



National Protection Working Group Meeting

Time & Location	9 August, 2019 / UNHCR Country Office, Turkey
Chaired by	Lara Özügergin – Assistant Inter-Agency Coordination Officer
Participants	UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, IOM, UNFPA, ASAM, GIZ, MSYD – ASRA, WATAN, TRC
Meeting Agenda	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Outcomes of UNHCR Participatory Assessments in Izmir 2. Brainstorming on 3RP Protection Sector Strategy 3. Prioritization of Activities for Protection Sector 4. AoB

Agenda Point	Discussion
Outcomes of UNHCR Participatory Assessments in Izmir	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UNHCR Field Unit Izmir delivered a briefing on the outcomes of their recently conducted participatory assessment exercise, facilitated across 10 provinces under their area of responsibility (AoR). ▪ The exercise is ongoing however until date, they were able to reach 284 individual refugees of mixed nationalities through 30 focus group discussion (FGD) sessions. ▪ A new methodology was utilized to quantify FGD findings of the discussions. The methodology was developed in coordination with UNHCR Information Management (IM) Unit. ▪ Based on the outcomes of the sessions conducted to date, UNHCR FU Izmir informed the most stated problem across provinces was livelihoods, however different cities demonstrated different priorities, including access to education identified as a prominent challenge. ▪ In relation to protection and other concerns identified through FGDs, follow up is conducted through UNHCR FU Izmir and it's partners. These include individual case follow up, provision of information and leaflets on thematic issues, strengthening collaboration and coordination with community leaders and university students (mostly for information sharing) as well as provincial level planning, including with local counterparts. A feedback loop with participants of the FGDs was also developed.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ An online tool has been developed to visualize outcomes and preliminary analysis across locations. The tool enables the team to filter, understand root causes and differences between refugee populations across provinces. As the exercise is still ongoing, the results have not been made public for the time being.<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Action Point: PWG Coordinator and UNHCR FU Izmir to inquire within UNHCR whether the results of this exercise as well as the outcomes of the participatory assessment on livelihoods & SGBV will be made publically available. This request is made in consideration of the anonymity of the results as well as the importance of evidence in effective planning and programming processes.■ In relation to systematic information collection and evidence generation, UNHCR IM colleagues proposed an ad hoc meeting to take place between the IM Working Group (IMWG) and PWG.<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Action Point: Ad hoc meeting between PWG and IMWG to take place in the coming months to explore areas of collaboration.
Brainstorming on 3RP Protection Sector Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ The Syria Task Force (STF) requested 3RP sectors to initiate brainstorming sessions on the added value of the 3RP, in consideration of the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Strategic partnership with Government in relation to mandates;– Meeting the needs of individuals and systems (removing barriers to access national systems);– 3RPs broad coverage (field-national/cross-sectoral);– Complementarity with IFIs and other development actors;– Operational space for NGOs.■ Highlights of discussions under each issue mentioned above are as follows: <u>Strategic partnership with Government in relation to mandates</u><ul style="list-style-type: none">■ There is an agreement that the 3RP protection sector strategic direction emphasizes the importance of supporting public institutions in responding to refugee needs. It is nonetheless agreed that sector members should start working with non-traditional interlocutors, which should also be reflected in the sector strategy.■ The Union of Municipalities (UoM) is seen as a key interlocutor as they are an umbrella organization and play a significant role in protection interventions, especially around provision of information to refugees as well as referrals to other institutions. Some members stated they have been working with UoM on child rights, child friendly cities, social cohesion, coordination and capacity development. Working with UoM also facilitates to a certain level coordination between municipalities from different provinces and regions. The Union of City Councils was also suggested as a new interlocutor for the sector. Areas for collaboration with these institutions may include technical capacity development, advocacy, establishment of local coordination mechanisms and identification/referral of persons with protection needs.



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- It was suggested that the sector should expand collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MoH), including with Migrant Health Centers (MHCs) as they provide PSS support to persons of concern. Another area for collaboration with MoH is suggested as clinical management of rape for SGBV survivors.
- The protection sector should strengthen engagement with the Education sector and the Ministry of National Education in the areas of PSS, bullying in schools and preventing drop-outs. It was informed that the Education sector recently launched a new initiative called 'Back to School Campaign' and that the Protection sector should seek areas of collaboration within the campaign period.
 - **Action Point:** Protection Coordinator to liaise with Education Coordinator on how the sector can support the recently launched 'Back to School Campaign'.
- It was emphasized that the 3RP should be more specific in terms of defining and adopting strategic approaches in working with key actors and strengthening systems, such as for social service centers (SSCs), municipalities and mukhtars. This approach should be clarified in a collective and multi-sectoral manner as this would decrease ad-hoc focus on working with actors and allow for targeted collaboration with each institution.

