

Basic Needs Working Group

Meeting Minutes

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| Time& Location: | 16 July 2020, National Virtual Meeting |
| Chaired by: | Ahmet Ünver (UNHCR), Hiba Hanano (WFP) |
| Participants: | Ahmed Malla (CARE International), Ali Aslan (GIZ), Alper Mavi (IBC), Alperen Açıkol (TRC), Anastasiya Stelmakh (ASAM), Asya Ergün (IFRC), Bartu Öncüoğlu (IBC), Bora Özbek (UNFPA), Burak Çınar (ECHO), Caner Nazlı (ECHO), Ceylan Tunca (UNFPA), Dilara Türker (İGAM), Ece Uluç (GOAL), Elif Eser Mooty (UNHCR), Elvan Aksoy (Relief International), Gözde Bingüler (UN Women), Gülfidan Alabbassi (IFRC), Hanifi Kınacı (TRC), Hatip Surun (UNHCR), Hakkı Ersoy (UNICEF), Mohamad Taher Kurdie (GIZ), Mayas Alcharani (Relief International), Mohanad Ameen (IOM), Omar Zalt (AAR Japan), Osama Mahmoud (ATA for Humanitarian Relief), Özgür Savaşcıoğlu (UNHCR), Seda Akpınar (Concern WW), Sinan Özyürek (UNHCR), Zeynel Doğan (IFRC), Zerrin Alkan (Kırkayak Kültür) |
| Agenda: | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome & Introductions 2. Review Action Points 3. Review BNWG Mid-year Achievements and Set Priorities <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Present Sector Achievements in 2020 b) Present Sector Strategy and Priority Plan c) Set Priorities for the second half of 2020 4. Discuss Gender-specific Approach in Basic Needs Assistance <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) UNFPA Gender-specific Assistance & SGBV Approach b) UN Women `My Safety Plan` c) Discussions 5. AoB |

| AGENDA POINT | DISCUSSION |
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| 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. Partners to share program updates (including new CBIs) continuously with sector coordinators - <i>Done ✓</i> 3. IM to work on Material Tracking Tool dashboard to include request-based analysis of distributions - 4. BNWG to refer discussions of CBI coordination and harmonization to CBI TWG - <i>Done ✓</i> 5. Partners inform sector coordinators of their technical/coordination needs in reprogramming - <i>Ongoing</i> |



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| <p>Action Points</p> | <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. 2. Coordinators reflect meeting feedbacks for 2020 Priority Plan mid-year revision, distribute to members for feedbacks 3. Partners provide feedback on 2020 Priority Plan mid-year revision via email COB 5 August. 4. Coordinators provide further information on IARF, address challenges working with PWG/IM 5. Interested partners participate in CBI TWG on 28 July for further CBI discussions 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. 7. Coordinators share the ERP document that compiles available assessment reports |
| <p>Links to Documents</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2020 Priority Plan Mid-year Revision 2. ERP document that compiles available assessment reports 3. CBI TWG 28 July Meeting Registration Link (for the interested partners) 4. UN Women “My Safety Plan” documents |
| <p>Reporting of the COVID-19 Appealed Activities</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sectors generated new indicators in COVID-19 situation in order to capture situation specific activities • Basic Needs sector used its current indicators because they captured all activities in the field in COVID-19 • Partners are kindly asked to continue their timely reporting, but choose COVID-19 rather than 3RP while reporting. |
| <p>Review BNWG Mid-year Achievements and Set Priorities</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Basic Needs sector partners have reached 1.86 million refugees in the first half of 2020, with 1.7 million refugees benefiting from ESSN, and 9 organizations reported reaching almost 24 thousand benefiting from NFIs . <p>A) Sector Achievements in 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age and gender disaggregated data of achievements demonstrates that amongst basic needs beneficiaries, the number of women is generally higher than those of girls, boys and men. This is especially the case for NFI support, of which women make almost 63 percent of all beneficiaries. For basic needs and cash assistance, the distribution is relatively equal among groups. • In the first quarter, ESSN cash activities under the sector reached more than 1.7 million beneficiaries in 80 provinces. Partners reached more than 21 thousand beneficiaries with non-ESSN cash activities, in 8 provinces, reported through 6 partners. However, progress reported here remains very low compared to the targets. • Basic Needs partners reached more than 23 thousand beneficiaries with NFI assistance, in 15 provinces, through 5 partners. The sector is far from achieving its target; however, there is a large number of unreported activities for NFI provision, as widespread distribution has taken place for both the Edirne and COVID-19 circumstances. • Partners have reached more than 85 thousand beneficiaries with food assistance activities, and 3,400 beneficiaries with shelter and WASH activities. The achievement remains low due to underfunding. |



- The Basic Needs coordinators will remain in touch with partners, and are calling for all partners to report activities through ActivityInfo and the Material Tracking Tool and update services on ServicesAdvisor.

