



Inter-Agency
Coordination
Türkiye

3RP National Protection Working Group

Meeting Minutes

Date & Location: Thursday, 7 August 2025, 09:30 – 12:30 / Teams

Moderator: Lara Özügergin Zeilstra – 3RP National Protection Sector Coordinator (UNHCR)

Participants: AAR Japan, CARE International, DRC, Dünya Doktorları Derneği, Genç Hayat Vakfı, GIZ, GOAL, Hayata Destek, HelpAge International, Human Appeal, IBC, IDA, IFRC, IGAM, IKGV, IOM, MSYDD, Qatar Charity, REALs, SGDD – ASAM, SHAFAK, Türk Kızılay, UN RCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Women, WFP

Meeting Presentation: [English](#) and [Turkish](#)

Meeting Agenda:

- I. Welcome & Announcements
- II. Presentation on CLIP 2 Project 2023–2025 Protection Analysis
- III. 3RP 2024 Protection Sector Mid-Year M&E Review
- IV. AoB & Closure

Agenda Item #1: Welcome & Announcements

- **Inter-Agency Protection Needs Assessment – Preparations for Round 9:** Preparations for the ninth round were initiated, and partners were requested to confirm their participation status and provide feedback based on field observations related to the survey. Updates in the legal framework (e.g., General Health Insurance) are reflected in the survey by the 3RP National Protection Coordination team. A preparatory meeting for focal points of contributing organizations and enumerators conducted on Thursday, 21 August. The short report of the eighth round will be shared shortly, and partners were encouraged to provide suggestions regarding the format of future reports.
- **Voluntary Return Information Sessions:** A short briefing note highlighting the importance of these sessions was prepared by the 3RP Protection Sector to be shared with donors.
- **ActivityInfo Protection Sector Reporting:** Partners that did not complete reporting on time are regularly monitored. Therefore, the importance of timely reporting, particularly in relation to funding and progress of activities was emphasized.
- **3RP 2025 and 2026 Planning:** The launch of the 3RP 2025 update was postponed due to the need to revise the Türkiye chapter in light of developments in Syria. In a recent meeting with partners that appealed for 3RP 2025, sector-level and inter-sectoral targets, changes, and priorities for 2025 were shared. Planning for 2026 is expected to start by late September/early October, with a sector consultation planned in this context. Partners will be informed once the exact dates are confirmed.

Agenda Item #2: Presentation on CLIP 2 Project 2023–2025 Protection Analysis

- GIZ presented the protection analysis for the 2023–2025 period under the CLIP 2 – Community-Based Local Initiatives Project. The project, which started in January 2023, is being implemented with 25 partners across 20 provinces, both in provinces with limited access to services (e.g., Erzincan, Giresun, Çorum, Trabzon, Kayseri) and in areas with high service intensity and needs. Within the scope of capacity development, six large-scale partners provided on-the-job support,



case management supervision, policy development, and guidance document updates to implementation partners with more limited capacity. Data up to March 2025 were shared, including widespread protection concerns, protection indexes for 2023–2025, and province-based findings (Slides 5–15). Following the presentation, key points from the discussion among partners were summarized as outlined below:

