STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR WINTER ASSISTANCE 2024 – 2025

BACKGROUND

Within the scope of the Basic Needs Working Group and under the guidance of IOM, discussions have been initiated among relevant agencies to plan winter assistance for Türkiye in 2024-2025, with a focus on the most vulnerable families in need including those affected by earthquakes. The severe climatic conditions in Türkiye during the winter months typically result in increased financial stress for populations affected by displacement. Given the significant increase in needs following the earthquake, the demand for assistance is very high, particularly in provinces such as Adıyaman, Gaziantep, Hatay, Kaharamanmaras and Malatya.

In addition to government efforts and sector-specific in-kind and cash activities, a priority is placed on providing a comprehensive winter cash package to the most vulnerable households, with a recommended target of at least 50% being refugees/migrants. This includes the most vulnerable Syrians under temporary protection and international protection applicants. The primary focus is on the five most severely affected provinces in the earthquake-affected southeastern region, encompassing both urban and rural areas that experience the harshest winter conditions and insufficient protection in terms of the availability of winter items.

A total of 100,000 refugees have been identified as being in urgent need of winter support (approximately 20,000 refugee households with an average family size of 5), whose expenditures fall below the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB)[1] in the five most heavily impacted provinces. An equal number of Turkish households—20,000 households, or around 60,000 individuals with an average family size of 3—will receive the same assistance in these areas. The assistance will target both urban and rural areas, including formal temporary settlements expected to experience the harshest winter conditions and insufficient protection due to a shortage of winter supplies.

The winter season in Türkiye spans from October to April, varying by region, with the most challenging months typically falling between December and February. It is crucial to expedite the delivery of assistance to the target populations to ensure their preparedness for the harsh winter weather conditions.

MODALITY AND TRANSFER AMOUNT

As identified by our partners, providing cash assistance to households is considered a priority where context allows, due to its flexibility in addressing the unique circumstances and winter-related needs of families. In the 2024-2025 Winterisation task force, partners will deliver a one-time winter cash transfer to eligible families. Partners will provide a one-off winter cash transfer for target families, based on the

[1] Türkiye - WFP/IFRC/TRC: Minimum Expenditure Basket After the Earthquake Disaster in Türkiye - June 2024
https://reliefweb.int/report/turkiye/turkiye-wfpifrctrc-minimum-expenditure-basket-after-earthquake-disaster-turkiye-june-2024

previously agreed multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) value [2]of, which was calculated using the minimum expenditure basket (MEB).

The winter package accounts for the additional costs of essential winter items. Specifically, these include a fixed cost for heaters (TRY 3,500 per household) and variable costs for winter non-food items and utilities, calculated at TRY 488 per household member.

Families that have not previously received multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) will receive both the MPCA transfer amount and the winterisation top-up. For families that have already received MPCA, only the winterisation amount will be provided. In cases where partners are providing three months of MPCA to households, the winterisation top-up will be provided in one of those months.

Item → # Individual ↓	MEB	One-off MPCA Amount	Monthly MPCA Amount (For Three Months)	Winterisation Amount	Total Received (with One-off MPCA)	Total Received (With Monthly MPCA)
1	₺2,966	₺12,991	₺6,496	₺4,964	₺17,955	₺24,452
2	₺5,932	₺12,991	₺6,496	₺4,964	₺17,955	₺24,452
3	₺8,898	₺12,991	₺6,496	₺4,964	₺17,955	₺24,452
4	₺11,864	₺17,128	₺8,564	₺5,452	₺22,580	₺31,144
5	₺14,830	₺18,925	₺9,463	₺5,940	₺24,865	₺34,329
6	₺17,796	₺20,722	₺10,361	₺6,428	₺27,150	₺37,511
7	₺20,762	₺25,499	₺12,725	₺8,380	₺33,879	₺46,555
8	₺23,728	₺25,499	₺12,725	₺8,380	₺33,879	₺46,555
9	₺26,694	₺25,499	₺12,725	₺8,380	₺33,879	₺46,555
10	₺29,660	₺25,499	₺12,725	₺8,380	₺33,879	₺46,555

TARGETING

The Task Force will collaborate with partner organizations to assist the Turkish Government in mitigating the adverse effects of winter on the nation's most vulnerable households. The target group includes the most vulnerable Syrians under temporary protection, international protection applicants and status holders, as well as vulnerable members of the host community in both urban and rural areas including populations within temporary settlements in a complementary manner with shelter sector. Winterisation task force activities will be nation-wide, an earthquake impacted southeastern provinces will be the top priority. As recommended by the Winterisation Task Force, partners will aim to include a minimum of 50% refugees/migrants in the total caseload.

