

ESSN Task Force Ankara Minutes

Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on ESSN, presentation on the Market Monitoring Report (WFP), update on the CCTE (UNICEF/TRC), Household Verification Process, CVME and Cash Gap Analysis Workshop July 13-14. 	
Date of meeting	03 July 2017 15:00 - 16:30	Location
		WFP Office, Ankara Yukari Dikmen Mahallesi, Turan Gunes Bulvari, No: 180Y, E Blok, Kat: 2 Office No: 1, Oran, Ankara Turkey

- **Update on ESSN**

- The Co-Chairs World Food Programme (WFP) and Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) provided an update of the ESSN to date noting that as of 28 June, a total of 306,458 applications were registered; 4,387 applications were not assessed; 143,543 applications were deemed eligible and 158,528 applications were ineligible. Approximately, 114,023 applications were registered by 18 TRC Service Centres (37% nationwide). A total of 685,577 beneficiaries are on the ESSN programme as of end of June.
- The Co-Chairs also noted that new card distribution for June started on the 20th and cards were uploaded on 30th. 83,100 Kizilaycards having been distributed to date.
- Please see the attached presentation for the following information:
 - Number of applications received by the SCs and SASFs and the percentage of the target realization
 - Categories of the calls received by 168 Call center
 - Sensitization updates
 - 1 Pashtu and 1 Farsi speaking operator for the call center have been recruited.
 - New criteria change
 1. Reduce dependency ratio threshold to equal to 1.5 and above (was above 1.5)
 2. Reduce disability threshold to 1 member (was 2)
- Criteria change will be shared by the beneficiaries by mid-July. New leaflets and posters will be distributed in English, Turkish, Arabic and Farsi languages.
- Updates re: Iraqis under Humanitarian Residence Permit
 - As the extension for humanitarian residency has ended, all Iraqi refugees must registered under International Protection.
- Illiterate Beneficiaries:
 - TRC will have a contract with notaries for identified cases
 - **If NGOs observe illiterate beneficiaries unable to collect their cards, please refer them to 168**
- MERNIS applications
 - 1,539,074 of Syrians registered to MERNIS as of May 2017.
 - TRC will have MERNIS application desks at their Service Centres.
- Informal Housing
 - Preliminary analysis of NGO data shows that there are 75,000 reported cases of informal housing (approximately 15,000 HH) mostly in Istanbul and South East Region (Urfa, Adana and Mersin).
 - Warehouses, shops and tents are listed as an informal housing types.
 - Will be following up on tangible solutions with NGOs at the Cash Gap Analysis Workshop
- **Actions :**
 - When did the Farsi-speaking call center staff start? And is s/he a Turkish national (or refugee)? Started in June and the staff member is not Turkish, but not under TP or IP, has a valid work permit.
 - How many non-Syrians are registered in MERNIS? We are waiting for these numbers and will let partners know.

