



**THE EFFECTS OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC
ON
STREET ECONOMY
&
SOLUTION PROPOSALS
TURKEY**

*Towards a Solidarist and Participative
Social Economy*

PREPARED BY THE GLOBAL STREET ECONOMY PLATFORM

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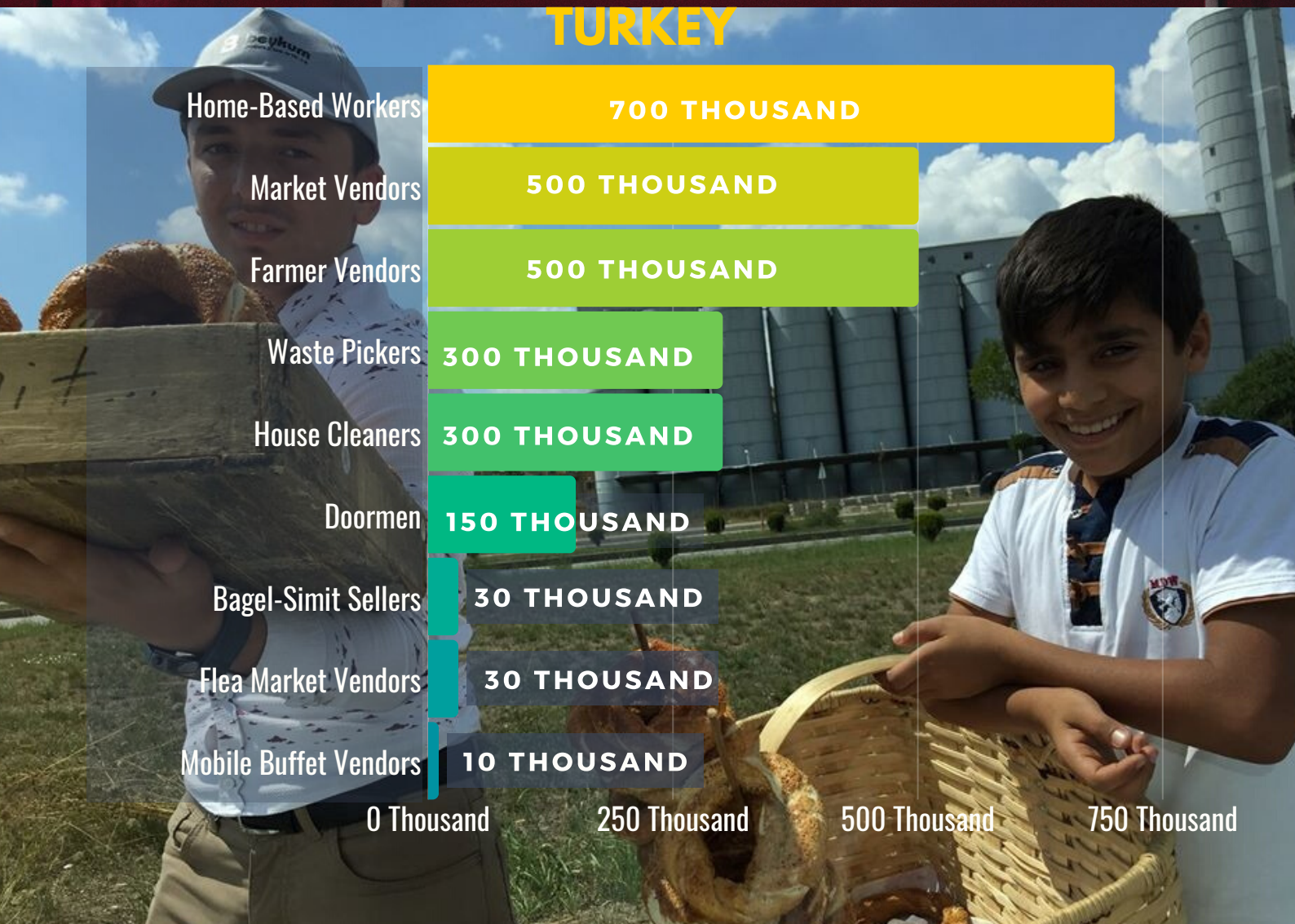
Emrullah ESLIK

Gizem CAMLICA

6 million Street Vendors are vulnerable to the crisis and getting poorer each day in Turkey



TURKEY



THE REFLECTIONS OF COVID-19 CIRCULAR LETTER

A SUMMARY OF THE DATA AND DEMANDS ACQUIRED THROUGH TELECONFERENCES AND DIRECT FIELD OBSERVATIONS

1) Sales of items such as clothing, toys, accessories, bags etc. in stalls and exhibitions in open air markets has been forbidden. Street vendors opened their stalls for the last time.

