

## ESSN Task Force, Gaziantep Minutes

<b>Objective(s)</b>	i) to provide an update on ESSN and CCTE roll-out; ii) to discuss barriers and measures to improve access in SET; iii) to share the findings of the ESSN Market Monitoring Bulletin
<b>Time &amp; Date</b>	05 July, 10.30-12.00am
<b>Location</b>	TRC, Gaziantep

### 1. Introduction and welcome

- Following a tour de table, the ESSN co-chairs revisited the action points of the previous meeting, as follows:
  - WFP to recirculate the disability health reprot survey and recommendations, along with the list of hospitals which issue DHRs. **Status: Completed.**
  - Once translated into Arabic and Turkish, WFP to circulate the *Guidance note on DHRs for persons under temporary protection* to all partners. **Status: Completed.**
  - WFP and TRC to share information on the verification process and inclusion/exclusion errors identified to date at the next meeting. **Status: Pending.** WFP explained that the household verification process remains under discussion. Therefore, while WFP would provide a brief update under A.O.B., a more detailed overview will need to take place at a later stage.
  - WFP and TRC to provide a breakdown of eligibility rates per nationality, pending MoFSP sharing of necessary data. **Status: N/A.** WFP explained that a breakdown of eligibility per nationality is not available as data on ineligible applicants has not been made available. It is expected that the data on ineligible applicants will be shared in July/August, after which WFP will provide the breakdown to task force members.
  - WFP to recirculate the spreadsheet setting out application numbers and eligibility rates per district, including Gaziantep. **Status: Completed.** Task force members requested an updated dataset from WFP.
  - WFP to confirm the date and location of the proposed provincial-level meeting with NGOs in Sanliurfa by CoB 01 June, with a view to enabling interested ESSN Task Force members to participate. **Status: Completed.** The meeting took place in Sanliurfa on 08 June, bringing together over 20 NGO field staff.
  - WFP, TRC, and other partners to circulate meeting minutes to all Task Force members and report back on the discussion at the next ESSN Task Force meeting in Gaziantep. **Status: Completed.**
  - Partners interested in receiving sensitization material on the CCTE to reach out to UNICEF directly (Caner Esenyel, [cesenyel@unicef.org](mailto:cesenyel@unicef.org)). **Status: N/A.**
  - Partners interested in WFP/TRC training for their call centre operators on the ESSN (and, potentially, the CCTE) to reach out to WFP (Siobhan Simojoki, [siobhan.simojoki@wfp.org](mailto:siobhan.simojoki@wfp.org)) by Friday, 09 June. **Status: Ongoing.** WFP noted that WHH has confirmed its interest in a sensitization session targeting their outreach staff and WFP and TRC have therefore commenced planning for one session in Gaziantep, targeting field staff from Gaziantep and Hatay, and one session in Sanliurfa, targeting field staff from Sanliurfa and Mardin. The sessions are tentatively scheduled to take place on 24 and 25 July. Organizations which would like to take part were reminded to register their interest with WFP ([siobhan.simojoki@wfp.org](mailto:siobhan.simojoki@wfp.org))
  - UNHCR to provide feedback on the possibility of briefing on TP and IP and the ongoing verification process at the next Task Force meeting (or in another forum). **Status: Pending.** While UNHCR has agreed to brief task force members on the verification exercise, WFP suggested that, to avoid duplication, this action item be reviewed in August, after the series of briefings at the sector level have taken place
  - Members to provide feedback on the ToRs, if any. **Status: Complete.** WFP noted that the ToRs have been re-submitted to the STF and endorsed, extending the task force mandate a further six months.

05 July 2017, 10:30-12.00am, TRC

- ESSN Task Force Co-Chairs, World Food Programme (WFP) and Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) then provided an update on ESSN to date, noting that, to date, the ESSN has reached 685,577 beneficiaries. Nation-wide, as of 26 May, 306,458 applications had been lodged, on the basis of which 143,543 households have been found eligible, and 158,528 households have been found ineligible (4,378 remain to be assessed), bringing the eligibility rate to 37 per cent. Of total applications, 114,023 were lodged at the 18 TRC Services Centres across Turkey. Task force members asked whether up-to-date application figures can be made available online; WFP noted that information on the programme is published on the ESSN website (<https://www.essncard.com/>) and the Kizilay Card website (<http://kizilaykart-suy.org/TR/index.html>) and that WFP and TRC welcome feedback from members on additional information to be uploaded to these two sites. Partners also requested that, at the next meeting, WFP and TRC highlight trends in ESSN implementation, rather than static figures.

WFP noted that the revised transfer value (120 TL / person / month) was actualized in the June upload, with the revised criteria to come into effect in July. WFP noted that the revised transfer value was communicated to beneficiaries on 30 June via SMS, the ESSN Facebook site, and the ESSN website, and that the criteria change would be communicated in mid-July via the ESSN Facebook site, the ESSN website, and new information materials (in Arabic, Turkish, and Farsi). WFP reminded members that WFP and TRC are willing to ship these materials to their premises in mid-July for onward dissemination at project sites, and that interested partners which have not done so should contact WFP ([siobhan.simojoki@wfp.org](mailto:siobhan.simojoki@wfp.org)). WFP also noted that plans remain in place to organize sensitization sessions targeting NGO field staff (outreach workers, helpline operators, and community centre staff) at the end of June, and encouraged partners which have not done so to register their interest in taking part. Partners asked whether the sessions could cover both the ESSN and CCTE.

