

ESSN Task Force Ankara Minutes

Objective

- Provide an update on the ESSN
 - Severe Disability Allowance
- AOB.

Date of meeting

26 July 2018
14:00 - 15:00

Location

UNDP Advocacy Hall, 16th Floor, Yildiz Kule.
Yukari Dikmen Mah, Turan Gunes Bulvari No:
106, Yildiz Kule Kat.16, Ankara

1. Action points:

Follow up issue:	Who will take action:	Deadline:
Provision of information on Severe Disability Allowance	ESSN TF Co-Chairs	Completed: 26 July 2018
Provision of more information on SASF Allowance	ESSN TF Co-Chairs	Pending: Once the SoP is finalized with MoFSP, it will be shared with the partners
Provision of more information on Household Verification SoP	ESSN TF Co-Chairs	Pending for TRC to receive info from MoFSP
`Livelihoods` as a theme for ESSN TF meetings	TRC&WFP	Completed: 26 July 2018
Bajram permissions for more than 90 days needs clarification	TRC&WFP to follow up with DGMM	Completed
LLE report: open discussions around the recommendations and move forward	ESSN TF Co-Chairs	Aug-Sep 2018. It will be translated into Turkish. Findings will be shared at the next ESSN TF meeting.
Request for nationality breakdown of ESSN application pool	TRC	No available data at TRC, pending for follow up with MoFSP.
Alternative communication channel to be established for the partners to have access to timely, quick and updated information about ESSN	TRC and WFP co-chairs	ESSN TF meetings in September 2018
SMSs to be sent to the partners before sending to the refugees	TRC and WFP	ESSN TF meetings in September 2018

Household verification visits: TRC has sent official request to MoFSP on how many HH visits have been done so far and what is the exclusion rate. Nationwide SASF offices are holding HH visits and assess beneficiaries if they need assistance or not. We are closely following if we can receive the exclusion depending on the HH verification visits. SASF regional workshops have been held. During these workshops, SASF, PDMM and Nufus Managers came together to discuss how to implement the SoP.

Bajram permissions for more than 90 days and their ESSN status: The regular procedure for sweep back for the ESSN dormant accounts and uncollected cards will be applied to those. Once they are back – even after 3 months- they can go

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and collect their cards. However, they will not be able to use the previous payments. If they are still eligible, they will start to collect the assistance in the following month. TRC/WFP demanded from DGMM to share the list of the people have permission and the ones have not turned back to the country before the end of 2018. There was a solution for the seasonal workers; MoFSP had a circular that HH verification visits for those working as a seasonal worker. It may be the same solution for the people who went to Syria, the issue is pending for DGMM reply.

ESSN TF LLE report: The report has been finalized with the inputs from the partners, the translation into Turkish will be completed by Mid-Aug and the two versions will be shared externally. As of September ESSN TF meetings, there will be dedicated sessions to discuss the recommendations and move forward.

