

ESSN Task Force, Gaziantep Minutes

Objective(s)	To provide an update on the ESSN program to date and outline progress and challenges, as well as update members on the initial results of the Pre-Assistance Baseline Survey; the review of the targeting criteria and transfer value; and the extension of the Conditional Cash Transfer for Education to Syrian and other refugees.
Time & Date	26 March, 3.00 - 4:30 pm
Location	UN House, GZT

1. Introduction and welcome

- Following a tour de table, WFP review the action points of the previous meeting (23 March 2017).
 - ✓ WFP to circulate district level data on the number of applications (incl. both individual and household figures). **Status: WFP has circulated southeast district-level data to Task Force members. However, in order to information their efforts to promote awareness of and access to ESSN, Task Force members further requested information on levels of eligibility at the district-level.**

2. General update on ESSN

- Following a tour de table, the ESSN Task Force Co-Chairs, World Food Programme (WFP) and Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) provided an update on ESSN to date, noting that the ESSN has now reached over 508,000 beneficiaries (March). It was further noted that nation-wide, as of 21 April, 271.550 applications had been registered, of which 12.336 have not been assessed, 93.439 have been found eligible, and 165.745 have been found ineligible – this translates to approx. 36 per cent eligibility nation-wide. WFP and TRC explained that 99.490 applications have been registered and a total 129.632 appointments have been granted at the 18 TRC Service Centres supporting the SASFs.
- WFP and TRC noted that the latest round of card distribution commenced on 20 April, with the next upload to take place on 30 April.
- The Task Force was encouraged to follow the ESSN account/page on Twitter and Facebook. It was noted that the ESSN website will also be up and running at the end of April.

Action Points:

- WFP to circulate updated data on the number of applications and eligibility rates at the district-level in order to guide follow up discussion with protection and other operational partners on measures to promote and facilitate access in their areas of work.

For the full presentation on the ESSN programme to date, please see attached.

3. Pre-Assistance Baseline data update

- WFP briefed partners on the initial results of the Pre-Assistance Baseline Survey. It was noted that:
 - The PAB was a phone survey, conducted through TRC Call Centre. It considered a random sample of ESSN applicants, including both those found eligible and ineligible. While the total sample size will be 6,645 households, the initial findings are based on coverage to date – 2,281 households (1,011 eligible; 1,270 ineligible).

- Over coming months, WFP and TRC will conduct panel surveys to measure ESSN outcomes and impact against the PAB.

For further detail on the initial findings related to household demographics, education, language skills, economic vulnerability, and food consumption and livelihoods-related coping skills, please see the attached presentation. The full PAB report will be made available to the ESSN Task Force upon finalization.

4. Targeting Criteria and Transfer Value update

- WFP and TRC provided an update on the review of the ESSN targeting criteria and transfer value. It was noted that these recommendations are in their final stages of approval, and are thus expected to come into effect in May 2017.

For further detail on the recommendations vis-à-vis the ESSN targeting criteria and transfer value, please see the attached presentation.

5. CCTE update

- UNICEF (Qimti Paienjton, qpaienjton@unicef.org) provided an update on the extension of the Conditional Cash Transfer for Education (CCTE) to Syrian and other refugees in Turkey. It was noted that:
 - The CCTE has been implemented by the GoT since 2003. Specifically, it is implemented by the General Directorate of Social Assistance (GDSA) of the MoFSP, through the use of the Integrated Social Assistance Information System (ISAIS). It aims to improve school attendance and enrolment;
 - The program has been open to foreigners residing in Turkey since its inception, but, in 2017, its expansion to include Syrians and other refugees will be accelerated through a partnership between MoFSP, Unicef, MoNE, TRC, ECHO and others. Beneficiary households will receive slightly varying amounts per school aged child per month (to be paid every two months) based on 80 per cent minimum attendance, plus an unconditional grant of 100TL per school aged child per term.
 - Applications will be accepted through Social Assistance Solidarity Foundations (SASFs) and TRC Service Centres. The CCTE will utilize the same (Kizilay) card as the ESSN, though two separate wallets will be established.
 - The programme aims to reach 230,000 refugee children by the end of 2017, including 180,000 ESSN beneficiaries and 50,000 non-ESSN beneficiaries. The first payment is expected to take place in May.

For further detail on the CCTE, please see the attached presentation.

6. AOB

- Next Meeting: 31 May (tbc)