

ESSN Task Force Istanbul Minutes

Objective

- Provide an update on the ESSN,
- Access the ESSN for Non-Syrians:
 - IP registration and satellite city procedure
 - TRC Assessment on Afghans and TRC assistance to the other nationalities
- Updates on the CCTE
- AOB.

Date of meeting 11 June 2018
14:00 - 16:00

Location ASAM Dolapdere Çok Yonlu Destek Merkezi Bostan Mah. Küçük Odalar Sok. No:9 Beyoğlu/İSTANBUL Turkey I

1. Action points:

Follow up issue:	Who will take action:	Deadline:
Provision of information on Severe Disability Allowance	ESSN TF Co-Chairs	Once the SoP is finalized with MoFSP
Provision of information on SASF Allowance	ESSN TF Co-Chairs	On-going. Once the SoP is finalized with MoFSP
Detailed information on the HH verification numbers.	TRC/WFP	Next ESSN TF Meeting
`Livelihoods` as a theme for ESSN TF meetings (ISKUR to be invited)	TRC&WFP	TBC

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 6 June, a total of 443,856 applications were registered; 2,513 applications were not assessed; 237,504 applications were deemed eligible and 203,839 applications were ineligible. 37.78% of the applications were registered by 9 TRC Service Centres. A total of 1,345,128 beneficiaries received ESSN assistance in May (51.33% female/48.67% male).
- Inclusion rate is 54%. Average household size is 5.82.
- It is noted that there is a slight increase on the percentage of the disability criteria.
- On 8 May , 1075 accounts were swept back: 678 uncollected cards (3+ months) and 397 dormant accounts (6+ months). Please note that the accounts are only suspended; it can be reinitiated again.
- DGMM announced the Bayram break for TP, according to this circulate, permission, rules, date and obligation are like below;
 - There are two separate travel periods
 - Ramadan break: 17 May – 14 June 2018
 - Kurban break: 24 June – 14 September
 - Obligation to return to Turkey before the end of the permitted periods
 - Not to merge these periods or extend their returns beyond a period of 3 months (90 days)
 - Refugees are permitted for multiple entries
 - The returnees need to use the same border gate for exiting and returning back to Turkey
 - Refugees will lose their TP status and ESSN entitlements if they exceed 90 days
 - ESSN assistance will continue
- 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 . Top three most applied districts in Marmara region are Yildirim and Osmangazi from Bursa and Esenyurt from Istanbul. Edirne, Kirklareli and

Canakkale have the least percentage of DGMM registered Syrians applied for ESSN due to their special geographical locations and circumstances. After the DGMM verification process, result shows that there is decrease on province TP population, in that province population is less than actual. so with 4% rate of DGMM registered TP who applied for ESSN, Edirne jumped to almost 50% after verification process.

- Based on the information provided by WFP & TRC Istanbul Area offices (IAO):
 - Both WFP and TRC IAOs cover the same 12 provinces. Estimated number of refugees: 803,004 TPs and 62,853 IPs.
 - 28 CVME surveys were conducted in three provinces (Bursa, Istanbul, Yalova), covering seven districts.
 - In May, two Focus Group Discussions (FGD) conducted in two provinces during Ramadan: Yalova and Istanbul. In total, 15 people participated in the FGDs. One group was women and one was men. WFP IAO shared a summary of the FGDs on the topic of ESSN Selection and Reassessment Process. Some of the findings are: 1) Regarding the ESSN criteria, the majority of people find the application process easy. However, the criteria is not very clear for all of them. The majority believes that single mothers and people with chronic diseases are people who need to be considered in the programme. 2) The participants do not know anything about manipulating the criteria. Moreover, they believe that all the refugees are vulnerable and they all need assistance. 3) The participants were aware of the HH verification visits and their purpose. They were also aware of who conducts them. 4) According to participants, The SASF staff is efficient and professional. The focus of verification visits is the house conditions, the assets they have and the composition of the family. 5) The participants were not aware of the monthly reassessment. 6) All of them agree on the necessity of a notification period that can be two or three months. 7) Coping is more difficult now due to the inflation. People who are excluded usually cope in giving up on some essential needs like health and education, or they send children to work. 8) The participants believe that the programme can include more people that are vulnerable if the SASF visits all the HHs and decide upon the actual situation.
- Verification Exercise: It is completed in Edirne and Kocaeli. Number of Syrians under TP decreased from 803,000 to 787,800. Accordingly, the application rates are affected by the changes. For example, in Edirne Syrians under TP were 6,500 now about 600. Application rate in Edirne changed from 4% to almost 50%.
- **UNFPA Project- Reducing Barriers for Key Refugee Groups in Accessing Protection Services:** Refugee Support Hotline (0850 888 0 539) provides support in four different languages (Arabic, Farsi, English and Turkish). Five centers in Istanbul, Denizli and Mersin. Implementing partners are Social Policies, Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Studies Association (SPOD), Positive Living Association and Red Umbrella Sexual Health and Human Rights Association.
- During the monitoring visits, some SASFs reported that they are having problems to add family members who are under 18 and to upload DHR to the system. This was raised to be discussed with the relevant stakeholders at the country office level. It will be also discussed at the Regional SASF workshop.
- 23 protection cases were reported regarding the registration issues, medical and health services and access to Disability Health Report. These cases were Referred to TRC, ARR Japan, Multeci – Der, ASAM and UNHCR.
- TRC IAO Outreach activities: 6 out of 11 provinces were visited. Outreach teams conducted 200 visits. Muhtar visits dominated outreach's May activities with an aim to reach those experiencing ID or address registration problems etc. As for the sensitisation activities, SASF visits helped TRC outreach team support those experiencing obstacles at SASFs while trying to apply to the programme.
- Gender breakdown in Call Center sub categories were requested in the previous meeting. It was presented.

