminal conviction with all its consequences, was enacted by the GNAT General Assembly on March 24, 2020.

- The regulation that the negative records held by the Banks Association of Türkiye Risk Center in relation to bad checks, protested bills, credit card and other credit debts of natural and legal persons who impede the payments of principal, interest and/or accessories of the cash and non-cash credits they used, will not be taken into account by credit institutions and financial institutions in the event that the delayed payment of the said debts would be paid in total or restructured until December 31, 2020, was enacted by the GNAT General Assembly on March 24, 2020.
- The first instalment of the annual and additional fees to be paid by the chamber and commodity exchange members to the chambers and commodity exchanges in June has been extended to October, and the first instalment of the Union fees to be paid by chambers and commodity exchanges to the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Türkiye in July has been extended to December.
- The license validity period of licensed warehouse enterprises, whose license would expire in 2020, has been extended by one year without any further processing.
- Exorbitant price increases and stockpiling have been prohibited. The Unfair Price Assessment Board, comprised of representatives from relevant ministries as well as tradesmen, merchants, producers, and consum-

ers, has been established to inspect and check exorbitant price increases and stocking practices and impose administrative fines when necessary.

- A regulation was enacted that stated that capital companies could not distribute previous year profits and free reserves as cash outflows from the company until September 30, 2020 and that companies could only distribute 25% of their net profit for the year 2019.
- The periods given by the consumer arbitration committees for the submission of information and documents requested from the relevant persons, for the experts to prepare their reports and for the notification of the decisions of the consumer arbitration committees to the parties have been suspended for the period between March 13, 2020, and June 15, 2020.
- The consumer arbitration committees' meetings were temporarily suspended between April 10, 2020, and June 15, 2020, but the process of receiving electronic applications through e-government continued during that time.
- In the refund of the package tour contracts scheduled to be executed as of February 5, 2020, and included transportation by air, the option to be paid within 14 days following the 60th day after the flight ban has been lifted was granted. On the other hand, travel agencies were provided with the financial flexibility to ensure that the flight price included in the contract was paid to the consumer within 14 days following the 60th day after the flight ban was lifted.
- Products found to be unsafe in masks' examinations are announced through the Unsafe Product Information

System (GÜBİS). Necessary work regarding the continuity of the system electronically was carried out without delay.

- The Service Information System (SERBS) promotion ceremony was held on July 17, 2020, as a digital launch.

Measures Taken for the Supply of Critical Materials

- In order not to have any difficulties in meeting the domestic demand; as of March 4, 2020, the export of “protective mask”, “overalls”, “liquid impermeable gowns”, “goggles”, “medical and surgical masks”, and “medical sterile/non-sterile gloves” were subject to pre-authorisation.
- As of March 18, 2020, ethyl alcohol, cologne, disinfectant, hydrogen peroxide and melt-blown fabric have been included in the goods subject to registered export.
- As of May 2, 2020, the export of “ethyl alcohol, cologne, disinfectant, hydrogen peroxide” has been removed from the List of Goods Subject to Registered Export; in this regard, the registration application for these products was terminated.
- The coronavirus pandemic was recognised as force majeure, and additional time was provided for Processing Permits, Tax and Duty Exemption Certificates and export commitments related to Loans with Export Commitments.
- As of March 26, 2020, the export of “Ventilator, Ecmo, Oxygen Concentrator, Ventilator Device Consumables, Patient Circuits (Anesthesia/Ventilator Circuit), IV Cannula, Intubation Tubes and Intensive Care Monitors” has been pre-authorised; the regulation has been discontinued as of May 2, 2020.

- On April 7, 2020, a regulation was issued to subject fresh lemon product exports to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry's prior authorisation until August 31, 2020 (including this date), and this practice was discontinued on August 7, 2020.
- Following the realisation of imports, the practice of exporting the amount corresponding to the imported goods has begun within the scope of DIIBs (Inward Processing Authorisation Certificate) for the envisaged sunflower seeds or crude sunflower oil imports from January 25, 2021, until June 30, 2021 (including these dates).
- The additional 20% tariffs on the import of disposable medical masks have been abolished.
- The additional tariffs of 13% on medical ventilators has been abolished.
- Tariffs on bulk ethyl alcohol imports were applied as zero for manufacturers of cologne and disinfectants between March 25 and August 31, 2020.
- Concerning the alcohol-related complaints, the necessary inspections and controls were carried out for certain companies that use alcohol in their manufacturing and trade alcohol from sugar factories.
- The customs procedures of the goods received on behalf of the Ministry of Health were rapidly completed. Some medical products (surgical gloves, ventilators, etc.) have been included in the scope of pre-arrival customs clearance, and the application area of customs procedures without unloading the goods from the vehicle (onboard) has been expanded, thereby speeding up the import procedures for these products.
- The goods whose exports are registered are not permit-

ted to shift raw materials, machinery, and equipment for production from Türkiye to free zones, and great importance is attached to not reducing our country's production capacity.

- An inspection has been initiated in order to determine the January-February 2020 purchase prices, sales prices, and current sales prices for the “surgical mask”, “3M mask”, and “disinfectant” products.
- Between February 28, 2020, and July 3, 2020, price inspections of products such as “Surgical Mask and 3M Mask types, Disinfectant, Surgical Gloves, Hand Antiseptic” were conducted 50,108 products from 12,298 companies were inspected as a result.
- If it was determined that the confiscated goods in Regional Directorates of Customs and Foreign Trade were disinfectants, antiseptic solutions, ethyl alcohol, isopropyl alcohol, glycerol, oxygenated water (3% hydrogen peroxide) and within the scope of similar products, The Ministry of Health and other public institutions were provided with the ethyl alcohol, disinfectants, hydrogen peroxide, and mask-type materials to be utilised in the fight against Covid-19.
- The goods for which a preliminary permit would be required have been tracked with specific dimensions, and any potential deviations have been addressed.

Measures Taken for the Protection of Citizens

- In order to minimise the contact between people at the sales points, measures have been implemented requiring sellers to sell fresh vegetables and fruits in bagged form, municipalities to carry out disinfection works in market places and wholesale markets, and keep market booths as far apart as possible.

- It was made possible to collect trade registry fees via credit card.
- All national and international fairs scheduled to be held in Türkiye from March 16 to April 30, 2020, have been rescheduled after July 1, 2020.
- Physical fairs held in a closed area have been reopened with new measures as of September 1, 2020, by querying the HES code.
- It was made possible to postpone joint-stock and limited companies' general assembly meetings to a later date.
- Precautions have been taken to ensure that companies that do not have a provision in their company agreements that allows for board meetings to be held in an electronic environment can hold their meetings using the "Electronic General Assembly Meeting System" and the "Electronic Board of Directors System."
- Provincial visits initiated as part of the Cooperative Promotion and Development Project (Cooperative Bus), which was launched at the beginning of 2020, were suspended in the period March-June 2020 and were carried out within the framework of narrowed programs with the normalisation steps that began in June in accordance with the measures.
- The general assembly meetings held under the Cooperatives Law were postponed until July 31, 2020, then extended for the first time until October 31, 2020, and again until January 31, 2021.
- The increase in the prices of products such as disinfectants, masks, cologne and foodstuffs were inspected, and an administrative fine of 11,818,683 TL was imposed on 291 companies that violated market conditions.

- In the case of disinfectant products, an administrative fine of 209,562 TL was imposed on two companies that advertised and promoted unlicensed products and sold consumers products that did not meet the legislation's qualifications.
- In relation to food supplement products, which have seen a significant increase in advertising-promotion and marketing activities with claims that they "strengthen the immune system", "protect against coronavirus or are good for it", the Board of Advertising imposed a total of 1,267,858 TL administrative fines on celebrities (6 people) who promoted the products in their various social media accounts, as well as the companies (4 companies) that were producers/advertisers of such products.
- In summary, both the established Unfair Price Assessment Board and the Board of Advertising conducted effective inspections during the Covid-19 period; as a result of the inspections, a total of 31.6 million TL administrative fines were imposed, including 13.3 million TL by the Board of Advertising and 18.3 million TL by the Unfair Price Assessment Board.
- It was decided to impose a penalty to suspend the advertisements of four companies promoting food supplement products such as bee propolis, drops with the argument that they were protective or therapeutic against coronavirus, and five companies promoting cleaning products such as bleach, wet wipes, disinfectant spray as being effective against coronavirus and clearing it off.
- It was decided to impose a penalty to suspend the advertisements of four media organisations that went beyond the reporting purpose and covertly advertised food supplements such as lozenges with headlines claiming to beat the coronavirus on various websites.

- It was stated that consumers should be careful and show the necessary sensitivity towards content providers who acted in a way that adversely affected their purchasing behaviour by taking advantage of their situation.
- Periods for foreign-plated vehicles assigned for personal use in Türkiye of expatriate citizens living abroad have been extended until December 31, 2020, without the need to submit applications to customs authorities.
- For individuals who could not travel abroad due to the coronavirus pandemic, a regulation was enacted that the requirement to be abroad for at least 185 (one hundred eighty-five) days in the year preceding the date of entry was waived in their re-entry with their vehicles to the Customs Territory of Türkiye until December 31, 2021.
- Foreign Trade Information Seminars, which were physically held until March 2020, were held online after this date.
- The training activities planned to be given to Export Support Offices in 2020 were carried out with distance education (video conference, online presentation) facilities, taking into account the pandemic conditions.
- The organisations for the 6th Tradesmen and Craftsmen Council and Preparatory Workshop have been rescheduled for 2021.
- The training on women's entrepreneurship and cooperatives, Tradesmen and Craftsmen Information System (ESBİS) and legislation informing training given to the Registry Directorates were carried out online.
- It has been decided that the customs brokerage and assistant customs brokerage exams, which were scheduled to be held in 2020, would not be held.



3.11. Safe Tourism and Incentives

With the pandemic, the tourism and travel sectors around the world have almost come to a standstill. Türkiye has taken a number of globally exemplary steps in order to gain a share of the ongoing restricted tourism mobility least affected by the process and improve its status as the most favoured tourism destination. Türkiye spent 2020 much better than rival countries in terms of tourism, thanks to measures which includes financing and promotional support to the sector, particularly providing “Safe Tourism” to visitors. Indeed, approximately 16 million tourists visited Türkiye in 2020.

Controlled Normalisation Process Practices in Tourism

The following were issued to reduce the adverse effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on the tourism sector and assist the sector in minimising the impact of the pandemic period on the tourism sector and maintaining activities safely by initiating the controlled normalisation process:

- Circular No. 2020/6, 2020/9, 2020/14, 2020/15, 2020/16, 2020/17 and 2020/18 were issued in order to initiate a controlled normalisation process in accommodation facilities,

- Circular No. 2020/8 was issued in order to initiate a controlled normalisation process in catering facilities,
- Circular No. 2020/10 was issued in order to initiate a controlled normalisation process in marine tourism facilities and vehicles and sports activities for tourism purposes,
- Circular No. 2020/11 (by the Directorate General of Research and Training) was issued in order to initiate a controlled normalisation process in the tourist guiding service,
- Circular No. 2020/12 was issued in order to initiate the controlled normalisation process in cultural and art facilities.

Tax Incentives in Tourism

- Between April 1 and June 30, 2020, the deadline for submitting withholding and value-added tax returns for accommodation activities such as hotels, motels, pensions, holiday villages; tour operator and travel agency activities; and reservation services, spa, hot spring, mineral springs, SPA centres, and so on was extended until July 27, 2020, and this practice was completed.
- The VAT rates for cinema, theatre, opera, operetta, ballet, museum entrance fees, and accommodation and catering services, which account for the majority of tourism expenditure, were reduced from 8% to 1% until May 31, 2021.
- The accommodation tax practice, which concerns 12 thousand accommodation facilities and directly affects the tourism sector, was postponed to January 1, 2022.

Incentives Provided to Travel Agencies

- It was ensured that 2020 dues, which travel agencies must pay to the Association of Turkish Travel Agencies, were not collected.

Postponement of Usage Fees

- The land use fees to be collected from the tourism certified investors and operators allocated public lands to construct tourism facilities between April 1 and June 30, 2020, were postponed for six months. Usage fees until the end of the year, including those postponed on November 11, 2020, were postponed for another year. This postponement included tourism facilities such as hotels, holiday villages, daily resorts, golf facilities located on public lands and marine tourism facilities such as the marina and cruise port, and a debt of 925 million TL was postponed.
- The Ministry of Culture and Tourism was authorised to postpone the rental fees to be collected as of March 11, 2020, for the immovables rented by the Central Directorate of the Revolving Fund of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism until the end of the year and to extend this period up to three months.
- The administrative share to be collected from the spa and thermal hotels operating for tourism purposes in 2020 was postponed until December 20, 2021.

Credit Supports

- “Stay in Business” credit package for travel agencies, credit support for early booking refund to accommodation facilities and credit support for tourism and restaurant businesses, and tourist guides were provided at attractive terms.

- Furthermore, medium-term credit support was provided to Turkish tour operators with foreign-flagged airline fleets organised in more than one country and bring one million or more passengers to our country.
- In addition to the enterprises in the tourism sector, a new Tourism Support Package Practice was prepared for the suppliers of these enterprises and 10 billion TL was provided to the sector by the banks with the guarantee of the Credit Guarantee Fund.

Tourism Activities During the Pandemic Period

Türkiye rapidly began to take measures to redirect travel activities, which had come to a standstill due to the Covid-19 pandemic, to Türkiye and implemented the necessary practices on time. Thus, by surpassing rival countries in tourism, Türkiye became one of the countries that survived 2020 with minimum damage.

In terms of visitor numbers, Türkiye experienced a lesser decline than the global average and rival countries thanks to the implementation of the “Safe Tourism Certification Programme,” as well as its robust healthcare infrastructure and promotional activities. The number of tourists that visited Türkiye in 2020 was around 16 million.





Safe Tourism Certification Programme

When Covid-19 cases began to appear in Türkiye in March, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, together with the Ministries of Health, Transport, Interior and Foreign Affairs, and all sector stakeholders took immediate action. The decision and action mechanisms were formed in one week to carry out the necessary arrangements. Subsequently, the “Safe Tourism Certification Programme” was implemented in as little as one month. “Safe Tourism Certification Programme”, one of the first examples in the world, is considered as a “success story” by other countries.

The “Safe Tourism Certification Programme” ensures that all measures are taken to enable visitors coming to Türkiye to travel safely in terms of accommodation, catering, and transfer vehicles.

According to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism's most recent regulation, all accommodation facilities with 30 or more rooms must obtain the "Safe Tourism" certificate by 2021. The accommodation enterprises that are obliged to obtain a certificate cannot operate without a certificate. The Ministry of Culture and Tourism has decided to continue the Programme after the pandemic.



The tourism industry reacted quickly to the "Safe Tourism Certification Programme," and facilities began to receive certification. The number of facilities and businesses that have been certificated so far is over 7,800. This situation has instilled in both domestic and foreign tourists the notion of safe and healthy travel to Türkiye.

Diplomacy Activities

Another factor that enabled Türkiye to outperform its competitors during the pandemic was the communication of the certification Programme to subject addressees abroad, as well as the conduct of diplomacy activities with countries to open flight corridors.

In this context, the comprehensive steps taken to re-establish tourism mobility were detailed in letters sent through Türkiye's Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the relevant ministries of the 70 countries that visit Türkiye the most. Furthermore, intensive phone diplomacy has communicated how determined Türkiye is to implement measures to fight the Covid-19 pandemic.

PCR Testing

Following the meetings held with the target countries, efforts were made in collaboration with the relevant ministries to be able to carry out Covid-19 testing for visitors in Türkiye as a pandemic requirement, and the infrastructure was quickly built to meet the needs.

Covid-19 Insurance

A unique insurance package was created and introduced so that visitors to Türkiye could have a vacation with inner peace. In the event that tourists who purchased this insurance package are diagnosed with Covid-19 and hospitalised while on vacation in Türkiye, the insurance will cover their treatment in public or private pandemic hospitals, as well as their prescription and intensive care costs. The hotel insurance package that has been prepared for the hotel provides conveniences for hotels in the event that a guest has to spend their quarantine period at the hotel.

Promotion Activities in the Pandemic Period

In addition to the steps and programs implemented, promotion activities coordinated with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the Türkiye Tourism Promotion and Development Agency have played a significant role in reviving tourism in Türkiye.

Efforts to display both Türkiye's unique beauties and safe tourism implementations continue relentlessly during this period known as the "new normal."

Hosting Activities

As the first and most important step in promoting this process abroad, 50 diplomatic mission representatives and 52 foreign press members residing in Türkiye were hosted between July 19-22, 2020. It has been ensured that all Safe Tourism Certificate initiatives were enforced, starting with the Antalya Airport and that the tourism experience has been preserved from beginning to end.

A step-by-step Safe Tourism Experience at airports, modes of transportation, hotels and museums/archaeological sites was provided and explained within the scope of different programs organised for press members and agency representatives invited from Germany, United Kingdom, Austria, Switzerland, Ukraine, Spain, France, Denmark, Poland, Kazakhstan, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Indonesia, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the Türkiye Tourism Promotion and Development Agency (TGA), as well as stakeholders such as airlines, hotels, and travel agencies. Extensive efforts have been made to explain and introduce the certification system to tour operators who influence travel activities in their target markets.

As part of the hosting activities in 2020, over 1000 people were hosted through 96 events from 35 countries. Three thousand press members, tour operator representatives, and influencers are planned to be hosted in various Turkish destinations in 2021.

In order to introduce Türkiye's comprehensive advancements towards safe tourism and lift travel restrictions and warnings, frequent contacts, initiatives and promotional activities have

been carried out, pioneered by the meetings of our President and the relative officials with their counterparts.

Last year, these efforts yielded good results in terms of the countries that are key tourism markets for Türkiye.

- The United Kingdom included Türkiye in its travel corridor list In July 2020 and lifted the quarantine requirement for travellers returning from Türkiye and its travel warning Türkiye hosted British tourists throughout the summer season. Upon the UK government's decision on October 1, Türkiye was removed from the travel corridor list.
- At the beginning of August, Germany removed the travel warning for four important tourism destinations in Türkiye -Antalya, İzmir, Aydın and Muğla- within the framework of the agreement reached. German tourists have been hosted in Türkiye in accordance with this agreement. It is the goal of both parties to restore this agreement, which was suspended on November 9. Flights and travels to/from Germany continue.
- Reciprocal scheduled flights between Türkiye and Russia started on August 1. Russian tourists began coming to our country with touristic charter flights on August 10. Russia also removed the restrictions for the entry of Turkish citizens into Russia.
- Flights to/from Ukraine started on July 1, and there are flights from Ukraine to tourist destinations, especially Antalya. Türkiye, which was placed on the red list by Ukrainian authorities in the context of international travels on December 18, was added to the green list on January 15. There are no restrictions on travel from Türkiye to Ukraine.

Advertisement Activities

With the reopening of borders that had been closed due to the pandemic, commercial films highlighting the tourism opportunities and measures implemented by Türkiye, as well as TV commercials and internet advertising, began to be broadcast in target countries in June.

TV commercials were broadcast in 14 countries (the United Kingdom, Germany, Ukraine, Russia, Serbia, Austria, Belgium, Japan, Poland, Czechia, France, Israel, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands) in 2020. In terms of advertisements for the printed press, Türkiye's promotion was carried out through the world's most prestigious and read magazines. Advertisement campaigns were carried out in 57 magazines in eight countries throughout 2020.

One of the most influential media that was used for the 2020 promotion was digital platforms. Digital advertisements continued with 64 movies in 82 countries and got 7.7 billion screenings and 1.5 billion views in total.

Promotion activities are being carried out intensively in target countries with commercial movies and communication efforts prepared for early reservation and season-opening as part of the ongoing promotion activities in 2021. Advertisements on early reservation and TV commercials were broadcast in 11 countries. According to target markets' interest, nine different communication movies were broadcast in 52 countries on digital channels.

Go Türkiye Platform

Go Türkiye Platform, the global promotion channel of Türkiye, was relaunched in 2020 with its renewed structure. The platform, which assists in distinguishing Türkiye from its competitors with its new and modern design and also with

its technological infrastructure, offers the culture and tourism values of the country under one roof to all of its users who wish to get information about Türkiye and plan their trip. Go Türkiye will continue to play a key role in Türkiye's promotion as a global tourism trademark with its content tailored to its users' profiles.

Within the context of the rich diversity of Türkiye's products and destinations as well as changing global tourism trends, more than 50 topics such as golf tourism, museums, cultural routes, faith tourism, gastronomy, shopping etc., offer broadcast service via the Go Türkiye experience.

City Promotion Project

Within the TGA, an organisation was established to promote Türkiye's regions and cities globally. Teams from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the TGA have met with local governments and non-governmental organisations to develop tourism values in cities, promote these values more effectively, and ensure their promotion through collaboration with Go Türkiye, the official contact platform.



3.12. Complementary Works in the fields of Culture, Arts, Youth and Sports

The Covid-19 pandemic, which impacted the entire world in 2020, impacted the culture, art, and tourism sectors in Türkiye and other countries. With the declaration of the pandemic, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism has supported efforts to protect public health by implementing health measures in accordance with government decisions, and then quickly presented the economic and financial measures related to the culture, arts, and tourism sectors affected by the pandemic by coordinating the relevant ministries and informing the public.

Measures Taken in Culture During the Gradual Normalisation Process

Measures Taken in Museums

Museums and archaeological sites were closed for “74 days” as of March 19, 2020, as part of the measures taken to fight the Covid-19 pandemic. A “visitor management plan” was developed for each museum and archaeological site, taking into account factors such as visitor potential, physical conditions, social distance, entrance-exit routes, and average time spent by visitors at museums/archaeological sites in line with the decisions of the Ministry of Health and other relevant institutions before



the museums and archaeological sites were reopened; it was ensured that social distance rules were followed, and hygiene measures were taken.

The museum directorates conducted all preparations, and the museums were reopened as of June 1, 2020, in accordance with the visitor management plan prepared in advance. The number of visitors to museums and archaeological sites in 2020 was 8,918,950.

As the pandemic continues, some museums and historical sites in Istanbul, Aksaray, Denizli, Izmir, Konya, Nevşehir, Ankara, Kayseri, and Burdur are kept open in accordance with demands and potentials, so that foreign visitors are not adversely affected by the weekend lockdown.

Measures Taken in Theatres, Operas and Concert Areas

In November and December, the State Theatres presented plays on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. On the other days, the stages were disinfected, the audience capacity was reduced by half, and seating was arranged according to social distance rules. The audience's temperature was taken before

the performances began, and Life Fits into Home (HES) codes were checked at the stage entrances.

The QR code has been added to State Theatre tickets. It has thus been ensured that the theatre tickets are checked contact-free.

The plexiglass cabins were built 1.5 meters away from the box offices, the distance was measured in square meters per actor backstage, and the intervals between the curtains were increased to 20 minutes to avoid crowding in the restrooms and canteens. The stage props and accessories were disinfected prior to each rehearsal, washed using a spraying method, and a play every other day ensured this.

Supports Provided to Culture and Art

The State supported art institutions, especially private theatres, musicians and the cinema sector, and artists who continue their production in all fields during the difficult pandemic period.

Supports for Private Theatres

The total amount of support given to private theatres was 35,797,200 TL.

- Taxpayers in creative service sectors such as cinema and theatre were considered to be in force majeure between April 1, 2020, and June 30, 2020 (including these dates), and it has been ensured that important cultural stakeholders such as private theatre, music and publishing benefit from advantages.
- With the regulation, mandatory performances of private theatres supported in the 2019-2020 art season were abolished, support applications for the 2020-2021 season were moved to an earlier date, and support amounts were increased.

- Given the pandemic situation, the seasonal play support of 6 million 100 thousand TL allocated to private theatres last year was increased to 12,000,000 TL this year and distributed to the projects of 328 private theatres.
- In these difficult circumstances, where private theatres were closed due to the pandemic, a total of 23,797,200 TL was provided to private theatres through the “Audio Play,” “Digital Theatre,” and “Tour Support” programs.
- In order to support private theatre halls, our private theatres have been allowed to obtain a “Certificate of Cultural Investments and Initiatives” in terms of theatre hall support. This certificate provided a 25% reduction in insurance premiums, employer’s share, and income tax for seven years during the operating period, a 20% reduction in natural gas and electricity usage for five years, and the benefit of being charged at the lowest water consumption tariff in the area.

“Don’t Stop the Music Project” Support

- The “Music Industry Pandemic Support Programme” was established to support artists who suffered from the pandemic and lost their income.
- A total of 122,976,000 TL support was provided to 30 thousand 770 applicants as 1000 TL per month for four months.

Supports for Cinema Industry

- The total amount of support given to the film industry was 89,023,000 TL.
- In 2020, a total of 46 million 428 thousand TL was allocated to 234 projects in the categories of “Documentary Film Production”,

- “First Feature Fiction Film Production”, “Feature Film Production”, “Support for Turkish Film Screenings”, “Post-Production”, and “Co-Production”. Thus, compared to 2019, the support provided to the industry was increased by 22%.
- Within the framework of “Support for Turkish Film Screenings”, 15.9 million TL was allocated to 159 cinema operators in all cities in order to sustain the cinemas closed within the scope of the Covid-19 measures.
- A total of 26 million 695 thousand TL was provided to 85 cultural and artistic events and professional unions in cinema, displayed under the new normal conditions.

Supports for Professional Unions

- The support provided to professional unions was 5,786,000 TL.
- Given the economic damage caused by the pandemic in the music, cinema, science-literature, fine arts, and radio and television sectors, the amount of support provided to cover the administrative expenses of authors and professional unions representing organisations such as producers and publishing houses was increased by 50% in 2020.

Contracted Artists in Art Sectors

- Service contracts were signed with 1,481 personnel following assessments conducted by the Directorate General of State Theatres, taking into account personnel needs.
- As of January 1, 2020, no personnel contract has been terminated by the Directorate General of State Opera and Ballet and affiliated Provincial Directorates; as a re-

sult of the assessments, service contracts were signed with 853 personnel, taking into account the personnel requirements based on the planned repertoire, the artist's tone colour, the instrument to be played, and the technical requirements on and behind the stage.

Employment Incentives

- The money wage support from the Unemployment Fund was provided to the employees who took unpaid leave or were dismissed after March 15, 2020, within the framework of the Labour Law; the short time working allowance was implemented and “Temporary Employment Guarantee”, prohibiting the termination of employment contracts, was carried out.
- The application period of the short-time working allowance has been extended until January 31, 2021. The short time working period in the workplaces that previously applied for short-time working was extended until February 28, 2021.
- The implementation period for insurance premium incentives and income tax withholding incentives for additional employment has been extended until December 31, 2022.
- Normalisation support for insured employees has been extended until June 30, 2021, and the previously three-month enjoyment period has been increased to six months.

Projects and Activities Carried out in terms of Culture

Digitisation of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism's activities during the “Stay at Home” period has allowed citizens to remain connected to culture and art. Projects within the scope



of outdoor events for children, such as mobile cinema/theatre/museum, have reached a wider audience. In addition to movie screenings, small-scale music, dance and theatre events were organised for children, and they were also informed on issues like fighting the virus during the Covid-19 period.



