



# Transformation of Social Policy and the Current Tendencies in the Social Aid Fields in Turkey

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# In my presentation...

- The Problem of transformation Social Policy
- Important Concepts
- Transformation Social Policy in Turkey
- Social Assistance

# Introduction

- The last quarter of the 20th century was a period of radical economic, social and political transformation and changes in the world.
- During this period, production, employment and distribution policies that affect people's daily lives were determined according to global networks.
- Neoliberal policies have found wide application and welfare state practices and the transformation of modern social policy have been one of the main areas of discussion. These discussions, led by international organizations in the process of restructuring the welfare state, mainly focused on the financial sustainability of social security systems and the role of the state in the system.

# The Problem

- Social assistance programs operate as an embedded part of the protection system within the general welfare regime. The role and primary task of social assistance in the modern social protection system is designed as a “last resort plan”.
- On the other hand, poverty is largely determined by the labor market and primary welfare institutions. Today, in parallel with the transformation of the welfare state and the labor market in Turkey as in many other countries, social assistance has become one of the main tools of social policy in the fight against poverty. Today social assistance and the local actors in welfare systems is seen to take a greater role in reducing the poverty. However, the numerical increase in the type of these programs and the actors involved does not mean that there is a social policy that covers all citizens on the basis of social rights.

# Concept of Social Policy

- The concept of social policy in the modern sense emerged as a result of economic and social developments in the 19th century.
- In this period, the aim of social policy was to protect the workers against problems such as occupational accidents, illnesses, unemployment, old age caused by industrialization and urbanization and to implement some precautions against these risks.
- Social policy emerged primarily as a policy specific to industrialized societies, where the contradictions and inequality between labor and capital began to appear and its main objective was to reduce rising labor-capital conflicts.



# Struggle between powers and de-commodification

- The establishment of a right-based social policy should be considered as the movement of self-protection of society as a whole.
- When human welfare is dependent on employment wages, "to exist in the life" only possible through 'market-money' relations.
- For people who do not have opportunities such as property or social support, the market means employee captivity. The only way to survive is to behave according to market requirements. For this reason, the basic principle of workers' movements in the West has been the prevention of full commodification of labor.
- Within a capitalist economic system, commodification is the transformation of goods, services, ideas and people into commodities or objects of trade. ... According to Gøsta Esping-Andersen people are commodified or 'turned into objects when selling their labor on the market to an employer.
- The concept of de-commodification is about the individual's capacity to live independent of the market.

# Welfare State and Social Policy

- Social policy, along with the welfare state, gained a function and quality that provided social equality and social justice. These policies have a legal basis at the rights level and a social dimension has been added to the understanding of citizenship.
- Over time, social policy measures in the West developed according to the degree of acceptability of market independence. Thus, being independent from the market became an important measure of the strength, scope and quality of social rights.

# Transformation of Social Policy

## **How and when did social policy begin to transform?**

- After the Second World War, capitalism had some goals in adopting the labor-capital-employer reconciliation to overcome its crisis.
- 1. Ensuring full employment.
- 2. Establish the main pillars of the welfare state (health, education, social services, social security, pensions)
- 3. Expropriation of industries (public services, energy, transport, communication...) deemed necessary to establish the infrastructure for productive capitalism.



# Transformation of Social Policy

- From the 1940's to the mid-1970's, social policy developed in both meaning and content.
- However, the rising global competition due to technological and economic developments in the 1960s and the crisis that erupted with the rise in oil prices in 1973 led to the questioning of the welfare state.
- Neo-liberal policies have linked the crisis to structural reasons stemming from Keynesian economic policies and have begun to implement some measures to overcome the crisis.
- These measures also affected the progress of the welfare state and led to significant changes and transformations in the understanding of social policy.

