

ESSN Task Force Ankara Minutes

Objective

To provide an update on ESSN (WFP/TRC), Duplication Matrix (TRC), presentation on the Barriers to Access Survey (TRC) Cash Gap Analysis read out (WFP) with Illiteracy follow up (WFP/TRC) and AOB.

Date of meeting

26 July 2017
15:00 - 16:30 p.m.

Location

WFP Park Oran Office, Ankara
Yukari Dikmen Mahallesi, Turan Gunes Bulvari,
No: 180Y, E Blok, Kat: 3 Office No: 3-4, Oran,
Ankara Turkey

1. Review of the action points from previous meeting:

- At the previous meeting, the information of number of Syrians registered to MERNIS (1,539,074 Syrians as of May) have been shared and the question on the number of non-Syrians have been followed up accordingly. As of 21 July, there are totally 2.079.957 foreigners have been registered in MERNIS. The team is following up with Population Department in order to receive the nationality breakdown of the total number.
- In order to be able to respond to the calls coming from the Farsi speaking people, TRC recruited one Farsi speaking call center staff in June.

2. Update of 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 July, a total of 318,635 applications were registered; 5,297 applications were not assessed; 155,653 applications were deemed eligible and 157,655 applications were ineligible. Approximately, 114,023 applications were registered by 18 TRC Service Centres (37,98 % nationwide). A total of 862,437 beneficiaries will receive ESSN assistance in July (48,88% male/51,12% female). Majority of the beneficiaries are Syrian nationals (91,45%) followed by the Iraqi (6,16%) and Afghan (1,79) nationals.
- In Anatolia Region, majority of the applications are from Ankara, Konya and Eskisehir provinces. In Ankara province, majority of the ESSN HHs are from Altindag, Mamak and Kecioren districts.
- Based on the information provided by Ankara Area Office (AAO), majority of the nationalities are Afgani, Iraqi and Syrians in the Black Sea and Central Anatolia region.
- Following the new criteria change, the amount of applications were raised 181% and re-applications were raised 287% in the TRC Service Centers.
- 109,800 cards distributed in June. 30,469 new cards will be distributed nationwide in July. The distribution started on 20 July. They will be uploaded at the end of the month.
- 243,639 calls received by the TRC Call Center operators as of 24 July. Most of the calls are received from Gaziantep, Sanliurfa, Istanbul, Hatay and Adana.
- New criteria change
 - Reduce dependency ratio threshold to equal to 1.5 and above (was above 1.5)
 - Reduce disability threshold to 1 member (was 2) is effective in June.

Consequently, the eligibility rate of applications increased from 37% (June) to 49% (July).

- New posters including the updated information on transfer value and criteria started to be distributed starting from mid-July in English, Turkish, Arabic and Farsi languages. Regarding the new leaflets, due to certain obstacles, the Corporate Communication team needed to change the design, thus the date of distribution shall be prolonged. They are also published on social media (Facebook, Twitter and YouTube). The information is public now.
- First quarterly top-up will be made in August 2017. The aim is to assist the small-sized families to be able to cover their basic needs.
- Ankara specific updates:
 - Social tension between host and refugee communities: WFP Ankara Area Office is following the social tension incidents occurring in the region. The issue has also been discussed during the last ISWG

meeting in Ankara and there will be a separate agenda point at the next ISWG meeting to discuss further about the ways to eliminate such incidents and contribute to the social cohesion.

- District-level eligibility rates: The team is analysing the data on high and low eligibility rates at district level and searching for the reasons behind. Ankara Area Office observed some locations that SASF offices only receive applications of the potentially eligible households that ends up with high eligibility rate; and some SASFs are continuously submit the ineligible files to the Board of Trustee for re-evaluation that ends up with low eligibility rates. The field teams are monitoring those locations closely.
- Evaluation process of the application takes approximately 40 days.
- In regard with the duration of the ESSN assistance, the fund is granted to the end of 2018.
- Beneficiaries' eligibility status is being checked on a monthly basis by using the database of MoFSP, MoLSS and DGMM. Based on the results, it is determined if they continue to receive the ESSN assistance.
- Reapplication is open to everyone. After criteria change, the ineligible ones can reapply.

