

ESSN Task Force, Gaziantep Minutes

Objective(s)	i) to provide an update on ESSN and CCTE roll-out; ii) to discuss barriers and measures to improve access in SET; iii) to update partners on the Cash Gap Analysis
Time & Date	31 May, 10.30-12.00am
Location	TRC, Gaziantep

1. Introduction and welcome, incl. update on ESSN targeting criteria and transfer value

- Following a tour de table, the ESSN Task Force Co-Chairs, World Food Programme (WFP) and Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) provided an update on ESSN to date, noting that, to date, the ESSN has reached 601,103 beneficiaries. Nation-wide, as of 26 May, 219,555 applications had been lodged, on the basis of which 106,117 households have been found eligible, and 178,457 households have been found ineligible (7,381 remain to be assessed), bringing the eligibility rate to 37 per cent. Of total applications, 110,437 (37.8 per cent) were lodged at the 18 TRC Services Centres across Turkey.

WFP noted that 67 per cent of beneficiaries to date have been found eligible under two different ESSN criteria, while 25 per cent of beneficiaries met only one criteria. The largest percentage meets the dependency ratio criterion. Looking at breakdown by gender, currently, 52 per cent of beneficiaries are female and 48 per cent are male, while looking at breakdown by age, 36.4 per cent of beneficiaries are 18+, 48.8 per cent are ≥ 5 and < 18 , and 14.6 per cent are < 5 .

In response to member queries, WFP noted that the proposed new transfer value and eligibility criteria are expected to come into effect in June. The new criteria will be publicized through ESSN sensitization material, social media, etc. As follow up, ESSN Task Force members asked whether there might be an increase in dishonest testimonies in an effort to obtain ESSN assistance. WFP and TRC acknowledged that this is always a risk, but that appropriate checks and balances, including verification visits, should ensure that it does not occur on a significant scale. Members requested further information on the verification process and inclusion/exclusion errors at the next meeting.

In response to a query about the nationalities receiving ESSN assistance, TRC confirmed that the vast majority of applicants (91.3 per cent) are Syrian, six per cent are Iraqi, two per cent are Afghan, and less than one per cent are of other nationalities. Members asked whether it would be possible to share a breakdown of eligibility rates per nationality and TRC agreed pending MoFSP sharing of necessary data.

Further data is available in the attached presentation.

- As follow up to the March presentation on challenges to obtaining Disability Health Reports (DHR), WFP noted that the survey, including recommendations, has now been finalized. Recommendations are being taken forward, primarily, through the Health and Protection Working Groups. In addition, WFP has established linkages with WHO to ensure, *inter alia*, that plans to train translators on medical terminology include those hospitals which have been designated to issue DHRs. With UNHCR's support, WFP is also translating a guidance note on the DHR issuance process into Arabic and Turkish and, once complete, the note will be circulated to all partners. It was suggested that, if possible, the protocol signed between the MoH and AFAD stating that AFAD will cover expenses related to issuing DHRs to people under temporary protection be attached to the note to support advocacy with hospital staff. It was also noted that, in Gaziantep at present, the designated State hospital in Sehitkamil is refusing to issue DHRs to 98 ID card holders who have obtained a 99 number online, but have not been issued a new card. Partners were encouraged to share such reports with WFP (siobhan.simojoki@wfp.org) to support advocacy.

Action Points:

- WFP to recirculate the DHR survey and recommendations, along with the list of hospitals which issue DHRs by 01 June.
- Once translated into Arabic and Turkish, WFP to circulate the *Guidance note on DHRs for persons under temporary protection* to all partners.
- WFP and TRC to share information on the verification process and inclusion/exclusion errors identified to date at the next meeting.
- WFP and TRC to provide a breakdown of eligibility rates per nationality, pending MoFSP sharing of necessary data.

2. Discussion on district level application and eligibility rates in southeastern Turkey

- As had been agreed at the last meeting, WFP and TRC had circulated district-level application figures and eligibility rates to partners. It was suggested that, using this data, the Task Force collectively identify some districts where application numbers and eligibility rates do not match members' knowledge of populations, and together explore barriers to access, etc. It was noted that it is challenging to analyse the data without district-level population figures from DGMM. While no immediate solution has been identified to this issue, it was noted that WFP and TRC are hoping to obtain district-level MERNIS data on refugee households over the coming week(s); partners expressed a strong interest in reviewing this data, if/when possible.
- It was suggested that, going forward, and alongside discussions at the Gaziantep-level around application numbers and eligibility rates, provincial-level meetings be organized with NGOs in select locations. These meetings enable detailed discussion on local-level barriers to accessing the ESSN and possible NGO support to address such barriers through, *inter alia*, IPA. They will also provide an opportunity to share information directly with NGOs in the field. WFP suggested that an initial discussion take place in Sanliurfa on 8 June, encouraging ESSN Task Force members to take place where possible. Task Force members emphasized the importance of building on previous discussion on barriers and agreed to [re]share prior analysis.

