

Basic Needs Working Group Meeting Minutes

Time& Location:	13 August 2020, Virtual National Meeting
Chaired by:	Ahmet Ünver (UNHCR), Hiba Hanano (WFP)
Participants:	Asya Ergün (IFRC), Ayman Sallawy Alhalb (TRC), Ayşenur Özcan (WFP), Bülent Öztürk (TRC), Burak Çınar (ECHO), Buruc (MSYD), Ceylan Tunca (UNFPA), Dilara Türker (İGAM), Dragan Markovic (UNICEF), Firat Olcay (UNHCR), Gökalp Arslan (UNHCR), Görkem Göker (TRC), Gulfidan Alabbassi (IFRC), Hadi Alamli (ASAM), Hanifi Kınacı (TRC), Isabelle Kronich (ILO), İbrahim Altay (), İpek Çamlı (HRDF), İsmet Yasak (UNHCR), İsmet Yolalan (UNHCR), Kadir Beyaztaş (ASAM), Lara Özügergin (UNHCR), Livio Mercurio (UNHCR), Meriem Oubaziz (UNHCR), Özgür Savaşcıoğlu (UNHCR), Umut Pamuk (IFRC)
Agenda:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome & Introductions 2. Review Action Points <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Endorse Revised Priority Plan 2020 3. Sector Reviews of Winterization Updates 4. Presentation on Inter-Agency Referral Form and Guidance Material (PWG) 5. Sharing ESSN Programme Updates (IFRC/TRC) 6. Presentation on the Initial Analysis of PDM Results (UNHCR) 7. AoB

AGENDA POINT	DISCUSSION
Agenda revision	The meeting agenda was introduced, reviewed and accepted without changes.
Previous action points follow up	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Partners to update the status of their services in Services Advisor; inform sector coordinators/IM for missing or incorrectly represented services by any stakeholder. - <i>Ongoing</i> 2. Coordinators reflect meeting feedbacks for 2020 Priority Plan mid-year revision, distribute to members for feedback. - <i>Done ✓</i> 3. Partners provide feedback on 2020 Priority Plan mid-year revision via email COB 5 August. - <i>Done ✓</i> 4. Coordinators provide further information on IARF, address challenges working with PWG/IM. - <i>Ongoing</i> 5. Interested partners participate in CBI TWG on 28 July for further CBI discussions. - <i>Done ✓</i> 6. Partners refer to “My Safety Plan” when implementing basic needs activities, as it provides space for beneficiaries who could be marginalized to exercise rights and access assistance; ensure correct distribution of this sensitive document. - <i>Ongoing</i>



	7. Coordinators share the ERP document that compiles available assessment reports. - <i>Done</i> ✓
Action Points	1. Interested partners will join to the Winterisation TF, which is coordinated by IOM
Endorse Revised Priority Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The sector priority plan for 2020 has been revised following the previous meeting, with the only adding COVID-19 among priorities. Other sector priorities remain in line with received feedback from partners. The revised priority plan for 2020 has been endorsed by the sector.
Sector Review of Winterization Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The BN sector IM colleague presented the changing economic conditions that may impact winterization needs around Turkey. The information provided is helpful for the calculation of transfer values for the coming period, looking at an increase of transfer values. The provinces that experience the harshest winter conditions in Turkey are in Northeast Anatolia. From West to East and South to North, winter condition severity increases in Turkey. The conditions are also harsh in Central Anatolia, however targeted assistance and programming in this region is limited. Therefore, it remains important for needs in Central Anatolia to be discussed in coordination platforms. The winter PDM report prepared by WHH indicates that 45 percent of beneficiaries cannot cover their basic needs, whereas 57 percent cannot fully cover their winter needs. In order to cover winter needs, beneficiaries had been relying on loans and not buying winter items. The results are complemented by the inter-agency winterization PDM report led by IOM, with 67 percent of beneficiaries indicating that prices are inflated. The main source of income for these beneficiaries is daily wages. In 2020, the winter items value has increased around 14-15 percent between January and June. In July alone the increase has reached 12.5 percent. The change in prices of winter items has been larger than recorded inflation rates, therefore it has been difficult for beneficiaries to cover costs of winter items. IOM will continue their coordination meetings on setting transfer rates for winterization. Together with IOM and WHH, UNICEF is also continuing one-off conditional cash transfers during winter, and is looking into planning towards the coming winter season. Planning and prioritization of winterization assistance within the 3RP, should factor in the socio-economic status of the primary target population as well as the Turkish population. This is important, since the beneficiaries most in need of winterization assistance due to socio-economic status don't always reside in the locations which experience harsh winter conditions. Therefore, stakeholders planning towards providing winterization assistance should factor in all regions in Turkey, and take informed action based on ongoing assessments. Needs and vulnerability assessments conducted by WFP, TRC/IFRC, and other partners remain very useful to understand the impact of winterization programmes on beneficiaries as well as any remaining gaps. The Winterization Task Force, set-up under the Basic Needs WG will continue its coordination meetings in the coming period. The platform remains open for contributions from partners, regardless of having winterization programs or not.



