

ESSN Task Force Ankara Minutes

Objective

- Welcome and introduction
- Action points from the previous meeting
- Updates on the ESSN
 - ECHO Workshop on ESSN Lessons Learnt and Sustainability
 - TRC Outreach Activities
- Updates on the CCTE
- Open discussion: LLE Report findings and move forward
- AOB

Date of meeting 20 September 2018
09:30 - 11:30

Location JMC Park Oran Office, Ankara

1. Action points:

Follow up issue:	Who will take action:	Deadline:
Provision of more information on SASF Allowance	ESSN TF Co-Chairs	Pending for the SoP to be finalized with MoFLSS
Provision of more information on Household Verification SoP	ESSN TF Co-Chairs	Pending for the SoP to be finalized with MoFLSS
Action Plan for the ESSN TF to be finalized and shared with partners	ESSN TF Co-Chairs	Late October 2018
Request for nationality breakdown of ESSN application pool	TRC	No available data at TRC, will follow up with MoFLSS
TRC outreach team e-mail address to be disseminated	TRC	19 Oct 2018

2. Updates on the 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 10 September, a total of 463,451 applications were registered; 2,709 applications were not assessed; 249,419 applications were deemed eligible and 211,323 applications were ineligible. Approximately, 37.47% of the applications were registered by TRC Service Centres.
- A total of 1,387,214 beneficiaries received ESSN assistance in August (51.32% female/48.68% male). Inclusion rate is 52.8%. Average household size is 5.8.
- On 8 August 1,512 accounts were swept back: 749 uncollected cards (3+ months) and 763 dormant accounts (6+ months). Please note that the accounts are only suspended; it can be reinitiated again.
- 3,599 beneficiaries received Severe Disability Allowance (SDA) in August.
- Based on the information provided by Ankara Area office (AAO):
 - Temporary protection deactivation in Kocaeli, Ankara, Kahramanmaraş, Osmaniye, Malatya and Konya.
 - Verification Process: Some SASF offices were taking families as an individuals. This caused for some changes during the verification process. If the verification results are much lower than the currently registered TP, PDMMs reduce their official figures on a weekly basis, not at once. Hence the official number has been changing every week. Also some people appeal back to PDMM and reactivate their IDs, so there are both increase and decrease.
 - Phase 4 CVME: 1200 surveys to map the vulnerability of the people

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- Severe Disability Allowance (SDA): It is provided only to ESSN beneficiaries. Therefore, if the family lost the ESSN status, the SDA payment of the individual family member/s will be ceased.
- **ECHO Workshop on ESSN Lessons Learnt and Sustainability:**
 - On 20 June 2018, ECHO organized a workshop in Ankara on ESSN Lessons Learnt and Sustainability with an aim to take stock of opportunities, constraints and challenges related to a potential sustainable and responsible phase out of the ESSN in the mid-term.
 - There were two sessions of the morning and the afternoon with different level of attendees. In the morning, there were ECHO, ESSN implementing agencies, Government of Turkey, UNHCR, UNDP, ISKUR, ILO, FAO, World Bank, and other migration, livelihoods and resilience partners in Turkey. The afternoon session was restricted to the ESSN implementing agencies to have more in depth internal discussion on the Future of ESSN.
 - Since most of the discussions were around transition to livelihoods, the main challenges for that process has been identified below:
 - Capacity of the labour market, limited absorption capacity of the labour market
 - Informal jobs, limited access to formal jobs
 - High youth unemployment rate
 - Limited mobility of Syrians, language barrier
 - Registration suspension in big cities (livelihoods)
 - Limited impact of the trainings on employment
 - Seasonality of working opportunities for Syrians
 - Limited scale and effectiveness of the livelihoods projects in terms of accessing sustainable employment and formal labour market
 - Competition for jobs and social cohesion considerations
 - The main messages for the design of ESSN in 2019 and near future are:
 - Despite ESSN gains, refugee needs will continue in 2019 and beyond – ESSN still needed
 - Advocate for adjustment of transfer/top-up values to maintain purchasing power with increasing costs/inflation
 - More specific support such as disability allowance (implemented for the first time in August 2018)
 - Need to understand more who are our beneficiaries and their respective needs > Vulnerability Profiling Exercise (economic vulnerability, food consumption and dietary diversity, and reliance on high-risk coping strategies)
 - Impact of this learning on the programme – possibility to graduate, have different packages of assistance depending on needs and capacities
 - There should be timelines for any evolution/graduation from assistance
 - Regarding the price increases in Turkey with the current economic fluctuations, the issue has been closely following by WFP and TRC technical teams and the discussions around increased transfer value is going on with the Ministry and the Government but the Government considers balance in between the amount provided for the host community (by the Government) and the refugee community in order to avoid social tension between refugees and host communities.
- **TRC Outreach Activities:**
 - ESSN Outreach Activities are operational sensitization and advocacy activities that aim to;
 - reach the goal of the program in the shortest time and in a most appropriate way by informing the target groups, local authorities and non-governmental organizations and facilitating the necessary procedural steps such as field or central level visits and official correspondences.
 - remove specific obstacles faced by applicants during their ESSN application/registration and card collection processes.
 - Deepen on question about the difference between SCs and CCs was explained the differences saying SCs have been open to support SAFs receiving ESSN applications in density population area and totally different from CCs which are dealing with protection related issues.
 - Since beginning of the program %99 of the provinces have been visited with more than 4000 visits made to the local authorities.