It was noted that the average size of ESSN eligible households – 6.3 – seems high and that this may suggest that refugees who have determined the criteria are including non-household members in their applications. WFP and TRC acknowledged that this is possible, but stressed that this would be identified during household visits. WFP also agreed to check the level of integration between the MoFSP and DGMM databases.

TRC presented more detailed application numbers and eligibility, focusing on SET. WFP again noted that because this analysis draws upon MoFSP's raw data, there is some divergence between these figures and the final, verified figures.

WFP noted that TRC is going to be supporting illiterate beneficiaries who are having difficulties obtaining their cards from Halkbank to access notaries. Partners should therefore inform all refugees facing this issue to call the TRC helpline (168), after which TRC field staff will follow up with him/her. Partners enquired as to the 'lag-time' between contacting the helpline and receiving support to obtain a notarial document, and WFP agreed to follow up.

### **Action Points:**

- Task force members to visit the ESSN website (<https://www.essncard.com/>) and the Kizilay Card website (<http://kizilaykart-suy.org/TR/index.html>) and contact WFP and TRC with suggestions;
- WFP and TRC to include trends in ESSN implementation in future presentations to the task force, rather than static figures;
- Partners interested in receiving ESSN sensitization materials to disseminate at their project sites in mid-July to contact WFP as soon as possible ([siobhan.simojoki@wfp.org](mailto:siobhan.simojoki@wfp.org));
- WFP to check the level of integration between the MoFSP and DGMM databases and share feedback with partners at the next task force meeting;
- WFP to check the 'lag-time' between contacting the helpline and receiving support to obtain a notarial document and share feedback with partners at the next task force meeting.

### **2. Update on ESSN roll-out in SET**

- WFP's Deputy Head of Area Office provided an update on ESSN roll-out SET. It was noted that 52 per cent of assessed households in SET have applied to the ESSN and, currently, 62 per cent of the entire ESSN caseload resides in the southeast. In terms of areas of focus, was noted that the WFP Area Office and Field Offices in Mersin, Hatay, and Sanliurfa continue to conduct regular monitoring missions to SASFs and SCs, Halkbank

branches, DGMM offices, and Nufus offices, as well as to undertake household visits in relevant districts to confirm the number and situation of refugees living in informal housing.

Participants requested further information on the level at which re-assessment, according to the revised criteria, would take place. WFP explained that MoFSP Ankara sent a directive to SASFs to initiate the reassessment process and made requisite system changes, and SASFs at the district level will now re-compare ineligible applications against the new criteria. WFP is monitoring this exercise closely.

WFP also noted that discussions are underway to launch the discretionary allowance in several pilot areas in SET. Locations currently being explored include Nizip, Mardin, Kizilteppe, and Mersin. Currently, in order to develop a standardized process, WFP is working closely with SASFs to understand and build upon the processes and tools which are in place for Turkish citizens.

### 3. Update on the ESSN Market Monitoring Bulletin

- WFP's M&E/VAM team shared the objectives, methodology, findings, and implications of the Q1 ESSN Market Monitoring Bulletin with task force members. Further information can be found in the attached presentation.
- Partners requested further information on how the September 2016 CBI-TWG MEB for SET was used to develop the ESSN MEB. WFP noted that while the CBI-TWG MEB was used, some adjustments were made to the percentage income spent on each category of expenditure based on data collected through the ESSN pre-assistance baseline (PAB) survey. It was also noted that the ESSN MEB relies on TurkStat price data, which is recognized as a limitation, given that TurkStat prices are often higher than those that refugees spend in their preferred markets. Nonetheless, the amounts per capita remain similar, with the CBI-TWG MEB amounting to TL 286 / person / month and the ESSN MEB amounting to 267.85 / person / month.

### 4. Update on the CCTE

- TRC provided an update on the CCTE, noting that the May 2017 payment benefited 56,245 children and 33,019 households. It was noted that beneficiaries span 78 provinces, with 6,606 children receiving CCTE assistance in Gaziantep to date. For further information, please see the attached presentation.

### 5. A.O.B.

- **Update on CVME:** WFP is carrying out the CVME surveys in conjunction with its face to face Post-Distribution Monitoring exercise, as part of an comprehensive approach to inform ESSN design and delivery. Findings will be made public.
- **Update on household verification:** ESSN household verification visits have commenced in Mersin (Akdeniz), Sanliurfa, Kahramanmaras (Haliliye), Osmaniye, Adana (Yuriger), and Istanbul (Bagcilar). If possible, WFP and TRC will provide further information on the household verification process at the next task force meeting.
- **Update on provincial-level coordination:** The first provincial-level ESSN coordination meeting took place in Sanliurfa on 08 June. The meeting note has been shared with the ESSN task force. A further provincial-level coordination meeting is scheduled to take place in Hatay on 10 July, and ESSN task force members are welcome to attend.
- **Update on Cash Gap Analysis and upcoming workshop to develop associated programmatic recommendations:** The workshop to follow up on the Cash Gap Analysis is scheduled to take place on 13 and 14 July in Gaziantep. WFP will provide a detailed read-out of outcomes at the next ESSN Task Force meeting.
- Next Meeting: 26 July (tbc).