2. Updates on the ESSN:

- The Co-Chairs World Food Programme (WFP) and Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) provided an update of the ESSN to date noting that as of 25 June, a total of 445,951 applications were registered; 2,015 applications were not assessed; 241,691 applications were deemed eligible and 203,245 applications were ineligible. Approximately, 37.71% of the applications were registered by TRC Service Centres. A total of 1,361,343 beneficiaries received ESSN assistance in June (51.31% female/48.69% male). Inclusion rate is 53.6%. Average household size is 5.81.
- On 8 June 1, 130 accounts were swept back: 696 uncollected cards (3+ months) and 434 dormant accounts (6+ months). Please note that the accounts are only suspended; it can be reinitiated again.
- The issue of Halkbank ATMs turning automatically to Arabic has been solved. Now it is available in two options: Turkish and Arabic.
- **Severe Disability Allowance (SDA)** is confirmed by ECHO. Details of the SDA are as following:
 - Must be eligible for ESSN assistance (DHR validity check until 25 Sep for ESSN. People are selected among from the ESSN beneficiaries.
 - Must have a valid DHR (DHR validity check until 25 July for SDA) that is in the system of MoFSP-SASF.
 - Disability level: 50% or more AND severely impaired that means if the person has somebody else's support for survival. It depends on the decision of the Board of Doctors. For example, beneficiary may have 80% disability, but if he/she can survive by her/himself, the board may not flag this case as severely impaired.
 - First payment: August
 - 600 TL per person
- Reference letter from SASFs to authorized hospitals: SASFs can use the referral letter to refer the disabled refugees to the nearest state hospital that can provide DHR.
 - Refugees may be asked to pay the cost for DHR (IP+TP).
 - Circulars sent to SASFs.
- FAQs will be prepared and shared with the partners.
 - **Obtaining Disability Health Report:** DHR is something very technical; there are objective tools to assess the disability. MoH are using international standards. There are some tensions related to the social cohesion issues that the hospitals may refuse to give DHR, the refugees may see long appointments durations, doctors that do not complete or provide the report. On the DHR document, there is a check box to identify if the person is severely disabled or not. Many cases are reported that this section is left blank. This box should not be left blank. In order to raise awareness for the doctors and channel the information of that it is important for the refugees, the WFP and TRC is in touch with Health WG via WHO and the WFP/TRC field teams are reaching out to the hospitals. MoH was informed that once beneficiaries are informed about the SDA and there will be so many people reaching out the hospitals both the ones who already have a DHR and not meet with the requirements to check if they can in addition to the ones who do not have the DHR, but have disabilities. There is a circular that DHR is not free of charge. As you know there are different implementations, some hospitals are still proving it free of charge.
 - **DHR Appeal Process:** If the person is not happy with the results, they can reach to the Provincial Directorates of Health to assign another hospital. If the second DHR report result is contradictory to the first, then the Directorate assigns a referee hospital where the result will be the final. The refugees may have asked to pay the cost of the reports.
- As per the request from the partners to be able to reach to the Call Center (168) to receive timely and updated information about ESSN, TRC replied that the Call Center has been designed to be a direct communication channel with and for the refugees. For the partners, there are other channels such as ESSN TF meetings. If the

partners see the need for another communication channel for timely and quick information provision, TRC will internally discuss the options and will share with the partners at the upcoming meetings.

- Expiry of the DHR: Some DHR are issued permanently. If it is permanent, there is no expiry date. The decision is on the Board of Doctors based on the physical, medical, mental and general condition of the person. If they believe that the person's situation may change within time, they put an expiry date on DHR. It is important both for ESSN and SDA assistance that the DHRs submitted to the SASFs are valid.
- Move forward:
 - ESSN TF Lessons Learned Exercise: Report will be shared in August and findings will be discussed at the ESSN Task Force Meetings in September.
 - Future of the ESSN Workshop was held in 20 June chaired by ECHO with the participation of WFP, TRC, UNHCR, UNDP, FAO and ISKUR. Discussions will directly reflect the ESSN-3.
 - SASF Regional Workshops are being organized in Ankara, Istanbul, Izmir and Gaziantep; SASF, PDMM and Nufus are participating. All challenges/barriers to access to ESSN will be discussed (inclusion/exclusion error). The ESSN team together with the MoFSP are working on the SoP for SASF Allowance for the ones that are excluded from the ESSN Assistance due to not meeting criteria.
 - In July, Focus Group Discussions (FGD) were conducted in five provinces on the theme of Return and Arrivals. The report to be shared by late August.
 - **Deactivation of the TP IDs:** At the provinces where DGMM Verification Exercise has been completed, there may be deactivation for the TP IDs that have not verified their registration that may result with no access to the assistance including ESSN and CCTE. The issue has been shared with UNHCR and the beneficiaries have been informed that if their IDs have been deactivated because of this process, they should reach to the PDMM offices in the places where they are currently residing. There is no requirement to go back to the provinces where they have been registered.

3. **AOB**

- Please reach to us if you have any suggestions to the themes of the upcoming Focus Group Discussions. It is confirmed with the M&E team to share the questionnaire of the next external FGDs in advance with the interested ESSN TF partners for their inputs and comments to the questionnaire. We will channel you with the M&E team if you would like to provide any contributions.
- 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 **20 September. The venue and time TBD.**

Attachments:

1. ESSN Task Force Ankara Presentation (WFP/TRC)
2. FGD Report – June: Social Cohesion
3. ESSN Q2 Monitoring Report
4. Social Cohesion Report