

ESSN Task Force, Gaziantep Minutes

Objective(s)	i) to provide an update on ESSN and CCTE roll-out; ii) to share the findings of the Social Cohesion Survey and the CVME.
Time & Date	25 October, 10.30-12.00am
Location	TRC, Gaziantep

1. Introduction and welcome

- Following a tour de table, the ESSN Task Force Co-Chairs, World Food Programme (WFP) and Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) provided an update on ESSN, noting that, nation-wide, as of 20 October, 359,959 applications had been lodged, on the basis of which 185,825 households have been found eligible, 168,110 households have been found ineligible (6,024 remain to be assessed). This brings the inclusion rate to 52 per cent. It was noted that TRC Service Centres have received and processed approximately 38 per cent of applications to date.
- WFP and TRC provided an update on recent developments related to the ESSN, noting that:
 - The Household Verification Visit SoP have now been finalized. The Household Verification Visit SOP is based on an October 2016 MoFSP circular (ESSN Implementation Guidelines). According to clause 2.4 of the circular: (i) households who become eligible and start to receive ESSN assistance should be visited in their households within 12 months; and (ii) household visits should be repeated once in per year in subsequent years. Further detail on the SoP will be shared at the next ESSN Task Force meeting;
 - WFP has designated Field-level Protection Focal Points from within its team to refer ESSN cases requiring protection assistance to partners (including, in particular, NGOs with IPA programmes);
 - Through an online survey, WFP and TRC mapped the dissemination of ESSN sensitization material by NGO and CBO partners. In total, at their request, in August/September, ESSN sensitization material was shipped to 46 partners (including NGOs, UN Agencies and TRC offices) and 16 DGMM/UNHCR Verification Centres – however, in some cases the material was returned to sender due to an error in the mailing address. Of those partners which did receive the material, most have already disseminated 50-70 per cent of that requested. Most partners placed the material on display at their project sites and facilities, but some disseminated the material through house-to-house visits.
 - WFP and TRC are planning an online survey to assess and improve the effectiveness of ESSN Task Force meetings. Partners are kindly requested to take 10 minutes to complete the survey, which will be shared within the coming week(s). WFP noted that, in an effort to bolster participation, it was proposed to hold the ESSN Task Force back-to-back with the BNWG meeting in SET over coming months.

2. Update on ESSN roll out in SET

- WFP and TRC highlighted several issues which had been observed in SET since the previous meeting. In particular, it was noted that:
 - The TRC Service Centre in Kilis has recently received approximately 100 ESSN applications from refugees who have left Elbeyli Camp. It is believed that they decided to leave due to the challenges associated with accessing work opportunities while living in the camp.
 - In Defne and Nizip, women who have approached the Population Department and DGMM have faced challenges in changing their status to “widower”. Partners which observe this issue in Defne, Nizib, or other locations were encouraged to follow up with the ESSN Task Force Coordinators.
 - Some 360 refugees are living in 62 commercial buildings in Halfeti and cannot register their addresses with the Population Department in order to apply for the ESSN. While the Municipal Council would like

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these refugees to move to Suruc Camp, the refugees themselves do not want to move. Partners added that there is insufficient space in the camp, and that the refugees are paying rent to the shop owners. It was emphasized that this represents an ongoing rather than a new issue.

3. Presentation of the findings of the Social Cohesion Survey and the Comprehensive Vulnerability Mapping Exercise

- WFP shared the findings of the Social Cohesion Survey carried out in July and August 2017. It was noted that the survey seeks to bridge the gap in evidence related to social cohesion between refugees and host communities in Turkey, monitor trends in perceptions, and infer any impact from the ESSN. WFP explained that the survey involved two sets of questions (22 x Likert Scale and 2 x open-ended), one in Arabic targeting the refugee community and the other in Turkish targeting the host community. In general, the survey found that a sizable proportion of the refugee population in Turkey are happy to live and work among members of the host community, but the host community takes a more reserved stance toward Syrian refugees. These findings are further detailed in the attached presentation. ECHO noted that an academic at Hacettepe University has also conducted research on Turkish perceptions toward refugee communities and agreed to share further information as follow up to the ESSN Task Force.
- WFP also shared the findings of the Comprehensive Vulnerability Mapping Exercise (CVME). 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. For more information, see the attached presentation.

Action Points:

- ✓ ECHO to share further information on studies carried out on social cohesion at Hacettepe University.

[Note: ECHO has since provided the link to Murat Erdogan's work at:

<https://mmuraterdogan.com/2016/06/06/raporlar/>]

4. Update on the CCTE

- TRC and UNICEF provided an update on the CCTE, noting that the September 2017 payment benefited 136,523 children and 76,143 households. 64 per cent of beneficiaries received both the regular payment and the September CCTE top-up (100 TL). 80 per cent of beneficiaries are receiving both the ESSN and the CCTE, while the remaining 20 per cent are receiving the CCTE only. In total, 238,721 children have now been enrolled in the programme.
- Partners asked whether TRC and UNICEF could share the screening form that is used when absenteeism prompts a household visit from the TRC child protection team.

Action Points:

- ✓ TRC and UNICEF to share the screening form that is used when absenteeism prompts a household visit from the TRC child protection team.

5. A.O.B.

- Next Meeting: tbc.