

Analysis of Social Aid in Turkey During the Covid-19 Epidemic

Covid-19 Salgını Sürecinde Türkiye’de Sosyal Yardımların Analizi

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ABSTRACT

The Covid-19 epidemic started in December 2019 in Wuhan, China, and was accepted as an epidemic disease by the World Health Organization in January 2020 and was declared a pandemic on March 11th, 2011. Since the beginning of the epidemic, it has caused enormous social and economic losses, and its impacts are still continuing. Due to Covid-19, approximately 6 million people worldwide and a hundred thousand people in Turkey have died so far. Many solutions have been tried to be produced in the world and in Turkey in order to reduce the social and economic effect of Covid-19, which causes enormous social and economic losses, on societies.

Undoubtedly, the economic and social assistance to be provided by the states and other non-governmental organizations during disasters such as Covid-19 is important and necessary in terms of preventing the negativities experienced. Turkey, as the rest of the world, the government has tried to take measures to reduce the economic and social losses of Covid-19 and to fight the epidemic.

In order to reduce the effects of Covid-19, it is important to examine the aid provided in Turkey and to investigate its social and economic effects in terms of being prepared for similar disasters that may occur in the future. In this article, by obtaining the amounts and the qualifications of aids provided by the private sector and public institutions whether they are adequate or not has been examined and evaluated. As a result, it has been evaluated that the Covid-19 epidemic process is managed in a controlled manner due to the adequacy of health personnel and health institutions and also vaccine applications are successful; social and economic aids are provided, but the economic aid is not sufficient compared to the aid provided by developed countries.

Keywords: Covid-19, Social Aid, Pandemic, Epidemic, Turkey

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ÖZ

Covid-19 salgını Çin'in Wuhan kentinde Aralık 2019'da başlamış Ocak 2020'de Dünya Sağlık Örgütü tarafından salgın bir hastalık olduğu kabul edilmiş ve 11 Mart 2020'de pandemi olarak açıklanmıştır. Salgın'ın başlangıcından bugüne kadar çok büyük sosyal ve ekonomik kayıplara neden olmuştur ve zararları halihazırda devam etmektedir. Covid-19 nedeniyle Dünya genelinde bugüne kadar yaklaşık 6 milyon kişi, Türkiye'de ise yaklaşık 100 bin kişi hayatını kaybetmiştir. Sosyal ve ekonomik olarak çok büyük kayıplara neden olan Covid-19'un toplumlar üzerindeki sosyal ve ekonomik etkilerinin azaltılması amacıyla dünyada ve Türkiye'de pek çok çözüm üretilmeye çalışılmıştır.

Şüphesiz Covid-19 gibi felaketler esnasında başta devletler olmak üzere, diğer sivil toplum örgütlerinin yapacağı ekonomik ve sosyal yardımlar yaşanan olumsuzlukların önlenmesi açısından önemlidir ve gereklidir. Türkiye'de tüm dünyada olduğu gibi Covid-19'un ekonomik ve sosyal etkilerini azaltmak amacıyla önlemler almaya ve salgınla mücadele etmeye çalışılmıştır.

Covid-19'un etkilerinin azaltılması amacıyla Türkiye'de yapılan yardımların incelenmesi, sosyal ve ekonomik etkilerinin araştırılması gelecek dönem de meydana gelebilecek benzer felakete hazırlı olunması bakımından önemlidir. Bu makalede yardımların nitelikleri ve miktarları kamu kurumu ve özel sektör temsilcilerinden temin edilerek yeterli veya yetersizlik durumları incelenmiş ve değerlendirilmiştir. Sonuç olarak Covid-19 salgını sürecinin sağlık personeli ve sağlık kurumlarının yeterliliği nedeniyle kontrollü bir şekilde yönetildiği, aşı uygulamalarının başarılı olduğu, sosyal yardım ve ekonomik yardımların yapıldığı ancak ekonomik yardımların gelişmiş ülkelerin yapmış oldukları yardımlara göre yeterli olmadığı değerlendirilmiştir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Covid-19, Sosyal Yardım, Pandemi, Salgın, Türkiye

Introduction

As in all disasters, epidemics have had economic, social and psychological effects on societies. Many epidemics such as smallpox, tuberculosis, malaria, plague epidemics, cholera, Spanish flu, SARS, MERS, Ebola have occurred since historical times. These epidemic diseases have caused the death of millions of people in the world, caused economic and social losses, and have affected societies socially and economically. In order to reduce the effects of epidemics, many measures have been tried to be implemented by countries, non-governmental organizations, aid organizations. To these measures; developing vaccines against diseases, aid packages, credit support packages, inclusion of those who do not have health insurance in the scope of health insurance, deferral of tax premium payments, aids made by aid organizations especially to the elderly and those in need can be given as examples.

