

ESSN Task Force Izmir Minutes

Objective

- Updates on the ESSN
 - Severe Disability Allowance
- Vulnerability Profiling Exercise
- Initial findings of the livelihoods survey
- Updates on the CCTE
- AOB

10 August 2018
10:30 - 12:30

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:
Provision of information on Severe Disability Allowance	ESSN TF Co-Chairs	Completed
Provision of information on SASF Allowance	ESSN TF Co-Chairs	Pending for the SoP to be finalized with MoFSP
Provision of more information on Household Verification SoP	ESSN TF Co-Chairs	Pending for TRC to receive info from MoFSP
Non-Syrians` and `Livelihoods` as a theme for upcoming ESSN TF meetings	TRC&WFP	Pending for further discussion
LLE report: open discussions around the recommendations and move forward	ESSN TF Co-Chairs	Pending: 05 October 2018

2. Update of ESSN (WFP/TRC):

- The Co-Chairs World Food Programme (WFP) and Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) provided an update of the ESSN to date noting that as of 25th of 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. There is a slight decrease in non-assessed applications. 37.71% of the applications were registered by 9 TRC Service Centres. A total of 1,405,700 beneficiaries received ESSN assistance in May (51.32% female/48.68% male). Based on the information provided by WFP & TRC Istanbul Area offices (IAO):
 - In June 5 refer cases were cases identified by Izmir FO in Izmir and Manisa in July 2018.
 - The cases were related to ESSN, DGMM registration, medical equipment/medicine needs, interpreter assistance and resettlement.
 - Two of the cases were referred to TRC, 1 of them were referred to MUDEM, 1 of them were referred to UNHCR and Toplum Gönüllüleri Vakfı, and 1 case is followed up by WFP.
 - Three FGDs were conducted in Manisa and Usak.
 - WFP Izmir Field Office shared a summary of the FGDs on the topic of Social Cohesion, some of the findings are:
 1. Refugees` are separated from their relatives, cannot have Bayram visits to each other.
 2. Positive relations with mukhtars and police (same treatment) but bad experiences /feeling discrimination at DGMM and SASF offices.
 3. Improving relations with the local community over time (still some misconceptions i.e assistance they receive).
 4. Joint iftar dinners and exchanged food plates with the neighbours during Ramadan.
 5. Cultural elements of the host community i.e. kind treatment of elders, children and vulnerable women.

- TRC Outreach activities: 6 out of 11 provinces were visited. Outreach teams conducted 141 visits. Muhtar visits dominated outreach's July activities with an aim to reach those experiencing ID or address registration problems etc.
- TRC & WFP conducted 161 visits in total here are the specific findings to Aegean Region:
 1. Demographic criteria manipulation: During the process, it is observed that refugees tend to change their demographic status in favour of ESSN demographic criteria:
 - Age (younger)
 - Marital status (single), etc.
 2. Seasonal workers from East and Southeast Regions are in increase.
 3. Data verification still continues in Izmir.
 4. Aegean coasts are more likely to be used for crossing borders to Europe instead of settling down.
- It is observed in Izmir In Usak and Manisa if the person is single on ID but is married in reality he/she can change their marital status upon their verbal declaration otherwise they cannot change. During the verification process it was allowed to change the address based on a rent contract but due to the increase fake contracts, PDMM is asking for notary issued contract in some provinces.

3. Severe Disability allowance:

- Severe Disability Allowance enabled for those who currently benefit from ESSN with 50% or more disability and «severely disabled» indication.
- SASFs and TRC SCs started updating health reports in July 6.
- Additional payment of 600 TL was transferred to eligible beneficiary accounts by the end of August.
- Our target is 10,000 beneficiaries.
- All spaces should be filled in DHR.
- 25th September is the last date to update DHR expiry dates.

