

## ESSN Task Force Ankara Minutes

<b>Objective</b>	Provide an update on the ESSN (WFP/TRC), Q&A with DGMM and AOB.		
<b>Date of meeting</b>	26 March 2018 14:00 - 16:00	<b>Location</b>	WFP/TRC Park Oran Office, Ankara Yukari Dikmen Mahallesi, Turan Gunes Bulvari, No: 180Y, E Blok, Kat: 3 Office No: 3-4, Oran, Ankara

### 1. Action points:

Follow up issue:	Who will take action:	Deadline:
Provision of information on Homecare Allowance	ESSN TF Co-Chairs	Once the SoP is finalized with MoFSP
Presentation on swept backs: dormant accounts and uncollected cards	TRC	ESSN TF meeting in April
Detailed information on call centre calls` language preferences	TRC	Completed: 26 Mar 2018
DGMM to be invited to the ESSN TF meeting to present `procedure for acquiring citizenship`	TRC	Completed: 26 Mar 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 19 March, a total of 421,970 applications were registered; 3,553 applications were not assessed; 222,891 applications were deemed eligible and 195,526 applications were ineligible. Approximately, 38.35% of the applications were registered by TRC Service Centres. A total of 1,258,489 beneficiaries received ESSN assistance in March (51.24% female/48.76% male).
- As of March, 4,627 people acquired Turkish citizenship. As it was mentioned earlier, If the head of household has acquired citizenship, the family can go and re-apply with a new head of household and may be eligible for the ESSN again based on demographic criteria. If someone in family acquire citizenship, the criteria for the family to be evaluated. When HH became eligible, Turkish members are not receiving ESSN assistance but the others are. DGMM official added that:
  - Syrians who have profession are detected in the GOCMEN system and identified at central level.
  - DGMM informs the PDMMs that these individuals are eligible to acquire Turkish citizenship.
  - They are evaluated based on the /within the scope of Turkish Citizenship Law (Law No. 5901)/Article 12 as exceptional cases that can acquire citizenship by proposal of the Ministry of Interior and approval of the Council of Ministers.

#### *“Exceptions in acquiring Turkish citizenships*

*Article 12- (1) Provided that there is no obstacle as regards national security and public order, aliens, set out below, may be given Turkish citizenship upon a proposal by the Ministry of Interior and a decision of the Council of Ministers.*

*a) Those who bring into Turkey industrial facilities or have rendered or believed to render an outstanding service in the social or economic arena or in the fields of science, technology, sports, culture or arts and regarding whom a reasoned offer is made by the relevant ministries.*

*b) Those whose admission to citizenship is deemed to be necessary.*

*c) Those who are recognized as migrants.”*

- It is an option for the people and they may refuse the proposal.
- They are evaluated by the commissions in the provinces. Head of households are invited to the PDMM.
- So far, almost 40,000 people acquired Turkish Citizenship (10,000-12,000 files). By the time this process completed, approximately 50,000 people (15,000 files) will obtain Turkish citizenship. It is up to the high level decision to extend the scope.
- Once they become citizen, they are taken out from the temporary protection system. Their 99 number IDs are ceased.
- They are informed that when they become citizens, they will lose their rights to receive other social assistance that are provided for the ones with temporary protection status.
- Most of them accepted it. Only 2-3% of them declined/refused it.
- DGMM do not receive applications as it will create a huge amount of workload. Therefore, DGMM evaluates the eligible ones on the system and via the Ministries such as Ministry of Health. Exceptionally, they accept applications (dilekce) from PDMMs.
- For those who have more than one spouses, only spouses with official marriage and their children are accepted. In multiple marriage (polygamy) cases, the other spouses and their children are registered as their relatives and are not provided with the citizenship.
- Top ten districts in Anatolian region are located in Ankara, Konya, Corum, Kirsehir and Aksaray provinces.
- Based on the information provided by Ankara Area office (AAO):
  - Focus Group Discussions were conducted in Eskisehir, Afyonkarahisar, Ankara and Nevsehir. The theme was education and health. Nothing alarming were reported in the area. In general, people are happy with the health and education services.
  - Key observations from WFP AAO Monitoring are large SASFs have more translation challenges than the small SASFs in terms of/during the household verification visits.
  - Problems with social security insurance for the ones who are attending the vocational trainings/school are reported.
  - The 3rd phase of the CVME (Comprehensive Vulnerability Mapping Exercise) jointly with TRC is in process.
  - There are few SASFs that have not implemented ESSN so far such as Tunceli has got the first 2 families on the ESSN in the last 3 months. Nationwide, Hakkari is the only province with few applications, but no beneficiaries. As for the districts, approximately 200 districts have no indication of foreigners, no application of ESSN.
  - UNHCR shared the information that in Batman, people are living in the tents, and do not have capacity to apply for the ESSN. For such cases, the partners are asked to report the informal houses cases without MERNIS registration to WFP and TRC since there is a follow up and advocacy mechanism in place with NUFUS for those cases at field level and central level. They will advocate in the field level with the NGOs and partners in order to ask MERNIS office to appoint addresses for them or share the information with NUFUS Directorate in Ankara for possible solutions.
- More than 2.1 million of printed materials have been distributed in 5 languages. If you have not received the printed ESSN materials, please inform us.
- Regarding the language breakdown, as of October 2017 TRC Call Centre were able to reply in 5 languages (Arabic, Turkish, Pashto, English and Farsi). After February, nine out of 18 TRC Service Centres have been closed. TRC Area Offices are located in Istanbul, Ankara and Gaziantep with the Field Offices in Istanbul (Anatolia), İzmir, Hatay, Samsun, Van, Erzurum. TRC Area and Field offices located in strategic locations across Turkey, will serve as a base for operational teams. They are responsible for undertaking activities related to ESSN monitoring, operational activities including site visits, household visits, focus group discussions, advocacy with local authorities, as well as sensitization and referral activities.