Covid-19 emerged in the city of Wuhan, China in early December 2019. On January 30th, 2020, the director of the World Health Organization (WHO), stated that 98 cases of the disease were detected in 18 countries outside of China, and it was reported that it was accepted as a pandemic on March 11th, 2020. The World Health Organization (2022) stated that as of May 2022, approximately 6 million people died worldwide. In Turkey, the Ministry of Health states that about 100 thousand people died in Turkey due to Covid-19.

Covid-19 has caused millions of people to get sick and die in Turkey and around the world. Since the spread of the disease, the World Health Organization and the countries of the world have cooperated in many issues such as preventing the epidemic, reducing the death rate, treating the

disease, developing vaccines and drugs, and endeavored to solve this problem. Many campaigns and support projects have been carried out in order to support healthcare professionals who are trying to prevent the spread of the disease and who are at the forefront of the treatment of patients. The countries of the world have tried to support each other in terms of providing equipment and material support within the framework of their current possibilities. An example is that Republic of Turkey sends materials such as masks, overalls, and goggles to be used in the prevention and treatment of the disease to many countries, especially the United States of America, to countries in need.

Undoubtedly, the collective effort and cooperation of global organizations and all countries of the world is important in reducing the economic and social damage caused by a global epidemic such as Covid-19, preventing the disease, reducing the death rate, treating the disease and reducing the social and economic negative effects on people. The measures implemented by the country within its own body and the aid they have made to their own communities are as important as the global efforts. For this reason, the social and economic effects caused by Covid-19 will examine; the aid provided by the developed countries will evaluate; the aid provided by the government and non-governmental organizations in the Covid-19 process in Turkey will discuss, and whether the aids benefit those affected by Covid-19 issues and effects will evaluate, and opinions and suggestions will try to express to reduce the social and economic damages of epidemic diseases that may occur in the future.

1. Economic and Social Impacts of Covid-19

The Covid-19 global pandemic has created a deep financial crisis as well as a health crisis for millions of people. In the face of the rapid spread of the virus, large-scale restrictions and closures were experienced in the economies; The economic depression created by these measures caused mass unemployment and a very rare decline in economic activities in history (Sariipek, 2021, p.18).

Covid-19 is a global disaster that affects the whole world with various dimensions (Şenkal, 2021a, p.75). Undoubtedly, this disaster has deeply affected all societies and continues to affect them. It is estimated that the social and economic effects of the epidemic will continue in the long term.

1.1. Economic Impacts of Covid-19

During the Covid-19 epidemic, which turned into a global crisis, a large part of the world's population remained under some kind of social distance to control the crisis. The economic effects of the epidemic spread to the poorest regions of the world; therefore, millions of people became impoverished and had to experience food insecurity (Şenkal, 2021, p.133). The Covid-19 pandemic has inflicted great damage on the world's leading economies such as the USA, China, the UK, Germany, France, Italy and Japan. In a very short time, 6.6 million people became unemployed (Turhan & Çelikyay Hamza, 2020, p.6).

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In the report of the World Economic Forum (WEF, 2021), It is stated that the economic cost of Covid-19 and the immediate human cost are very serious and job losses, growing digital gaps, reduced socialization between people and changes in economic parameters cause enormous damage to a large part of societies and in the future the opportunities that we may encounter can be missed due to these negativities. Congress Research Service (CRS, 2021) predicted that the major developed economies, which make up 60% of the world economy, will produce below their potential production levels by 2024, with the most optimistic forecast, and that countries and individual welfare will be lower compared to the pre-Covid-19 period, on the supply side, famines; It predicts that it may occur due to ongoing disruptions in the labor market, production and supply chain problems, global energy market bottlenecks, and restrictions in transportation that have increased due to the inflationary effect.