	<p>Partners interested in joining the coordination meetings of the TF are encouraged to reach out to the BN coordinators for inclusion.</p>
<p>Present IARF and Guidance Materials</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IARF has been developed through consultations at different field coordination structures and was rolled out at the end of 2018 at the national Protection working group. The IARF is a tool to strengthen referral pathways and establish minimum standards around referrals, facilitate protection-sensitive referrals in line with doing no harm, ensure predictability in referrals, prevent breaches of confidentiality, and deliver inter-sectoral responses for individuals. The tool adheres to national data protection laws and remains a living document with regular discussions held on how to improve and its use. • An IARF package has been created by the PWG, including the inter-agency referral form, a separate and accompanying consent form, and an Advised Basic Operating Principles (ABOP) document. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The tool is a two-page form, with a third page dedicated to referrals of SGBV cases only. - A separate harmonized consent form has been developed by lawyers and is made available with the form. The consent form aims to abide by national data protection laws and provide partners with a standardized consent form structure, that can be integrated into agency specific mechanisms. - The ABOP has been developed as a guidance document, describing used terminology and case referral modalities, and providing practical tips to case and sector workers on how to fill the IARF. The ABOP outlines the different facilitation modalities for referrals and transfers. • Consultations with partners on the usage of IARF is ongoing. Consultations have resulted in need for increased focus on differentiating between referral and transfer of cases, setting standardized priority level determination processes, reviewing the legal counsellors group, reviewing changes in terminology and developing a practical guidance. • The Protection team will now get feedback from protection coordinators on the IARF. Following finalization, the package will be rolled out across sectors. Information sessions and trainings of trainers will be held with interested partners starting from September. • The PWG will look into digitalizing the form and linking it with the Services Advisor platform in the coming period. • The Protection sector welcomes any feedback and suggestions from partners on the structure and usage of IARF. • Many Basic Needs partners are also active under the Protection sector and have therefore familiarized with the form. One concern raised previously by BN partners has been related to the consent form, and whether the form is sufficient for protection regarding data regulations. • The IARF is a very comprehensive form and some partners have found it difficult to use. When thinking of standardizing the components of the form, it might be useful to work with partners from different sectors as well for feedback. • The BNWG is interested in further engagement with the Protection sector, towards devising multi-sectoral response to identified needs.



