

ESSN Task Force Istanbul Minutes

Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an update on the ESSN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Severe Disability Allowance • Open discussion: LLE Report findings and move forward • Provide updates on the CCTE • AOB 	
	Date of meeting	10 September 2018 09:30 - 11:30
	Location	ASAM Dolapdere Çok Yonlu Destek Merkezi Bostan Mah. Küçük Odalar Sok. No:9 Beyoğlu/İSTANBUL Turkey

1. Action points:

Follow up issue:	Who will take action:	Deadline:
Provision of information on Severe Disability Allowance	ESSN TF Co-Chairs	ESSN TF meeting on 10 September 2018
LLE Report to be shared	ESSN TF Co-Chairs	Done
Detailed information on the HH verification numbers	TRC requested from MoFLSS	Pending for TRC to receive info from MoFLSS
The reason behind the low application rate in some provinces	IAO	Done
LLE report to be sent to all partners	ESSN TF Co-Chairs	Done
Share FGD ESSN, livelihoods related findings to HRDF after October TF	ESSN TF Co-Chairs	On going

2. Update of 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 03 September, a total of 461,411 applications were registered; 2,295 applications were not assessed; 247,152 applications were deemed eligible and 211,964 applications were ineligible. 37.45% of the applications were registered by 9 TRC Service Centres. A total of 1,438,562 beneficiaries received ESSN assistance in August (51.32% female/48.68% male).
- Inclusion rate is 52.8%. Average household size is 5.8.
- ESSN Demographic updates: Age breakdown 0-17 (60.55%) 18-59 (36,55) +60 (2,89)
- On 8 August 2018, 1,512 accounts were swept back: 749 uncollected cards (3+ months) and 763 dormant accounts (6+ months). Please note that the accounts are only suspended; it can be reinitiated again.
- In Marmara Region, majority of the applications are from Istanbul, Bursa and Kocaeli. Top 5 most applied districts in Istanbul are Esenyurt, Bagcilar, Sultangazi, Kucukcekmece and Esenler. Top 5 districts in Marmara region; Yildirim in Bursa, Esenyurt in Istanbul, Osmangazi in Bursa, Bagcilar Istanbul and Sultangazi Istanbul
- Based on the information provided by WFP & TRC Istanbul Area offices (IAO):
 - WFP IAO covers 12 provinces. Estimated number of refugees: 1,012,219TPs and 93,612 IPs.
 - 32 cases in total: 15 cases categorized under DGMM issues. Seven cases under Health and medical issues. Four of them for disability Health Report (DHR). Six cases under different reasons for referral (ESSN related, Nufus, Family unification, Tension, etc) Cases were referred to TRC, ARR Japan, ASAM, Multeci - Der, ROCHAM, AISHam clinics, Annoor clinics, and HRDF for further follow up.
 - A total of 56 site visits in two months covers: Five provinces; İstanbul, Bursa, Tekirdağ, Kocaeli, Yalova
 - Focus Group Discussion (FGD) on the theme of Livelihood and Gender were conducted in three provinces: İstanbul, Tekirdağ, Kocaeli; seven districts: Esenler, Esenyurt, Bağcılar, Küçükçekmece, Fatih, Çerkezköy, İzmit; eight sessions: four female, four male groups