Meeting needs of individuals and systems

- The 3RP sector strategy emphasizes that public institutions are primary responders to refugees' needs however that the protection sector also has a crucial complementary role in ensuring that no one is left behind and is able to access services to address their needs. However, it is nonetheless agreed that the 3RP should better articulate and specify the role of sector members in responding to individual and system-related needs. In that sense, NGOs' access to communities, accumulated technical expertise and translation of this expertise into capacity development efforts as well as policy development support should be highlighted as the sector's main complementary role.
- The strategy should better highlight collective efforts to strengthen response through SSCs. The narrative should include what types of support have been provided so far and what the impact in terms of refugee needs has been.
- There should be an increasing focus on the resilience aspects of our collective work.
- The sectors' engagement with and support to host communities should be better indicated in the strategy as well. Efforts with direct positive impact on cohesion and co-existence between host and refugee communities should be reflected.
- Moving forward, it will be very important to include our perspective on transitioning towards an increasingly state owned response in terms of support to public institutions. This should also incorporate our efforts to support public institutions on the local level to strengthen their coordination capacity.
- Our added value in terms of reaching out to the most vulnerable and those with most pressing protection needs should be captured in the narrative. This emphasis should be linked to our transition narrative.

Broad coverage of the 3RP



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The 3RP protection sector strategy has increasingly emphasized field-driven approaches that are tailored to local level needs, dynamics and capacities. Nonetheless, through the overarching strategic objectives and direction, the strategy also aims to achieve national coherence.▪ An increasing focus should be on the 3RPs role in facilitating and encouraging establishment of local level coordination, including with public institutions (potentially through their increasing coordination leadership) and 3RP partners' role in supporting coordination capacity of these institutions. The strategy should clearly emphasize what the objectives and strategies around local level coordination are.▪ The strategy also seeks collaboration with numerous public institutions to address cross-sectoral issues but participants nevertheless express that the sector should seek engagement with non-traditional actors as well. <p><u>Complementarity with IFIs and other development actors</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Participants stated that it was too early to talk about complementarity with IFIs, particularly because the sector does not have a comprehensive understanding of their role in refugee response as well as their plans for way forward. Nonetheless, it will be important in the coming periods to meet with the different actors to be informed on their activities and ensure linkages through two-way referrals and collaboration.▪ It was suggested to include reference to the National Development Plan in the 3RP to better formulate linkages. <p><u>Operational space for NGOs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Participants' feedback on the 3RPs added value in meeting needs of individuals and systems are also applicable for this element.▪ Outcomes of the mid-year protection consultations meeting as well as field consultations on the role of civil society in the transition process should be reflected in the sector narrative.▪ The 3RP should continue to advocate strongly on the role of NGOs and to maintain their operational space. Complementarity of efforts is the main message the 3RP should be conveying for the protection sector.▪ It is noted that there is increased willingness on the local level, in some provinces, of public institutions in working with NGOs. Nonetheless, the main decision-maker on engagement with NGOs would be the Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Services.
Prioritization of Activities for Protection Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Outcomes of the survey on prioritization of activities for the protection sector were shared with participants.▪ As all of the activities were suggested by survey participants to be initiated on the national level, it was agreed to discuss the issue once again in the September meeting to ensure that both field and national level PWGs are meaningfully engaged in the activities.
AoB	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Sector members request the timeline for the 3RP protection sector planning process to be shared with them once finalized.<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Action Point: PWG coordinator to share the timeline for the 3RP protection sector planning process once finalized.



- Participants request for the meeting minutes and presentation from the previous PWG (August 7th, ad hoc meeting on the Istanbul situation) to be shared swiftly once finalized.
 - **Action Point:** Meeting minutes and presentation from the previous PWG (August 7th, ad hoc meeting on the Istanbul situation) to be shared swiftly once finalized.
- Participants inquired whether standardized messaging has been prepared by UNHCR on the Istanbul situation, especially in case they receive media inquiries. The information leaflet prepared by DGMM will be shared once finalized however the PWG coordinator will also inquire with UNHCR whether any PI lines have been/will be prepared for external use.
 - **Action Point:** PWG Coordinator to inquire with UNHCR whether any PI lines have been/will be prepared for external use. If so, to be shared with sector members for their use.

Action Points

Focal Point

PWG Coordinator and UNHCR FU Izmir to inquire within UNHCR whether the results of this exercise as well as the outcomes of the participatory assessment on livelihoods & SGBV will be made publically available. This request is made in consideration of the anonymity of the results as well as the importance of evidence in effective planning and programming processes.	PWG Coordinator UNHCR FU Izmir
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