



# ESPN – Flash report

## 2015/16

**An ex-post assessment of income-generating  
project grants**

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<b>Theme(s):</b>	<i>Social Inclusion</i>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>An ex-post assessment of income-generating project grants</b>
<b>Category:</b>	<i>Key developments in implementation-Ex-post assessment</i>
<b>Abstract:</b>	<p>This Flash Report discusses results of an ex-post assessment of income-generating project grants for impoverished persons, by focusing on whether the project resulted in sustainable income after project support and in increasing participation in various aspects of social life. Recommendations are made to improve the current situation.</p>
<b>Description:</b>	<p>Since 2003, the Directorate General of Social Assistance, the main social assistance body in Turkey, has been providing income-generating project grants for impoverished but able-to-work persons (open to individual, group-oriented or cooperative use). The bulk of these project grants (still active) can be provided for setting up a business, agricultural/crop production, fruit production, dairy cattle husbandry, sheep/other livestock husbandry and beekeeping, all with a zero-interest, eight-year loan, with no repayment in the first two years, and six equal repayments in the following six years. Other major project grants were provided via cooperatives between 2003 and 2010; most of them are currently operational, mainly in the form of sheep husbandry, dairy cattle husbandry and greenhouse farming. At the request of the Ministry, the impact of these projects on beneficiaries has been assessed ex post (Adaman et al., 2014). This assessment consisted of an extensive field study involving both qualitative and quantitative methods.</p> <p>The key objectives of the assessment included the opportunity to generate a regular income after project support, the sustainability of existing income-generating activities, changes in living conditions, and participation in various aspects of social life. The assessment also aimed at examining the geographies where the projects were implemented, as well as the organisational structure of the projects (in terms of individual/group-based/ cooperative projects). Because</p>

they were implemented in different areas in terms of scope, and thus had differing impacts on beneficiaries, the programmes included in the study, and their impact, were examined within their own specific conditions.

The study findings vary according to the grant type, the geographical region as well as the project themes. Here are some of the main findings:

- Many state employees in charge of the programme lack the necessary knowledge for project grants to operate effectively. Moreover, the Directorate and other state institutions do not cooperate adequately in the project selection and in monitoring processes.
- The organisational and technical support as well as the information provided to beneficiaries during the project application, the development stage, and the implementation phases are limited and insufficient.
- The success and sustainability of projects are closely linked to changes in the local soil/ labour/ product markets that occur due to the transformations in the Turkish economy (esp. in the agriculture and livestock industries), as well as market conditions and marketing opportunities in terms of both input and output.
- Support in the form of technical know-how as well as beneficiaries' work experience in the project theme play a significant role in the success of the implementation. In a related manner, grants utilised by the poorest beneficiaries have less chance of success.
- The number of female beneficiaries is significantly smaller than that of male beneficiaries mainly due to the gender-based roles and norms embedded in social and economic life.
- Flexibility in social spending appears to be higher in beneficiary households, and project funds contribute particularly to areas such as education, health and social security. Consequently, beneficiaries become less resilient to income shocks if support in areas such as health, education and family assistance is terminated.

All in all, when examined in terms of repayment success, financial sustainability, climbing out of poverty and improved

	household prosperity, the assessment confirms that providing support during the application and implementation process, procuring livestock in line with beneficiary preferences and the previous knowledge and experience of the beneficiaries play a positive role.
<b>Outlook &amp; Commentary:</b>	The study findings led to recommendations under the following headings: definition of the applicants/ target group, assessment and approval processes, monitoring and sustainability, repayments, and socioeconomic impacts. Two sets of recommendations are made: one geared to improving the current situation under each heading, and one focused on restructuring the social assistance system and situating project grants within this structure. Recommendations related to a restructured system are primarily based on the framework of a rights-based social assistance system founded on the Minimum Income Support model. In this framework, project grants are complementary in character, and aim to boost household prosperity via a sustainable economic activity.
<b>Further reading:</b>	Adaman, F., Akbulut, B., Yakut-Cakar, B., Yenal, Z. (2014). <i>Assessment Study of Income-generating Projects</i> , report prepared for the Ministry of Family and Social Policies, Ankara.
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