

## ESSN Task Force Istanbul Minutes

### Agenda

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Action points from the previous meeting
3. Updates on ESSN and its implementation in Marmara region
4. Updates on the CCTE
5. Q&A with General Directorate for Population and Citizenship (NÜFUS)
6. AOB
  - Performance Survey Results
  - Case Study Report

### Date of meeting

9 April 2019  
09:30 - 11:30

### Location

ASAM Dolapdere - Bostan Mahallesi, Küçük Odalar Sk.  
No:9, 34435 Beyoğlu/Istanbul

### Meeting

**WFP:** Arzum Karasu

### Co-Chairs

**TK:** Hanifi Kinaci

### 1. Action points:

| New Action Points from the meeting    | Who will take action: | Deadline:            |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Introductory one pager on MUV project | WFP & TK              | June ESSN Task Force |

### 2. Updates on the ESSN:

- The Co-Chairs World Food Programme (WFP) and Turk Kizilay (TK) provided an update of the ESSN updates noting that as of 25 March 2019, a total of 514,675 applications (2,617,206 people) were registered; 1,997 applications were not assessed; 280,276 applications were deemed eligible and 232,402 applications were ineligible. 36.92% of the applications were registered by TK Service Centers.
- 271,618 households (1,580,036 people) in total received ESSN assistance in March.
- 37,451 households (220,004 people) in Istanbul received the ESSN assistance.
- As of 8 March, 1,432 accounts were swept back nationwide: 580 uncollected cards (+3 months), 852 dormant accounts (+6 months)

#### ■ TK-WFP Monitoring and Evaluation Activities:

Monitoring visits were conducted in **Balikesir, Bilecik, Bursa, Canakkale, Istanbul, Sakarya** and **Yalova** to PDMM, District Directorates of Population and Citizenship (NÜFUS), SASFs, Halkbank branches and Hospitals, where:

- TK conducted the visits to 45 HHs in Istanbul randomly in order to verify beneficiaries.
- Severe Disability Allowance implementation at the SASFs was monitored.
- Surveys to monitor and evaluate the practice of the SASF allowance through households visits to be conducted in April.

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## Main Findings:

- **DDPC:** MERNIS registration with IDs registered to a different province is declining but from time such cases are still being dealt with.
- **Hospitals:**
  - At Bursa Inegol State Hospital, some patients reported being subject to fees when receiving services by alleged intermediaries.
  - Language barrier issues were reported between patients and doctors in Balikesir Altieylul State Hospital.
- **SASFs:**
  - Foreigners acquiring Turkish citizenship still receive the ESSN assistance since the Integrated System does not automatically upload status changes. The beneficiary would have to communicate any changes proactively.
  - Most of the SASFs visited in Marmara region are found to provide coal assistance to vulnerable persons regardless of their nationalities.

### 3. Updates on the CCTE:

#### Cash Component:

- UNICEF CCTE Field Monitor provided an update noting that 404,610 beneficiaries were entitled for CCTE payment in March 2019. 201,315 Kizilaycards were uploaded with March 2019 payment. 1,571,344 Turkish beneficiaries received March 2019 payment in the national CCTE programme.
- As of March 2019, payment, the number of children reached with at least one CCTE payment has become 494,620 and the number of Kizilaycards uploaded with March CCTE payment is of 239,996.
- As of 2 April 2019, 90 % (473,225) of the CCTE applications were accepted, 10 % (52,229) of the applications were rejected and 0 % (2,232) of the applications were pending. 36 % of the applications were registered by TK Service Centres.
- As of 1 April, 110,325 calls were received by TK Call Center for CCTE. 56 % of the callers were women and top call category was related to information request.
- 14 % of the CCTE beneficiaries (69,985), who were entitled for CCTE payment in March, are registered in Istanbul which keeps its seat as the province with most CCTE beneficiaries in Turkey. Among 69,985 beneficiaries, 0,9% of the students are in kindergarten level, 93 % of the students are in primary school and 6 % of the students are in high-school level. Five districts with most beneficiaries in Istanbul are respectively as follows: Esenyurt (11 %), Bagcilar (9 %), Sultangazi (8%), Kucukcekmece (8%) and Esenler (7 %).
- Districts where the Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) takes place in Istanbul are: Arnavutköy, Avcılar, Bağcılar, Bahçelievler, Başakşehir, Bayrampaşa, Beykoz, Esenyurt, Fatih, Gaziosmanpaşa, Kağıthane, Küçükçekmece, Pendik, Sultanbeyli, Sultangazi, Şişli and Zeytinburnu.
- The number of CCTE accepted applications from ALP students as of 2 April 2019 are 102 in Istanbul.

