

ESSN Task Force Istanbul Minutes

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Updates on ESSN and its implementation in Marmara region
3. Updates on CCTE
4. TAC Closure and ESSN Access
5. AOB
 - Mavi Kalem ESSN Implementation Highlights

Date of meeting

6 August 2019
09:30 - 11:00

Location

Altunizade Mh., Kuşbaşı Cd., No: 4, Rainbow Plaza, B2 Blok,
1. Kat – Üsküdar/Istanbul

Meeting Co-Chairs

WFP: Arzum Karasu
TK: Ayman Dawood Najim Sallawy Alhalab

1. Action points:

New Action Points from the Meeting:		
Action point	By	When
Updates about ESSN beneficiaries following the recent operations in Istanbul.	WFP – TK Istanbul field monitors	October ESSN TF
Istanbul call centre breakdown	TK	October ESSN TF

2. Updates on the ESSN and its implementation on Marmara region:

- The Co-Chairs World Food Programme (WFP) and Turk Kizilay (TK) provided an update of ESSN implementation noting that as of 22 July 2019, a total of 2,707,304 individuals were registered; 9,161 individuals were not assessed, and 1,010,73 individuals were ineligible.
- A total of 1,688,070 beneficiaries received ESSN assistance in July nationwide.
- A total of 224,259 beneficiaries received ESSN assistance in Istanbul.
- A total of 27,474 beneficiaries received severe disability allowance.
- Details regarding the new Disability Health Report for both adults and children, terminology and special level requirements interval were explained. ESSN beneficiaries applying for Severe Disability Allowance will be considered severe disabled as of 50% whereas the rate is 70% for non-ESSN beneficiaries.

TK-WFP Monitoring and Evaluation Activities:

- TK-WFP teams visited a total of 51 households in Bursa (Yildirim) and Istanbul (Avcilar and Beyoglu).
- 9 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were conducted under following themes: Protection & Gender, Fertility Behavior and Livelihoods and Gender (4 male, 3 female, 2 mixed).
- 90 Applicant Contact Monitoring (ACM) surveys were conducted.
- Monitoring visits were conducted in Bursa, Istanbul, Yalova, Kocaeli and Tekirdag where institutions like PDMM, DDPC (Nufus), SASFs, Halkbank branches and Hospitals were visited.

Main Findings:

- Challenges observed on the **transition of address registry** from Nufus to PDMM offices, such as technical limitations for PDMM when editing addresses entries especially when the address had a previous occupant; **To solve those issues**, PDMMs established coordination mechanisms with respective Nufus offices through on the job-training from Nufus to PDMM, referring refugees to respective Nufus offices, or solving technical problems via phone;

- Most refugee families are not aware of the change of authority for address registration. For those who are aware, but live in faraway districts, it has been difficult to travel to city centre to register their new addresses in PDMM offices. As a result, around **30 families have lost their assistance** in the district;
- Istanbul Governorate has issued a statement on the fact that Syrians residing in Istanbul but registered in other provinces have until 20 August to return to those provinces. After this date, those intercepted will be sent back to those provinces. For those who are not registered at all will be sent to camps where their cases will be examined. Deportations are happening for those involved in criminal activities and/or entered Turkey via illegal routes. TK-WFP teams are closely monitoring the situation and referring protection cases to UNHCR.
- Swallowed-cards at Vakif and Ziraat Banks' ATMs created a challenge for Halkbank due to **lack of coordination** between HB and the other banks. **Action:** HB either provides a new card if the bank has extra available cards or refers the beneficiaries to call 168;
- TK-WFP teams managed to reach and inform two beneficiary households who did not know they were eligible to collect their cards in Yalova Merkez.

3. Updates on CCTE:

Third Party Monitoring (TPM) for CCTE (Qualitative) – Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)

A total of 30 FGDs have been conducted and 206 people attended the FGDs with parents, and separately with adolescents. More information can be found in the presentation. Some of the highlights from the findings are:

- Syrian parents consider education as valuable for access to the labour market. However, increasing prices, age/ level discrepancies in grade assignments, low level of information on the registration process create challenges.
- Attendance conditionality of the CCTE program is not clear among the participants and they are also unsure about the attendance situation of their children to school.
- Bullying is prevalent, especially on the way to school and demotivates children. For more social cohesion school managements suggest Syrians parents' participation in the parent-teacher meetings.
- Increased age of the child and the cost of education directs families to resort to child labour.
- Child protection program was found effective to assist parents in eliminating hampering factors to attend school regularly.

