



Inter-Agency
Coordination
Turkey

Basic Needs Working Group

Meeting Minutes

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| Time & location: | 9 April 2019, ASAM MSC-LSDC Dolapdere, Istanbul |
| Chaired by: | Ahmet Ünver (UNHCR) and Arzum Karasu (WFP) |
| Participants: | Dilşad Turan (SEVKAR), Özgür Savaşçioğlu (UNHCR), Caner Nazlı (ECHO), Tuğba Bakırcı (Save the Children), Sedef Oral (Yuva), Mehtap Aydın (MEDAK), Pınar Erçelik (MEDAK), Abdullah Alani (WFP), Ezgi Karaoğlu (ASAM), Maissam Nimer (Sabancı Üniversitesi), Faruk Shaban (TRC), Burcu Uzer (UNICEF), Hiba Sakar (WFP) |
| Agenda: | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Welcome & Introductions2. Action Points from the Previous Meeting3. Review: Basic Needs and Livelihoods Joint Meeting4. Environment and Basic Needs5. AOB<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Finalized BNWG Priority Plan 2019 and ToRb. Evaluation Survey Results of IM Training Sessionsc. Discussion on FGD compensation and harmonizationd. Discussions on access/barriers to language training |



| AGENDA POINT | DISCUSSION | ACTION POINTS |
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| Welcome and introductions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UNHCR & WFP chairs welcomed working group members ▪ The meeting agenda was introduced and accepted without changes. | |
| Action Points from the Previous Meeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A BNWG ToR link will be shared with members – <i>ToRs are revised in February, 2019, endorsed to STF on March 2019 and shared with all members In April 2019</i> ▪ A BNWG ToR in Turkish will be shared with members – <i>Turkish-English version of ToR is shared with members in April 2019</i> ▪ Links for all relevant 2018 documents will be shared – <i>Done ✓</i> ▪ Members prepare handouts for sharing with members – <i>Pending – Due June</i> ▪ Request «information sharing spot» from coordinators – <i>Pending – Due June</i> ▪ Members reminded to keep data up to date on Services Advisor – <i>Continuing</i> ▪ Members to share capacity development and training needs – <i>A survey will be conducted to identify capacity development needs of members</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Online capacity development needs survey to be conducted → Members nominate their organisation for information sharing spot in June meeting |
| Review: Basic Needs and Livelihoods Joint Meeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Basic Needs and Livelihoods working groups held a joint meeting on transition on 20 March in Ankara, which aimed to take stock on the ongoing and joint sectoral activities that will support transition, and referrals on the way forward. ▪ Main point of the meeting was presentation from MoFLSS on the “Exit Strategy from the ESSN Program”. It can accessed from here. ▪ Coordinators set the scene by giving a quick recap of sector priorities and figures, which followed by outlaying purpose of transition, and challenges associated with it. ▪ Lead agencies present their work that they have undertaken to support the process of transition. Meeting provided in-depth understanding of the exit strategy of MoFLSS | |



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| | <p>and a platform for members to raise issues, and address questions to relevant actors of transition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MoFLSS presentation brought out that clear timeline is not set, social assistance will not be stopped rapidly, process should be regarded as a graduation rather than transition, and that FRIT II will bring more clarity to future planning. | |
| <p>Environment & Basic Needs</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UNDP colleague presented the concept of environment as a basic need. Several environmental disasters and their impacts on people and other species were highlighted. ▪ The concept of environmental displacement and migration was flagged. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – According to the FAO, between 2008 and 2015, an average of 26 million people have been displaced annually by climate or weather-related disasters. – Disasters displace three to ten times more people than conflict and war worldwide. – Climate change could force over 140 Million to migrate within countries by 2050 according to World Bank Report. ▪ Municipalities have been undertaking large responsibility in the response from the beginning of the crisis. There were several challenges for the municipalities; service delivery was stretched beyond its capacity, funding was not suited to host additional population with the crisis, legal framework did not bring clarity for use of municipal resources for refugees, municipalities had limited resources to increase access to services in order to ensure inclusiveness, and supporting social cohesion in several dimensions was also responsibility of municipalities. ▪ 3RP in an increasing trend, has been aiming to support municipal services through projects and activities. These activities target to support municipal service delivery infrastructures and also strengthen response mechanisms. ▪ In this context, UNDP has put projects in place to support municipalities of Eastern Turkey cities with management of environmental impact of the crises. | |



