



Basic Needs Working Group

Meeting Minutes

Time & location:	11 June 2019, Türk Kızılay, Kızılaykart Area Office, Istanbul
Chaired by:	Ahmet Ünver (UNHCR) and Arzum Karasu (WFP)
Participants:	Sarah Dağıstanlı (Zeytinburnu Belediyesi), Serhat Bağlar (ASAM), Tuğba Bakırcı (Save the Children), Meryem Ay Kesgin (WFP), Özgecan Atasoy (UNHCR), Dilşad Turan (SEVVAK), Faruk Shaban (TK), Burcu Uzer (UNICEF), Gamze Düzler (TK), Aişe Sümeyye Dal (TK), Caner Nazlı (ECHO)
Agenda:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome & Introductions 2. Action Points from the Previous Meeting 3. Next Steps: Consolidation of Previous Thematic Focuses 4. Programmatic Focus <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Current Situation in Basic Needs Sector b. Outcomes of Donor Consultations 5. AOB <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Economic Update

AGENDA POINT	DISCUSSION	ACTION POINTS
Welcome and introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UNHCR & WFP chairs welcomed working group members ▪ The meeting agenda was introduced and accepted without changes. 	
Action Points from the Previous Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Request «information sharing spot» from coordinators - <i>Continuing</i> ▪ Members reminded to keep data up to date on Services Advisor - <i>Continuing</i> ▪ Members to share capacity development and training needs - <i>Progressing</i> ▪ Members to respond consultation questions on Environment and Basic Needs - <i>Done ✓</i> 	→ Members can nominate their organization for information sharing spot in August meeting



<p>Next Steps: Consolidation of Previous Thematic Focuses</p>	<p>BNWG February cycle focused on gender mainstreaming at national and local levels and came up with concrete next steps, which were disseminated through STF and presented to participants in the meeting. Some of these next steps were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Addressing gender specific needs in transition to livelihoods. ▪ Further support labor market interventions and child care for women to support transition. ▪ Collect detailed sex and age disaggregated data. ▪ Participatory assessments, gender-balanced program design. ▪ Integrate more gender into coordination with municipalities. ▪ Conduct inclusive awareness raising sessions on gender equality. ▪ Further provision of safe shelters/living environments for refugee women and girls. <p>BNWG April cycle focused on environment mainstreaming at national and local level. BNWG concrete next steps were presented and revised based pm the results of the environmental mainstreaming survey. These proposed next steps were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Partners work towards assessing and minimizing negative impacts of operation. ▪ Partners adopt applicable environment friendly approaches to programing. ▪ Consider environmental impact of NFI distribution, and if appropriate choose CBI solutions. ▪ Prefer and encourage environment friendly, durable and sustainable materials for household shelter and WASH activities. ▪ Promote sustainable consumption practices at hygiene/self-care awareness sessions. Raise awareness on zero waste, waste separation, scarcity of natural resources. ▪ Further support to local authorities for waste collection and separation. ▪ Support platforms for assist Municipalities collect concerns about environmental sanitation conditions. ▪ Advocate for sustainable and eco-conscious considerations when supporting municipal counterparts. 	<p>→ Coordinators to revised next steps for Environment</p>
<p>Programmatic Focus</p>	<p>Coordinators reviewed programs and reported activities following first quarter of 2019. Coordinators aimed to share this review of the current activities in the sector and present the current situation to members, ask for feedbacks. Further, coordinators consulted donors at Ankara level to discuss coordination and strategy development in the sector</p>	



a. Current Situation in Basic Needs Sector

Based on ActivityInfo reporting, current ongoing sector activities are:

- **Cash Based Interventions:** Emergency Social Safety Net, Alternative to Camps, One-time Cash Assistance, Monthly Cash Assistance.
- **Shelter:** Apartment Building Upgrades, Urban Public Space Enhancements, WASH Rehabilitation Programs.
- **Non-Food Items:** Core Relief Items, Hygiene/Self-care Kits, Hygiene Awareness Sessions.
- **Municipal Support:** New Infrastructure, Strengthened Technical Capacity New superstructure/public spaces.
- **Food Assistance:** In-camp Food Assistance.
- **Transportation:** CtC Transportation Support.

ESSN program covers several provinces all around Turkey. Hygiene awareness sessions are done in several cities of the country. Other activities mainly focus on South East provinces.

In the First Quarter 2019 The sector has cumulatively reached 1.69 million refugees. More than 1.58 million refugees have benefited from ESSN program whereas rest of the beneficiaries were reached through other CBIs, shelter, WASH, food assistance and NFIs. Please see the dashboard for further achievements in the first quarter of 2019.

b. Donor Consultations

Coordinators reviewed Q1 2019 achievements and brought out that less than planned organizations received funding to undertake their appealed activities in 3RP.