Cash Component:

UNICEF CCTE Field Monitor provided an update that 391,092 beneficiaries were entitled for payment in July 2019. **200,187** Kızılaycards have been uploaded with payment. **1,545,832** Turkish beneficiaries received July payment in the National CCTE Program.

As of July 2019, the number of children reached with at least one CCTE payment has become 517,877 and the number of Kızılaycards uploaded are **250,965**.

In Istanbul, the total number of children reached as of July 2019 is **72,571**. Out of these children, 93% are in Primary School. Gender distribution is equal and the top five districts with the highest number of beneficiary children in Istanbul are Esenyurt, Bağcılar, Sultangazi, Küçükçekmece and Esenler.

As of 29 July, number of CCTE applications accepted from ALP students is 366 in Istanbul and Bursa.

Comments / Questions regarding TPM

UNHCR asked if it was a norm for Syrian parents that the children would attend school less during Ramadan:

- The information that was received during the FGDs and the KIIs demonstrated that children show more absence during the month of school that coincides with Ramadan compared to other months. Findings also demonstrate that families struggle with early waking hours for school. TRC CCTE CP representative commented that they notice the same pattern when they conduct outreach visits.

- UNHCR commented that during the donor visits they conducted BPRM stated empowerment of children through learning Turkish as an indirect cause of negative power dynamics inside the Syrian households. UNICEF TPM FGDs and KIIs stated empowerment of children as a positive outcome of education.
- The FGD and KII participants stated being in school and the CCTE benefits empowered the children positively. Children sometimes missed school due to translation duties and this could be considered as a negative outcome of the education however, there is no compelling evidence found in terms of education creating a negative power dynamic in the households through the CCTE TPM.

Southeast Education Working Group Back to School Information Package

Southeast Education Working Group prepared and disseminated the Back to School Information package for utilization of all partners nation-wide, which can be found in English, Turkish and Arabic. The package will be presented in detail at the Istanbul Education Working Group as well in the week of 26 Aug. In the package you may find:

- A link on page 12, where I/NGOs can enter issues you encountered in the field regarding school registrations. The trends of issues that are shared through this link will be utilized to advocate for solutions with the MoNE, but individual case management will not be possible to provide.
- A survey that I/NGOs may conduct with parents on the current situation of their children regarding education. The survey data will be shared with all I/NGOs that conducted the survey, after all the data is collected.

Child Protection

- CP teams screened **418 children in Istanbul to follow up**. 224 of them were boys while 194 of them were girls. **203 children had middle risk level**. Moreover 38 children had high risk level.
- TK ESSN representative asked how the TK CCTE CP were identifying families that will be visited:
- Information related to CCTE beneficiary families are shared with TK by the MoFLSS every two months. This information contains attendance/absence status of children. TK CCTE CP teams determine risk status of the families and conduct visits.
- Another issue was pointed as to the **non-attendance of classes during Ramadan**; most of the families claimed that their children skipped their classes since they do not sleep until early morning. Therefore, they could not wake up for school on time.

4. TAC Closure and ESSN Access

Highlights:

- DGMM has shared with TRC a list of 60.490 individuals, who left the nine camps in 2018 (Adiyaman, Akçakale, İslahiye, Karkamış, Midyat, Nizip, Elbeyli, Öncüpınar and Kahramanmaraş) and opted out for urban areas. Accordingly, a study was conducted by TRC on the ESSN application status of those individuals, aiming to **analyze the application status of individuals who opted for cities**, as well as to determine the number of people who have the potential to apply for the ESSN.
- As of **July 2019**, **44.336** individuals out of **60.490** have received the ESSN assistance. Besides, a total of **8.297** individuals were deemed ineligible. In other words, a total of **52.633** applied to **ESSN** and the rate of application is **87.01%**.
- **The eligibility rate** of people applying to the ESSN programme is **84,24%**.
- By comparing those who applied to the ESSN in the same city where their camp was located with those who moved to other cities, we can say that **55,14% moved from the camp to another place within the same city** and 44,86% moved to other cities.
- It is observed that individuals who moved to cities mostly match the ESSN criteria of « **at least 4 children in the household**» with the percentage of 53,71%. The second common criteria is **the dependency ratio** which makes 22,49%. Parent with no other adult living in household is the third criteria of those who are eligible. We see also that 93,32% of the household composition while living within the camp and after leaving the camp is the same.
- Turkish Red Crescent is conducting **coordination, sensitization** and **advocacy** activities in the closed and Decongested TACs. In this context, TRC's activities are: **participate in coordination meetings** with the institutions operating in the closure process, **organizing information** sessions for reeves (muhtars) and opinion

