ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT SECTOR (EE)

General Coordination Meeting Minutes

28th November 2023, from 13.30 -15.30 hrs.
Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Chairs	Miki Takahashi - UNDP, Economic Empowerment Sector Co-Coordinator Ertan Aktan- FAO, Portfolio Coordinator
Agenda of the Meeting	1. Intro/Minutes review 2. EE Reporting 3. Program Updates: • Transportation document compile • EE and FSL Hubs updates (5 mins each) 4. ILO Presentation on the Labour Market Study in the EQ areas 5. SPARK Presentation on Loan Guarantee Fund Support 6. AOB
Link to see up-to-date EQ Economic Empowerment Sector Members	https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1bHax0cRGU04MN50EKBI8TwZmDXDE6LTAMc57Wxn8Ujs/edit#gid=1525459816

Participants	
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1. Intro/Minutes Review

- The meeting began with a welcome to attendees and a presentation of the meeting agenda.
- The partners are invited to share their implementation progress with the EE Sector coordination team through Google document. Partners inputs are important to provide an overall analysis of the EE sector, identify gaps and report on activities.
- Partners are encouraged to share the assessment plans and findings. For example, IOM-ILO is planning household level livelihoods assessments. Findings will help the sector partners with issues that we need to address.
- ILO led the drafting and finalization of the stipend's guidance note under the 3RP and it will be shared with the EES partners. The guidance note was developed because there were issues with 1) participants seeking better paid training programs and 2) agencies are competing for better pay to attract participants. The guidance note aims at harmonizing payment scale among the EES partners based on the minimum wage set by the GoT.

2. EE Reporting

Ms. Miki Takahashi from UNDP shared updates and analysis on EE Reporting, Sector Priorities, current partner situation.

Funding: As of November 27, 2023, US$529 million (52.6%) of the total funding requirement has been secured. The Early Recovery (ER) sector has received US$20 million (14%) of the required funding. FTS reporting will continue under the earthquake response until the end of 2023.

Activity info reporting: EQ partners have been requested to report their achievements in activity info (currently, only 3 partners reported). Otherwise, they should report to the spreadsheet (EQ-EES 2023 partners activities - Google E-Tablolar). The reporting framework will remain separate (for 3RP and the EQ) until the end of 2023. Partners who are unable to report their achievements through Activity Info should report them to the designated spreadsheet. From 2024, partners will have one reporting portal (Activity info) and mention it is for EQ or 3RP. In addition, EQ and 3RP EES indicators have been harmonized so that partners can report their activities. The special session will be organized by UNHCR IM team with the EES partners to address reporting issues.

Monthly reporting: The deadline for November 2023 reporting is approaching. Partners are requested to update their activities in the google sheet and send any specific updates to Ms. Miki Takahashi (miki.takahashi@undp.org) and Mr. Ertan Aktan (Ertan.aktan@fao.org) with short inputs.

IFIs support to SMEs in the EQ areas: Based on the discussion during the 3RP EES meeting, it was revealed that IFIs are also supporting SMEs through Turkish private banks. Over US$1 billion is allocated for the SME supports in the EQ areas.

Institution	Type of Institution	Counterpart	Target	Status	Amount (US$ mil	Details
WB	IFIs	KOSGEB	SMEs in EQ areas	on-going	450	750K TL, 24 months non-repay
EBRD	IFIs	Yapi Kredi	SMEs in EQ areas	on-going	108	
EBRD	IFIs	QNB Financsbank	SMEs in EQ areas	on-going	110	
EBRD	IFIs	Akbank	SMEs in EQ areas	on-going	90	
EBRD	IFIs	Isbank	SMEs in EQ areas	signed	110	
EBRD	IFIs	Isbank	SMEs in EQ areas	on-going	109	
EBRD	IFIs	DenizBank	SMEs in EQ areas	on-going	109	

SMEs/Cooperatives Surveys (3RP partners): This survey aims to get an overview of the support that 3RP partners provide to MSMEs and cooperatives, and their willingness to share information. We can circulate the surveys to the EQ partners to see if any partners would also like to share beneficiary information. So far, 10 agencies have responded that they are supporting SMEs and 8 partners have responded that they are supporting cooperatives. Many partners have expressed their interest in sharing information. Based on the survey results, the sector might create email group or some communication group so that partners can communicate with each other.

SME Survey: https://forms.office.com/e/DJ8Xi8DrPC

Cooperatives Survey: https://forms.office.com/e/zBj2RtwUZs

3. Program Updates

- **Transportation document compile**

- The EE sector coordination team is collaborating with other sectors to develop a short report on the transportation challenges and potential advocacy points, short-term and long-term solutions in the four provinces affected by the earthquakes heavily: Hatay, Adıyaman, Kahramanmaraş, and Malatya.
- The report is expected to be completed by 15th November and will draw upon the insights of Hub Coordinators involved in Area Based Coordination for Earthquake response, sector coordinators, and field practitioners actively engaged in relief and recovery efforts in the region.
- The primary purpose of the report is to provide an overview of transportation issues and prospects in the affected provinces and to identify advocacy points on transportation challenges to be shared with ABC and UNCT for advocacy with donors, private sectors, and public institutions.
- Please note that this report is not intended to replace any official governmental document or formal assessment. It is compiled based on a limited number of responses and does not represent a formal source that can be cited or published. Its primary purpose is for internal use and not for wider dissemination or publication.
- **Updates from EE and FSL Hubs:**
- **EE Updates:**
  - The EE sector coordination team has been holding regular hub meetings in Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Adıyaman, and Malatya every three weeks to exchange ideas, identify challenges, and coordinate recovery efforts.
  - Public transportation is a key cross-cutting issue being discussed in the hub meetings.

