



Inter-Agency
Coordination
Turkey

National Protection Working Group

Meeting Minutes

Time & Location: Thursday, 17 December 2020 / Zoom

Chair: Lara Özügergin – Assistant Inter-Agency Coordination Officer (UNHCR)

Participants: AAR Japan, AID Uluslararası Doktorlar Derneği, ASAM, Concern Worldwide, DRC, Doctors Worldwide, Expertise France, Genc Hayat Foundation, GIZ, GOAL, Hope Revival Organization, HRDF, IBC, IDA, IFRC, IGAM, IOM, JCCP, KADAV, Maya Foundation, MSYDD, MUDEM, Multeci-Der, Onder, Positive Living Association, RET International, SEVKAR, Small Projects Istanbul, STL, TRC, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNRCO, WALD, WATAN Foundation, Welthungerhilfe, WHH, World Vision International, Yeryuzu Doktorlari.

Meeting Agenda:

- I. Introduction and Updates (20 mins)
- II. Updates by UNHCR Policy Development Unit: Borders and Social Incidents (35 mins)
- III. 3RP 2021-22 Protection Sector Appeal Analysis (20 mins)
- IV. Outcomes of Protection Mainstreaming Meeting with Sector Coordinators (20 mins)
- V. UNHCR Briefing on GBV/PSS Key Messages and Referral Pathways (20 mins)
- VI. AoB (5 mins)

Agenda Item #1: Introduction and Updates

- **Inter-Agency Protection Sector Needs Assessment:** The comparative and comprehensive [analysis report](#) for Round Two of the Sector Needs Assessment was published on UNHCR's Data Portal last week. Preparations for Round 3 will start as of year-end until mid-January, subsequent to which data collection is expected to start end of January. The questionnaire will be revised for Round 3. No major changes will be introduced; however, additional areas of inquiry can be added per changes in context. A few questions related to emergency awareness will be included in Round 3. Additional areas for improvement of the assessment include engagement of local authorities and the inclusion of host communities. Lastly, it is noted that the number of partners with direct contribution to the process increased from 12 to 17 between the first two rounds. Partners which have not contributed so far are encouraged to support Round 3 onwards.
 - **Action Point:** Protection Sector Needs Assessment questionnaire will be circulated within the PWG and with other sector coordinators for their review. Any and all suggestions should be relayed to the national Protection Sector Coordinator and Sector IM colleagues. Deadline to provide comments is Thursday, January 7th.
 - **Action Point:** PWG partners are requested to discuss internally their contributions for Round 3. Partners which have not contributed so far are encouraged to support Round 3 onwards. Deadline to communicate participation in Round 3 to National Protection Sector Coordinator and Sector IM colleagues is Thursday, January 7th.
- **Update on Emergency Preparedness:** A sector paper on emergency preparedness was drafted and finalized in consultation with National PWG members. The paper provides an overview on the needs of refugees related to emergencies, gaps and areas for improvement in response, potential areas of support to response led by AFAD by PWG partners, and recommendations for way forward. The paper was shared with the Emergency



Response and Preparedness Working Group (ERP WG). If and once the ERP WG facilitates a joint meeting with AFAD, the main findings of the paper will be communicated to AFAD. Furthermore, AFAD's official key messages on emergency preparedness¹ have been translated to various languages (Turkish, Arabic, Farsi, Kurmanji, French). Once finalized, the compiled translations will be shared with participants. Discussion will be held to explore modalities of dissemination to refugee communities.

- **3RP Progress:** High level stakeholder workshop was facilitated, during which sector coordinators presented on their respective sectors' current situation, strategic directions and response, and target figures. No major changes to the Protection Sector narrative was received from public institutions. The 3RP Turkey Chapter for 2021-22 was sent to the MENA region. The final version of the 3RP is expected to be completed by February 2021. Launch and roll-out of the 3RP will begin as of February onwards.

Agenda Item #2: Updates by UNHCR Policy Development Unit: Borders and Social Incidents

Latest trends on borders and social tension incidents in November and 2020 were presented by UNHCR PDU. Main highlights are as follows:

- Sea border apprehensions by Turkish Coast Guards slightly decreased in November.
- Over 19,130 persons were intercepted or rescued by TCG in 2020 so far. This shows a 66.5 per cent decrease compared to 2019. Afghan nationals were the most apprehended, followed by Syrian nationals, since the beginning of the year.
- Last couple of months have seen a significant increase of numbers of Somali nationals being apprehended in November. Somali nationals were the most common nationality apprehended at Western sea borders in November, with an 80 per cent increase compared to the last month.
- There has been a decrease on interceptions of both Afghan and Syrian nationals in November.
- Sea Arrivals in Greece: Due to sea conditions, border controls by the Greek authorities and pushback trends, 82 per cent decrease has been observed in sea arrivals to Greece compared to 2019.
- Western land borders have seen 88 per cent decrease in apprehensions by the Turkish Land Forces in 2020 (5,183 people apprehended) compared to 2019. Land arrivals have seen 59 per cent decrease in 2020 (5,571 people), compared to 2019. Arrival trends remained low, similar to the apprehension trend.
- Turkish Coast Guard reported 26 pushbacks incidents in November 2020, affecting more than 500 people.
- Four pushback incidents (3 in Muğla, 1 in Aydın) affecting 59 individuals were identified by UNHCR and its partners in November. Pushbacks with life rafts by Greek authorities was commonly observed.
- Overall situation in western land and sea borders: Strict border controls by Greece and Bulgaria continued. Pushbacks were a deterrent factor, as well as weather conditions. There was a small shift to the northern Aegean sea in migration routes. Turkish Coast Guard reported the first interception at Black Sea since 2017, in Sinop province.
- Some people (either pushed back or those who were not able to arrive in Greece) were stranded on small islets around the area of the Evros River. In some cases, Turkish authorities conducted rescue operations.