Developing countries' growth rates have dropped by about 1% in the first place and these countries need 200 billion dollars to combat the pandemic and 250 billion dollars to restore their pre-pandemic convergence paths. Labor market prospects for low-skilled workers and youth continue to be more negative than other demographic groups, and these groups are more vulnerable in terms of poverty. It said that 65-85 million more people fell into extreme poverty in 2021 compared to the estimates made before the Covid-19 pandemic (IMF, 2021, p.7). The Congressional Research Service (CRS, 2021), on the other hand, highlighted the human costs in terms of lives lost, in addition to the cost of rising poverty levels, disrupted lives, derailed careers, and heightened social unrest, which have permanently impacted global economic growth.

The epidemic in question has also affected Turkey in similar ways with the countries of the world, due to the Covid-19 measures; Between 15th-18th March 2020, 149,382 workplaces across the country temporarily suspended their activities. Night clubs, bars, pavilions, discotheques, theatres, cinemas, performance centers, concert halls, engagement/wedding halls, restaurant/cafe with instruments/music, casino, pub, tavern, cafeteria, country garden, hookah cafe, internet hall, internet cafe, all kinds of game rooms, all kinds of indoor children's playgrounds (including those inside shopping malls and restaurants), tea garden, association clubs, amusement park, swimming pool, Turkish bath, sauna, spa, massage parlor, SPA and sports. The activities of the centers were temporarily suspended. As of March 21st, 2020, the activities of barbers, hairdressers and beauty centers have been suspended (Turhan & Çelikyay Hamza, 2020, p.1-25).

The majority of the companies in all fields of activities in Turkey suffered great losses due to the crisis. However, the most affected sectors were the tourism sector and small businesses. More than 95% of the companies in the trade/retail and service sectors in the Mediterranean region and the production/manufacturing sector in the Southeastern Anatolia region received their significant share from the crisis. In the United Nations Development Program (UNDP, 2020) Turkey reports, in March, when Covid-19 was first detected in Turkey, the production volume of half of the companies decreased by more than 50%, and the most negative impact on the business volume on a sectoral basis was seen in the tourism sector. It was stated that the impacts on finance, machinery and agriculture were relatively less affected than the tourism sector. It has been determined that due to the decrease in business volumes, a significant part of the enterprises need deferment and reduction of invoice/tax/social security premium payments in addition to financial support.

In order to understand the effects of Covid-19, it is important to examine the effects of the Consumer Price Indices (CPI) across the country before and after the pandemic, in terms of understanding the extent to which Turkey's economy is affected. When the Turkish Statistical Institute

(TUIK) data is analyzed, the CPI for January 2020 was 12.15, while the CPI for January 2021 increased to 14.97, and the CPI for 2022 was calculated as 48.69. When the inflation rates are examined, the inflation coefficient has increased approximately three times since the beginning of Covid-19, and it can be evaluated that this inflationary effect is due to the Covid-19 epidemic.

Since the beginning of the Covid-19 epidemic, problems have been experienced and continue to be experienced due to the deterioration of the sectoral balances due to the deterioration in supply chains, the negative effects of quarantine conditions on businesses, the disruption of transportation and social networks, the increase in demand in some sectors, and the excessive decrease in demands in some sectors. Bayraktutan and Solmaz (2021) stated that the closure measures implemented at the beginning of the epidemic adversely affected some sectors and manufacturers due to the contraction in consumption and exports. While there was no sector with negative annual turnover other than the construction sector in 2019, there were decreases in the turnover of all sectors during the epidemic period, but they stated that the most affected sectors were the service sector.

1.2. Social Impacts of Covid-19

Societies and countries have been caught unprepared for Covid-19. All over the world, people were suddenly forced to stay in their homes, almost all economic activities stopped in many countries, recurrent supply and demand shocks negatively affected the entire supply chain, and fluctuations in production and consumption occurred. Ultimately, all the countries of the world were helpless for the first time to seek ways to cope with the Covid-19 virus and to develop an effective vaccine against the disease caused by the virus (Eroğlu, 2020, p.567). Since the beginning of the Covid-19 epidemic, it has been observed that all segments of society, especially disadvantaged segments, have been affected more socially. In the Covid-19 epidemic, which is one of the greatest disasters in human history, even developed countries have been helpless and have failed to reduce the social effects of the epidemic and prevent deaths.

By April 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) stated that the total number of cases worldwide exceeded 1 million and 56,986 people died, and it was seen that the disease increased tenfold in less than a month. The World Health Organization (WHO, 2022) announced that the number of people who contracted the disease was 515,748,861 people and the number of deaths was 6,255,835 people in May 2022, while the Republic of Turkish Ministry of Health (2022) announced that the number of deaths in Turkey reached 97,666 people as of March 2022.

