

ESSN Task Force Istanbul Minutes

Meeting date & time:	15 October 2019	Location:	ASAM Dolapdere
	10:30 - 12:00	Meeting Co-Chairs:	WFP: Arzum Karasu TK: Hanifi Kinaci

Participants:	Unicef, Save the Children, Medak, Mudem, Asam, UNFPA, HRDF, Echo, Sevkar, DDD, Tzu Chi, Maan, Rosam
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Agenda	Welcome and Introduction
	1. Updates on ESSN and its implementation in Marmara Region.
	2. Livelihood Mapping and Survey Results
	3. Updates on Developments in Istanbul
	4. Updates on CCTE
	5. AOB: <i>Save the Children - ESSN Experience Sharing</i>

1. Updates on ESSN and its implementation in Marmara region:

- The Co-Chairs World Food Programme (WFP) and Turk Kizilay (TK) provided an update of ESSN implementation noting that as of 07th October 2019, a total of 2.795.144 individuals were registered; 13.335 individuals were not assessed, and 1.039.543 individuals were ineligible.
- A total of 1.689.937 beneficiaries received ESSN assistance in September nationwide.
- A total of 222.778 beneficiaries received ESSN assistance in Istanbul.
- A total of 29,405 beneficiaries received the disability allowance and 5.370 of those are registered in Istanbul. 7.584 are severely disabled nationwide with 1.346 located in Marmara Region.
- Nationwide eligibility rate of 53% households and 60% individuals.
- Information given on ESSN Criteria Breakdown showed four nationalities were covered; 89.1% Syrians under Temporary Protection, 7.2%, Iraqis, 3% Afghans and 0.2% Iranians under International Protection.
- Criteria, namely family with four or more children, has the highest percentage with 57.6%.
- Demographic details for Istanbul are quite like nationwide data particularly in terms of criteria, nationality and age group breakdown.

TK-WFP Monitoring and Evaluation Activities (August – September):

- Monitoring visits were conducted in Canakkale, Edirne, Istanbul, Kirklareli, Kocaeli, Sakarya and Tekirdag where the following institutions of PDMM, District Directorates of Population and Citizenship (Nufus), SASFs, Halkbank branches and hospitals were visited.
- The teams conducted 15 HH visits in Istanbul focusing on monitoring the implementation of the SASF Discretionary Allowance (SDA) and evaluating its practice.
- The teams also conducted 7 FGD sessions as follows:

Istanbul: 1 male and 2 female groups	Kocaeli: 1 male group
Sakarya: 1 male and 1 female group	Kirklareli: 1 female group

Main findings:

- Severe disability allowance and/or not providing appointments due to lack of needed equipment.
Action taken: *Hospitals were visited, issues persist. Follow-up: TK and WFP management to visit PDoH. List of hospitals to be shared with WHO.*
- Some ESSN beneficiaries in Gokceada (Canakkale) cannot use their cards as they need a new password.
- Some SASFs (Pinarhisar (Kirklareli) and Erenler (Sakarya)) provide coal and cash assistance (500 TL every three months) to the most vulnerable HHs.
- Istanbul-Sultanbeyli and Bursa PDMMs fall short of staff before the huge number of people applying for ID and address registration.

TK Referral and Outreach Activities (August – September):

TK Referral and Outreach Teams conducted 156 institution visits in 10 provinces (Bilecik, Bolu, Bursa, Canakkale, Duzce, Edirne, Istanbul, Sakarya, Tekirdag and Yalova). SASFs had the biggest share of those visits (58 visits) followed by the PDPCs (34 visits).

Main findings:

- **Advocacy Case:** A family of six with Istanbul ID cards could not complete their registration at Esenler DDPC (District Directorate of Population and Citizenship) since the PDMM had not updated one of the member detail in their system. Despite holding an Istanbul registered card, the system showed the beneficiary registered in Kilis. TK Referral & Outreach Team conducted a visit to PDPC. The officer compared signatures to identify fraud but there was none. An official request letter will be sent to the PDMM by the officer.
- **Referral Case:** TK Referral & Outreach received the case of Havle A, a woman diagnosed with a brain tumor, who lived with her husband and four children. Pain lead her to depression then she became suicidal. The children were also depressed because of her condition. TK R&OR immediately referred it to TK Community Center. TK CC contacted both the family and the hospital and started to follow-up the case with her doctors. They also started a PSS for the whole family. Both R&OR and CC Teams are closely monitoring the case.

