

ESSN Task Force Istanbul Minutes

Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide an update on the ESSN ▪ Vulnerability Profiling Exercise ▪ Initial findings of the livelihoods survey ▪ AOB. 		
Date of meeting	09 July 2018 09:30 - 11:30	Location	TRC Area Office - Zafer Mah. Çınar Sok. No: 1 Kat:1 A5 Adapark Plaza (Yenibosna) Bahcelievler / Istanbul

1. Action points:

Follow up issue:	Who will take action:	Deadline:
Provision of information on SASF Allowance and Severe Disability Allowance	ESSN TF Co-Chairs	Once the SoP is finalized with MoFSP
LLE Report to be shared with partners; the findings and move forward to be presented at upcoming ESSN TF meetings	ESSN TF Co-Chairs	Mid July/ late Sep 2018
Detailed information on the HH verification numbers.	TRC requested from MoFSP	Pending
"Livelihoods" as a theme for ESSN TF meetings	TRC&WFP	July/August 2018
Provision of information on the Future of ESSN Workshop	TRC&WFP	Aug/Sep 2018

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 25 June, a total of 446,951 applications were registered; 2,015 applications were not assessed; 241,691 applications were deemed eligible and 203,245 applications were ineligible. 37.71% of the applications were registered by 9 TRC Service Centres. A total of 1,361,343 beneficiaries received ESSN assistance in June (51.31% female/48.69% male).
- The difference of the eligible number of individuals between slide #4 and #5 occurs due to verification process. At the end of each month, TRC receives the eligibility list from the MoFSP. Both TRC and WFP teams double check the list and clean the duplications and the ones who received the Turkish citizenship. After completing the verification process, we obtain the exact number of eligible individuals, which was 1,361,343 in June 2018.
- Inclusion rate is 53.6%. Average household size is 5.81.
- ESSN Demographic updates:
- On 8 June, 1, 130 accounts were swept back: 696 uncollected cards (3+ months) and 434 dormant accounts (6+ months). Please note that the accounts are only suspended; it can be reinitiated again.
- Almost 15% of beneficiaries are living in Istanbul. Nationality breakdown is noted as 88.8% Syrians, 7.9% Iraqis, 2.5% Afghans, 0.2% Iranians and 0.6% other nationalities.
- In Marmara Region, majority of the applications are from Istanbul, Bursa and Kocaeli. Top 5 most applied districts in Istanbul are Esenyurt, Bagcilar, Sultangazi, Kucukcekmece and Esenler .
- DGMM is implementing a verification project. DGMM is currently updating the figures and once the updates are finalized the Proportion of ESSN Eligible vs Ineligible Applications Istanbul Region Map will be shared with the partners in the upcoming meetings. Alarming point in Kirklareli, Edirne, Kocaeli and Balikesir as ineligibility rate is higher in those provinces. We are examining reasons behind that and we will present it in the next meeting.
- Based on the information provided by WFP & TRC Istanbul Area offices (IAO):
 - WFP IAO covers 12 provinces. Estimated number of refugees: 795,789 TPs and 62,787 IPs.
 - 27 CVME surveys were conducted in two provinces (Bursa, and Yalova), covering two districts.

- In June, three Focus Group Discussions (FGD) conducted in three provinces: two in Istanbul, one in Yalova and one in Bursa. In total, 30 people participated in the FGDs. WFP IAO shared a summary of the FGDs on the topic of Social Cohesion. Some of the findings are: 1) The refugees interact with the host community mainly in the work place for men, and in the bazaar, hospital, and government offices for women. 2) The main barrier to social cohesion is the language. Most of the participants do not speak Turkish, or partially speak and understand Turkish. 3) In terms of elections, most of the participants have heard that if the opposition wins, the Syrians will be deported back to Syria. 4) ESSN affected the relationship with the host community due to the lack of knowledge of the source of the assistance. 5) It is easier for children to integrate because they learned Turkish better and faster. Refugees' children have Turkish friends. However, some children feel discriminated against at school. 6) The refugees do not prefer to complain to the police in case of any incident.
- During the monitoring visits, some SASFs reported that families are not able to apply due to the misspelling after the PDMM verification.
- Please note that Regional SASF workshop to be held on 7th of August in Istanbul and on 9th in Izmir.
- ESSN Sensitization Session to be held in Istanbul on 25-26 July (both European and Anatolian sides).
- 13 protection cases were reported regarding the registration issues, medical and health services, access to DHR and others. These cases were referred to TRC, ARR Japan, ASAM, Multeci - Der, ROCHAM, AlSham clinics, Annoor clinics, and HRDF.
- TRC IAO covers 11 provinces. TRC IAO Outreach activities: 2 out of 11 provinces were visited. Outreach teams conducted 164 visits mostly to Muhtars (146)
- TRC M&E teams visited 5 provinces: Istanbul, Kocaeli, Sakarya, Yalova and Bursa. They conducted 5 Focus Group discussions: 3 in Istanbul, 1 in Yalova and 1 in Bursa.
- Syrian refugees are prone to change their addresses. In case of changing address the beneficiary should inform the Nufus office and the SASF office otherwise, their ESSN assistance will automatically ceased if a new family registers in the same address or when SASF pays a household visit to verify the household for the assistance. If the beneficiary change the district, they have to change their address in the Nufus as well but have to apply to SASF again.
- ESSN TF Lessons Learned Exercise findings will be discussed in August-September meetings.
- Findings of the Future of the ESSN Workshop will be shared at the upcoming meetings
- Severe Disability Allowance (SDA): Starting as of August 2018, beneficiaries with more than 50% severe disability will receive SDA 600 TL per month.
- Application is not required, as the beneficiaries will be identified by the SASFs. If the beneficiary received the DHR after they applied for ESSN, they need to go and register the DHR to the SASF. Regarding the expiration date of the temporary health reports, a warning message has been sent by SMS to beneficiaries to inform them that temporary health report should be renewed. Otherwise their ESSN assistance will be cut.
- Regarding the challenges of obtaining the Disability Health Report (DHR), beneficiaries are aware of the importance of obtaining the DHR. They have some challenges of obtaining it. They can seek help from the TRC Community Centers. Depending on the districts, it takes four to five months to obtain it. As TRC and WFP, we let Ministry of Health (MoH) inform all available and potential tackles and challenges regarding DHR. Until a concrete action by MoH, very vulnerable cases may knock TRC CC and SASF door. Since with a reference letter of SASF and with protection role TRC CC could take initiative and find solution to this long term obtaining issue.
- After Ramadan break, DGMM extended the break time until the end of the year. This means after Ramadan break, the ones who want to stay in home until the end of the year, need to come back to Turkey and apply for a year-end permission. In order to extend sweep back process period, we need to know individually who has gone home for this long-term holiday. For the time being, DGMM could not be able to provide these individuals' information. They need to wait until the end of the year to see exact returnee numbers. Because of that, we can not make an amendment on our sweep back procedure but we believe there will be no forfeiture.
- There will be another separate session for Istanbul with attendance of community leaders (imams, muhtars etc.). On this session, we are planning to include social cohesion theme. This separate session is still under discussion.

