

National Protection Working Group Meeting Minutes

Time & Location: Wednesday, 15 December 2021, 10.00-12.00 hrs / Zoom

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

Participants: AAR Japan, ASAM, BONYAN, Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart Üniversitesi, CARE, CONCERN, DRC, Expertise France, Genç Hayat Foundation, GIZ, GOAL, IBC, ICMPD, IFRC, IKGB, ILO, IOM, KADAV, Kızıl Kader, MAAN, MSYD, MUDEM, Mülteci-Der, NSPPL, People in Need, REALS, RETYKD, Relief International, Save the Children, SENED, Small Projects Istanbul, SRP, Support to Life, Takaful Al-Sham, Turkish Red Crescent, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Women, Violet, WALD, WATAN, WHH, World Vision

Meeting Agenda:

- I. Welcome and Introduction
- II. Overview of 3RP Protection Sector Appeal
- III. Presentation on Protection Monitoring Report on Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor
- IV. Discussion on Persons with Disabilities (PwD): Challenges & Gaps; Sector Capacity; Solutions

Agenda Item #1: Welcome and Introduction

- A poll was organized during the meeting to understand preferences on the modality of the upcoming National Protection Working Group meeting in January. Per the poll results, participants preferred having the upcoming meeting with face-to-face modality on Thursday, January 27. Details with regards to the venue and time of the meeting will be communicated to PwG members in the coming weeks.
- Round 5 of the Inter-Agency Protection Needs Assessment will be initiated as of mid-December. Members were asked to provide feedback to the questionnaire (in case of any requests for revision) and inform Inter-Agency (IA) Protection in case their organization is interested/willing to contribute to the exercise by conducting phone interviews. Deadline for both requests is **31 December CoB**. The tentative timeline for Round 5 is shared below.
 - Revision of questionnaire/thematic inquiry areas (31 December)
 - Confirmation of partner contributions (31 December)
 - Preparatory meeting with partners (10 January)
 - Preparation of sample per partner (17-21 January)
 - Data collection (January 24 – February 7)
- Protection Sector M&E Training on sector indicators will be conducted in mid-January. The final date and time will be communicated with partners once confirmed.

Agenda Item #2: Overview of 3RP Protection Sector Appeal



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- Protection Sector IM provided an overview of the 3RP Protection sector appeal.
- A centralized approach was adopted for the 2022 appeal. Partners submitted their appeals and the needs identified in their area of responsibility using an online database. 74 organization submitted appeals under the general framework of 3RP, of which 48 appealed under the Protection Sector. The total appeal budget (for all sectors) increased from \$1.03 billion to \$1.17 billion. For the Protection sector, the appeal budget increased from \$320 million in 2021 to \$416.82 million in 2022 (\$281.92M for the refugee component and \$134.90M for the resilience component).
- Minimum standards and safeguards were introduced at the 3RP level in relation to accountability to affected populations (AAP) mechanisms and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) thanks to advocacy by the Protection Sector. All 3RP appealing partners will be expected to have PSEA policies, PSEA focal points (with designated terms of references), reach out to communities with PSEA messaging, as well as to have multiple channels for feedback, complaints and response mechanisms.
- Based on the 3RP National Protection Sector Consultations held with sector partners (September 23rd, 2021) as well as the needs identified through the dedicated Inter-Agency Protection Needs Assessments (IAPNA), a guidance document was prepared with recommendations for partners appealing under the 3RP Protection Sector for 2022 in relation to scope and content of programming. It is noted that many of the partners submitting appeals under the Protection Sector for 2022 followed the recommendations to be able to meet the current needs that were identified.

Agenda Item #3: Presentation on Protection Monitoring Report on Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor

- Deniz Bozkuzu, Protection Monitoring, and Reporting Officer delivered a presentation on the GOAL's Protection Monitoring Report on the Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labour. The report is accessible from [here](#).
- Under the LINK II project, GOAL produced two protection monitoring reports targeting two different groups, namely Syrian nomadic and semi-nomadic communities and refugees engaged in seasonal agricultural labor in Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Adana, and Mersin.
- The aim of the report is to identify protection risks encountered by refugees engaged in seasonal agricultural labor and to better understand the situation of vulnerable individuals by disaggregating the data for men and women, boys and girls, people with disabilities, older persons, etc.
- Findings and recommendations are compiled under different objectives such as access to rights and services including registration and documentation, access to education, access to healthcare services, access to legal aid, access to NGOs, access to livelihoods, shelter and WASH, and for protection risks and vulnerabilities.



- For further questions with regards to the report, Deniz Bozkucu can be kindly reached from dbozkuzu@sy.goal.ie.

Agenda Item #4: Discussion on Persons with Disabilities (PwD): Challenges & Gaps; Sector Capacity; Solutions

- The NPWG facilitated a thematic monthly meeting in November 2021 focusing particularly on refugees with disabilities in Turkey. The meeting was facilitated through the contributions of local NGOs, INGOs, civil society organizations (CSOs), and UN agencies, including those with expertise in working with persons with disabilities. The main purpose of the meeting was to take stock of the different challenges faced by persons with disabilities in terms of access to rights and services, to discuss the current gaps in sector response, and to develop proposals for solutions. In this regard, I/NGOs, CSOs, and UN agencies delivered presentations with regards to the current context, barriers and challenges faced by refugees with disabilities, existing accountability practices, and their respective programming targeting the group. The zero draft of the Protection Sector Advocacy Paper on Persons with Disabilities is developed in light of presentations by sector partners and collective discussions related to refugees with disabilities from access and inclusion perspectives. The document was shared with participants prior to the NPWG Meeting. A discussion session was facilitated based on the content of the paper.
- Summary points of each section are presented to the PwG members and can be accessed through the PowerPoint presentation that will be made available to the PwG members. Some additional key discussion points are mentioned below.