It is recommended to prioritize beneficiaries who are not already receiving support through Social Safety Net (SSN). If a partner includes SSN recipients in their winter response, specific identified vulnerabilities need to be part of the assessment. All partners will cross-check their beneficiary lists with Türk Kızılay (TRC) to determine their SSN status.

The core criteria for the 2024-2025 winter assistance include:

- Shelter and living conditions, focusing on winter-specific vulnerabilities.

[2] MPCA Targeting Criteria Guidance (August 2024)
https://reliefweb.int/report/turkiye/mpca-targeting-criteria-guidance-august-2024?_gl=1*143s7w6*_ga*NTk1MDI5NDgwLjE3MTY1NDk1MTQ.*_ga_E60ZNX2F68*MTcyNzg3NzgxMi4xMy4wLjE3MjM4Nzc4MTIuNjAuMC4w

- Other indicators of household-level vulnerabilities, including:
    - Protection.
    - Health (disability, chronic diseases).
    - Socio-economic factors (income-expenditure gap).
    - Dependency ratio.
    - Female-headed households.

It was agreed in principle that, after assessing the above selection criteria, partners would set priority levels for different beneficiary categories based on winter needs and vulnerabilities:

Priority 1 - Beneficiaries identified with high winter needs and complex vulnerabilities who do not receive continuous assistance throughout the year.

Priority 2 - SSN recipients with high winter needs and complex vulnerabilities, who may be unable to cope with potential winter stresses.

It is advisable for partners to engage with provincial and district-level authorities (Provincial Directorate of Migration Management (PDMM), Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD), governorates, and municipalities) for any planned winter assistance, whether it is for the host community or refugees, including coordination with district governors to provide winter support to vulnerable host community households.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Given the increased severity of winter conditions in the eastern provinces, compounded by the impact of earthquakes, priority has been assigned to the eleven affected provinces. It was agreed that multiple partners operating within the same district will coordinate bilaterally to divide implementation plans at the neighborhood level to prevent duplications. Additionally, in cases where two or more partners are implementing within the same district, the modality type and transfer value must be harmonized. If harmonizing the modality type is not feasible, partners will ensure the harmonization of transfer values to prevent conflicts within the community.

Organizations operating in the same or neighboring provinces and districts are encouraged to verify beneficiary overlaps. To facilitate this, organizations should follow these steps:

a) Send a file bilaterally to partner including beneficiary information, ID number, phone number, district, province, and implementing NGO/Organization name. Organizations should also indicate their willingness/authorization to share their datasets for verifying overlaps with other partners' lists, as described in points c) and d) below.

b) Partners will compare this file with their winter data and identify any overlaps.

c) Upon request, partners will be available to verify overlaps with any other data received from any Organization/NGO, as described in point a) above, and then identify duplications across datasets.

d) If an organization requests details on the actual overlaps, partners will share the request with the respective organizations and facilitate contact between the two parties.

e) Consider a data sharing agreement between partners in accordance with each partner's data sharing policy.

MONITORING

During project implementation, beneficiaries must have access to multiple Accountability to Affected Population (AAP) channels to reach the program team. The primary complaints and feedback channels are the hotline and SMS system. Partners are committed to AAP, ensuring responsibility, transparency, and accountability to all concerned stakeholders. AAP is based on two core concepts: rights-based and effectiveness. Affected populations have the right to actively participate in decisions that impact their lives. Effectiveness is achieved by incorporating inputs and perspectives from affected people to ensure that needs are correctly identified, and activities are context appropriate. AAP principles are upheld throughout the project through the distribution of educational materials like banners and pamphlets to inform beneficiaries about AAP systems and to promote complaint and feedback mechanisms. Similarly, to the previous year, partners have agreed to conduct post-distribution monitoring separately for the winter assistance programme in 2024-2025.

TIMELINES

For the winter assistance of 2024-2025, partners agree on the following timelines and products:

1. Assistance:
    a. Winter assistance should be implemented/delivered between November and January, depending on the start of winter in different locations.
2. Monitoring:

    a. Finalize the monitoring framework by each partner before commencing assistance.
    b. Post Distribution Monitoring survey starts one month after delivering the assistance.