- With the help of Gaziantep, İstanbul and Ankara Area Offices and 6 field offices, located in Hatay, Van, İstanbul(Anatolia), İzmir, Erzurum and Samsun, outreach teams are able to get actions quickly and respond outreach related issues effectively.
- After registered in TRC's database, cases are contacted by dedicated 168 call center operators and followed by outreach teams at each location.
- Referrals can be sent to kizilaykartdiserisim@kizilay.org.tr or 168 Call Centre is also available for individual application.
- The difference between Protection and Accountability to Affected Population Teams (AAP): While AAP is dealing with the institutional barriers and Protection is dealing with the individual cases.
- There are four main barriers: These are DGMM, Nufus Registration, DHR and SASF application process.

3. Updates on the CCTE:

- 312.288 beneficiaries received payment in CCTE July payment. Total number of beneficiaries received at least one payment reached to 368.090 as of 13th September.
- Next payment to be made at the end of September 2018 and will include 100 TL additional payment to beneficiaries as September is the beginning of new school term.
- Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) has started in 6 provinces (Ankara, Gaziantep, Hatay, Konya, İstanbul, Şanlıurfa) in May 2018 and ALP students are able to apply to CCTE since July 2018.
- Application of ALP students to CCTE has been launched in August and applicants can receive only 100 TL additional payment in September 2018 CCTE Payment.
- CCTE for Refugees is actually owned by the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services (MoFLSS) and we are facilitating the extension of national CCTE program to refugees, therefore, any potential increase in the monthly payment amounts would depend on the national programme and the MoFLSS as the owner of the program, which might be more flexible in the case of ESSN where a national version of the program does not exist.
- The most common reason for rejection from CCTE application is the change of location (address change as per the MERNIS queries, address registration issues for informal housing, returns to Syria and moving to a 3rd country).

Accelerated Learning Program (ALP), implemented by the Ministry of Education (MoNE) Lifelong Learning Directorate with technical and financial support from UNICEF continues in 12 provinces:

Accelerate Learning Program First Phase Provinces and Districts (Started in May 2018):

- Ankara: Altındağ, Çubuk, Keçiören, Mamak, Polatlı
- Gaziantep: Nurdağı, Şahinbey, İslahiye, Şehitkamil
- Hatay: Altınözü, Arsuz, Erzin, Antakya, Dört Yol, Belen, Kırıkhan, Payas, Yayalıdağı, Reyhanlı, Iskenderun
- Konya: Karatay, Meram, Selçuklu
- İstanbul: Arnavutköy, Esenyurt, Avcılar, Küçükçekmece, Sultangazi
- Şanlıurfa: Akçakale, Eyyübiye, Haliliye, Suruç

Accelerated Learning Program Second Phase Provinces and Districts (Starts in October 2018):

- Bursa: Yıldırım, Osmangazi, İnegöl
- Adana: Seyhan, Yüreğir, Karataş, Kozan, Ceyhan
- Kayseri: Central PdoNE office, Melikgazi, Kocasinan
- İstanbul: Bayrampaşa, Zeytinburnu, Başakşehir, Kağıthane, Şişli, Beykoz, Bahçelievler, Pendik
- İzmir: Menemen, Buca, Torbalı, Karabağlar, Bornova, Foça, Menderes
- Mersin: Mezitli, Akdeniz Karacaoğlan, Toroslar, Yenişehir
- Purpose of the program is to create access for the Syrian and refugee children, who have been outside the national education system due to difference reasons, close the gap in their education through an Accelerated Learning Program and direct them to the relevant (based on age and level of knowledge) national education institutions (public schools, technical and vocational schools, open high school).
- Program is implemented in two stages: (i) primary school, (ii) middle school. Every stage is consisted of two modules: (Primary School: 4+4= 8 months), (Middle School: 4+4= 8 months) =16 months. Primary School equivalence: students will take Turkish classes along with 1st and 2nd grade subjects for the first four months;

in the second four-month module students will take 3rd and 4th grade subjects. Middle School equivalence: students will take middle school subjects in the third and fourth modules.

