

## ESSN Task Force Izmir Minutes

<b>Meeting date &amp; time:</b>	11 October 2019	<b>Location</b>	:	TK Office Izmir
	09:30 - 11:30	<b>Meeting Co-Chairs:</b>		<b>WFP:</b> Faruk Acar <b>TK:</b> Faruk Shaban

<b>Participants:</b>	WFP, Multeci Der, Pozitif Yasam Dernegi, IOM, SGDD-ASAM, MUDEM, DDD, TK, TIAFI, UNICEF
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<b>Agenda</b>	Welcome and Introduction
	1. Updates on ESSN and its implementation in Izmir.
	2. Livelihood Mapping and Survey Results
	3. Updates on Developments in Istanbul
	4. Updates on CCTE
	5. AOB: <i>ASAM - ESSN Experience Sharing</i>

### 1. Updates on ESSN:

- Updates were provided by the Co-Chairs on ESSN flagging that a total of 1.689.937 beneficiaries have received support in September with 55.04% households and 62.40% individuals eligibility rate.
- Information given on ESSN Criteria Breakdown highlighting that four nationalities are covered which are 89.1% Syrians under Temporary Protection, 7.2% Iraqis, 3% Afghans and 0.2% Iranians under International Protection.
- Criteria, namely family with four or more children, has the highest percentage with 57.6%.
- Top three provinces with the highest number of ESSN beneficiaries are Gaziantep, Istanbul and Sanliurfa with a gender breakdown of 51% female and 49% male beneficiaries.
- 57.814 beneficiaries which is total of 9.905 households have received ESSN support in September, in Izmir.
- By September 2019, the total number of disabled beneficiaries reached 29.405 among which are 1.748 with sever disability. This number contains a total of 237 who are severely disabled in Izmir.

### WFP-TK Monitoring and Evaluation Activities (August – September):

- In August and September, SASFs, Population Departments, Halkbank branches and PDMMs were visited as part of ESSN program monitoring activities. The visits were conducted in Aydin, Burdur, Isparta, Izmir and Mugla.
- TK Outreach and Referral team visited 118 institutions in 7 provinces for August and September. Majority of these institutions are SASF offices and main findings of this activity are available attached ESSN PPT.
- Within the scope of monitoring the SASF Discretionary Allowance Criteria, 9 households were added to the ESSN program with this criterion were visited in Karabaglar.
- A total of 4 Focus Group Discussions in Aydin and Manisa with 2 female and 2 male groups were conducted on ESSN Communication Channels and Information Sources. Reports will be published and shared through official channels shortly. Important findings will be shared next task force meeting.
- Information provision, translation and limited accompaniment were provided for 19 cases related to ESSN, DGMM registration, legal issues, social assistance/services.

### Monitoring visits main findings:

- In August, there was an increase in the ESSN Quarterly top-ups payments. In this context, families consisting of 1 to 4 persons will receive 600 TL, families consisting of 5 to 8 individuals will receive 300 TL and families consisting of 9+ individuals will receive 100 TL. Positive feedback was received from families who received August payments.
- There was no significant change in the use of quota over the past period, which is around 12%, corresponding to 179 households and 777 people. Main reason why SASFs cannot use more than their quotas is related to the Decision Support Mechanism. As it was mentioned previously, a family must fall under category A in the Decision Support Mechanism in order to be included in the ESSN program with SASF Discretionary Allowance. In our region, most of the families cannot benefit from the allowance as they don't fall under category A. MoFLSS is working on this and developments will be shared in the upcoming meetings if available.
- Coal quota decreased by approximately 30-50% for all SASFs this year.

- PDMMs are taking full control over registering foreigners/refugees' addresses. PDMM and Nufus offices now have an integrated referral system, allowing applicants to complete their processes from the relevant office based on the missing information needed.
- Following the Istanbul incidents, it was observed that some people returned to Bucak/Burdur and the situation caused some tension in the district.  
In Mugla, many refugees want to leave Turkey and are asking to be resettled in a third country. Illegal migration is also often mentioned.

