

Izmir ISWG Meeting  
Meeting Minutes

<b>Time &amp; Location</b>	11 October 2019, 14:00-16:00, Izmir/Turkey
<b>Co-chaired by</b>	Sejla Jusufovic (UNHCR), Hande Dilaver (UNICEF)
<b>Minutes taken by</b>	Sejla Jusufovic (UNHCR)
<b>Participants</b>	UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM, UNFPA, WFP, MUDEM, ASAM, GIZ, TRC, DDD, TIAFI, Multeci-Der, Positive Living Association, Habitat Association, IZKA, Izmir Buca District Municipality, Manisa PDoNE
<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Discussion summary</b>
<b>Welcome and overview of meeting agenda</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review of action points from previous meeting</li> <li>2. Sector updates</li> <li>3. Update on recent policy developments in the education sector</li> <li>4. Update on out-of-school children in Torbali/Izmir</li> <li>5. Outcomes from education brainstorming session on out-of-school children</li> <li>6. Q&amp;A</li> <li>7. AOB</li> </ol>
<b>Review of action points from previous meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>WHO survey</u> on the health status, services utilization and determinants of health of the Syrian refugee population in Turkey has been shared and stored in the Izmir ISWG Dropbox folder <a href="#">here</a>.</li> <li>▪ <u>Education brainstorming session</u> was held on the topic of out-of-school children in Izmir on 12 September with the participation of education sector partners. Barriers in access to primary/secondary education were identified and solutions proposed to address some of the major issues.</li> </ul>
<b>Sector updates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Protection:</b> Flowchart visualizing <u>procedures for Syrians</u> has been developed in light of the recent Istanbul situation and is available in the ISWG Dropbox folder <a href="#">here</a>. Deadline for registration of Syrians and relocation of Syrians already registered in different provinces has been extended to 30 October 2019. Unregistered Syrians will be referred to one of the 52 relocation provinces. Similar actions are taken in Bursa province. In addition to Istanbul, 14 more provinces have been added to the restricted city list. DGMM info leaflets on the procedures for Syrians has been developed in Arabic, Turkish and English available in the ISWG Dropbox folder <a href="#">here</a>.</li> </ul>
<b>Update on recent policy developments in the education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>Starting age for compulsory primary education</u> has been changed to 69 months. Compulsory primary school age will cover children in the 6-14 age group (as per the recent MoNE circular published in the Official Gazette on 5 July 2019).</li> </ul>

<b>sector</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Two <u>additional school breaks</u> have been introduced which will take place in November and April (each lasting 10 days), while the summer break has been shortened to 11 weeks. Breaks between classes increased from 10 min to 15 min in primary and lower secondary schools.</li> <li>▪ <u>High school diplomas issued by VECs</u> will be accredited for university enrolment.</li> <li>▪ <u>Adaptation/prep classes</u> will be available for foreign students enrolled from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 12th grade. Minimum and maximum number of students per class is set at 10 and 30 respectively. Students who score less than 60 in TYS (Turkish Proficiency Exam) will be enrolled in the adaptation classes. More information is available <a href="#">here</a>.</li> <li>▪ Information dissemination on recent MoNE circular will be done via PDoNEs. ISWG members are also encouraged to disseminate information to their beneficiaries.</li> </ul>
<b>Update on out-of-school children in Torbali/Izmir</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Out-of-school Syrian refugee children constitute around 40% of children identified in the makeshift settlements in Torbali's rural areas where seasonal agricultural workers reside. Language barriers, school/transportation expenses, child labor, domestic responsibilities and lack of schools close to makeshift settlements are the major barriers to primary/secondary education among this population group. Girls are at a higher risk of being left out of education due to domestic responsibilities and care of younger siblings to support their families while they work in the fields. Frequent mobility of seasonal workers places additional challenges on school enrollment and retention.</li> </ul>
<b>Outcomes from education brainstorming session on out-of-school children</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Overall school enrolment rate in Izmir is lower than the country-wide average. Almost half of refugee school-age children are out of school in Izmir.</li> <li>▪ Education brainstorming session was conducted in Izmir on 12 September to identify barriers to access to education among refugee school-age children. Same activity was conducted in 3 other provinces. A total of 6 organizations took part in the discussion in Izmir.</li> <li>▪ <u>Major barriers identified by the participants include:</u> economical, language barriers, sexism/discrimination, peer bullying, child labor, families' lack of awareness and registration issues with PDMMs. Lack of hygiene and poor economic situation are some of the main factors causing peer bullying at public schools in Izmir. Refugee students engaged in paper collection on the streets are often the target of peer bullying. Complete list of barriers can be found in the ISWG Dropbox folder <a href="#">here</a>.</li> <li>▪ <u>Solutions:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Linkages with protection and referrals need to be strengthened to overcome existing barriers. Coordination among NGOs and local/provincial authorities is key in this regard.</li> <li>○ Greater focus to be place on information dissemination on educational opportunities and pathways, school/PDMM registration procedures and available services. Target refugees and public institutions including PDoNEs.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Building school infrastructure, especially in more remote and rural areas where schools are inaccessible/scarce is needed. Containers were recently requested from MoNE to support mobile classrooms/child friendly spaces to support children’s learning. UNICEF is looking into this possibility to resume provision of mobile spaces in some locations.</li> <li>○ Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) will be implemented with the support of UNICEF until April 2020 after which it will be taken over by PICTES.</li> <li>○ All public schools have been instructed by MoNE not to take registration fees/contributions from students (noted by Manisa PDoNE).</li> <li>○ Additional CTE top-ups per semester have been introduced as of 2019 to encourage school enrollment and retention.</li> <li>○ Exchange of good practices among provinces to be encouraged. Manisa could take the lead as a model province.</li> </ul>
<b>AOB</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increasing onward movement trends at the western sea borders have been observed in the recent months. September saw the highest number of persons intercepted by the Turkish Coast Guard (TCG) so far this year, reaching a total of 11,673 persons (according to official TCG data). So far in October (1-11 Oct), a total of 4,926 persons were intercepted by the TCG. Top nationalities among the intercepted groups include Afghans, Syrians and Palestinians.</li> </ul>
<b>Next meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Next ISWG meeting is scheduled to take place on <b>Friday, 6 December 2019</b>. It will be themed on protection.</li> </ul>

**ACTION POINTS SUMMARY**

No.	Action	Responsible
1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Share presentations from the meeting with ISWG members</li> </ul>	UNHCR coordinator
2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Share recent MoNE circular with ISWG members</li> </ul>	UNICEF coordinator
3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discuss possible organization of regular education meetings on primary/secondary and higher education.</li> </ul>	UNHCR and UNICEF coordinators