



Basic Needs Working Group

National Meeting, Meeting Minutes

Date & Location	18 February 2021, National Virtual Meeting
Chaired by	Ahmet Ünver (UNHCR)
Minutes Prepared by	Elif Eser Mooty (UNHCR) & Ahmet Ünver (UNHCR)
Participating Agencies	
CARE, GIZ, IFRC, IOM, MSYD, SGDD-ASAM, Support to Life, TRC, UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WATAN Foundation	
Agenda	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Welcome & introductions2. Review action points and announcements3. Endorse ToR & Sector Work Plan4. Introduce Kizilaykart Information Exchange Mechanism Concept<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Present new conceptb) Q&Ac) Present the Response Matrix Revision5. Discuss Sectoral Information Needs6. Share ESSN Programme Updates7. AoB	
Action Points	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A capacity development survey to be shared to identify the capacity development needs of partners.2. An information needs survey will be shared with partners to identify the information needs of partners.	
Documents	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inter-sectoral M&E Report for 2019• Information Needs Survey, respond no later than CoB 28 Feb• BNWG Q3 Dashboard• BNWG Q4 Dashboard	
Action Points and Announcements	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• BNWG to share with STF, identified need for further inter-sectoral discussions on this topic – Done• BNWG to work with other relevant platforms to revive Mapping of 3RP Partner Support to Municipalities – Progress• BNWG to prepare a draft workplan based on prioritization of themes and share with members - Progress• BNWG to advertise position for Technical Advisor/s – Done• BNWG to revise the Terms of Reference document – Done	



Announcements

- The sector's technical advisor position, advertised on 5 February, aims to provide technical advice to the BNWG chair with individual/organization evidence-based guidance and expertise. The support will feed into forming linkages with stakeholders, developing the work plan, and establishing regular technical exchange with other actors to have inclusive decision making. The deadline for applications is **Friday, 26 February**.

Endorse ToR & Sector Work Plan

- The Terms of Reference document shared previously with partners on 5 February, defines the revised general objectives of the WG, beneficiaries, procedures, roles and responsibilities.
- The general objective of the WG has been revised in line with the new 3RP objectives. The beneficiary caseload of focus has been revised to include refugees of nationalities other than Syrians.
- The revised sectoral work plan has been shared with participants. Bi-monthly regular field and national meetings will be held for the BNWG. During the months in between, thematic BN meetings will be held bi-monthly starting from March and will host both national and field counterparts.
- The regular meetings will include regular content – including sector achievements, ESSN updates and discussions, whereas the thematic meetings will allow for in-depth discussions on dedicated themes. The tentative meeting calendar has been shared with participants.
- Participants were asked if they would prefer regular Turkish-English translation during BNWG meetings, with most respondents stating that there is a need for translation. As per the results of the voting in the field and national levels, the WG will check its resources and arrange Turkish translation for the upcoming meetings.
- The Basic Needs WG work plan for 2021 has been prepared based on the outcomes of the prioritization practice of the previous sectoral meeting. Accordingly, priority areas have been determined with a dedicated timeline and lead organizations for identified tasks.
- As decided in the previous meeting, coordination with municipalities and public institutions are top priorities, followed by protection mainstreaming and working on a sectoral needs assessment. These priorities are followed by dialogue with donors, mainstreaming CBIs, capacity development of partners, supporting self-reliance and winterization.
- Partners have been invited to state interest in contributing to decided tasks. Some tasks don't have lead organizations yet and partners can state interest in leading the activities through a collaboration – especially with regards to coordination with public institutions.
- With regards to mainstreaming CBI, the sector needs to discuss the proportion of NFI assistance to cash assistance.
- A capacity development needs assessment survey will be carried out with participants in order to specify the areas in which capacity development activities/trainings can be undertaken. Depending on the needs and availability of resources, trainings can be planned. If any partners are interested in delivering any trainings, then they are invited to indicate which area.
- Transition to livelihoods will remain an area of importance in 2021, despite the changing needs caused by COVID-19. Transition is defined as a task and details can be discussed in the coming months.

