



Basic Needs Working Group

Meeting Minutes

Time& Location:	14 April 2020, Izmir, Istanbul, Gaziantep Virtual Meeting
Chaired by:	Ahmet Ünver (UNHCR), Arzum Karasu (WFP), Faruk Acar (WFP)
Participants:	Abdullah Akgul (UNHCR), Acelya Sungur (DDD), Adil Ozenc (HRDF), Ahmet Gurel (UNHCR), Ali Kaya (CARE), Ali Ege, Altuna (UNFPA), Anne o Rorke (TIAFI), Ali Aslan (GIZ), Ayse Gokcek (ASAM), Aysenur Ozcan (WFP), Aysenur Sari (ASAM), Baris Ipek (AAR Japan), Bartu Oncuoglu (IBC), Chris Bender (UNHCR), Bilal Hazzouri (UNICEF), Burcu Uzer (UNICEF), Bulent Oztürk (TRC), Cagla Azizoglu (UNHCR), Caner Nazli (ECHO), Derya Cengiz (Olive Branch Organization), Dilsad Turan (Charity and Solidarity Foundation), Esin Koc (UNHCR), Elif Turkmen Elbirler (STL), Elif Atasal (ASAM), Enes (Small Projects), Erdal Yulu (DRC), Esra Su (Concern), Ezgi Emre (ECHO), Hiba Hanano (WFP), Faruk Shaban (TRC), Gorkem Goker (TRC), Hakan Ademoglu (CARE), Hatip Surun (UNHCR), Hilal Kaya (TRC), Imran Altintop (Bir Dunya Cocuk), Ipek Miscioglu (UNHCR), Sejla Jusufovic (UNHCR), Kingsly Atem (DRC), Nimer Maissam (SPI), Mehmet Yabanci (Doctors Worldwide), Mehtap Aydin (IOM), Melisa Gunduz (UNICEF), Mine Gultekin (UNHCR), Mustafa Islek (STL), Nicolas Metri (DRC), Nur Banu Ozkut (Refugee Rights), Obada Kahil (WHH), Omar Zalt (AAR Japan), Ozgur Koc (UNWomen), Ozgur Savascioglu (UNHCR), Radia Korkmaz (Human Appeal), Rafeef Oflazoglu (CARE), Souad Osseiran (Koc University), Sara Asadifar (UNHCR), Ismail Alkhatib (SDI), Seda Baran (UNICEF), Seda Gurlek (), Serhat Akbal (STL), Seyma Demirlikan (Doctors Worldwide), Sila Ertunc (ASAM), Silan CM (), Sinan Ozyurek (UNHCR), Usama, Yasmin Holoubi (SSG), Zaher Taha (DRC)
Agenda:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome & Introductions (5 min) 2. Discuss basic needs sector in COVID-19 situation (40 min): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Brief presentation of sector analysis (Sector Coordinators, 5 min) b) Partners' current activities & identified needs (All participants, 20 min) c) Reprogramming, basic needs/non-basic needs partners (All participants, 15 min) 3. Present guidance materials for in-kind distribution in crisis situation (Sector Coordinators, 10 min) 4. Present tracking tool for COVID-19 needs & requests (Sector Coordinators/IM, 10 min) 5. AOB <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Brief presentation of the basic needs assistance provided at the western border (UNHCR, 5 min)

AGENDA POINT	DISCUSSION
Reviewing the agenda	The meeting agenda was introduced, reviewed and accepted without changes.



<p>Reviewing action points from the previous meeting</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. UNHCR Data Portal Interactive Basic Needs Dashboard be shared with members - <i>Done ✓</i> 2. CBI TWG Mapping Survey be shared with members - <i>Done ✓</i>
<p>Action Points</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Partners check the Services Advisor and immediately inform sector coordinators/IM if their services or services by other stakeholders are missing 2. Partners inform sector coordinators to share details of their available services, and program updates 3. Partners share information on available support mechanisms among refugees, especially municipal services available 4. Partners share technical/coordination needs in reprogramming with sector coordinators 5. Partners who are considering to provide CBI overview the online CBI Programs in Turkey Dashboard 6. NGO partners share focal points for “online tracking tool of requests & needs in COVID-19” with sector coordinators
<p>Discuss basic needs sector in COVID-19 situation</p>	<p>A) <u>Brief presentation of sector analysis</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refugee and host communities affected, mainly in terms of health and economics, but the impact is not homogeneous. Households with daily wages and without savings have been impacted the most. There is an increasing difficulty to access certain goods such as hygiene and sanitary items. services and market Over-demand on certain services has impacted service providers. • CBI support and food assistance in TACs continue. Hygiene kits and sanitary items distributions have increased. Shelter rehabilitation and similar activities are limited. • Major challenge for partners is outreach, assessing new cases and providing support. For refugees the major challenge is decrease in livelihoods opportunities and access to services. • Changes required in 3RP Sector Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Basic needs activities should be re-prioritized to provide support to high risk groups ○ One-off cash support should be prioritized for the most vulnerable household ○ Cash support needs to be coupled with in-kind support for the most vulnerable households ○ Food assistance is relevant in to the urban context for households with limited access to market ○ Sectors should jointly work on proactive measures and programmes to support financial recovery • UNHCR has been working on a cash programme with DGMM to provide support through one of cash program to the limited number of vulnerable refugee households. Needs will be a lot higher than the provided support considering the number of refugees and the availability of funds. The vulnerable household will be prioritized against criteria. Once the parameters are set with DGMM, more information on this program will be made available.