3. Vulnerability Profiling Exercise:

- Qualitative research results indicated that women are not culturally expected to win bread for the household. There will be further qualitative data collection exercise (FGD) focusing on this subject in the coming months.

- Representative of AAR Japan commented on excluding women and focusing on men on the exercise. She stated that women still can be included in this category, and the reasons why they cannot work can be presented.
- There are two sides about women empowerment. One side is LH activities. We will make sure to include women to LH activities in order to integrate them into the workforce and they will have equal LH opportunities like men. It is in the UN and WFP mandate to empower women and provide equal opportunities. The other side is the need for vulnerable women to continue receiving the emergency assistance, which we should also take into considerations. For example, some of the ESSN targeting criteria are single women and woman headed HH family. We find cases sometimes of two women living in the same house, they cannot work either they cannot benefit from ESSN . We will continue to look into ways for assisting them.
- Regarding the question on how many ESSN beneficiaries are currently working informally, there is no such data collected before. Currently we are conducting Livelihoods survey and we expect to have some insight by the time we complete this exercise.

4. **Initial findings of the livelihoods survey:**

- 2,113 HHs participated in livelihood survey in seven provinces (İstanbul, Ankara, Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Adana, Bursa, Kilis). All data collection is based on declaration.94.4% of the respondents are Syrian, 4.9% Iraqi, 0.7% others
- 56.2% of respondents ESSN beneficiaries (43.8% non-beneficiaries)
- 80.2% of respondents are male, 19.8% respondents are female (Sample is chosen randomly from dataset of the head of households and survey conducted to the breadwinner of family. These two core elements led the male respondent percentage high.)
- 66.1% of the respondents stayed in Turkey for 4-6 years.
- 40% of the respondents have “Primary school” level education, followed by 19% “Secondary School” and 13% “Literate”. University level education percentage is 7%.
- 43% of the respondents declares that they found job by friend and family while 42% found himself/herself.
- Within the scope of main challenges for finding work, which is multiple answer question, “Language Barrier” has the highest slice with 44%, followed by “No Job Available” 33% and “No Information” 26%.
- Length of time in Turkey and peoples Turkish level correlates, but no so well. People who stayed in Turkey for 1-2 years, only 7.5% have the enough Turkish level, while 7+ years has 21.8%
- We can see that people started to work in Turkey, compared to the Syria. While salaried workers keep their workstyle, “Employers” seems to be lost their work status. If we look into the work status at Turkey, We see a significant accumulation of “Daily Workers”.
- Comprehensive report will be completed and shared after the Bayram.
- Data is still being analysed. We are finding some interesting results. We need to make sure that we need
- We need to make sure that we collect sufficient data. Accordingly, we will be reaching more details about current livelihood activities of the refugee population in Turkey, which would be representative for the provinces where this survey would be applied.

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.
- Ad-hoc joint Basic Needs and Livelihoods Working Groups meeting to be held on 26 July in Ankara.
- The next meeting will be held on 10 September. The meeting venue is TBD.

Attachments:

1. ESSN Task Force Istanbul Presentation (WFP/TRC)
2. Presentation on ESSN: Vulnerability Profiling (WFP)
3. Presentation on Livelihoods Analysis (TRC)