

ESSN Task Force Izmir Meeting Minutes

Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and introduction • Action points from the previous meeting • Updates on the ESSN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ August 2018 Focus Group Discussions findings ▪ ECHO Workshop Findings ▪ TRC Outreach Activities • Updates on the CCTE • Open discussion: LLE Report findings • AOB 		
Date of meeting	5 October 2018 09:30 - 11:30	Location	TRC Izmir Branch Sehit Nevres Bulvari, No:3 1. Kat, Kizilay Is Merkezi Izmir

1. Action points:

Follow up issue:	Who will take action:	Deadline:
SMSs and alternate communication for the partners to have access to ESSN information	ESSN TF Co-Chairs	Pending discussions
Detailed information on the HH verification numbers	TRC requested from MoFLSS	Pending for TRC to receive info from MoFLSS
Invite Government entities to the next ESSN TF session	ESSN TF Co-Chairs	On going

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 24 September 2018, a total of 467,423 applications (2,373,348 people) were registered; 2,999 applications were not assessed; 253,871 applications were deemed eligible and 210,553 applications were ineligible. 37.26% of the applications were registered by 9 TRC Service Centres.
- 253,871 households (1,477,811 people) received ESSN assistance in September.
- As of 10 September 2018, 1,454 accounts were swept back: 718 uncollected cards (+3 months), 736 dormant accounts (+6 months)
- Among the question/comments received one was focusing on 'how to deal with cases where some SASF may take initiative regardless of the application and/or eligibility criteria'. Specific examples were then shared such as cases in the province of Usak-Esme where HH visits were done before taking applications. WFP and TRC both explained that those cases were being handled, having been referred to the Ministry and that generally speaking in some cases the local Governor gives instructions that SASF ought to follow.
- The second comment received was about the 'need to link FGDs topics' to the ESSN program'. The response given was that all topics are in a way related to the ESSN but an overall workplan is being worked on to make sure the topics are directly linked to the ESSN.
- A third request by IOM representative was to get the exact amount of allowances received by families in the region of Izmir. WFP and TRC both agreed that giving away the amount received by each individual was not possible but perhaps giving a scale of the amount received per families according to numbers of members.
- **Focus Group Discussions findings:**
 - August Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) investigated the relationship between gender and livelihoods as it relates to family dynamics of refugees in Turkey. The questionnaire for the month was comprised of four sections: 1) Division of responsibilities in households; 2) Work conditions; 3) Perceptions of working women; 4) Assistance for work.
 - **Highlights:**
 - Women were often reported to be responsible for official processes in Turkey whereas in Syria such responsibilities belonged to male adding they do not feel comfortable with their additional roles.

- The majority of female participants expressed that they wished to work from home because they had to take care of their children and attend to other household responsibilities adding they would prefer not to work if their families could meet their financial needs.
 - Participants often stated that vocational trainings providing certification could equip them with the skills to access formal jobs, receive equal wages, enjoy equal working conditions, and lower the chances of discrimination based on nationality.
- **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
 - The request from NGOs to share further information on workshop outcomes was well received however, there is no external workshop report available at this point.
- **TRC Outreach Activities:**
- During August and September, TRC Izmir Outreach Teams have visited 198 sites in 9 out of 11 provinces under their coverage. 7 advocacy visits which were mainly to SASF's and the 62 Mukhtar visits in Izmir to be pointed out.
 - **TRC-WFP Monitoring and Evaluation Activities:**
In addition to their site monitoring visits in Izmir, Denizli, Aydin, Usak, Manisa and Burdur, both WFP and TRC teams conducted 25 CVME in Manisa , 8 FGDs in Izmir (4 male and 4 female targeted groups). Other visits included; District Governorate, İŞKUR, Public Education Center (PEC) and Refugee Health Center (for those who are under Temporary Protection). Some specific findings to the Aegean Region are as follows:
 - PEC: In highly refugee populated districts, it was observed that refugees tend to sign up for Turkish language and handcraft classes in PEC's.