## 2. Livelihoods Survey and Mapping Results

### Livelihoods Survey Results

WFP and TRC developed the Livelihoods Survey to provide additional evidence to inform the design of the transition from basic needs assistance to more sustainable livelihoods opportunities for refugees in Turkey. The survey sample is drawn from the ESSN applicant pool and aims to assess the potentials of refugee integration into Turkish labour markets, as well as to identify key constraints. As such, the objectives of the survey were to:

- Establish a more detailed understanding of the education, skills and employment profile of refugees in Turkey.
- Gain insight into the labour market integration of refugees, including understanding catalysts, barriers and the additional support needed to enhance employment opportunities.
- Provide necessary evidence for the transition strategy and future of the ESSN programme, which will focus on increasing the employability and self-reliance of beneficiaries.
- Highlight information that can feed into a broader profiling of employment activities for refugees.

This information allows more accurate and evidence-based decision making in relation to livelihoods programming for refugees in Turkey. Please see findings of the survey within shared report, namely Livelihood Survey Findings.

### Livelihoods Mapping Results

After the 8<sup>th</sup> year of Syria crises in Turkey, there is a need to shift the assistances from cash to more sustainable economic self-reliant and livelihood-based modalities. ESSN beneficiaries of who eligible and has potential capacity to be place in job are subject to transition from ESSN to employment. In order to identify multi-dimensional vulnerability of ESSN applicants, both WFP and TK have been conducting regular Comprehensive Vulnerability Monitoring Exercise (CVME) surveys. One of the important finding of the CVME surveys is high demand and needs to livelihoods services. In order to observe the supply to this demand, WFP has started to conduct Livelihood Survey-Mapping to see available livelihood services provided by both governmental and non-governmental organizations such as Turkish language course, employment counselling, vocational and technical trainings and to identify available job opportunities in the market for targeted population. ESSN presentation includes more details on findings of this mapping.

## 3. Updates on Developments in Istanbul

- DGMM experts shared updates related to the implementation of regulatory framework in Istanbul, highlighting certain deadlines starting with August 31<sup>st</sup> then extended to October 30<sup>th</sup> and also provided information on the groups that are exempted from the current requirement of departure.
- DGMM reviewed situations of foreigners from all nationalities including Syrians. Syrians who are registered in different cities but living in Istanbul are requested to return to their city of registration which they need to move to within one week of the day they issue the travel permit at the PDMM offices.
- 52 provinces were designated for relocation. In this registration process, biometric data and identification will be collected and then a city of preference will be selected. persons of concern would have to move to Oncupinar TAC in Killis for the first thirty day ahead of their requested city.
- DGMM stated that the estimated number of people who are registered in other provinces but living in Istanbul is up to 300.000 individuals. Estimated number of people who are not registered and living in Istanbul is 65.000.
- Syrians who are unregistered and are apprehended by the law enforcement units will be transferred to the Temporary Accommodation Center in Oncupinar, Kilis for registration and referral process.
- Istanbul province is closed for registration. There are some exceptions, for example for students who continue education in Istanbul (and her/his family members), family reunification and working with formal work permit. In the discussion between the participants of the TF, the following issues of exemption groups were highlighted:
  - Students (with their families) in primary and elementary education in Istanbul in 2018-2019 academic year.
  - Family Reunification includes spouse, children (below 18 years old) and individuals who are over 18 years old but dependent to family.
  - Syrians with work permits will continue to stay in Istanbul. Syrians who opened businesses informally have to formalize these businesses.

- Syrians who are working without a work permit, and registered in different cities other than Istanbul, have to return their city of registration before the deadline and their employers have to apply for work permit.
- Entrepreneur Syrians will be granted with travel permit if their work required traveling to Istanbul.
- There will also exception to Emergency cases and patients who were referred by state hospitals to receive treatment in Istanbul. In addition, Syrians with medical needs and emergency conditions will have travel permissions to Istanbul. Persons that accompany the patients can have travel permission.

