Basic Needs Working Group

April National Meeting Minutes

Date & Location	21 April 2022, National Virtual Meeting
Chaired by	Ahmet Ünver (UNHCR)
Minutes Prepared by	Umay Atik (UNHCR) & Ahmet Ünver (UNHCR)

Participating Agencies

UNICEF, İGAM, GIZ, WALD, IFRC, IOM, CARE, World Bank, Islamic Relief Turkey, UNFPA, MSYD, İzmir Metropolitan Municipality, TRC, TRC Istanbul Anatolian Side Community Centre, IBC, Maan, UNHCR, Positive Living Association, Tzu Chi, SEVKAR, MdM Turkey, WHH

Agenda

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Review Action Points & Announcements *(IA)*
3. Review Sector Performance Survey Findings *(IA)*
4. Present Sector Achievements in Q1 *(IM)*
5. Share Sector Updates *(IA)*
6. Field Debrief of Q1: *(IA)*
7. Focus: Lessons Learnt from Covid-19 Emergency Assistance *(45 min)*
8. AOB

Action Points

1. Partners with unreported activities for Q1 to complete their ActivityInfo reporting retroactively
2. Further field updates on address verification and access to BN support to be discussed
3. Partners to reach out if they would like to suggest relevant organisation to partake in BNWG activities
4. Discussion on BN-related information needs to incorporate in relevant needs assessments
5. An online document on the lessons learnt from Covid-19 Emergency Cash Assistance programmes to be drafted
6. Ad-hoc meeting on WASH and hygiene kit distribution before the next regular meeting

Documents

- Turkey: Basic Needs Sector Dashboard – March 2022
- National BNWG Registered Member Profiles Dashboard
- Turkey: 2021-22 CBI Mapping Summary Notes Report

Review Action Points and Announcements

- *BNWG adopts the Quarterly Meeting Schedule – **Done**:* If needed, ad-hoc meetings may be organised as well.
- *CBI 2021-22 Mapping findings note shared – **Done***
- *Coordination Workshop – **In Q2**:* The interested partners should specify their intention to co-lead this workshop.
- *2021 Content Summary for all BNWG Platforms - **Done***
- *IA Sectoral documents migrated to MS Teams from Dropbox – **Progressing***

Review Sector Performance Survey Findings

- In line with the results of the Sector Performance Survey, BNWG's focus of on **advocacy** will increase.
- Partners will be asked in meetings if they would like to **suggest any agenda points** for the subsequent ones.
- Partners with comments about the quarterly meeting schedule should contact the BNWG coordination team.
- In relation to the **WG attendance and participation**, there seems to be some ambiguity which shall be addressed during the upcoming **coordination workshop**.

Present Sector Achievements in Q1

- According to the BN sector dashboard as of March 2022, there has been no reporting on **non-binary beneficiaries** yet in 2022 and partners were reminded of collecting and reporting on specific data for their non-binary beneficiaries.
- TRC has been reporting on C-ESSN figures since December 2021. However, the fact that the **ESSN and C-ESSN figures** have not been reported yet for March 2022 accounts for the lower levels of the related figures as of March 2022.
- The number of **food assistance** beneficiaries is less in Q1 than it was in previous comparable periods. Thus, partners with appeals against this indicator will be contacted to understand the reason behind the current underreporting.
- Partners with **unreported activities** for Q1 in general were urged to complete their reporting **retroactively**. If any support is required in this regard, BN IM focal point Ozgur Savascioglu (savascio@unhcr.org) should be contacted.
- TRC asked how to see which organisations undertook cash programmes in Q1 and it was stated that a new filter might be added to gather this information more easily.

Share Sector Updates

ESSN and C-ESSN Updates

- Rumour Tracking & Management System was shared and partners were encouraged to reach out through this if they hear any false information on ESSN and Kızılaykart related issues.
- Although a serious decrease in the number of beneficiaries has not been observed yet, such a decrease may be expected in the coming months due to the ID-related problems that may result from the **address verification** process.
- However, if beneficiaries can update their addresses and IDs accordingly, there will not be problems in their inclusion in ESSN programme.
- The reason behind the slight decrease in the number of beneficiaries from January to February 2022 might be related to the issues pertaining to ID renewals.

IOM

- A shelter rehabilitation project is currently being planned with the target of a total of 800 shelters, 100 for each of the targeted provinces including Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Kahramanmaraş, Kilis, Hatay, Mersin, Adana and İzmir.
- 100 additional shelters (half in **Şanlıurfa** and the other in **Hatay**) will be supported through the **cash for shelter** modality.
- IOM is currently in the process of coordination with the local authorities for this shelter project.
- IOM will distribute 1,500, 1,000, 750 **A101 market cards** in **Adana, Şahinbey and Mersin** municipalities respectively. Currently, the lists of beneficiaries shared by the municipalities are being verified and the distribution will either take place before or after Bayram depending on the completion of this assessment.
- A round of **one-off** payments planned as **top-up** to December round in the context of **IOM's Covid-19 Emergency Cash Assistance** is planned. The transfer value will be 1,100 TL and 7,000 households will be targeted.

