

ESSN Task Force, Gaziantep Minutes

Objective(s)	i) to provide an update on ESSN and CCTE roll-out; ii) to share the findings of the Pre-Assistance Baseline survey; and iii) to share an update on “Communication with Communities” within the framework of the ESSN.
Time & Date	21 September, 10.00-12.00am
Location	TRC, Gaziantep

1. Introduction and welcome

- Following a tour de table, the ESSN Task Force Co-Chairs, World Food Programme (WFP) and Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) reviewed the status of the action points of the previous meeting, as follows:
 - WFP and TRC to share information on the verification process and inclusion/exclusion errors identified to date at the next meeting. **Status: Pending. The household verification process remains under discussion at Ankara level.**
 - WFP to circulate the link to the dependency ratio / eligibility calculator. **Status: N/A. The tool is no longer planned as it is thought that it may create confusion among beneficiaries, who may not be eligible for the ESSN due to reasons beyond the criteria (e.g. being flagged in the system as being in employment).**
 - WFP to check the level of integration between the MoFSP and DGMM databases and share feedback with partners at the next task force meeting. **Status: Ongoing.**
- WFP and TRC then provided an update on ESSN to date, noting that nationwide, as of 18 September, 344,533 applications had been lodged, on the basis of which 176,843 households have been found eligible, and 162,290 households have been found ineligible (5,400 remain to be assessed), bringing the eligibility rate to 52 per cent. It was noted that the September transfer is expected to reach over one million households. The first quarterly top-ups took place in August. For further information, please see the attached presentation.

2. Update on ESSN implementation in southeast Turkey

- The Deputy Head of the Gaziantep Area Office provided an update on ESSN implementation in SET. It was noted that discussions on the so-called “discretionary allowance” continue to take place with SASF offices in Nizip, Kiziltepe (Mardin), Iskendarun, and Tarsus (Mersin). TF members asked WFP what procedures have been agreed to select beneficiaries and WFP noted that an effort is being made to utilize and build upon existing (Turkish) tools and processes – the same form will be utilized, and the Board of Trustees will be called upon to review and approve cases prior to them being accepted onto the ESSN. WFP and TRC also noted that, between June and September, WFP, TRC, and UNICEF had carried out sensitization/briefing sessions on the ESSN for NGO field staff working in Sanliurfa, Gaziantep, Mersin, and Hatay.

3. Presentation on the findings of the Pre-Assessment Baseline results

- WFP and the World Bank delivered a presentation on the findings of the Pre-Assessment Baseline, carried out between February and May 2017 as a phone survey (implemented through the TRC Call Center). Through a two-page questionnaire, it was noted that the survey collected data on demographics, food consumption, coping strategies, expenditures, income sources among ESSN applicants (both eligible and ineligible). The data, collected from 5 regional strata, is considered representative of 270,000 households (1.6 million people). For further information, see the attached presentation.

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- Partners highlighted some issues related to the regional strata (e.g the huge diversity in the Anatolia/Thrace region). Partners also requested further information on the profiles of households who are living below the poverty line and are not eligible for the ESSN to help inform their own discussions on targeting.

Action Points:

- WFP and WB colleagues to share further information on the profiles of households who are living below the poverty line and are not eligible for the ESSN. Deadline: by the next ESSN TF meeting.

4. Presentation on “Communication with Communities”

- Launching efforts to introduce “thematic” issues to future ESSN TF meetings in SET, WFP and TRC briefed partners on “Communication with Communities” within the framework of the ESSN. For further information, see the attached presentation.

5. Update on the CCTE

- UNICEF and TRC provided a brief update on the CCTE. In particular, it was noted that the July payment reached 72,021 children. In total, 54,310 beneficiaries have now received two payments (May and July). For further information, see the attached presentation.

6. AOB

- WFP briefly outlined discussions and agreements from the Winter Task Force noting, in particular, that most partners had agreed not to exclude ESSN beneficiaries from their winter assistance but to consider this in their approaches to scoring. The exception is UNHCR, which has the largest winter programme and will only include ESSN beneficiaries in exceptional circumstances. It was noted that discussions are underway to ensure winter beneficiary lists can be cross-checked to identify ESSN recipients in a smooth and timely manner.
- Next Meeting: 26 October, tbc.