#### 4. Updates on CCTE:

##### Cash Component

- UNICEF CCTE Field Monitor provided an update that 445,757 beneficiaries were entitled for payment in September 2019. 214,383 Kızılaycards have been uploaded with payment. 1,638,951 Turkish beneficiaries received September 2019 payment in the National CCTE Program.
- As of September 2019, the total number of cumulative beneficiaries (the number of children reached with at least one CCTE payment) has become 525,928 and the number of Kızılaycards uploaded are 254,283.
- In Izmir, the total number of children reached as of September 2019 is 17,821. Out of these children, 98% are in Primary Education. Gender distribution is equal and the top five districts with the highest number of beneficiary children in Izmir are Bornova, Karabağlar, Konak, Bayraklı and Buca.
- As of 23 September, number of CCTE applications accepted from ALP students is 103 in Izmir.

##### New CCTE Motivational Payments for Secondary School/ ALP students

To address the limited reach of the CCTE to older refugee children (who were found less likely to be enrolled in school or to attend school regularly), new CCTE top-ups have been introduced at the beginning of school terms. A top up for high school students was also introduced in the national CCTE program (September 2019 and February 2020).

The new top-ups in the CCTE for Refugees program will be applied from Grade 5 onwards as it was found that deterioration of regular school attendance and increased risk of dropping out already begins in lower secondary school for refugee children.

However, refugee children in Grades 9 onwards and ALP will get slightly higher top-ups (+150 TL) than refugee children in lower secondary (+ 100 TL) since the situation worsens for these children and the idea is to promote school completion up to 12th grade. While the primary school students (from kindergarten up to 4th grade) will continue to receive 100 TL additional payment at the beginning of each school term (September 2019 and January 2020); the lower secondary school students receive 100 TL motivational top-up; and ALP / high school students receive 150 TL motivational top-up on top of the 100 TL additional payment.

##### Comments / Questions:

- WFP noted that children who are not registered in Aydın are not accepted to schools in Aydın anymore. Does the rule about children who continued school regularly in Istanbul 2018-2019 school year being able to register in Istanbul apply in other provinces?
  - Based on the information available to UNICEF, this rule is currently only applied in Istanbul and Bursa. The participants would be informed if there is an update.

##### Child Protection Component

TRC provided a brief flow of the CP component of the programme and shared an update on the programme that according to the latest database, which is as of August 2019, 68,199 children have been screened since the beginning of the programme. Out of this number, 12,825 children have been assessed and identified with protection needs. 6,283 of them have been referred to specialized services in respective provinces.

Izmir-specific data for August indicates 75 children have been screened by TRC outreach teams. The gender-based disaggregation is divided in a ratio of 53% (F) to 47% (M). According to the age-based disaggregation, 14-17 year-old band has had the highest caseload with 23 cases and followed by 10-13 year-old band with 21 cases, and 0-5 year-old age band with 18 cases. 6-9 year-old age band has the lowest case load for the month of August with 11 cases.

#### 5. Any Other Businesses:

## **ASAM ESSN Experience Sharing:**

SGDD-ASAM been providing social and legal support for the refugees and asylum-seekers in reaching their rights and services; psychosocial support and organizing numerous courses and activities for the purposes of integrating them into social life since its establishment and currently continues its activities.

Refugees are informed about ESSN during the individual counselling. In case of problems during the processes, they are directed to 168 call centre, SASF or TRC. In general, there are no major problems about ESSN. Refugees usually know the ESSN application process. Refugees are supported with a petition in case of exceptional situations. The process of application and referrals to ESSN is continuing as it should be.

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

**Language update:** Upcoming meeting language and material will be solely in Turkish language as voted by participants.

## **Attachments:**

1. ESSN Task Force Izmir Presentation
2. CCTE presentation
3. Livelihood Survey Findings
4. ASAMESSN Experience Sharing