- Program covers Syrian and Non-Syrian children between the ages of 10-18, who have not attended school for three or more years.
- Program will be implemented in the Public Education Centres in the provinces mentioned above. Selected districts are included in the provinces however, the students can attend the ALP program in the districts that they don't reside in if the PEC in their district of residency is not included.
- NGOs can direct Syrian children to the PECs in the districts listed above to apply for the ALP. PECs will provide transportation for the students. It should be noted that the availability of the classes at these PECs are dependent on the number of applications.
- Based on the outreach study conducted within the ALP target group, it is revealed that one of the most important reasons for the kids out of school is economical barriers. Considering this fact, ALP students will also get benefit of the CCTE for refugees programme in terms of regular payments on the condition of regular attendance and additional payments with the same rules applied to other students..
- In addition to CCTE, there will be 3 additional payments per year in ALP (January, May, September).

4. **Open discussion: LLE Report Findings and Move Forward:**

- ESSN Task Force has initiated a Lessons Learned Exercise (LLE) in May 2018 with the support of two external evaluators who looked at the role of the ESSN Task Force in how it has coordinated the ESSN programme in Turkey. The evaluators met with the ESSN TF partners in four locations, other UN agencies and working groups as well as the ESSN programme implementing agencies in order to consider how different actors / levels have engaged and collaborated with the ESSN task force through the refugee crisis.
- The final report has been shared with the partners in September. The Turkish version of the report will be ready soon and there is another request for Arabic version which is now under discussion with the management.
- The TRC and WFP Co-Chairs of ESSN TF went through the recommendations and messages in details and discussed internally to make amendments below to the structure of ESSN TF:
 - There will be more thematic meetings, space for more discussions and there will be less PPTs
 - There have been some changes on the frequency of the meetings: remains monthly in Istanbul; once in two months in other three locations (Izmir, Ankara and Gaziantep). If there are urgent issues to be shared, then Basic Needs WG meetings will be the platform to provide immediate updates.
 - There will be different types of meetings complementary to ESSN TF
 - Sensitisation sessions: in order to provide brief information about ESSN and CCTE programmes.
 - One-on-one briefings: by request of the partners for their new teams
 - Quarterly ESSN TF meetings in alternate locations: Sanliurfa, Hatay and Mardin
 - Government entities will be invited for thematic discussions (SASFs, NUFUS, etc.)
 - PPTs will be shared in advance, partners will be expected to come prepared for discussions
 - De-centralization process of the ESSN TF: recruitment of staff is going on, partners are always welcomed to share their suggestions on agenda for the next meetings
 - ESSN TF to be channel in between the ESSN partners and ESSN Governing Board
- The action plan will be shared with the partners in October 2018 and this structure will be piloted until the end of December 2018. Then the ESSN TF will hold ESSN Performance Survey and will evaluate the success and satisfaction level of the partners; then will go for revising the ToR for the ESSN TF in 2019.

5. **AOB**

- Please reach to us if you have any suggestions to the themes of the upcoming Focus Group Discussions. It is confirmed with the M&E team to share the questionnaire of the next external FGDs in advance with the interested ESSN TF partners for their inputs and comments to the questionnaire. We will channel you with the M&E team if you would like to provide any contributions.
- Please remember to send any issues/challenges observed with as much detail as possible (location, date, etc.) to the ESSN TF focal points Gonca Savas (gonca.savas@wfp.org) and Ayman Alhalb (ayman.alhalb@kizilay.org.tr).
- For any briefing requests on up to date general information on CCTE/ESSN for the teams and field staff, please contact with ESSN TF team by indicating the language preferences of the briefing, time and venue and the number of participants.

- The next meeting will be held on **15 November**. The venue and time TBD.

Attachments:

1. ESSN Task Force Ankara Presentation (WFP/TRC)
2. Presentation of CCTE updates
3. August 2018 Focus Group Discussion Report