The Covid-19 epidemic affects all segments of society. It continues to affect particularly members of the most vulnerable social groups, including the poor, the elderly, the disabled, youth and children. Research shows that the health and economic effects of the virus are disproportionately borne by poor people. For example, homeless people are highly exposed to the danger of viruses because they cannot shelter safely. People without access to water, refugees, migrants or displaced persons also face disproportionately fewer employment opportunities and increased xenophobia, both during and after the epidemic (Şenkal, 2021a, p.79).

During the Covid-19 epidemic, those working in the service sector, in casual and seasonal jobs, lost their jobs and joined other segments in need of social services and social assistance, as the poverty rates deepened due to the decrease in their incomes.

Education opportunities have been limited due to the fact that the children of poor families do not have or are limited in distance education opportunities. Due to the distance education, there was a process that hindered the psychological development of the children who could not attend the education. The possibility of being exposed to abuse and violence by disadvantaged people from all groups, especially children who have been subjected to violence and abuse, has increased, as well as stigma, discrimination, attacks and violence against immigrants and asylum seekers (Urhan&Arslankoç, 2021, p.960). It is stated by Şenkal (2021b, p.50) that discrimination based on race and gender has a direct impact on economic opportunities. However, similarly, the American Rescue Plan (2021) revealed that non-white African-Americans and low-paid workers are putting their lives in danger because they have to work during the pandemic period. It is stated that with the onset of the epidemic, 9.5 million workers lost their jobs and half of those who lost their jobs were unemployed for six months or more.

The Covid-19 pandemic has led to an increase in existing social problems; there have been increases in many parameters such as domestic abuse and child abuse rates, hate crimes, loneliness and isolation, mental illness levels, unemployment, education inequalities, suspected corruption, and fraud (Briggs et al, 2021, p.3). Similar observations were made by Bozkurt et al. (2020, p.304-318); They stated that they experienced psychological problems due to increased depression in employees, loneliness, anxiety disorder, social isolation, traumatization of healthcare professionals, stigmatization of those caught in the epidemic, and separation of healthcare professionals from their families.

2. Social Aid in Developed Countries During the Covid-19 Process

With the spread of Covid-19 in the world, all countries have started to take economic and social measures to prevent the epidemic and reduce the effects of the epidemic. Each country has made an effort to help the sectors and citizens affected by the epidemic economically within the framework of their own possibilities. It would be useful to consider the aids of developed countries in terms of analyzing the aid provided by Turkey.

Economic aid in the world's most developed and financially strong countries is as follows:

It has been stated by the sources of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that the United States of America (USA) signed a package of 1.9 trillion dollars after Joe Biden became president, which corresponds to approximately 25.4% of the national income of the United States. (BBC Turkish, 2021). In the American Recovery Plan (2021), \$160 billion for public health workforce, testing and vaccine development, \$130 billion for education and training, \$1 trillion for improving the economic situation of working families (\$1,400 per person), \$300 per week for 11 million people. It was stated that within the scope of unemployment insurance assistance, child tax credit, 66 million families were paid 3200 dollars more per family, the income taxes of 17 million workers were increased by 1000 dollars, and care assistance was provided for children under the age of 13 from 4000 dollars to 8000 dollars. It has been stated that more than 1 million Americans are given a monthly support of 200 dollars to be covered by insurance.

The United Kingdom (UK) government has announced a £330 billion package to repay the guaranteed loans, of which £20 billion will be given to small businesses on a non-refundable basis. An additional £1.3 billion package was announced in April 2020 in order to support those who could not benefit from the announced packages and new ventures (BBC Turkish, 2020). 16.3% of the UK national income was allocated to aid; unpaid leave plans were made, and the wages of those who could not

work due to the pandemic were covered by the British government up to £2500. Aid allocated to more than 9 million people in UK has been given in various ways (BBC Turkish, 2021).

Germany froze the debt of its German citizens and the government created an extra budget of 150 billion. In Germany, the federal government is creating a huge support package of 700 billion euros (the equivalent of Germany's budget of about two years) to provide liquid guarantees for large firms and grants for small companies and self-employed. It is envisaged that enterprises with self-employment and up to 5000 employees will receive support of up to 9,000 Euros, Self-employment and enterprises with a maximum of 10 employees will receive support up to 15,000 Euro. 100 billion euro for equity measures, 400 billion euros for guarantees, 100 billion euros to finance the German Development Bank. It was stated that more than 10 million people applied for support until May 2020 (Cilgin, 2022, p. 13-14).