- **Presentation on Market Monitoring Report**

- Purpose of the study is to ensure beneficiaries are provided with most appropriate transfer value and modality. As well as to advocate for programmatic changes when needed.
- Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) is the cost of goods and services to meet basic needs. It is key functions are calculating gap analysis (what people need versus what they can afford), informing transfer value calculation and monitoring market prices of MEB goods and services.
- MEB consists of food, rent, utilities, non-food items, health, education, communication and transportation expenses.
- Mainly covering 8 regions where 84% of the refugees are located. The selected areas all have a significant population of refugees, and are areas from which data was available. The regional MEB costs are calculated accordingly:
 - 3 larger cities: Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir
 - 4 regions in southeast: Sanliurfa-Diyarbakir, Adana-Mersin, Hatay-Kahramanmaras-Osmaniye, Gaziantep-Adiyaman-Kilis
 - 1 region in west: Bursa-Eskisehir-Bilecik
- Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures changes in the price level of market basket of consumer goods and services purchased by households. Prices of a sample of representative items (in a basket) are collected periodically to construct the CPI. In March 2017, annual inflation accelerated to a nine year high of 11.29%. Istanbul has the highest MEB, followed by Izmir and Ankara. The lowest MEB is found in the southeast, in Hatay-Kahramanmaras-Osmaniye and Adana-Mersin.
- Food inflation is the main driver in rise of CPI.
- Food and rent is almost the 2/3 of the MEB.
- Steep increase in energy prices, particularly in cooking gas.
- Food prices nationwide over the last quarter are diverging from international prices.
- Average MEB is 1,927 TL for a household of six, or 321 TL per capita.
- Rent explains a significant (~65%) proportion of the difference in the cost of MEB in Istanbul (max MEB during reporting period) and Hatay-Kahramanmaras-Osmaniye (min MEB during reporting period).
- ~5% increase in the cost of MEB over the last quarter, ~10% increase in the cost of MEB over the last year.
- Data source: Secondary data (Turkish Statistical Institute). Caveat: Actual prices refugees are facing with might be lower.
- No questions were received after the presentation.
- **Update on Conditional Cash Transfer for Education (CCTE)**
 - The first payment to beneficiaries were made on May 31st. 56 245 children were entitled for payment and 33 019 Kizilaykarts were uploaded. CCTE beneficiaries are from 78 provinces (6 606 from Gaziantep and 1 each from Sinop and Bayburt respectively).
 - Majority of the CCTE beneficiaries are primary school students (90 %) followed by the pre-school/kindergarten students (6%) and high school students (4%) respectively. Gender distribution of the beneficiary caseload is almost 50% girls and 50% boys and gender parity in number of beneficiaries is observed provinces). Majority of the students are from the Grade 1 (19 309). Partners would like to find out the reason behind the low number of kindergarten rate.
 - 39 % of CCTE wallets (cardholders)/accounts are also benefiting from ESSN. These numbers might be adjusted/change as there is criteria change.
 - Execution of the SMS plan for ineligible beneficiaries has been delayed due to data complications.
 - Temporary Education Center (TEC) students have been able to apply for the CCTE program from June onwards and will be able to benefit from CCTE payments either July or September onwards (depending on timing of application and timing of payment calculation processes)_
 - Calls received about CCTE by TRC 168 Call Center are mostly information requests, in particular on application process and the location for the card pick up.
 - Distribution Monitoring: 20 Bank branches have been visited in 9 provinces.
 - Branches were chosen among the busiest locations.
 - The issues observed across locations: ATM usage, PIN distributions, communications between the bank staff and beneficiaries and handling of the illiterate cases.
 - Question on bank branches regarding the illiterate beneficiaries. Some of the bank branches are accepting the signature stamps.
- **AOB**

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- Household verification update: SASFs have started household verifications in Mersin – Akdeniz, Sanliurfa – Haliliye, Kahramanmaras, Osmaniye, Adana – Yuregir , and Istanbul – Bagcilar. Household. Verifications will be performed by by SASF staff. Note that we are working to harmonize the verification process across the provinces and are relying on the verification done for Turkish nationals; the main difference being that the ESSN household verification occurs after enrolling beneficiaries on the program, due to the lack of demographic data.
- Updates on the CVME (Comprehensive Vulnerability Monitoring Exercise). It is an ongoing HH assessment. We are getting more information from different refugee groups. 30 neighbourhoods have been identified and a total 250 out of 600 households have been visited (240 eligible, 240 ineligible, 120 non-applicant households) across the country. HH visits for each neighbourhood will be performed. The assessment should be completed by mid-Sep will the report will be ready on Oct.
- Cash Gap Analysis Workshop will be held in Gaziantep at the Novotel on 13 & 14 July.
 - The first day will focus on barriers to accessing the ESSN, including registration to DGMM, registration with civil registry due to informal housing, etc. The second day will look at targeting and programming to address those vulnerable who are not eligible for the ESSN.
 - The invites have been sent out to agencies working on basic needs, protection and CBI. We have also invited agencies across the country, with hopes of 1-2 members attending per agency.
- Next ESSN TF Ankara meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 25 at WFP Park Oran Office.