4. Discussion:

- Upon a discussion on non-Syrians access barriers to ESSN & CTE, the co-chairs offered having it as thematic discussion for the next TF meeting if it is needed where the participants would have a chance to share their expertise and best practices on this matter.
- Regarding the beneficiaries who leave the country for more than 90 days during the Bayram visit, the sweep back process will continue. There are two reasons for sweeping back accounts: 1. Dormant accounts; if the card not used in more than 6 months. 2. Uncollected cards for more than 3 months. So, if the eligible beneficiaries did not collect their cards from the Halkbank branches during the 90 days, their accounts will be swept back. But the beneficiaries can receive their cards once they go to the bank.
- The departure and returning dates were clear and specified by the GoT. Ramadan and Kurban Bayrams could not be merged, the ones who left during Ramadan should be back already. And the ones who left for Kurban Bayram can return back to Turkey until the end of the year. So, since they are separated trips there should be separated travel permission documents.
- During a discussion on PDMM/UNHCR verification, each Governorship has their own decision-making mechanism and could decide to end the verification process before the end of the year then deactivate the one who did not show up. This issue is being followed up with UNHCR on provincial level.
- The refugees can and should go to the closest PDMM to verify their IDs even if they are from another province.
- Regarding provinces where verification has been finalized and PDMMs do not proceed with to verify the ones who have not reached to the PDMMs yet, it is offered to collect all their questions in a document to be raised to DGMM then the answers could be shared with ESSN TF mail group but considering Izmir especially, there are decisions made on provincial levels, as example of a provinces who have refugees more than their capacity like Izmir.
- The co-chairs announced that they will share the LLE report soon in English then in Turkish. Most main results of the LLE report that there will be more discussion to talk about the barriers to access and best practices with less slides, numbers and updates. From now on we will be sharing the presentations before the meeting to discuss on it during the meeting. We will discuss these issues also during September and October. Our aim is start 2019 with renewed ToR for the TF meetings.
- After the handover from AFAD to PDMM, hospitals are going to charge for DHR however there are different implementations in the field.

- The SASFs are using DHR referral form in order to remove language barrier and avoid fraud while it also helps in giving priority to the most vulnerable beneficiaries, the referral letter does not make the DHR free of charge automatically, it is still hospital's decision to provide the DHR free of charge or not.
- It is up to SASF manager or the social worker in the SASF to provide referral letter, however this document is not a must to have DHR it only helps the beneficiary.

5. Vulnerability Profiling Exercise:

By using the data from Pre-Assistance Baseline (PAB) survey that represents all the ESSN applicants, Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDMs) surveys as follow-up, and Comprehensive Vulnerability Monitoring Exercise (CVME) that provides information on food security and coping strategies implemented in the refugee households, WFP has conducted an exercise categorizing the refugees-in-need to target them effectively in 2019. The exercise has been developed based on three dimensions; (1) food consumption score that is either acceptable, borderline, or poor, (2) livelihood coping strategies resorted by the refugees as high-coping (e.g. sending children to work) or low/no-coping, and (3) economic vulnerability level that is either above or below the minimum expenditure basket (294 TRY). Additionally, the productive capacity of the refugees are also calculated in this exercise, in order to determine the refugees who have a higher potential to transfer to the livelihood programs while the ESSN program continues for the more vulnerable refugees with little or no productive capacity. Having able-bodied men in the household and/or household member with a high school or above degree are considered as indicators of productive capacity, whereas single parents are exempted. Among all applicants, 29% of the refugees are found less vulnerable, and 29% of the applicants are vulnerable yet have higher capacity to produce compared to others. 31% of the ESSN applicants are vulnerable and have limited capacity, and 11% are vulnerable and have no/little capacity for productivity.

The use of able-bodied men as a capacity criteria is not to exclude women; the qualitative data that has been gathered from focus groups and surveys indicate that men are the primary bread winners in the refugee households. Similarly, the capacity of the disabled for productivity is not ignored, yet there are additional programs that needs to involve in order to actualize this capacity by matching in specific employment positions. Taking these into account, it should be kept in mind that the exercise had followed an operational approach for the entire refugee population and it has informative purpose for the decision makers.

6. Initial findings of the livelihoods survey:

- **2,113** HHs participated in livelihood survey in 7 provinces (İstanbul, Ankara, Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Adana, Bursa, Kilis)
- 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%** of them 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".