- Protection needs increased in parallel with a decrease or absence of partners in certain provinces. In this context, it was noted that although operations in Van scaled down, İKGV and SGDD-ASAM continued their presence, and activities under the legal clinics implemented through the UNHCR–Union of Bar Associations of Türkiye partnership continue. The Turkish Red Crescent reported that no activities are currently implemented under migration services, but planning is underway.
 - Partners noted that the closure of container cities and decongestion efforts in some temporary accommodation centers could increase protection risks. Partners were reminded that persons with specific needs should be referred to protection desks and, as appropriate to temporary accommodation centers in line with their requests.
 - As in previous years, a guidance note including programmatic recommendations for specific regions, provinces, and groups would be prepared as part of the 3RP 2026 planning process. It was emphasized that including provinces where partner presence decreased but protection needs remained would be useful in order to address existing gaps.
 - In addition to assessing the situation of the population from a protection perspective, identifying specific needs groups and different needs is also critical. Therefore the principle of prioritizing individuals at the highest risk of being left behind as a core commitment of the protection sector remains essential. This principle becomes even more important in the context of funding constraints.
 - Socio-economic factors directly affected protection situations and risks. Therefore, it was underlined that taking socio-economic needs into account in planning and programme development would make an important contribution to ensuring that protection needs are addressed in a holistic manner.
 - It was noted that cooperation with organizations working in small-scale, specialized areas and with access to different communities should be increased. It was underlined that initiatives such as CLIP-type projects and mentorship programmes would add value to the sector. It was emphasized that no single institution could meet all needs and therefore, supporting small and medium-sized community-based organizations in line with the localization agenda is important. This suggestion will also be reflected in the 3RP 2026 planning.
 - Partners with available funding and an interest in providing services in the areas of social cohesion or non-formal education were encouraged to share their requests with GIZ in order to be introduced to organizations working in small-scale or specialized areas. Organizations interested in working in specific provinces (e.g., Nevşehir, Çorum, Van) could be matched with existing partners in those provinces. Partners were informed that they can contact Yağmur Acioğlu Genç (yaqmur.acioglu@giz.de) and Esin Bozkurt (esin.bozkurt@giz.de) for related requests.
- **Action Point:** It was underlined that sharing announcements on new or ongoing projects with the 3RP National Protection Coordination team would be useful for sector-wide dissemination and, where necessary, for referrals and communication.



Agenda Item #3: 3RP 2024 Protection Sector Mid-Year M&E Review

- Information Management team presented key findings from the mid-year M&E review (including Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence), including inconsistencies and underreporting for the 3RP Protection Sector and Accountability to Affected Populations/Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse indicators. Progress against targets for activity areas and indicators for the first half of 2025 was shared with partners, including a comparison with the previous year. During the meeting, 3RP NPWG Coordinator collected partner feedback on underreporting. Discussion outcomes will be shared with donors and incorporated into the 3RP M&E report. (Slides 15 – 31)
- Protection sector partners are encouraged to refer to the Indicator Guidance Note ([English](#) and [Turkish](#)) for detailed information on reporting related issues and to contact the 3RP NPWG with any further questions.
- The main challenges and key outcomes of the discussion are outlined below.

Information Dissemination

- Some organizations that experienced staff reductions due to funding cuts reported that although they were able to continue activities, they faced challenges in the reporting process. It was suggested that methods to facilitate reporting be discussed during the consultation meeting focusing on 3RP 2026 appeals.
 - **Action Point:** Partners were advised to share with UNHCR the information they recommend to be produced for communicating with refugees, including the suggested content format and communication channels. Information needs identified by the sector could be conveyed to UNHCR's Communicating with Communities Unit.

Social Cohesion

- Partners observed that limited prioritization of social cohesion by public institutions and local authorities creates difficulties for the sustainability of activities. However, partner feedback showed that this area remained a priority. It was assessed that activities and initiatives to strengthen social cohesion for refugees who prefer to stay in Türkiye could become even more important in 2026.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

- Partners reported that demand for psychological support services increased compared to last year. It was noted that a large number of individuals are on waiting lists, and majority consists of women and children. Additionally, Turkish-speaking beneficiaries were referred to relevant public institutions. However, these institutions faced challenges in service delivery due to high demand.
- Difficulties in accessing mental health and psychosocial support services arise due to service capacity constraints and gaps in information. Strengthening information and referral mechanisms is important to address these challenges.
- This area remains a priority protection need both across Türkiye and in the context of voluntary returns. It was emphasized that this should be reflected in the 2026 planning process and included in recommendations under the 3RP guidance note. The importance of continued advocacy was underlined to ensure the sustainability of services.