Introduce KızılayKart Information Exchange Mechanism Concept

a. The New Concept

- TRC's KIZILAYKART Digital Platform simultaneously carries out six different programmes, which are; In-Camp Food Assistance Programme, Emergency Social Safety Net Programme (ESSN), Conditional Cash Transfer for



Education Programme (CCTE), Adult Language Training Programme (ALT), Vocational Course Incentive Programme, and the Complementary Emergency Social Safety Net Programme (C-ESSN) is planned to be started in July 2021.

- These programmes are carried out under KIZILAYKART Platform and it has a data base including around 2.7 million individual's data and this system is highly reliable and integrated with the governmental institution's systems.
- Through the mechanism established, TRC is able to cross check the data of the individuals under temporary and international protection who are currently benefitting from programmes under KIZILAYKART Platform to give information on their eligibility status based on the organizations request.
- The organizations who request to cross-check their beneficiaries against the data of KIZILAYKART Platform, share lists through e-mail. TRC upload the list to GÖÇMEN. After the necessary controls are done in line with procedures, TRC share the outcomes via e-mail. Through this cross-checking, TRC contributes largely to prevent the duplication in the assistances provided, enhance coordination between the organizations and contribute to effective and efficient use of funds.
- TRC plans to move the current mechanism to an online platform where humanitarian actors can login and share their lists systematically to be cross-checked while still fulfilling the same objectives mentioned earlier. This mechanism is planned to be constantly accessible and user-friendly with multiple language selection.
- In addition, TRC plans to introduce a new layer to the mechanism where organizations can refer to when planning and implementing their projects. Thanks to this new layer, organizations will be able to access basic nation-wide statistics through the dashboard in place that will contribute to designing and implementation phase of their project.
- With the novel component, TRC aims to contribute to cross-sectoral coordination and support design and implementation phase of the humanitarian projects.

The BN Response Matrix Revision

- The Basic Needs response matrix has been revised after TRC joined the 3RP appeal. The cross-check programme will be captured under the second BN objective's Resilience component. A new output (2.3) was added into the matrix: Partners supported in basic needs service delivery through inter-agency coordination mechanisms.
- This new component will strengthen existing coordination links and will be a useful tool for accountability purposes, while allowing reaching out to as many households as possible.

Discuss Sectoral Information Needs

- The 3RP inter-sector team started its discussions on the monitoring and evaluation cycle of the 2020-21 3RP. In line with this, the sectors started discussing sectoral information needs, with the aim of reporting against the inter-sectoral outcome indicators, defined within the 3RP M&E Framework. For the BNWG, this discussion is in line with the outcome of the prioritization exercise conducted in January, during which partners indicated the need for a sectoral needs assessment.
- The 3RP M&E Report, produced annually, evaluates the positive impact created through sectoral interventions at the inter-sectoral level. The report is written at the inter-sectoral outcome level, defined within the three strategic objectives of the 3RP, defined in 2020.
- Different sectors' activities feed into the inter-sectoral outcomes and Basic Needs activities directly feed into inter-sectoral outcomes 1.2, 2.3, 2.4, and 3.1.
- The current progress aims at reviewing the indicators that are feeding into the inter-sectoral outcomes. In line with this, sector partners were asked for their contributions on existing information sources that can be used to measure the outcomes against.



- Possible additions can be made under each output indicator for the Basic Needs sector and suggestions were shared with partners. Partners will be given more time to reflect on the information needs of the sector and can share their inputs in the coming period, reflecting on the three discussion questions shared with partners. The questions are accessible through an information needs survey – which will be made available to partners.
- The existing means of verification for measuring the inter-sectoral impact of 3RP interventions, specific to Basic Needs are, ActivityInfo reporting, CVME, ESSN PDM, TUIK data, Minimum Expenditure Basket (WFP), IA Protection RNA, and the Winterisation PDM.