2. Livelihoods Survey and Mapping Results

Livelihoods Survey Results

WFP and TRC developed the Livelihoods Survey to provide additional evidence to inform the design of the transition from basic needs assistance to more sustainable livelihoods opportunities for refugees in Turkey. The survey sample is drawn from the ESSN applicant pool and aims to assess the potentials of refugee integration into Turkish labour markets, as well as to identify key constraints. As such, the objectives of the survey were to:

- Establish a detailed understanding of the education, skills and employment profile of refugees in Turkey.
- Gain insight into the labour market integration of refugees, including understanding catalysts, barriers and the additional support needed to enhance employment opportunities.
- Provide necessary evidence for the transition strategy and future of the ESSN programme, which will focus on increasing the employability and self-reliance of beneficiaries.
- Highlight information that can feed into a broader profiling of employment activities for refugees.

This information allows more accurate and evidence-based decision making in relation to livelihoods programming for refugees in Turkey. Please see findings of the survey within shared report, namely Livelihood Survey Findings.

Livelihoods Mapping Results

After the 8th year of Syria crises in Turkey, there is a **need to shift the assistances from cash to more sustainable economic self-reliant and livelihood-based modalities**. ESSN beneficiaries of who eligible and has potential capacity to be place in job are subject to transition from ESSN to employment. In order to identify multi-dimensional vulnerability of ESSN applicants, both WFP and TK have been conducting regular Comprehensive Vulnerability Monitoring Exercise (CVME) surveys. One of the important finding of the CVME surveys is high demand and needs to livelihoods services. In order to observe the supply to this demand, WFP has started to conduct Livelihood Survey-Mapping to see available livelihood services provided by both governmental and non-governmental organizations such as Turkish language course, employment counselling, vocational and technical trainings and to identify available job opportunities in the market for targeted population. Attached ESSN presentation includes more details on findings of this mapping.

3. Updates on Developments in Istanbul

- DGMM experts shared updates related to the implementation of regulatory framework in Istanbul, highlighting certain deadlines starting with August 31st then extended to October 30th and also provided information on the groups that are exempted from the current requirement of departure.
- DGMM reviewed situations of foreigners from all nationalities including Syrians. Syrians who are registered in different cities but living in Istanbul are requested to return to their city of registration which they need to move to within one week of the day they issue the travel permit at the PDMM offices.
- As of 8 August, the decision was taken to refer all unregistered Syrians to other cities. With UNHCR's support, 52 provinces were designated for relocation.
- Please see below the procedure for the two different ways of registering.

PoC registered in a different province:

- 1- Persons of concern (PoC) have to present themselves at the registration PDMM office in Esenler, Esenyurt, Sultanbeyli and Kumkapi (Please note that Kumkapi is for non-Syrians only).
- 2- PoC are checked and then provided with a travel permit and they have to move within a period of one week only. PoC have to present themselves to the PDMM office of their registered city in seven days after receiving the notification.

PoC who are not registered at any province:

- 1- PoC have to present themselves to the above registration points.
- 2- Identification and Biometric data and a city of preference will be collected then PDMM will provide them with identification card, authorization letter and a travel permit.
- 3- This group has to remain at Oncupinar TAC in Kilis for one month before moving to the city of preference.
- 4- Among the 52 provinces PoC will be asked to choose a city of preference and if that chosen city has capacity then they would be transferred there.

- Similar actions are taken in Bursa province.
- Istanbul province is closed for registration with some exceptions for education, livelihoods and health.
- DGMM stated that the estimated number of people who are registered in other provinces but living in Istanbul is up to 300.000 individuals. Estimated number of people who are not registered and living in Istanbul is 65.000.
- Syrians who are unregistered and are apprehended by the law enforcement units will be transferred to the Temporary Accommodation Center in Oncupinar, Kilis for registration and referral process.
- Istanbul province is closed for registration. the following issues of exemption groups were highlighted:
 - Students (with their families) in primary and elementary and university education in Istanbul in 2018-2019 academic year.
 - Family Reunification includes spouse, children (below 18 years old) and individuals who are over 18 years old but dependent to family.
 - Syrians with work permits will continue to stay in Istanbul. Syrians who opened businesses informally have to formalize these businesses.
 - Syrians who are working without a work permit, and registered in different cities other than Istanbul, have to return their city of registration before the deadline and their employers have to apply for work permit.
 - Entrepreneur Syrians will be granted with travel permit if their work required traveling to Istanbul.
 - There will also exception to Emergency cases and patients who were referred by state hospitals to receive treatment in Istanbul. In addition, Syrians with medical needs and emergency conditions will have travel permissions to Istanbul. Persons that accompany the patients can have travel permission.