Coordinators aimed to explore the perspective of donors who currently funding or previously funded programs under BN. On the other hand, coordinators wanted to create an opportunity to share discussions of the BNWG on transition, mainstreaming and modalities; also receive feedback on coordination.

Basic Needs sector coordinators held consultation meetings with Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migrants (State Department, USA), Embassy of Germany, Embassy of Switzerland, European Commission Humanitarian Aid (ECHO). Meetings were in the form of semi-structured interviews and were held one by one with each donor. Please note, statements are not necessarily the consensus of all four donors. Outcomes of the consultations were categorized and most commonly reflected findings that were shared with members by sector coordinators.

→ Members ensure their organization and its partners regularly input data to ActivityInfo



- **Funding:** Currently donors that continue funding aim to meet the pressing needs of refugees through basic needs programs or complement other programs and close the identified gaps. Donors which decreased or discontinued funding focuses more on development (humanitarian) and resilience. Funding is expected to gradually decrease. Dual systems bring about sustainability risks, therefore expectancy is an integrated approach for service provision (integration of GoT and other entities).
- **Partnership:** Donors continue to work with government entities, UN agencies and NGOs, though less emphasis is on NGOs for future plans. In terms of service provision, there are basics regarding inclusion of refugees but there is still a room for improvement.
- **Modality:** Cash based intervention represents a big part in BN assistance. For some donors, CBI is relatively new, there is high emphasis on the outcomes of PDM. CBI programs are effective as long as they complement each other. Assistance may fall short within economic environment target. Shelter meets the needs of the vulnerable families and it achieves to close the gap. NFI is unlikely to increase, and funding of municipal support may be challenged for the coming years.
- **Shelter:** Needs are identified and met by limited number of organization and only in SE Turkey. Recognition of IA shelter guidance document and shelter need findings within this report is rather low. Shelter situation is deemed to be satisfactory, and better in comparison with region.
- **Municipal Support:** Donors are aiming to give the right message as they support municipal services. Large municipal support is regarded as possibly unnecessary (population may not remain the same in the future for the affected cities), municipal strengthening is deemed as responsibility of GoT, and external funding is specified for crisis response rather than development.
- **Gender:** All prioritize addressing gender specific vulnerabilities, have markers in place and require disaggregated reporting. Gender analysis is a must in projects; however, there is room for improvement. Donors expect gender mainstreaming to be led by IA.
- **Environment:** All state interest and acknowledged the need to mainstream. However, none considers it as a priority nor has markers in place.
- **PSEA:** Highly prioritized by all donors. Some donors state that it is a red flag when no budget is allocated for PSEA framework development. It is expected that IA brings out and shares Turkey specific lessons learned regarding PSEA.
- **AAP:** Most donors prioritize AAP framework and the lack of it may disqualify applications. Challenge in AAP (monitoring, reporting, enhancing etc.) was highlighted in AAP considering the shift of services towards GoT.
- **Social Cohesion:** Language barrier was still rated as the most significant obstacle against cohesion. It was highlighted by some donors that children dependency (with Turkish skills) can shift family dynamics. This



	<p>in turn may decrease control of guardians on children and may result in high school dropouts, or engagement with crime.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transition: Turkey is a highly complex market with specific requirements; therefore, solutions that address needs and combine several approaches will be effective in transition. Independent needs and market analysis is expected for better livelihoods programing. In reference to the economic situation in 2019, creation of formal jobs is challenged. Consequently, timely and necessarily developed exit strategies should continue to evolve considering the current challenges. ▪ Livelihoods: While discussing transition, donors shared reflections on livelihood programs. Actual job matching is expected more in programing. Majority of donors expect programs to continue targeting Syrians additional to refugees of other nationalities and host community. Social challenges against formal employment should not be overlooked. ▪ Coordination: Donors recognize the challenge in coordinating several actors in the field and appreciate information shared by IA. More synergy with GoT service providers in WGs is expected. Increased effectiveness in inter-sectoral referrals, mainstreaming of protection into all other sectors is expected, IA should coordinate these efforts. UNHCR-UNDP should play a stronger role for influencing policy. 	
<p>AOB Economic Update</p>	<p>Highlights of the current economic situation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Turkish economy has contracted in the Q4 2018, slow growth or stagnation in 2019, unemployment reached 14.7%. Inflation is declining below 19%, but still high to stabilize the economy. ▪ Minimum Expenditure Basket cost reduced to 334 TRY, but the gap is 59 TRY. ▪ Higher use of coping strategies since the devaluation shock in August 2018. <p>Implications of the economic situation on refugees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The most affected sectors are where the refugees work, host-refugee competition is likely. ▪ The price decrease at the consumer's side is temporary, the refugees would be more vulnerable once the campaigns end. ▪ The summer season might alleviate the burden on the refugees as the heating is not an expense, but plans for the winter 2019 is necessary. ▪ Resorting to coping strategies might be related to reduced income rather than increased inflation. 	
<p>Next meeting</p>	<p>Istanbul -TBD</p>	