leaders, **informing the individuals** who want to move to cities through verbal and printed materials about ESSN, CCTE and TRC's community center programs before the exit process, **sending SMSes to individuals** on the list prepared and shared by DGMM, **informing the individuals** who have not applied to Kızılaykart despite receiving an SMS and **conducting advocacy activities** for individuals facing registration problems identified through outbound calls and registering them as outreach cases in TRC's systems for more follow-up.

- Turk Kizilay with other partners are closely following up the issue of **TAC** closure from the procedure of leaving until people apply for ESSN programme.
- **In 2019 TRC has sent an SMS** to those who left the camps. It should be noted that the number of **application to the ESSN has increased** after the SMS sent to the families.

In the interviews with the reached households, information was given about the ESSN Programme and an analysis was done on the reasons for not applying to the programme

5. Any Other Businesses:

- Participants have been informed that future meetings will dedicate a 10 min presentation to one participant NGO per meeting for them to present their work within the scope of the ESSN program. More information will be provided ahead of the meeting.
- Information about the collaboration between Nufus and DGMM for the address registration have been explained. **A new circular on address registration** published on 15 April 2019 announced that PDMMs in the provinces listed below will be able to register the addresses of the foreigners in case:
 - The address is empty/vacant, and no one is shown to be registered on the address
 - If there is a registration of more than one family on the same address.
- The provinces where PDMMs can do address registration are:
Adana (Ceyhan, Sarıçam, Seyhan, Yüreğir), Adıyaman, Afyonkarahisar, Ağrı, Aksaray, Amasya, Antalya, Ardahan, Artvin, Aydın, Balıkesir, Batman, Bayburt, Bilecik, Bingöl, Bitlis, Bolu, Burdur, Bursa, Çanakkale, Çankırı, Çorum, Denizli, Diyarbakır, Düzce, Edirne, Elazığ, Erzincan, Erzurum, Eskişehir, Gaziantep, Giresun, Gümüşhane, Hakkari, Hatay (Antakya, Defne, Arsuz), Iğdır, Isparta, İzmir, Kahramanmaraş, Karaman, Kayseri, Kırıkkale, Kırklareli, Kırşehir, Kilis, Konya, Kütahya, Malatya, Manisa, Mardin, Mersin (Akdeniz, Tarsus, Toroslar, Yenişehir), Muğla, Muş, Nevşehir, Niğde, Ordu, Osmaniye, Rize, Sakarya, Samsun, Siirt, Sinop, Sivas, Tokat, Trabzon, Tunceli, Uşak, Van, Yalova, Yozgat, Zonguldak.
This new circular and collaboration between MERNIS and DGMM will be expanded to the other provinces.
- Please remember to send any issues/challenges observed with as much detail as possible (location, date, etc.) to the ESSN TF focal points:
 - **WFP:** Arzum Karasu: arzum.karasu@wfp.com
 - **TK:** Faruk Ahmed Abdo Shaban: faruk.shaban@kizilay.org.tr
- For any programmatic issues, please refer your queries to the following Programme related focal points:
 - **WFP:** Abdullah Alani: abdullah.alani@wfp.org
Verda Yuceer: verda.yuceer@wfp.org.com
 - **TK:** Faruk Ahmed Abdo Shaban: faruk.shaban@kizilay.org.tr

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held in October (TBC). The venue, time and agenda will be shared accordingly.

Attachments:

1. ESSN Task Force Istanbul Presentation
2. CCTE presentation
3. TAC Closure and ESSN Access
4. Mavi Kalem Presentation
5. Southeast Education Working Group Back to School Information Package