3. **Access the ESSN for Non-Syrians:**

IP registration and satellite city procedure (ASAM)

- DGMM, which was established with the Law on Foreigners and International Protection (LFIP), became the sole authority responsible for receiving and registering applications for IP since 2013.
- The LFIP maintains geographical limitation but provides protection and assistance to all asylum seekers and refugees regardless of country of origin.
- Asylum-seekers in Turkey coming outside of CoE, *except for the Syrians*, are registered by ASAM first and then referred to PDMM.
- ASAM started registration of newcomers in January 2013 on behalf of UNHCR. Registration with the Turkish authorities is the most important way of securing individual's rights in Turkey. It is also an important obligation for foreigners in Turkey as it forms the legal basis for individual's stay in Turkey and allows individual's access to

public services such as health, education and protects against repatriation. ID (Kimlik) is also important and obligation to apply to ESSN.

- ASAM registration is performed in the ASAM HQ office in Ankara between 07:30-17:30 on a first come first served basis.
- Following registration, newcomers are referred to satellite cities for registration by the provincial directorates. Once they are registered by PDMM in the satellite city, the person gets the status of *international protection applicant*. Registration in ASAM does not mean to be registered by PDMM. There is no follow up after their registration and assigning to the satellite cities.
- In exceptional cases such as unaccompanied minor who can not travel alone, registration can be performed in ASAM and UNHCR Field offices.
- Regulations of satellite cities are directed by DGMM. They meet regularly to decide status of the satellite cities. The list is not changes dramatically. For example, Antalya was never included in the list and is not planned to be included in the future.
- Humanitarian Protection applications are not accepted by ASAM. They are directed to DGMM for registration. ASAM offices are only providing counseling for those are seeking Humanitarian Protection.

TRC Assessment on Afghans and TRC assistance to the other nationalities (TRC)

- TRC has been tasked to determine and report the physical conditions and the service standards of 19 Repatriation Centers and 1 Reception & Accommodation Center operated by DGMM.
- Within the scope of protocol signed with DGMM, 3 meals and urgent needs are met during the period of irregular migrants detained by Law Enforcement Agency in Düzce, Bolu, Elazığ, Erzincan, İzmir, Kırklareli, Muş, Sivas, Edirne, Canakkale, Hatay and Ankara.
- Besides Afghan and Iraqi immigrants, TRC is providing support to Meskhetian Turks (Ahiska), Uyghur Turks, Egyptian immigrants. Aid activities are carried out in line with the needs of immigrants for both food and non-food items.
- Blood donation: The new Blood and Blood Product Law (law number 5624) brings important responsibilities to the blood centres about traceability. Blood donation cannot be accepted from a foreign person whom does not have a resident permit (identity number) with the intention of sustainability of the traceability principle. The requirements of the blood donations for the foreign people in Turkey are detailed in the National Guideline of Blood and Blood Products published by Ministry of Health with regard to the Regulation and Law of Blood and Blood Products to which Turkish Red Crescent is liable and responsible. According to that, an ID number is given to foreign people who have resident permit in Turkey. It is possible to donate blood with this ID number nevertheless the blood donation from the foreign people in the tourist status cannot be accepted for the reason of the unsustainability of the traceability.
- Regarding Temporary Accommodation Centers, these centers are governed by the DGMM. Last April, DGMM took the responsibility of them from AFAD. TRC provides nutrition facilities in those centers. TRC has responsibility to create child friendly spaces.
- Regarding the Repatriation Centers' conditions, TRC provides suggestions to DGMM periodically. DGMM is also working with different NGOs to make the conditions better. For example, there are child spaces, which DGMM is working with UNICEF.
- Regarding the referral mechanism for the in-kind assistance, NGOs can provide the needs assessments to TRC. NGOs can reach to TRC for collaboration.
- According to TRC call center data, we see that call center accept some calls rather than ESSN or CCTE with 2% ratio under type of "other", this type of calls mainly consist of referrals like this example. So for any in kind assistance, NGOs may call 168, call center will make necessary internal referrals
- TRC has the responsibility of the observing in the Repatriation Centers.