Digitalisation in Culture

Art in Your Pocket (Sanat Cepte) and The YouTube Channel of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism

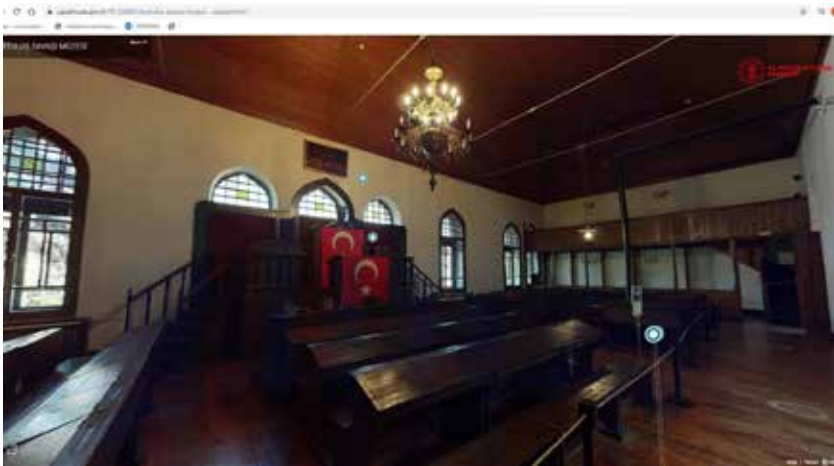
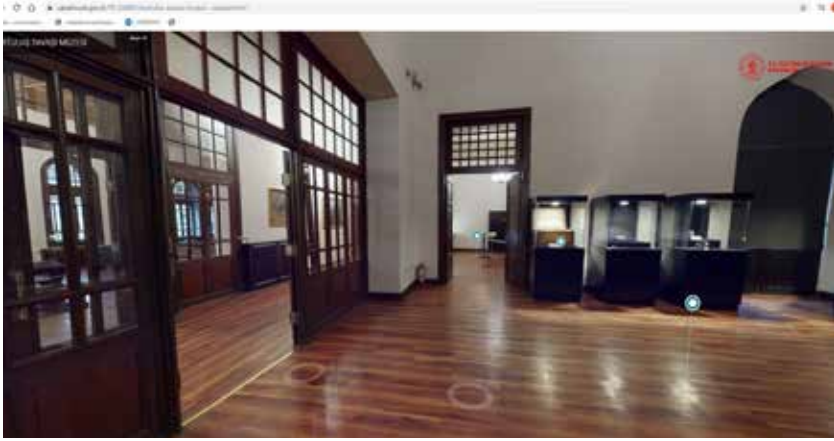
As part of the “Art in Your Pocket Events,” which were live-streamed on the Instagram page of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism’s Art in Your Pocket application on April 20, 2020, 81 artists from art institutions affiliated with the Ministry went live twice a day, all week except Sundays, to meet and talk with audiences and perform mini-concerts.

These events, which lasted until July 31, 2020, reached approximately 240 thousand art lovers. Furthermore, children's ballet classes given by children's ballet teachers of Ankara State Opera and Ballet via the Art in Your Pocket application once a week on Saturdays reached approximately 60 thousand art lovers.

With the decision to cancel and postpone cultural and art events due to the pandemic, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism has made the recordings of operas, ballets, theatre plays, orchestra and society performances that were present in the archives of the art departments of the Ministry accessible to all art lovers on its YouTube channel. The view count of more than 60 videos shared during the pandemic has exceeded one million. Currently, the channel, which has attracted a great deal of interest since the onset of the pandemic, has approximately 61 thousand subscribers.

Virtual Museums

The website “www.sanalmuze.gov.tr” has been made available to the public for free virtual tours of three-dimensional real-life models of museums and archaeological sites, as well as for virtual publicising of cultural heritage. The website, the infrastructure of which had been developed since March 19, 2020, and launched on March 25, 2020, has received over 12 million visitors. At present, it is possible to take free-of-charge virtual tours of 32 museums and archaeological sites and one temporary exhibition. The most popular virtual tours are the Göbeklitepe Archaeological Site, the Ankara War of Independence Museum, the Ephesus Archaeological Site, the Çanakkale Troy Museum and the Anatolian Civilizations Museum, respectively.



My Library in My Pocket (Kütüphanem Cepte) and My Library in My Pocket E-Book Mobile Applications

Thanks to the “My Library in My Pocket Mobile Application”, citizens aged 15 and over are able to apply for an “e-membership” with their e-Government integration, browse the catalogues, find the nearest libraries, view their reading history, find out which book is available in which library by scanning the ISBN barcode and extend the loan period of materials without going to the library.

On the other hand, citizens who are a member of a library affiliated to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism are able to access e-books exclusive to the public libraries via the My Library in My Pocket E-Book Application. These two applications, designed specifically for the pandemic period and drew much attention during that time, can be downloaded from the Apple and Android app stores.

Active Library (Etkin Kütüphane) Project and Active Library WEB TV

“Active Library Project” was realised, and Active Library Web TV began broadcasting. Within the scope of the Active Library Project, online events such as fairy tales from Anatolia and all around the world, fairy tales for adults, Karagöz and Hacivat shows, workshops on robotics, felt making, origami, knitting, ceramics, marbling, needlework, wood, jewellery design, bookmark making, hat making, and interviews on literature, culture, art, self-improvement and health, family seminars, and awareness training, have been organised and communicated to the audience via the “activelibrary” (etkinkutuphane) accounts on social media for citizens who are not able to benefit from libraries during the Covid-19 pandemic.

In this context, since March 18, 2020, 140 literary events, 53 interviews, 99 training, courses and information sessions, 119 handcraft workshops, 44 events on art, 16 sports activity, games, competitions, tournaments, 21 events for important days and weeks, five events on health and a total of 497 events have been organised through the active library’s social media accounts.

“One Leader One City (Bir Lider Bir Şehir)” Project

Within the framework of the project, 81 youth leaders from 81 cities spoke about the eccentricities of the city that they live in, from its geography to the way of living, from mourning to weddings,

from births to funerals, from shopping to history, by enriching the 2 minutes and 20 seconds videos with traditions, idioms, sayings, myths, folk songs, and cultural and historical elements.

These videos were shared from the Directorate General of Youth Services' social media accounts within the "One Leader One City" project, launched on April 20, 2020.



Outdoor Events for Children

Truck Theatre

Through 62 plays performed, the Truck Theatre, which began its journey on June 30, reached 11,106 audiences from 23 cities and 38 districts in Eastern Anatolia and South-eastern Anatolia. Furthermore, two different plays were performed four times to assist the children in Izmir affected by the earthquake in their recovery from this traumatic event, reduce their stress, and contribute to their personal development by entertaining them.





Çanakkale Wars Mobile Museum

Çanakkale Wars Mobile Museum began its journey on July 2, 2020. The Çanakkale Wars Mobile Museum was created to allow visitors to relive and experience the Çanakkale spirit as if they were walking on the spot, with images and photographs from the battle, screens displaying various visuals and videos, a section for the exhibition of several battle objects recovered from the Çanakkale front, and a statue of an Çanakkale soldier.

The Çanakkale spirit has been transported all over Türkiye with the voice-over, the ambience and the design along with the ideal, “Çanakkale is where we raise our flag”. The Çanakkale Wars Mobile Museum has received over 75,000 visitors from 62 cities and 110 districts and is still on the road. It has travelled over 25,000 kilometres at present.



Mobile Cinema

With the help of the Mobile Cinema Truck, it was ensured that the children, who could not easily access the cinema halls and who had no chance to go to the cinema in the places they lived, met with the cinema in 2020 in cooperation with Sanat İçin Yola Çık Kültür ve Sanat Derneği.

The opportunities of children, who relatively had less chance to go to the cinema due to geographical constraints compared to children living in metropolises, for socialisation have further been restricted due to the pandemic. In this context, the Cinema Truck took the road in August 2020 to make children have a good time by supporting their cultural development and reducing the adverse socio-psychological effects that the pandemic may have caused.

Due to the pandemic, the open-air movies were shown by providing the necessary technical equipment and in accordance with social distance rules, and one of the culturally sustainable normalisation steps was taken by displaying movies that children can watch with their families.



The mobile cinema hall with a capacity of 81 people was used in such a way that while one seat was occupied, the other one was left empty due to the pandemic and 19,360 children watched movies in 440 sessions during the daytime. In a total of 176 sessions, in which the family movies selected for open-air projection were shown, 35,200 people were reached.

Additional activities for children were arranged during the event, in addition to film projections, such as music, dance, and drama, and children were informed about issues such as fighting the virus during the Covid-19.

“Eşit Ağırlık” Programme

“Eşit Ağırlık” programme was broadcast live on the YouTube channel and Twitter account of the Ministry of Youth and Sports with the slogan “Tout ensemble...(Her şey bir arada)” so that young people, who were expected to spend more time at home as a result of the restrictions imposed on social life, could spend quality time on social media more efficiently and increase their intellectual accumulation. Broadcast live from other corporate social media accounts, the programme aims to capture the pulse of the youth with its guests and topics ranging from sports to art, from humour to literature, from technology to politics. In the programme, which takes place in the form of conversation, young people can also have a voice via social media and ask questions to the guests.

“The Stage is Yours” Concert Programme

For young people, who were expected to spend more time at home, to spend quality time on social media, the focus was turned to online programmes. And within the scope of “The Stage is Yours” concert programme, a live concert, with the performances of a Youth Centre music club members and volunteers, was organised every week through an Instagram live broadcast from a Youth Centre.

GENÇLİK HİZMETLERİ
GENEL MÜDÜRLÜĞÜ

SAHNE
SENİN

EĞİTİM GENÇLİK
MERKEZLERİ

CANLI
YAYIN

GSB Gençlik

02 Ocak Cumartesi

21:00

Gözde Lapa
Sunumlarıyla

Sefa Poyraz
Sunumlarıyla

Grup Sosyal
Mesafe



“Kültür Mantarı” Online Educational Programmes

To contribute to the personal development of young people who spend a lot of time in digital technologies and on the Internet during the pandemic, it was aimed to provide training and hold workshop programmes with interactive contents and videos by expert instructors in drama, photography, history, writing and caricature through the web-based digital programme called “Kültür Mantarı (Culture Vulture)”.

New Breakthroughs in Cultural Infrastructure

Shopping Mall Libraries

To facilitate access to information and to develop reading culture and habits during the Covid-19 period, and to encourage lifelong learning, the works to open libraries under the Ministry of Culture and Tourism in the shopping malls, which have an important place in urban life, have been initiated and some have been put into service in various shopping malls.



Works Carried Out in the field of Youth and Sports

During the pandemic, a series of measures and aid activities have been carried out in the field of youth and sports as in other fields. Online training, TV entertainment and sports programmes, and motivational activities were organised by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, especially for young people.

Financial Aid to Sports Clubs

Financial aid is provided for the amateur activities of the clubs registered by the Ministry of Youth and Sports. While the allo-

cation in the 2020 budget of the Ministry of Youth and Sports for the purpose of cash aid to sports clubs was 14,460,000.00 TL, the amount allocated to support sports clubs with financial difficulties due to the Covid-19 pandemic was increased to 45,615,000.00 TL, which was distributed in cash to a total of 6,121 sports clubs.



Economic Support

During the pandemic period, the Ministry of Youth and Sports provided important economic support as well as its aids to the youth and the sector:

- It was ensured that commercial units, which were stated to be temporarily unable to operate by the Ministry of Interior, among the real estate leased out by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, did not pay a rental fee for the period starting from March 16, 2020, and were allowed to add the days to the lease duration they could not use due to force majeure.
- It was ensured that the commercial units which earned their incomes only from the matches, from those participating in the organisations and from the audiences and which were located in stadiums and sports halls where



football, volleyball, basketball, and handball matches- decided to be played without an audience and subsequently postponed- would be held and commercial units located in the sports facilities (swimming pools, etc.) -whose activities were suspended- did not pay rental fees from March 13, 2020, to the date they would operate again. And they were allowed to add the days to the lease duration they could not use due to force majeure.

- The commercial units that continued their activities but were affected within the scope of the measures taken were enabled to postpone their rental fees, corresponding to March-April-May-June 2020, for a period of 4 months and interest-free upon the request of the relevant person. And they were allowed to add the days to the lease duration they could not use due to force majeure or terminate it upon their request.
- From March 19, 2020, when the leagues were postponed, the facilities and the real estate rented to clubs,

federations, municipalities, public institutions, and organisations for seasonal, annual, or longer terms, were enabled to postpone their rental fees, corresponding to March-April-May-June 2020, for a period of 4 months and interest-free upon the request.

- The Ministry of Youth and Sports ceased the supervision assignments regarding the youth and sports facilities and dormitories under construction, which were included in the investment program, until April 30, 2020.
- Due to the decision on November 17, 2020, to play sports competitions without an audience, the facilities and the real estate rented to clubs, federations, municipalities, public institutions, and organisations for seasonal, annual, or longer terms were enabled to postpone their rental fees from December 1, 2020, corresponding to December 2020 and January, February and March 2021, for a period of 4 months without interest upon their request. And they were allowed to add the days to the lease duration they could not use due to force majeure or terminate it if they so request.
- Within the scope of the measures taken, the commercial units (excluding base stations, ATM areas), which were adversely affected, were enabled to postpone their rental fees corresponding to December 2020 and January - February - March 2021 for a period of 4 months starting from December 1, 2020, upon the request of the lessees. And they were allowed to add the days to the lease duration they could not use due to force majeure or terminate it if they so request.

Postponement of Payment of Student Loans

To reduce the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on the economic life, the April, May, and June instalments of the borrowers, who

were indebted because of the student loans, were postponed for three months, limited to the 3-month period, without seeking an application requirement.

Damla Volunteering Movement

Within the scope of this project, selected primary schools, secondary schools, high schools and village schools are visited with the participating young people. They aimed to be a role model for the students in primary and secondary schools, provide information about the choice of profession and university education in high schools, and be a good example for students. Awareness of the students is raised on love, respect, compassion, sharing, patriotism, unity, and solidarity. The nursing homes and senior rehabilitation centres are visited so that the elderly can share their experiences with the younger generation.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the volunteers of the Damla Volunteering Movement distributed hot meals to approximately 5,000 people every day as of April 14, 2020, with the “Share Your Food” movement in Ankara. Currently, 15,000 portions of hot meals are distributed daily. As of February 24, 2021, a total of 1,416,221 portions of hot meals were delivered to those in need.

Online Activities

Young people all around Türkiye can register for any online training and activities they like through the e-genc.gsb.gov.tr portal. It is now possible to apply online for training and activities carried out by youth centres through a new application. Young people around Türkiye can register for any online training and activities they like through the e-genc.gsb.gov.tr portal, and if they are not members of any youth centres, they can sign up through the same portal.



Deneyap Online Training

The training at the Deneyap (Hands-on) Technology Workshops has been suspended due to the pandemic. During this process, online orientation training programs are organised with experts in the field of science, technology, cybersecurity, and many other similar subjects so that young people stay at home and experience Deneyap excitement.



ORYANTASYON EĞİTİMLERİ

Yapay Zeka

Uzman M. Ayyüce Kızrak
T.C. Cumhurbaşkanlığı Dijital Dönüşüm Ofisi
Büyük Veri ve Yapay Zeka Uygulamaları Birimi
Başkanı

- Yapay Zeka ve ilişkili kavramlar nelerdir?
(Büyük Veri, Veri Bilimi, Makine Öğrenmesi, Derin Öğrenme)
- İnsanlar ne zamandan beri Yapay Zeka konusunda çalışıyor?
- Yapay Zeka çalışabilmek için nelere ihtiyacımız var?
- Günlük hayattan başarılı Yapay Zeka örnekleri nelerdir? Nasıl çalışırlar?
- Yapay Zeka ile her şeyi yapabilir miyiz? Yetenekleri ve kusurları nelerdir?
- Yapay Zeka ile gerçekler nasıl bulanıklaştı? GPT3 ve Deepfake örnekleri nelerdir?
- Yapay Zeka ve ilişkili teknolojiler çalışırken etik değerlere neden bağlı kalmalıyız?
- Türkiye'den başarılı örnekler ve Yapay Zeka çalışmak isteyenlere tavsiyeler nelerdir?
- Ulusal ve uluslararası Yapay Zeka yarışmalarından örnekler

Medya | Akademi | Sektör | Sivil | Kurum | Yarışmalar



EBA Access Points

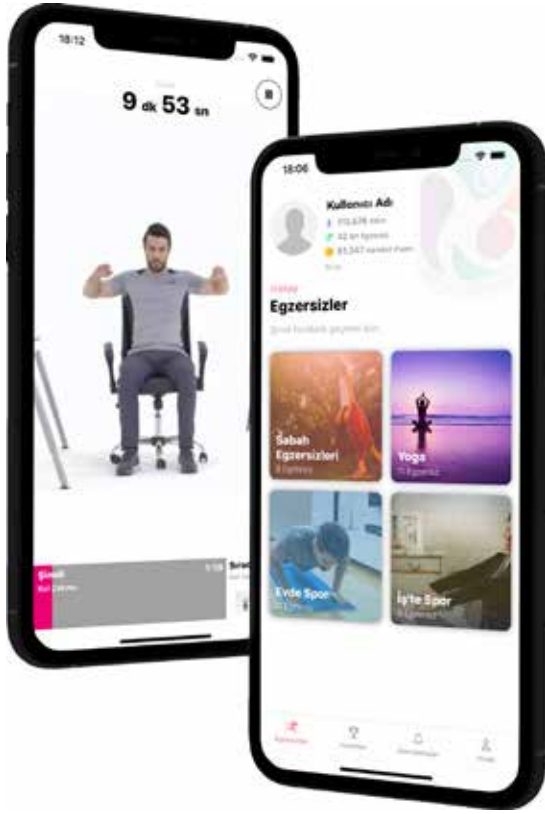
It is aimed for children and youth to learn about the Youth Centres and use the Youth Centres for their access to the Internet. In this context, Youth Centres, innovation workshops, and computer classrooms were organised in accordance with pandemic conditions, and EBA Access Points were established.

Uninterrupted Sports

Within the scope of the measures against coronavirus, it was decided that the league matches of team sports such as football, basketball, volleyball, and handball would be played without an audience. In the new normal process, matches and sports organisations were held without an audience.

During the period when the matches could not be held, the trainers continued with the training online in order to maintain the condition of the athletes. 1,889 athletes in the Athlete Training Centres, 600 athletes in the Olympic Swimming Pools, and 1,153 athletes in TOHM (Türkiye Olympic Preparation Centre) closely followed the training.





HisApp Application

In order to prevent inactivity during the quarantine process due to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 and increase physical activity, the HisApp application projected in 2018 was launched for use.

HisApp is a free local application implemented by the Sports for All Federation with the support of the Ministry of Youth and Sports. The application, which contains nearly 900 exercise videos and is an important individual exercise software, includes activity and training programmes from the simplest level to the professional level. HisApp also includes special content for individuals with visual, physical, and hearing disabilities.

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gencissporbak www.gsb.gov.tr

National Athlete Scholarship

While some athletes sacrifice their sports careers in order to continue their education life, others have to quit their education due to their sports life with an intense training tempo. In order to put an end to the dilemma of sports versus education, a cooperation protocol was signed with 52 foundation universities that provide 100% training opportunities to internationally successful national athletes in the Olympic and Paralympic branches. This year, 76 national athletes from 18 federations have benefitted from these opportunities.

Everybody Will Learn Swimming!

Since the pools were closed for certain periods due to the coronavirus pandemic, portable pools were also utilised in order to reach the targeted number. Over 1 million people were reached in 2020.



Motivation Camp for Healthcare Professionals and Their Children

The programme was held on October 17-18, 2020, in Antalya Alaaddin Keykubat Youth Camp; on October, 24-25 in Aydın Efeler, Osmaniye Aslantaş, Mersin Maliye, Bursa Karacaali, Manisa Şehzadeler, and again in Antalya Alaaddin Keykubat Youth Camps; on October, 14-15, in Kastamonu Yolkonak Youth Camp. In order to ensure that they have a good day, spend a completely different day, experience a different atmosphere, and help reduce their stress level even for a moment, certain activities such as cycling, climbing, archery, golf, darts, handi-crafts, Bocce and other youth activities, in general, were offered in the youth camps.

A total of 360 people were hosted in seven camps, including three blue camps in Bursa, Mersin, and Aydın provinces and four camps in Antalya, Osmaniye, Manisa, and Kastamonu provinces.

“Evde Zinde” and “Evde Kal Zinde Kal” Programs

Based on the idea that sport is the “only way” for citizens, who have to stay at their homes within the scope of the restrictions

imposed on quarantine days, to spend more quality time in terms of their health and to stay in form, “Evde Zinde” (Fit at Home), “Evde Kal Zinde Kal” (Stay Fit at Home) and many similar sports programmes have been broadcast on TV screens.

Within the scope of the “Evde Zinde” programme, it is aimed to introduce the exercises that citizens of all ages can easily do at home with short videos and to encourage them to do sports in a conscious way regardless of the place. The programme includes exercises suitable for all age groups and different muscle groups. In the videos, which are planned to be 30 seconds, there are three expert athletes in their fields in order to ensure that the workouts are performed correctly and consciously. 11 videos have been prepared, and new contents are still being produced. The number of people who have accessed the videos is 2145.

Twenty-one episodes of the “Evde Kal Zinde Kal” programme have been uploaded to the YouTube channel. A promotional trailer has been prepared for 21 episodes for social media.

Çare Spor

A television programme called “Çare Spor” (Sport is the Answer) where the relatives of the exemplary persons while gaining their sports habits and the experts on the relevant subject shared their opinions, edited with animated transitions and music, finally ending with a message about the benefits of sports was prepared. Each episode had two versions of 7 minutes and 1.5 minutes. The programme was broadcast on the social media accounts of the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the TRTSPOR2 channel.

Online Sports Training

Against the adverse effects of a sedentary lifestyle on human health, it is aimed that citizens who are inactive at their homes



can have physical activities and healthy life courses on the Internet to make them overcome the pandemic process physically and mentally. Fitness, Pilates, Chess, Step and Aerobics, Core Workouts, Home Sports, Folk Dances, Yoga, etc., and online sports and psychological training courses, especially including exercises and healthy nutrition, were started through various programs as of May 11, 2020, by the staff and contract trainers working in the Provincial Directorates of Youth and Sports.

During the pandemic, 1,261 training programs were planned through 3,835 staff and contract trainers working in the Provincial Directorates of Youth and Sports. As of June 2, 2020, online sports and psychological counselling training were provided to 2,572 people in total under the guide of 1,047 trainers.

Athlete Training Centres

During the Covid-19 pandemic, periodic workout plans that could be performed at home during the isolation process for athletes were prepared on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis. And the prepared training methods were based on branch-specific strength, resistance, flexibility, technique, tactics, etc. During the preparation of the training programs, support

was received from conditioners, national team trainers, and physiotherapists.

The follow-up of the training plans of the student-athletes and their sports development (positive or negative) was carried out by phone calls and social media tools such as WhatsApp, Instagram, Zoom, Telegram, Bip, and also the students and parents sent videos to the trainers to make them follow the training.

Training of Trainers during the Covid Period

In order not to interrupt the basic training of the trainers, under the responsibility of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, five books composed of 5 different modules (Sport and Health Sciences, Training and Movement Sciences, Sports Management, Learning and Teaching in Sports, Psycho-Social Fields in Sports) and a total of 24 books for five training levels were prepared in the Basic Training System, with the distance education model. During the book preparation process, 121 academics from various universities teaching in the field of Sports Sciences took part as chapter writers, 24 academics as book editors, and five academics as chief editor. These 24 books prepared in the field of Sport Sciences are seen as the most important reference source ever published. In addition to the books prepared by experts in Basic Training, all e-learning materials in written, audio, and visual forms are offered online to the service of the candidates.

Two basic training periods were opened in 2020 and 2021; 13,932 candidates were accepted to the basic training programme in 2020, and the basic training and examination period was completed online. 14,935 candidates were accepted to the basic training programme opened in 2021.

The Youth and Books

Within the scope of the Covid-19 pandemic, book distribution activity was carried out for citizens brought to Türkiye from

**TEMEL EĞİTİM SINAVI
BAŞVURAN SAYISI**

Kademe	Başvurusu Kabul Edilen Kursiyer Sayısı
1. Kademe Temel Eğitim	8.029
2. Kademe Temel Eğitim	4.090
3. Kademe Temel Eğitim	1.134
4. Kademe Temel Eğitim	554
5. Kademe Temel Eğitim	125
Toplam	13.932

**YENİ ANTRENÖR
EĞİTİM SİSTEMİ İLE
BAŞARI DOLU BİR
KARIYERE**

T.C. GENÇLİK VE
SPOR BAKANLIĞI

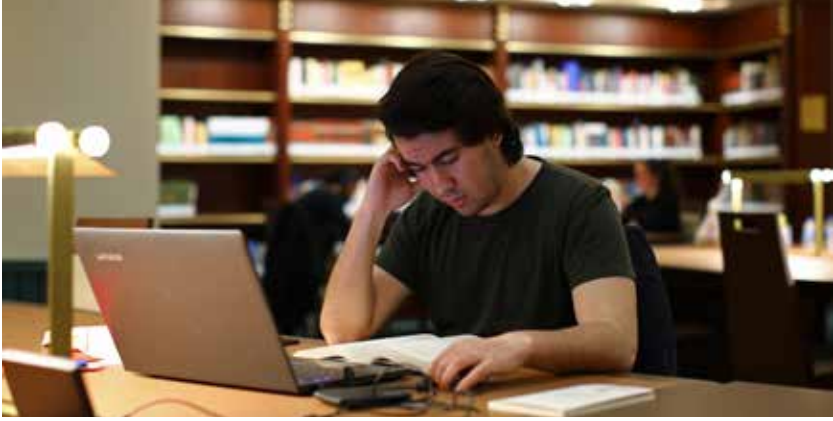
various countries and quarantined in the dormitories of the Ministry of Youth and Sports. With this activity, it is aimed to contribute to the citizens in quarantine to spend quality time.

Within this framework; as of March 21, 2020, totally 61,863 books were sent to the student dormitories in 76 provinces, especially in Ankara, İstanbul, Konya, Sakarya, Samsun, and Sivas, hospitalised patients and healthcare professionals, penal institutions in 13 provinces, as well as the youth who reached the Ministry through social media in this process.

Besides, in 2020, 180,309 pieces of works were distributed, especially to the Youth Centres under the Ministry of Youth and Sports, youth offices, book cafes, schools, various NGOs, and other public institutions.

Covid-19 and Youth Study

A survey about Covid-19 was conducted, targeting the youth. Along with the personal information, the questions about the handling of the Covid-19 period on the media, how the outbreak affected their personal, social, and health conditions, how the fight against Covid-19 in Türkiye and the world was, were asked in the questionnaire. More than half of the youth participating in the study stated that observing social distance,



wearing masks and following hygiene rules are extremely important in terms of slowing the spread of Covid-19.

41% of the participants in the study think that the Covid-19 outbreak will not end before a year, and 26% of them think that it will never end. Despite the negative thoughts among the youth about the end of the Covid-19 disease, it has been found out that the fight against Covid-19 in Türkiye was more successful than the fight displayed in the world.