¹ AFAD's translated key messages are as follows:

- I. [AFAD Training Center: Instructions on What to Do Before, During and After an Earthquake / AFAD Eğitim Merkezi: Deprem Öncesinde, Sırasında ve Sonrasında Yapılacaklar](#)
- II. [AFAD Questions and Answers within the Scope of Law No. 7269 for Disaster Survivors / AFAD Afetzedeler için 7269 Sayılı Kanun Kapsamında Soru ve Cevaplar](#)
- III. [AFAD Cash Assistance and Damage Assessment Leaflet / AFAD Nakdi Yardım ve Hasar Tespit Broşürü](#)



- At the Syrian border, 66,669 persons were apprehended in 2020, reflecting a 59 per cent decrease compared to 2019.
- Social Tension and Criminal Incidents: In November and October, no incidents were identified. Measures for COVID-19 are expected to keep the number of incidents low. In 2020, there were 21 social tension incidents in 14 provinces, whereas 9 incidents in 2019 and 26 incidents in 2018. After the February-March period of 2020, social tension incidents were very low.
- In 2020, a total of 176 criminal incidents took place as of November 2020. Majority of the criminal incidents were physical assault or abuse, killing and theft. In the recent criminal incidents, refugees were reported to be deliberately targeted by host community members because of their identities. These incidents mainly targeted Syrian nationals.

Agenda Item #3: 3RP 2021-22 Protection Sector Appeal Analysis

The National Protection Sector Coordinator and Sector IM presented a brief analysis of the 3RP 2021-22 Protection Sector Appeal. Highlights are below:

- Sector objectives for 3RP 2021-22 Protection Sector were presented. No major changes were introduced, with the exception of expanding scope of objectives towards a strengthened one refugee approach (i.e. reference to persons seeking or under “temporary or international protection”). Additionally, “Gender-based violence” terminology was adopted instead of SGBV, in accordance with the global standards.
- Changes in “needs and targeting” include a clear emphasis on the impact of COVID-19 on reduced operational capacity of service providers. At the community level, various findings and sector assessments conclude that the overall protection situation of refugees have deteriorated. Persons with specific needs are at heightened risk of exposure to protection risks, due to various reasons including COVID-19. It was stressed in the Appeal that communities need assistance through specialized services, such as legal support and MHPSS. Finally, emphasis was placed on the increasing social distance between refugee and host communities.
- Strategic Direction and Response include the provision of multi-layered support, delivery of specialized services and support to the most vulnerable refugees in terms of digital infrastructure and literacy. Furthermore, strengthening community mobilization via a more structured approach to build self-protection capacity, mainstreaming protection principles among 3RP sectors and partners, and continuing to adapt new approaches to COVID-19 context are amongst the main highlights under this chapter. Improving the sector’s protection analysis capacity, including through the continuation of the sector needs assessment, is among the new approaches that will be adopted in 2021 and beyond.
- Changes to the sector M&E framework were presented. New indicators include community mobilization & community-based protection, accountability to affected populations mechanisms and support provided to national/local institutions. Reporting level changes will also be introduced, based on consultation with sector members through the dedicated M&E session during 3RP consultations. The main changes at the reporting level is to introduce distinctions related to sex and gender (i.e. assigned versus declared), and in relation to service delivery modalities, namely remotely, in person or blended.
- In relation to changes to the sector M&E framework, an information session/training will be delivered by IM to appealing partners. Secondly, the sector indicator guidance note for 2021 will be revised and finalized by the start of the first reporting cycle (i.e. end of January).
- Analysis and Breakdown of Protection Sector Appeal was presented by IM. Budget breakdowns by component were presented. Appealed budget by means of outputs were explained. The biggest increase is in the

identification and referral of protection needs / material and cash assistance. The biggest decrease is in support in capacity of service providers.

