

ESSN Task Force Gaziantep Minutes

Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and introduction • Action points from the previous meeting • Updates on the ESSN and its implementation in SET <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Severe Disability Allowance ▪ ECHO Workshop on ESSN Lessons Learnt and Sustainability ▪ TRC Outreach Activities • Updates on the CCTE • Open discussion: LLE Report findings and move forward • AOB 		
Date of meeting	13 Sept. 2018 09:00 - 11:00	Location	UNHCR Gaziantep Güvenevler Mahallesi, 29036. Sk. No:32, 27560 Şehitkamil/Gaziantep

1. Action points:

Follow up issue:	Who will take action:	Deadline:
Provision of information on Severe Disability Allowance	ESSN TF Co-Chairs	Completed on 13 September 2018
Detailed information on the HH verification numbers	TRC requested from MoFLSS	Pending for TRC to receive info from MoFLSS
Open discussion: LLE report findings and move forward	ESSN TF Co-Chairs	ESSN TF meeting on 13 September 2018
Action Plan for ESSN TF to be finalized and shared with the partners	ESSN TF Co-Chairs	October 2018
Provision of information on SASF Allowance and Household Visits	ESSN TF Co-Chairs	Pending at MoFLSS for finalization of SOP
Include TRC duplication matrix in the agenda of upcoming TF meetings: it will be presented at Basic Needs WG meetings	ESSN TF Co-chairs	SET BN WG meeting on 08 November 2018

2. Updates on the 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 Sept 2018, a total of 461,411 applications (2,339,618 people) 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.
- 238,840 households (1,387,214 people) received ESSN assistance in August.
- Inclusion rate is 52.8%. Average household size is 5.8.
- 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.
- **Severe Disability Allowance (SDA):**
 - Severe Disability Allowance payments started with the August payment, beneficiaries with more than 50% severe disability proved with a valid Disability Health Report (DHR) started to receive SDA 600 TL per month per person.
 - In August, 3,599 people received SDA payment.
 - There are challenges and barriers for the refugees to access DHR in the provinces: Crowd problem in front of the public hospitals in İstanbul is observed frequently. Additionally, it is very difficult to get an appointment with some hospitals. This affects the whole process of obtaining the DHR. The issue is being followed with the Health Sector and Ministry of Health at ESSN Governing Board level in Ankara.

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- Regarding DHR, on nationwide, the reports should be paid but in some locations, payment does not require depends on hospital management decision or budget availability.
- It is another implementation in the field observed that at the end of the medical examination, if there is no disability diagnosed, the hospital asks for the cost to be paid by the refugees.
- **ECHO Workshop on ESSN Lessons Learnt and Sustainability:**
 - On 20 June 2018, ECHO organized a workshop in Ankara on ESSN Lessons Learnt and Sustainability with an aim to take stock of opportunities, constraints and challenges related to a potential sustainable and responsible phase out of the ESSN in the mid-term.
 - There were two sessions of the morning and the afternoon with different level of attendees. In the morning, there were ECHO, ESSN implementing agencies, Government of Turkey, UNHCR, UNDP, ISKUR, ILO, FAO, World Bank, and other migration, livelihoods and resilience partners in Turkey. The afternoon session was restricted to the ESSN implementing agencies to have more in depth internal discussion on the Future of ESSN.
 - Since most of the discussions were around transition to livelihoods, the main challenges for that process has been identified below:
 - Capacity of the labour market, limited absorption capacity of the labour market
 - Informal jobs, limited access to formal jobs
 - High youth unemployment rate
 - Limited mobility of Syrians, language barrier
 - Registration suspension in big cities (livelihoods)
 - Limited impact of the trainings on employment
 - Seasonality of working opportunities for Syrians
 - Limited scale and effectiveness of the livelihoods projects in terms of accessing sustainable employment and formal labour market
 - Competition for jobs and social cohesion considerations
 - The main messages for the design of ESSN in 2019 and near future are:
 - Despite ESSN gains, refugee needs will continue in 2019 and beyond – ESSN still needed
 - Advocate for adjustment of transfer/top-up values to maintain purchasing power with increasing costs/inflation
 - More specific support such as disability allowance (implemented for the first time in August 2018)
 - Need to understand more who are our beneficiaries and their respective needs > Vulnerability Profiling Exercise (economic vulnerability, food consumption and dietary diversity, and reliance on high-risk coping strategies)
 - Impact of this learning on the programme – possibility to graduate, have different packages of assistance depending on needs and capacities
 - There should be timelines for any evolution/graduation from assistance
- **TRC Outreach Activities:**
 - ESSN Outreach Activities are operational sensitization and advocacy activities that aim to;
 - reach the goal of the program in the shortest time and in a most appropriate way by informing the target groups, local authorities and non-governmental organizations and facilitating the necessary procedural steps such as field or central level visits and official correspondences.
 - remove specific obstacles faced by applicants during their ESSN application/registration and card collection processes.
 - Since beginning of the program %99 of the provinces have been visited with more than 4000 visits made to the local authorities.
 - With the help of Gaziantep, İstanbul and Ankara Area Offices and 6 field offices, located in Hatay, Van, İstanbul(Anatolia), İzmir, Erzurum and Samsun, outreach teams are able to get actions quickly and respond outreach related issues effectively.
 - After registered in TRC's database, cases are contacted by dedicated 168 call center operators and followed by outreach teams at each location.

