

ESSN Task Force Istanbul Minutes

Objective	Provide an update on ESSN including the overview of Household Verification SoP (WFP/TRC), presentation on Comprehensive Vulnerability Monitoring Exercise (WFP), presentation on basic findings of the On-line Social Cohesion Survey (WFP), presentation on CTE (WFP/TRC) and AOB.		
Date of meeting	20 November 2017 10:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.	Location	ASAM Dolapdere Çok Yonlu Destek Merkezi Bostan Mah. Küçük Odalar Sok. No:9 Beyoğlu/İSTANBUL Turkey

1. Update of ESSN (WFP/TRC)

- The Co-Chairs World Food Programme (WFP) and Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) provided an update of the ESSN to date noting that as of 20 November, a total of 373,243 applications were registered; 5,311 applications were not assessed; 196,487 applications were deemed eligible and 171,445 applications were ineligible. Approximately, 38.74% of the applications were registered by 18 TRC Service Centres. A total of 1,062,569 beneficiaries received ESSN assistance in October (48.95% male/51.05% female). Majority of the beneficiaries are Syrian nationals (91.1%) followed by the Iraqi (6.3%) and Afghan (1.9%) nationals.
- Eligibility Age breakdown of the beneficiaries as follows: 0-17 (61.47%), 18-59 (35.76%) and >60 (2.77%).
- Inclusion rate is 52%. Average household size is 5.95.
- Total number of Turkish citizens are 1,243. Please note that family members who are Turkish citizens are assessed for demographic criteria calculation and when HH became eligible, Turkish members are not receiving ESSN assistance but the others are.
- In Marmara region, majority of the applications are from Istanbul, Bursa and Kocaeli provinces. Application rates are low in Canakkale, Edirne and Kırklareli (probably because number of refugees are not updated). Most of the refugees are Syrians in these provinces. IAO scheduled visits to meet with the Governor of Edirne and Kırklareli.
- IAO are conducting visits to Provincial Governors. They had met with Kocaeli, Bilecik and Bursa Governors. IAO has a strong coordination with UNICEF on CTE programme. In order to better understand and respond to beneficiaries needs, every month IAO has a different thematic topic for the Regular Focus Group Discussions. Meetings with the SASF branches and Nufus offices are conducted on regular basis as a part of rigorous monitoring plan. In order to rectify the rumours, IAO office encourage refugees and NGOs to get the information from the formal channels (Kizilay website, Kizilay facebook page and the call center 168). Some protection cases are referred to IPA partners and related NGOs to follow up.
- Starting from 25 October, SMS messages are being sent in Turkish language for the non-Arabic speakers.
- Informal Housing: 18,764 cases have been registered in 34 provinces, 241 cases in Marmara region. Most of the cases are from Bursa (224 cases).
- The household verification visit SOP is prepared based on the circular (ESSN Implementation Guidelines) circulated by the Ministry of Family and Social Policies in October 2016.
- The households which become eligible and started to receive the ESSN assistance should be visited in their residency within one year. These visits should be repeated once in a year in the following years.
- The guidance SoP is referring the visits only to the eligible beneficiaries, but some SASF offices also conduct visits to the ineligibles in order to assess their situation.
- This is a guidance document for the SASFs that makes suggestions in order set a standardised procedure during the implementation. The SASFs can still have their own methodologies depending on to their capacity. The SASFs may reach to TRC to seek for support regarding logistical and capacity related needs.
- The suggestion of the social worker is being endorsed by the Board of Trustee if there is no major hesitation to the decision suggested by the social worker.
- In case the family is rejected due to the household verification visit, the family can go and re-apply to ESSN. The purpose of this visit is not to disqualify people from the programme, but to evaluate their vulnerability and living conditions.

- In case the household members were not found at home, the social workers leave a message that they have come for verification visit; but they do not provide the information when they will visit the household again. Thus, the families that receive the message are advised to go to SASF offices and inform them that they are residing at the address and available for another visit. The families that do not stay at home during the working hours are also advised to go and visit SASF offices to declare their situations.
- SASF assistance is linked to a specific district, so if beneficiaries move to a new district and change the Nufus address registration this will show up on SASF information systems. Once they apply / update their information at the new SASF office it could take 5-9 weeks to complete the assessment again and receive an SMS on eligibility. However, if the beneficiary is able to update all of the information (Nufus registration and SASF re-application) between the 5th and 25th of the month then there should be a direct transition of assistance without a break. This is because the 25th of the month is the cut-off date for the monthly MoFSP beneficiary list (after this point verification takes place until the 5th day of the following month).

