



Basic Needs Working Group

Joint Meeting Minutes

Date & Location	27 January 2023, Joint (Gaziantep, Ankara, Istanbul, Izmir) Hybrid Meeting
Chaired by	Ahmet Ünver (UNHCR)
Minutes Prepared by	Büşra Seray Düzyol (UNHCR)
Participating Agencies	
Buca Belediyesi, Doctors of the World, EKSİ25, El Bir Derneği, GIZ, HRDF, ICMC, IFRC, IOM, Islamic Relief Türkiye, İKGV, İzmir Büyükşehir Belediyesi, Kadın Koalisyonu, MAAN, MSYD, Positive Living Association, Red Umbrella, Save the Children, SEVKAR, SGDD-ASAM, Syrian American Medical Society, TRC, Tzu Chi İyilik Vakfı, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WALD, WATAN, WHH, World Bank, WVI	
Agenda	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Welcome & Introductions (15 min)2. Review Action Points & Announcements (IA, 10 min)3. Present Sector Achievements in 2022 (IM, 10 min)4. Program Updates (20 min)<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. ESN & C-ESN Program Updates (IFRC/TRC, 10 min)b. Program updates (10 min)5. Market Review (IA, 10 min) <p><i>Break (10 mins)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">6. Basic Needs Highlights from IAPNA Round 6 (IA, 10 min)7. Sector Priorities in 2023 (IA/IM, 50 min)<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Introductory joint session (10 min)b. Regional break-outs (40 mins)	
Action Points	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food Basket calculation concept note to be shared by IA, volunteered partners will support• Members to fill performance survey until February, 10• The workplan for 2023 to be shared with the members• Members to fill in the survey for contact list update	
Review Action Points & Share Announcements	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data collection process for CBI mapping has been completed and several partners provided inputs. Partners who missed the deadline can contact Ahmet Ünver (unver@unhcr.org) for data entry.• SOP and ToR for Winterisation TF will be finalised and disseminated by the first week of February.• Database update on Activity Info for 2023 has been worked by the IM colleagues. Updates will be shared with partners by the early February and guidance on the new structure of the database will be shared. If you require any support regarding indicators on the Activity Info please contact Ozgur Savascioglu (savascio@unhcr.org).• Indicator Guidance will be updated for 2023 reflecting the changes and the link will be shared with the partners in coming days. A Turkish version is also being prepared. Partners can reach the Indicator Guidance for 2022 via this link.• Meeting schedule for 2023 was shared with partners. The intention is keeping the meetings as quarterly meetings and calling for joint meetings when it is relevant. One joint meeting is planned for midyear July.	



- For the coming meetings, BNWG will have more solution-oriented locally specific meetings. The hybrid modality will still be available if partners cannot make it to face to face meetings.
- The planned Coordination Workshop will focus more on the areas where Coordination Workshop Priorities Survey Results marked as “low level of knowledge” areas. The BN Sector might join forces with Economic Empowerment Sector, etc. to make the workshop inter-sectoral.

Sector Achievements in 2022

- The sector achievements as of December 2022 were presented by BN IM focal point.
- In 2022, BN sector had over 2 million beneficiaries and 52.4% of the beneficiaries were women.
- For 2023 Objective 1, appealed budget is over USD 84 million and a total of 19 partners appealed under this objective. CBI, CRI and hygiene kits are the indicators with biggest budgets.
- There is a significant increase in food assistance appeal and budget whereas there is a significant decrease in shelter target marking nearly a 50% drop.
- For 2023 Objective 2, appealed budget is slightly over USD 43 million and a total of 6 partners appealed under this objective. Southeast and Marmara region are the focus, and the appealed targets are similar with the last year.
- BN IM focal point Ozgur Savascioglu (savascio@unhcr.org) should be contacted if there are any questions regarding reporting or any other related issue.
- For detailed information please see [BN Sector Dashboard](#) and *Slides 6-9*.

Program Updates

ESSN Updates

- As of February, the monthly transfer value of ESSN will be increased 30%, from 230 TL to 300 TL. Top-up payments will continue to be provided quarterly without change.
- Male individuals between 30-33 years will be removed from the payment calculation at the household level. The calculations of demographic criteria will be inclusive of these individuals; however, they will not be included during the payment.
- The profile analysis of the mentioned group revealed that they are less vulnerable when compared to other beneficiaries and they have higher levels of access to labor market. The application of this decision on the field in February will yield results more clearly.
- All male individuals aged between 18-59 in the household will be included in the demographic criteria calculation, but a single payment will be made by counting them as one person.

C-ESSN Updates

- Transfer Value of ESSN: The payment for each beneficiary is 350 TL while for persons with severe disabilities the transfer amount is 800 TL.
- It was highlighted that one type of application is accepted for both ESSN and C-ESSN program. The eligibility criteria classify what kind of ESSN will the individual benefit.
- For detailed information please see *Slides 10-23*.

Other Program Updates

- UNDP announced that merger of Livelihood and Food Security and Agriculture sectors are still underway. UNDP aims to actively use Services Advisor and refer beneficiaries to vocational trainings.
- IOM conducts a pilot project providing cash for shelter based in Hatay and Şanlıurfa. This pilot Project will be finalized soon and details will be shared accordingly.



- IOM's winterization support is still ongoing and will be finalized at the end of February. Transfer amounts and calculation formula can be found in Winterization 4W.
- WHH provides multi-purpose cash in Gaziantep and Hatay.