Share ESSN Programme Updates

- Based on MoFLSS data as of 08.02.2021, the ESSN has received a total of 598,519 applications out of which 322,331 applications were found eligible. Ankara comes in the 5th place with 32,619 applications (5% of the total applications). Naturally, the application trend between Jan. 2020-2021 was hit by the COVID-19 pandemic which has led it to drop down to 720-843 HHs respectively in April and May due to the outbreak working regulations for the public institutions, only to rise again to 4,627 HHs in July amid the first normalisation phase. December recorded 2,844 HH applications with the launch of the recent outbreak countermeasures.
- A total 1,798,472 individuals have received the ESSN assistance in January. The decline pursuant to December 2020 is due to the individuals registered as born on January 1 which is, as a result, affecting the HH eligibility to the ESSN with respect to its demographic criteria (HH members turning 18 years old). The eligibility rate (HH: 53% - Indiv: 64%) and the average individual number in an eligible HH (5.6) are an indication of ESSN's wide coverage to the majority of the vulnerable population. Ankara (97,461 recipients) is in the 6th rank among the other provinces with respect to the recipient population. More than half of them are Syrians (54.5%), followed by Iraqis (42.7%). In January, they received 12,138,120 TL as the monthly assistance. The 600 TL monthly severe disability allowance was paid to 10,982 fully dependent individuals across the country out of which 2,250 are living in the Central Anatolia (Ankara: 738 fully dependent recipients). The expired temporary Disability Health Reports are still accepted as valid but due to pandemic, there are some cases in which individuals had difficulties to get the DHR for the first time. SASF discretionary allowance continues its rising role as an access way to the ESSN with a total of 32,198 recipients.
- A total of 521 questions were answered on our website and Facebook page. The 168 Call Center received 16,348 calls. These were mostly some information requests about the application process, its results, reasons for the assistance cut, how to get a DHR etc.
- The M&E Teams conducted 10 FGD sessions with participants including those who were not ESSN eligible and the theme was Debt and Financial Stress: Impact on Social Relations. Card Distribution Monitoring was conducted at Halkbank branches in Ankara and Samsun.
- Referral&Outreach Teams have visited 398 local governmental institutions in 39 provinces (196 districts) through which they have carried out their sensitisation and advocacy duties and delivered 15 cards to HHs who were unable to collect them by themselves directly from the bank. The number of access issues to the SASFs has been showing a significant drop since December compared to November 2020.

Q&A

Q: A HH led by a single woman had its ESSN assistance cut since the eldest daughter turned 18 years old. How can they receive the ESSN again?



A: The family won't be able to receive the monthly payments unless the registered HH is fulfilling one of ESSN's demographic criteria. If a change happens in the HH composition, they can apply to the respective SASF or TRC Service Center and update their records. On the other hand, they can always call the 168 Call Center to ask for their assistance in this regard. This kind of cases can also be referred to our Referral&Outreach Unit (at kizilaykartdiserisim@kizilay.org.tr) to look into it or for some further referrals from their side to other points of assistance (such as the SASF Discretionary Allowance).

Q: Does the Referral&Outreach Unit involve any scale of preference when working on their cases?

A: The purpose of referral and outreach activities is not only to solve specific issues faced by individuals but also to carry out advocacy activities for similar issues to create a general effect in the region within the scope of the encountered issue, removing upcoming barriers within that specific location. The `do no harm` approach is one of the main pillars taken into account by TRC while handling the outreach cases. From this point of view, TRC Outreach teams approach to each and every case with the same sensitivity to be able to take the necessary action. They respond to the needs of each individual at the soonest time possible and carefully evaluate their situation to identify whether the respective individuals should be referred to the relevant protection services. Along with the ESSN access and registration issues and protection referrals, Outreach teams also refer the vulnerable individuals or households identified to the SASFs to be considered for SASF Allowance, which allows SASFs to include the vulnerable households to the ESSN Programme even though they do not meet the criteria.

Next meeting	<p>The next BNWG joint meeting will be held on 18 March.</p> <p>The next CBI meeting will be on 23 March.</p> <p>The next regular field meeting will be held on 8 April, and the national meeting on 15 April.</p>
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