Evinde Hep Kazandın

After the leagues were cancelled during the pandemic, six films were prepared through the teams by giving the message that you are always the winner when you are at home.

Evinde Hep Kazandın (You are Always Winner at Home)





3.13. Religious Services during the Pandemic Period

In the process of combating the pandemic, the Presidency of Religious Affairs took necessary measures in cooperation with the relevant institutions and organisations in Türkiye and abroad in order to perform prayers in a proper, safe, healthy way to protect the rights of those who demand services. During the process, activities and services were maintained by paying the utmost attention not to interrupt the services and produce alternative online platforms. With alternative activities carried out through social media accounts, the target audience was enriched, and more people were reached.

In this context, many services under such categories as the production of religious knowledge, religious services, educational services, hajj and umrah services, and radio-television services were provided even during the fight against coronavirus.

Production of Religious Knowledge

Services such as the production of religious knowledge and the provision of answers to questions on religious matters were maintained even during the periods of curfew thanks to the decisions taken within the scope of the measures against Co-


T.C. CUMHURBAŞKANLIĞI
DIYANET İŞLERİ BAŞKANLIĞI

CAMİLERİMİZ CEMAATİNE KAVUŞUYOR

Salgın hastalık tedbirleri kapsamında bir süreçtir cemaatle ibadet yapılamayan camilerimiz kademelli olarak ibadete açılıyor. Cuma namazını camilerin bahçesinde kılıyoruz.

**Bu süreçte tedbiri elden bırakmıyoruz
ve şunlara dikkat ediyoruz.**

- 1 **Abdestini al gel**
Abdesthane ve tuvaletler kapalı olduğu için abdestimizi ev ve işyerimizde alıyoruz.
- 2 **Maskeni al gel**
Camide olduğumuz süre içerisinde maskemizi çıkartmıyoruz.
- 3 **Seccadeni al gel**
Camide kendi seccademizi getiriyoruz. Namazımızı isaretili yerlerde kılıyoruz.
- 4 **Mesafeyi ihmal etme**
Camide giriş çıkışlarda ve camii içerisinde güvenli mesafeyi ihmal etmiyoruz.
- 5 **Musafaha etme**
Namaz öncesi ve sonrasında fiziksel temaslar ve musafaha ile kaçınıyoruz.
- 6 **Hasta isen evde kal**
Hastalık belirtileri taşıyorsak namazlarımızı evde kılıyoruz.

vid-19, the fatwas prepared, press releases and technological applications (fetva.diyamet.gov.tr, goruntulufetva.diyamet.gov.tr, mobile fatwa application and fatwa Q&A hotline available seven days a week between 09:00 and 23:00 hrs).

Religious Services

Mosque Services

- Khutbahs concerning the pandemic period were prepared and recited at Friday/Eid prayers at designated locations throughout the country. Citizens were informed about the coronavirus process and compliance with the measures taken, and reminders were made at the end of the khutbahs.
- It was instructed on June 16, 2020, that the daily prayers and Friday prayers would not be performed in mosques, that funeral prayer would be performed at an appropri-

PANDEMİ SÜRECİNDE AİLE EĞİTİMLERİ
 Bingöl İl Müftülüğü Aile ve Dinî Rehberlik

"Paylaşmanın İyileştirici Gücü"

Konuşmacı
PROF.DR. ENBİYA YILDIRIM
 (Din İşleri Yüksek Kurulu Üyesi)

Moderatör
Mehmet Sait FIRAT
 (Vaiz)

 **20:00**



ate time before the daily prayer hour, and that burial and condolence delivery would take place in the least crowded environment possible.

- It was regulated that as of March 19, 2020, mosques were to be closed on Fridays and holy nights, and salat for Friday prayer would not be recited.
- On March 20, 2020, guidelines were made available concerning the materials to be used in funeral washing and burial procedures by the staff tasked with carrying out such funeral services, as well as rules that they should follow.
- On the occasion of the month of Ramadan, it was decided that salat would be recited before the isha prayer time, and public supplication would be recited from the minarets following the isha prayer as of the last week of March. The supplication recitation performed every

day following the Isha prayer was terminated as of the isha prayer on Saturday, May 23, 2020.

- On the occasion of holy and blessed nights, certain TV programmes were shot in certain mosques without a congregation and broadcast on TRT 1 and Diyanet TV channels on respective days.



- Starting from March 27, 2020, at Beştepe People's Mosque, Friday prayers began to be performed in different mosques every week with limited attendance and observing social distancing rules.
- The poster, prepared about the rules to be followed in mosques and masjids during congregational prayers, was hung in all mosques and masjids and announced on the muftiate websites and social media accounts.
- As of June 24, 2020, congregational prayers began to be performed in mosques five times a day by observing, particularly, the social distancing rules, wearing masks and bringing a prayer rug along while going to a mosque, as well as the points set out in the circular on "Measures to Be Taken in Mosques and Places of Worships."



Family and Religious Counselling Services

Religious counselling services were provided by 3,150 personnel at 430 Family and Religious Counselling Offices/Centres through the answers to citizens' questions via telephone, e-mail, and in-person. "Spiritual Support and Values Education Courses" continued online through social media platforms in social service institutions such as children's homes, children's home complexes, child support centres and women's shelters affiliated to the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services. Nursing home residents from nearly 250 organisations participated in these programs.

In addition, live broadcast programs with educational and religious guidance content focused on the family were broadcast through official social media accounts created on behalf of Family and Religious Counselling Offices.

Within the scope of "the Family Educations Project in the Pandemic Period", 2,868,454 citizens benefited from 1,910 programs organised by 81 provincial mufti offices through social media accounts from October 5 to December 31, 2020.

During the pandemic period, 1,535,308 citizens benefited from

3,875 activities focusing on the family, children, women and the elderly, such as family conversations, Islamic knowledge courses, siyar-hadith readings, children's programs, audio articles, book-periodical discussions and values education with stories, organised by provincial/district Family and Religious Counselling Offices/Centres.

Within the scope of the "Peaceful Family, Strong Society, Safe Future Project," seminars on eight topics were organised for engaged and married couples throughout the year. In this context, 7,907 people attended the "First Step to Marriage Seminar" held 671 times, 91 of which featured in-person attendance and 580 featured online participation.



Religious Services with Social and Cultural Content

A total of 62,700 personnel, including 40,372 officials within Vefa Social Support Groups and 23,328 religious officials outside Vefa Social Support Groups, were there to help citizens and provided material and spiritual support to carry out the process more sensitively. In addition, spiritual counsellors and youth coordinators tasked at state dormitories organised meetings, conversations, and studies through social media platforms to ensure that the youth activities were not interrupted. Youth-focused activities were continued by forming groups on WhatsApp.

Migration and Spiritual Support Services

In the Euphrates Shield, Olive Branch and Peace Spring operation regions, religious services and educational activities are carried out by 2,250 officials in 867 mosques. A total of 58,808 students, including 27,189 girls, receive education in the region. All measures implemented in Türkiye due to the Covid-19 pandemic are simultaneously implemented beyond the border as well. In this context,

- Circulars on Measures against Covid-19, published on March 16-19, 2020, were translated into Arabic and communicated to religious officials.
- In order to ensure the continuity of the Qur'an education, which was interrupted due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the courses began to be carried out through remote learning from March. Currently, a controlled and gradual transition to face-to-face education is initiated in appropriate regions. In this framework, the face-to-face Qur'an course was resumed with 45,985 students studying in the region.
- An online workshop on "Covid-19 and the Role of Religious Officials in Combating the Pandemic" was held for 100 local religious officials.
- More than 150 videos were filmed and edited within the scope of remote Qur'an learning and provided on social media for students beyond the border.
- Advanced Turkish Courses for immigrants continues online at the Migration and Spiritual Support Centres. A group of graduate students comprised of students with leadership abilities was formed, and they partake in voluntary social and cultural activities.
- A book titled "Spiritual Support in the Pandemic Period" was prepared.

Education Services

Common Religious Education Services

Educational activities at all levels were suspended in the 2019-2020 academic year in March 2020. On September 28, 2020, face-to-face education began, and these sessions continued until November 16, 2020. A mid-term break was given on November 16-23, 2020. In this context,

- Education was suspended in need-oriented Qur'an courses on November 25, 2020. A directive has been sent stating that the courses would be continued through distance education beginning November 27, 2020.
- On December 02, 2020, distance education was started in the 4-6 age group Qur'an courses.
- On December 15, 2020, the project of "Türkiye, come on, let's learn the Qur'an at home" was initiated online.
- On February 15, 2021, the 2020-2021 academic year 2nd term courses began online.
- The directive, issued on February 26, 2021, stated that face-to-face education could begin. A material titled "Religious Education Information Notes for the Students of the Qur'an Course" was prepared and uploaded to the website, <https://egitimhizmetleri.diyamet.gov.tr/kategoriler/materyaller>
- With the suspension of education in the Qur'an courses, distance education programs were organised on Diyanet TV as of April 7, 2020, for Qur'an course teachers and parents every Tuesday for eight weeks, titled "Values Education in Childhood Period", on the programme

“Hello to the New Day”; and for children on 17.00-18.00 every day with the titles “I Learn from Home” and “Childish Stories and Tales” on the programme “Children’s Hour.”

- Since it was predicted that there would be difficulties concerning the issues of maintaining social distance, using masks, complying with the hygiene rules, and so on, three different programs were organised within the scope of distance education on Diyanet TV for six weeks called “Summer Qur’an Courses, I Learn My Religion,” “Summer Qur’an Courses I Learn Qur’an” and “Summer Qur’an Courses I Read Qur’an.”
- During the pandemic, a Diyanet TV programme called “Cheerful Friends Street” was created to aid in the education of Qur’an courses for children aged 4-6. The programme consisted of two different parts for values education and elifba (alphabet) teaching.
- In accordance with the principles of implementation of the Qur’an courses in the 2020-2021 academic year, Qur’an courses education began on September 28, 2020; the number of courses has been reduced, with the courses carried out alternately and with appointments.

Hafizship Education Services

- Education was suspended at all levels in Qur’an courses where hafizship education was given between March 16 and 29, 2020, and it was decided to continue hafizship education through internet and informatics facilities in the form of distance education as of March 30.
- Student letters were prepared by holding online meetings with the GPC (Guidance and Psychological Coun-

selling) teachers to protect the morale and motivation of students receiving hafizship education during the pandemic period.

- In order to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of hafizship education, strengthen communication with students and parents, and give motivational support in the distance education process, a GPC work was prepared for hafizship students and their parents with the contributions of Guidance and Psychological Counseling experts and sent to muftiate offices.
- With the initiation of the gradual normalisation steps in line with the decisions taken, the gradual normalisation process was also initiated in the Qur'an courses where hafizship education was given, and face-to-face education was initiated between June 15 and September 27, 2020, with 30% of the current boarding capacity.

Hajj and Umrah Services

- Hajj and Umrah services application was developed to be used on mobile phones.
- The 2019-2020 Umrah season was closed by the Presidency of Religious Affairs at the end of February.
- The returns from Umrah were planned in coordination with the Ministry of Health. As applied in the case of other passengers entering the country, precautions such as thermal cameras and such were implemented, information regarding pandemic measures was provided, information on the incoming citizens was shared with the relevant units of the Ministry of Health and their health checks were carried out at certain times, and they were recommended to comply with the 14-day quarantine rule.
- When a citizen returning from Umrah tested positive for coronavirus on March 14, 2020, the Ministry of Health

quarantined our citizens returning from Saudi Arabia after performing Umrah, working, or with a residence permit as of March 15, 2020, in the student dormitories of the KYK (Higher Education Credit and Hostels Institution) in Ankara, Konya, Eskişehir, Isparta, and Kayseri provinces.

- The Presidency of Religious Affairs met the personal needs of umrah pilgrims who were quarantined in the KYK dormitories.
- As of February 27, 2020, flights were suspended from Saudi Arabia to Türkiye. Our citizens aged 65 and over who signed in to perform Umrah worship after that date but who could not travel due to the pandemic were refunded at their homes, as they were under curfew.
- According to the pilgrim's preference, in cases of waiver or postponement of rights for the 2021 pilgrimage, the designated authorities to apply and steps to be followed regarding the registration and fee refund document procedures have been clearly stated. Accordingly, it was stated that the prospective pilgrims could carry out their transactions at the provincial/district muftiate offices via the e-government identity verification system at www.hac.gov.tr, or if they wished, from the agencies they were registered.
- It has been announced that the prospective pilgrims who have made their final registration in 2020 may choose to postpone their rights to 2021 or to waive their rights of pilgrimage in 2021. A public announcement was made stating that the pilgrim candidates who wished to waive their rights in the 2021 pilgrimage organisation would be fully refunded, and the drawing lots and registration of pilgrims resume for the following years with the number of drawing lots they have acquired.

Radio, Television and Broadcast Services

In order to strengthen the spiritual feelings and support our spiritual world; fulfil our citizens' longing for mosques during the period when prayers could not be performed in mosques with the congregation; contribute to the learning of Qur'an and religious education of children; enable children to spend quality time at home and encourage adaptation to the new normal, various programs have been broadcast on Diyanet TV and radios during the pandemic process.

Furthermore, 295 works from the Presidency of Religious Affairs' publications were made available free of charge in the digital environment to citizens who remained at home during the Covid-19 process. Digital publications were downloaded 1,750,000 times in 2020, and 400,000 books were sent to universities, schools, and prisons.

Religious Services Abroad

The Presidency of Religious Affairs did not suspend its religious education and social and cultural activities abroad during the pandemic period.

Educational Services

Distance education programs were planned in coordination with foreign consultancy and attaché offices, and religious education services abroad continued without interruption. Officials from the Presidency of Religious Affairs also attended the online lessons and conversation programs organised for children, young people and adults, and citizens abroad were not left alone in this process. Foreign Language Courses for 74 trainees (German 37, French 18, Dutch 17), which were suspended in line with the measures taken within the scope of Covid-19 pandemic on March 18, 2020, were completed in the form of "distance educa-



tion” on March 30, 2020 - April 22, 2020. The trainees achieved the same success and received the A1 and A2 certificates required for visa procedures. Despite the pandemic period, proceedings continued to be carried out within the scope of the International Theology Programme (UIP).

- Interviews of the candidates applying for UIP were conducted between June 23 - July 1 and 2020 in Türkiye, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and France; interviewing and placement results were announced on August 12, 2020. The International Theology Programme 2020-2021 student lists were notified to the Council of Higher Education (YÖK) on August 7, 2020.
- Students who had previously enrolled and were continuing their education began distance education in line with the universities’ practices. Distance education implementation is still in effect.
- Facilities were provided to the students staying in dormitories during the distance education process. Necessary permissions were given to students returning to their families and their hometowns.

- Students' scholarships began to be paid with the start of the 2020-2021 academic year with distance education.

Social and Cultural Activities

During this process, support groups were formed in collaboration with local authorities abroad, and citizens living abroad were provided with material and spiritual assistance. Family Seminars Abroad were organised in this context. Family Seminars Abroad were organised to contribute to the protection and strengthening of the family structure, as well as to ensure that citizens received accurate religious knowledge about the family based on religious advice and guidance.

Only three seminars could be held in 2020, out of a total of 12 "Family Seminars" scheduled to take place face to face. These seminars planned to be held face-to-face were cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic and were held online in 2021. In addition, 50 online seminars were held in 11 countries for different regions and associations in January-February 2021. To date, 7,500 people have been reached through the seminars.

Türkiye Diyanet Foundation's Services

Türkiye Diyanet Foundation has supported those in need affected by the pandemic by mobilising all its resources.

- The Türkiye Diyanet Foundation's well-known volunteers from the arts and culture community have supported the less advantaged people by calling for help for them through campaigns and social responsibility projects such as "Goodness Time for Türkiye," "May your Path be Goodness", and "Now it's Goodness Time" for citizens suffering financial difficulties as part of the measures against coronavirus.
- In this process, the Türkiye Diyanet Foundation produced projects in accordance with state policies in col-

laboration with the Presidency of Religious Affairs, initiated an aid mobilisation to support and give hope to citizens who have faced challenges since the onset of the virus with its 1,003 branches in Türkiye, and thus directed all donors to the “Goodness Package” donation campaign category which consisted of the basic food-stuff and hygiene materials prepared against Covid-19.

- With its Goodness Package and other campaign donations, the Türkiye Diyanet Foundation has been working to reach out to all of our citizens who have been facing material and spiritual challenges, particularly the elderly over 65, the disabled, people with illnesses, tradespeople, and students.
- While contributing to the work carried out by Vefa Social Support Groups established under the Governorates, religious officials and volunteers also performed various activities such as delivering aid packages to those in need, cash aid support, shopping assistance cards, withdrawing the salaries of people with illnesses and over the age of 65 and delivering them to their homes; providing medicines; shopping for them, delivering religious offerings such as appreciation, aqiqah and gratitude votives to the needy, distributing the Holy Qur’an, prayer rugs and catering materials, producing masks and visors, in addition to spiritual support visits, gardening, painting, dismantling and installing stoves for the elderly and people with illnesses, breaking wood, disinfecting the streets and avenues, and supporting the filiation teams.
- Aid amounting to 6,350,138 TL was delivered to 49,932 families by 39,773 religious officials and 3,011 volunteers through the branches throughout Türkiye.



- 6,636,887 TL were transferred to the campaign “We are Self-Sufficient, Türkiye,” initiated by the Presidency through the Foundation.
- In the month of Ramadan, 111,000 pieces of shopping aid cards of 50 TL (totalling 5,550,000 TL) were delivered to citizens who have been suffering material and spiritual damages due to the pandemic along with the Türkiye Diyanet Foundation Branches and Vefa Social Support Groups. During the feast, 5,000 feast aid cards totalling 500,000 TL were delivered to the children through branches.
- Despite the pandemic, 39,267 goodness packages, 46,800 iftar packages and 11,140 feast packages were distributed in 39 countries and 183 regions during Ramadan.
- During Eid al-Adha, 74,200 share sacrifice entrusted to the Türkiye Diyanet Foundation and its branches were sacrificed and delivered to those in need, who have been suffering material and spiritual damages due to the pandemic.
- 483.111 share sacrifice entrusted to the Türkiye Diyanet Foundation have been sacrificed in 74 countries and 308 regions abroad and delivered to those in need.

- During the pandemic, 4,800 shares of appreciation, aqiqah and gratitude votives were sacrificed within the country, and the sacrificial meat was delivered to citizens who suffered material and spiritual damages due to the pandemic and also those in need.
- During the pandemic, over 15,000 shares of appreciation, aqiqah and gratitude votives were sacrificed through the partners and counsellor' offices abroad and distributed to those in need.
- As a result of the increased water demand during the pandemic, the construction of the well and the foundation fountain, conducted by the Türkiye Diyanet Foundation, has been accelerated. In 2020, 143 water wells were drilled in 20 countries, 38 water wells and foundation fountains were built in five countries as of February 2021, and 477 water wells have been completed in 38 countries worldwide, which more than 6 million people have utilised.



- During the pandemic, the tenants operating in various business areas owned by Türkiye Diyanet Foundation were also protected and provided conveniences such as postponement and non-increase. In this context, nearly 1,500 tenants were provided convenience throughout Türkiye in 2020, and rental fees totalling approximately 7,000,000 TL were postponed and split into six equal instalments.

- During the pandemic, rent fees were not raised for approximately 850 tenants in the Foundation's workplaces for the year 2021, and most tenants were provided convenience by raising the fees below the inflation rate. Due to the lack of an increase, the Foundation gave up its rental receivables of approximately 3,000,000 TL.

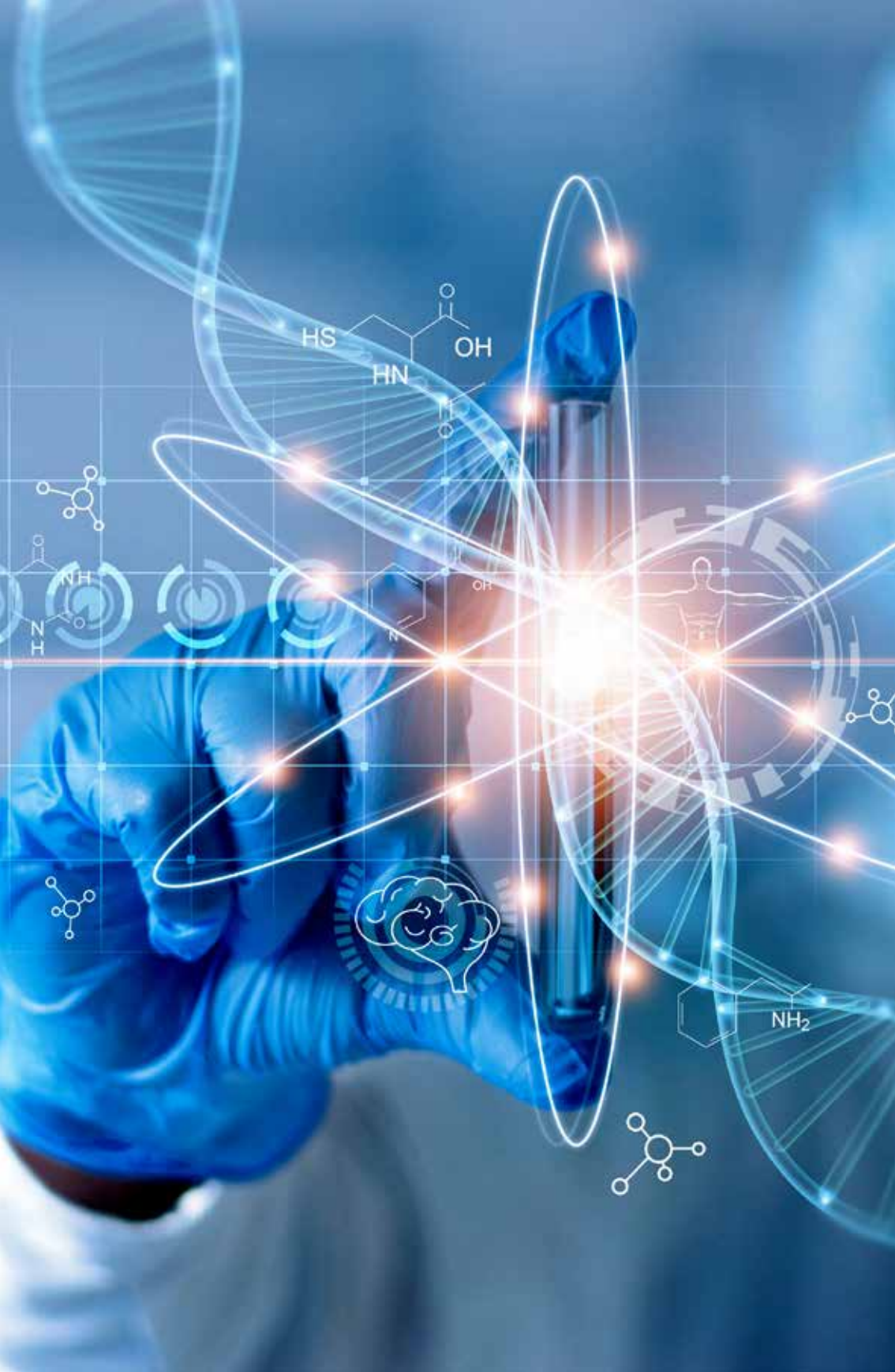


In addition, the Türkiye Diyanet Foundation has also stood by the students during the pandemic process and allowed them to receive education uninterruptedly.

- By organising online education and camping programs for students, it was ensured that their education was not interrupted. In particular, interviews with international students who wished to study in Türkiye were held on-site, and they were enabled to arrive in Türkiye.
- Within the scope of International Scholarship Programs; 2,620 students and trainees receive education at International Anatolian Imam Hatip High School, International Theology, International Theology Graduate Scholarship, International High Schools Alumni Support, International Qur'an Courses Training and

Trainee Support Programs at the International Religious High Specialisation Centres of the Presidency of International Religious Affairs.

- **Within the scope of domestic scholarship and education programs, 2,835 were provided with scholarships and educational support in the Scholarship Programs of the Theology Academy, Special Support Academy, Graduate Theology Academy, and Scholarship Programs of National Students Attending International Imam Hatip High Schools and Hafiz Project Schools.**



3.14. Scientific Studies, Projects and Publications

The inability to predict the physical and social effects of the novel coronavirus that affects the entire world, and a lack of knowledge about combat methods, have increased the need for a scientific approach. In addition, informing the public is of particular importance in fighting against the pandemic. In this context, while scientific studies and projects have been produced to investigate the virus's diagnosis and treatment methods, various institutions have published guidelines, manuals, and books.

Many institutions, especially the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK), which aims to promote, direct and popularise science and technology in Türkiye, have carried out important projects and publications.

Scientific Studies and Projects

TÜBİTAK's SME R&D Startup Support Programme

- During the fight against the pandemic, in addition to its ongoing support, TÜBİTAK launched two special calls within the scope of the SME R&D Startup Support Programme. A total of 17.5 million TL support was provided for 48 projects as part of these calls. Within the scope of the first call, the "Call to Fight Against Co-

vid-19”, 446 applications were received by 444 companies, and after evaluation, 35 projects on intensive care devices, diagnostics, masks, medication, disinfection, other PPE (Personal Protective Equipment), informatics applications and vaccination were ensured to be supported with a budget of 13.4 million TL.

- With the project call launched by the Development Agencies, entitled “Struggle and Resilience Programme against Covid-19”, the projects submitted by SMEs with R&D potential were evaluated under the SME R&D Start-up Support Programme. During the Covid-19 period, the commercialisation process of eight projects was completed first, and the commercialisation procedures of 29 projects are ongoing within the scope of both calls for SMEs. Along with these, four projects focusing on social responsibility were developed for community service.

Intern Researcher Scholarship Programme (STAR)

The call on the Intern Researcher Scholarship Programme (STAR), which was initiated to encourage and support researchers who would take part in projects for the diagnosis and treatment of Covid-19, was held open between April 8, 2020, and April 20, 2020.

- During the 12 days that the call was available, 340 students and researchers applied with a total of 70 different projects. 300 (88%) of them were entitled to be supported. STAR scholarship holders from Türkiye’s 40 provinces were involved in the Covid-19 research process. Moreover, 209 of the 300 supported researchers were women. STAR scholarship holders serve in the fields of vaccination, medication, diagnostic kits, treatment methods, disinfectant manufacturing, biomedicine, medical masks, bioinformatics and medical textiles.



Supporting Solution-Oriented Young Entrepreneurs

Thanks to the fellowship and support of many entrepreneurs, universities, non-governmental organisations, ministries and private companies, the “Coronathon Türkiye” competition was held in order to seek creative solutions to the problems caused by the virus.

- With the competition, it was decided to provide support through implementing agencies, which collaborated under the TÜBİTAK Individual Young Entrepreneur Programme. An additional budget of 600 thousand TL was provided for the accelerator programs to be carried out by Boğaziçi University Technology Transfer Office, İTÜ Çekirdek and METU Teknokent, which were three of the implementing agencies designated for Covid-19.
- In the EU vs Virus Hackathon organised by the European Commission, the entrepreneur teams, including Turkish entrepreneurs, were among the teams which ranked in five different categories.



