



Inter-Agency  
Coordination  
Turkey

## Basic Needs Working Group

### Meeting Minutes

<b>Time &amp; location:</b>	11 February 2019, TRC Area Office Yenibosna, Istanbul
<b>Chaired by:</b>	Ahmet Unver (UNHCR) and Arzum Karasu (WFP)
<b>Participants:</b>	Hiba Hanano (WFP), Altuna Soylemez (UNFPA), Mehtap AYDIN (MEDAK), Berna Yekeler (DDD), Zeynep Aydemir Koyuncu (UNWomen), Ezgi Karaoglu (ASAM), Ozgecan Atasoy (UNHCR), Fatma Betul Bodur (UNHCR), Firas Fakher Addin (AAR Japan), Caner Nazlı (ECHO), Faruk Shaban (TRC), Abdullhadi Murad (SADYO), Ayşe Aktaş (DDD), Berivan Erbil (UNICEF), Hanifi Kinaci (TRC), Nisan Özdemir (TRC), Iris Kristjansdottir (UNWomen), Ozgur Savacioglu (UNHCR)
<b>Agenda:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Welcome &amp; Introductions</li><li>2. Action Points from the Previous Meeting</li><li>3. Change of Istanbul BNWG Schedule</li><li>4. Quick Update on BNWG Work Plan 2019</li><li>5. Market Analysis Update: Q4</li><li>6. Gender &amp; Basic Needs<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Overview</li><li>- Needs Assessment</li><li>- Interactive session</li><li>- Open Discussion: Basic Needs and Gender</li></ul></li><li>7. AOB</li></ol>



AGENDA POINT	DISCUSSION	ACTION POINTS
Welcome and introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ UNHCR &amp; WFP chairs welcomed working group members</li> <li>▪ WFP Basic Needs WG Coordinator introduced herself, members were informed of the planned handover of WFP Basic Needs Coordinator in coming months. Contact information of both chairs was shared.</li> <li>▪ The meeting agenda was introduced and accepted without changes.</li> </ul>	
Action Points from the Previous Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A BNWG ToR link will be shared with members – <i>ToRs are revised in February, 2019, a revised version will be shared with members after Feb cycle</i></li> <li>▪ A BNWG ToR in Turkish will be shared with members – <i>Once the revised version has been endorsed by BNWG and STF members, a Turkish translation will be shared with members</i></li> <li>▪ Links for all relevant 2018 documents will be shared – <i>After the February cycle</i></li> <li>▪ Members to share further feedback on 2018 with coordinators – <i>Done ✓</i></li> <li>▪ Change of Istanbul BNWG Schedule – <i>Done ✓</i></li> <li>▪ Members prepare handouts for sharing with members – <i>In progress</i></li> <li>▪ Request «information sharing spot» from coordinators – <i>In progress</i></li> <li>▪ Members will work on determining focused ad-hoc meeting agenda to involve municipalities’ participation – <i>planned for June</i></li> <li>▪ Members to share capacity development and training needs – <i>A survey will be conducted to identify capacity development needs of members</i></li> <li>▪ Members to share with coordinators expectations from BNWG Priority Plan – <i>After February cycle, Priority Plan 2019 will be shared with members for their review and comments</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Revised BNWG ToRs link will be shared with members</li> <li>→ List of links to be shared with members</li> <li>→ Online capacity development needs survey to be conducted</li> <li>→ 2019 Priority Plan to be shared with members after February cycle</li> <li>→ Comprehensive Services Advisor training to be provided to members</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Members reminded to keep data up to date on Services Advisor - <i>Services Advisor training will be provided to increase awareness</i></li> </ul>	
Change of Istanbul BNWG Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Through online survey, members decided that: Istanbul BNWG meets bi-monthly, on second Tuesday of the month in the morning, following ESSN TF meeting.</li> </ul>	
Quick Update on BNWG Work Plan 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Members were introduced to “2019 Basic Needs Working Group Priority Plan”. For the planning of 2019, BN Coordinators have designed a plan:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Focusing and highlighting tasks with high priority</li> <li>- Setting tasks that will be covered by BNWG</li> <li>- Keeping the Work Plan for 2019 as flexible and strategic as possible</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ The Priority Plan will be a guidance document for BNWG, and it will identify the strategy and key tasks for the WG.</li> <li>▪ Activities outside of the BNWG Priority Plan will continue to be the concern of the WG and its members. If the priority of any activity changes significantly, the WG will amend its strategy accordingly and the plan will be revised.</li> <li>▪ The BNWG Priority Plan is composed of 8 areas of focus:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Basic Needs to Livelihoods – Transition</li> <li>2. Municipalities</li> <li>3. Shelter</li> <li>4. Winterization</li> <li>5. Thematic Focus</li> <li>6. Capacity Development / Training</li> <li>7. IM – Strengthened coordination capacity</li> <li>8. Humanitarian Programme Cycle (3RP Process)</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	<p>→ 2019 BNWG Priority Plan to be shared with members after February cycle</p>