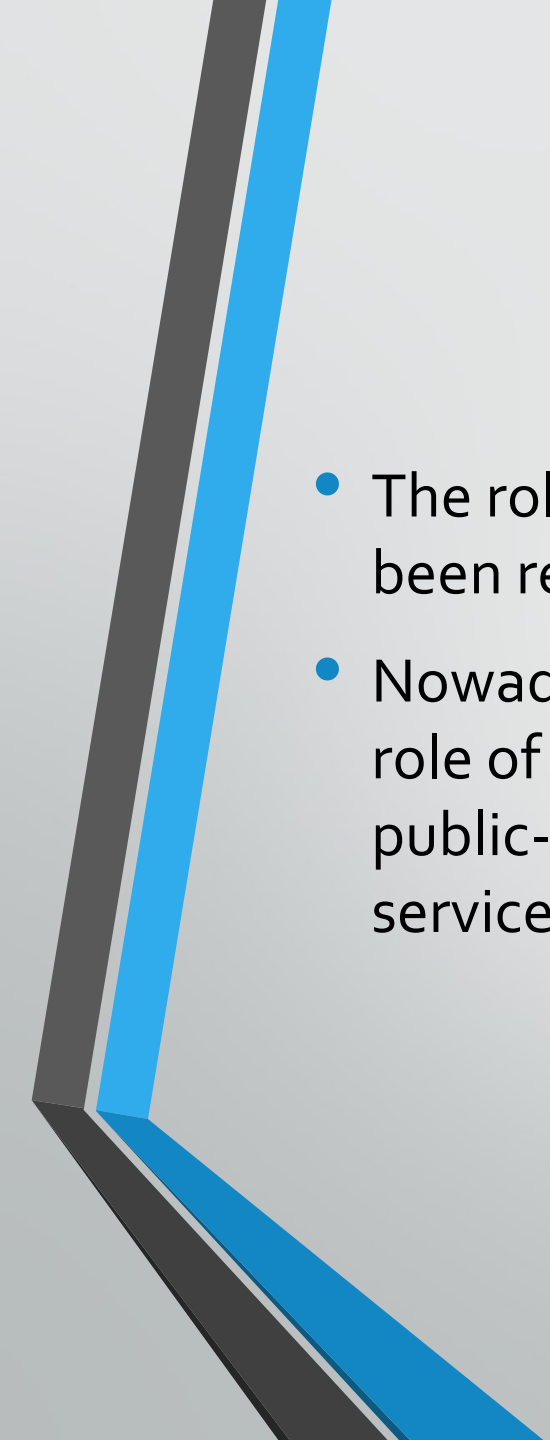
# Transformation of Social Policy

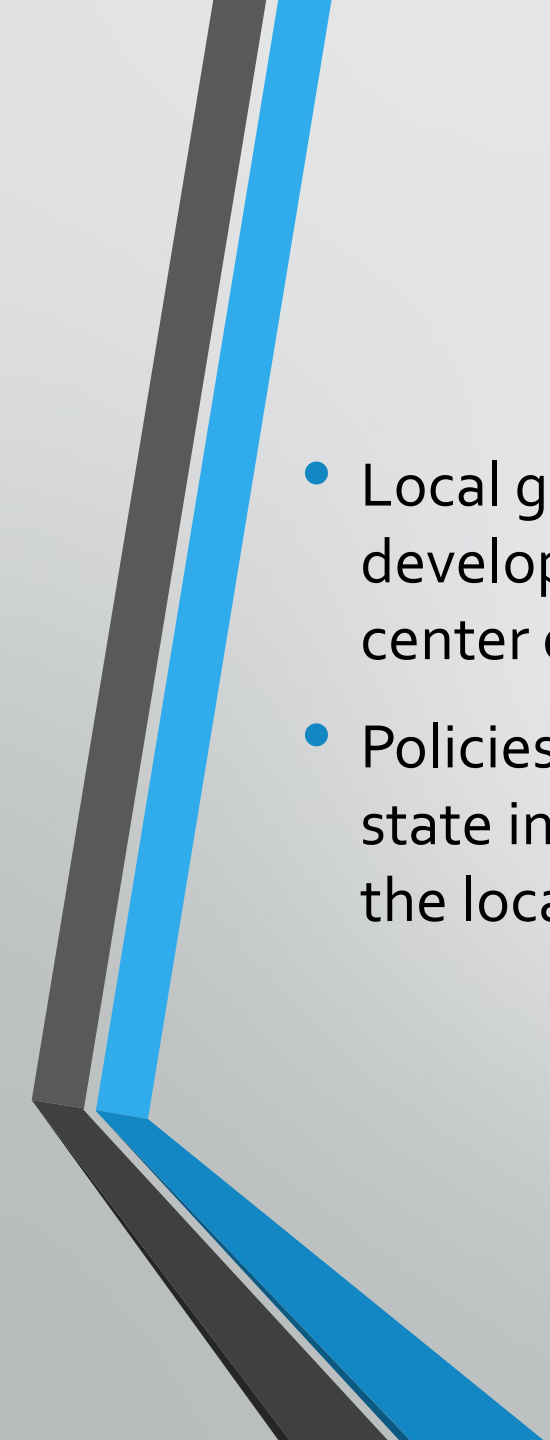
- Since the 1980s, there has been a significant transformation in the traditional elements of social policy in the neoliberal global environment. The most important of these elements was the loss of wage employment as a "center of focus". Because of international division of labor, sectoral differences and new trends in the structural nature of unemployment effected wage employment.