3. Coordination (Duplication) Matrix

- Organizations needs to fill and share the matrix with TRC on a monthly basis. Please do so by the end of month and TRC will give the feedback within 1 week.
- Please use the matrix to email the TRC team in either English or Turkish. Additionally please provide a request letter (attached) every time you request information on duplications.

4. Barriers to access survey (TRC)

- This survey was conducted with 3295 HHs in 18 TRC SCs' M&E Teams between 6 June and 7 July 2017. During the survey, TRC M&E Teams visited 104 informal houses. All interviews with both applicants and non-applicants were conducted face to face.
- Nationalities of the refugees were mostly Syrian followed by Iraqi and Turkmen.
- Majority of them were Arabic speakers (97%) with Turkish as a second language (41%).
- Awareness rate of ESSN is 91% and 89% them know how to apply to the programme.
- DGMM: Almost 13% of them are waiting for the appointment date. Noting that in some districts they have to wait for 6 months and more.
- MERNIS: Informal housing issue is preventing them to be registered in MERNIS.
- DHR: Disability Health Report Stuck Reason is another barrier to apply to the program. The rate is low.
- For further details please see the attached presentation.

5. Cash Gap Analysis Read Out (WFP)

- Information on the Cash Gap Analysis Workshop
 - The first day focused on barriers to accessing the ESSN, including registration to DGMM, registration with civil registry, etc. The second day looked at targeting and programming to address those vulnerable who are not eligible for the ESSN.
 - **Registration**: partners highlighted 10 key provinces to focus on local-level advocacy. The Protection Working Group will collect feedback on DGMM/PDMM challenges and backlogs, as well as feed into the spreadsheet on local-level advocacy being done or to be done in the 10 provinces. The local level advocacy will feed into the high level advocacy that UNHCR continues to do.
- **Informal Housing**: MERNIS applications will be received through the Service Centers. Please note that large caseloads of people in informal housing should still be sent through the regular reporting template via the ESSN Task Force, and small cases will be followed up by IPA partner referrals. Updated guidance note will be sent out to advise on large and small caseloads.
- **Illiterate Beneficiaries**:
 - Main applicant must sign a consent form at the time of card collection.
 - If the main applicant is illiterate, the bank may require a notarized signature.
 - We have mapped IPA partners at a district-level, to complement TRC capacity. IPA partners will assist beneficiaries obtain a certificate from the notary indicating their illiteracy, and incur the cost of around 50-70TRY plus an amount for a translator (including transportation costs). A meeting will be held for IPA partners. If other

partners have funding to assist ESSN eligibles, please reach out to us through the Task Force. In the meantime, if partners encounter illiterate beneficiaries please call **168** to refer them to TRC.

- **Disability Health Report:** Feedback will be collected through the online service feedback form (an inter-agency tool, working closely with Protection and Health Working Group)
Links to the form:

English: <https://goo.gl/forms/rJdRsznyOhuMKhVw1>

Turkish: <https://goo.gl/forms/xQs3z4nGQMjN90XJ3>

Arabic: <https://goo.gl/forms/OCVsdvnnh81HNNjC2>

- **Stop Gap Assistance:** At the National Basic Needs Working Group we discussed further how to harmonize stop gap assistance for those who are eligible to the ESSN but have a delay in accessing it due to barriers meeting the pre-requisites, this is now with the Gaziantep BNWG to take forward.

6. AOB

- Next ESSN TF Ankara meeting will be held on Wednesday, 13 September at WFP Park Oran Office at 15:00.
- Pre-assistance baseline presentation will be ready for the next meeting.
- Please remember to send any issues/challenges observed with as much detail as possible (location, date, etc.) to the ESSN TF.

Attachments:

1. ESSN Task Force Ankara Presentation
2. ESSN Application Barrier Survey Evaluation Report
3. "Workshop to identify programme responses to facilitate access to services in Turkey" Outcomes
4. Duplication Matrix Presentation
5. Diger Kuruluslara Gonderilecek Resmi Yazı
6. Official Letter Sent to Other Institutions
7. Veri Alanlari Standart Format - Standard Format of Data Fields