Legal Assistance and Counseling

- The reason for the mid-year 100% reporting under number of refugees/vulnerable host community members provided with individual legal support (legal aid and counselling) (1.4.2) indicator was the trainings delivered under the UNHCR–Union of Turkish Bar Associations project.
- The mid-year increase in reporting was linked to a rise in counselling requests, possibly due to problems such as non-payment of wages for informal employment. It was also noted that the increase in such requests could be connected to individuals planning voluntary return and seeking to obtain their wages as soon as possible.
- Partners were advised to make a more realistic calculation based on needs and service capacity when setting the 3RP 2026 target.
 - **Action Point:** Findings from the needs analysis and refugee applications to partners for legal assistance indicate a rise in cases related to legal status, documentation, violence, and particularly divorce. This shift in the types of legal assistance requested highlights the importance of developing accurate counselling approaches and tailored information materials. To address this, partners requiring counselling content on legal aid were advised to reach out to the 3RP National Protection Sector Coordinator and to make use of existing resources such as the [UNHCR Help Page](#).

Cash for Protection/In-Kind Assistance

- One partner reported that food assistance was reported under this indicator. In response, it was emphasized that food assistance should not be reported under the protection sector. It was underlined that any in-kind or cash assistance reported under the sector should be entirely and primarily aimed at achieving direct protection outcomes. Partners who require further information on this indicator were advised to consult the relevant section of the Indicator Guidance Note (pages 29–31).
- Due to rising inflation and increasing needs, the budget planned per case was spent at a higher level than anticipated. As a result, cash-based case management support could be provided to fewer individuals with a higher budget.
 - **Action Point:** It was assessed that an inter-agency technical discussion on the scope of cash-based support would be useful prior to 2026 planning. In this regard, the 3RP National Protection Sector Coordinator will reach out to the Cash-Based Interventions Technical Working Group.

Persons with Specific Needs

- Inconsistencies in reporting¹ under number of individuals with specific needs/vulnerabilities assessed and identified with protection needs (2.1.2) referrals (of individuals with protection needs) to specialized/multisectoral services (2.1.3) indicators improved compared to previous periods.

¹ Target for indicator 2.1.2 should reflect the total number of persons with specific needs/vulnerabilities assessed and identified with protection needs. Target for 2.1.3 should reflect the total number of referrals (should not just reflect the number of persons referred) for persons reported under 2.1.2 target. Therefore, reporting under indicator 2.1.3 is expected to be at least equal or ideally higher than under 2.1.2, as persons with specific needs may require multiple referrals. Additionally, reporting partners should include both internal and external referrals to other organizations under indicator 2.1.3.



- Due to office closures, downsizing of projects, and/or staff reductions resulting from funding cuts, a decrease in the number of referrals may occur during the remainder of the year. This situation could negatively affect referrals, particularly for the legal needs of persons with specific needs. It was further emphasized that project downsizing reduces the services organizations can provide, and when combined with the already heavy workload of external services, access to support becomes even more limited. In this context, it was indicated that more challenges are expected in relation to legal needs, especially with respect to protective measures concerning children.
- It was noted that the narrowing of operational areas has reduced the availability of services at the provincial level and limited the possibility of conducting multi-sectoral work as in the past.
- It was further highlighted that the closure of positions in different disciplines has limited referral options for persons with specific needs, and alternative case solutions are not feasible in all provinces.
- It was emphasized that even when referrals are made, it is not always possible to confirm whether they are successful and whether the service has been accessed, and that this issue should be evaluated separately in the context of future indicators.
- The reduction in the number of interpreters directly affects individual assessments. Even when needs are identified by referring or receiving organizations, they are not always able to address them.
 - **Action Point:** As funding cuts impact referral numbers, the issue (which potentially requires advocacy) should be followed up at both local and national levels. Therefore, regular monitoring results should be shared with the 3RP National Protection Coordination team.