- Comprehensive Vulnerability Monitoring Exercise (CVME) conducted in four provinces: İstanbul, Bursa, Yalova, Kütahya; four districts: Esenyurt, İnegöl, Çınarcık, Suluköy
 - Social Service Centers (SHM) were also visited:
 - SHMs provide cash economic assistance for homecare to those who have severe disability report among Turkish citizens and foreigners under International Protection
 - SHM assistance is not available for foreigners under Temporary Protection
 - SASF Workshop held in İstanbul on 7 August 2018.
 - SASFs, Nufus offices, Ministry representatives, UNICEF, WFP and TRC participated.
 - ESSN updates shared and most frequently asked questions were discussed in the panel.
Echo
 - More detailed as to the rejection from the ESSN program were shared following questions raised in particular about by whom these rejections were decided. The Co-Chairs confirmed that the database of the MoFSP detected those rejections.
 - It was also stated that the ESSN program will continue in 2019, but that in the meantime profiling of ESSN beneficiaries will be done because of the assistance that will come to an end at some point. Different assistance packages will also be put forward when phasing out of the ESSN.
 - **Severe Disability Allowance**
 - Severe Disability Allowance (SDA) started in 25 August 2018. Beneficiaries with more than 50% severe disability will receive SDA 600 TL per month.
 - It is observed that crowd problem in front of the public hospitals in İstanbul is a very familiar view in order to obtain SDAR by refugees. Addition to that: It is very difficult to get an appointment with some hospitals. This affects the whole process of obtaining the DHR. Regarding hospitals and appointments two points were raised, the first was about knowing whether a protocol might be signed with the MoH to handle the issue of late appointments. The non-existence of such protocol has been explained adding that the request will be forwarded to Ankara. On a side note, claims of acts of racist nature have been raised by some participants within the hospital staff asking if a platform that would help complain or find solutions to it existed. The participants have been told to either direct complaints to the hospital management or to the Local Health Authority of by calling the 168 call center. In addition to these, the Co-Chairs have stressed the fact that such cases can be shared with WFP/TRC
 - Regarding DHR, on nationwide, the reports have to be paid but in some locations, depending on the hospital budget payment does not required. It was reported that under IPA, payment of DHR for the very vulnerable individual may be provided by other INGOs, on this case, the very vulnerable individual may be referred to other INGOs. Another important point regarding this DHR, although it may differ from one hospital to another, the rule is that if the patient is diagnosed with 0% disability, he/she will be asked to pay a fee. This might not be applied by all hospitals but it is the rule.
 - **Future of ESSN Workshop**
 - Participants were interested in knowing whether government representatives were present or not and if all livelihood topics had been talked through.
 - Participants also raised concerns about the employment rate of qualified refugees. Statistics of 40.000 refugees having obtained Turkish citizenship have been shared explaining that these were qualified elements. In addition to this participant were told that livelihood actors including governmental bodies are working in that sense.
 - Other concerns were about the language barriers, the lack of capacity in governmental offices and other sub-structural problems, participants asked whether the government had a roadmap for the upcoming period to deal with these problems. Co-Chairs have expressed the fact that these are well-known problems but that there is not an action ready to be implemented in that sense and that gradual improvements are to be expected instead.
3. **Open Discussion: Lessons Learned Exercise Report (LLE):**
- The objective of LLE Report, recommendation, and takeaways again were reminded to participants. The following points and recommendations for ESSN Coordination structure for the new year have been discussed:
 - Low attendance at the ESSN TF meetings compared to the number of NGOs in İstanbul. Focus on getting more attendance for the next sessions.

- Sharing agenda prior to meetings.
- Requests as to the MoMs be shared on an online platform, perhaps a platform like dropbox.
- Short presentation, more discussion, and more thematic subjects will be welcomed by partners.
- Locations, meeting frequency, short presentation, more involvement of participants, governmental bodies involvement are welcomed
- A Syrian NGO specified the need to organize ESSN TF in different languages on different dates- e.g. Arabic on Monday, Turkish on Tuesday.
- Also, a representative from UNHCR suggested to define specific thematic areas and organize the meetings based on these areas, areas which could be complementary or barriers to ESSN.

4. **Update of CCTE:**

- The number of CCTE beneficiaries reached as of 10 September 2018 is of 368,090 (those who received at least one payment).
- Next payment will be made at the end of September 2018 and will include additional 100 TL payment, as September is the beginning of school term.
- ALP students will receive their first CCTE payment in September 2018 payment period. ALP students will only receive 100 TL additional payment in this period.
- 11 SASFs and 3 Halkbank branches have been visited in three provinces in the Marmara and the Eastern Anatolian Regions since July, 2018.
- In August, SASF offices in the districts of Istanbul where Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) is implemented have been visited to ensure that families are applying for CCTE. More information is provided below.
- Challenges regarding ATM use of Non-Arabic speaking beneficiaries still observed. Currently, ATMs in 28 branches in Istanbul have dual-language menu. Halkbank is increasing the number dual language ATMs in other provinces.
- Discrimination incidences have been reported in Istanbul Kagithane regarding school registration and administration.

