



Basic Needs Working Group

National Consultation Meeting Minutes

Date & Venue	10 October 2024, Hybrid Meeting (Ankara & Online)
Chair	Ahmet Ünver (UNHCR)
Minutes prepared by	Büşra Seray Düzyol (UNHCR), Ahmet Ünver (UNHCR)
Participating Agencies	
ACTED, Aile ve Sosyal Hizmetler Bakanlığı, ASAM, Building Markets, Care International, Caritas Türkiye, DRC, DG ECHO, Elaf RD, Genç Hayat Vakfı, GIZ, IBC, IFRC, IOM, IRW, Islamic Relief Türkiye, SARD, Save the Children, SENED, Shafak, Support to Life, Türk Kızılay, Tzu Chi, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF	
Meeting Agenda	
1. Welcome & Introductions 2. Review of Basic Needs Sector in 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none">AchievementsFunding levelGaps 3. Current Situation <ul style="list-style-type: none">UNHCR IAPNA round 8SSN Situation Update, MEB and Pre-Assistance Baseline Presentation	4. Discussion Session: Prioritization for 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Determining groups to be prioritizedGeographical targetingDetermining response areas and modalities to be prioritizedSupport to municipalities and public institutions 5. Appeal <ul style="list-style-type: none">Practical GuidanceTimeline 6. Closing Remarks
Review of Basic Needs Sector in 2024	
<u><i>Achievements and Funding Level</i></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The Basic Needs sector has 11 indicators under 2 general objectives.The first objective is to improve the living conditions of the most vulnerable Syrians under temporary protection, international protection applicants and status holders, and vulnerable members of the host community.<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Indicator 1.1.1 covers shelter support, benefiting around 13,000 individuals. Approximately 11,600 beneficiaries have been reached under 3RP. While reporting under this indicator was around 30,000 last year, there has been a decrease this year; however, this aligns with trends observed in previous years.➤ Indicator 1.1.2 is generally used by partners for urgent transportation needs. The low numbers observed under this indicator are as expected.➤ Indicator 1.2.1 relates to cash assistance. Including SSN data, approximately 1.7 million beneficiaries have been reached under this indicator. Progress recorded under 3RP (97,000) is below the target. Though this success rate appears low (9%), it aligns with previous years' trends. Winterization assistance, various one-off cash assistance, and regular cash assistance provided by institutions are reported under this indicator. It is observed that programs under this indicator have been underfunded in recent years.➤ Indicator 1.2.2 represents the number of people benefiting from CRI kits. About 16,000 people have been reached under 3RP.➤ Indicator 1.2.3 shows cash and in-kind beneficiaries for food, reaching approximately 150,000 people under 3RP. Compared to last year (31,000), the number of beneficiaries reached this year has increased, but it is still far below the targeted progress.➤ Indicator 1.3.1 covers the distribution of hygiene kits, reaching about 39,000 people under 3RP.➤ Indicator 1.3.2 indicates people benefiting from hygiene awareness sessions, with approximately 8,400 people being trained under 3RP. A low success rate compared to last year has been observed in the distribution of	



hygiene kits and awareness sessions. However, there is a reporting gap under this indicator, and targets might be met by the end of the year with complete reporting.

- Indicator 1.4.1, covering transition to livelihoods trainings, has similarly shown very limited progress. This limited progress is due to a very low number of field activities rather than reporting issues.
- Objective 2 focuses on supporting national capacity, with partners reporting the number of institutions they support under this output. Since the indicator only shows the number of completed programs, ongoing programs are not yet visible, making progress appear lower than it actually is. There is a plan to change this indicator next year to capture ongoing programs.
 - Indicator 2.1.2, covering infrastructure support provided to municipalities and public institutions, reports 21 programs. Progress has been made compared to last year (9 programs).
- You can access the Basic Needs Sector Dashboard through [this link](#). For reporting-related issues, partners can contact Özgür Savaşcıoğlu (savascio@unhcr.org).