The ratios of the aid packages to the Gross National Product (GNP) of some of the countries of the world are shown in the table below:

Table 1: Ratio of Aids by Countries to Their Gross National Product (GNP)

Countries	Anoncued Economy Amount of Packages	Ratio of GNP
Italy	25 billion Euros	%1,4
Türkiye	15.4 billion Dollars	%2
Greece	3.8 billion Euros	%8,9
Austria	38 billion Euros	%9
USA	\$2 trillion Dollars	%11
England	\$397 billion Dollars	%17,7
Spain	200 billion euros	%20
Germany	\$800 billion Dollars	%22

Source: (DISK, 2020, s.2), <https://www.raporlar.org/covid-19-salgin-ve-sosyal-koruma-raporu-disk/>

3. Aid in Turkey During the Covid-19 Process

During the Covid-19 epidemic in Turkey, the negativities caused by the epidemic have increased the need for a human-oriented approach in social assistance practices. It is known that in all developed countries, especially in the USA, during the Covid-19 process, due to the lack of hospitals, health personnel, health equipment and materials, where social assistance other than financial aid is insufficient, disadvantaged segments, especially the elderly, are adversely affected by the epidemic process and many deaths occur due to these negativities. In this period, Turkey showed that it was better than developed countries in terms of the adequacy of health institutions, in terms of health services delivery and material adequacy, and it carried out the fight against the epidemic in a more controlled and better way than developed western countries. However, although there are opinions that social aid expenditures are not sufficient in terms of quality and quantity, the aid has increased and continued (Çimen, 2021, p.15-38).

Considering the number of people caught in Covid-19, the number of patients recovered after being caught and the death rates, Turkey is one of the countries that suffered the epidemic with the least damage. It can be said that the rapid decisions taken by Turkey had a great impact on passing a more successful epidemic process than many other countries. Since the beginning of the epidemic, measures have been put into effect urgently, and it has been tried to help the citizens affected by the epidemic by taking action on whatever is needed. The hardships of companies, tradesmen, employees and citizens affected by the epidemic have been eliminated. The cash needs of the citizens were tried to be met with financial supports such as short-time working allowance, wage support and

unemployment benefit (Eroğlu, 2020, p.570). In this process, Turkey showed that it was prepared in terms of health services and equipment, carried out the fight against the epidemic in a more controlled and successful way compared to the West, and was able to continue its social aid expenditures, which increased in quality and quantity, although there were criticisms that it was insufficient (Çimen, 2021, p.28)

It was announced by the Turkish Ministry of Health that the first case of the disease was seen in Turkey on March 11th, 2020, about three months after the Covid-19 epidemic emerged in China (Turkish Ministry of Health, 2021). Since the epidemic began to spread in the world and the first case was detected, preparations for the epidemic were made in Turkey, and many measures were taken to prevent the epidemic and reduce its effects. These measures taken cover all segments of the society, from individual citizens to the public sector and the private sector.

Vefa social support units grants: With the spread of Covid-19 in Turkey, quarantine measures were implemented, and in order to meet the basic needs of people who could not leave their homes and need support, especially the elderly, due to quarantine measures, loyalty social support units were established, mostly consisting of public employees, volunteers and non-governmental organizations participated in the aid activities. These units have tried to help people in need of protection, especially the elderly aged 65 and over, in all matters they need, from paying salaries, taking their medicines to their homes, and grocery shopping. It was reported that the aid services provided by the Turkish Ministry of Interior (2022) reached 22.7 million people.

The aid provided by the Turkish Red Crescent: Those who came from abroad were quarantined for certain periods in order to prevent the spread of the disease. Three meals a day were provided by the Turkish Red Crescent to 20,000 people under quarantine in more than 50 centers and people over the age of 65, and 150 tent hospitals were delivered to the Turkish Ministry of Health as part of the fight against the epidemic (Kızılay, 2020a). Turkish Red Crescent also delivered 67,021 food parcels and 7.3266 hygiene parcels to those in need through its 432 branches and representatives in the country, and at the same time provided 400 Turkish liras (TL) to 5.648 families and tried to meet the needs of those in need together with social support groups (Kızılay, 2020b).