## What happened in transformation

- 1. The full-time form of employment declined,
- 2. Irregular, part-time, temporary jobs have begun to spread
- 3. The institutionalized structure and relations that have increased over employment have changed.
- 4. Increased unemployment and deregulation policies have eroded the wage-based collective bargaining institutions, and the division and diversification of labor markets has led to contraction in union membership.

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- The role of the public and the market in meeting social security needs has been redefined.
  - Nowadays, the declining role of the public sector is filled with the increasing role of the market. In the process of marketization of welfare state services, public-private partnership comes to the forefront in the provision of welfare services, which can be described as actor mix.

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- Local governments, whose share in the provision of welfare services in the developed countries have expanded continuously, have been placed at the center of the reform programs.
  - Policies were developed to transfer the powers and responsibilities of the state in the field of social assistance and social services from the center to the local.

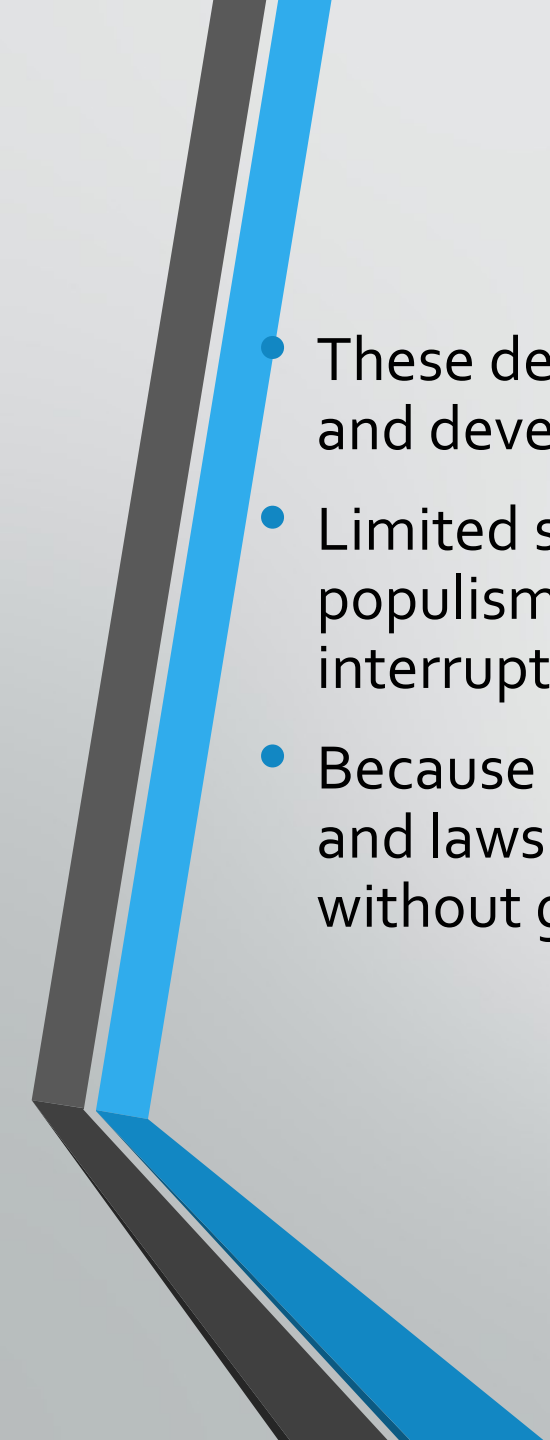


As a result of these new economic policies,

- 1. Workers lose many assurances related to work
- 2. Reorganization of labor relations and wage policies
- 3. The weakening of trade unions,
- 4. Initiation of privatization of state-owned enterprises and social services

The implementation of many regulations, such as these, means the re-commodification of labor.




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- These developments have dramatic consequences for late industrialized and developing countries that have not completed their democratization.
  - Limited social security systems which corporatist social insurance-based, populism-shaped and low social protection spending in these countries were interrupted before they reached the level of Western welfare states.
  - Because of the lack of strong trade union movements and traditions, norms and laws for the regression of social rights were able to be implemented without great resistance.