Questions from the participants regarding CCTE and ALP Programme:

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The reasons of why, not all ALP students are CCTE beneficiaries, were discussed. The most important barrier is ID and address registration. Since Istanbul is closed for new registrations, except for severe emergency, most of the children are not registered in Istanbul and thus cannot apply for the CCTE program.

In the past, there has been a problem of students who were previously registered to YOBIS, as a student at a temporary education center, as their transition from TEC to PEC was not possible in the registration system. However, now, if a student had a registration to YOBIS 2 years ago or more, the YOBIS responsible at Provincial Directorates of MoNE can make transition in the system and MoNE has started to inform the ALP Coordinators on this functionality.

## Child Protection Component:

- Starting from December 2018, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students have been prioritized in CCTE house visits since according to the November frozen list, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students were higher in number. 11680 students of 6<sup>th</sup> grade missed more than 4 days of school while this number is 14705 for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. As of 28<sup>st</sup> of February;
  - 59,005 children were screened by outreach teams.
  - 10,972 children were identified and assessed with protection needs.
  - 5393 children were referred to specialized services.
  - Konya has highest number of screened children with 5815.
  - %51 of the screened children (29,975) were boys and %49 of them (29,030) were girls.
  - 47,204 children had been under no risk while 3540 of them had high risk level.
- In between January-February, Bağcılar and Sultanbeyli child protection teams screened 939 children and only 15 of them were identified with high risk level.
- Rate of children who go back to school after household visit;
  - In October-November-December period, İstanbul child protection teams visited 610 children whose CCTE payment were cut. 556 of them went back to school and got their payment in January.
  - In September-October period, İstanbul child protection teams visited 328 children whose CCTE payment were cut. 248 of them went back to school and got their payment in November.
- At the last ESSN TF meeting, question was raised as to the number of students screened per districts for the period of October- November and December, numbers have been shared during the meeting as follows:

| <i>Anatolian Side</i> | <i>European Side</i> |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Sultanbeyli: 105      | Esenler: 50          |
| Sancaktepe: 88        | Eyüp: 47             |
| Pendik: 69            | Bahçelievler: 40     |
| Ümraniye: 68          | Esenyurt: 30         |
| Tuzla: 42             | Fatih: 26            |
| Kartal: 13            | Zeytinburnu :19      |
| Çekmeköy: 7           | Gaziosmanpaşa: 3     |
| Ataşehir: 3           |                      |