Share ESN
Programme
Updates

ESNN Updates

- In accordance with the data received by Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services, as of 4th August, the total number of applications to the ESN Programme is **2.729.127** Individuals across the country. **%6** of these applications is received from Ankara.
- In the July payment cycle, **1.752.616** individuals which covers **308.095** households. The number of eligible people in Ankara is **97.288**, and the amount of monthly assistance is **20.4 million TL**.
- Under the programme, disabled individuals is 31.183 and 10.133 of them are severely disabled. MoH considers expired Disability Health Reports as up to date due to the COVID-19 situation. So disabled beneficiaries have been informed that they don't need to approach hospital to update their reports.
- Almost **90** percent of the ESN beneficiaries are of Syrian nationality, followed by Iraqis, Afghans and Iranians. Also, **%60** of the beneficiaries are between the ages of 0-17 years.
- Families with four or more children criteria reflect the majority of beneficiaries, followed by families that have a high number of dependents and families with one or more disabled people. (**%55.6; %23.3; %9.1, respectively.**)
- In June and July, **9.719** new cards were distributed nationwide. **2.960** of these cards belongs to new beneficiaries whereas remaining refers to renew of lost, broken or damaged cards. In Ankara, **391** cards were distributed.
- As a response to the impact of COVID-19 situation, the ESN Programme provided one-off economic top-up to **1.7 million** vulnerable refugees with two instalments in June & July. (500+500 TL)
- In June and July, **34.618** calls received through 168 Türk Kızılay Call Center. Most of the calls are coming from Istanbul and Gaziantep. The number of calls received from Ankara is **1.373**.
- In June and July, **1.4 million** informative SMSs delivered to the beneficiaries. Also, **1.404** questions answered on Facebook and **545** on Website.
- With the transition to the new normal period, institution visits conducted, Kızılaykart Outreach&Referral Unit conducted **565** visits (IFRC Field Coordination colleagues joined some of these visits) to find out how the institutions continue their activities.
 - Institutions (DGPC, SASF & PDMM) start proceeding actively with new normal thus application-based problems visibly decreased.
 - It is also observed that there is a slightly decrease in the basic needs request by the refugees.
 - SASF suspended their HH visits amid pandemic, this suspension continues, and SASF take actions upon the information on system and result of previous HH visits.
 - For SASF allowance, SASF follows the same steps and check the vulnerability of family through the system.
 - It is also observed in some SASF offices, phone / online appointment service come into use.
- Since August 2017, **9.8** million individuals' data, coming from **11** different organizations were cross-checked on ESN Beneficiary Cross-Check mechanism. During the pandemic, a total of **2,1 million** individuals' data cross-checked delivered by **six different organizations**.
- There are rumours captured on the field regarding the ESN Program such as changing of the selection criteria, additional economic top-up payments to all Refugees and one-off gift vouchers valid in A101 & BİM. All these rumours are addressed.



To capture and address such rumours or more, IFRC & TRC are working on **the Rumour Tracking & Management System**.

- We received some requests from the TF partners regarding the organization of a dedicated TF Meetings in İstanbul. This request is under evaluation, and there will be an announcement when the decision made. Also, dedicated TF meeting for the Ankara can be arranged, if needed. Partners are encouraged to deliver such a request if they have.

AoB

- CCTE transfer values have increased starting from the July Payment Period as the adaptation of National CCTE Program by MONE. New transfer values are shown in the table below.

Grade	Gender	Transfer Value	
		Former	Increased
Kindergarten to 8th Grade	Girls	40 TL	50 TL
	Boys	35 TL	45 TL
9th-12th Grades	Girls	60 TL	75 TL
	Boys	50 TL	55 TL
ALP Students	Girls	60 TL	75 TL
	Boys	60 TL	75 TL

Present Initial Analysis of PDM Results

- A post-distribution survey has been conducted by UNHCR between 27-30 July, including 411 phone interviews with beneficiary households, representing 2100 individuals. The survey questions were inclusive of receiving and spending modalities of cash assistance, risks and problems associated with it, markets and prices, expenditures, outcomes and accountability to affected populations.
- When asked whether the amount received covered expectations, almost 50 percent of respondents answered that it hasn't, with 30 percent saying they don't know. Most respondents have no education and work experience in Turkey, and most of those who are employed are working without a work permit.
- Majority of respondents (75 percent) have stated that the highly preferred modality of assistance is cash. Majority of respondents have not experienced any difficulties receiving/withdrawing or spending the cash. Most respondents are not aware of feedback mechanisms.
- Rent, food and utilities/bills make up the top expenditures for respondents, whereas COVID-related expenditures come in last.
- Among stated coping strategies, reducing the quality of meals, reducing expenditures of hygiene items, skipping rent payments, and taking out new loans have been mentioned the most frequently.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The impact of the UNHCR cash assistance amongst different nationalities has been varying with Afghan and Iranian beneficiaries reporting very low impact, as opposed to Iraqi and Syrian households.• Significant outcomes from the PDM will be used towards future planning and implementation modalities, focusing on reducing negative coping mechanisms for households and persons in need.
AoB	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Basic Needs sector co-chair Hiba Hanano announced that her assignment in WFP has come to an end, and starting from September BNWG will be chaired by UNHCR only.
Next meeting	The next national BNWG meeting will take place in September and will focus on the upcoming planning cycle of the 3RP.