2) Open air and flea markets that were opened on Sundays to serve the citizens in many provinces such as Kütahya, and the historical covered bazaar in Izmir have been closed.

3) People working in farmer's markets in many provinces can only open their stall two times a month because of the enforcement of the numbered stalls that gives them an odd or even number each week.

4) While our peddlers in the Street Economy have been severely damaged by the crisis, our small tradesmen such as grocery stores, restaurants, barbershops, tailors, etc. with all their sectors suffered heavy damage.

5) When street vendors who go to markets with very old, rusty cars apply for the social aid, they cannot benefit from this aid because they own a car registered to them.

6) Street vendors who are above the age 65 who have to bring bread to their home have to argue with the city police due to the curfew in many parts of the country.



STREETS ARE NOT A PROBLEM BUT A SOLUTION

7) Although it has diminished, many waste pickers are still collecting waste in the streets all around the country.

8) People working as waste pickers live under terrible conditions in storehouses or in shared houses. 15-20 people live together in these places.

9) Citizens who cannot leave their house because of the hazard on the streets cannot go to farmer's markets.

10) People working in markets who sell textile and durable products do not go to work. These vendors have lost 50-70% of their income.

11) Our vendors cannot pay their checks and promissory notes any longer. Even if these vendors who do not have any income apply for the credit, how will they be able to pay it back without an income?

SOLUTION STARTS ON THE STREET

BY DR. OSMAN SIRKECI

STREET ECONOMY IS IN THE SERVICE OF THE PUBLIC IN EPIDEMIC AND IN HEALTH

IN THESE DIFFICULT TIMES, WITNESSING THE BEST AND WORST ASPECTS OF THE HUMAN NATURE, STREET ECONOMY IS THE MOST BASIC

COMPONENT, INDICATOR AND GUARANTEE OF THE EGALITARIAN, SOLIDARIST, SHARING AND TRULY PARTICIPATIVE SOCIAL ECONOMY AND DEMOCRACY IN EPIDEMIC OR IN HEALTH WITHOUT QUESTIONING THE IDENTITY OR ORIGINS OF THE GROUPS IN NEED.

1) Vendors help again the poor and low-income citizens. Citizens who cannot obtain masks and gloves choose to supply these needs from the vendors.

2) Vendors have started to meet the needs of the poorer and older citizens who cannot leave their house by bringing the products to their doors. They have been delivering this service, that supermarkets cannot offer, to the needy of our elderly and poor neighborhoods as it has been for years

3) In this time of crisis, mobile greengrocers, bagel/simit sellers on the streets, milkmen and vendors selling water in stations have come to the aid of the citizens.

4) Producers who work in their small gardens/ fields provide the public with their products.

5) The hardworking waste pickers in our country, native or immigrant, continue to bring the national wealth, wastepaper and junk on the streets into the economy in spite of the epidemic.

6) The food and other kinds of aids of local administrations are very important in terms of understanding and evaluating the production in accordance with the need,

permanent and transforming effects of participative, solidarity-driven vision.

7) Mass solidarity and tendencies towards an active citizenship, which become more visible in times of crisis have the potential to turn into a marvellous participative democratic synergy if coordinated well.

8) The coordination of the participative democratic synergy is the guarantee of sustainable social municipalism.

**STREET ECONOMY
IS NOT A PROBLEM
IT IS THE VERY SOLUTION
TO THE PROBLEMS
CREATED
BY CAPITALISM**

PROF. DR. KAMURAN ELBEYOGLU

PERMANENT AND TRANSFORMING EFFECTS OF PARTICIPATIVE, SOLIDARITY-DRIVEN VISION



SOCIAL, SOLIDARIST SOLUTION PROPOSALS

1) Aid to be provided by the governorships and municipalities should be coordinated by reaching all our street artisans through their contact information on mobile vendors, street vendors, and waste paper pickers associations.

2) Similar practices to those of Ankara and İzmir municipalities should be executed all around the country.

3) Waste collecting without protection should be prevented, if not, durable masks and gloves should be distributed.

4) For those who temporarily stopped working as waste collectors, at least minimum consumption amount worth of free use should be entitled to their electricity, water and food expenses.

5) The transportation, workplace and working conditions of the daily construction workers who live in a very

severe situation and who have to work in unsafe,precautionary environments, whose wages are cut, are delayed, should be supervised and enhanced.

6)The daily workers such as construction workers who cannot work because of the crisis should be given financial aid and food aid.

7) Cleaning workers and housekeepers who cannot work because of restricted transportation etc. should be supported, their health and social security deficiencies should be remedied.

DR. AHMET FIDAN



**GLOBAL STREET ECONOMY
PLATFORM**



**SELF WORKERS GLOBAL
UNION/TURKEY**