# Similar Characteristics of the Welfare Regime of Developing Countries

- In these countries, industrialization and consequently the relations of social power did not follow the course as in the West.
- The proportion of those working in the agricultural and informal sectors is high.
- Therefore, there is a social structure in which the market is incomplete and the livelihoods are scattered.

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- With the exception of social insurance, social rights are not objective and institutionalized.
  - Political movements have a more specific, dispersed and less conscious impact on state policies..



# SOCIAL POLICY in TURKEY

- Turkey, with a population of 81,257,239 (July 2018 est.) million people, is located at the crossroads of Europe and Asia and bordered by eight countries.

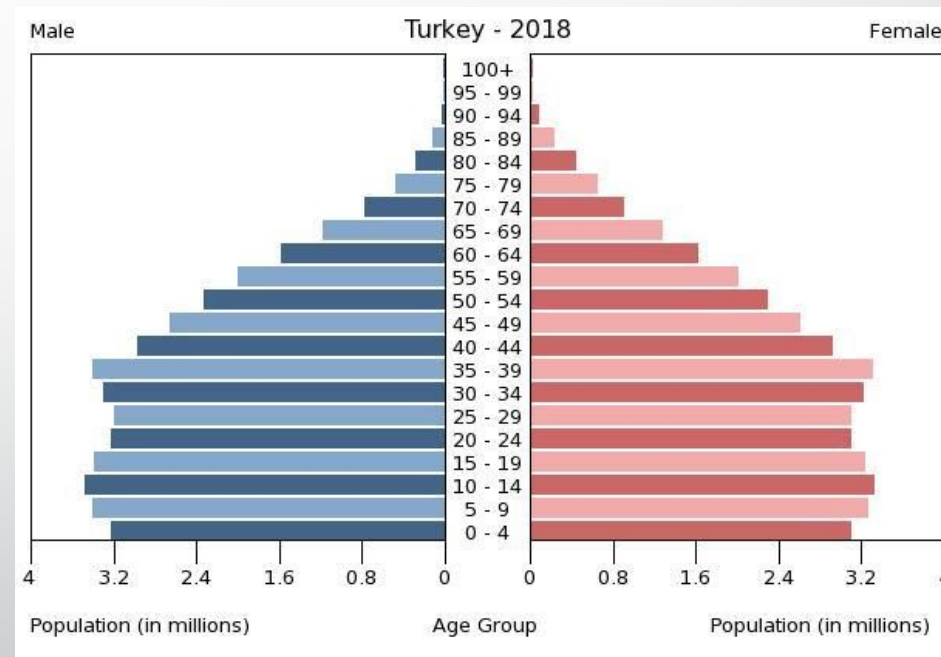


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# Age Structure

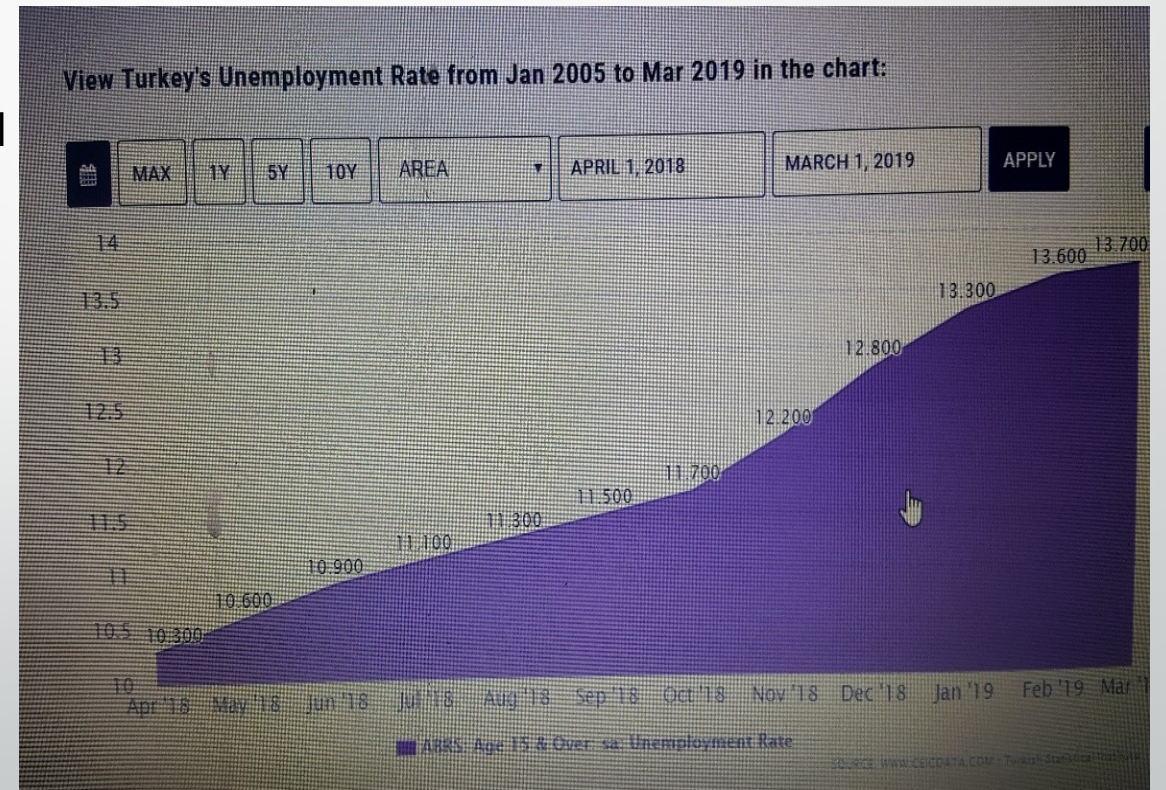
- Turkey is a country with a young population, the elderly population is only 8%.
- **0-14 years:** 24.26% (male 10,085,558 /female 9,627,967)
- **15-24 years:** 15.88% (male 6,589,039 /female 6,311,113)
- **25-54 years:** 43.26% (male 17,798,864 /female 17,349,228)
- **55-64 years:** 8.82% (male 3,557,329 /female 3,606,120)
- **65 years and over:** 7.79% (male 2,825,738 /female 3,506,283) (2018 est.)