Accelerated Learning Program (ALP), implemented by the Ministry of Education (MoNE) Lifelong Learning Directorate with technical and financial support from UNICEF continues in 6 Provinces and will begin in another 6 Provinces in October. New districts from Istanbul will be included in the second phase (October).

Accelerate Learning Program First Phase Provinces and Districts (Started in May 2018):

- Ankara: Altındağ, Çubuk, Keçiören, Mamak, Polatlı
- Gaziantep: Nurdağı, Şahinbey, Islahiye, Şehitkamil
- Hatay: Altınözü, Arsuz, Erzin, Antakya, Dörtöyl, Belen, Kırıkhan, Payas, Yayalıdağı, Reyhanlı, Iskenderun
- Konya: Karatay, Meram, Selçuklu
- Istanbul: Arnavutköy, Esenyurt, Avcılar, Küçükçekmece, Sultangazi
- Şanlıurfa: Akçakale, Eyyübiye, Haliliye, Suruç

Accelerated Learning Program Second Phase Provinces and Districts (Will start in October 2018):

- Bursa: Yıldırım, Osmangazi, İnegöl
- Adana: Seyhan, Yüreğir, Karataş, Kozan, Ceyhan
- Kayseri: Central PdoNE office, Melikgazi, Kocasinan
- Istanbul: Bayrampaşa, Zeytinburnu, Başakşehir, Kağıthane, Şişli, Beykoz, Bahçelievler, Pendik
- Izmir: Menemen, Buca, Torbalı, Karabağlar, Bornova, Foça, Menderes
- Mersin: Mezitli, Akdeniz Karacaoğlan, Toroslar, Yenişehir
- Purpose of the program is to create access for the Syrian children, who have been outside the national education system due to difference reasons and close the gap in their education through an Accelerated Learning Program and direct them to the relevant (based on age and level of knowledge) national education institutions (public schools, technical and vocational schools, open high school) to ensure they can continue their education
- Program is implemented in two stages: (i) primary school, (ii) middle school. Every stage is consisted of two modules: (Primary School: 4+4= 8 months), (Middle School: 4+4= 8 months) =16 months. Primary School equivalence: students will take Turkish classes along with 1st and 2nd grade subjects for the first four months; in the second four-month module students will take 3rd and 4th grade subjects. Middle School equivalence: students will take middle school subjects in the third and fourth modules.

- Program covers Syrian and Non-Syrian children between the ages of 10-18, who have not attended school for three or more years.
- Program will be implemented in the Public Education Centres in the provinces mentioned above. Selected districts are included in the provinces however, the students can attend the ALP program in the districts that they don't reside in if the PEC in their district of residency is not included.
- NGOs can direct Syrian children to the PECs in the districts listed above to apply for the ALP. PECs will provide transportation for the students. It should be noted that the availability of the classes at these PECs are dependent on the number of applications.

CCTE for Accelerated Learning Program (ALP)

- ALP students are registered in YOBIS so they may be eligible for the CCTE program. Applications for CCTE program from the ALP students began in the first six provinces. The families, SASFs and the TRC Service Centres in the relevant provinces have been informed.
 - 60 TL per month per student for modules A, B, C and D will be paid every two months. Additionally, CCTE top up payments of 100 TL per student will be paid at the beginning of each module.
 - CCTE application criteria apply for ALP students as well.
5. **AOB:**
- Please remember to send any issues/challenges observed with as much detail as possible (location, date, etc.) to the ESSN TF focal points.
 - Also, a representative from UNHCR suggested to define specific thematic areas and organize the meetings based on these areas, areas which could be complementary or barriers to ESSN.
 - The next meeting will be held on 08 October. The meeting venue is TRC Area office in Yenibosna.

Attachments:

1. ESSN Task Force Istanbul Presentation
2. Presentation of CCTE updates