

ESSN Task Force Ankara Minutes

Objective

To provide an update on ESSN (WFP/TRC), presentation on the overview of household verification SoP (TRC/WFP), presentation on basic findings of the On-line Social Cohesion Survey (WFP), presentation on CCTE (UNICEF/TRC) and AOB.

Date of meeting

24 October 2017
14:30 - 16:30

Location

WFP/TRC Park Oran Office, Ankara
Yukari Dikmen Mahallesi, Turan Gunes Bulvari,
No: 180Y, E Blok, Kat: 3 Office No: 3-4, Oran,
Ankara Turkey

1. Update of ESSN (WFP/TRC)

- The Co-Chairs World Food Programme (WFP) and Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) provided an update on the ESSN to date noting that as of 20 October, a total of 359,959 applications were registered; 6,024 applications were not assessed; 185,825 applications were deemed eligible and 168,110 applications were ineligible. Approximately, 38,74% of the applications were registered by 18 TRC Service Centres. A total of 1,010,894 beneficiaries received ESSN assistance in September (48,93% male/51,07% female). Majority of the beneficiaries are Syrian nationals (91.2%) followed by the Iraqi (6.3%) and Afghan (1.9%) nationals.
- A total of 1,062,569 beneficiaries will receive ESSN assistance in October. Eligibility Age breakdown of the beneficiaries as follows: 0-17 (61.59%), 18-59 (35.65%) and >60 (2.76%).
- Second periodic top-up will be made in November 2017.
- Inclusion rate is 52% (this figure is increased since June due to New Demographic Criteria Implementation). Average household size is 5.97.
- In Anatolia Region, majority of the applications are from Ankara, Konya (satellite city for IP holders) and Eskisehir provinces. Minimum number of applications are received in Bolu. In Ankara province, majority of the ESSN HHs are from Altindag (Syrians) Mamak (Iraqis), and Kecioren.
- In total 169,398 cards have been uploaded with the September payment. 15,344 new cards were distributed nationwide in September. 11,995 new cards to be distributed for October payment. The distribution started on 23 October. They will be uploaded at the end of the month. SMSs will be sent with details on how and where to collect their cards.
- Call center serves in 6 different languages, including Kurdish. Calls-gender breakdown as follows: 53.38% male/46.59% female. Most of the calls received are for information request and complaints.
- Based on the information provided by Ankara Area office (AAO):
 - Humanitarian Residences (HR) expiring cases are seeing a lot in the region. Iraqis with expired HR are automatically removed from ESSN. It is noted that as per information provided by DGMM at JMC meeting, there is not a deadline for the people to change their status, but it is now the top priority for them to complete the transition process. Some of the provinces such as Ankara, for the humanitarian residence holders living in non-satellite cities will remain in the addresses where they used to live for now. There may be limitation in the time period and the ones registered in non-satellite cities may be transferred to a satellite city, but there is no decision yet.
 - Application Barrier Survey (ABS): Majority of the non-applicants are meeting the pre-requisitions in order to apply for programme. 30% of survey respondents meet the criteria, but do not have the knowledge on the programme.
 - More than 70% of refugees in AAO region have applied to ESSN.

2. Presentation on the Overview of Household Verification SoP (WFP/TRC)

- The household verification visit SOP is prepared based on the circular (ESSN Implementation Guidelines) circulated by the Ministry of Family and Social Policies in October 2016.
- The households which become **eligible** and started to receive the ESSN assistance should be visited in their residency within one year. These visits should be repeated once in a year in the following years.

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- The guidance SoP is referring the visits only to the eligible beneficiaries, but some SASF offices also conduct visits to the ineligible in order to assess their situation.
- This is a guidance document for the SASFs that makes suggestions in order to set a standardised procedure during the implementation. The SASFs can still have their own methodologies depending on their capacity. The SASFs may reach to TRC to seek for support regarding logistical and capacity related needs.
- The suggestion of the social worker is being endorsed by the Board of Trustee if there is no major hesitation to the decision suggested by the social worker.
- In case the family is rejected due to the household verification visit, the family can go and re-apply to ESSN.