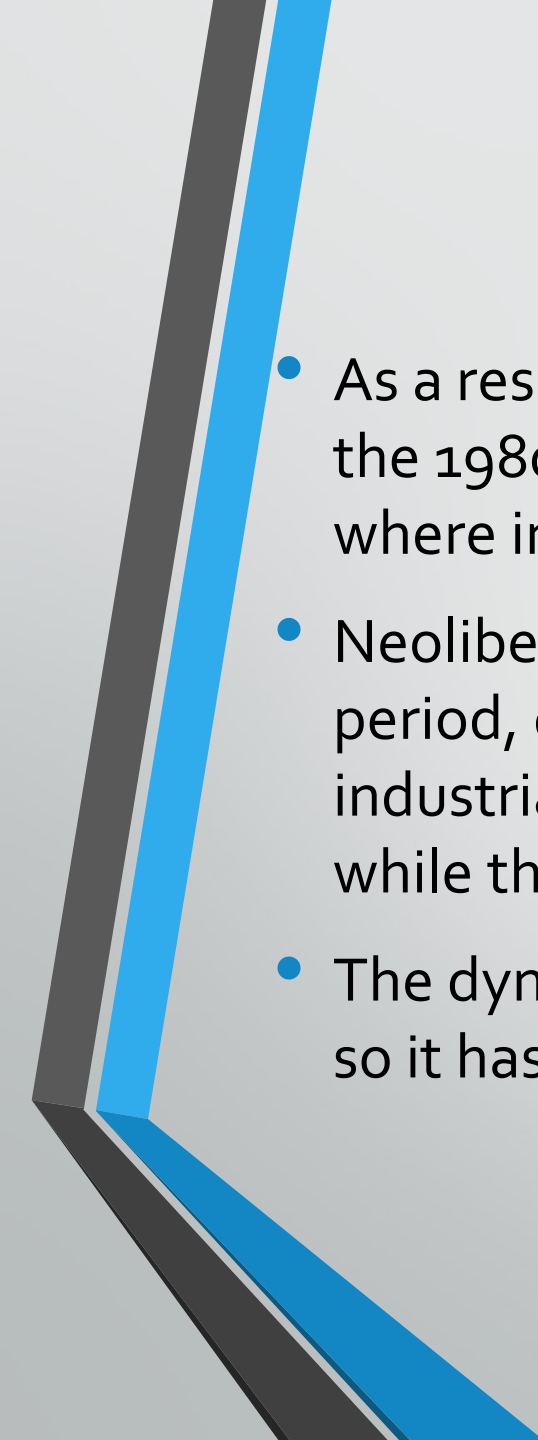


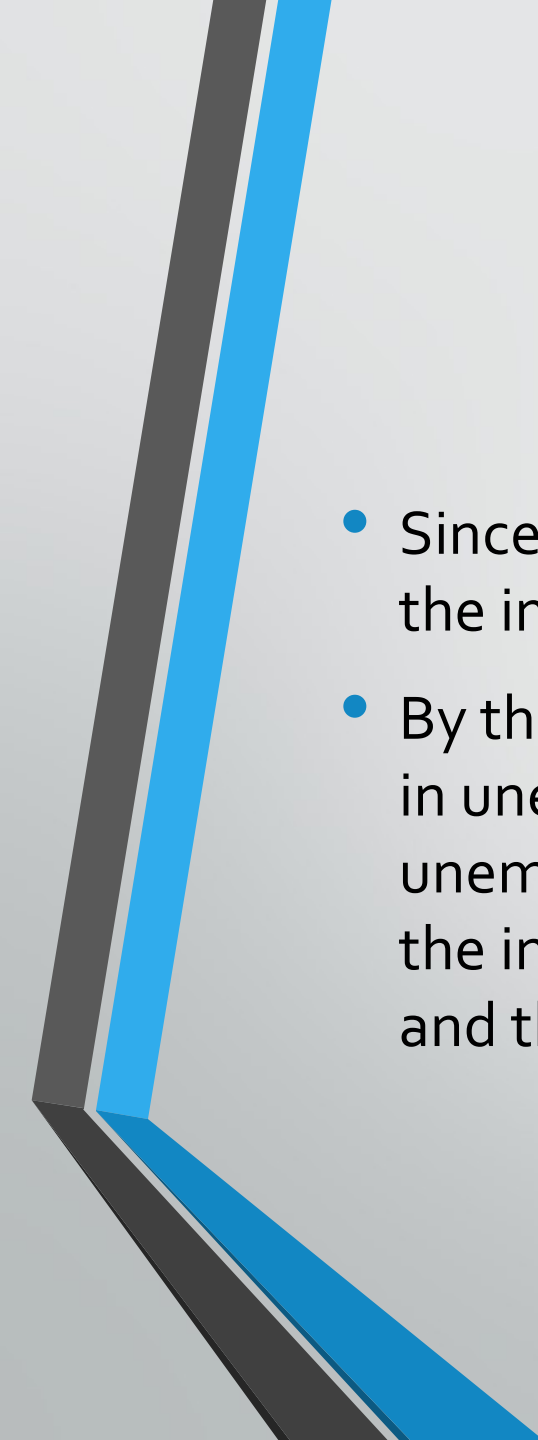


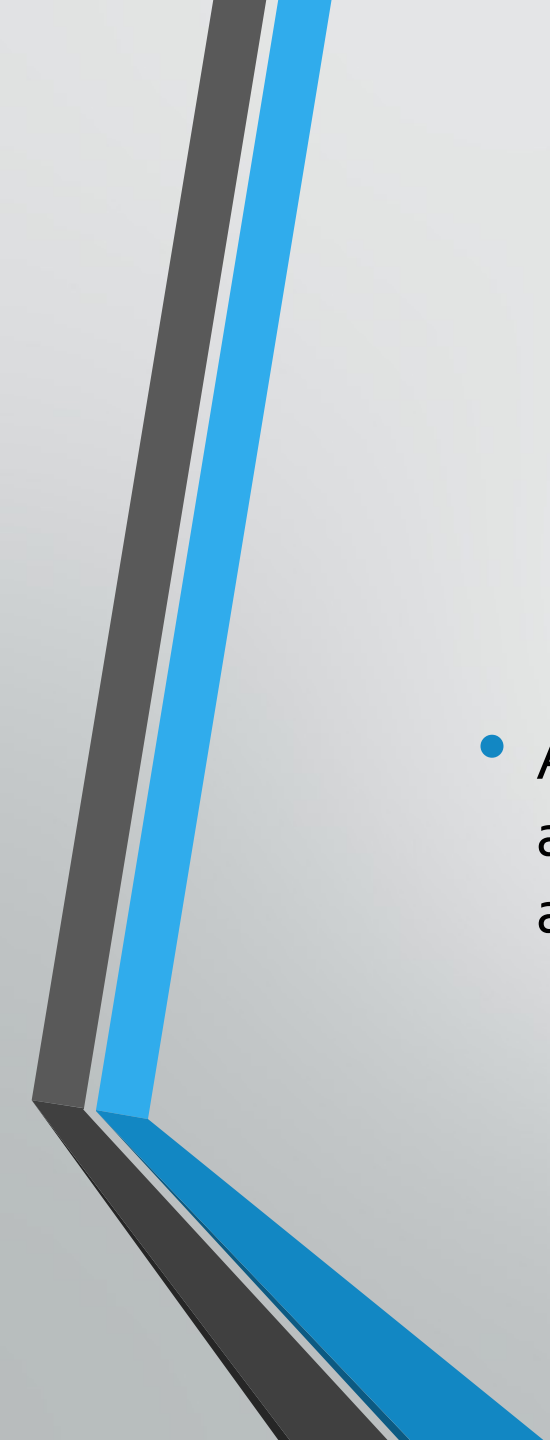
# Unemployment

- The unemployment rate in Turkey was 14.7 percent in January 2019 (the Turkish Statistical Institute-TÜİK)
- Youth ages 15-24:
- Youth unemployment rate including persons aged 15-24 was 26.7 percent with 6.8 percentage point increase.



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- As a result of the economic policies and the effects of globalization during the 1980s, despite rapid economic growth Turkey has become a country where income distribution inequality and poverty have increased.
  - Neoliberal globalization, as one of the leading social goals of the previous period, caused industrialization to be pushed to the background, as in industrialized countries, the share of industry in national income decreased while the share of services increased.
  - The dynamics of income distribution have been unfavorable for the worker, so it has started to push the informal social protection mechanisms.


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- Since the 1980s, we can say that social welfare policies in Turkey shaped by the impact of both internal and external dynamics.
  - By the implementation of neo-liberal policies in Turkey, there has been a rise in unemployment in a way never seen before. In the fight against rising unemployment and poverty, social assistance have been used to support the insurance-based social security system, as suggested by the World Bank and the IMF.