Action Points:

- WFP to recirculate the spreadsheet setting out application numbers and eligibility rates per district, including Gaziantep;
- If/when possible, WFP and TRC to share district-level data on refugee household registration on MERNIS;
- 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;
- 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.

3. Update on the Cash Gap Analysis

- With brief mention that, on 25 May, the Cash Gap Analysis had received CBI-TWG endorsement and it should therefore be considered final, the initial objectives of the Cash Gap Analysis were revisited. It was noted that the exercise sought to analyze the refugee population in Turkey who require cash assistance to meet their basic needs and, in the absence of such assistance, may face heightened vulnerability to certain protection issues (e.g. child labour, early marriage, etc.). A central consideration was eligibility for and access to the Emergency Social Safety Net Programme (ESSN), with a view to: i) estimating and profiling refugee households which are not eligible to the ESSN, but may nonetheless require assistance from basic needs actors; and ii) analyzing barriers which may impede and delay eligible households' access to the ESSN, such as compliance with the pre-requisite related to civil registration in the MERNIS database, etc. The findings, detailed in the attached report, are intended to inform programming to address gaps in BN assistance and to facilitate access to the ESSN.
- The report has now been handed over to the national-level BNWG to determine next steps, including the process and forum through which to take more detailed discussion forward and formulate recommendations. To this end, it is expected that a workshop, bringing together BN and PR actors, will be organized within the coming weeks. It is not anticipated that donors will be invited at this point. The CBI-TWG co-coordinators will also present findings to the STF in Ankara on 01 June.

4. Update on the CCTE

- On behalf of UNICEF, which was unable to attend the meeting, WFP and TRC provided a brief update on the CCTE. In particular, it was noted that the first CCTE payment is scheduled to take place on 31 May, coinciding with the next ESSN value transfer; it is understood that this may heighten confusion, and WFP and UNICEF are coordinating to better choreograph payments in future months. The first payment is expected to benefit approx. 13,000 ESSN beneficiaries and approx. 20,000 non-ESSN beneficiaries. These numbers refer to applicant/cardholder numbers, rather than the numbers of children/students benefiting; this information will be shared at the next Task Force meeting.
- Notably, only children attending Turkish public schools will benefit from the first CCTE payment; TEC students are expected to benefit from July onward. This is due to some technical delays in YOBIS-ISAIS integration.
- Brochures in English, Turkish, and Arabic are being printed this week. Partners interested in receiving copies are encouraged to contact UNICEF directly (Caner Esenyel, cesenyel@unicef.org).
- As follow up to concerns raised at the previous meeting, it was noted that TRC Call Centre operators have been briefed on the CCTE and are ready to receive queries from beneficiaries. Six additional operators are being hired to manage the anticipated increase in calls with the first CCTE payment. On this note, WFP asked whether partners which are running their own helplines / call centres would be interested in the provision of training on the ESSN (and, potentially, the CCTE) to their operators. Many partners automatically refer calls regarding the ESSN to the TRC Call Centre but, in some cases, it may be preferable to respond to such queries directly. Partners interested in this type of collaboration should reach out to WFP (siobhan.simojoki@wfp.org).

Action Points:

- Partners interested in receiving sensitization material on the CCTE to reach out to UNICEF directly (Caner Esenyel, cesenyel@unicef.org).
- 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) by Friday, 09 June.

5. AOB

- ESSN Task Force members requested further information from UNHCR on the processes for provision of international and temporary protection in Turkey and on the verification process.
- Partners were reminded to provide feedback on the ToRs, if any, by noon on 01 June 2017, after which the Syria Task Force will be asked to review and re-endorse the Task Force for the further six months.
- Next Meeting: 8 June (tbc – postponed to W1/July due to Ramazan Bayrami).

Action Points:

- 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) by Friday, 09 June.
- Members to provide feedback on the ToRs, if any, by noon on 01 June 2017.