<p>Turkish Economy Q4 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ WFP presented the key highlights from the "Turkish Economy Q4 Report", prepared by WFP VAM:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- September: Government announced New Economic Programme: 2019 – 2021</li><li>- Annual Inflation: peaked in October (25%), decreased by end of year (20%)</li><li>- Gross National Product: annual growth decreasing trend (it reached 7.2% in Q1 and decreased to 1.6% in Q3. Q4 data will be developed by the end of March).</li><li>- Energy: decreasing prices (petrol, diesel and cooking gas) in Q4 compared to Q3</li><li>- Minimum Expenditure Basket: reached 338 TL per person per month (324 TL in Q3)</li><li>- Estimated gap in ESSN beneficiary ability to meet basic needs: 63 TL per person per month (Gap is calculated by having the minimum expenditure basket value <i>minus</i> ESSN transfere value <i>minus</i> Estimated income).</li></ul></li><li>▪ The full Turkish Economy Review Q4 report will be shared with the meeting minutes.</li></ul>	
<p>Gender &amp; Basic Needs: <i>Presentations</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Given the thematic focus on Gender in the February cycle of BNWG meetings, UNWomen colleagues provided a presentation, composed of two sections.</li><li>▪ The first section was composed of the below shared topics:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Why is gender equality essential?</li><li>- What are UN commitments regarding gender equality?</li><li>- What is The Gender Handbook purpose and content?</li><li>- The IASC Gender Marker</li><li>- The Age &amp; Gender Marker</li></ul></li><li>▪ The first section highlighted that women and girls are disproportionately affected in cases of humanitarian crisis. For example, women and girls face:</li></ul>	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- high risk of limited or no access to services, such as education or critical health care.</li><li>- face higher risks of child marriage, domestic work or sexual abuse</li><li>▪ Between two sections of the UNWomen presentation, an interactive session named “Power Walk” was conducted with participation of members. Each member was given a role/identity and asked several yes/no questions, and after compiling number of answers; asked to explained why she/he was either very privileged or disadvantaged. The game aimed at bringing how social roles and gender attributions play a role in the way we access to basic services or we exercise our rights.</li><li>▪ The second section of UNWomen presentation introduced the “Needs Assessment of Syrian Women and Girls under Temporary Protection Status in Turkey”.</li><li>▪ The methodology and findings of the needs assessment was shared with members. The key <b>findings</b> were:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The needs assessment was the first comprehensive work on exploring needs of temporary protection beneficiary Syrian women and girls in Turkey.</li><li>- Language remains one of the most significant barrier: it is most pressing in health and education where communication is key.</li><li>- Women who said they were looking for a job were approximately 17% and reasons stated against looking for a job were: childcare responsibilities, cultural reasons, illness/disability, care of other dependents and housework.</li><li>- More than 17% of women stated their living space as sub-standard accommodation: such as basements with no sunlight and poor ventilation and shanty houses.</li></ul></li></ul>	
--	---	--



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Many women end up in shared housing or with relatives, leading to crowded conditions, lack of privacy and an increased risk for gender-based violence.</li><li>- 87% stated that their monthly income does not meet their basic housing needs.</li><li>▪ <b>Next steps</b> to be taken were introduced and discussed:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Comparing access to protection and support between women, men, girls and boys through Gender Analysis.</li><li>- In-depth analysis of occurring violence against women, girls, men and boys across different sectors.</li><li>- Analysis of differences/similarities between refugee and vulnerable host communities.</li></ul></li><li>▪ Some of the key findings from the round table discussions conducted as part of the UNWomen Ankara event were shared:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Female employment is generally low amongst temporary protection beneficiary Syrian women</li><li>- Almost a third of refugee households are headed by a woman which makes the household more vulnerable to poverty and abuse.</li><li>- Mobility of women is limited</li><li>- Services for the refugees living in Turkey are too often gender-blind</li></ul></li><li>▪ UNWomen colleagues shared that:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Data can be made available to any partner who wants to do deeper research.</li><li>- As stated in the next steps, new researches might be conducted. Annual or biyearly monitoring in the field might follow the needs assessment, and where applicable jointly with other partners.</li><li>- Findings of the assessment are to influence advocacy and program design, to become more gender responsive.</li></ul></li></ul>	
--	--	--



Gender & Basic  
Needs: *Discussions*

- Members in İstanbul had the below shared discussions:
  - FGDs and post distribution monitoring findings bring out that, women, specifically young girls are disadvantaged in accessing language training and livelihood opportunities. Only a limited number of the ones who accessed the livelihood opportunities have access to jobs.
  - FGDs and PDM findings also bring out that some women make a living or contribute to **house economy by selling hand-made products**. This type of production is preferred by women who cannot work outside of their home due to decision of the family or the house work that is assigned. Refugees state that majority of these current networks are also managed by other refugees; and these networks can be exploitive and decrease the very small profit they make from their sales. Women who has no alternative to working from home should be provided with **non-exploitive and inclusive networks**.
  - Municipalities play a very important role in response to refugee crisis. In addition to providing extensive infrastructure services, municipalities undertake supports such as NFI distributions and social cohesion activities. **Municipalities can be provided with trainings and awareness raising sessions in gender equality.**
  - Urban and landscape design plays a very important role in security and feeling of safety in public space for both men and women. Women face higher risk of being attacked in poorly designed and lit urban spaces at night. **The security and safety of public space should be addressed with a focus on gender perspective** by Municipalities. Support can be given by relevant sector members.
  - Syrian women suffer from informal marriages, since they cannot claim any rights. Also women struggle with getting divorce due to lack of access to legal counselling or required documentation. Even at the cases where



	<p>husband left, or no longer alive, women is under the control of the family. They do not have freedom to access language training or livelihood opportunities. These problems, which were also identified by UNWomen Needs Assessment Report, should be addressed in transition phase, since they create sever disadvantage for women.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Projects that are targeting women and girls can address <b>individual and community empowerment</b>; so that preventive and protective activities would rely on resources of the communities.</li><li>- Professionals in the humanitarian field should take the initiative to increase their knowledge and understanding of gender equality. In spite of the experience and humanitarian perspective, professionals in the field are <b>not immune to biased and gender-blind decision making</b>. Provided resources in the meeting can be quite useful in increasing awareness and capacity. Members were presented with the highlights of “Gender and Basic Needs open discussions” in Istanbul and Gaziantep BNWG meetings.</li></ul>	
	Next meeting: <b>9 April 2019, ASAM MSC-LSDC Meeting Room, Dolapdere</b>	