Agenda Item #4: Outcomes of Protection Mainstreaming Meeting with Sector Coordinators

The National Protection Sector Coordinator presented the outcomes of the Protection Mainstreaming meeting with other 3RP sector coordinators. Highlights are as follows:

- Sectors coordinators meeting was held to discuss the protection mainstreaming modalities, needs and suggestions. Consequently, a protection mainstreaming paper was drafted outlining the plan, its elements and related deliverables, including their objectives, intended outcomes, roll-out modalities and tentative timelines. The paper will be circulated within PWGs to seek support of partners in developing the deliverables and their roll-out.
 - **Action Point:** Once finalized, the sector Protection Mainstreaming Paper will be circulated amongst PWGs to seek support of partners in developing the deliverables and their roll-out.
- Main elements of the Protection Mainstreaming Plan are as follows:
 - **Technical Capacity Development & Trainings:** Protection Mainstreaming, Gender Mainstreaming, GBV Mainstreaming and Child Protection Mainstreaming trainings are planned to be delivered jointly with UN agency support. Additional trainings related to protection mainstreaming may also be delivered, for which a survey to understand exact needs and expectations will be prepared and shared with other sectors. A Protection Glossary outlining various protection terms and concepts, with practical guidance related to implementations, will also be prepared.
 - **Inter-Agency and Cross Sectoral Referrals:** The Inter-Agency Referral Form Package will include the revised referral form, a sample consent form for referrals (in line with the national Data Protection Law) and the Advised Basic Operating Principles document. A second deliverable under the referrals element includes Guidance on Referral Pathways and Mechanisms for persons with specific needs, that will aim to provide information on available services and service providers to non-protection partners in case they encounter persons in need of protection support.
 - **Mainstreaming in Project Cycle Management:** Checklists per sector will be developed to provide an overview on main considerations to mainstream protection throughout the project cycle management process.
 - **Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP):** The deliverables of the AAP Task Force will be rolled-out as part of Protection Mainstreaming plans. The current deliverables include a document outlining AAP Common Terminologies, AAP Minimum Standards Checklist, PSEA Focal Point ToR, Sample PSEA Policy, Sample Code of Conduct and a PSEA Survey.
- Another recommendation identified through the sector coordinators meeting includes facilitating peer dialogues between sectors and their members, to share know-how and experience on cross-cutting issues across sectors.
- Way forward for the Protection Mainstreaming plans include to share the sector paper towards seeking support of members and undertaking a survey on needs for protection related trainings within other sectors. Once drafts are available, all deliverables developed will be circulated amongst partners for their feedback.



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Agenda Item #5: UNHCR Briefing on GBV/PSS Key Messages and Referral Pathways

UNHCR Protection Unit presented on UNHCR's awareness-raising initiative to develop GBV and PSS related key messages as well as documents on available GBV and PSS services and assistance in the context of COVID-19. Highlights are as follows:

- The initiative was launched in July 2020, due to increased reporting of GBV incidents and increased PSS needs by refugee community members.
- A four-phased approach was adopted throughout the process.
 - The first phase (July-August) entailed development of key messages and referral pathways documents.
 - The second phase (August-September) included consultations and various assessments with communities on the draft key messages and referrals document.
 - The third phase (October-December) is currently ongoing for the development and dissemination of materials.
 - The fourth phase will focus on an impact assessment to be initiated in the first quarter of 2021.
- 37 key messages were developed in 4 categories (GBV and PSS key messages for general audience and GBV key messages for males and females/at risk groups) in 4 languages, namely Arabic, Farsi, English and Turkish.
- After the development of key messages by UNHCR (supported by IA), community feedback was integrated through virtual consultations to ensure the relevance of messages and content within the community. Eventually, 669 community members from 59 provinces provided feedback.
- Community members' preferences related to media/communication format and channels were also identified to guide the production and dissemination phase. 30% of respondents preferred Whatsapp/SMS messages as communication format, followed by videos and online images. Preferred media/communication channels were mainly SMS, social media, Whatsapp, and lastly phone calls and face-to-face.
- Within the current phase 3, materials are being developed and disseminated. Materials will be shared with participants.
- As of the last week of December, UNHCR will be disseminating the key messages targeting men & boys. For the GBV messages targeting female/at risk groups, due to potential harm and threats, dedicated SMS communication, online meetings and virtual counseling will be preferred.
- Last phase entails the finalization of all products in Arabic/Farsi in 2020; continued production and dissemination of materials in Turkish/English, followed by an impact assessment and final reporting in 2021.
 - **Action Point:** UNHCR kindly requests GBV and PSS specialized partners' support in dissemination of the key messages to refugee communities based on preferred communication methods. Link to the available finalized products will be shared by UNHCR with protection partners.



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Action Points

- Protection Sector Needs Assessment questionnaire will be circulated within the PWG and with other sector coordinators for their review. Any and all suggestions should be relayed to the national Protection Sector Coordinator and Sector IM colleagues. Deadline to provide comments is Thursday, January 7th.
- PWG partners are requested to discuss internally their contributions for Round 3. Partners which have not contributed so far are encouraged to support Round 3 onwards. Deadline to communicate participation in Round 3 to National Protection Sector Coordinator and Sector IM colleagues is Thursday, January 7th.
- Once finalized, the sector Protection Mainstreaming Paper will be circulated amongst PWGs to seek support of partners in developing the deliverables and their roll-out.
- UNHCR kindly requests GBV and PSS specialized partners' support in dissemination of the key messages to refugee communities based on preferred communication methods. Link to the available finalized products will be shared by UNHCR with protection partners.

Agenda Item #6: AoB

- Next meeting will be held in mid-January with a focus on prioritization for National PWG and development of 2021 annual work plan.