7. Updates on the CCTE:

Cash Component:

ESSN TASK FORCE

- In July 2018, 312,287 beneficiaries were entitled for CCTE payment due to regular school attendance. The number of cumulative CCTE beneficiaries (children who have received at least one CCTE payment) stands at 368,090.
- As of 6 July 2018, 357,357 children had been accepted to the programme (92% of CCTE applications).
- The top five provinces with most of the beneficiaries are as follows: İstanbul, Hatay, Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa and Ankara. Most of the CCTE beneficiaries are attending primary school (96.85%) and the majority of them (60%) are 1st to 3rd grade students.
- Most of the calls received by the TRC 168 Call Center about the CCTE programme are Information Requests (55.56%) while the rest are card related questions (43.66%), complaints (0.61%) and other (0.05%). Unlike the ESSN program, most of the calls are received from women (57.40%) compared to men (42.60%)
- In Izmir province, the number of CCTE beneficiaries as of July 2018 is 12,808 children.
- Question was asked regarding the detail of information that the Call Centre operators can see when they assist families, especially when responding to inquiries about rejections. Call Centres can now see reasons of rejections for CCTE payments.
- 8 SASFs and 4 Halkbank branches have been visited in 4 provinces in the Marmara and the Aegean Regions since June 8th, 2018.
- In Denizli, delays in processing applications were observed mostly due to SASFs pending applications for household verification visits.
- Delays in the DGMM registration process still effecting refugees' access to social services in the Aegean Region.
- In Denizli, it was reported that the children above the age of 10 are usually not sent to school.

Accelerated Learning Program (ALP), implemented by the Ministry of Education (MoNE) Lifelong Learning Directorate with technical and financial support from UNICEF will begin in Izmir in October 2018.

- ALP program will cover 12 provinces: the program began implementing in Ankara, Gaziantep, Hatay, İstanbul, Konya and Şanlıurfa as of May 2018 and will start in Adana, Bursa, Izmir, Mersin, Kayseri and Kilis in October, 2018.
- Purpose is to create access for the Syrian and Non-Syrian children, who have been outside the national education system due to different 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) to ensure they can continue their education.
- 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 Centers 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 even if the PEC in their district of residency is not included.
- In Izmir, the program will be implemented in Menemen, Kemalpaşa, Buca, Bayraklı, Gazi Emir, Torbalı, Konak Karabağlar and Bornova PECs. NGOs can direct Syrian children to these PECs starting at the end of September, to apply for the ALP. Some 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.
- 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 Centers in the relevant provinces have been informed. ALP students' families will receive 100 TL at the beginning of each learning module and will receive 60TL monthly if they continue the program regularly. CCTE rules apply.

Child Protection Component:

- Child Protection is being made by 16 offices in 15 cities by Kızılay Staff of Community Centers and Izmir is one of these cities.

- Child Protection Teams are composed of Case Workers, Translators and Protection Officer.
- This protection process has three main part: Identification, screening and response. In identification part, protection team identifies children that did not attend to school from the list of ministries. Children whose payments are stopped or have risk of stop due to attendance are number one priority. In the part of screening, child protection team visits these children in their house and make a risk analyze. There are three levels of risks: high, medium, low/no risk levels. Protection equip has to refer high and medium risky children to MoFSP which is a mandatory action. There are also three types of actions which are external referral, internal referral and on the spot elucidating.
- The total number of screened children is 43.957 in all Turkey and 4088 in İzmir. Gender disaggregation schema shows that the percentages of girls and boys are pretty close to each other which are %51 girls and %49 boys.
- After the provided services, there is a follow up process. Turkish Red Crescent, MoFSP and sometimes both of these institutions are responsible from these follow ups. After the review of the case if there is no more risk, equips close case.
- The most common case categories are education, child labour, PSS and economic problems.

8. AOB

Attachments:

1. ESSN Task Force Istanbul Presentation (WFP/TRC)
2. Presentation on CCTE Updates (UNICEF/TRC)
3. Vulnerability Profiling Exercise presentation
4. Initial findings of the livelihoods survey presentation