- UNDP Funding for Small Businesses

  - UNDP has allocated US$10 million in funding from the Government of Sweden to support small businesses affected by the earthquakes.
  - Over 4,600 grant recipients have been selected, and funds are currently being transferred.
  - Award ceremonies have been taken place in all 11 provinces in November 2023.

- Economic Empowerment Initiatives by Other Organizations

  - FAO has provided machinery, equipment, fertilizer, feed, and seedling support worth $100,000 to 560 farmers in Hatay province.
  - SPARK, in partnership with Albaraka Turk Bank, has launched a loan guarantee project for MSMEs in the earthquake-affected provinces. Under the project, SPARK will cover

90% of the credit risk for refugee and host community owned MSMEs funded by Albaraka Turk Bank.

- ACTED has launched a Call for Applications for Microbusinesses and Cooperatives to support microbusinesses and cooperatives located in Antakya within the context of 3Zero Wooden Houses Project.
- OXFAM KEDEV has an ongoing grant call for women's cooperatives in the earthquake zone that accepts applications till the end of the year.

- **FSL Updates:**
  - FSL is doing bi-weekly meetings in hubs and Gaziantep.
  - FSL has just initiated an assessment among FSL partners to gather the assistances of FSL partners in the affected areas, aim of the assessment is to get the information of modality types, duration, location and number of the beneficiaries to avoid from duplication and coordinate the partners in a proper way, and once it is finalized it will be shared with relevant sectors.

4. ILO Presentation on the Labour Market Study in the EQ Region

- The ILO has taken a step to understand the current state of labor market dynamics and skills needs in the region and conducted an assessment to inform the design of activation programs for a well-equipped labor force that will play a key role in building back better, identify sectors that are likely to grow to ensure smooth and rapid recovery while creating decent jobs, and scrutinize occupations and skills that will be in demand by these sectors in the medium and long term.
- The ILO assessment provides valuable insights into the labor market challenges and opportunities in the earthquake-affected regions of Türkiye. The recommendations outlined in the report can help to inform the design and implementation of effective programs and policies to support the economic recovery and create decent jobs for all.
- Link for the full research: https://www.ilo.org/ankara/publications/WCMS_891541/lang--en/index.htm
- For more details on the presentation, please refer to the attached copy.

5. SPARK Presentation on Loan Guarantee Fund Support

- SPARK, presented on the Loan Guarantee Project that they implement in partnership with Al Nouri Charity Society (Kuwait) and Albaraka Türk Bank, in the earthquake-affected provinces of Türkiye. The project aims to support MSMEs in the region to rebuild their businesses by providing loan guarantees and technical assistance support through the EU-funded DAHIL project.
- Access to financial services and loans remains a major obstacle to economic integration for Syrian refugees under Temporary Protection (SuTPs) and disadvantaged host communities in Türkiye. Technical assistance can help to address some of these challenges, but it is also important to facilitate access to finance for growth and employment generation.

- The lack of credit history and collateral for bank loans remains a major obstacle for MSMEs to access bank loans. The SPARK Loan Guarantee Project aims to address this challenge by providing loan guarantees to MSMEs that meet the eligibility criteria.
- The presentation highlighted the following key features of the project:
  - Loan guarantees: SPARK will cover 90% of the credit risk for SuTP and host community owned MSMEs funded by Albaraka Türk Bank.
  - Technical assistance: MSMEs will receive technical assistance support from the DAHIL project to help them develop their businesses and prepare loan applications.
  - Eligibility criteria: MSMEs must be located in the earthquake-affected provinces of Türkiye and must be owned by SuTPs or members of the host community.
- For more details on the presentation, please refer to the attached copy.
- **AOB**
- Please be advised that there will be no further EE sector general coordination meetings scheduled for the remainder of 2023. Sector partners will be notified regarding the schedule for 2024 meetings in due course.
- Hub meetings will continue till the end of the year. Upcoming EE hub meeting schedule:
  - Malatya meeting: Wednesday, December 13, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
  - Hatay meeting: Thursday, December 14, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
  - Kahramanmaraş meeting: Wednesday, December 29, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
  - Adıyaman meeting: Thursday, November 30, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- **Useful Links**

Online Calendar Shows EE Meetings	https://teamup.com/ksau2n73iupkck5ftk
Links for Social Initiatives Maps – Prepared by UNDP Acceleration Lab	Airtable - Gallery TR Airtable - Hatay Listesi
Link for sharing ongoing/competed assessments.	Inter-Agency Assessment Survey Registry Tool/Kurumlar Arası Analiz Anketi Toplama Aracı (unhcr.org)
Link for UNHCR Türkiye Earthquake Response: Inter-Agency Assessment Survey Registry Tool	https://data.unhcr.org/en/dataviz/275?sv=4&geo=113
EQ Turkiye Economic Empowerment Sector (Email Group)	tr.economicempowerment@undp.org

*The minutes prepared by Semiha Bal (UNDP). Please contact her in case you identify an issue on the notes.

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