



Inter-Agency  
Coordination  
Türkiye

# National Protection Working Group

## Meeting Minutes

**Time & Location:** Thursday, 27 October 2022, 14:00 – 16:00 hrs / Zoom

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

**Participants:** AHCSA, AHF, CONCERN, DRC, Genç Hayat Vakfı, GOAL, HRDF, IBC, IDA, IGAMDER, ILO, IOM, JCCP-REALs, KADAV, MSYD, Mülteciler Derneği, Mülteci-Der, MSYD-ASRA, Qatar Charity, Relief International, RET YKD, RRT, SENED, SGDD-ASAM, SPI, SRP, STL, TRC, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Women, UOSSM, World Vision

### Meeting Agenda

- I. Welcome & Announcements
- II. Presentation by DRC on Report “Insecure Futures: Non-Syrian Refugees in Türkiye”
- III. Detailed Overview of Inter-Agency Protection Needs Assessment Findings (R6)

#### Agenda Item #1: Welcome & Announcements

- Deadline for submission of partner appeals under the 3RP 2023 – 2025 was extended. Once submissions are made, coordinators will review and provide feedback to each submission. There will be some time for partners to revise their appeals based on feedback received via the ActivityInfo appeal database.

#### Agenda Item #2: Presentation by DRC on Report “Insecure Futures: Non-Syrian Refugees in Türkiye”

- Danish Refugee Council presented findings of their latest research paper “Insecure Futures: Non-Syrian Refugees in Türkiye”. Key highlights are included below. Partners are encouraged to reach out to DRC directly to access the full report.
- Since there is limited data and knowledge on non-Syrian asylum seekers and refugees, the study was conducted to better understand the needs, risks and vulnerabilities of these groups particularly in relation to protection, employment and livelihoods and social cohesion.
- Regarding methodology, DRC used a mixed method which covered 401 structured surveys, 7 in-depth interviews, and 10 key informant interviews. The study applied snowball sampling and data collection took place between June- August. Nationalities included in the survey (in order of prevalence) are Afghan, Iraqi, and Iranian refugees in İstanbul, Van, and İzmir.
- Most of the respondents are between 18-40 years old. The marital status of most is single. About half of the respondents have a university or graduate level degrees;



others have primary or secondary school degrees. Iranians were identified to have highest level of education, followed by Afghans and then Iraqis. 42% can understand, speak or write Turkish whereas 9% indicated that they do not have Turkish language skills.

- Approximately half of respondents indicated that they faced difficulties in accessing registration. Lack of/inadequate information and delays in registration/appointment were identified to be among the main challenges to access registration.
- The main information need across nationality groups was information related to rights and responsibilities as a refugee in Türkiye. Afghans require more information on IP application procedures, Iraqis on rights and responsibilities as a refugee, and Iranians on where and how to access services.
- The most important factor in choosing a province to reside in is job opportunities. Across groups, 64% of the sample reside outside of their registered province. This is highest among Iranians (77% reside outside of their registration province followed by Afghans (68%) and Iraqis (48%)). Additionally, 20% of Iranians, 32% of Afghans, and 56% of Iraqis noted difficulties in obtaining travel permissions.
- Regarding livelihoods, the results show that most of the respondents were employed and employment status was similar across nationalities. Most respondents were informally employed. 25% of Afghan and 23% of Iranian respondents had an income below 1000 TL, almost equal to extreme poverty line. In the sample, Iraqis do better in the job market compared to others (they have higher levels of access to employment and earn more money compared to other nationality groups). Across groups, wage employment was identified as the primary source of income: 40% indicated that income is received from a regular job, 32% from a daily/temporary job, and 20% from family support. None of the groups reported financial support from NGOs as the major income and only 1% reported ESN as a major income. To note, only 5% of the sample confirm receiving ESN, whereas 81% never applied and 14% were rejected upon application.
- 33% perceive GBV to be very prevalent among their communities and 30% somewhat prevalent. According to the survey, 59% of Iranians, 55% of Afghans and 50% of Iraqis indicated that GBV increased within their communities compared to last year.
- Regarding social cohesion, 68% of Iraqi feel least welcome in Türkiye (43% of Afghans and 16% of Iranians mention not feeling welcome). Barriers to social cohesion were identified to include economic difficulties, anti-refugee attitudes, social exclusion of refugees, lack of opportunities for self-reliance, and fear of deportation.
- In order to address some of the findings of the assessment, DRC recommends the following: NGOs and UN agencies are encouraged to advocate for the improvement of



the legal framework related to refugees, including through supporting capacity-development initiatives, training and raising awareness efforts targeting refugees concerning their rights, strengthening cooperation mechanisms between Bar Associations and NGOs. Further, strengthening socio-economic self-reliance through broadening employment and entrepreneurship prospects, vocational trainings and income generating activities was recommended. International actors and donors are advised to create a more inclusive and accessible global refugee protection framework by including non-Syrian refugees in Türkiye programming and prioritizing and increasing third-country resettlement opportunities for refugees.

- Key discussion points following the presentation are reflected below:
  - The survey did not inquire into which ethnic groups respondents socialize with.
  - Level of ESSN applications is quite low. There seems to be a need to increase information dissemination on ESSN, considering 81% of respondents did not even apply.
  - The reasons for low IP applications among Afghans could be that some have recently entered and are not aware on application procedures. Another reason may also be that there is a predominant perception among Afghans that they will be rejected upon application.
  - The sample was identified through the snowball method however they also received referrals through NGOs. DRC wanted to primarily focus on the needs of Afghans as well as individuals that came to Türkiye more recently (i.e., within the last five years). However, the latter also varies according to the province of residence of respondents. For example, in Van, the sample included more recent arrivals but in other provinces, individuals noted to have been in Türkiye for longer periods. DRC noted that the sample is not necessarily representative due to the method applied. The sample is mostly young, unmarried male Afghans between 18-25, who are not eligible for ESSN.

### **Agenda Item #3: Detailed Overview of Inter-Agency Protection Needs Assessment Findings (R6)**

- Per request of partners who participated in the 3RP Protection Sector Consultations, a detailed overview on the findings of the Inter-Agency Protection Needs Assessment Round 6 were shared with participants.
- Findings, including differences between groups, are included in this Powerpoint. The detailed report will be drafted subsequent to the 3RP planning season and will be made available in December.