

Izmir ISWG Meeting  
Meeting Minutes

<b>Time &amp; Location</b>	6 December 2019, 14:00-17:00, Izmir/Turkey
<b>Co-chaired by</b>	Taylan Dagci (UNHCR), Pinar Genc Akcakaya (IOM)
<b>Minutes taken by</b>	Sejla Jusufovic (UNHCR)
<b>Participants</b>	UNHCR, IOM, UNFPA, WFP, MUDEM, GIZ, TRC, DDD, Multeci-Der, MHD, Positive Living Association, Izmir Metropolitan Municipality, Buca District Municipality, PDoYS, IZKA
<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. Regional FGD findings (UNHCR)</li> <li>4. Provincial relocation update: Izmir situation (UNHCR)</li> <li>5. PSEA</li> <li>6. AOB</li> </ol>
<b>Review of action points from previous meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ MoNe circular shared in the Izmir ISWG Dropbox folder available in Turkish and English <a href="#">here</a>.</li> <li>▪ Discussions are underway with UNICEF to organize regular education-themed meetings in Izmir. More info to be shared once timeframe is determined.</li> </ul>
<b>Sector updates</b>	<p><b>Basic Needs/Shelter:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- IOM is implementing a new “shelter rehabilitation and community stabilization project” which aims to improve housing conditions of 75 vulnerable households in Izmir. It targets 70% Syrian refugees and 30% host community members.</li> <li>- An inter-agency shelter programming guidance note is being revised at the national level as follow-up from the Shelter/Programming workshop that was held in Gaziantep on 3 December. It will be shared with the field partners for their feedback to map context-specific shelter needs.</li> </ul> <p><b>Livelihoods:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- WFP is implementing a livelihoods project (MUV-Kitchen of Hope) in Izmir which aims to improve self-reliance of refugees and host communities through a culinary vocational training. It targets 50% refugees and 50% host</li> </ul>

	<p>community members. Pilot project was carried out in Istanbul and Ankara. Training module comprises of technical and practical skills. Participants will be matched with employers in the hospitality and food sectors in partnership with ISKUR for an additional three-month on-the-job training and possible job placements. Izmir Chamber of Commerce will also assist for possible job placements.</p> <p><b>Health:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNFPA continues its outreach activities in rural areas across 5 provinces including Izmir with the help of 13 mobile health units. These comprise doctors, midwives, nurses, social workers and interpreters.</li> <li>- New UNFPA's SGBV response and prevention program targeting men and boys has been piloted in Istanbul. Other locations to be covered as well. Hotline will be also established for persons exposed to SGBV. More information to be shared in the coming ISWG meeting.</li> </ul> <p><b>Protection:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNHCR will conduct the first Aegean region international protection and social cohesion workshop for district and metropolitan municipalities in Izmir end of December.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Onward movement update</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A steady increase in the interceptions by the Turkish Coast Guard (TCG) has been observed as of June 2019. Interceptions reached the peak in October 2019 at 11,910 individuals, which are almost four times the figure of October 2018 according to the TCG official data. Afghans constitute the majority of those intercepted at sea so far this year followed by Syrians and Palestinians. Most interception incidents have been recorded off the coasts of Cesme, Kucukkuyu, Bodrum and Didim. Economic factors and recent developments in Istanbul were noted as the primary push factors by the intercepted individuals who were in contact with IOM; several intercepted persons complained that they had to leave their jobs in Istanbul as a result of the stricter implementation of registration and residency procedures which motivated them to move onwards.</li> <li>▪ Sea and land arrivals to Greece from Turkey so far this year at around 66,938 individuals have increased considerably compared to last year, surpassing the overall 2018 figure. Most common nationalities of sea arrivals so far this year were Afghans followed by Syrians.</li> <li>▪ UNHCR planned stock for core relief items for 2020 in cooperation with IOM. These items will be delivered to the TCG, National Police and Gendarmerie as needed, to meet the humanitarian needs of interceded and apprehended individuals in the Aegean region.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Regional findings</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Focus groups discussions (FGD) were undertaken to consult the refugee communities on the gaps and challenges in access to services/service provision in areas such as registration, education, health, livelihoods,</li> </ul>

social cohesion, SGBV and access to information.

- Findings are derived from 50 FGDs that were conducted with a total of 438 refugees from Syria (45%), Afghanistan (20%), Iran (23%), Somalia (8%) and Iraq (4%) across 9 provinces in the Aegean region (Izmir, Burdur, Mugla, Isparta, Usak, Antalya Manisa, Denizli & Kutahya) between January and November 2019. Participant profiles included diverse ages, genders and backgrounds, which included men, women, adolescents, youth and the elderly. Around 9% of the FGDs were conducted with refugees in rural areas such as Torbali in Izmir and Seydikemer in Mugla. Interactive tool has been developed to display the findings with easy filtering options per location, sector, age, etc.