Gaps

- To assess response capacity of Basic Needs sector, 24 partners who appealed through 3RP were contacted, and 18 partners provided feedback for this study. You can access the summary note prepared by BNWG on this topic through [this link](#).
- High inflation and increasing minimum expenditure basket observed in Türkiye have made it difficult for people to meet their basic needs, increasing the demand for support. Moreover, the lack of funding has affected all partners conducting interventions in 2024. Despite this, partners continued their activities with the funding provided under both the 3RP framework and earthquake response, and partial progress was achieved.
- Looking at the demands of the beneficiaries, there has been an increasing need for basic needs support, shelter rehabilitation, rent, and cash assistance. In particular, target groups and beneficiaries have preferred to receive cash assistance through mechanisms like multi-purpose cash assistance or unrestricted voucher support, which are flexible and without restrictions.
- In addition, it has been determined that the supply of hygiene kits needs to continue in 2024 for sustainability. Regarding the transition to livelihoods, some activities such as information sessions were organized at the beginning of 2024, but progress halted due to a lack of funding, highlighting the need for projects to support women's employment. In the area of institutional support, some municipalities and public institutions started receiving support at the beginning of 2024, and these projects are expected to continue until the end of 2025, showing a positive momentum.
- When looking at the general challenges, the lack of funding and insufficient guiding capacities of institutions stood out. For future steps, active and participatory information sharing within BNWG, prioritizing communication with donors considering funding constraints, prioritizing the most vulnerable individuals, preventing duplication, and prioritizing livelihood transition activities have become critical.

Current Situation

UNHCR IAPNA Round 8

- The Inter-Agency Protection Needs Assessment has been an ongoing study since 2020, identifying the situations, needs, capacities, and solutions of both Syrians and other nationalities across Türkiye.
- For the 8th round, approximately 2,000 households and around 9,500 individuals were interviewed between June 24 and July 26. Although Syrian households are in the majority, the scope of the study was kept broad to learn about the needs and situations of many nationalities. 98% of the interviewees are registered with the Directorate General of Migration Management.



- Regarding access to the labor market, both the number of registered and formally employed individuals has increased compared to the 6th round. 22% of individuals reported having no access to the labor market, with the main reasons for unemployment being job searching (17%), not being in a condition to work (14%) and having long-term health problems or disabilities (14%).
- The economic dependency ratio is an indicator that expresses the number of non-working individuals compared to working individuals. This ratio usually measures the economic dependency of children, the elderly, and other non-working individuals on the working members of the family. The economic dependency ratio is highest among Syrian and Iraqi households, and female-headed households have a higher economic dependency ratio compared to male-headed households. The primary income sources among the interviewed households include informal employment (irregular/daily work), formal employment, and informal employment (long-term/regular work). Jobs observed in the first place are not sustainable income sources, and 71% of the interviewed households reported a worsening economic situation recently.
- 82% of the interviewed households are unable to fully meet their basic needs, with women experiencing more difficulty in this regard. The highest unmet needs rate was observed in the Aegean region and among Iranians.
- Many households have developed survival strategies, with borrowing money being the most commonly used strategy. Rent and food are the most challenging expenses to cover.
- 48% of households confirmed receiving social assistance (30% regularly, 18% as one-off assistance). 5% of participants reported having a working child in their household.
- The main difficulty in children continuing their education was reported as financial difficulties (37%). The top reason for children dropping out of school was financial difficulties (38%), and in addition, 28% of participants tried to access health services but failed.

SSN Updates

- Updates were shared about the SSN program carried out under KızılayKart by the Turkish Red Crescent.
- As of September 2024, TRY 571 million in cash assistance has been provided to approximately 1.143 million beneficiaries under the SSN program. The number of people benefiting from this assistance under the discretionary quota is around 29,000 beneficiaries. Under the C-ESSN program, TRY 300 million cash assistance was delivered to more than 373,000 beneficiaries in September.
- In general, around 718,000 households applied for assistance under SSN in September, and over 62,000 new cards were distributed in 2024. In September, a total of approximately TRY 872 million in assistance reached more than 1.5 million beneficiaries.

Minimum Expenditure Basket

- The Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) calculation for August 2024 for the ESSN and C-ESSN programs was presented by the Turkish Red Crescent.
- The MEB is calculated according to Sphere Standards, considering the spending habits and basic household needs of the targeted groups. Two separate MEBs are developed under the SSN programs, and they are applied specifically to the program, taking into account the average household size, the Consumer Price Index, and the spending habits of SSN and C-ESSN beneficiaries.
- In August 2024, the SUY MEB per capita was calculated at 4,107 TL and the T-SUY MEB per capita at 5,286 TL. The amounts are calculated based on market prices (for food and non-food items) and TurkStat data (for rent, public services, transportation, etc.). The food basket is calculated per individual, while other components are calculated per household.

Pre-Assistance Baseline Presentation

- The Turkish Red Crescent Monitoring and Evaluation Team presented the Pre-Assistance Baseline Survey focusing on socio-economic indicators, negative coping strategies, and food security status for ESSN and C-ESSN beneficiaries and non-beneficiary households.