Market Review

- A market review has been conducted and results were shared.
- Gaps remain specifically for the vulnerable households. There is still a need for cash assistance and sustainable solutions.
- There is a slight recovery in agriculture sector while manufacturing is decreasing. Likewise, construction sector is losing its size since last year. In service sector, there is still growth, but it is not at the required rate to create new jobs.
- New jobs and employment opportunities are not created, therefore increase in need for humanitarian/social assistance and increase in negative coping mechanisms may be observed.
- Consumer Prices Annual Percentage Change is dropping. Similarly, the global increase is slowing down.
- The prices for food basket calculation are based on retail stores in Ankara. For a more comprehensive calculation, BNWG chair suggested conducting this study regionally with volunteered partners. A KoBo list can be developed and having this data coming from field locations can enhance the scope of the calculation.
- For detailed information please see *Slides 25-32*.

Basic Needs Highlights from IAPNA Round 6

- Protection sector conducts an Inter-Agency Protection Needs Assessment with the partners reaching out to refugees. This assessment provides evidence-based programming for future projects.
- Some of the relevant outputs of the IAPNA Round 6 was shared. Partners were also encouraged to check out the full report ([TR/EN](#)).
- The most frequent negative coping mechanisms refugees' resort to are listed as reducing food expenditure and consumption, borrowing money, sending children to work which in turn increases child protection risks.
- Report reveals that 5% of the respondents are living in tents. Even though some of them are coming from nomadic culture, the numbers still seem quite high since refugees in Türkiye are mostly urbanized.
- "Refugees having lots of problems with their landowners" discourse revealed to be anecdotal and most of the respondents noted that their landlords were quite tolerant and friendly.
- Participants shared an unverified information claiming that the government would limit the number of people living in a household as 8 people at maximum. Further discussion asserted that there is no such a mechanism in force to limit the number of individuals living in the same house.
- For detailed information please see *Slides 34-37*.

Sector Priorities in 2023

- A Menti survey was shared with members to determine 2023 sector priorities for Basic Needs and to determine a subject for planned lessons learned workshop.
- Following topics are proposed to be prioritized by members: local engagement, localization, gap analysis in BN, private sector partnerships, needs assessment.
- Following subjects are proposed to be the focus of lessons learned workshop by partners: gender mainstreaming, funding for basic needs, advocacy, coping mechanisms, restricted cash, referral mechanisms.

Regional Break-outs

- Members held breakout group discussions depending on their geographical responsibility areas.
- Four discussion groups were formed: Ankara, Istanbul, Gaziantep and Izmir.

Food Basket Cost Exercise,



- IOM and Buca Municipality expressed their interest in being part of regional food basket exercise in Izmir. Moreover, in Ankara discussion, UNFPA mentioned that KAMER conducted some studies on the field and they can be helpful for data collection. KAMER is an organization that works in many provinces especially in Eastern Türkiye.
- SET partners also voiced that food basket should be designed in consultation with experts in the field (mainly WFP) and a balanced basket can be determined. The scope of the food basket can be expanded in a way to cover fresh foods to have a more balanced basket.
- Refugees can be consulted in this task.
- Kobo tool may be provided to the members for the market search on a provincial and regional level.
- The list for the markets and methodology will be decided following the selection of the market search team.

Advocacy and Engagement with Local Authorities,

- Izmir Metropolitan Municipality (IMM) underlined the need for cooperation and engagement with the relevant departments of Municipalities who provide basic assistance to individuals and covering the areas where refugees are populated.
- Engagement with social service centres and advocacy for inclusion of refugees in assistance provision would be another important area for basic needs sector.
- Advocacy is needed for people without an active ID & people with pending, in-between & ineligible status.
- Advocacy in fundraising for some BN activities on the field (e.g. distribution of dignity kits) is needed now that donors are prioritizing services over other activities.

Priorities

- Including MoFSS to the discussions and BNWG meetings and working in collaboration with them can increase the effectiveness of programmes, especially CBI.
- Private sector partnerships that can be established in the Marmara and Istanbul Regions are crucial and can be a meaningful initiative to meet the basic needs in the field. For this, the importance of playing a good mediator role is emphasized. Bringing a public institution in need and a private sector partner together can contribute to solving problems quickly.
- Cooperation between public institutions and municipalities, especially in data sharing, is very crucial in planning and implementation of programmes for refugees, not only for basic needs sector but for all sectors.
- One of the specific groups which was highlighted for BNWG take on was the people with pending registration and extending support to these. BNWG highlighted that needs of this group are high but number of people in need is not known.
- Needs assessment can be conducted as an intersectoral study and the results can help partners to have a more accurate targeting of beneficiaries.

Lessons Learned Workshop,

- **Harmonization**, coordination and collaboration between organizations, **monitoring, intersectoral approach**, use of CBI, developing programs, address update/verification and registration.
- SET colleagues voiced needs around a lessons learned workshop on preventing duplication in programing and implementation, extending **CBI** to refugees, assessed impacts of sectoral and multi-purpose cash.
- The workshop is suggested to be a face-to-face workshop on cash assistance, in-kind assistance, shelter or presentation and discussion of project results. Not only NGOs and UN agencies but also public institutions to be invited and encouraged to share their experience.
- Another area where BNWG could share lessons learned was address update and its consequences on accessing basic needs assistance.

AoB

Next meeting: to be announced