B) Sector Strategy and Priority Plan

- Due to COVID-19, needs for basic needs assistance have increased, especially for vulnerable households. Therefore, the sector strategy remains highly relevant but with particular attention to increased needs and therefore the need for increased funding.
- The sector has appealed for 310 million USD before the launch of the 3RP, and the appeal has increased to 380 million USD following the COVID-19 specific ad-hoc appeal. Basic Needs remains the sector with the highest appeal.
- The yearly Basic Needs sector priorities were set in February, however due to unexpected developments of the pandemic, the envisioned progress hasn't been achieved. During this time, the sector has focused on current and developing needs around COVID-19. Accordingly, sector coordinators have revised the sector priorities, in consideration of the recent developments and current context.
- The revised draft plan has been shared with partners and the priorities include:
 - Protection mainstreaming, which has been set as the highest priority, including enhancing inter-sectoral referrals, linking Basic Needs interventions with Protection ones and partners with Protection partners. This will be further explored in the August sector meeting, with participation from the Protection sector coordinators.
 - Gender mainstreaming, through the sector's dedicated gender focal point, and in line with the sector's aim to keep the discussion alive for gender mainstreaming, with certain groups becoming more vulnerable during the crisis.
 - Municipalities, which will be more of an area of focus during the third quarter, with contributions from partners that have volunteered to share experiences.
 - Winterization, which will continue with IOM's lead and starting as of July.
 - Support to self-reliance, which is deprioritised in the current pandemic situation.
 - Shelter, which can be further explored in case of continuing interest from partners, through developing the guidance note and including COVID-specific findings.

C) Priority-setting for Q3 & Q4 of 2020

- Participants have suggested to make COVID-19 one of the priority areas, considering the continuing risk of future spikes and no current solutions. Visibility regarding COVID-19 will also be important for donors. COVID-19 has not been included in the draft plan as it is an ongoing process, yet coordinators have acknowledged the importance of giving reference to COVID-19 under priorities or tasks.
- Participants have suggested that mainstreaming of protection and gender should be accompanied by the mainstreaming of GBV and sexual exploitation and abuse prevention. These two focus areas can be reflected under tasks, as it remains a cross-cutting mandatory focus issue for all implemented projects.



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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sector has observed the increasing role of municipalities during the COVID-19 pandemic, however according to recent inter-agency needs assessments only 6 percent of beneficiaries have stated that they receive municipal support. Therefore, further focus on municipalities remains crucial. Among present partners, UNHCR Istanbul office has been working closely with municipalities since the outbreak, distributing basic needs assistance materials in cooperation with them. • Following the COVID outbreak in Turkey, many partners have conducted needs assessments to see the impact of the pandemic on refugees in Turkey. However, since June the context has evolved with normalization measures and it remains important to track the impact of this change on refugees. Therefore, it has been suggested that partners conduct follow-up assessments to see how the refugees have been experiencing the normalization period. • TRC continues its assessments including FGDs, and PDMs under its M&E unit in order to track the impacts of the evolving situation on refugees. The outputs will be shared with partners once finalized. • The Protection sector is also looking at repeating The country-wide assessment exercise, which will be include basic needs as well. The BNWG will support this process and present outcomes in coming meetings. • Partners have stated difficulties with regards to using the Inter-agency Referral Form, especially with regards to issues of data-protection. The IA referral form is currently being used by several partners, including UNHCR's Istanbul office with SSCs, and UNHCR's Izmir office with other UN agencies and NGOs. The sector will be in touch with the Protection WG to explore issues regarding increased coverage and addressing challenges. |
| <p>Discuss Gender-specific approach in Basic Needs Assistance</p> | <p>A) UNFPA Gender-Specific Assistance & SGBV Approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNFPA has made a presentation on dignity kits provided for women and girls, and hygiene kits provided for key refugee groups. • Dignity kits contain hygiene and sanitary items specifically tailored towards the needs of women and girls and most vulnerable groups in communities of concern. The kits serve the purposes of hygiene, protection and utilities, apparel and packing, and aim to create awareness on sexual and reproductive health, as well as GBV. • Dignity kits are particularly helpful for women and girls during a crisis, through contributions to psychosocial and physical wellbeing, improved mobility, allowing for budget substitution in households, contributing to protection and information provision. Most refugee women aren't empowered to spend money on their own and instead use it towards household needs. These kits aim to ensure that hygienic needs of women are covered. • The contents of dignity kits have been revised following a satisfaction survey conducted with beneficiaries in 2017. The kits have been customized according to the needs of targeted communities, for provision of the most appropriate items. Similarly, dignity kits distributed during the Edirne situation and those delivered through Women and Girls Safe Spaces are customized according to specific needs of the context. • KRG Hygiene Kits serve a similar purpose but have been designed for Key Refugee Groups, and been distributed in Ankara, Denizli, Eskisehir, Istanbul, Mersin and Yalova. The contents of the kits are tailored to the gender of the beneficiary. |



