



Inter-Agency  
Coordination  
Turkey

# National Protection Working Group

## Meeting Minutes

**Time & Location:** Thursday, 27 May 2021 / Zoom

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

**Participants:** AAR Japan, ASAM, Concern, DRC, Dünya Doktorlari, GIZ, Gulen Yuzler Association for Solidarity and Assistance, HRDF, ICMC, IFRC, IGAM, IOM, JCCP, KADAV, Mavi Kalem, Maya Vakfi, MSYD, MSYDD, MUDEM, Multeci-Der, Relief International, Small Projects Istanbul, UN Women, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WALD, WHH, World Vision International, YYD.

### Meeting Agenda:

- I. Introduction and Updates
- II. Discussion and Updates on Sector Support to Emergency Preparedness
- III. Discussion and Updates on MoFSS – NGO Accreditation Process
- IV. Discussion on Complementarity with Public Institutions and Local Authorities
- V. AoB and Next Meeting

### Agenda Item #1: Introduction and Updates

- This meeting is a follow-up from the previous monthly National Protection Working Group (PWG) meeting on complementarity with public institutions and provincial coordination. The discussions will focus on complementary service delivery of sector partners to that of public institutions and local authorities and will build on evidence collected through Protection Sector Needs Assessment reports and Activity Info reporting.
- Additional agenda items include sector support to emergency preparedness and developments in this regard, as well as updates on the MoFSS – NGO accreditation process.
- As part of protection coordination, the reactivation of National Child Protection sub-Working Group (CPsWG) and the National Gender-Based Violence sub-Working Groups were announced. In coming meetings, information will be shared on the prioritized thematic areas of the National CPsWG and GBVsWG.

### Agenda Item #2: Discussion and Updates on Sector Support to Emergency Preparedness

- The earthquakes that happened in 2020 mobilized the protection sector under 3RP, in terms of identifying needs of refugees in earthquakes, areas for improvement in response, potential areas of contribution to preparedness, risk mitigation and response efforts of AFAD. To this end, the National PWG prepared a Protection Sector Paper on Emergency Preparedness, with focus on earthquakes.
- The AFAD Accreditation Process and the coordination role of AFAD in response to natural disasters was emphasized. Organizations interested in supporting AFAD in risk mitigation, preparedness and response areas identified through Turkey's Emergency Response Plan (Türkiye Afet Müdahale Planı) are required to apply to AFAD. The importance of applying to the procedure prior to a natural disaster to be able to mobilize swiftly was also emphasized. Documents relevant to the accreditation process were previously shared with sector partners. A quick survey was administered to understand whether organizations have applied to the accreditation process and received responses from AFAD. Accordingly, 14 organizations submitted responses however none have applied for the procedure. The main barrier in applying to the process seems to be the absence of clear communication from AFAD.



- Key messages from the AFAD website (what to do before/during an earthquake, cash assistance mechanisms and damage assessments of buildings, frequently asked Q&A) were translated into English, Arabic, Farsi, French, Kurmanji through the support of UNHCR, RET YKD, and WHH. A meeting will be soon held with AFAD and DGMM on sector support to dissemination of these messages. Once clearance is received from AFAD and DGMM, the coordinator will share the compiled and translated messages with sector partners for their support in dissemination. Partners also agree that visualization of the translated messages would be very beneficial and supportive for dissemination efforts.
  - **Action Point:** Protection Coordinator will inform sector partners on meeting with DGMM and AFAD where clearance will be sought to support dissemination of AFAD key messages on earthquake preparedness, risk mitigation and response. Sector partners also request visualization of the key messages to support dissemination efforts.
- Partners also note that trainings on emergency preparedness, risk mitigation and response would be very important to ensure information dissemination in a protection-sensitive and accurate manner. Protection coordinator will also inquire about opportunities with AFAD in this regard.
  - **Action Point:** Protection coordinator to inquire about training opportunities available by AFAD for sector partners willing to support information dissemination and awareness raising processes with refugee communities in relation to emergency preparedness, risk mitigation and response.
- UN Women informed that they are currently working with ASAM and MUDEM to enhance their capacities on emergency preparedness, risk mitigation and response through a capacity development programme of AFAD. UN Women is currently pending response from AFAD in this regard and will inform the PWG once updates are available.