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- After the 1980s, in line with neoliberal policies, social policy, social assistance and social services were used as an important tool in marketing and creating a new market-friendly society.

# Social Assistance System of Turkey (2015)

	Amount	Proportion
<b><u>Total Social Assistance Expenditure</u></b>	<b><u>25,828,578,000 TL</u></b>	<b><u>1.33 % (of GDP)</u></b>
Number of Households Receiving Social Assistance	3,017,969	15.49 % (of total HH)
Number of Households Receiving Regular Social Assistance	2,318,042 1	11.89 % (of total HH)
Number of Households Receiving Temporary Social Assistance	1,924,649	9.87 % (of total HH)
Amount Transferred to Assistance from Social Assistance and Solidarity Encouragement Fund (SASF) Resources	4,853,196,515 TL	
Number of Old-Age and Disability Salary Beneficiaries under Law No. 2022	1,272,038	1.60 % (of population)
Amount transferred to Old-Age and Disability Salary Beneficiaries under Law No. 2022	4,129,566,047 TL	
Number of People for whom Universal Health Insurance (UHI) Contributions are Paid by the Government	8,983,853	11.36 % (of population)
Percent of Individuals with per Capita Daily Expenditure below 2.15 USD per Current Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) (2014)		0.03 % (of population)
Number of Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundations (SASF)	1,000	
Number of SASF Staff	8,948	337 beneficiary households per SASF staf
Number of SASF Social Assistance and Inspection Officers	4,570	660 beneficiary households per social assistance and inspection officer



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- The social assistance distributed by the central government is focused at the family, not the individual.
  - A large number of the population (eight million) are applying for these benefits and it is seen from the 2015 data that three million households have benefited from these benefits.
  - The recipients of social assistance matches the quality of the aid. However, the subsidies distributed are quite low and no other social policy arrangements are envisaged to save households from poverty. Social services for individuals and families are very limited.
  - Social security reforms have been made regardless of the labor market and working conditions, and working under these conditions does not mean getting rid of poverty.
  - It is known that social assistance will yield successful results with the effective use of other social policy tools in the fight against poverty.
  - However social assistance in Turkey, rather than to combat poverty with these qualities, but it used for kept under control the poverty and re-produce it.





THANK YOU ...

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The 34th CIF Conference in Saint Malo-France