Social Sciences and Humanities-Oriented Call on Covid-19 and Society

- A total of 682 project applications, 680 of which were from Türkiye and 2 of which were from the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), were received within the scope of the call on “Covid-19 and Society: Social, Human and Economic Effects of the Pandemic, Problems and Solutions”. As part of the projects decided to be supported with a budget of approximately 10 million TL, 97 projects were enforced and supported.
- Projects with a maximum duration of six months were finalised and provided decision-makers and practitioners with guiding contributions during and after the pandemic. The findings obtained, the goals achieved, and the recommendations produced were publicly announced at the “Covid-19 and Society: Social, Human and Economic Effects of the Pandemic, Problems and Solutions” event.

Project Name	Executing Agency
Early Detection of Respiratory Diseases Related to Covid-19 and Its Integration into Tele-Health Service with Speech, Sound and Cough Analysis Software	Etimesgut Şehit Sait Ertürk State Hospital
Development of Artificial Intelligence Supported Smart Camera Systems for Social Distance Detection to Fight Against Covid-19	Akdeniz University
Supervised and Unsupervised Measurement and Evaluation System for Distance Education	Harran University
Preparation of a Training Set for Different Segments of Society With the Aim of Reducing / Preventing the Spread of the Disease During and After the Coronavirus (Covid-19) Pandemic	University of Health Sciences
Project Ev-Des: Design and Implementation of Online Home Support Programme for Parents of Children Diagnosed with Developmental Retardation / Disability in Early Childhood	Anadolu University
Development of Artificial Intelligence Supported Student Monitoring and Evaluation System for E-Trainers	Hacettepe Üniversitesi
Supporting the Measurement and Evaluation Processes of Academic Staff with an Online Training Portal in Distance Education	Bartın University
An Analysis of the Perceptions and Emotions of Primary and Secondary School Students Related to the Distance Education Process During the Covid-19 Period	Yıldız Technical University

Development of a Software with Digital Process and Algorithmic Model for Multifaceted Internship Plan Based on Temporal Continuity In Architecture and Design Education in Cases of Pandemic /Disaster	Altınbaş University
Interactive Evaluation Platform (EDA)	Trabzon University
A New Distance Education Model and Application Platform in Higher Education	Sakarya University
Distance Education in Universities During the Covid-19 Period: Capacities of Universities, Adaptation of Faculty Members and Satisfaction of Students	Akdeniz University
Development of a Guideline to Support Remote User Experience Research Process	Middle East Technical University
From Trauma to Resilience: Balance-Seeking Behaviours of Nurse-Parents in Hospital and Family Life During the Covid-19 Period	İstanbul Kültür University
Determining the Needs of Digital Content Ecosystem for the Presentation of Educational Content in Higher Education	Anadolu University
Effect of Covid-19 on the Quality of Life of Children with Special Needs and Their Families: A Mixed Design Study	Ondokuz Mayıs University
Examining the Distance Higher Education Applications During the Pandemic Period and Producing Experience-Based Policy Recommendations on Open and Distance Education	Atatürk University

<p>A Humor-Analysis and Enrichment of Distance Education Programme Contents Provided for Primary Schools During the Pandemic Period</p>	<p>Hasan Kalyoncu University</p>
<p>Distance Higher Education During the Covid-19 Period: Quantitative and Qualitative Analysis</p>	<p>Abdullah Gül University</p>
<p>Planning, Implementing and Evaluating a Short-Term Electronic Mentorship Programme to Support Prospective Teachers' Professional and Psycho-Social Development</p>	<p>Trabzon University</p>
<p>Development of an Online Exam System To Increase Test Security and Provide Partial Scoring in Multiple Choice Tests</p>	<p>Hasan Kalyoncu University</p>
<p>Flexible Work Management System Development Project: Standards and Practices to Support Business Continuity and Psychological Well-being of Employees</p>	<p>Istanbul Bilgi University</p>
<p>Analysis of the Effects of Covid-19 Pandemic on the Food Retail Industry and Solution Suggestions for Future Development</p>	<p>Istanbul Technical University</p>
<p>Investigating the Relationship Between Consumption and Self-Control in Consumption Habits and Vulnerability in the Accessing of Resources During Coronavirus Measures Period: Determining the Effects of Psychological Well-Being, Individual Resilience, Social Capital and Pro-Social Behaviours and Developing Policy Recommendations</p>	<p>Istanbul Technical University</p>
<p>Longitudinal Investigation of The Traumatic Effect of Covid-19 on Health Workers in the Frame of Memory</p>	<p>Kadir Has University</p>

<p>Mental Health Studies Relating to the Covid-19 Pandemic: Assessment of Psychological Difficulties Caused by the Pandemic, Development of Mobile Phone Based Applications and Web-Based Psycho- Development Packages</p>	<p>Hacettepe University</p>
<p>The Effect of Compulsory Working from Home On Workers' Health and Home-Work Conflicts In the Shadow of the Covid-19 Pandemic: A Longitudinal Research</p>	<p>Sabancı University</p>
<p>Organisational and Psychological Intervention For Health Workers in the Fight Against Covid-19</p>	<p>Dokuz Eylül University</p>
<p>Coping Styles and the Mediating Role of Emotion Regulation in the Relationship Between the Effects of Covid-19 Pandemic and Anxiety and Depression Symptoms</p>	<p>Bahçeşehir University</p>
<p>The Use of Virtual Reality in the Recovery of Cultural Tourism from Travel Restrictions</p>	<p>Akdeniz University</p>
<p>Effects of Covid-19 on the Cognitive and Psycho-Social Development of Children and Teenagers and Their Academic Life</p>	<p>Middle East Technical University</p>
<p>Investigation of the Effects of Parents' Individual, Familial and Environmental Stress Factors On Psychological Health of Children in the Context of the Covid-19 Pandemic</p>	<p>Özyeğin University</p>
<p>Investigation of Individual, Familial and Social Factors That Protect Well-being in the Covid-19 Pandemic Period</p>	<p>Kadir Has University</p>
<p>From a Network Analysis Perspective: Psycho-Social Effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic</p>	<p>Kadir Has University</p>

Pandemic Fiqh in Terms of Worship, Treatment and Economics	Social Sciences University of Ankara
The Effects of Spirituality, Awareness, Cognitive Control and the Role of Variables on Common Anxiety Caused by the Covid-19 Pandemic	İzmir University of Economics
Determination of Mental Health Protection Factors in Individuals That Have a History of Testing Positive for Covid-19	Kilis 7 Aralık University
Frequency of Psychological Symptoms Associated with the Covid-19 Pandemic: Worsening of Symptoms, Related Risk Factors and Protective Factors	Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University
Development of E-Psychological Support Based on Cognitive Therapy for Health Workers and Evaluation of Its Effectiveness	Gaziantep University
Reflections on Covid-19 Pandemic on Psycho-Social Health of Women during Pregnancy and Postpartum Period: A Cross-Sectional Cohort Study	Akdeniz University
Effect of Covid-19 on Harmony of Marriage	İstanbul Medeniyet University
Threat Perception of Writing Gratitude in the Corona Period and Its Relation to Anxiety For the Future	Ankara University
The Relationship Between Pandemic-related Beliefs, Coping Strategies and Psychopathology in Individuals Diagnosed with and without Covid-19: A Longitudinal Study	Işık University
Investigation of Behavioural Factors Related To Covid-19	Akdeniz University

<p>The Role of Social Norms and Collaborative Strategies in Supporting and Adhering to the Policies Implemented and the Measures Taken in The Fight Against Covid-19</p>	<p>Dokuz Eylül University</p>
<p>How Can We Maximise Compliance with Preventative Measures? The Effect of Personal and Social Benefit Messages</p>	<p>Kadir Has University</p>
<p>Social Relations Model Approach to the Quality Of Family Relations in the Covid-19 Period: The Centrality of Covid-19, Perceived Difference and Self-Control</p>	<p>Sabancı University</p>
<p>The Effect of Ageism in Young People's Risky Behaviours Related to Social Distance Measures: An Anonymous Online Programme Proposal for Raising Prejudice Awareness</p>	<p>Bursa Uludağ University</p>
<p>The Effect of Newspaper Reading and Social Media Use of Individuals in Protective Behaviour from Covid-19</p>	<p>Koç University</p>
<p>Covid-19's Impact on the Psychological Problems in Türkiye and Self-Help and Intervention, a Feasibility Study on "Doing What Matters in Times of Stress: An Illustrated Guide"</p>	<p>Koç University</p>
<p>Cyberchondria, Fear of Covid-19, Health Anxiety, Obsessions, Sleep Quality, and Affect: A Blended Structural Equation Modelling Approach</p>	<p>Ankara University</p>
<p>Ethic Dilemmas Health Workers Experience During the Fight Against the Pandemic And Development of Sensitive Resilience To Ethical Values</p>	<p>Niğantaşı University</p>

Different Dynamics of Coping Strategies of the Youth Regarding the Covid-19 Pandemic	Ankara University
Covid-19's Effects on Perception of Old Age And the Elderly and Public Policy Recommendations to Improve the Public Image of the Elderly	Ankara University
Covid-19 Experiences of Households With Different Levels of Social Vulnerability And Their Expectations of The Near Future: The Example of Istanbul	TED University
Digital Skill-building for Women over 65 Under Social Isolation	Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University
Covid-19's Effect on Intergenerational Solidarity in Türkiye	Ankara University
Analysis of Covid-19 Experiences of the Elderly in Istanbul and Development of A Social Resilience Measure for the Elderly Project	İstanbul Kent University
Coping Strategies in Old Age: Experiences of Lonely Women During the Covid-19 Period	Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University
Investigation of the Effects of Online Support Services Regarding the Quality of Living and Physical Activities of Mentally Deficient People Aged 25-50 That Stay at Home Due to Covid-19 and Their Mothers	İstanbul Kent University
Covid-19 From the Perspective of the Consumer: Drafting Effective Policies for Food Consumption During the Pandemic Using Behavioural Insight	Ege University

Covid-19's Impact on the Tourism Industry And Comparative Analysis of Countries' Crisis Management Strategies	Pamukkale University
Evaluating the Activities of Institutions Providing Social Service in Istanbul During the Covid-19 Pandemic Period and Developing a Proactive Business Plan within Strategic Social Management for the Second Wave Crisis	İstanbul Aydın University
Covid-19's Effects on the Turkish Economy and Politics of Alternative Macroeconomic General Equilibrium Analysis	İhsan Doğramacı Bilkent University
Assumption of The Negative Impact of External and Internal Economic Development Caused by the Covid-19 Pandemic on Türkiye: Proposing Alternative Policy Packages for Eliminating Those Effects	Akdeniz University
Examining the Economic Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic with Sectoral and General Uncertainty Indices and Sectoral Emergency Measures	Abdullah Gül University
Covid-19's Effect on Residential and Commercial Property Prices: The Case of Türkiye	Samsun University
Labor Market, Income Losses and Domestic Production in the Covid-19 Pandemic	Bahçeşehir University
Measurement of the Adaptability of SMEs Operating in the TRC2 Region to the Covid-19 Process and the Analysis of the Improvement of Competition Conditions from the Industry 4.0 Perspective	Harran University

Statistical Analysis, Modeling and Development of Possible Risk Index of Covid-19 Data	Ankara University
The Effects of Uncertainties Brought by the Covid-19 Pandemic on Social, Economic and Political Preferences and Behaviour Patterns: The Role of Risk Perception	Boğaziçi University
The Covid-19 Pandemic and Care Services Crisis from a Gender Perspective: The Employment Impact of Public Investments in Care Services	İstanbul Technical University
Determining the Effect of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Commercial Activities in Istanbul And Proposing Solutions	İstanbul Commerce University
Information Seeking and Information Assessment of Elderly People in the Covid-19 Period	Hacettepe University
Occupational Health and Safety During and After the Covid-19 Pandemic and New Working Models That The Pandemic Will Accelerate	Ankara University
How "Life Fits Into Home" Will Transform the Home: Housing Design Strategies for the Covid-19 Period and its Aftermath	İstanbul Kültür University
Covid-19 Pandemic and Crisis in the Cinema Industry	Mersin University
Improving the Sustainability of Social Networks	İstanbul University
Fragile Commons and Risk Communication in Türkiye During the Covid-19 Pandemic: A Communication-Oriented Analysis of the Risk Perception of the Risk Group Aged 65 Years and Older	Ankara University

Crisis Communication: Regulative Communicational Approaches in the Light of the Lessons to be Learned from the Covid-19 Pandemic	Ankara University
Covid-19 Turkish Tax Policy, Orientations and Legal Priorities	Altınbaş University
Research on the Attitude of Individuals Against False Information and the Determinants of These Attitudes for Effective Fight Against the “Infodemic”: The Case of Covid-19	Istanbul Bilgi University
The Urban During the Pandemic Period: A Research in terms of Expectation-Capacity in Procuring Urban Immunisation (the Case of Lakes Region)	Süleyman Demirel University
The Contingency of the Physical Distance and Isolation Fragility in Immediate Environment Ecology: Developing Public Communication Policy Recommendations Encouraging Abidance Regarding the Responsibilities and Expectations	Ege University
Understanding the Dissemination of False Information Within the Context of Covid-19 Pandemic in Türkiye from the Perspective of Media Users and Recommendations to Improve Preventive Action	Kadir Has University
Problems Arising from Digital Transformation in Local Authorities due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and Proposed Solutions: The Case of Bartın Province	Bartın University
Evaluation of Local Services Provided to Elderly People within the Context of Covid-19 Outbreak and the Vefa Social Support Group: Kayseri Talas Metropolitan District Municipality	Nuh Naci Yazgan University

The Health Safety Perception of Children and Their Parents Who Cannot Leave Their House During the Fight Against the Covid-19 Pandemic Period Regarding the Urban Space and the Possible Effect on Children's Physical Activity Levels in the Normalisation Process	Dokuz Eylül University
Perspectives of Community Service Providers in Local Governments on Covid-19 with an Interdisciplinary Approach and Solution Suggestions	İzelman General Service Parking Special Education Firefighting and Health Services Trade Inc.
Interactive Interface Design and Design Guide for Online Education for Applied Courses in Art, Design and Architecture Departments of Universities under Pandemic Conditions	Yıldız Teknik University
Transformative Impact of the Global Covid-19 Pandemic on Contemporary Art in Türkiye	Kadir Has University
Management of Electricity Supply, Generation Resources and Demand during the Covid-19 Pandemic Period	Kadir Has University
Modelling and Simulation Software for Determining Sectoral Optimal Incentive Policies and Increasing Strategic Competitiveness During the Covid-19 Pandemic Period	Ankara University
Effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Supply Chain Management in the Ready-to-Wear Sector and Possible Proposed Solutions	Ege University
Investigation of the Effectiveness of Digital Applications in the Follow-up of Obesity Patients whose Follow-up and Treatment Process were Disrupted Due to the Covid-19 Global Pandemic	Antalya Education and Research Hospital
Bringing the Covid-19 Patients in the Intensive Care Unit Together with Their Relatives: Virtual Visitation	Koç University
Online Training Programme Model for Effective Management of Nursing Services in Times of Covid-19 Pandemic and Similar Crisis	İstanbul University

Covid-19 – Oriented International Collaborations

TÜBİTAK provides research support on Covid-19 within the scope of bilateral cooperation calls initiated with the United Kingdom, People's Republic of China and Iran, as well as calls for Southeast Asia - Europe Joint Funding Scheme (SEAEU JFS), EUREKA Programme and the ECSEL Joint Initiative. Within the scope of these calls, 55 project applications were received, and the application evaluation process is still ongoing. The strong science and technology-based fight that Türkiye has been conducting against Covid-19 were brought to the agenda at various international meetings. Türkiye's achievements within the scope of the European Research Area (ERA) Corona Action Plan (ERAvsCORONA) of the European Union were shared with associating countries and attracted attention.

- The project achievements obtained within the scope of Horizon 2020 continued to be effective in the field of Covid-19 as well. In the calls for the “Science with and for the Society” field, a pandemic virus monitoring application that provides effective information transfer between science and society is being developed in the PandeVITA project. There are seven partners from five different countries in the project in total.
- The achievements of the “Covid-19 Türkiye Platform” were represented at the 9th Global Summit of Leaders of Research Institutions at the Science Technology Forum. The Covid-19-oriented mobilisation of the ecosystem was shared at high-level meetings held within the scope of the International Organisation of Scientific Organisations (ANSO) of the Belt and Road Initiative.
- At the virtual meeting held between Türkiye, Malaysia, Indonesia and Pakistan research institutions, the success of Türkiye's “ Covid-19 Türkiye Platform” was emphasised, and the post-Covid-19 period was discussed. Bilateral talks were also held with Indonesia

and a vaccine oriented technical workshop was organised. Related cooperation opportunities contribute to the developments of the Kuala Lumpur Summit Centre of Excellence.

- During the Covid-19 period, international scientific and technological cooperation opportunities, particularly with Ukraine, Moldova, Peru, Costa Rica, Mexico and Brazil, also began to rise, and new cooperation agreements were brought up in the agenda. Türkiye's Covid-19 approach was presented at various meetings held around the world.
- With a budget of 8 million Euros, the project was prepared and finalised, with TÜBTAK and the Directorate of Health Institutes of Türkiye (TUSEB) as beneficiaries.

IT and Network Capacity Support to Universities

- The capacity needs and demands of universities transitioning to the distance education process were met immediately by TÜBİTAK ULAKBİM (Turkish Academic Network and Information Centre). In this context, hardware updates were performed on ULAKNET main backbone router devices in Ankara, Istanbul, and Izmir, allowing for a 100% capacity increase, and new 100Gbps and 10Gbps ports were installed.
- Owing to the data centre located in the centre of the academic network, the processor, storage and network needs of universities were met, and they were given the opportunity to serve tens of thousands of students.
- Open-Source Video Conferencing System was commissioned as a new service by the ULAKCloud team to meet the increasing need for video conferencing and made available to universities and research institutions.



The Covid-19 Türkiye Platform

Under the auspices of the Ministry of Industry and Technology and in coordination with the TÜBİTAK MAM Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology Institute, the first meeting for the establishment of the Covid-19 Türkiye Platform was held on January 31, and an intense mobilisation was enabled with a focus on joint development and success. In order to gain connectivity, 17 projects aimed at developing vaccines and treatment-oriented drugs are being carried out under the umbrella of the platform, with a total of 436 researchers from 49 different institutions and organisations involved.

- 118 researchers from 32 universities,
- 38 researchers from eight private sector organisations,
- 67 researchers from nine public R&D units,
- 213 scholarship holders, with 167 being STAR scholarship holders.

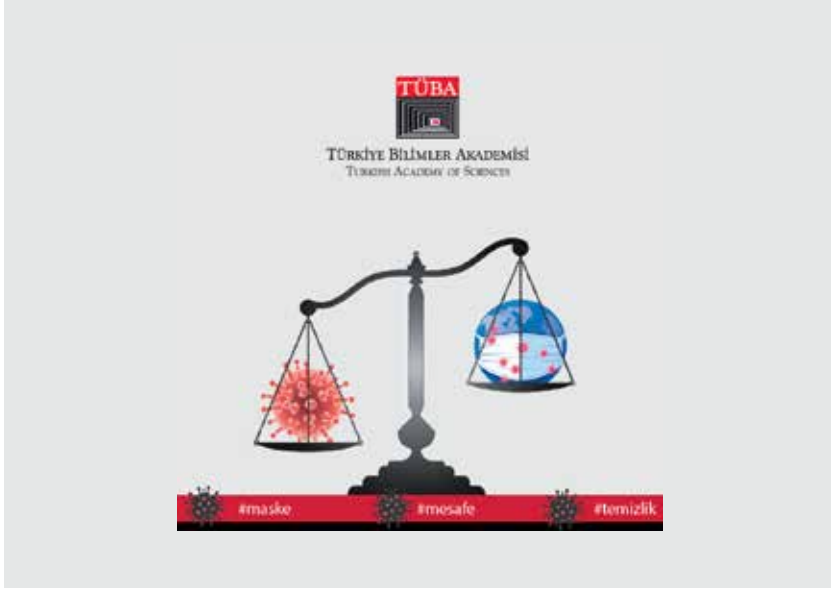
In order to share evidence-based information in the fight against Covid-19 in the mobilisation of the ecosystem, to increase social awareness, and to use the capabilities that virtual platforms offer to their fullest extent, the Covid-19 Türkiye Web Portal has been established. The number of visits to the portal is over 4.1 million, and the number of visitors is over a million. Türkiye's portal was included in the European Covid-19 Data Portal as one of the exemplary data portals.

The live broadcast of the “Virtual Conferences on Vaccine and Medicine Development” and the “Virtual Conference on Türkiye’s Diagnostic Prowess,” which were organised in collaboration with the Covid-19 Türkiye Platform, reached 170,000 viewers. At the conferences, developments regarding medical diagnostic kits, portable laboratory, hybrid cameras, microfluidic chip methods and artificial intelligence-based applications to be produced with fast, sensitive and high-affinity innovative technology for innovative vaccine candidates, treatment-oriented drug candidates and diagnostic systems were discussed. The live broadcast of the event, organised with the focus on Covid-19 and the general public, reached around 20 thousand viewers.

In addition, the current status of SMEs adversely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic was analysed, and, in this context, a survey was conducted with the participation of 17,447 SMEs between March 31 and April 7, 2020, in order to determine the steps that could be taken by the Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Development Organisation (KOSGEB), as a result of which, the “Current Situation Report on SMEs in the Coronavirus Pandemic Period” was prepared. The study, which was revised in line with the feedbacks, was implemented between May 5 and May 12, 2020, as a result of which, “Analysis of the Current Situation Regarding SMEs in the Coronavirus Pandemic Period - Survey Result Report” was prepared and submitted to the relevant authorities.

Publications

Turkish Academy of Sciences (TÜBA) contributed to scientific studies. All studies were shared as open-source on the official website of TÜBA for scientists and citizens to access and benefit easily during and after the global pandemic’s quarantine period. TÜBA published a number of publications in Turkish and English in order to raise public awareness and enable scientists to do their work by referring to the appropriate sources; they were shared with and sent to international academies, umbrella organisations, and reputable university libraries:



- **TÜBA Covid-19 Pandemic Assessment Report**

(This report, which has the distinction of being the first in its field, was made available online in April and was updated six times during the pandemic period before being printed in its final form.)

- **Anatomy of the Pandemic: The Future of Humanity and the Society**

(The book, which contains predictions about the post-pandemic period, consists of 47 chapters. It has the distinction of being one of the most comprehensive books on the subject.)

- **TÜBA Covid-19 Pandemic: Legal Development and Interaction Report**

The aforementioned works were pioneering and comprehensive studies and were shared with academicians, public institutions and organisations, universities and libraries.



In addition to scientific studies and projects, TÜBİTAK made significant contributions in terms of publications:

- Turkish Journal of Medical Sciences' "Covid-19 Special Issue" and Turkish Journal of Biology's "Covid-19 Special Issue" focused on the research related to Covid-19. These journals can be accessed via the Covid-19 Türkiye Web Portal Scientific Sources page (<https://covid19.tubitak.gov.tr/bilimsel-kaynaklar>). Researchers continue to use the open-access articles and data sets based on various databases in the same portal extensively in the fight against Covid-19.
- In order to provide free access to the magazines published by TÜBİTAK, the magazines Bilim ve Teknik (Science and Technique), Bilim Çocuk (Science for Kids) and Meraklı Minik (Curious Little One) were published online as pdf documents without the subscription requirement. The magazines were downloaded 10 million times.
- The Covid-19 subject was covered in the March, May and September issues of the Bilim ve Teknik magazine, and a popular science book titled "What is Coronavirus? Coronavirus Guide for Children" was published in July for readers aged five and over.



In addition to these, many guides, programmes, action plans and reports are being published on the website of the General Directorate of Public Health of the Ministry of Health. Regarding the Covid-19 pandemic, there is a Scientific Advisory Board Study named “Covid-19 Pandemic Management and Study Guide” dated October 1, 2020. The 455-page study covers the measures to be taken in all areas.

The “Covid-19 Dictionary” is also available on the website of the Ministry of Health.



During the pandemic period, a significant contribution in terms of publications was made by the Directorate of Communications; the Directorate published the book, “Türkiye’s Effective Fight Against Coronavirus” in Turkish and English. The book addressed a wide range of issues such as the development of health services in Türkiye, comprehensive information about the Covid-19 disease, the historical development of the pandemic period in Türkiye and the world, the measures taken and aids provided by the state in Türkiye, Türkiye’s international aids, and evacuation operations.



The Centre for Strategic Studies of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also contributed to the academic discussions during the Covid-19 pandemic. In this context, during the pandemic and the environment of uncertainty it created, an interdisciplinary compilation titled "The Post-Covid-19 Global System: Old Problems New Trends" based on the preliminary analysis of reputable academicians and experts was published in April 2020.

Similarly, a study titled "The World After Covid-19: Cooperation or Competition?" which was composed of assessments and analyses of reputable scientists, global thinkers and experts regarding the probable effects of the Covid-19 on the international system, states, people, great power competition, international organisations, security, globalisation and conflicts was published by the Centre for Strategic Studies and Antalya Diplomacy Forum in June 2020.

In addition, the Presidency of Religious Affairs carried out many activities for citizens to adapt to the pandemic conditions, overcome this difficult period and strengthen them spiritually.

The Presidency also made contributions in terms of publications for the citizens.

In terms of printed publications, the Presidency continued to publish books, with the first editions of 64 books printed and 23 books reprinted. Citizens were given free access to 2,372,434 printed publications. The citizens in various provinces who had been quarantined due to Covid-19 received 19,870 of the works distributed free of charge. Some of the works which were printed and distributed to the citizens are as follows;

- Islam's Perspective on Pandemics
- Medical and Health-Related Fatwas
- Spiritual Support during the Pandemic

CHAPTER 4

INTERNATIONAL AIDS AND THE GREATEST EVACUATION OPERATION IN THE HISTORY OF THE REPUBLIC



Türkiye has received requests for help from 159 countries and so far delivered aids to 157 countries. From the beginning of the outbreak of the crisis, Turkish citizens have been brought home from 142 countries within the framework of the greatest evacuation operation in the history of the Republic.



CHAPTER 4

INTERNATIONAL AIDS AND THE GREATEST EVACUATION OPERATION IN THE HISTORY OF THE REPUBLIC

The Covid-19 pandemic has emerged as an unprecedented global threat against all humanity. Even the most developed countries have been shaken in all areas of life in the face of the pandemic, particularly the healthcare systems. In almost every country around the world, the restrictions imposed to varying extents against the pandemic have adversely affected individuals, social life and economic activities.

Türkiye believes that the struggle against this global disaster can be successful only through international cooperation and solidarity. In this context, Türkiye has highlighted the importance of this matter for the international community at both multilateral and bilateral levels and made concrete contributions accordingly.