- CTE: With the start of 2018-2019 school year in September, applications to CTE at SASF's have shown an increase in number.
- Severe Disability Allowance: SASF's were mainly working on updating Disability Health Reports.
- Illegal Migration to Europe: Coastal Aegean districts, such as Didim and Kusadasi, were used for illegal border crossings to Europe. It is reported that those who were caught on the run were sent to readmission centers.
- Refugee Health Center: In collaboration with MoH and WHO, Refugee Health Centers were established in January 2017 to attend to Syrians under Temporary Protection by Syrian doctors/health practitioners. There are 22 Centers operating across Turkey.
- İŞKUR: Work-guaranteed vocational trainings, paying daily allowances, are preferred by refugees; yet, some have hesitations about whether their ESSN will be cut after signing up for classes with their registration in Social Security Institution.

3. Updates on the CTE:

- As of September, 2018 payment cycle number of beneficiaries is 341,482, number of cardholders is 170,823. In September payment cycle 13,446 beneficiaries received the 100 TL top up payment. Cumulative number of beneficiaries (those who have received at least one payment in the CTE Program) are 376,326 and cumulative number of cardholders is 190,059 as of September 2018 payment cycle.
- **24 SASFs and 7 Halkbank branches** have been visited in **6 provinces** in the Marmara, Black Sea, Eastern Anatolia and the Aegean Regions since 10 August 2018.
- In Izmir, reports of issues with school registrations have been noted both through field visits and also NGOs informing Field Monitor. Issues such as schools rejecting registration have been reported to MoNE.
- To collect specific information about particular cases in which children were not admitted in schools to be shared with the co-lead agencies for them to approach MoNE to resolve the issues, the following link was created by the SouthEast Education Working Group. NGOs could enter issues they face in the field regarding school registrations <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1GkYGwXEeF6zPJRRGpNf7qals9wrZrXAB>
- SASFs reported that lately beneficiary addresses disappear from ISAIS. This is possibly due to DGMM verification program. The ratio of CTE beneficiaries not being able to receive payment due to this might reduce until the addresses re-appear within two months as the CTE payments are done bi-monthly, nevertheless, beneficiaries should be urged to always keep their addresses updated with the Population Bureau.
- The rejection from CTE application ratio was noted to be higher than usual in Usak SASF and the issue is being followed up.

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 Eylül, Belen, Kırıkhan, Payas, Yayaldağı, 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.

CCTE for Accelerated Learning Program (ALP)

- ALP students are registered in YOBIS so they may be eligible for the CCTE program. Applications for CCTE program from the ALP students began in the first six provinces. The families, SASFs and the TRC Service Centres in the relevant provinces have been informed.
- 60 TL per month per student for modules A, B, C and D will be paid every two months. Additionally, CCTE top up payments of 100 TL per student will be paid at the beginning of each module.
- CCTE application criteria apply for ALP students as well.
- Regarding children who are not registered in Izmir being accepted into the ALP program: Children who are not registered in Izmir and/or children who do not have IDs/99 ID numbers can apply for the ALP program in the districts close to them. However, children will need to have 99 ID numbers and residences in the provinces they live in order to transfer to a TPS when it is time for them to transfer. Consequently, families whose children are not registered in Izmir and those who do not have 99 ID numbers cannot apply for the CCTE program even if they are accepted into the ALP program. If children have 99 numbers families can apply to the CCTE program at the SASFs or TRC Service Centres (where available) in the districts where they are registered.
- Regarding transportation: PECs will be able to provide transportation to the districts within the 20km radius of the PEC. However, transportation also depends on the number of children coming from other districts.
- There is no quota for Non-Syrian children to enter the ALP Program and currently there is no deadline to apply however, families should be encouraged to apply to the ALP and CCTE programs at their earliest convenience to catch the beginning of the learning modules and the CCTE payment cycles.
- Information regarding children attending "İş Uygulama Merkezleri" and CCTE eligibility will be shared with the group as soon as the information is available.

4. Open discussion: LLE Report Findings:

- 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
 - A case study report will be used. To do so, a template will be shared with all partners to receive their inputs and feedbacks as to the format of the report.

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- 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
- Partners express the need to clarify or simplify some terms. For instance, when using sentences such as 'applications are in progress', use – concrete examples i.e., how many cases etc.

5. **AOB:**

- Please remember to send any issues/challenges observed with as much detail as possible (location, date, etc.) to the ESSN TF focal points.
- The next meeting will be held on 7 December 2018. The venue, time and agenda will be shared accordingly.

Attachments:

1. ESSN Task Force Izmir Presentation
2. Presentation of CCTE updates
3. August 2018 Focus Group Discussion Report