### Agenda Item #3: Discussion and Updates on MoFSS – NGO Accreditation Process

- Partners were asked to provide updates and feedback on the MoFSS – NGO accreditation process and their experiences in operations related to this procedure. A quick survey was administered to understand whether any organization received response from MoFSS on their applications. Of the 12 organizations that responded to the survey, 4 shared that they applied to the process and all are pending response from MoFSS.
- Partners were asked whether the process has impacted their ability to coordinate and collaborate with public institutions and authorities at the local level throughout COVID-19 and whether the process impacted protection service delivery. Differing responses were received by coordination AoRs.
  - In the Southeast, partners mention that remote protection service delivery continues and bilateral coordination is maintained at the provincial level. Partners informed that if organizations have central level protocols with MoFSS they are not subject to this procedure. Some coordination meetings were cancelled in Şanlıurfa due to the process. Provincial level approvals by PDs are no longer valid. Monthly reporting requirements brought about by the provincial level approvals are also on hold.
  - In Istanbul, partners mention that coordination meetings held between NGOs and PDoFSS is on hold as the PD is pending information from central level on the process.
  - In short, the new practice does not necessarily have a major impact on the ability to deliver protection services to refugees, but the structured platforms and processes brought about by provincial approval processes as well as their systematic benefits have been lost. There are positive and negative effects of the process.



#### Agenda Item #4: Discussion on Complementarity with Public Institutions and Local Authorities

- The discussion around complementarity with public institutions and local authorities is structured around thematic issues as follows: capacity development support and protection service delivery (including access to protection services, access to information, legal aid, PSS and community mobilization & empowerment). For most thematic issues, references to the Inter-Agency Protection Needs Assessment reports and Activity Info are available. Highlights of the discussions are below.
- Most capacity development commitments, mostly around trainings, have been slow due to the COVID-19 situation. The general understanding is that for trainings targeting public institutions, the preference on the side of public institutions is conducting the trainings face-to-face which has not been possible so far. Partners continue to adapt their trainings for delivery through remote and digital modalities, which takes some time. Some trainings on sensitive issues such as PSEA are more effective when delivered face-to-face, which is why there are delays in progress against certain indicators. Many of the trainings will be delivered post-mid-year. At SET level, the PWG will be administering a survey for partners to identify planned/delivered trainings, modalities, scope and timeframe for trainings.
- In relation to protection service delivery, Protection Sector Needs Assessments identify certain groups with comparative disadvantage over others in terms of access to services. In particular, it is noted that Afghan and Iranian communities as well as women face more difficulties in accessing protection services.
- In relation to legal aid, Iranian and Iraqi communities are identified to be in need of legal support compared to other communities. This requires adaptations and flexibility in available programmes that aim to deliver legal support to refugees.
- It is highlighted that it is essential to understand the challenges more comprehensively. To this end, complementary data collection exercises such as through focus group discussions would be beneficial. This would help to strengthen recommendations and defined actions to address certain challenges faced by particular communities.
- As of last year, inclusivity and scope of the 3RP was expanded to include individuals of other nationalities. Use of the 3RP as a fund raising/mobilization tool for programmes targeting individuals of other nationalities will be crucial to address issues faced by these groups.

#### Agenda Item #5: AoB

- Next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 24th between 14.00 – 16.00 on MHPSS and Protection linkages.

#### Action Points

- Protection Coordinator will inform sector partners on meeting with DGMM and AFAD where clearance will be sought to support dissemination of AFAD key messages on earthquake preparedness, risk mitigation and response. Sector partners also request visualization of the key messages to support dissemination efforts.
- Protection coordinator to inquire about training opportunities available by AFAD for sector partners willing to support information dissemination and awareness raising processes with refugee communities in relation to emergency preparedness, risk mitigation and response.