At the domestic level, on the other hand, the magnitude of the situation was recognised at an early stage under the resilient and resolute leadership of our President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, and the spread of the pandemic into Türkiye was delayed as much as possible thanks to the measures taken. Following the first appearance of the pandemic within its borders, Türkiye was able to maintain its resilience against this serious disaster thanks to the means, resources, and opportunities provided by its healthcare system and infrastructure. Moreover, Türkiye rapidly evacuated its citizens abroad, met the needs of its citizens in their respective countries abroad, and provided medical supplies, protective equipment and respirators for those countries that had asked for help.



A Coordination and Support Centre was established on March 25, 2020, within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for monitoring and evaluation of all developments related to the Covid-19 pandemic and ensuring the necessary coordination with international institutions, foreign representations, and other countries for a more effective response and direction in matters related to foreign affairs, particularly delivering aid to citizens abroad.

The Centre, which identified helping Turkish citizens abroad facing pressing humanitarian, social and economic challenges caused by the pandemic as its top priority, functioned, first and foremost, as the focal point of coordination across Türkiye and within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the process of evacuating the Turkish citizens and bringing them home, who had been abroad with temporary status for touristic, business and visit-related purposes and had to stay there upon closure of borders.

All problems faced by the Turkish citizens abroad, such as health problems, funeral procedures and economic problems, were addressed and dealt with by foreign representations under the coordination of the Centre. Türkiye's foreign missions provided food and cash support for those in need in cooperation with NGOs.

Turkish Embassies and Consulates General worked on a 24-hour basis under the direction of the Centre, identified every Turkish citizen locked in abroad and in need of help, and dealt with each individually. Foreign representation staff ensured the Turkish citizens were safely transported from their homes and hotels and boarded on their planes.



As of March 1, 2021, 2,886 Turkish citizens lost their lives abroad, and the funerals of 2,605 citizens have been brought to Türkiye. Currently, the statuses of Turkish citizens abroad diagnosed with Covid-19 and in need of treatment are monitored, and necessary care is provided by the Turkish Foreign Representations for those hospitalised citizens.



The Consular Call Centre of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, working on a 24/7 basis, provides information and direction for our citizens who request information and have questions related to consular services. As of February 23, 2021, over 163 thousand calls have been answered by the Consular Call Centre. The Centre made sure that no call remained unanswered. Similarly, the social media accounts of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are frequently used for communication by citizens, and each received message is replied to.

The Coordination and Support Centre, in consultation with the Ministry of Health and all other institutions, manages medical supplies aids delivered to other countries and international institutions as well.

Borders closed between two countries were ensured to be opened for some Turkish citizens to board a plane in a third country, and their transfer to airports was ensured via official vehicles with diplomatic licence plates. Other times, a vital medication or drug needed by Turkish citizens was delivered to them, and the vehicles with diplomatic licence plates were used to bring Turkish citizens to the Turkish Embassy's facilities and offered accommodation until departure time.





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4.1. International Aids

Foreign aids provided within the scope of the fight against the pandemic have been a reflection of Türkiye's humanitarian and enterprising foreign policy. Within this framework, requests from all across the globe for assistance have been tried to be met within the realms of possibility. Throughout this process, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has worked closely with the Ministry of Health and other institutions to receive, evaluate, direct, and procure requests from foreign countries.

To date, 159 countries have requested various types of aids (equipment donation, financial aid, and sale/export permit). So far, 157 countries have benefited from the aids.

Of the 157 countries that have received aids, 129 have received grants, 75 have received purchasing and export permits, and 50 have received financial aids (It's possible that the same country has received aids -equipment grant/financial aid/ export permit/ purchasing permit- in different categories). With 49 countries, Africa is the leading continent that has sent Türkiye the highest number of aid requests. This is respectively followed by Europe (41 countries), Asia (33 countries), America (21 countries) and Oceania (15 countries).



157 Countries Türkiye Has Provided Assistance to



1	USA	28	People's Republic of China
2	Afghanistan	29	Denmark
3	Germany	30	Dominican Republic
4	Andorra	31	Ecuador
5	Angola	32	Equatorial Guinea
6	Argentina	33	El Salvador
7	Albania	34	Indonesia
8	Austria	35	Eritrea
9	Australia	36	Estonia
10	Azerbaijan	37	Ethiopia
11	United Arab Emirates	38	Eswatini
12	Bahrain	39	Fiji
13	Bangladesh	40	Ivory Coast
14	Belarus	41	Philippines
15	Belgium	42	Palestine
16	Benin	43	Finland
17	Bolivia	44	France
18	Bosnia Herzegovina	45	Gabon
19	Botswana	46	The Gambia
20	Brazil	47	Guinea
21	Bulgaria	48	Guinea-Bissau
22	Burkina Faso	49	Guiana
23	Algeria	50	Republic of South Africa
24	Djibouti	51	South Sudan
25	Cook Island	52	Guatemala
26	Chad	53	Georgia
27	Czechia	54	Haiti

55	Croatia	90	Madagascar
56	Netherlands	91	Malasia
57	Honduras	92	Mali
58	Iraq	93	Malta
59	United Kingdom	94	Marshall Island
60	Iran	95	Mexico
61	Ireland	96	Micronesia
62	Spain	97	Mongolia
63	Sweden	98	Moldova
64	Switzerland	99	Principality of Monaco
65	Israel	100	Mauritania
66	Italia	101	Mauritius
67	Cambodia	102	Mozambique
68	Cameroon	103	Myanmar
69	Canada	104	Namibia
70	Montenegro	105	Nauru
71	Qatar	106	Niger
72	Kazakhstan	107	Nigeria
73	Kenya	108	Nicaragua
74	Kyrgyzstan	109	Niue
75	Kiribati	110	Norway
76	TRNC	111	Uzbekistan
77	Colombia	112	Pakistan
78	Congo	113	Palau
79	Kosovo	114	Panama
80	Costa Rica	115	Papua New Guinea
81	Kuwait	116	Paraguay
82	North Macedonia	117	Peru
83	Cuba	118	Poland
84	Lesotho	119	Portugal
85	Liberia	120	Romania
86	Libya	121	Rwanda
87	Lithuania	122	Russia
88	Lebanon	123	Samoa
89	Hungary	124	San Marino

125	São Tomé and Príncipe	142	Togo
126	Senegal	143	Tonga
127	Serbia	144	Tunisia
128	Sierra Leone	145	Tuvalu
129	Singapore	146	Turkmenistan
130	Slovakia	147	Uganda
131	Slovenia	148	Ukraine
132	Solomon Islands	149	Oman
133	Somali	150	Jordan
134	Sri Lanka	151	Vanuatu
135	Sudan	152	Vatican
136	Syria	153	Venezuela
137	Saudi Arabia	154	Vietnam
138	Chile	155	Yemen
139	Tajikistan	156	Zambia
140	Tanzania	157	Zimbabwe
141	Thailand		

Of the 157 countries that have had their requests fulfilled, 129 have received grants, while 75 have received buying and export permits. In addition, 50 countries have received financial aids. The following are some of the specifics of some of Türkiye's aids.



USA



Under the instructions of our President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Türkiye donated 1,502,500 masks, 500 face protectors, 1,000 protective safety goggles, 1,500 N95s, 125,050 overalls, 4 tons of disinfectant, 2,000 litres of disinfectant, 4,200 protective safety goggles to the USA in two batches on April 22, 2020, and May 1, 2020.

Furthermore, 15,000 surgical masks were sent to the Turkish Consulate General in New York for the use of the Turkish citizens on May 8, 2020, and in response to a request from the citizens in Maryland, 30,000 surgical masks were delivered to the Turkish Embassy in Washington on May 11, 2020.

GERMANY

Within the scope of the Grant Agreement concluded between Türkiye and Germany, 5 million masks were provided. In addition, 40 thousand masks were granted to the Hannover Municipality on May 2, 2020.

AZERBAIJAN



In accordance with the Grant Agreement signed between Azerbaijan and Türkiye, 30 ventilators, 35,000 protective coveralls, 50,000 N95 masks, 100,000 surgical masks, 5000 Protective goggles, 200,000 gloves, two PCR instruments, 20,000 Hydroxychloroquine and 20,000 Tamiflu were granted.

During the month of Ramadan in 2020, 44 tons of food aid were distributed to approximately 2,500 families in over 30 settlements.

On December 17, 2020, seven trucks carrying food, household goods, sheltering materials, personal protective equipment, winter clothes, hygiene materials, medicine, wheelchairs, toys, and various medical consumables granted by the Red Crescent left for Azerbaijan.



In addition, private sector organisations in Türkiye donated 10 tons of concentrated disinfectant.

The “REACT-C19 Project” (Rapid Scale-up of Essential Capacities in Hospitals for Covid-19) was initiated by WHO in cooperation with Azerbaijani authorities to improve healthcare professionals’ capacity in pilot hospitals determined in Azerbaijan to combat Covid-19. Türkiye supported Azerbaijan by providing Azerbaijani medical personnel with training. In this context, with the Azerbaijani Doctors Association’s announcement, 19 doctors were selected and trained at Ege University, and they completed their training on April 14 and began service in Azerbaijan.

Experts in the field of Covid-19 infection from Türkiye were invited to Azerbaijan. In this context, four members of our Scientific Board conducted interviews and investigations in the country on July 8, 2020, with the health committee of the Azerbaijan Crisis Desk.

BANGLADESH



On April 24, 2020, Türkiye granted 3,000 food parcels to Bangladesh to be distributed to those in need. In May 2020, 70 tons of food aid was sent to Arakan Muslims, and 5,000 hygiene packages were distributed. In addition, Ramadan packages were sent to 1,000 families in need in the rural area of Chakaria in 2020.

On June 7, 2020, the support package consisting of 5,000 surgical masks, 1,000 N95 masks, 1,000 medical coveralls and two ventilators was delivered at the Bangladesh State Guest House with a ceremony attended by the Deputy Secretary-General of the Bangladesh Ministry of Foreign Affairs Khalil Rahman.

Medical materials supplied to be donated to the hospitals “Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH)” and “Chittagong General Hospital (CGH)” were delivered to local authorities with a ceremony held on July 6, 2020, and on August 6, 2020, Eid clothes, school bags and medical masks were provided to 200 homeless children.

On September 11, 2020, 8,000 hygiene kits and cleaning materials and 4,000 masks were provided.

Under the Grant Agreement signed on October 12, 2020, 20 ventilators (with foot set and accessory set), 10,000 N95 masks, 10,000 gowns, 10,000 coveralls, 2,000 face shields and 5,000 protective goggles were delivered to Bangladesh on October 16, 2020. The official delivery ceremony of the said materials was held at Padma State Guest House on October 28, 2020, with the participation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen.

In line with the Dhaka Police Department’s request, 25,000 surgical masks were delivered to the Dhaka Police Chief on October 28, 2020, within the scope of the fight against the pandemic.



UNITED KINGDOM



Under the Grant Agreement with the United Kingdom, 50,000 N95 masks, 100,000 surgical masks and 100,000 protective coveralls were provided.

Within the scope of the grants, 58,000 masks, 28,000 face shields, 85,270 coveralls, 48,000 3-ply surgical masks, 30,000 powder-free vinyl gloves, 4,400 EN149 masks, 400 protective coveralls, 500 protective goggles were delivered. The first part of the aforementioned medical equipment aid was brought to RAF Brize Norton airbase on April 10, 2020, by aircraft belonging to our Air Force and delivered to the British authorities. The second batch was delivered by a THY plane on April 12, 2020. In addition, on May 5, 2020, for the use of our citizens in the country, 20,000 surgical masks and 1,000 coveralls were sent to the London Embassy of Türkiye.



ALGERIA



Within the framework of the Grant Agreement, approximately five tons of hygiene materials, 12 tons of food, 30,000 surgical masks were provided to Algeria on separate days to support 1,000 families. In order to coordinate with 48 provinces in the fight against Covid-19, a teleconference and interactive education unit was established.

On July 22, 2020, within the scope of the grants, 25 ventilators (with foot set and accessory set), two PCR devices, 30,000 PCR test kits, 50,000 surgical masks, 50,000 N95 masks, 25,000 coveralls and 30,000 viral nucleic acid isolation kits were sent to Algeria by an evacuation aircraft.

CHAD



In accordance with the Grant Agreement signed between Türkiye and Chad, 25 ventilators, PCR test kits, 86,350 coveralls, 100,000 surgical masks, 30,000 N95 masks, 5,000 goggles, 87,600 gloves, 50,000 shoe covers, three ambulances and ten inflatable field emergency units were dispatched by military cargo planes on May 26 and June 18, 2020.



On June 25, 2020, in order to support Chad's fight against the pandemic, 40 pedal-operated handwashing systems and 2,000 hand soap were delivered to 15 schools in the capital.

In addition, 100 mechanical pedal-operated handwashing systems and liquid soap support were distributed to health centres in N'Djamina's ten districts.

CHINA



On February 1, 2020, two aid cargoes containing 2,000 N95 masks, 2,000 protective clothing, 2,000 goggles, disinfectants, gloves, and shoe covers were delivered to China.

PALESTINE



2,000 oxygen masks, 20,000 nasal cannulas, two tons of hand sanitiser and 20,000 face shields were airlifted to Tel Aviv Ben Gurion Airport to be delivered to Ramallah and Gaza on April

30, 2020. The grant in question was cleared from customs by the Palestinian Ministry of Health on May 5, 2020, and transported to Ramallah.



The Palestinian Ministry of Health received six tons of hygiene materials and personal protective equipment, and food aid was distributed to 5,060 families in Gaza and 7,500 families in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Furthermore, on July 14, 2020, 50,000 medical masks, 2,500 N95 surgical masks, and 2,500 disinfectant aid materials were delivered to Augusta Victoria (Al-Muttali) Hospital in East Jerusalem.

On August 19, 2020, the Ramallah part of the distribution of 50 battery-powered wheelchairs to Palestinians with special needs, with five in each West Bank province, was finalised.

In accordance with the Grant Agreement signed on September 14, 2020, 20 intensive care ventilators, 20 bedside monitors, 40 syringe pumps, 20 infusion pumps, 20 defibrillator monitors, 20 electrocardiographs, 20 laryngoscope sets, 20 diagnostic sets (Oph + o-to), 20 Ambo bag sets, 20 temperature monitors, 20 heating-cooling beds, 20 flowmeter oxygen connectors (DIN), 20 stethoscopes, 20 ultrasonic nebulisers and two laundry carts were delivered at a ceremony held on December 1, 2020.

SPAIN



On April 1, 2020, Türkiye delivered 250,000 masks, 250 N95 masks, 750 eye protection masks, 2,000 coveralls, and 1000 litres of disinfectant to Spain.

ITALY



On April 1, 2020, Türkiye responded to Italy's call for assistance through the NATO Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC) by delivering 200,000 masks, 250 N95 masks, 750 eye protection masks, 2,000 coveralls, and 1000 litres of anti-bacterial disinfectant.

The Turkish Red Crescent delivered 100,000 3-ply surgical masks, 100,000 powder-free vinyl gloves, 20,000 N149 masks, 1,500 protective coveralls, and 1,500 protective goggles to Italy at the request of the Italian Red Cross.

MONTENEGRO



On April 8, 2020, 50,000 masks, 1,000 coveralls, and 1,000 diagnostic kits were delivered to Montenegro at the request of our President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

Türkiye delivered 35 tons of food and hygiene material support to the most economically vulnerable 5,000 people as part of the Food and Hygiene Support Programme.

THE TURKISH REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN CYPRUS (TRNC)



In September 2020, The Turkish Red Crescent dispatched 30,000 3-layer surgical masks, 30,000 powder-free vinyl gloves, 3,000 N149 masks, 300 protective overalls, 300 protective goggles, 500 food parcels, five tents, 30,740 hygiene kits and cleaning supplies to the TRNC. Moreover, under the Grant Agreement signed on March 11, 2020, 20,000 medical masks, 100 personal protective gears, 3,000 N95 or similar masks, 100 protective goggles and various vaccines and medications were granted.

Under the Grant Agreement of March 13, 2020, five ambulances, ten ventilators, 20,000 SARS-CoV-2 (2019-nCov) RT-qPCR detection kits, 20,000 viral nucleic acid isolation kits, 100,000 surgical masks, 50,000 N95 mask, 20,000 overalls, two PCR machines (with cabinet), 2,000 glass bottles (1000 ml) of sterile distilled water, 6,500 Metronidazole 5 mg/ml 100 ml solution for infusion (with sets), 2,000 Dextrose 3.33% + Sodium Chloride 0.3% 500 ml solution in PE/PP/PVC infusion bottles infusion bags (with sets), 6,000 Sodium Chloride 0.9% 1000 ml solution in PE/PP/PVC infusion bottles infusion bags (with sets), 4,500 Sodium Chloride 0.9% 100 ml solution in PE/PP/PVC infusion bottles infusion bags (with sets), 400 Sodium

Chloride 0.9% 150 ml solution in PE/PP/PVC infusion bottles infusion bags (with sets), 400 Sodium Chloride 0.9% 250 ml solution in PE/PP/PVC infusion bottles infusion bags (with sets), 600 lactated Ringer's solution 1000 ml in PE/PP/PVC infusion bottles infusion bags (with sets), 600 lactated Ringer's solution 500 ml in PE/PP/PVC infusion bottles infusion bags (with sets) were delivered on July 20, 2020.

Türkiye provided food aid to families in need in the TRNC as part of the fight against the novel coronavirus and the month of Ramadan activities. On May 20, 2020, 25 tons of foodstuff, including essential foodstuffs and items such as milk, dates, tea, coffee, and domestic products of Cyprus, were delivered to 1,000 families in need in Nicosia, Kyrenia, Famagusta, Morphou and Lefke.

Furthermore, Türkiye sent hygiene equipment to the TRNC Disabled Solidarity Association in May 2020.



The interior equipment of the Emergency Hospital, built-in Nicosia by Türkiye, was delivered to the TRNC on October 7, 2020. The hospital in question was inaugurated by our President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, paying a visit to the TRNC on the occasion of the 37th foundation anniversary of the TRNC on November 15, 2020, and the President Ersin Tatar of the TRNC.

LIBYA



Within the scope of the fight against Covid-19, medical equipment consisting of 150,000 masks, 60 protective facemasks (panoramic), 300 protective eye masks, 600 overalls and 400 litres of disinfectant were dispatched to Libya. On May 14, 2020, the second batch of aid, containing 200,000 masks, 70



face shields, 300 pieces of eye protector, 120 N95 masks, 600 overalls, 400 litres of disinfectant was delivered to the officials of the Ministry of Health of Libya's Government of National Accord.

On August 6, 2020, 3 ventilators were granted.

NAMIBIA



Under the Grant Agreement, ten ventilators, 30,000 N95 masks, 60,000 3-layer masks and 20,000 protective overalls were delivered to Namibia with a ceremony on June 25, 2020.

Türkiye provided food aid to families of 33 people with a disability trying to survive in a difficult situation and distributed 500 food parcels consisting of rice, oil, tea, sugar, salt, flour, soup etc. to approximately 3,000 people living in four regions, namely, the capital Windhoek, Oshakati, Keetmanshoop and Osire Refugee Camp.

On May 29, 2020, 200 disinfectant pumps and 40 infrared thermometers were donated to the Ministry of Health and Social Services of Namibia.

Moreover, on December 21, 2020, an equipment aid containing digital electrocardiography (ECG) machines, defibrillator monitors, portable ultrasound devices, infusion pumps, multi-monitors, portable ventilators, video laryngoscopes, aspirators, emergency trolleys, examination tables, was provided to the Clinical Emergency Medical Care Training Laboratory of Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST).

PAKISTAN



The aircraft carrying 20,000 N95 masks, 50,000 overalls and 100,000 medical masks provided by Türkiye arrived in Islamabad on April 22, 2020.

The second batch of aid to Pakistan, consisting of 108,000 surgical masks and 31,500 pieces of protective equipment, was delivered to Karachi by a Turkish Airlines cargo aircraft on April 28, 2020.

Throughout the month of Ramadan of 2020, 4,000 parcels and 70 tons of food aid were delivered to 22,500 people.

On September 11, 2020, ten oxygen pressure regulators, 100 oxygen masks, 50 oxygen cylinders and 50 medical oxygen flowmeters were granted.

300,000 N95 masks were delivered to Islamabad on September 30, 2020, by a Turkish Airlines cargo aircraft and handed over to the authorities on the same day.

SERBIA



500 test kits, 100,000 masks, 2,000 overalls and 1,500 diagnostic kits provided by Türkiye were dispatched to Serbia on April 8, 2020.

In April 2020, domestically manufactured soap and disinfectant products were distributed in Sandzak, and aid parcels containing a total of 15 tons of essential foodstuffs were distributed to 1,000 families formed of people in need and disadvantaged groups such as Romans and refugees, in Serbia on the occasion of the month of Ramadan. In the meantime, 3 tons of foodstuffs were delivered to Karnyacha Refugee Camp near Belgrade.

Upon the instructions of our President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, ten bedside monitors, 20 pulse oximeters (finger), ten UV sterilisation lamps, 50 oxygen regulators, ten perfusion pumps, one video laryngoscope, three laryngoscopes, ten silicone ambu, three surgical aspirators, 400 hospital bedding sheets, 30 hospital beds, 20,000 FFP2 protective masks, 2,000 protective overalls, 1,500 face shields, 30,000 masks, 100 parcels of 12-piece 350 ml hand soap, 110 parcels of 60-piece 150 ml hand disinfectant and 120 parcels of 12-piece wet wipes were dispatched to Sandzak region on June 12, 2020.

Under the Grant Agreement, three high-flow oxygen machines, five bedside monitors, 30 central oxygen flowmeters, five pieces of 12-channel ECG machine, 20 infusion pumps, two defibrillators, 10,000 diagnostic kits, two PCR machines, five ventilators, one surgical intervention kit, one mobile X-ray machine, 30,000 N95 masks, 2,675 N149 masks, 5,000 protective overalls, 230,000 surgical masks, 10,000 packets of hydroxychloroquine, 10,000 packets of Tamiflu, 10,000 litres of disinfectant, 10 UV devices, 2,000 face shields and 40,000 powder-free vinyl gloves were sent to Sandzak region on July 4, 2020, to be used in the Novi Pazar General Hospital.

Türkiye granted a total of 200,000 masks in two batches sent on August 9 and 13, 2020, to the Ministry of Interior of Serbia.

Furthermore, 130,000 3-layer surgical masks, 496 pieces of disinfectant (1 lt), 2,675 EN149 masks, 1,000 protective goggles, 420 protective overalls, 40,000 powder-free vinyl gloves and five ventilators were granted to Serbia on September 11, 2020.



SOMALIA



On April 17, 2020, medical equipment consisting of 50,000 3-layered surgical masks, 50,000 powder-free vinyl gloves, 1,000 N149 masks, 1,000 protective overalls, 576 protective goggles, 60 Hepatitis-B vaccines, 800 Muscobloc vials, 100 Benzoxin vials, 500 Hamazine pomades, 20 Survanta vials, 4,000 Glargine injections, 15 Rhopylac vials, 2,100 Droptein injections, 6,000 Synpitan ampules, 18,000 FFP2 masks, 250 protective overalls, 500 protective goggles, 100,000 surgical masks, 400 boxes of Covid-19 rapid test kit, 50 packets of Favipiravir tablet, 250 packets of Plaquenil tablet and 1,000 packets of Tamiflu capsule was dispatched to Somalia.

Per our President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's instructions, 20,000 diagnostic kits, 40,000 surgical masks, 10,000 N95 masks, 20,000 protective overalls, ten ventilators and their accessories arrived in Mogadishu by military cargo aircraft on May 2, 2020. 100 intensive care beds were also delivered to the Ministry of Health of Somalia on May 4, 2020. On the same dates, 340,000 masks, 500 face shields, 500 eye protectors, 10,050 overalls, 32,500 litres of disinfectant and 500 diagnostic kits were granted to Somalia.

Food aid was granted to 500 families who left their houses in Mogadishu and had to live in the camps of the Garas Balley region; within this framework, food packages consisting of rice, flour, pasta, sugar and oil were handed out to the families in the camp during the month of Ramadan.

Within the context of aids granted to 8 IGAD member countries, Türkiye donated 10,000 surgical masks, 2,000 gowns, 1,020 overalls to Somalia. An X-ray unit was donated to Galgaduud State Hospital, the biggest state hospital of the state located in Dusamareb, on September 30, 2020. In addition, on December 23, 2020, equipment support consisted of a CBS Machine, bio-chemistry device, Elisa device, mixer, microscope, ball bearing and centrifuge devices was granted to Wajid Hospital, located in the Southwestern Federal Region of Somalia. 1,014 infrared thermometers were delivered to Somalia on October 25, 2020.



SUDAN



In accordance with the Grant Agreement, 50 ventilators, 100,000 surgical masks, 50,000 N95 masks, 50,000 overalls were sent to Sudan on August 22, 2020.

In the centre established by Türkiye, protective face shields, masks are produced. On the occasion of the month of Ramadan of 2020, 34 tons of food aid was granted to 2,000 families in Shagarab camp, located in Kassala State, where Eritrean refugees live. Medical equipment aid such as protective and surgical masks, thermometers, gloves, disinfectant, and oxygen tubes was granted for the healthcare staff in the East Darfur region in July 2020.

In August 2020, 50 needlecraft machines, spice mills, ovens and leatherwork machines were provided to 50 women with low incomes in the Mandela region in order to ensure that they could support themselves. Materials such as oximeters, thermometers, protective face masks with shield, face masks, gloves, disinfectant, surgical gowns, pump for disinfection were delivered to the Khartoum office of Nyala Sudan-Türkiye Training and Research Hospital.

Medical device, medication, consumables listed below and provided by Turkish Red Crescent in coordination with Qatar Red Crescent to establish a pandemic centre were dispatched to Sudan by cargo planes on September 5-7, 2020.



- 2 PCR machines
- 3 PCR security cabinets
- 5,000 oxygen masks with reservoir
- Ten blood and serum heaters
- 100 pulse oximeters
- 20 glucometers
- 10,000 glucometer probes and lancets
- 20 tonometers
- 30 stethoscopes
- 6,967 malaria rapid test kits
- 40,000 Covid - 19 rtpcr tests
- 20,000 bioneer ExiPrep™ 48 viral DNA/RNA kits
- 20,000 nasopharyngeal swabs
- 1,000,000 face masks
- 15,000 surgical gloves
- 10,000 N95 or FFP2 masks
- 75,000 protective gowns
- 5,000 face shields
- 5,000 galoshes
- 30,000 coils

- Ten manual spray machines
- 3,000 sterile gauzes (10 pcs./pack)
- 497 IV cannula 18
- 15 laryngoscopes
- 750 nasogastric catheters
- 300 Foley catheters
- 2,000 endotracheal tubes with closed aspiration system
- 50,000 amlodipine 10 mg
- 30,000 propranolol bel 40 mg
- 60,000 acetylsalicylic acids 81 mg
- 100,000 metformin 500 mg
- 60,000 metformin 850 mg
- 6,000 glimepiride 2 mg
- 15,000 multivitamins
- 80,000 ibuprofen 400 mg
- 3,000 diclofenac 75 mg



10,000 gloves, 2,500 goggles, 52,500 masks and 2,500 overalls were donated on September 11, 2020.

Within the scope of aids granted to 8 IGAD member countries, Türkiye donated 10,000 surgical masks, 2,000 gowns and 1,020 overalls to Sudan.