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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ UNDP has an approach of Coping, Recovering and Transforming. Coping is the immediate response which includes provision of equipment/infrastructure support. Recovering involves introduction of new service delivery methods and technology. Transforming helps increase efficiency and also access to resources and external funding by Optimization of Project Management Systems.▪ Currently UNDP implements in 4 cities; Şanlıurfa, Gaziantep, Kilis and Hatay.▪ Completed project have supported waste management, waste water management and also with vehicles such fire trucks and backhoe loaders▪ Ongoing project again targets supporting waste management, waste water management and technical capacity improvement.▪ UNDP colleague presented the “Environmental Mainstreaming” concept and three phases of it.<ul style="list-style-type: none">– The informed inclusion of relevant environmental concerns into the decisions of institutions that drive national, local and sectoral development policy, rules, plans, investment and action.▪ Recommendations for environmental mainstreaming against all sectors were shared. Some of the highlights were:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Raise awareness on zero waste, climate change, natural resources etc.– Minimize water loss– Prefer environment friendly, durable and sustainable materials– Enforce environmental standards and best practices and mitigation measures | |
| Inter-sector Consultation Process | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Sector coordinators briefed the inter-sector consultation process and introduced the five consultation questions. Members expressed their preference to discuss the questions and populate the answers internally, back at their organisations, following the meeting, | → Members to respond consultation questions, which will be sent via email following April cycle. |
| AOB | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Sector coordinators briefed members on purpose of revision and finalisation of ToR, and introduced Turkish-English ToR. | |



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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Sector coordinators briefed members on finalised BNWG Priority Plan 2019▪ IM presented findings of IM Training Sessions Evaluation Survey. 53% of the participants responded to the evaluation. Overall evaluation was positive, feedbacks were noted by IM. | |
| AOB - FGD Compensation and Harmonization | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ It was flagged by SET that, there was lack of knowledge on the harmonization standards on the compensation of FGD participants. Each organization had different approach, which might have negative impact on implementation/findings.▪ Members commented that it is a common practice to provide snacks, in some rare situations also the cost of transportation. However, giving daily payments/stipends to refugees is believed to result in biased findings.▪ Refugees should participate in FGDs <u>voluntarily</u>.▪ Making daily payments to refugees for FGDs would make management of these consultations very difficult, such as inflated demand for FGDs etc. All agreed on providing only snacks and beverages like it has been done so far.▪ It was also noted that, a refugee might be missing the chance to have their say heard because they cannot participate in the FGD since they have to work or have no means to travel. This may also result in research bias.▪ The generally accepted methodology is conducting FGDs within the community, without moving the individuals for consultation in the city. Many organisations stated they preferred to be in the community, also conduct FGDs in community centres.▪ It was noted that depending on the agenda of FGD, i.e sensitive topics, it might be preferable to remove the refugee from the community setting. In such situations, transportation and sustenance compensations should be considered. | |



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| <p>AOB - Access/Barriers to Language Trainings</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Members stated that there still are barriers against acquiring Turkish language for refugees and there are several different reasons.▪ Lack of materials for teaching/learning language was flagged. Especially there is lack of proper material for teaching Turkish to Arabic speakers.▪ Teachers have limited experience and knowledge of teaching to foreigners.▪ Flexible course hours are not provided to refugees. Working refugees have very limited option to follow a Turkish course regularly.▪ UNICEF colleague flagged that for education, language is still a barrier. CCTE presentation in ESSN TF once again highlighted that for children who never had Turkish lessons struggle significantly while joining education, especially in 4th – 5th grades.▪ In order to provide solution, MoNE has been implementing the PICTES project in 26 provinces; 3rd phase start in summer and it will expand to more cities. Project has several activities which includes language courses, guidance counselling, and training of trainers on teaching Turkish as a second language.▪ MoNE demanded that PECs operate courses. PECs do not have all the resources such as available space, time and qualified teachers. Şişli PEC open courses in elementary school so mothers can attend the course and bring along their children. Children simultaneously attend Turkish courses. Such responses depend on the initiative of PEC. MYS also provides language courses through youth centres; mostly for young people.▪ Nursing women or women with children has limited or no access to learning opportunities. Nursery or child friendly space increase the access of parents to courses.▪ Study titled “Sustainable Approaches to Humanitarian Assistance in the Field of Language Education for Adult Refugees in Turkey” Sabancı University published the policy brief can be accessed through here. Initial findings shared in the meeting | |
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| | <p>highlighted and complete report will be available in September. In addition to all logistical challenges in language training, an overarching policy that defines the responsibilities in providing language training is not in place. Lack of overarching structure is resulting in actors not fully engaging and preparing for undertaking the responsibility to learn the language. Institutionalized policies / practices are also needed to convince/encourage refugees to learn the language.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ ASAM stated that FGD for understanding needs and future plans was conducted and resulting from that, ASAM facilitates speaking clubs for refugee women. These clubs also help refugee women in their daily lives. ASAM also provides language courses that are more solicited at week-ends especially from those working during weekdays.▪ Community based solutions can significantly help overcoming barriers against acquiring the language. Women with young children share responsibility in turns to take care of children so others can attend classes in ASAM. | |
| | Next meeting: 11 June 2019, TBD, Istanbul | |