4. Updates on CCTE:

Cash Component:

- UNICEF CCTE team updated participants that a total of 445,757 beneficiaries were entitled for payment in September 2019. 214.383 Kızılaycards have been uploaded. 1.638.951 Turkish beneficiaries received September 2019 payment at National level.
- As of September 2019, the number of children reached with at least one CCTE payment is 525.928 and the number of Kızılaycards uploaded are 254.283.
- In Istanbul, the total number of children reached as of September 2019 is 73.173. Out of these children, 93% are in Primary Education. Gender distribution is equal and the top five districts with the highest number of beneficiary children in Istanbul are Esenyurt, Bağcılar, Sultangazi, Küçükçekmece and Esenler.
- As of 23 September, CCTE -ALP accepted application is 388 in Istanbul and Bursa.

New CCTE Motivational Payments for Secondary School/ ALP students

- To address the limited reach of the CCTE to older refugee children (who were found less likely to be enrolled in school or to attend school regularly), new CCTE top-ups have been introduced at the beginning of school terms. A top up for high school students was also introduced in the national CCTE program (September 2019 and February 2020).
- The new top-ups in the CCTE for Refugees program will target Grade 5 onwards as it was found that deterioration of regular school attendance and increased risk of dropping out begins in lower secondary school.

- However, refugee children in Grades 9 onwards and ALP will get slightly higher top-ups (+150 TL) than refugee children in lower secondary (+ 100 TL) since the situation worsens for these children and the idea is to promote school completion up to 12th grade. While the primary school students (from kindergarten up to 4th grade) will continue to receive 100 TL additional payment at the beginning of each school term (September 2019 and January 2020); the lower secondary school students receive 100 TL motivational top-up; and ALP / high school students receive 150 TL motivational top-up on top of the 100 TL additional payment.

Comments / Questions:

- Are Syrian students who are not under TP but study in private schools covered under the new regulation for Istanbul ID registrations. **Yes, any student (with dependent family members) who is enrolled in formal education can be exempted from the Istanbul new regulations**
- How to report if schools are requesting families to pay certain amounts at the beginning of the year
UNICEF responded – families could apply within PDoNE.

Child Protection

- CP team screened **68.199** children as of August 2019 at the national level. 12.825 of them identified and assessed with protection needs. CP team also referred **6.283** children to specialized services.
- Istanbul CP teams screened **163** children in August. **88 M** and **75 F**. Age range 10 to 17 years old.
- While participants talked about updates on developments in Istanbul, the fact that TRC community centers had some employees at Sultanbeyli PDMM to help out with the workload was shared. Once unregistered refugees obtained their travel permit, their travel expenses can be paid through TRC if needed.

Comments / Questions on Child Protection:

- Has the Educational exemption from Istanbul new regulations motivated families to send their children (especially in secondary education) back to school this year?
TRC CC Bağcılar responded – There has not been any specific cases reported on this matter, but it could have been a motivation for some families.

1) Any Other Businesses:

Save The Children - ESSN Experience Sharing

- Save The Children gave a presentation on their activities. Full presentation is attached for reference.

Follow Up Questions

- Cases of two state hospitals (Kanuni Suleyman Hospital in Kucukcekmece and one unnamed located in Zeytinburnu providing medical care for two Syrians families with no IDs asking them for fees have been shared by participants. **It was agreed that cases will be referred to the programme teams of TRC and WFP for follow-up.**
- Several cases were shared by e-mail with the Co-Chairs regarding the relocation from Istanbul, answers will be collected and shared at the next meeting.
- Cases of pregnant women who cannot reach PDMM to ask for permit to stay in Istanbul until giving birth was also shared – **It has been advised to continue contacting the DGMM and refer such cases to either UNCHR and/or WFP/TRC for follow-up.**
- Details of educational exception of Children registered at schools were requested (tourist visa etc.) **Information will be provided following the next Istanbul Relocation**

Contact Details:

- Please share any ESSN TF issues/challenges observed with a detail (location, date, etc.) as per below focal points:
 - **WFP:** Arzum Karasu: arzum.karasu@wfp.com
 - **TK:** Faruk Ahmed Abdo Shaban: faruk.shaban@kizilay.org.tr
- For any programmatic issues, please refer your queries to the following Programme related focal points:
 - **WFP:** Abdullah Alani & Verda Yuceer: abdullah.alani@wfp.org & verda.yuceer@wfp.org
 - **TK:** Faruk Ahmed Abdo Shaban: faruk.shaban@kizilay.org.tr

Attachments:

1. ESSN Task Force Marmara region Presentation
2. CCTE presentation
3. Livelihood Survey Findings
4. STC ESSN Experience Sharing