Gender Based Violence (GBV)

- In the case of GBV, refugees face language barriers as an obstacle for service providers. Cultural differences also play a role, as survivors frequently struggle to describe the violence they have experienced. Willingness to speak about such issues largely depends on the level of trust survivors have in service providers. This significantly complicates case identification and results in many cases going unreported.
- For women headed and vulnerable households, safe and accessible shelter options remain limited. This constraint affects the timely reporting of cases and the operation of proper referral processes, thereby reducing the effectiveness of protection mechanisms.
- It was noted that indirect factors such as funding and human resource constraints and the decline in cash-based interventions may have reduced applications related to GBV and negatively affected the identification and referral of cases. It was also highlighted that situations like economic or psychological violence are often detected only during long counselling sessions, which makes identification difficult when beneficiaries do not reach out.
- With the reduction of cash-based interventions, it became more difficult for individuals to refrain from environments of violence. This has led some to withdraw their requests for referral to legal aid, legal counselling, and other social mechanisms, which in turn makes case management and planning of further referrals more challenging. In addition, it was observed that some GBV survivors were forced to return to abusive partners even after divorce due to economic difficulties. Such situations often result in a cycle of violence, with more severe incidents occurring. This underscores that within GBV case management, cash assistance remains critical for survivors.
- Due to funding cuts and the resulting decrease in the number of organizations operating in the



field, there have been cases where identified incidents were closed without referral.

- It was emphasized that phone calls and the lack of physical spaces makes safe information sharing more difficult.
- Due to inconsistencies observed between reporting under indicator 3.1.1 (number of individuals assessed as survivors or at risk of GBV), indicator 3.1.2 (number of individuals provided with GBV intervention services), and indicator 3.1.3 (number of individuals referred to multi-sectoral services for GBV), it was stated that the 3RP National GBV Working Group will discuss internally the approach to be followed for target setting for 2026 and beyond.
- In the context of inconsistencies in reporting on the relevant indicators, partners noted that some individuals had experienced violence in their country of origin but did not have urgent protection needs in Türkiye. For those without additional needs related to the violence, it was noted that they could be removed from follow-up without referral.
- Under indicators 3.1.1, 3.1.2, and 3.1.3, it was suggested that the criterion of requiring at least one referral should be reconsidered for 2026 in light of targets and existing capacity.
- A decline in demand for psychological support services was observed particularly among those who have lived in Türkiye for a long time and are already familiar with procedures which has led to fewer requests.
- It was reported that requests for new legal or psychological support have declined. This is possibly linked to individuals' growing perception that they cannot escape situations of violence and their perception that processes such as divorce proceedings have little chance of leading to positive outcomes.
- In recent times, it has been observed that some individuals avoid reporting GBV-related situations due to fear of placement in removal centers. This has further reduced application rates and negatively affected both the visibility of cases and the possibilities for intervention.

Child Protection

- The high number of child protection cases and needs in 2024, along with the assumption that funding could be secured from existing donors, led to an increase in targets. However, from the first quarter of 2025 onwards, the presence of partners who were not funded or whose capacity decreased from mid-year negatively affected the relationship between the number of children assessed, the number of children identified at risk, and the number of referrals.
- Under indicator 4.1.2 (number of children identified at risk), it was noted that there were earlier reports which were not reflected in the disaggregated data.
 - **Action Point:** In light of the gaps in reporting under indicator 4.1.2, partners were advised to complete their retroactive disaggregated reporting.

Agenda Item #4: AoB & Closure

- Reporting under trainings/technical capacity development, institutional support, Accountability to Affected Populations/Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, and protection monitoring mechanisms was not examined in detail. Partners reporting on these indicators could be contacted during monthly follow-up processes.
- Reporting under Accountability to Affected Populations / Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse improved. However, the rate remained low when compared with the total number of



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individuals reached through protection services. The need to provide information on sexual exploitation and abuse to the vast majority of individuals benefiting from protection services was highlighted. In addition, based on the findings of the Inter-Agency Protection Needs Analysis Round 8, which showed that communities still lack sufficient awareness of feedback mechanisms under Accountability to Affected Populations, it was underlined that efforts to provide information and referrals on this issue should continue.

- The decrease in institutional support reporting compared to the previous year was anticipated.
- It was mentioned that partners could be contacted via email to collect feedback for the trainings/technical capacity development and protection monitoring mechanisms indicators.
- The next meeting is planned for October (exact date to be confirmed) and will focus on the 3RP Protection Sector Consultation.