3. **Presentation on basic findings of the On-line Social Cohesion Survey (WFP)**

- Survey is conducted on-line with only Arabic and Turkish speaking refugees and host communities. Mostly young, male participants.
- Host (Turkish) community is more polarized. Whereas refugee community is very positive feelings about host community. Half of them are already speaking Turkish (51%).
- Provision of Assistance: Half of Refugee community think that their basic needs should be covered by the international community.
- WFP field offices also conduct focus group discussions in order to evaluate the relevance of the survey results.

4. **Presentation on CCTE (UNICEF/TRC)**

- For the September payment, all children who are accepted to the CCTE programme received the 100 TL additional payment for the beginning of the school semester in September regardless of the conditional on regular school attendance.
- Due to YOBIS-ISAIS integration which could be provided in the end of June and some technical problems later on experienced until the end of July-August, only a very few TEC students were able to benefit from the programme in July payment. But since the technical issues have been solved, for the September payment, we expect more TEC students included into the programme.
- In the September 2017 payment, 136,523 children benefited from the programme in 80 provinces. Most of the beneficiaries are located in Istanbul (1176%), Hatay (11 55%) and Izmir (8.29%). Most of them are attending the primary schools. In the high school level, majority of the children are girls.
- For the September payment, 47,503 students only received additional 100TL, 88,176 students received both additional and regular and 844 only received regular payment, didn't receive the additional payment. The reason why those 844 did only receive regular payment is due to agreement with MoFSP on the rule for getting additional payment. The rule for getting additional payment is to be in "accepted status" at the time of payment generation process, those 844 students were in "rejected or completed status" at the time of September payment generation. But they did get entitlement for regular payment for preceding months when they had "accepted status" in the system.
- There is a significant increment in application numbers in September which might be caused by;
 - i. Previously occurred technical problems for TEC students have been resolved,
 - ii. New school year,
 - iii. Payment of 100 TL top up

The accepted status is representing the number of students who is found as eligible for the program; it does not show the number of eligible for the payment.

- Payments to beneficiaries are made in every two months (Jan-Mar-May-Jul-Sep-Nov) in line with the national CCTE programme. There are no plans to make the payments monthly.
- Based on the application and rejected numbers pulled out from CCTE system, the reasons why the 6 % of CCTE applications were rejected might be based on the registration issues such as they do not meet the programme criteria, families register in one place and then they leave the town and do not change the registration records.
- Based on the 168 Call Center Statistics, 71% of the calls are for the information request, 27% of them are for the questions regarding the card and only 2% of them are for the complaints.
- Brochures in Arabic, Turkish and English were printed and shared to multiple locations such as SASFs, TRC service centers, TECs and MoNE provincials and FAQ is prepared and is being revised as per the feedback coming from the partners and the latest version will be shared. Afghani language is not available for now.

- Child protection component of the programme: Aim is to help families whose children are not attending school regularly. Protection outreach teams visit those families to find out the reason why the child is not going to school and refer them to relevant institutions if any serious child protection issues are detected.
- HH visits are conducted for those children not going to school. The visits started in June after the first payment in some provinces. The common reasons for non-attendance detected are child labour, child marriage, etc.

5. AOB

- Due to the time limitation, presentation on CVME has been moved to the next ESSN TF Meeting.
- Next ESSN TF Ankara meeting will be held (tentatively) on **08 December** at WFP/TRC Park Oran Office at **10:30**.
- Please remember to send any issues/challenges observed with as much detail as possible (location, date, etc.) to the ESSN TF.

Attachments:

1. ESSN Task Force Ankara Presentation
2. Presentation on the Overview of Household Verification SoP
3. Presentation on Basic Findings of the On-line Social Cohesion Survey
4. Presentation on Update on CCTE for Refugees
5. ESSN Q3 Monitoring Report