Aids Made within the Scope of Economic Support Packages: Within the scope of the fight against Covid-19, in the packages introduced to alleviate the economic problems faced by households, workers and employers:

- Tax, value added tax and all kinds of premium payments of more than 2 million people have been deferred for 6 months,
- Minimum wage support continued,
- Short-time working allowance has been given,
- Transition to non-full-time working from home practices,
- The lowest paid civil servant salary was 1500 tl,
- Retired holiday bonuses were given ahead of time,
- Cash aid was given to more than 2 million households,
- Credit supports have been given,
- Businesses in a difficult situation were offered the opportunity to postpone their loans and financial support was given,
- State banks allowed small businesses and artisans to defer their debts, and basic needs packages were offered to households with favorable interest rates,

- Assistance was provided to businesses within the scope of attendance support, and housing, vehicle, need and financial support packages were offered to households (Soylu, 2020, p.169-185).

Table 2: Social Protection Shield Aid Table

Turkey in General		Paid Household Person	Quantity TL
Social Support Program Household	PHASE 1	2.111.254	2.111.254.000 TL
	PHASE 2	2.316.010	2.316.010.000 TL
	PHASE 3	2.061.527	2.061.527.000 TL
We are Enough for Us Aid Campaign	Household	2.077.365	2.077.365.000 TL
Short Term Working Grant	Worker	3.765.541	31.563.334.292 TL
Cash Wage Support	Worker	2.548.335	10.240.917.966 TL
Unemployment Allowance	People	1.048.409	5.634.259.143 TL
Normalization Support	Worker	3.183.435	4.034.225.189 TL
Total		60.038.892.590 TL	

Source: Ministry of Family and Social Services, (15 April 2021), Social Protection Shield Turkey General, <https://twitter.com/tcailesosyal/status/1382774243042209794>

Turkey announced the "Economic Stability Shield" package of 100 billion TL, 1000 TL support was given per household in three phases as of August 2020; the figure was stated to be approximately 1 million 300 thousand people; 1500 TL aid was provided to the tradesmen whose income decreased, and the monthly income was 5000 TL. Basic needs support and credit facilities were provided to those below. It was announced by the Ministry of Family and Social Services that the figures paid in April 2021 reached approximately 60 billion TL. It was reported that the total amount of financial and social support packages offered to the service exceeded 200 billion TL, the amount of donations made to the "We are Enough for Us, Turkey" campaign reached 1 billion 910 million TL, and the number of people who received 1000 TL of aid was 4 million 400 thousand. In addition, it was stated that by the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey approximately 65 thousand of Turkish citizens abroad were brought to Turkey with the established airline bridges (TCCB, 2020).

Assistance and free vaccination for those without health insurance: The Turkish Presidency's decision numbered 2399, which states that all expenses will be covered by the state if people without health insurance apply to the hospital due to Covid-19, is one of the measures taken for people who do not have health insurance. In a matter that we can define as social assistance, it is free vaccination applications that cover the entire population without discrimination. According to the data of the Turkish Ministry of Health (2022) in Turkey, as of 14 May 2022, 147.620.847 doses of free vaccine have been administered and continue to be applied. It is seen that the vaccine application is free of charge by the Turkish state and the number of doses made is at a good level compared to the world averages.

Regulations on enforcement and bankruptcy proceedings: With the Turkish Presidential Decision No. 31076 published in the Official Gazette (2020), in order not to increase the grievances that may occur during the pandemic process and not to deepen the social problems regarding the enforcement and bankruptcy proceedings. "Within the scope of the measures taken to prevent the spread of the Covid 19 epidemic in our country; From the effective date of this decision until 30/04/2020, it has been decided to suspend all enforcement and bankruptcy proceedings carried out throughout the country, with the exception of enforcement proceedings regarding alimony receivables. In this context, it has been decided not to carry out party and follow-up proceedings, not

to take new enforcement and bankruptcy proceedings, and execute the necessary attachment decisions”.

4. Aid by Turkey to Abroad

The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency, or TIKA for short, organizes and carries out aid from Turkey to foreign countries through its overseas offices. During the Covid-19 epidemic, the aid provided to 177 countries in the world, from Afghanistan to the Philippines, from Spain to Somalia, especially the United States of America, was carried out through TIKA with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of National Defense and other public institutions and non-governmental organizations.