- Data was collected at the household level between September 2023 and January 2024. The study was conducted in 5 regions: Istanbul, Anatolia/Thrace, the Aegean, the Mediterranean, and the Southeast.
- In terms of **socio-economic indicators**, there is no significant difference in the average monthly labor income without cash assistance between ESN and C-ESN beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries, with nearly one working individual per household. The working ratio per household is highest in non-beneficiary households and lowest in C-ESN beneficiary households.
- Among these groups, ESN beneficiaries have the highest average household expenditure, with the top three spending categories being food, rent, and clothing, regardless of the target groups. Similarly, all target groups are most indebted to friends and local stores for food, rent, and non-food expenditures.
- **The Reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI)**, often used as a representative indicator for food security, shows that T-SUY beneficiaries are most vulnerable in the Aegean, Istanbul, and Anatolia regions, while SUY beneficiaries have the highest levels of vulnerability in the Mediterranean and Southeast. Additionally, all target groups adopt less preferred food purchases and meal reductions as coping strategies. Moreover, the **Livelihood Coping Strategies Index (LCSI)** indicates that C-ESN beneficiaries are more vulnerable in the Aegean, Anatolia, and Istanbul regions, while ESN beneficiaries in the Mediterranean and Southeast are more vulnerable compared to other groups.
- **Food Security** analysis reveals that nearly three-quarters of C-ESN, ESN, and non-beneficiary households have acceptable food consumption scores. More than 20% of C-ESN households almost never consume food items like meat, fruit, milk, and dairy products, a rate similarly observed around 20% in SUY households.

Discussion Session: Prioritization for 2025

Determining Groups and Areas to be Prioritized

- Partners were asked about the groups that should be prioritized, the areas that should be geographically prioritized, and the modalities and areas that should be prioritized for intervention.
- In the quick assessment section with feedback from meeting participants, it was stated that refugee households in Türkiye, with a high level of economic dependency including children, disabled individuals, and elderly people, are in the highest vulnerability group. These groups were followed by female-headed households, households making a living from seasonal jobs, and C-ESN beneficiary households. Groups that could not access registration opportunities were also listed as groups with high needs and vulnerabilities.
- When participants were asked about geographic prioritization, they stated that the greatest needs are in the earthquake-affected provinces, followed by major cities such as Adana, Mersin, Istanbul, Ankara, and Izmir, which were affected by migration movements after the earthquake. In terms of settlement type, it was noted that the highest needs are in temporary settlements composed of foldable containers. Participants indicated that there are significant needs in urban areas on a case-by-case basis, while rural households face problems accessing services and opportunities.

Notes from the Discussion:

- Intervention options are limited for individuals who experience access to registration problems and are not registered, especially in Istanbul, and for those who have disabled or special health needs in their family.
- Additionally, the cancellation of general health insurance for individuals who have received international protection rejection decisions causes problems and protection gaps.
- In particular, WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene) activities cannot be carried out in earthquake-affected regions because donors perceive the emergency situation as over and have left the field, which may lead to serious health problems and epidemics in the near future. Therefore, it is necessary to identify and prioritize groups living in camps and in need of WASH support.
- Vulnerability remains high in temporary settlements established in earthquake-affected provinces, and especially NFI needs should be supported.



- Due to closed neighborhoods and opportunistic attitudes, rents have increased significantly in accessible neighborhoods, and the need for cash assistance for rent is increasing throughout Türkiye.
- The need for Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance is particularly prominent in Hatay, Adıyaman, and Gaziantep due to the high refugee population in these areas.
- Refugees residing in the Aegean region need to be targeted with more cash and in-kind assistance. Refugees living here also experience problems accessing registration.

Determining Response Areas and Modalities to be Prioritized

- In light of the discussions, it has been decided that the ongoing cash assistance should continue and new multi-purpose cash assistance programs should be established. It has been noted that there is a need for cash assistance planned for general hygiene products and menstrual hygiene products. A significant need for cash programs for rent has been observed.

Appeal

- The call for appeals under 3RP will begin soon. Partners are recommended to review the current guiding documents before the appeal process starts. These documents will help partners understand the areas where appeals can be made under 3RP.
- After completing the appeals, sector coordinators will review the appeals made under their sectors. As a result of this review, partners may be asked for additional information or to revise their appeals in a more connected manner with the 3RP strategy.
- The timeline for 3RP is planned as follows:
 - An information workshop will be held by the Information Management Team on October 22.
 - Partners will make their appeals between October 22 and November 1.
 - Appeals made between November 4 and November 15 will be reviewed by sector coordinators, and if necessary, additional information may be requested from partners.
 - Financial requirements, the number of people in need, and the number of targeted individuals will be shared by November 29.
 - A national stakeholder consultation meeting will be held at the end of November.
 - The launch of the updated report is scheduled for mid-February.

AoB

- N/A