TURKMENISTAN

Within the context of the Grant Agreement with Turkmenistan, 20 ventilator screens and units, 20 ventilator foot sets, 20 ventilator accessory sets, 50,000 N95 masks, 100,000 surgical masks, 100,000 overalls and 10,000 tablets of hydroxychloroquine were sent in July 2020.

UKRAINE

3,500 surgical masks and 100 surgical gowns were dispatched to deliver to Odessa Maternity Hospital in April 2020. 150,000 masks, 100 face shields, 200 eye protectors, 50 N95 masks, 500 overalls and 300 litres of disinfectant were brought to Ukraine on May 8, 2020.



Within the context of the Ukraine Food and Hygiene Support Programme, the support consisting of food products and personal protection materials used in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic was brought to 600 families in Kyiv, Kherson, Odessa regions in June 2020.



VENEZUELA



Türkiye granted 400 parcels of food aid to Venezuela in May 2020. In accordance with the Grant Agreement, 25 ventilators, 100,000 surgical masks, 50,000 N95 masks, 35,000 overalls, 200,000 gloves, 40,000 PCR test kits, three incubators, three phototherapy devices, one bilirubin meter, three tonometers, three stethoscopes, three ear thermometers, one laryngoscope (child), one laryngoscope (adult), three monitors, 2 ECG machines, nine infusion pumps, two mesher devices, two skin dermatomes, one defibrillator device, six hospital beds, one baby weighing machine were brought to Venezuela by military plane on July 17, 2020, and delivered to the authorities with a ceremony that was broadcast live on TV with the participation of Minister of Foreign Affairs of Venezuela Jorge Arreaza, Minister of Health of Venezuela Carlos Alvarado and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Yves Gil.



Medical materials consisting of nearly 5,000 viral transport medium sets, 10,000 rapid diagnostic tests and 3,000 PCR tests were handed to Gerardo Briceño, Venezuela Deputy Minister of Health, with a ceremony on August 20, 2020. The neonatal intensive care unit of Ana Teresa de Jesus Ponce Women and Children Hospital located in the La Guaria State of Venezuela was renewed by Türkiye and made ready for use with medical equipment and devices provided from Türkiye.

Türkiye renewed the Burn Unit of Dr. Jesus Yerena Hospital, located in the Pastora state of Venezuela, and donated support consisting of various materials such as plastic surgery and operation equipment.



In addition to countries, International organisations (20 international organisations/affiliated agencies) have requested medical device aid from Türkiye. The requests of 12 of them (OCHA, UNICEF, PAF, SICA, CARICOM, NATO, IGAD, WHO, OSCE, IFRC, UNWRA, African Union-Africa CDC) have been partially or fully fulfilled by Türkiye.

The aids consist of mostly medical devices and especially personal protective materials. Apart from that, ventilators produced by Türkiye are donated to the countries in need.

Food aid is granted to the countries and regions that have food safety issues in pandemic conditions.



Türkiye conducts special aid programme for disadvantaged groups such as the elderly, the disabled and orphans in the fight against Covid-19. Aids formed of various items have been provided to displaced persons, refugees and immigrants in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Kenya, Pakistan, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen; street children in Bangladesh; disabled and orphans in Guinea; children in orphanages in South Sudan; the visually impaired children in Kazakhstan; orphans in Kenya; disabled people in TRNC; disabled people and orphans in Romania; child welfare dormitories, nursing homes for the elderly and the disabled in Mongolia; 15 social aid centres including nursing homes, orphanages, institutions for the care of orphans, shelters for homeless people in Moldova; orphanages and elderly care centres in Mozambique; disabled children and their families in Namibia; women's shelters and other disadvantaged groups in Yemen.

In some developing countries, training programme are organised for the production of personal protective equipment by using local sources. In addition, raw materials are provided to support the production of personal protective equipment through local means. The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA) has developed training programme for the production of personal protective equipment/hygiene products through local means and provided materials for local production in Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kingdom of Eswatini, Gambia, Georgia, South Sudan, Cameroon, Colombia, Moldova, Mozambique, Serbia, Sudan, Syria, and Tajikistan.

Türkiye endeavours to provide budget support to some of the friendly countries experiencing economic difficulties because of the pandemic.

The business world also supports the friendly countries of Türkiye in their fight against Covid-19. Over 50 Turkish companies have supported more than 30 friendly countries in the fight against the pandemic in various ways. With its contributions to international solidarity during the pandemic, Türkiye has proved once again to the whole world that it is a reliable partner.

Support Activities Conducted During the Pandemic

TİKA, which has been working on a global scale since 2020, when the Covid-19 pandemic started, has carried out nearly 200 projects and activities in more than 70 countries in different geographies from the Balkans to Central Asia, from Latin America to Africa. In this context, the production of masks, shields and disinfectants were supported in order to overcome the problems in supply in the first half of 2020. In the following period, it was aimed to build capacity without being affected by travel restrictions with online training in order to close the deficiency in human resources. Within the scope of the activities aimed at increasing the equipment capacity, medical tools and equipment such as ventilators, defibrillators, thermal cameras, ambulances were supplied and delivered to countries that requested cooperation, and shield production was supported with 3D modelling classes and 3D printer grants. In addition, distributions of food and hygiene products continue to reach people affected by restrictions and unemployment. 2,200,000 people directly benefited from the activities carried out by TİKA within the scope of Covid-19.

Healthcare facilities built by TİKA, such as the Palestine-Türkiye Friendship Hospital, Romania Medgidia Hospital's Polyclinic Division, Somalia Recep Tayyip Erdoğan Training and Research Hospital, Nyala Sudan-Turkish Training and Research Hospital, have become essential centres in the fight against the pandemic in the countries during the pandemic.





Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB) has carried out awareness campaigns against the Covid-19 pandemic and aids for those in need due to the pandemic; activities in the production of masks, fluid repellent gowns, protective face shields, disinfectants, etc. and health and hygiene products, which are difficult to supply, without profit-making purpose and volunteer activities for the production of these; educational, entertaining and uplifting media content in order to redeem the time spent at home; nutrition and accommodation support for citizens such as students, tourists, truck drivers and other who cannot return to Türkiye because of the pandemic and whose residence address is Türkiye; supportive activities for health-care staff in the country; activities to boost general mood in the country; graphic, design, vocalisation and assembly support for the campaigns to be carried out against the pandemic; new ideas and projects regarding the fight against the pandemic.

YTB has developed a financial support Programme under Diaspora Covid-19 Support and Cooperation Programme and announced it to Turkish NGOs abroad.

Within the scope of the Programme, 74 projects were carried out in 14 countries (Germany, the USA, France, the UK, Austria, the Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, Switzerland, Denmark, Australia, Finland, TRNC, Sweden) and more than 200 thousand people were reached.



Germany/02.06.2020

During this period, 10,823 people were provided with food/hygiene parcels, 109,350 people were provided with masks, 21,300 people were provided with surgical gowns and gloves, and 9,107 people were provided with gift parcels, and 32,150 people were provided with iftaar meals.

In addition, more than 1,200 international students in need, who came to Türkiye for higher education and study in 59 different provinces, were provided with aids within the framework of “the Solidarity Project with International Students in the Fight against Covid-19” implemented to support international students who cannot return to their country because of the pandemic, are under quarantine and study with their own means in Türkiye, with financial, food and hygiene products aids.



International Cooperation Efforts



Türkiye has emphasised the importance of international cooperation and solidarity since the beginning of the pandemic, a global challenge affecting all humanity, and has concentrated its efforts and initiatives in this area. In multilateral forums and at the bilateral level, our President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has been a leader whose opinions were sought by other countries' heads of state and government. Our President has attached great importance to contacts and meetings at the level of leaders in the context of multilateral and bilateral cooperation and consultation in the fight against the pandemic.

Türkiye has pioneered, fully supported, and actively contributed to the cooperation initiatives created and launched to fight against Covid-19. In this framework, contributions have been made to the efforts carried out at the UN, the G20, the Turkic Council, the MIKTA, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation and many international platforms, and the importance of multilateralism in fighting against the pandemic has been highlighted.

Türkiye was among the countries that presented the draft resolution on “international cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face Covid-19” at the United Nations General Assembly.

On March 26, 2020, the extraordinary G20 Leaders' Summit on Covid-19 was held via videoconferencing. Focusing on health, economy, international trade and cooperation, the G20 leaders addressed steps that can be taken under the leadership of the G20 to combat the global, social and economic impacts of the virus and adopted a declaration that focuses on financial measures that can be taken in cooperation with the IMF, World Bank and multilateral development banks and the steps that can be taken by coordinating with international organisations such as the UN, the OECD, the ILO and the WHO. Some of the G20 leaders, notably our esteemed President, drew attention to the situation in countries that are particularly vulnerable due to conflicts and the risks faced by refugees and forcibly displaced persons in unfavourable conditions, and they called for the removal of barriers obstructing free trade and for ensuring the functioning of international trade under the WTO rules.

At the Extraordinary Summit of the Turkic Council Leaders held on April 10, 2020, with the participation of our President, the creation of a joint action plan in the context of the joint fight against Covid-19 was discussed, and views were exchanged on removing the existing obstacles for the timely passage of essential substances, food and medicine across the borders of the Turkic Council member countries, compiling a list of goods that cross the borders of the aforementioned countries without obstacles, establishing a mechanism that will enable sharing information quickly on freight transport at the borders and establishing an online platform where information about infected people can be shared.

At the initiative of our country, the Executive Committee of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation convened via videoconferencing on April 22, 2020, at the level of Foreign Ministers to address the pandemic. At the suggestion of Türkiye, the Final Declaration included the decision for the Committee of Permanent Representatives to convene regularly for coordination and consultation at the intergovernmental level, as the magnitude and severity of the pandemic necessitated frequent, systematic and regular contact and consultation at the intergovernmental level.

4.2. Evacuations



Evacuations of Turkish Citizens Abroad to Türkiye

Upon our President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's instructions, the largest evacuation operation in the history of the Republic of Türkiye has been carried out to bring Turkish citizens stranded abroad during the Covid-19 pandemic to our country. A complex and months-long evacuation operation around the world was successfully carried out with the cooperation of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Transport and Infrastructure, Interior, Youth and Sports, Health, and the Credit and Hostels Institution, the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority, Turkish Red Crescent and Turkish Airlines.

Since the beginning of the crisis, Turkish citizens from 142 countries have been brought back home. This has been recorded as the largest-scale evacuation operation in the history of the Republic of Türkiye. Among the countries where the evacuation was carried out are small islands in hard-to-reach areas on very remote continents. Considering that there are also intercity travel bans in many countries, the complexity of the operation can be better understood. From Brazil to Mauritania, Canada and Bali, Turkish citizens in 4 continents have been brought back to their homeland.



Evacuation and Medical Check-up of Umrah Passengers

15,779 passengers going to the holy lands for Umrah pilgrimage on March 9, 2020, were brought to Türkiye seamlessly in cooperation with the Turkish Airlines and medical check-ups of the passengers were conducted before they left the plane. By placing the medical teams in all planes, suspected cases were identified and isolated before landing at airports in Türkiye. In addition, medical check-ups in the air minimised transmission by preventing queues at airports.

A total of 19,216,934 people were checked in the medical check-ups starting on February 22 in Türkiye's border gates (airline, highway, seaway).



CITIZENS RETURNING TO TÜRKİYE (Last Update: February 26, 2021)

NO	COUNTRY	DATE	BY AIR	BY SEA	BY LAND	NUMBER OF PASSENGERS	
1	USA	March 29, 2020	1			411	
		April 23, 2020	1			282	
		April 24, 2020	1			353	
		April 24, 2020	1			354	
		May 6, 2020				1	
		May 15, 2020	1			354	
		May 16, 2020	1			297	
		May 17, 2020	1			294	
		May 17, 2020	1			303	
		June 4, 2020	1			295	
		June 11, 2020	1			348	
		June 18, 2020	1			353	
		June 25, 2020	1			199	3844
		2	Afghanistan	March 31, 2020	1		
April 3, 2020	1					9	
April 16, 2020	1					2	
April 22, 2020	1					29	
April 28, 2020	1					19	
May 7, 2020	1					12	
May 13, 2020	1					15	
May 21, 2020	1					7	
May 22, 2020	1					21	
June 2, 2020	1					4	
June 4, 2020	1					6	
June 10, 2020	1					20	
August 22, 2020	1					92	258
3	Germany			March 17, 2020	14		
		April 20, 2020	3			581	
		April 21, 2020	1			233	
		April 21, 2020	1			285	
		April 21, 2020	1			237	
		April 21, 2020	1			187	
		April 21, 2020	1			186	
April 22, 2020	1			355			

NO	COUNTRY	DATE	BY AIR	BY SEA	BY LAND	NUMBER OF PASSENGERS	
		April 22, 2020	1			180	
		April 22, 2020	1			330	
		April 22, 2020	1			182	
		April 22, 2020	1			356	
		April 23, 2020	1			196	
		April 23, 2020	1			165	
		May 4, 2020	1			3	
		May 9, 2020	1			107	
		May 10, 2020	1			5	
		May 16, 2020	1			157	
		May 26, 2020	1			206	
		January 23, 2021	1			1	5532
4	Angola	June 25, 2020	1			22	22
5	Argentina	March 19-24, 2020	4			57	
		May 6, 2020				27	84
6	Albania	April 21, 2020				26	
		April 29, 2020	1			7	
		June 11, 2020	1			30	63
7	Australia	May 7, 2020	1			120	120
8	Austria	March 17, 2020	1			112	
		April 23, 2020	1			314	426
9	Azerbaijan	March 14-17, 2020	6			732	
		March 24- April 2, 2020			3	77	
		April 2, 2020	1			150	
		April 15, 2020			1	17	
		April 22, 2020	1			181	
		April 23, 2020	1			182	
		April 24, 2020	1			298	
		April 24, 2020	1			160	
		April 30, 2020			1	7	
		May 21, 2020			1	19	
		May 23, 2020			1	4	
		June 6, 2020			1	10	
		June 8, 2020	1			1	
		June 9, 2020			1	5	
		June 12, 2020	2			317	

NO	COUNTRY	DATE	BY AIR	BY SEA	BY LAND	NUMBER OF PASSENGERS
		June 13, 2020	2			275
		June 17, 2020			1	3
		June 18, 2020	1			151
		June 23, 2020			1	13
		June 25, 2020	1			165
		June 26, 2020	1			170
		June 30, 2020			1	10
		July 2, 2020			1	33
		July 8, 2020			2	6
		July 11, 2020	1			1
		July 25, 2020	1			1
		August 27, 2020			1	12
		September 7, 2020			5	10
		September 11, 2020			4	12
		September 14, 2020			4	4
		September 19, 2020			2	4
		September 21, 2020			4	5
		September 25, 2020			4	5
		September 29, 2020			3	5
		October 5, 2020			2	3
		October 9, 2020			3	9
		November 16, 2020	1			1
		November 24, 2020	1			2
		January 30, 2021			1	2
		January 30, 2021			1	1
						3063
10	UAE	April 10, 2020	1			6
		April 15, 2020	1			2
		April 22, 2020	1			348
		April 23, 2020	1			347
		May 8, 2020	1			196
		May 24, 2020	1			194
		May 30, 2020	1			9
		June 19, 2020	1			348
		June 22, 2020	1			349
		July 30, 2020	1			279
		August 1, 2020	1			292

NO	COUNTRY	DATE	BY AIR	BY SEA	BY LAND	NUMBER OF PASSENGERS	
		August 12, 2020	1			304	
		September 16, 2020	1			139	
		October 16, 2020	1			209	
		November 12, 2020	1			200	3222
11	Bahamas	May 13, 2020				7	7
12	Bahrain	April 22, 2020	1			62	
		May 20, 2020	1			102	
		July 23, 2020	1			123	287
13	Bangladesh	April 21, 2020	1			152	
		May 24, 2020	1			3	155
14	Barbados	June 4, 2020	1			72	72
15	Belarus	March 30-31, 2020	2			50	
		April 1-6, 2020	5			128	
		April 7, 2020	1			70	
		May 20, 2020	1			63	
		October 23, 2020	1			1	312
16	Belgium	March 17, 2020	1			122	
		April 21, 2020	1			328	
		August 14, 2020	1			1	451
17	Bolivia	May 6, 2020				1	
		August 28, 2020	1			2	
		August 28, 2020	1			1	4
18	Bosnia and Herzegovina	April 18, 2020	1			8	
		April 28, 2020	1			58	
		June 4, 2020				19	
		June 21, 2020	1			20	
		October 14, 2020	1			1	
		November 8, 2020	1			1	
		November 28, 2020	1			3	
		January 25, 2021	1			1	111
19	Brazil		1			3	
			1			33	
			1			1	37
20	Bulgaria					108	
		May 1, 2020			1	4	112
21	Burkina Faso	May 3, 2020				44	44

NO	COUNTRY	DATE	BY AIR	BY SEA	BY LAND	NUMBER OF PASSENGERS	
22	Algeria	March 20, 2020	1			194	
		April 3, 2020	2			537	
		April 4, 2020	3			1096	
		April 22, 2020	1			281	
		April 22, 2020	1			344	
		April 23, 2020	1			144	
		April 24, 2020	1			118	
		May 10, 2020	1			101	
		July 21-22 2020	3			961	3776
23	Djibouti	April 25, 2020	1			103	
		June 22, 2020	1			24	127
24	Chad	May 26, 2020	1			11	11
25	Czech Republic	March 30, 2020	1			8	
		April 21, 2020	1			106	114
26	People's Republic of China	February 1, 2020	1			27	
			1			2	
		May 16, 2020	1			2	
		May 22, 2020	1			1	
		June 13, 2020	1			1	
		June 24, 2020	1			55	88
27	Denmark	March 17, 2020	1			17	
		April 24, 2020	1			114	131
28	Dominican Republic	March 14-23, 2020	4			8	
		May 13, 2020	1			123	131
29	Ecuador	May 17, 2020				2	
		May 20, 2020	1			2	
			1			2	6
30	Equatorial Guinea	February 9, 2021	1			2	2
31	Indonesia	June 18, 2020	1			128	128
32	Eritrea	July 10, 2020	1	1		3	
33	Armenia	April 28, 2020			1	4	
		June 11, 2020			1	7	
		July 16, 2020			1	4	15

NO	COUNTRY	DATE	BY AIR	BY SEA	BY LAND	NUMBER OF PASSENGERS	
34	Estonia	May 20, 2020				2	
		May 26, 2020				2	4
35	Ethiopia	March 28, 2020	1			125	
		March 28, 2020	1			91	
		March 30, 2020	1			205	
		April 26, 2020	1			237	
		May 26, 2020				1	659
36	Morocco	March 17, 2020	1			224	
		April 24, 2020	1			277	
		June 26, 2020	1			177	678
37	Côte d'Ivoire	May 10, 2020	1			89	89
38	Philippines					25	
		May 21, 2020				13	
		June 3, 2020	1			1	
		June 12, 2020	1			73	
		July 10, 2020	1			2	114
39	Finland	April 23, 2020				10	10
40	France	March 17, 2020	5			520	
		March 24, 2020	1			134	
		April 3, 2020	1			144	
		April 23, 2020	1			179	
		April 23, 2020	1			320	
		April 23, 2020	1			163	
		April 23, 2020	1			288	
		April 23, 2020	1			181	
		April 30, 2020	1			3	
		May 1, 2020	1			2	
		June 12, 2020	1			281	
		July 30, 2020	1			1	
		October 14, 2020	1			1	
		October 26, 2020	1			1	
		January 23, 2021	2			2	2220
41	Gambia	April 25, 2020				3	3
42	Ghana	April 25, 2020	1			43	
		July 15, 2020	1			100	
		August 4, 2020	1			37	180

NO	COUNTRY	DATE	BY AIR	BY SEA	BY LAND	NUMBER OF PASSENGERS	
43	Guinea	March 31, 2020	1			78	
		May 3, 2020	1			77	155
44	Guatemala	June 27-28, 2020	2			3	
		July 22, 2020	1			1	4
45	Republic of South Africa		1			6	
		May 22, 2020	1			63	
		June 22, 2020	1			18	87
46	South Korea	May 7, 2020				1	
		May 21, 2020	1			21	
		June 19, 2020	1			45	67
47	Georgia					13	
		April 28, 2020			2	33	
		April 30, 2020			1	4	
		July 8, 2020			1	1	
		July 12, 2020			1	1	
		July 13, 2020			1	1	
		July 13, 2020			1	1	
		July 15, 2020			1	1	
		July 16, 2020			1	2	
		July 16, 2020			1	1	
		July 17, 2020			1	1	
		July 23, 2020			1	1	
		July 27, 2020			1	1	
		July 30, 2020			1	2	
		August 5, 2020			1	2	
		August 8, 2020			1	2	
		August 14, 2020			1	1	
		August 15, 2020			1	1	
		August 22, 2020			1	1	
		August 23, 2020			1	1	
		August 24, 2020			1	1	
		August 24, 2020			1	1	
		August 25, 2020			1	1	
		August 27, 2020			1	2	
		August 29, 2020			1	1	

NO	COUNTRY	DATE	BY AIR	BY SEA	BY LAND	NUMBER OF PASSENGERS	
		August 30, 2020			1	5	
		August 31, 2020			1	1	
		September 1, 2020			1	1	
		September 29, 2020			1	1	
		September 1, 2020			1	1	
		September 2, 2020			1	1	
		September 9, 2020			1	1	
		September 10, 2020			1	2	
		September 12, 2020			4	4	
		September 30, 2020			2	2	
		October 7, 2020			1	1	
		October 16, 2020			1	1	
		October 19, 2020			1	1	
		October 21, 2020			1	1	
		October 22, 2020			1	1	
		October 29, 2020			1	1	
		November 1, 2020			1	1	
		November 3, 2020			1	1	
		November 4, 2020			1	1	
		November 6, 2020			1	2	
		November 11, 2020			1	4	
		November 14, 2020			1	4	
		November 16, 2020			1	1	
		November 16, 2020			1	2	
		November 17, 2020			1	1	
		November 20, 2020			1	1	
		November 23, 2020			1	1	
		November 24, 2020			1	3	
		November 28, 2020			1	2	
		December 1, 2020			1	1	
		December 6, 2020			1	1	
		December 9, 2020			1	1	
		December 18, 2020			1	1	
		January 12, 2021			1	1	131
48	Croatia	April 28, 2020				48	
		May 28, 2020	1			40	88

NO	COUNTRY	DATE	BY AIR	BY SEA	BY LAND	NUMBER OF PASSENGERS	
49	India					12	
		April 5, 2020	1			2	
		April 28, 2020	2			157	
		June 8, 2020	1			22	
		June 14, 2020	1			59	
		June 30, 2020	1			3	255
50	Netherlands	March 17, 2020	2			354	
		April 17, 2020	1			349	
		April 22, 2020	1			347	
		April 24, 2020	1			312	
		May 8, 2020	1			302	
		June 2, 2020	1			237	
		June 10, 2020	1			2	
		October 14, 2020	1			1	
		January 22, 2021	1			1	
		February 10, 2021	1			1	1906
51	Honduras	March 30, 2020	1			1	1
52	Iraq	April 3, 2020			1	49	
		April 7, 2020	2			334	
		April 7, 2020	1			233	
		April 8, 2020	1			278	
		April 8, 2020	1			267	
		April 9, 2020			1	13	
		April 16, 2020			2	265	
		April 20, 2020	1			267	
		April 23, 2020			1	366	
		April 29, 2020			1	135	
		April 30, 2020	1			285	
		May 12, 2020			1	324	
		May 14, 2020			1	90	
		May 21, 2020	1			171	
		May 23, 2020			1	135	
		June 11, 2020	1			163	
		June 13, 2020			1	14	
		June 18, 2020	1			28	
		June 18, 2020			1	205	

NO	COUNTRY	DATE	BY AIR	BY SEA	BY LAND	NUMBER OF PASSENGERS	
		July 6, 2020			1	38	
		July 22, 2020			1	24	
		July 24, 2020			1	33	
		August 16, 2020	1			90	
		August 16, 2020	1			1	
		August 22, 2020			1	30	
		September 14, 2020			1	1	
		September 16, 2020	1			1	
		September 24, 2020	1			95	
		September 24, 2020	1			2	
		September 27, 2020	1			1	
		October 1, 2020	1			122	
		October 1, 2020			1	1	
		October 29, 2020	1			1	4062
53	United Kingdom	March 23-24, 2020	4			979	
		April 16, 2020	1			261	
		April 17, 2020	1			349	
		April 17, 2020	1			160	
		April 20, 2020	1			337	
		April 21, 2020	1			335	
		May 15, 2020	1			2	
		June 1, 2020	1			1	2424
54	Iran					564	
		April 27, 2020	1			32	
		November 9, 2020	1			1	597
55	Ireland	March 23, 2020	2			394	
		April 20, 2020	1			115	
		May 26, 2020				1	510
56	Spain	March 17, 2020	2			70	
		April 20, 2020	1			91	
		April 22, 2020	1			107	
		May 10, 2020	1			4	
		June 10, 2020	1			1	
		June 13, 2020	1			3	
		June 23, 2020	1			85	
		June 24, 2020	1			93	

NO	COUNTRY	DATE	BY AIR	BY SEA	BY LAND	NUMBER OF PASSENGERS	
		December 22, 2020	1			1	455
57	Israel					4	
		April 14, 2020	1			16	
		April 21, 2020	1			38	
		June 9, 2020	1			118	176
58	Sweden	March 17, 2020	1			72	
		April 23, 2020	1			241	
		April 26, 2020	1			4	317
59	Switzerland	March 23, 2020				34	
		April 23, 2020	1			171	
		April 23, 2020	1			155	360
60	Italy	March 24, 2020	2			401	
		April 24, 2020	1			245	
		June 21, 2020	1			1	647
61	Jamaica	May 13, 2020				3	3
62	Japan	April 13, 2020				2	
		April 24, 2020				1	
		May 7, 2020				5	
		June 18, 2020	1			90	98
63	Cambodia		1			1	
		May 21, 2020				3	
		June 12, 2020				1	5
64	Cameroon	April 1, 2020	1			75	
		June 25, 2020	1			37	112
65	Canada					125	
		April 9, 2020	1			214	
		April 22, 2020	1			270	
		June 4, 2020	1			364	
		June 9, 2020	1			309	1282
66	Montenegro	March 20, 2020	1			194	
		April 4, 2020	3			479	
		April 22, 2020	1			73	
		April 24, 2020	1			148	
		May 28, 2020				2	
		June 11, 2020				82	978
67	Qatar					645	