In 2020, 568,490 masks, 23,850 N95 type masks, 164.82 tons of disinfectants, 407,675 gloves, 7,050 goggles, 12,870 visors, 21,450 protective overalls, 1,049 ventilators were provided to approximately 100 countries by the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) (TIKA, 2020). In 2021, it also provided support to a total of 5,951,023 people in extra 77 different countries with the production of over 1,075,630 on-site masks, 569,500 on-site overalls production, 65,172 hygiene kit grants, 1,069,295 mask grants, 29,308 overalls grants (TIKA, 2021).

5. Analysis of Aid Given During the Covid-19 Process

Turkey has been well prepared for the epidemic as the state and private sector since the beginning of the epidemic. All the measures required by science were tried to prevent the epidemic from spreading, the process was carried out in a healthy and controlled manner, and it could not be prevented from becoming an unmanaged crisis due to the quality of public institutions and especially the quality of health personnel and the adequacy of health institutions. It has been evaluated that it is very important for the entire population to be under the umbrella of social security due to the Covid-19 epidemic, and the treatment of those who are not insured is undertaken by the state, and this practice, which has no example even in developed countries, can be shown as an exemplary practice to the whole world.

It has been determined that Vefa social assistance teams show a very good example of solidarity and are a good example in terms of social solidarity. Considering the number of doses made, it was seen that a vaccine was applied in parallel with the developed countries of the world, and Turkey was one of the leading countries in the vaccine application, and this issue was considered successful. In addition, the fact that Turkey has helped 177 world countries, including the most developed economies of the world, during the times when even the developed world countries were helpless against the Covid-19 epidemic, from the first periods when the pandemic started to spread, can be shown as proof of the successful work shown during the epidemic process.

However, when the ratios of the social assistance and support to the Gross National Product (GNP) of the countries are considered, it is evaluated that the ratio of the financial aids made by Turkey to the GNP is higher than that of Italy, but less than other developed countries, compared to the aid provided by the developed countries.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The Covid-19 epidemic, which emerged in China in 2019 and affected the whole world in a very short time, caused millions of deaths in the world and Turkey, a huge economic loss, a disruption in the supply chain in the world, a decrease in the growth and employment rates of countries, an increase in inflation rates, and social and economic losses. It has caused many negativities such as psychological

problems. In terms of death rates in the world, it is one of the biggest disasters and deaths and losses still continue. As of May 22, 2022, according to the data of the World Health Organization, approximately 6 million people in the world lost their lives due to Covid-19 and it is seen that the deaths continue to increase day by day. According to the data of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Turkey, it is stated that the number of deaths in Turkey due to Covid-19 was approximately 100 thousand people on the date in question. It has led to the development of new solutions for the solution of problems, going beyond the standard practices in many areas from education to daily life, from the economy to the change of working conditions, from money markets to money market practices, from employment rates to workforce diversity. All the countries of the world have already experienced the negative consequences of Covid-19 and its effects are expected to continue for many years.

All the countries of the world and Turkey have helped their citizens and private sectors in various ways in order to reduce the economic and social effects of Covid-19 within their budgetary possibilities. These aids cover a wide range of aids, from gratuitous cash aid, tax deferral, food aid, service aid, vaccine development activities, and health aids. When the aids made by the countries are evaluated in terms of the ratios allocated from the budgets, it has been determined that some countries allocate more resources and some do not allocate sufficient resources. It has been evaluated that Turkey has been successful in terms of health opportunities, vaccination applications, fidelity social support benefits, health insurance coverage for all Covid-19 patients.

In the globalizing world, disasters such as epidemics do not only affect a part of the world, but also all countries of the world. For this reason, the importance of collective cooperation in order to prevent and reduce the effects of global epidemics such as Covid-19 has once again emerged with the epidemic. It is vital that world states and organizations such as the United Nations, International Labor Organization, World Bank, IMF, World Health Organization, which are related to social policy implementations on a global scale, are better prepared for disasters in order to be able to get out of future disasters with less damage. For this purpose, it is thought that the institutions and states in question should be provided with a structure that will be more prepared for disasters economically and institutionally.

In terms of disaster preparedness, cooperation between global organizations and countries and global coordination against disasters is very important. However, in addition to international measures and cooperation, it has been evaluated that being prepared regionally and nationally is also important in terms of reducing the social, economic and psychological effects of epidemics and disasters on societies.

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