2. Presentation on Comprehensive Vulnerability Monitoring Exercise (WFP)

- It was noted that the CVME represents an in-depth analysis of refugee vulnerability, which recognizes and addresses the limitations of PAB and PDM surveys. It aims to inform programme design and identify unmet needs, with a specific focus on targeting analysis and exclusion errors; barriers to application; and health, protection, shelter needs and gaps.
- In total, 3,555 individuals, or 600 households, were included in the sample. The exercise found that consumption is relatively good among refugee households, but there is a high reliance on negative coping strategies, with over half the sample population living below the poverty line.
- While ESSN-eligible households are in general poorer than ineligible households, ineligible households are still very poor and reliant on negative coping strategies. In general, non-applicants are the worst off, with more debt, greater reliance on emergency coping strategies, and worse food consumption scores.
- Regarding the low rate of schooling in Istanbul, we could look closer to data and try to draw a profile for the families who are not sending their children to school – however; the sampling is not clustered so even the results would lead us “a specific reason”, that would be a reliable analysis. However, there would be section in the comprehensive report about reasons why children are not attending to school.
- Detailed report to be shared after the Governing Board Meeting on 30 November 2017.

3. Presentation on basic findings of the On-line Social Cohesion Survey (WFP)

- Survey is conducted on-line with only Arabic and Turkish speaking refugees and host communities. Mostly young, male participants.
- Host (Turkish) community is more polarized. Whereas refugee community is very positive feelings about host community. Half of them are already speaking Turkish (51%).
- Provision of Assistance: Half of Refugee community think that their basic needs should be covered by the international community.
- WFP field offices also conduct focus group discussions in order to evaluate the relevance of the survey results. October Focus Group discussion was dedicated to social cohesion.
- We will continue to conduct the Social Cohesion Surveys with no methodological and sampling changes. So, no planned survey in the Schools.

4. Presentation on CCTE (UNICEF/TRC)

- All children who are accepted to the programme received the 100 TL additional payment for the beginning of school year regardless of the conditional on regular school attendance.
- Brochures in Arabic, Turkish and English were printed and shared to multiple locations such as SASFs, TRC service centers, TECs and MoNE provincials and FAQ is prepared and is being revised as per the feedback coming from the partners and the latest version will be shared. Brochures in Dar/Pashto language are not yet available.
- As of September 2017, 136,523 children are benefiting from the programme in 80 provinces. Most of the beneficiaries are located in Istanbul (11.76%), Hatay (11.55%) and Sanliurfa (9.23%). Most of them are attending primary school (Grades 1-8).
- Payments to beneficiaries are made in every two months (Jan-Mar-May-Jul-Sep-Nov) in line with the national social assistance programme. There are no plans to make the payments every month.

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- Routine visits to relevant program institutions (SASFs, TRC SCs, Halkbank branches and other) by TRC and UNICEF Field Monitors kicked off in October. Istanbul-specific updates on field monitoring will be shared in the next ESSN TF meeting.
- Regarding the plans on informing families about education, we have no indication that information is a significant barrier to being enrolled in school. The determinants are complex and include also issues like capacity of schools to accommodate more children, several years of missed schooling due to conflict and displacement, language barriers etc. It's not only a matter of information, it's more complex than that. It could be multiple reasons.
- There is an Educational WG based in SET. It's a national WG. There is not one Istanbul specific because of government activities here.

5. **AOB**

- Please complete the ESSN Task Force Performance Survey.
- Please remember to send any issues/challenges observed with as much detail as possible (location, date, etc.) to the ESSN TF.

Attachments:

1. ESSN Task Force Istanbul Presentation
2. Presentation on Comprehensive Vulnerability Monitoring Exercise
3. Presentation on basic findings of the On-line Social Cohesion Survey
4. Presentation on Update on CCTE for Refugees
5. ESSN Q3 Monitoring Report