NO	COUNTRY	DATE	BY AIR	BY SEA	BY LAND	NUMBER OF PASSENGERS	
		April 26, 2020	1			161	
		April 26, 2020	1			288	1094
68	Kazakhstan	March 26-29, 2020	4			465	
		April 17, 2020	1			73	
		April 24, 2020	1			164	
		May 12, 2020	2			292	
		June 4, 2020	1			95	
		June 5, 2020	1			65	
		July 10, 2020	1			2	
		July 10, 2020	1			2	
		July 23, 2020	1			2	
		August 5, 2020	1			1	
		December 16, 2020	1			1	
		December 24, 2020	1			1	
		January 5, 2021	1			1	1164
69	Kenya	March 17-21, 2020	3			56	
		April 28, 2020				113	
		June 19, 2020	1			14	
		June 24, 2020	1			32	215
70	Kyrgyzstan	April 21, 2020	1			305	
		May 16, 2020	1			149	
		July 2, 2020	1			204	
		July 4, 2020	1			135	
		July 5, 2020	1			1	
		July 9, 2020	1			147	
		July 15, 2020	1			4	
		July 16, 2020	1			135	
		July 17, 2020	1			4	
		July 23, 2020	1			237	
		July 27, 2020	1			41	
		July 30, 2020	1			115	1477
71	TRNC	March 22, 2020		1		393	
		March 27, 2020	1			121	
		April 1, 2020	1			132	
		April 4, 2020	1			188	
		April 19, 2020	3			551	

NO	COUNTRY	DATE	BY AIR	BY SEA	BY LAND	NUMBER OF PASSENGERS	
		April 29, 2020		1		3	
		May 9, 2020		1		176	
		May 14, 2020		2		461	
		May 21, 2020		1		182	
		May 22, 2020		2		646	
		May 28, 2020		2		507	
		May 29, 2020		1		202	
		May 30, 2020		1		145	
		May 30, 2020		1		384	
		June 1, 2020		1		380	
		June 3, 2020		1		384	
		June 6, 2020		2		594	
		June 11, 2020		1		442	
		June 11, 2020		1		126	
		June 12, 2020	1			154	
		June 13, 2020		1		357	
		June 15, 2020	1			185	
		June 18, 2020	1			28	
		September 9, 2020	1			4	
						2892	9637
72	Colombia					10	
		May 26, 2020				39	49
73	Democratic Republic of the Congo	April 26, 2020				2	
		July 1, 2020	1			13	15
74	Kosovo	April 21, 2020	1			77	
		June 4, 2020	1			41	
		November 22, 2020	1			4	122
75	Costa Rica	May 14, 2020	1			4	
		May 15, 2020	1			2	6
76	Kuwait	April 2, 2020	1			301	
		April 3, 2020	1			343	
		April 7, 2020	1			349	
		April 14, 2020	1			248	
		April 17, 2020	1			348	
		April 22, 2020	1			348	

NO	COUNTRY	DATE	BY AIR	BY SEA	BY LAND	NUMBER OF PASSENGERS	
		April 24, 2020	1			309	
		April 30, 2020	1			349	
		May 6, 2020	1			349	
		May 8, 2020	1			291	
		May 10, 2020	1			260	
		May 20, 2020	1			258	
		June 13, 2020	1			155	
		June 14, 2020	1			7	
		June 15, 2020	2			463	4378
77	North Macedonia	April 1-3, 2020			2	82	
		April 8, 2020			2	88	
		April 20, 2020	1			259	
		April 22, 2020	1			259	
		June 4, 2020				31	
		June 17, 2020			1	43	762
78	Cuba	May 13, 2020				9	9
79	Latvia	May 26, 2020				11	11
80	Liberia	May 10, 2020				97	
		July 4, 2020	1			76	173
81	Libya	March 31, 2020 April 7, 2020	2			8	
		April 16, 2020	2			186	
		April 27, 2020	1			1	
		May 7, 2020	1			45	
		May 14, 2020	1			7	
		June 14, 2020	1			30	
		June 22, 2020	1			3	
		July 1, 2020	1			9	
		July 17, 2020	1			8	
		September 18, 2020	1			3	300
82	Lithuania	May 20, 2020				7	
		May 26, 2020				27	34
83	Lebanon					46	
		April 17, 2020		1		4	50
84	Luxembourg					60	
		May 26, 2020				2	62

NO	COUNTRY	DATE	BY AIR	BY SEA	BY LAND	NUMBER OF PASSENGERS	
85	Hungary	March 26, 2020	1			5	
		April 20, 2020	1			1	
		April 21, 2020	1			123	
		May 14, 2020	1			36	165
86	Madagascar	May 16, 2020	1			31	
		October 27, 2020	1			6	37
87	Maldives	May 5, 2020				178	178
88	Malaysia	April 24, 2020				62	62
89	Mali	April 27, 2020	1			44	
		June 24, 2020				30	74
90	Malta	April 19, 2020	1			104	
		May 7, 2020	1			1	
		May 8, 2020	1			24	129
91	Mauritius	June 28, 2020	1			7	7
92	Mexico	May 17, 2020				1	
		June 2, 2020				38	
		July 2, 2020	1			23	62
93	Egypt	March 24, 2020	1			87	
		April 14, 2020	1			76	
		April 20, 2020	1			164	
		June 3, 2020	1			5	
		June 18, 2020	1			64	
		June 19, 2020	1			81	
		July 9, 2020	1			50	
		July 13, 2020	1			50	
		September 23, 2020	1			1	578
94	Mongolia	March 18, 2020	1			6	
		May 13, 2020	1			3	
		July 9, 2020	1			7	
		September 18, 2020	1			3	
		December 17, 2020	1			3	22
95	Moldova	March 26, 2020	1			40	
		April 23, 2020	1			99	139
96	Mauritania	April 25, 2020	1			92	
		June 21, 2020	1			141	
		June 22, 2020	1			38	271

NO	COUNTRY	DATE	BY AIR	BY SEA	BY LAND	NUMBER OF PASSENGERS	
97	Mozambique	May 22, 2020				21	
		July 28, 2020	1			84	105
98	Myanmar	June 29, 2020	1			2	2
99	Namibia	August 18, 2020	1			1	
		November 19, 2020	1			1	2
100	Nepal	June 1, 2020	1			8	
		June 24, 2020	1			4	12
101	Niger	April 27, 2020				102	
		June 4, 2020	1			4	
		June 19, 2020	1			99	
		July 18, 2020	1			104	309
102	Nigeria	April 25, 2020	1			80	
		June 25, 2020				44	
		July 5, 2020				108	232
103	Nicaragua	June 11, 2020	1			1	
104	Norway	March 17, 2020	1			10	
		April 23, 2020				19	
		June 1, 2020	1			1	30
105	Uzbekistan	March 21, 2020	1			164	
		March 26, 2020	1			232	
		March 28, 2020	1			87	
		April 23, 2020	1			291	
		May 13, 2020	1			156	
		May 21, 2020	1			71	
		June 1, 2020	1			55	
		July 25, 2020	1			4	
		August 23, 2020	1			1	
		August 27, 2020	1			2	1063
106	Pakistan					20	
		April 22, 2020	1			133	
		July 11, 2020	1			18	171
107	Papua New Guinea	July 23, 2020	1			29	29
108	Paraguay	May 6, 2020				1	
		June 5, 2020	1			2	3
109	Peru	May 26, 2020				47	47
110	Polonya	March 23-24, 2020	2			437	

NO	COUNTRY	DATE	BY AIR	BY SEA	BY LAND	NUMBER OF PASSENGERS	
		April 1, 2020	1			53	
		April 17, 2020	1			250	
		October 26, 2020	1			1	
		November 28, 2020	1			1	742
111	Portugal	March 18-20, 2020	2			123	
		April 22, 2020				43	166
112	Romania	March 30, 2020	1			12	
		April 21, 2020	1			73	
		June 1, 2020	1			57	142
113	Rwanda	May 26, 2020				2	
		June 22, 2020	1			37	39
114	Russian Federation	March 27-April 11 2020	2			23	
		March 30, 2020	1			56	
		April 6-7, 2020			x	6	
		April 22, 2020	1			181	
		April 22, 2020	1			180	
		April 29, 2020	2			431	
		May 29, 2020	1			82	
		June 10-11 2020	3			1062	
		June 19, 2020	1			2	
		June 23, 2020	1			1	
		August 4, 2020	1			1	
		August 8, 2020	1			2	
		August 14, 2020			1	1	
		August 16, 2020	1			1	
		November 2, 2020	1			1	2030
115	Senegal	April 25, 2020				60	
		May 20, 2020	1			1	61
116	Sierra Leone	May 3, 2020				2	2
117	Singapore	April 24, 2020				24	
		June 9, 2020	1			22	46
118	Slovakia	March 17, 2020				12	
		April 23, 2020				23	35
119	Slovenia	April 28, 2020				12	12
120	Serbia	March 25-31, 2020	2			256	

NO	COUNTRY	DATE	BY AIR	BY SEA	BY LAND	NUMBER OF PASSENGERS	
		April 22, 2020	1			94	
		June 11, 2020	1			30	
		June 21, 2020	1			148	
		July 8, 2020	1			2	
		October 28, 2020				1	
		December 17, 2020			1	1	532
121	Somalia	April 25, 2020				99	
		April 26, 2020				1	
		June 15, 2020	1			62	162
122	Sri Lanka		1			1	
		May 5, 2020	1			31	32
123	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	May 13, 2020				12	12
124	Sudan	March 21, 2020	1			50	
		March 24, 2020				53	
		April 22, 2020	1			180	
		April 22, 2020	1			179	
		May 6, 2020	1			1	
		June 16, 2020	1			275	
		June 17, 2020	1			126	864
125	Saudi Arabia	April 5, 2020	3			366	
		April 14, 2020	1			179	
		April 14, 2020	1			315	
		April 14, 2020	1			159	
		April 18, 2020	1			170	
		April 20, 2020	1			166	
		April 21, 2020	1			167	
		April 22, 2020	1			182	
		April 22, 2020	1			160	
		April 22, 2020	1			173	
		April 22, 2020	1			309	
		April 22, 2020	1			351	
		April 23, 2020	1			295	
		April 23, 2020	1			182	
		April 23, 2020	1			190	
		April 23, 2020	1			176	

NO	COUNTRY	DATE	BY AIR	BY SEA	BY LAND	NUMBER OF PASSENGERS
		April 24, 2020	1			292
		April 24, 2020	1			348
		April 26, 2020	1			169
		April 27, 2020	1			250
		April 28, 2020	1			170
		April 30, 2020	2			338
		May 2, 2020	3			504
		May 3, 2020	1			168
		May 4, 2020	2			307
		May 22, 2020	2			674
		May 22, 2020	3			974
		June 10, 2020	1			287
		June 21, 2020	3			982
		June 22, 2020	2			523
		June 23, 2020	2			561
		July 4, 2020	1			156
		July 6, 2020	1			72
		July 8, 2020	1			147
		July 9, 2020	1			83
		July 13, 2020	1			93
		July 16, 2020	1			123
		July 18, 2020	1			126
		July 21, 2020	1			120
		July 26, 2020	1			137
		July 27, 2020	2			334
		July 29, 2020	2			396
		August 4, 2020	1			87
		August 9, 2020	1			139
		August 11, 2020	1			146
		August 19, 2020	1			110
		August 19, 2020	1			4
		September 3, 2020	1			218
		September 4, 2020	1			194
		September 3, 2020	1			48
		September 4, 2020	1			106
		September 4, 2020	1			61

NO	COUNTRY	DATE	BY AIR	BY SEA	BY LAND	NUMBER OF PASSENGERS	
		September 10, 2020	1			169	
		September 10, 2020	1			107	
		September 23, 2020	1			48	
		September 23, 2020	1			41	
		September 18, 2020	1			34	
		September 20, 2020	1			38	
		September 25, 2020	1			11	
		September 26, 2020	1			1	
		September 27, 2020	1			7	
		September 29, 2020	1			105	
		September 29, 2020	1			88	
		September 29, 2020	1			140	
		September 29, 2020	1			82	
		October 5, 2020	1			35	
		October 5, 2020	1			45	
		October 6, 2020	1			52	
		October 7, 2020	1			104	
		October 9, 2020	1			55	
		October 11, 2020	1			78	
		February 17, 2021	1			1	14228
126	Chile	May 17, 2020				1	
		May 21, 2020	1			4	5
127	Tajikistan	May 23, 2020	1			98	98
128	Tanzania	April 28, 2020	1			153	
		May 7, 2020	1			2	
		May 16, 2020				131	
		January 25, 2021	1			1	
		February 22, 2021	1			4	291
129	Thailand					2	
		April 23, 2020	1			82	
		May 29, 2020	1			59	143
130	Tunisia	March 19-22, 2020	2			12	
		April 15, 2020	1			39	
		May 6, 2020	1			21	
		June 8, 2020	1			15	87
131	Turkmenistan	June 26, 2020	1			133	

NO	COUNTRY	DATE	BY AIR	BY SEA	BY LAND	NUMBER OF PASSENGERS	
		July 10, 2020	1			30	
		August 7, 2020	1			91	
		August 18, 2020	1			14	
		August 27, 2020	1			7	
		September 24, 2020	1			11	
		September 24, 2020	1			47	
		October 17, 2020	1			25	
		October 23, 2020	1			34	
		December 4, 2020	1			35	
		December 4, 2020	1			2	
		December 22, 2020	1			30	
		December 22, 2020	1			46	
		January 15, 2021	1			69	
		January 16, 2021	1			1	
		January 28, 2021	1			44	
		January 29, 2021	1			15	
		February 22, 2021	1			11	
		February 23, 2021	1			13	
		February 24, 2021	1			22	680
132	Uganda	June 22, 2020				45	45
133	Ukraine	March 20-April 2 2020	6	1		701	
		April 16, 2020	1			141	
		April 17, 2020	1			349	
		April 21, 2020	1			298	
		April 23, 2020	1			319	
		April 27, 2020	1			10	
		June 9, 2020	1			318	2136
134	Oman	April 23, 2020	1			250	
		June 17, 2020	1			278	
		July 29, 2020	1			273	801
135	Uruguay	May 6, 2020				6	
		June 5, 2020	1			4	10
136	Jordan	April 23, 2020	1			166	
		May 7, 2020	1			8	174
137	Venezuela	May 31, 2020	1			2	
		July 5, 2020	1			1	

NO	COUNTRY	DATE	BY AIR	BY SEA	BY LAND	NUMBER OF PASSENGERS	
		July 17, 2020	1			4	7
138	Yemen	July 29, 2020	1			1	
		August 1, 2020	1			1	2
139	Cape Verde	April 8, 2020	1			3	3
140	Greece	March 22-26, 2020	2			66	
		March 22-26, 2020			3	21	
		April 18, 2020			6	152	
		April 30, 2020			1	1	
		May 20, 2020			1	5	
		June 11, 2020			1	1	
		September 28, 2020	1			1	247
141	Zambia	April 26, 2020				1	1
142	Zimbabwe	June 11, 2020	1			3	3
Total			644	23	152	88561	



Evacuation of the Third-Country Citizens in Türkiye to Their Countries

In cooperation with our relevant institutions, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs facilitated the evacuation operations of 91 countries from March 17 to June 11, and 37,682 foreign nationals were evacuated from Türkiye. 290,000 foreign nationals left Türkiye with direct or indirect help from March 17 until June 11, when pandemic-related restrictions were lifted. 368 patients were brought to Türkiye via air ambulance.



Efforts Aimed at International Flights

After border restrictions to fight against Covid-19 were lifted on June 11, 2020, with some exceptions, initiatives were started at the beginning of June via the representations abroad and with the Embassies in Ankara, in coordination with the related institutions, to restart the international flights. As a result of these initiatives, international flights have started gradually.

By February 24, 2021, Türkiye has initiated flights to 97 countries mutually. The flights yet to start are being followed up.

Following the identification of mutated variants of the coronavirus in various countries, comprehensive measures have been taken in Türkiye, with the instructions of our President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and the close cooperation of institutions. In this context, flights with the United Kingdom, Denmark, South Africa and Brazil have been suspended except for humanitarian aid and cargo flights. Besides, a 14 days quarantine was made obligatory for those who have been to the United Kingdom and Denmark in the past ten days, in their residence addressees to be declared following their arrival in Türkiye and those who have been to the Republic of South Africa and Brazil in the past ten days, in the places to be determined by the Governorates. It is possible to terminate the quarantine of those whose PCR tests performed at the end of the 10th day of the quarantine period came negative.

On the other hand, people over the age of 6, entering Türkiye from a foreign country, are required to submit the negative SARS-CoV-2 PCR test results performed within the last seventy-two (72) hours before they arrive in Türkiye.

In addition, flights have been arranged with special permission even when regular flights to some countries had not started yet, and such flights continue to be arranged.

Requests for the said permission are evaluated by the Coordination and Support Centre of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and



the necessary coordination is conducted with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation. In this context, humanitarian flights have been permitted, especially for the evacuation of Turkish citizens in countries where regular flights have not yet started.

Likewise, the status of the citizens having been to the countries where the direct flights were suspended and wishing to be placed in a flight to Türkiye for the requisite and humanitarian purposes such as funeral attendance and treatment are evaluated by the Coordination and Support Centre of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs individually, and the assistance is provided in consultation with the relevant institutions.

CHAPTER 5

COMMUNICATION OF TÜRKİYE'S SUCCESSFUL FIGHT AGAINST CORONAVIRUS



Türkiye has methodically, acutely and systematically informed the national and international public by implementing a transparent and effective communication strategy in the fight against novel coronavirus and has made efforts to bring its success on the field to the world agenda by using public diplomacy tools.



CHAPTER 5

COMMUNICATION OF TÜRKİYE'S SUCCESSFUL FIGHT AGAINST CORONAVIRUS

Türkiye has methodically, acutely and systematically informed the national and international public by implementing a transparent and effective communication strategy in the fight against novel coronavirus and has made efforts to bring its success on the field to the world agenda by using public diplomacy tools. The Directorate of Communications, responsible for promoting Türkiye and conveying its claims and theses to international public opinion, has played a vital role in this process. Within this framework, numerous communication activities organised by the Directorate of Communications such as informative web sites, publications, short films and videos, national and international conferences and organisations have been realised.

5.1. Strategic Communication Tools for International Public Opinion

Türkiye's Effective Fight Against Coronavirus Book

The book titled “**Türkiye's Effective Fight Against Coronavirus**” provides a global perspective on the Covid-19 pandemic, which has affected the whole world, and draws attention to the appreciated healthcare infrastructure and investment ef-

forts of Türkiye. While illustrating the effective measures taken and the inclusive incentives applied against the pandemic, it also stresses the international aid granted. The book, which includes a comparison of the steps taken by countries after the first case, was published in three languages (English, Turkish, and Arabic) and also made available digitally on the web.

National Action Plan for the Pandemic



The aim of the “National Action Plan for the Pandemic” is to provide information and a framework to assist all persons, institutions and organisations in Türkiye in understanding pandemic diseases and preparing themselves sufficiently to fulfil their roles and duties and acting in coordination in the event of a pandemic.

Coronavirus in Türkiye Bulletin

The Directorate of Communications has gathered the developments and the measures taken within the scope of the fight against coronavirus in Türkiye since March 2020 in the “Coro-

navirus in Türkiye Bulletin. All developments and official statements had been compiled, including the prominent matters in our President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's several "Addresses to the Nation", central themes of the press statements of the Minister of Health Fahrettin Koca, statements of the official institutions and organisations in Türkiye and circulars related to the subject. The newsletter was published in two languages: Turkish and English.

Bulletin Regarding Türkiye's Reflections on the Covid-19 in the International Press

The Directorate of Communications has been publishing a daily newsletter that compiles the news articles in the international media regarding Türkiye's fight against coronavirus and includes the prominent statements that appeared in the articles.

Türkiye Model for the Fight against Covid-19 – Discourse and Projects Booklet

The booklet "Türkiye Model for the Fight against Covid-19- Discourse and Projects" prepared by the Directorate of Communications, offers suggestions on the discourses and projects that Türkiye may use for the international public following the pandemic based on the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on global politics, international system and power balances.

Short Film and Videos

Exclusive clips with the contributions of people from all sectors such as specialists, artists, chefs, and volunteers, as well as short films and videos were made with the goal to strengthen our unity and solidarity during the pandemic, ensure that people were able to adapt to the new normal, express the dedication of different actors during this period, demonstrate Türkiye's better position compared to other countries, convey the

struggle for the diagnosis and treatment of the Covid-19. Within this context, numerous communications projects have been carried out, e.g., Vefa Support film, Life in The Kitchen promotional video, Life Fits into Home public service announcement, and We Are All Part of the Whole activity.

Covid -19 Türkiye Web Site

This project aims to properly convey Türkiye's Covid-19 measures and fight to the world public opinion, ensure safe information flow and create a positive perception of Türkiye.

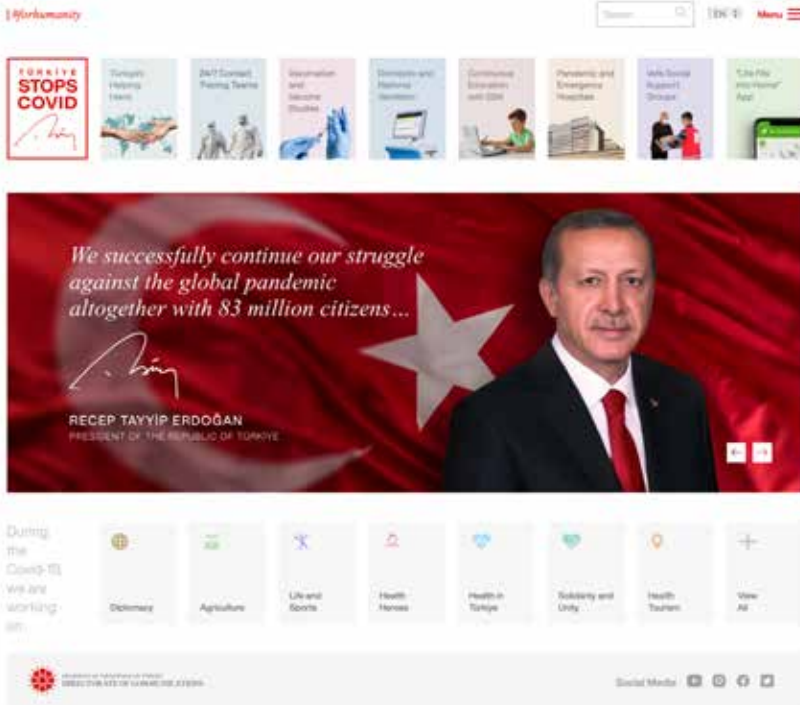
The “www.covid19turkey.com” website has been created within this context, and its video contents are produced in Turkish, Russian and English, and broadcast on social channels.



Türkiye Stops Covid Website

The Directorate of Communications launched a website called turkiyestopscovid.com, which depicts the effective fight that Türkiye had conducted over the course of a year beginning from March 11, 2020, when the first case of coronavirus, which affected the entire world, was detected in Türkiye.

With its slogan “For Humanity”, the “turkiyestopscovid.com” website, prepared in Turkish and English, includes the efforts of Türkiye both for its citizens and the entire world during this period. The website portraying the Türkiye model regarding the fight against Covid-19 includes a wide range of activities carried out by Türkiye from health to education, from social aid to economic aid. Moreover, the website contains information regarding Türkiye’s contributions in preventing the pandemic at the global level by extending a helping hand.





5.2. Discourse of the Türkiye Model in the Fight Against Covid-19

Conference on Experiences on Covid-19 and International Cooperation in the Fight Against the Pandemic

The conference titled “Experiences on Covid-19 and International Cooperation in the Fight Against the Pandemic” organised by the Directorate of Communications was broadcast on social media and national channels on April 8, 2020. The video conference’s opening speech, which was broadcast on Turkish and English YouTube Channels of the Directorate, was delivered by the Director of Communications, Prof. Fahrettin Altun. The video conference was moderated by Murat Yeşiltaş, Director of Security Studies at SETA, and the speakers included Türkiye’s Ambassador to Beijing Abdulkadir Emin Önen, Ambassador to Rome Murat Salim Esenli, and Ambassador to Seul Durmuş Ersin Erçin. In the conference, the prominence of international cooperation in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic was pointed out.



Video Conference on Post-Covid-19 Global Order

In partnership with the Directorate of Communications and the Brookings Doha Institute, the video conference titled “Post-Covid-19 Global Order” was held live on YouTube on April 15, 2020. The possible changes in global order after the pandemic were discussed at the conference. In the programme, the Dean of the School of Political Science, Social Sciences University of Ankara, Prof. Mehmet Akif Kireççi, Brookings Doha Director Assoc. Prof. Tarik M. Yousef and Brookings Doha Research Director Asst. Prof. Nader Kabbani shared their assessments.

The Discourse of Türkiye's Fight Against Covid-19

The project was aimed to put forward strong discourses that Türkiye might use and effective policies it might implement in the post-pandemic period. Türkiye's successful performance in the pandemic period was stressed, and its effective presentation was made in all areas with all kinds of strategic communication tools. Within this context, the “NATO ENGAGES” programme was organised, practice examples of countries were given comparatively; a video was shot from the perspectives of foreign athletes residing in Türkiye on Türkiye's fight against the Coronavirus; the health products developed with national technology were promoted through international fairs, and our country's health tourism opportunities were expressed through international channels. The Coronavirus documentary was shot; Türkiye's fight against Covid-19 was reported to countries' internal public opinion through foreign football players and, the aids provided were shared on social media.

Communication of New Normal Order

The goal was to realise Türkiye's foreign policies by taking a more proactive approach to creating a positive perception of Türkiye in the international arena through digital public diplomacy and

promotion activities that made effective use of new digital communication resources such as web seminars during and after the pandemic, and video conferences.

In order to stress the way Türkiye fought against Covid-19 and the activities it carried out, the information reports in seven different sectors and a period of 12 months, infographics, videos and street interviews were prepared and shared with the public opinion under the title of “Post-pandemic Communication Approaches”.

Publicising Türkiye’s Evacuation Organisations abroad during the Coronavirus Pandemic Period

The evacuation organisations that Türkiye carried out abroad within the context of the Covid-19 pandemic were unfolded; five evacuation organisation videos, prepared in English and Turkish, were shared on social media.





5.3. Healthcare Infrastructure and Introduction of Applications

Türkiye's Story of Pandemic

The project has aimed to keep our people away from disinformation during the Covid-19 period and announce Türkiye's success in this fight - crowned with the extraordinary dedication of the healthcare staff - to the international public opinion.

The research was conducted in two pandemic hospitals. The hospitals' chief physicians and the routine patient care processes of the related hospitals were followed and filmed.

In this context, 44 interviews were carried out involving healthcare staff, especially nurses and physicians at Okmeydanı and Haseki Training and Research Hospitals. Videos of these interviews were prepared in two languages to address the domestic and foreign public opinion and broadcast on social media.





Promotion of Digital Pandemic Tracking System

The project's goal was to promote the pandemic tracking system, which enabled the isolation tracking system, which the Ministry of Health implemented, to monitor individuals in isolation and those at risk of viruses via GSM lines. A video film was produced in English and Turkish languages and was broadcast on national channels and digital media as a public service announcement.

Moreover, a social media hashtag (#) called “#keepontack- ingtürkiye” was carried out in order to create social awareness.

Three Emergency Hospitals Completed Within 45 Days

Following the Presidential Cabinet meeting held by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan on April 6, 2020, the news of adding three new emergency hospitals to Istanbul was announced.



These three projects were completed and put into service in just 45 days. The emergency hospitals' construction and repair stages were recorded continuously, and accelerated promotional videos covering the entire process were prepared and shared with the public.