**Key findings revealed the following:**

- Syrians highest recipients of ESSN and CCTE.
- Limited knowledge on legal aid and assistance services; Iranians most aware.
- Main problems encountered are related to livelihoods followed by education, registration, social cohesion, health, access to information, SGBV and durable solutions respectively.
- Language barrier a major obstacle to access to services across all provinces.

Major concerns per sector and province:

1. Education: Izmir, Mugla and Denizli
2. Livelihoods: Manisa, Usak, Isparta and Burdur
3. Registration: Antalya and Kutahya
4. Social cohesion: Denizli
5. Health: Antalya and Usak
6. Access to info: Mugla, Burdur and Izmir
7. SGBV: Kutahya

Main concerns in Izmir per sector:

- Education: Limited capacity of PECs; lack of awareness on procedures and eligibility criteria for trainings; lack of certification/diploma; high drop-out rates due to language barriers, discrimination in schools, peer bullying and age – children who have been out of school for prolonged periods experience difficulties in enrolling in classes of the same age group.
- Livelihoods: Employers unwilling to employ refugees; discrimination; lack of information on work permit regulation; limited capacity of public institutions; child labour; lack of childcare opportunities.
- Registration: Misinformation on procedures; registration outside of province of residency.

<p><b>Provincial relocation update: Izmir situation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Applications for registration of Syrians in Izmir are fully booked until January 2020. Newcomers are instructed to approach other provinces which are open for registration. Most referrals for registration to Manisa and Usak come from Izmir. Travel permits are not issued by Izmir PDMM for registration referrals to other provinces. Syrians coming from Istanbul should get a travel permit from Istanbul PDMM for registration referrals. Kutahya received a high number of TP applications/referrals from Istanbul.</li> <li>▪ Syrians apprehended/intercepted by law enforcement/TCG, who are unregistered or registered elsewhere, continue to be transferred to Oncupinar TAC in Kilis where they are registered and asked whether they want to remain in Turkey or return voluntarily. Those wishing to remain in Turkey are referred to Kilis province where they are expected to stay for 30 days after which they are issued temporary protection IDs by PDMM in Kilis and can, in principle, apply to travel and stay in another province. Those registered in other provinces are discharged from the TAC and notified to go to their province of registration.</li> </ul> <p><u>Comments from members:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cases involving Syrians with specific needs are not prioritized for registration in Izmir for the past 5 months. Only cases that obtain a formal petition from the governorate can be considered. Changes in the law regulating deportation orders of foreigners in Turkey are being deliberated which may reduce the time limit for lodging appeals against deportation orders to the administrative court from 15 days to 7 days following the notification decision. (Multeci-Der)</li> <li>▪ 28 vulnerable cases have been identified through DDD’s health screening activities in the rural area of Torbali district. Most relocated from Istanbul while others are unregistered. They also involve those who were residing in Istanbul with registration in Afyon province. (DDD)</li> <li>▪ Population in Torbali also comprises of Syrians who are registered in the southeast of Turkey (mainly in Sanliurfa and Hatay). Around 20 families are considering to move to Istanbul for work in the textile industry despite being aware of the Istanbul situation. Permissions for outreach activities in Izmir are still granted through the relevant provincial directorate and the Izmir Governorate. (IOM)</li> <li>▪ Increased number of Syrians who are unregistered or registered elsewhere were observed in Basmane area of Izmir. For work-related registration transfers to Mugla, a valid work permit should be submitted along with the application. In Istanbul, PDMM processes registration and referrals of Syrians under the Istanbul decision at the Sultanbeyli Coordination Centre; minivans are not operational. (UNHCR)</li> </ul>
<p><b>PSEA</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ For details please see the presentation available in the shared ISWG Dropbox folder <a href="#">here</a>.</li> <li>▪ Training for UN PSEA focal points is planned to take place in February 2020.</li> </ul>

<b>AOB</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Protection WG to be established in Izmir. First meeting to be held in January 2020.</li> <li>▪ IOM to organize the Global Film Festival in Izmir on 16 December at the French Culture Institute.</li> </ul>
<b>Next meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Next ISWG meeting is scheduled to take place on <b>Friday, 7 February 2020</b>. Meeting to be multi-sectoral. Agenda topics to include developments in the livelihoods sector and responses to human trafficking.</li> </ul>

**ACTION POINTS SUMMARY**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
<b>1.</b>	Share presentations from meeting with ISWG members.	UNHCR coordinator/IA
<b>2.</b>	Provide update at the next ISWG meeting on the developments concerning possible legal amendments to the time limits provided to foreigners for lodging appeals against deportation orders.	UNHCR coordinator/protection
<b>3.</b>	Provide update at the next ISWG meeting on UNFPA's new SGBV response and prevention program targeting men and boys (locations and hotline info to be shared)	UNFPA coordinator