#### 4. Q&A with Representative from Population and Citizenship Directorate (NUFUS): Mrs Derya KIZILTUG

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- After the participation of MoFLSS, MoH & DGMM in Task Forces, General Population and Citizenship Directorate (NÜFUS) was invited to the April ESSN TF meeting to introduce the existing structure and procedure of the NÜFUS as well as address issues faced with members on the field. Mrs. Derya KIZILTUG who is the Chief of Citizenship Application Department, has joined the ESSN TF meeting.
- Participants raised questions in relation to the procedure of obtaining Turkish citizenship; among these, the general belief that holding a work permit would allow being granted citizenship, Mrs. Kiziltug corrected the misbelief and clarified that one of the criteria looked at when granting citizenship is whether the applicant has the possibility of staying in the country, this can explain why many of those granted citizenship do hold a work permits **but it is by no means a decisive criterion**. In terms of numbers of Syrians obtaining Turkish citizenship, the co-chairs have shared an information that was provided at the Livelihood Sector working Group in Gaziantep where a representative from MoFLSS shared that *60.822 Syrians obtained work permit and half of them obtained it because of their citizenship*.
- It was also reminded that Syrians Under Temporary Protection (SuTP) are subject to an '**exceptional citizenship**' status with specific procedures and quotas; here, the Board of Ministers have the ability to decide on giving citizenship selected people. This was processed by DGMM who collects lists from different ministries (MoH, MoNE). DGMMs can nominate certain groups to the selection of the citizenship. Under this status, group applications can be made i.e, Syrians engineers association can address DGMM on behalf of all its Syrians engineers' members.
- Mrs. Kiziltug has stressed that **the number of nominations keeps increasing** and giving an exact number is difficult due to the fact the applications numbers does not mean numbers of individual as one application can be made for the entire family.
- After obtaining the citizenship to any ESSN beneficiaries, support will stop when information is updated at NÜFUS, *however, this is an action that has to be carried out by the concerned individual as there is not any automatic synchronization*.
- Regarding the **language barriers**, Mrs. Kiziltug highlighted that NÜFUS as well as other units are doing their best to assist by spreading information about available free services and by providing possible solutions to illiterate persons.
- **Change of address:** Any change of address must be communicated by the concerned individual. If the change was not communicated it would prevent NÜFUS department of the newly moved province to proceed with the registration. NÜFUS must be informed when there is a change of address within the same district, but if the change is to a different province then an application has to be updated at DGMM.
- Holders of **expired short-term residency cannot apply for citizenship**. Humanitarians and Touristic residency status holders can not apply for citizenship however as mentioned before some cases can be exempt of the general rule and be part of exceptional cases.

## 5. Any Other Businesses:

- 2018 Performance Survey: Its main findings were shared reminding participants that the **full survey will be circulated end of April**. The initial findings and recommendations are as follows:
  - 38 ESSN TF regular meetings (in four locations) were held throughout 2018
  - 99 members out of 528 completed the survey (19%)
  - 79% appreciate the relevancy of the agendas

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- 76% stated the language and venue of the meetings were the least appreciated elements
- 86,7% said they were overall satisfied with the Task Force.
- Most of the ESSN TF members (mainly in Gaziantep & Istanbul) suggested **more case study discussions** such as success stories, FGD contents, refugees invitation etc.
- All partners would like **to be more engaged in providing inputs into the meetings agendas** and have more time for discussion.
- In Gaziantep and Istanbul specifically, ESSN TF members suggest **more education-based** topics and analysis, particularly related to CCTE Programme
- **Protection, livelihood and health issues** to be linked to the meetings.
- Guidance on **referrals & updates on focal points**.
- Improvement on meeting venue and translations.
- Request for more meetings (monthly).

In relation to one of the recommendations above – more engagement to the agendas from the participants- participants have been kindly asked to share any ideas/suggestions of items they would like to be treated at the next ESSN TFs.

- **Case Study Report:**  
Co-chairs stated that the case study report is ready, only awaiting or one confirmation by one of the NGO who provided inputs. The report will be circulated by the end of April.
- **Updates of contacts:** Participants have been reminded to share any updates regarding the change of contacts within their organization and especially names of those who would be attending the ESSN TFs. Updates can be made via the following link: <https://forms.gle/JVanSabfrtkNPcjJ8>
- Please remember to send any issues/challenges observed with as much detail as possible (location, date, etc.) to the ESSN TF focal points:
  - **WFP:** Arzum Karasu: [arzum.karasu@wfp.com](mailto:arzum.karasu@wfp.com)
  - **TK:**
    - Faruk Ahmed Abdo Shaban: [faruk.shaban@kizilay.org.tr](mailto:faruk.shaban@kizilay.org.tr)
    - Hanifi Kinaci: [hanifi.kinaci@kizilay.org.tr](mailto:hanifi.kinaci@kizilay.org.tr)
- For any programmatic issues, please refer your queries to the following Programme related focal points:
  - **WFP:**
    - Abdullah Alani: [abdullah.alani@wfp.org](mailto:abdullah.alani@wfp.org)
    - Verda Yuceer: [verda.yuceer@wfp.org.com](mailto:verda.yuceer@wfp.org.com)
  - **TK:** Faruk Ahmed Abdo Shaban: [faruk.shaban@kizilay.org.tr](mailto:faruk.shaban@kizilay.org.tr)

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held on 11 June (TBC). The venue, time and agenda will be shared accordingly.

## Attachments:

1. ESSN Task Force Izmir Presentation
2. 2018 Performance Survey initial highlights
3. CCTE presentation

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