Communication of Multipurpose Emergency and Pandemic Hospitals

In a period when developed western countries were having a hard time fighting against the pandemic due to the inadequacies of the healthcare infrastructure, our country had overcome the process without any trouble with the high-capacity city hospitals that had already been put into service as a result of its visionary healthcare policies. In addition, three multipurpose emergency hospitals were built and put into service in Istanbul within 45 days, taking into account the possible future requirement. Hospital investments carried out in our country contributed to the acceleration of the normalisation process by playing an active role in the Covid-19 pandemic. Hospitals to



serve in pandemics, earthquakes, and every possible disaster have played an active role in health tourism due to their strategic location. The purpose of this communication study was to inform the entire world about these investments. In this context, public service announcements were prepared in Turkish and English regarding Prof. Murat Dilmener, Prof. Feriha Öz, and Dr. Niyazi Kurtulmuş hospitals and brought to the attention of the national and international public opinion.

Türkiye's Healthcare Investments and Promotion and Raising Awareness Project Regarding the Fight Against Coronavirus

Due to the Covid-19, the importance of the intensive care units and hospital capacities in Türkiye significantly increased; the hospitals and city hospitals' ongoing constructions were accelerated, and some hospitals were put into service with ceaseless efforts.

The project aimed to share this process with our citizens and to inform and raise awareness of our citizens about ongoing

investments and services and keep their trust and motivation high in healthcare. For this purpose, video films called “The Heroes Dressed in White Coats”, “City Hospitals” and “Vefa Volunteers” were prepared in two different languages.

Promotion of Türkiye's International Healthcare Assistance

The project aimed to explain the rules to be followed, the measures taken, and the studies carried out to reduce the virus's transmission rate during the Covid-19 pandemic process to all citizens and the world public. Within this scope, video and infographic films of Türkiye's foreign assistance were produced in Turkish and English, and they were broadcast as public service announcements on national broadcasters and social media platforms. Thus, a contribution to health diplomacy was made by emphasising the strength of Türkiye's health infrastructure.



5.4. Communication Activities with the Theme of Social Solidarity and Support

We Are Self-Sufficient Türkiye Campaign

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan launched the We Are Self-Sufficient Türkiye Solidarity Campaign on April 1, 2020. Türkiye, which has overcome difficult times with a spirit of unity and solidarity, has demonstrated this spirit once more with our citizens' support for the campaign.

Within the campaign's scope, a total of 2,069,338,000 TL was provided to 2,069,338 households/persons. A transparent process was followed regarding who made the donations collected during the campaign and in what amount, and after the campaign ended, information about the places where the funds were spent/will be spent was announced on a regular basis. For this purpose, the website <https://bizbizeyeriz.gov.tr/> was created and social media activities were conducted through #wewillsucceedtogether and #WeAreSelf-SufficientTürkiye hashtags; informative videos on the subject were prepared and published. Few of the thousands of messages of support sent to

the Presidency's Communication Centre (CİMER) by citizens during the campaign were shared on corporate social media accounts to highlight this voluntary union.

Within the campaign's scope, a work entitled "Unity, Solidarity and Fraternity Composition" was composed by combining the importance of national unity and solidarity with the healing power of music during the pandemic period. The composition was broadcast on digital media channels.



The 83-year-old nursing home resident donated his holiday bonus to the National Solidarity Campaign.



He donated his veteran salary to the "National Solidarity Campaign."



Two cousins from Afyonkarahisar donated their savings of 700 TL to the National Solidarity Campaign.



The kindergarten student donated the money in his piggy bank to the National Solidarity Campaign.

T.C. CUMHURİYETİ
CUMHURBAŞKANLIĞI

Türkiye'nin Kültür Hazinesi Sahnesinde **Evde Bayram Konserleri**

							
							
AFRODİSİAS ANTİK TİYATROSU	KAPPAĐOKYA	PATARA ANTİK KENTİ	EFES ANTİK KENTİ	MİLETLİS ANTİK TİYATROSU	SARIMSAKLI	HÜNKAR İSMAİL ÜNİVERSİTESİ	İSTANBUL ARKEOLOJİK MÜZESİ

Eid at Home Concerts on Türkiye's Cultural Treasures Stage

Cultural, social, artistic and sports activities that require people to come together could not be carried out during the pandemic period. Therefore, special digital concerts were organised in order to minimise the adverse socio-psychological effects of it on society, to feel the Eid joy at home and promote our country's cultural treasures at the same time.

Within the scope of the project, a series of concerts were organised with the participation of our prominent artists, including concerts by Şirin Pancaroğlu and Bora Uymaz at Aphrodisias Ancient Theatre, Ferman Akgül and Ethnic Band in Cappadocia, Serkan Çağrı and Balkan Ensemble and Elif Buse Doğan at Patara Ancient City, Yusuf Güney at Ephesus Ancient City, Hi-



erapolis Ancient Theatre Concert, Kubat in Safranbolu, Fettah Can at Istanbul Mimar Sinan University and Mazhar Alanson at the Istanbul Archaeology Museum, respectively, and these events were brought to homes through national channels and social media platforms.



5.5. Activities on Informing the Public

Letter of Public Information on Türkiye's Fight Against Covid-19

The letter signed by our President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan was delivered to 22 million households to inform and raise awareness of the public in the fight against coronavirus,

With this letter, it was intended to communicate the fight against Covid-19 directly to our citizens by the President and raise awareness of our citizens by conveying the most reliable information on this matter.

Within the project's scope, it was planned to distribute the Public Information Message on Türkiye's Fight Against Covid-19 to every household in 81 provinces. In accordance with the goal of reaching a population of 82 million and delivering to every household, it has reached 22 million households.



Informative Videos on the Coronavirus Pandemic

In this communication activity, the goal was to prepare informative, consciousness-raising and awareness-raising contents to protect the Turkish people from coronavirus and explain the issues to be considered during the fight against the pandemic with videos. For this purpose, three videos were prepared and broadcast on national channels as public service announcements, and these were shared on the social media accounts of the Directorate of Communications.

Informing the People Under Temporary Protection Status in Our Country and Living in Northern Syria

The project was developed to explain the measures to be taken in the Fight against the novel coronavirus to Syrian citizens, who were in our country as guests and away from the war and chaotic environment, in their language. With the project, the aim was to convey the message to the local community that the Turkish people stood with them in this challenging period with 500 thousand brochures distributed by the Disaster and Emergency Management Agency (AFAD), the Turkish Red Crescent, our non-governmental organisations and our soldiers in Jarabulus, al-Bab, Afrin and the temporary protection zones in Türkiye.



Social Media Activities/Campaigns

All activities and campaigns carried out by Türkiye on social media regarding the pandemic have been announced to the public. Within this context, Türkiye's Daily Coronavirus Overview Chart had been announced to the public with infographics and the restrictions imposed under the fight against the pandemic with informative visuals and videos. On the other hand, Türkiye's humanitarian aid to other countries had been effectively illustrated on social media through various videos.



5.6. Initiatives for the Media Members

Broadcasting Incentives Provided to Several Institutions in the Public and Private Sector

Press Advertisement Agency announced its “decisions on assisting the press”, which included a number of incentives and measures in order to overcome the economic challenges faced by the media outlets and media workers during the pandemic. Within this framework, the plunge in the actual sales volume required pursuant to the related legislation had been deemed to be in the scope of force majeure, application period to journalist associations for financial aids had been prolonged, and debt recovery procedures of journalists who had borrowed money from the Press Advertisement Institution had been postponed.

Health Kits for National and Local Media Members

This project aimed to distribute health kits to national and local press members in order to announce Türkiye's effective fight against the coronavirus at national and local levels all over the country and to provide accurate information to the public.

Within this context, a total of 6,000 health kits containing the book titled “Türkiye’s Effective Fight Against Coronavirus” were sent to national and local media members.

Health Kits for International Media Members

This project had been developed to communicate Türkiye’s success in the fight against coronavirus and its campaign to extend a helping hand to other countries and prevent disinformation and propaganda in this field.

With this project, a total of 3,500 health kits, containing the leaflet explaining Türkiye’s Covid-19 Strategy, a thermometer, disinfectant, surgical mask and gloves, and a book titled “Türkiye’s Covid-19 Strategy”, were sent to international media members, primarily resident international journalists in our country.



CHAPTER 6

TÜRKİYE'S SUCCESS IN THE INTERNATIONAL MEDIA



**We have to improve
the resilience of our
healthcare system.
Türkiye has proved to be
an excellent example in
this regard.**



CHAPTER 6

TÜRKİYE'S SUCCESS IN THE INTERNATIONAL MEDIA

AP: “Türkiye’s pandemic strategy hinges on hazmat-suited gumshoes” / May 20, 2020



AP, in its article published on May 20, 2020, titled “Türkiye’s pandemic strategy hinges on hazmat-suited gumshoes”, stated that Türkiye had based its pandemic response on partial lockdowns and the work by armies of contact tracers, which identified people infected by Covid-19 and sought to stamp out the fire before it consumes a neighbourhood, town or region. The article also mentioned Fahrettin Koca’s remarks, the Minister of Health, stating that the pandemic had been brought “under control,” with virus deaths and confirmed infections falling. On the other hand, the Ministry of Health noted that it had recorded 151,615 confirmed cases — which placed Türkiye

in the global top 10 for infections — and 4,199 deaths. Along with Koca's statement, "We brought the sickness' spread under control by monitoring the source," the article stated that at least 6,239 tracers had reached 722,000 people who had contact with an infected person since March 10. The article also relayed the statements of the interim chief for WHO's Türkiye office, Irshad Ali Shaikh, where he pointed out that Türkiye's downward trajectory in reported confirmed cases "had shown that the interventions seemed to have worked in favour."

The Washington Times: "Turkish government's strategy turns the tide of Covid-19" / May 19, 2020

Fahrettin Altun's article published on May 19, 2020, in The Washington Times titled "Turkish government's strategy turns the tide of Covid-19," noted that the Turkish government had been providing free universal health care to all citizens and had made early investments in its healthcare infrastructure, the results of which were visible during this period. According to the article, the efforts had been successful in turning the tide. The daily growth of new cases recently dropped to the slowest pace since the first case was confirmed in early March, and daily hospital discharges were far exceeding new cases. The article reviewed the facts to understand Türkiye's success in managing the crisis, and stated that healthcare had been made more accessible to more people through reforms and investments, that Türkiye ranked among the top five nations in the world in terms of the rate of testing, the government postponed debt payments and reduced certain taxes, and offered interest-free loans with deferred payment to all businesses, provided direct financial assistance to families, announced a 100 billion TL support package for businesses, provided free universal health care, and was one of the few countries in its region to offer free universal health care, helped many countries, implemented restrictions on the movement of our citizens aged 65 and older and made sure local authorities met all their needs. Moreover,

Turkish government's strategy turns the tide of COVID-19

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FRONT PAGE PODCAST

March 12, 2020

ANALYSIS/OPINION:

The Turkish government provided free universal health care, and made early investments in its health care infrastructure that are paying off now.

Our efforts are turning the tide: The daily growth of new cases recently dropped to the slowest pace since the first case was confirmed in early March, and daily hospital discharges are now far exceeding

the article pointed out that all of this had been guided by President Erdoğan's clear instructions and continuous emphasis on a human-centric and humane approach in meeting this challenge.

Bloomberg: "Türkiye Sends Medical Supplies to U.S. as Virus Brings Solidarity" / April 27, 2020

Bloomberg's article published on April 27, 2020, titled "Türkiye Sends Medical Supplies to U.S. as Virus Brings Solidarity", noted that Türkiye showed a gesture of solidarity to a NATO ally and sent a Turkish military cargo plane carrying medical supplies to the U.S. to boost its fight against the coronavirus pandemic. According to the article, the donation ordered by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan included 500,000 surgical masks, 40,000 protective overalls, disinfectants, goggles, and face shields. The article quoted Fahrettin Altun's tweet, the Director of Communications, stating that Türkiye had sent medical supplies to more than 50 countries so far. The article also

Bloomberg

Turkey Sends Medical Supplies to U.S. as Virus Brings Solidarity

Taylan Bilgic and Selcan Hacaoglu 4/28/2020



(Bloomberg) -- A Turkish military cargo plane carrying medical supplies left for the U.S. to boost its fight against the coronavirus pandemic, in a gesture of solidarity with a NATO ally after years of fractious relations.



indicated that Türkiye had a substantial pandemic of its own to fight against, with 2,900 deaths. Furthermore, according to the article, David Satterfield, U.S. Ambassador to Türkiye, thanked Türkiye for the “generous donation.”

**Stern: "Pictures of the Week... Türkiye: Shots at the Peak" /
February 25, 2020**



The news story of Stern of February 25, 2020, titled "Pictures of the Week... Türkiye: Shots at the Peak", narrated that a mobile vaccine team had reached a remote village called Güneyyamaç in the east of Türkiye, located two thousand metres above sea level, carried China's Sinovac vaccine in their backpacks and hoped to immunise people over 65 with the vaccine. According to the story, the vaccination campaign in the country had been conducted quite successfully. Since January 13, 6.5 million doses were administrated, while in Germany, which began vaccination on December 27, approximately five million doses were administrated.

Deutsch-Türkisches Journal: “Türkiye surpasses Germany in Corona Vaccination” / February 21, 2021

The image shows a screenshot of a news article from the website 'Deutsch-Türkisches Journal'. The logo 'dtj' is visible in the top left. The navigation bar includes categories like 'POLITIK', 'GESELLSCHAFT', 'WIRTSCHAFT', 'KULTUR', 'SPORT', 'MENSCHENRECHTE', 'FAKE NEWS', and 'TÜRKEI'. The article title is 'Türkei überholt Deutschland bei Corona-Impfungen' (Turkey overtakes Germany in Corona vaccinations), dated February 21, 2021. The main image is a close-up of a yellow vial labeled 'Coronavirus Vaccine COVID-19'. To the right, there is a sidebar with several smaller article teasers, including 'Mittagsessen fällt der Wächter', 'Festnetz, Blockadezeit, Top-Ten: Chinas länger Arm: Uiguren in der Türkei befrachten Abschiebungen', 'Festnetz, Foren, Chat, Top-Ten: Versteckt sich Attila Hildmann in der Türkei?', 'Kultur: Kunst-Biennale in Istanbul öffnet: «Es gab nichts, was wir nicht tun könnten»', 'Festnetz, Deutschland, Top-Ten: Merkel über Deutsch-Türken: „Nicht einfach zu glauben, dass sie die gleichen Chancen haben“', and 'Allgemein: Passaus: Türkei: Neuer Personalausweis kommt'.

The news article of Deutsch-Türkisches Journal published on February 21, 2021, titled “Türkiye surpasses Germany in Corona Vaccination”, indicated that thus far, more people had been vaccinated in Türkiye in comparison to Germany, vaccination strategy of Türkiye seemed to be working, and that Türkiye currently had surpassed Germany in terms of vaccinated people. According to the article, at the start of the week (on Monday, February 15, 2021), at least one dose was administered to 4.6 million Turkish people, and Türkiye was highly likely to cross the 5 million mark soon. The article underlined that only 3.5 million people had been vaccinated in Germany thus far, and this was due to the fact that the strategy followed by Türkiye had been effective, Turkish doctors were able to access the centralised database of the healthcare system through the mobile application, officially registered each citizen was entered in the database along with his/her ID number and medical record and

that Türkiye was much more advanced in terms of the digitisation of the healthcare system compared to many EU-member countries. Furthermore, the article stated that vaccine appointments could be booked over the phone and the internet; Türkiye had been fighting against the coronavirus with a perfectly digitised system and had an outstanding healthcare infrastructure.

NEX24: “Türkiye... Corona Crisis: European Union Representative praises Turkish healthcare system” / May 17, 2020



The article published by NEX24 on May 17, 2020, titled “Türkiye...Corona Crisis: European Union Representative Praises Turkish Healthcare System”, reported that in an interview of Christian Berger, the Head of European Union Delegation to Türkiye, with Daily Sabah news, he stated that, “We must strengthen the resilience of our healthcare system. Türkiye has been an excellent example in this regard.” According to the article, Berger said that since Türkiye built a robust healthcare system over the years, the Turkish healthcare system was able to cope with the crisis in a good way. In the article which mentioned Berger statement that Türkiye played a vital role in the development and production of protective kits, it was also noted that nearly two-thirds of the world, especially the countries heavily affected by the virus, requested medical supplies from Türkiye to fight against coronavirus and thus far, 64 countries received medical aid. The article pointed out that medical masks, protective clothing, gloves, and disinfectants were provided.

Deutsche Welle-Internet: “How Do Turkish Hospitals Cope with the Flood of Patients?” / May 6, 2020

DW Made for minds.

THEMEN MEDIA CENTER TV DEUTSCH LERNEN

DEUTSCHLAND CORONAVIRUS WELT WIRTSCHAFT KULTUR WISSEN & UMWELT

COVID-19

Wie türkische Krankenhäuser die Patientenflut bewältigen

Das türkische Gesundheitssystem stemmt die Corona-Krise bislang besser als erwartet. Dennoch arbeitet das medizinische Personal in vielen Bereichen bis zum Umfallen. Eindrücke aus dem Cerrahpaşa Krankenhaus in Istanbul.

Facebook Twitter WhatsApp Email Print

Artikelkategorie: Gesundheit, Corona, Türkei, Politik

Themenwelten: Türkei, Coronavirus, Gesundheit, Corona-Virus, Covid-19

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1000 km'den fazla menzile kadar

1000 km'den fazla menzile kadar

In the Deutsche Welle-Internet’s article published on May 6, 2020, titled “How Do Turkish Hospitals Cope with the Flood of Patients?”, it was reported that the Turkish healthcare system coped with the coronavirus pandemic better than expected, and the healthcare staff in the country worked with all their might until they were exhausted. According to the report, the Turkish healthcare system was able to cope with the pandemic so far. According to the Turkish government, the bed capacity in Turkish hospitals had not been filled. Only 60% of the intensive care beds were filled. According to some experts, the reason for this success was attributed to well-trained doctors and well-equipped hospitals. İstanbul University Cerrahpaşa Faculty of Medicine, the largest Turkish hospital, was at the forefront of the fight against the virus. The article also stated that despite all the difficulties caused by the coronavirus crisis, one positive effect was that the pandemic strengthened the spirit of solidarity in society and among Cerrahpaşa Hospital staff.

NEX24: “Patient’s Daughters Thanked Erdoğan...Türkiye Brings Coronavirus Patient from Sweden” / April 26, 2020

Töchter danken Erdogan: Türkei lässt Corona-Patient aus Schweden holen

Obwohl bei ihm ein symptomatisch schwerer Verlauf der Corona-Infektion und auch ein positiver Test vorlag, schickte ein Krankenhaus in Schweden den 47-jährigen Türken wieder nach Hause. Daraufhin wandten sich die beiden Töchter des Schwerkranken, Leyla und Samira Gülüşken, über Twitter an die türkische Regierung und baten um Hilfe.

von NEX24 - Apr 26, 2020

184 von 176



Post von Leyla Gülüşken

Eurovision „Mr. ESC“ Peter Urban: Habe keine...

Danobryk (ec) - "Mr. ESC" Peter Urban: Habe keine Angst vor Anträgen beim ESC Langjähriger Kommentator des Song Contests verweist auf Sicherheitsvorkehrungen - Gute Chancen für deutsche Kandidatin Jemie Lee Peter Urban, NDR-Moderator und mehr

In the article published by NEX24 on April 26, 2020, titled “Patient’s Daughters Thanked Erdoğan...Türkiye Brings Coronavirus Patient from Sweden”, it was reported that after a hospital in Sweden sent a 47-year-old Turkish citizen home although he tested positive and there was a severe course of coronavirus infection in terms of symptoms. His two daughters Leyla and Samira Gülüşken, called on the Turkish government from Twitter and asked for help, saying, “Help us make our voices heard. Our father is in bad shape. He needs to be treated in a short time.” According to the article, Türkiye’s Minister of Health Fahrettin Koca responded to the desperate cry for help from his daughters and stated that a plane would be sent for their sick father, saying, “Dear Leyla, we heard your voice. Our air ambulance is taking off at 6 a.m., and we’re coming to Sweden. We, the people of Türkiye, are sorry that you’re far from home in such a period. Our hospital and our doctors are ready for your father. I convey the wishes of our President and our people for your father to get well soon.” According to the article, Gülüşken and his children were taken to the Ankara City Hospital following their routine health inspection after the air ambulance in question arrived in Ankara, the capital of Türkiye. The girls thanked the President of Türkiye Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the Minister of Health Fahrettin Koca and the government on Twitter and expressed that they were proud of Türkiye.

Avropa.info: “TİKA Continues its Fight Against Covid-19 Globally” / April 17, 2020



In a news article of Avropa.info published on April 17, 2020, titled “TİKA Continues its Fight Against Covid-19 Globally”, it was reported that the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA) played an important role in Türkiye’s fight against novel coronavirus globally with its aid and support activities carried out around the world. According to the article, Batumi Infectious Diseases Hospital renewed and increased in capacity with the support of Türkiye and put into service on November 22 last year, Gaza Palestine-Türkiye Friendship Hospital, built by TİKA in Gaza, and Bishkek Kyrgyzstan-Türkiye Friendship Hospital, completed in Kyrgyzstan, played an important role in the fight against Covid-19 pandemic. TİKA supports the production of face shield protective masks in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Libya, Uzbekistan, Mongolia, Uganda, Algeria, Sudan, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kyrgyzstan, Colombia and Sri Lanka. The agency had begun to provide training to 360 healthcare staff from eight districts in Aden, located in the south of Yemen, within the scope of the fight against Covid-19. TİKA provided food and cleaning supplies to families, people over the age of 65, those on a low income, and those in need in Guinea, Azerbaijan, North Macedonia, Kyrgyzstan, Chuy, Arbil, and Kirkuk who had been negatively affected by the pandemic.

France 24: “Turkish Hospitals Are Shown as a Good Example in the Administration of Covid-19” / June 27, 2020



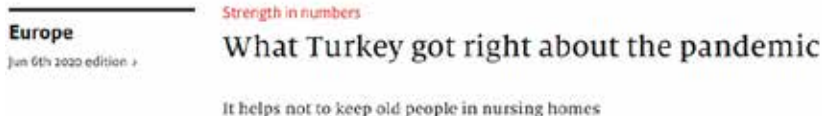
Avec moins de 200 000 cas positifs pour 83 millions d'habitants, la Turquie s'affiche comme un pays où lutté contre le coronavirus avec succès. © France 24

Télé par FRANCE 24 | Vidéo par Isabelle DE FOUCALD | Sitora BHATTACHARYYA | 5 mn

Avec moins de 200 000 cas positifs pour 83 millions d'habitants, la Turquie s'affiche comme un pays qui lutte contre le coronavirus avec succès. Le fait que la population turque soit jeune et que

In France 24's news report published on June 27, 2020, titled “Turkish Hospitals Are Shown as a Good Example in the Administration of Covid-19”, it was reported that Türkiye, with a population of 83 million and less than 200 thousand recorded positive cases, was considered as a country fighting against coronavirus successfully. In addition to stating that the Istanbul University Cerrahpaşa Faculty of Medicine was one of the most active hospitals in Türkiye in the fight against coronavirus, the article quoted Dr Yalım Dikmen who said, “The first wave is not over yet, and all countries are preparing for the second wave in autumn. Of course, we expect it to arrive here, as well, but we have the capacity to take care of all patients.” It was also noted that the difference in Türkiye's approach was that patients were kept under observation before the disease advanced. According to the article, Türkiye was one of the OECD countries that invested in the healthcare sector in recent years, with a return on investment in health tourism of nearly 1.5 billion euros in 2018.

The Economist: “What Türkiye Got Right about the Pandemic” / June 5, 2020



In the article of *The Economist* published on June 5, 2020, with the title “What Türkiye Got Right about the Pandemic”, it was reported that the Turkish government coped with the pandemic better than most countries. According to the article, the government’s strategy was successful in the fight against the pandemic. While those in the highest risk groups survived the worst of the pandemic, the majority of infected people of working age had already recovered. It was reported that the death rate was one-tenth of that recorded in Britain. According to the article, President Erdoğan and the governments he led had poured tens of billions of dollars into healthcare services in the last two decades, with the majority of this money spent on the construction of a hospital network the size of an international airport, the last of which had a bed capacity of nearly 2 thousand 700, with roughly one-sixth of that being intensive care, was put into service on May 21. The news article also stated that while the Covid-19 wave never reached the point where it paralysed the healthcare system, medical supplies were never in short supply.

Asahi Shimbun: “Surprising Generosity...Measures Türkiye Applied on Covid-19 Pandemic Are Mystery” / May 2, 2020

今日の特集 特集一覧 連載一覧 検索

The Asahi Shimbun
GLOBE+

Beyond the Limit～生き方の新デザイン～ 自分が変わる、自分が変える GLOBE+のイベント

World Now People Lifestyle Travel Learning Brand

HOME > World Now > 世界の気前の良さ トルコの「新型コロナ対策」謎に迫る

トルコから見える世界 2020.05.02

驚きの気前の良さ トルコの「新型コロナ対策」謎に迫る

「ただ思い切り楽しみたい」。福島県の高校生たちがゲーカールグループ「リトルグリーンスタター」とリモートで共演する「復興支援音楽祭」にかける思い

三原真実

In Asahi Shimbun’s article published on May 2, 2020, titled “Surprising Generosity...Measures Türkiye Applied on Covid-19 Pandemic Are Mystery”, it was noted that just as the demand for materials used to fight against the infection such as masks, protective clothing and respirators was increasing in Japan, the reason for Türkiye’s free distribution of five masks per week, free treatment of infected people, and continuous delivery of supplies to other countries affected by the coronavirus pandemic was shown as the front formed by the public and private in the fight against coronavirus. The article also stated that since 2017, several large city hospitals had been put into service in Türkiye each year, all of which could be converted into intensive care units in an emergency.

Erkin Too: “Türkiye’s Safe Tourism Certification Program sets an example for the whole world” / August 27, 2020



Erkin Too’s article published on August 27, 2020, titled “Türkiye’s Safe Tourism Certification Program sets an example for the whole world”, stated that an influx of tourists began from Russia, England, Germany, and Ukraine to Türkiye, which launched a Healthy Tourism Certification Program at hotels in May as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. According to the article, Türkiye’s Safe Tourism Certification Program defined a wide range of new measures from transportation to accommodation for Turkish citizens and foreign visitors, from health conditions of employees working at touristic facilities to passengers. This certificate verifies that airlines, airports, other transportation means and accommodation facilities, food and beverage facilities meet the high level of health and hygiene conditions. The “Safe Tourism Certification Program,” one of the world’s first examples, was established under the supervision of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, with contributions

from the Ministries of Health, Transportation and Infrastructure, Interior, and Foreign Affairs, as well as collaboration from all sector stakeholders. Within this context, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism has put the pandemic protocols and certification procedures generated separately for airport operators, airlines, road transportations and tourism facilities into effect as of May 4, 2020.

GLOBAL PANDEMIC OF THE CENTURY
TÜRKİYE'S SUCCESSFUL FIGHT
AGAINST CORONAVIRUS

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GLOBAL PANDEMIC OF THE CENTURY

**Türkiye's
Successful Fight
Against *Coronavirus***



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