4. Updates on the CCTE:

Cash Component:

- In May 2018, 272,031 beneficiaries were entitled for CCTE payment due to regular school attendance. After the May 2018 CCTE payment (which was the seventh payment under the scope of the CCTE for Refugees Program), the number of cumulative CCTE beneficiaries (children who have received at least one CCTE payment) stands at 356,611.
- As of 4 June 2018, 356,676 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 (94.26%) and the majority of them (60%) are 1st to 3rd grade students.

ESSN TASK FORCE

- Most of the calls received by the TRC 168 Call Center about the CCTE programme are Information Requests (61.17%) while the rest are card related questions (38.08%), complaints (0.69%) and other (0.06%). Unlike the ESSN program, most of the calls are received from women (57.55%) compared to men (42.45%)
- In Istanbul province, the cumulative number of CCTE beneficiaries as of May 2018 is 51,469 children.
- A decrease in the number of beneficiaries was observed from March to May payment period. In the Marmara Region, specifically in Istanbul and Bursa provinces, a slight decrease has been observed. Reasons for the fluctuations are being investigated by the UNICEF and TRC teams. Results will be shared when available. If you hear anything about refugees movements related with seasonal agriculture work or any other reasons, please inform UNICEF & TRC.
- This programme is designed specifically for the well-being of the family. This payment encourages the families to send their children to school. So that the child can continue to school. The families have an option to spend the payment amounts through POS machines and it is possible to extract the types of goods and services they buy from Kizilay Card statistics. It should be noted that the families mainly prefer to withdraw money from ATMs instead of using POS machines. UNICEF has other post-assistance monitoring mechanisms like third party monitoring where one of the questions is about the types of expenditures.
- CCTE program provides 6 payments in total, which is conditional to the attendance for 10 months of academic year (from September to June, inclusive) in a one year period. 6 payment dates are within the months of September, November, January, March, May, and July. However, these payments are conditional to the school attendance during the academic year.
- Call Center operators can see the reason of not receiving/rejection of the child-family.
- Applicants receive SMS messages if their application for CCTE is rejected but those SMSs do not include the reasons for rejection. When beneficiaries receive SMS for each payment cycle the reason is provided if they did not meet the conditionality for that payment cycle (school attendance. In addition, either new applicants or existing beneficiaries, when they call the call center; the call center operators are able to inform them for the exact reason for rejection of their application or rejection of their payment for a specific payment cycle.
- 88% of total number of CCTE beneficiaries were Syrian and 12% non-Syrian as of April 2018.

Child Protection Component:

- Child Protection is being made by 16 offices in 15 cities by Kizilay 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 ministry. 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.
- 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.
- Total number of reached children is 36,341 in whole Turkey and Istanbul (Bagcilar and Sultanbeyli) has 6,861 children in this data. Majority of these children have no risk and this rate is 72.86%. As the risk level increases, the number of people decreases. Majority of the children are 6 to 9 years old.
- The most common case categories are education, child labour, PSS and economic problems.

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.
- The next meeting will be held on 09 July. The meeting venue is TBD.
- We would like to thank to the ones who participated to the Lessons Learned Exercise (LLE) process in May.
- Dina Morad is leaving from WFP Turkey at the end of June. Arzum Karasu will be on board as the new WFP Coordination PPO in mid-September.

Attachments:

1. ESSN Task Force Istanbul Presentation (WFP/TRC)
2. Presentation on IP Registration and Satellite City Procedure (ASAM)
3. Presentation of Migration and Refugee Centers Department (TRC)

11 June 2018, 14:00-16:00, WFP/TRC Istanbul

4. Presentation on CCTE Updates (UNICEF/TRC)