Municipal Coordination Meeting 12&13 May in Adana - Refugee Inclusion and Participation in Municipalities

- In response to partners' question, it was stated the municipalities participating in the event were identified mostly as those hosting many refugees but may be lacking some technical capacities.

Field Debrief of Q1

a) Highlights of Basic Needs Situation and Access to Assistance Discussions

- After November 2021 when **address verification** was initiated by MoI, law enforcement bodies visited the addresses of foreigners regardless of nationality. In March 2022, some **TP/IP statuses were inactivated**.
- In **SET**, UNCHR with its partners conducted **FGDs and phone surveys**, the latter with 1,715 households on questions on address changing as their respondents included mobile communities such as seasonal agricultural workers.
- **37%** of the respondents said they have never changed their address and a similar proportion said they have only changed it once. The rates of changes once and twice a year are around **15%** and **6%** respectively.

- In relation to accommodation types, **almost half** are living in apartments and **over 30%** in detached houses. Very few respondents reside in tent settlements, single rooms, and detached garages.
- Almost **90%** of the respondents reside in the province they are registered in.
- Following October 2021 decision of the PMM, **signature duty** has become compulsory for persons recently registered for TP/IP for the first time.
- **20%** of the respondents are recently registered and obey the signature duty mostly in **Şanlıurfa**, followed by **Adıyaman, Gaziantep and Hatay**.
- Even if people are newly registering or verifying address, another round of law enforcement house visits will ensue.
- In **Şanlıurfa**, out of nearly 430,000 PoCs, the TP/IP statuses of approximately **115,000** were **inactivated**.
- **35%** were adversely affected by this process and had to move to higher rent neighbourhoods; hence, they are living farther away from their safety nets and the education facilities of their children causing several protection concerns.
- UNHCR will further discuss this issue with TRC and IFRC to understand the current situation of recent ESSN authorisations to beneficiaries per province.
- TRC and IFRC were requested to reach out to protection colleagues based on the relevant UNHCR AoRs when they encounter such risky cases.
- TRC's Referrals and Outreach team is preparing relevant reports to better understand this context and they are currently waiting for the approval of their figures by the end of April.
- More PoCs having to move to higher rent neighbourhoods has further escalated rents, especially in **Şanlıurfa**. This can exacerbate the insecurity around the access to shelter based on the increased risk of exploitation and also lead to social tensions and increased adoption of negative coping mechanisms.
- Partners urged to share updates from the field on this issue.
- Partners were encouraged to reach out to suggest organisations that may participate in BNWG.

b) Existing and Planned Assessments

- BN-related findings of Inter-Agency Protection Sector Needs Assessment Analysis (IAPNA) Round 5 were presented.
- There are now more PoCs who cannot cover their monthly expenses and basic needs compared to Round 4.
- Partners suggested conducting BN-focused IA needs assessments as well and IOM specified it is ready to support.
- BN information needs will be discussed, and the areas of information gaps may then be added into the next round of IAPNA. For example, questions on the linkage between shelter and protection.

Focus: Lessons Learnt from Covid-19 Emergency Assistance

UNHCR

- Digital cash usage shall continue in the future since it provides access to bank accounts and mobile money, improving beneficiaries' financial inclusion which is a vital component of protection and self-reliance.
- In the PDM, they focused on the following four weeks after the reception of the assistance.
- Despite the general positive impacts, 94% of the respondents reported resorting to at least one negative coping strategy. The evaluation shows that there is still a need to support refugees through CBIs

TRC

- Two top-ups were provided to all ESSN beneficiaries in 2020.
- It is a good lesson that even if ESSN is a regular cash programme top-ups were provided when the needs.

MSYD

- For cases without identification, their mobile team conducted house visits to confirm beneficiary identities and when possible, they refereed them to their case management team for identification issues.
- During the pandemic, they received many calls from Ethiopians in Turkey positing that they cannot access any basic needs services, so they were included in the programme as well, even if their number is really low.
- Their beneficiaries included a lot of LGBTQI+ individuals and PWDs. If PWDs have an ID card, PTT delivered their money to their house. They also referred beneficiaries to relevant who do not know how to open bank accounts.
- They faced some challenges in small cities and they deployed their mobile teams during such challenges.
- They changed their call centre structure for this programme so that now if the caller stated they called for this programme they were directly referred to the relevant focal point.

- Partners were encouraged to provide information on lessons resulting from their Covid-19 emergency cash assistance programmes. We will have an online document compiling the lessons learnt, recommendations and findings from these and partners will be able to further add on to this.

AoB

- The next BNWG meeting will be on 21 July 2022 and before this an ad-hoc meeting on WASH and hygiene kit distribution will be conducted since before the pandemic the contents of the hygiene kits were harmonised and these need to be reviewed for the current context.
- The mechanism of cross-checking for C-ESSN is not ready yet but when it is functioning, the relevant details will be shared by TRC.