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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNFPA adheres to the community-based approach and looks for specific needs and tailored programming depending on vulnerabilities – including disabilities. The kits can be modified in line with specific vulnerabilities, in case they're identified. <p>B) UN Women “My Safety Plan”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The guidance, “My Safety Plan” target all women under increased risk of SGBV, including refugees, due to the exceptional context created by the pandemic. It is a timely guide, especially due to increased vulnerability of women as well as increased reports of domestic violence globally during the COVID-19 period. • “My Safety Plan” is an informational guide for women and girls, focusing on available services and support mechanisms, and aiming to encourage them to seek support in case of violence. The guide seeks to lead women to develop a plan to protect themselves and their children. • Although made for a broader audience, the guides have been prepared in Turkish, Arabic and English, with audio versions available for increased accessibility. • UN Women encourages paying attention to the careful dissemination of the guide only to women, as potential perpetrators should not have access to the information. The plan should therefore not be circulated widely through social media, and should be privately delivered to beneficiaries. These methods of dissemination can include various communication platforms (Whatsapp, Telegram, etc.) entirely composed of women. • UN Women has already shared the guide with partners in the field, accompanied by a distribution guideline and a brief session on how to distribute. • Basic needs assistance delivery is a potential entry point for further dissemination, while maintaining focus on the do-no-harm principle. • Although the guide is not specifically tailored for women with disabilities, it mentions certain hotlines women with disabilities can contact in need. • You may find the plans in 3 languages along with the distribution guidance's under the “My Safety Plan” folder in the GRG Repository |
| <p>AoB</p> | <p>Program Updates by Partners</p> <p><u>Updates from IFRC and TRC</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates from IFRC and TRC have not been delivered as a separate agenda item, as this has been an ad-hoc meeting. Upcoming regular BNWG meetings will continue having updates as a stand-alone agenda item. • ESSN's implementation in the field has continued during the period of transition to its new implementation in the partnership of IFRC and TRC. Sustainability of the plan is more crucial now than before, due to continuously increasing needs for basic needs assistance. In order to achieve this, IFRC has ensured that information channels have been accessible during the hand-over process, through call centres and the like, in order to provide continuous assistance and minimize disruption. |



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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first output of the TRC-IFRC partnership has been the rapid needs assessment, which has yielded very useful outputs with national representation, and while focusing on different vulnerabilities. • In order to address the socio-economic impact of COVID-19, ESSN has provided additional cash to 1.7 million beneficiaries. On 30 June, beneficiaries have received the first top up of 500 TL, in addition to continued monthly assistance. The second top up of 500 TL will be delivered in 31 July. In August regular top-up payments will be loaded onto the KizilayKart. TRC and IFRC have informed more than 300 thousand households concerning the delivery of this additional top up in 5 different languages. • TRC has received many caseloads from partners in the field, under the ESSN beneficiary cross-check mechanism. This has been a good example of coordination during this time of crisis, and has prevented duplication of assistance. <p><u>Updates from IBC</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In coordination with local governments, especially Kilis Municipality, Health directorate of Kilis and mukhtars. IBC is one of the few institutions that carry out awareness raising activities. IBC continues to provide language and educational courses in Kilis and provides support to beneficiaries in the risk group with protective masks, gloves and disinfectants. • As of June, IBC provided food assistance and hygiene kits with the local authorities. IBC reached 1750 beneficiaries in Kilis with food packages and 180 beneficiaries in Kilis with need-based distribution of hygiene kits. • IBC also continues its hotline assistance for information sharing, psycho-social support provision, as well as the distribution of sterilizers, masks, cleaning tools, informative brochures and radio programmes, transportation support to hospitals, home cleaning and distribution of food aid. So far more than 3000 direct beneficiaries have been reached through this support. |
| <p>Next meeting</p> | <p>The next joint field meeting will take place on 11 August, and the national meeting will take place on 13 August.</p> |