Key Discussion Points and Suggestions:

- Protection partners suggest the establishment of an inter-sectoral Task Force on persons with disabilities and inclusion. Preliminary actions by the Task Force, if established, could include information sharing with the cross-border inclusion platform; conducting a nationwide mapping exercise to identify organizations either led by PwD or those which target and work with PwD; discuss the availability of language courses for PwD; and an introductory training for all 3RP partners on inclusion of and engagement with PwD.
- Further consultation with I/NGOs, CSOs, and networks whom are specialized in PwD will take place with regards to the advocacy document and any effort by the Protection Sector or the Task Force.

Context:

- The advocacy document should also include perspectives on support to caregivers under each objective/heading.



- References to national legislation on PwD, including observations around implementation and practice (in relation to access to rights and services by refugees) should be included.

Barriers, Unmet Needs, and Gaps:

- Limited availability of language courses and interpretation services for PwD and limited availability of teachers with knowledge of different braille alphabets.
- The fluctuation in the exchange rate is creating difficulties for the ongoing projects overall. Further understanding on how organizations are affected by fluctuating exchange rates is needed.
- Transportation fees for PwD are another identified barrier by partners in the field.
- Many health cases need a preparing operation to set an artificial part, which is not included in health services, and there are limited or no opportunities with regards to funding.
- Syrian refugee children with down syndrome are observed to not receive adequate and/or targeted support and assistance.

Mitigation Measures and Sector Capacity:

- **Action Point:** Accountability to Affected Populations Task Force (AAP TF) can provide further support to strengthening the accountability mechanisms and working on safeguarding and PSEA for PwD. AAP TF can also compile good practices on these matters.

Recommendations and Way Forward:

- Capacity development of service providers (both 3RP partners and public institutions) providing services to PwD.
- It was suggested, as the Protection Sector, to consider including disability considerations in protection risk assessment processes.
- Exploring synergies with Turkish organizations who are working with/for PwD considering that needs, barriers and gaps might be similar between the host community and refugee community.
- There is an overall need to raise awareness of individuals that do not live with disabilities. Further, persons with disabilities may require targeted raising awareness sessions on available rights and services in Turkey.

Announcements Shared by PwG Members:

- Global Disability Summit was organized by the International Disability Alliance in 2018. The second summit will be organized on February 15-17, 2022. Further details can be reached from the [official website](#).



- Ministry of Family and Social Services (MoFSS) published a vision document on policies and services to be provided for People with Disabilities (PwD) to cover the period of 2022-2030. The vision document can be accessible in Turkish from [here](#).
- The following organizations are providing Turkish language courses for PwD: Sağlıkta Genç Yaklaşımlar Derneği (SGYD) ([official website](#)), SENED ([official website](#), [Facebook page](#)), Side by Side Special Needs Organization (SNNO) ([official website](#)).
- INGEV is conducting livelihoods activities for PwD (details can be reached from [here](#)). INGEV's online service mapping is also accessible from [here](#).
- Solidarity, Respect, Protect (SRP) is currently looking for partners and funding towards facilitating vocational training for PwD. The training will be accessible to all with an aim to enhance social cohesion.
- Relief International (RI) provides physical rehabilitation services through its partners (UOSSM, NSPPL, MSYD), these services include assistive devices such as crutches and wheelchairs, Prosthetic and Orthotics devices. RI partners are located in Gaziantep, Kilis, Reyhanlı and Antakya. Also, RI depends on Telehealth to provide its services to reach beneficiaries who have difficulty accessing physical rehabilitation centers.

Action Points:

- Suggestions to the advocacy paper will be compiled and shared with PwG members following the meeting. Another round of input collection will be initiated via email. PwG members are kindly asked, in addition to their recommendations/feedbacks to the document, to include possible main actors (i.e. donors, MoFSS, etc.) particularly in the recommendations and way forward section.
- A training on PwD for the Protection Sector will be organized in 2022. Interested PwG members who are interested to be a part of the training and provide sessions, please reach out to Lara Özügergin (ozuergin@unhcr.org) and Gizem Ece Tıǧlıoǧlu (tigliogg@unhcr.org).
- PwG members are kindly asked to share a list of PwD expert organizations and networks (with relevant contact details) towards further engagement and consultations on sector/inter-sectoral efforts targeting PwD. The list and contact details can be shared with Lara Özügergin (ozuergin@unhcr.org) and Gizem Ece Tıǧlıoǧlu (tigliogg@unhcr.org).
- Relief International proposed to have a discussion on establishing a dedicated Task Force for PwD as an inter-sectoral platform. Relief International also proposed to co-chair the platform. While preliminary discussions are to be held within the 3RP coordination team on the matter, PwG members with PwD expertise and who are interested to co-chair the platform are encouraged to reach Lara Özügergin (ozuergin@unhcr.org) and Gizem Ece Tıǧlıoǧlu (tigliogg@unhcr.org).

- Accountability to Affected Populations Task Force (AAP TF) can provide further support to strengthening the accountability mechanisms and working on safeguarding and PSEA for PwD. AAP TF can also compile good practices on these matters.
- PwG members were asked to share any legal and policy frameworks (both at global and country level) that are crucial for refugees with disabilities for further reference within the advocacy document.
- SENED and members of the Inclusion Technical Working Group (cross-border) prepared many documents focusing on PwD such as ToRs, advocacy reports, and documentation that are addressing the gaps in the field. The mentioned documents will be shared by SENED.
- PwG members who are providing Turkish language courses for PwD are kindly expected to share the relevant details with Lara Özügergin (ozugergi@unhcr.org) and Gizem Ece Tiğlioğlu (tigliogg@unhcr.org) for further dissemination within the PwG emailing list.