### **3. Q & A with DGMM**

- Istanbul is closed for new registrations. This decision is made by the Governor together with the Ministry. Only emergency cases and family unification cases are accepted. The situation in Hatay is the same. They cannot refer the ones who are not registered in those provinces to the neighbouring provinces as it is difficult to follow up those cases at the DGMM/PDMM level. They are working on the solutions via GocNet. Please note that only Istanbul and Hatay are officially closed for registration. In Bursa specific, the registration of the ones without travel permit (yol izin belgesi) cannot be updated for the cases that have been registered in other

provinces but residing in Bursa. By the implementation of verification exercise which will start in April, it is expected that they will be able to update their current addresses and will be able to be seen as registered in Bursa.

- Regarding the registration process for families who have children at school age (for CCTE purpose): After taking the adults' fingerprints, there is one month waiting period. During this period, if DGMM receives a positive response from the security units, their registration is completed. The daily registration numbers are limited. Therefore, they may be in the waiting list.
- UNICEF Field Monitor provided some examples by emphasizing protracted ID card period for Ankara and Konya (2-6 months) based on findings in the field. She asked if there is any temporary/permanent capacity enhancement plan to resolve id card issue specifically in the big cities. Reportedly, DGMM does not have any plans to increase the human resources capacity of some provinces. Yet, it was mentioned that by June 2018, 350-400 new staff will be recruited and they plan to assign new staff to the busiest PDMMs.
- Humanitarian Residence (insani ikamet) status is not given any more due to the policy change and the holders are being asked either to apply for international protection or short term residence permit. Policy of changing convention refugee status to international protection.) It was reported that DGMM encourages PoCs to apply for international protection following expiry date of humanitarian residence permits. In Ankara, there is a transition from humanitarian residence permit to international protection involving 40.000-50.000 Iraqis.
- Procedure of humanitarian residence permit (insani ikamet): There are approximately 40,000-50,000 refugees with that status in Ankara. Appointments are given to the ones who lives in Ankara up to June 2018. The ones who would like to apply to Short Term Residence Permit should pay the residence fees. It is important to inform people that they will not be under protection and assistance scheme available for the refugees. The DGMM official stated that there is no detailed information provided to the people in this regard.
- The ones who apply to international protection receive the 99 number as per their application and considered as IP applicant, thus they can apply to ESSN, and there is no need to wait for acquiring IP status.
- Once the Temporary Protection status is changed/ceased for security reasons, refugees lose their rights to receive any kind of services which are related with temporary protection status. Same rule is applied to international protection status holders.
- There is a plan to open Information Counselling Centers in 10 provinces with high number of refugees. The one in Kahramanmaraş is opened at the PDMM building and the other one recently opened at Ataturk Airport International Departures Unit.
- For the unregistered Afghans especially, DGMM suggests to refer them to registration as soon as possible to prevent any kind of deportation or detention practices.
- Verification exercise: finished in some provinces such as Ankara and Konya. The process is ongoing in provinces of Hatay, Gaziantep, Istanbul, and some western provinces. The last phase will start in Izmir, Bursa, Diyarbakir and Adiyaman. The number so far reached to more than two million.
- For the provinces with ongoing verification exercise, there are delays in giving ID cards due to the heavy caseload. The DGMM is hiring 350 more staff (plus some experts too), but this will take a long time. The verification process will take till the end of 2018.
- Black sea area PDMM's reporting needing more resources to getting out IDs in a timely manner, having backlogs of 1,200, 1,400, 1,500 and 4,000 (Samsun).
- DGMM Handover process: The legal basis is completed with the amendment to the Foreigners' Law. In addition to the handover process in between AFAD and DGMM, there are preparations for signing relevant protocols with different line ministries and directorates, such as MoH and SGK.
- In the camps, they will continue to use Afadcard for e-voucher in 2018. There is a plan to change it into Kizilaycard in 2019.
- UNICEF Field Monitor asked about ID cards without impressed stamps/signatures by emphasizing difficulties that Halkbank Branches staff experience especially during the card distribution period providing examples from Kayseri. DGMM official stated that in the cities where the verification process is completed, all ID cards are sealed and signed; they should also have impressed stamps to eliminate any kind of fraud issues. Yet, verification process is not completed in Kayseri. Reportedly, there might still be ID cards previously issued without stamps/signatures in Kayseri. DGMM expects to resolve such issues by completing verification

process. By that time, participants were recommended to refer those persons to PDMM to change their ID cards.

- Regarding the irregular migrants, it is important to refer them to the registration as soon as possible, otherwise there is no services available for them.

#### 4. AOB

- CCTE Update will be presented next month.
- Please remember to send any issues/challenges observed with as much detail as possible (location, date, etc.) to the ESSN TF focal points.
- For any briefing requests on up to date general information on CCTE/ESSN for the teams and field staff, please contact with ESSN TF team by indicating the language preferences of the briefing, time and venue and the number of participants.
- The next meeting will be held on **19 April at 09:30 at the WFP/TRC JMC Office.**

#### **Attachments:**

1. ESSN Task Force Ankara Presentation