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- Referrals can be sent to uisensim@kizilay.org.tr or 168 Call Center is also available for individual application.

3. **Updates on the CCTE:**

- 312.288 beneficiaries received payment in CCTE July payment. Total number of beneficiaries received at least one payment reached to 368.090 as of 13th September.
- Next payment to be made at the end of September 2018 and will include 100 TL additional payment to beneficiaries as September is the beginning of new school term.
- Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) has started in 6 provinces (Ankara, Gaziantep, Hatay, Konya, İstanbul, Şanlıurfa) in May 2018 and ALP students are able to apply to CCTE since July 2018.
- ALP students applied to CCTE in July can receive only 100 TL additional payment in September 2018 CCTE Payment.
- CCTE for Refugees is actually owned by the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services (MoFLSS) and we are facilitating the extension of national CCTE program to refugees, therefore, any potential increase in the monthly payment amounts would depend on the national programme and the MoFLSS as the owner of the program, which might be more flexible in the case of ESSN where a national version of the program does not exist.
- The most common reason for rejection from CCTE application is the change of location (address change as per the MERNIS queries, address registration issues for informal housing, returns to Syria, moving to a 3rd country).

4. **Open discussion: LLE Report Findings and Move Forward:**

- ESSN Task Force has initiated a Lessons Learned Exercise (LLE) in May 2018 with the support of two external evaluators who looked at the role of the ESSN Task Force in how it has coordinated the ESSN programme in Turkey. The evaluators met with the ESSN TF partners in four locations, other UN agencies and working groups as well as the ESSN programme implementing agencies in order to consider how different actors / levels have engaged and collaborated with the ESSN task force through the refugee crisis.
- The final report has been shared with the partners in September. The Turkish version of the report will be ready soon and there is another request for Arabic version which is now under discussion with the management.
- The TRC and WFP Co-Chairs of ESSN TF went through the recommendations and messages in details and discussed internally to make amendments below to the structure of ESSN TF:
 - There will be more thematic meetings, space for more discussions and there will be less PPTs
 - There have been some changes on the frequency of the meetings: remains monthly in Istanbul; once in two months in other three locations (Izmir, Ankara and Gaziantep). If there are urgent issues to be shared, then Basic Needs WG meetings will be the platform to provide immediate updates.
 - There will be different types of meetings complementary to ESSN TF
 - Sensitisation sessions: in order to provide brief information about ESSN and CCTE programmes
 - One-on-one briefings: by request of the partners for their new teams
 - Quarterly ESSN TF meetings in alternate locations: Sanliurfa, Hatay and Mardin
 - Government entities will be invited for thematic discussions (SASFs, NUFUS, etc.)
 - PPTs will be shared in advance, partners will be expected to come prepared for discussions
 - De-centralization process of the ESSN TF: recruitment of staff is going on, partners are always welcomed to share their suggestions on agenda for the next meetings
 - ESSN TF to be channel in between the ESSN partners and ESSN Governing Board
- The action plan will be shared with the partners in October 2018 and this structure will be piloted until the end of December 2018. Then the ESSN TF will hold ESSN Performance Survey and will evaluate the success and satisfaction level of the partners; then will go for revising the ToR for the ESSN TF in 2019.

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.
- The next meeting will be held on 08 November. The venue, time and agenda will be shared accordingly.

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Attachments:

1. ESSN Task Force Gaziantep Presentation
2. Presentation of CCTE updates
3. August 2018 Focus Group Discussion Report