B) Partners' current activities & identified needs

- Three major questions asked to participants to understand what basic needs activities are provided to refugees, what is the situation with access to basic needs support by governmental agencies and what are the assessed needs by partners.
- International Blue Crescent Relief and Development Foundation (IBC): Produce masks and it will be distributed in camps in Syria. IBC published videos and texts on social media accounts and their websites.
- WFP
 - Receiving some request on financial support and other types of support by NGOs
 - WFP is in the process of providing hygiene kits to people in the camps.
- TRC
 - VEFA group is distributing hygiene kits and food to Turkish populations who are vulnerable and cannot access markets. Distributions continue not only part of VEFA group also TRC distributing hygiene kits and food.
 - As a cash programme, TRC always keeps in touch with partners and tries to share proper information regarding COVID-19 with refugee population.
 - Several times, TRC sent out SMS to 400.000 refugees who are registered in the system to inform prevention from COVID-19.
 - Call centre service is provided in 5 different languages to respond to refugees needs and questions
 - TRC is registering requests and referring some cases to services such as municipalities and VEFA group, also referring some cases to outreach teams. If it is related to cash programmes, they are referring cases to outreach teams. Also, TRC receiving cases identified and referred by other stakeholders. Agencies can refer refugees to TRC hotline (168).
 - TRC has authorization from the government to travel to the 31 provinces with a travel ban. If needed, TRC teams can deliver the service to the refugee population in need.
 - The outreach team deliver cards to the refugees with restricted or limited mobility.
 - **TRC conducted an assessment survey through the call centre, collected data and results will be shared.**
 - TRC are referring their received requests through the call centre to governmental institutions.
- UNFPA
 - UNFPA was distributing hygiene kits in Edirne during the western border situation and are using the carryover stocks of the western border situation; ASAM is identifying needs on behalf of UNFPA and further distribution of kits is underway
 - UNFPA communicate with beneficiaries through the phone and continue referrals.
- Concern
 - Concern Implements Building Tomorrow projects in 4 provinces, in order to respond to needs, Concern revised projects and planned to distribute hygiene kits to approximately 3500 households.
 - Concern plans to distribute recreational materials to children.



- Concern conducted a phone survey covering 404 Syrian beneficiaries to understand how they cope with COVID-19. The results showed basic needs as an emerging need, 54% of respondents lost their jobs, 94% reported that their current income is not enough to meet their households' basic needs.
- Syrian Social Gathering (SSG)
 - Planning food assistance and distributing hygiene kits with the cooperation of the Hatay Metropolitan Municipality.
 - Reaching to Syrians and Turkish citizens who are minimum 60 years old. The prioritization criteria are; single-headed households with a minimum one dependent, single woman without work, households with a dependency ratio 1.5 for every applicant, individuals with disabilities, Turkish citizens whose income is below the poverty line and ESSN beneficiaries who phase-out of the assistance.
 - SSG provides hotline assistance (information sharing, psychosocial support, etc.), distributing sterilizers, masks, cleaning tools, brochures about coronavirus, providing transportation support to hospitals, providing home cleaning and shopping services and distribution of food aid.
 - Aims to reach 2000 direct and 2000 indirect (members of families) beneficiaries.
- UNHCR Istanbul
 - Istanbul municipality are providing support to refugees. The municipality started to distribute food and hygiene kits. They have revised the application procedure.
 - UNHCR has started sharing a certain list with the municipality and they will take the persons of concern into consideration while distributing kits.
 - Protection sector members are increasingly identifying and doing referrals to organizations.
 - There is a need for interpretation support, protection core group trying to create pool of interpreters.
 - Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (IMM) established a website to receive applications of individuals in need of support. The application form enables foreigners to apply by filling out the parts of online form specified for foreigner ID information.
 - PDoFLSS shared socio-economic support programme will continue; however, house visits are currently halted
 - VEFA groups provide support to households in needs, and they also receive support of SASF human resources. VEFA groups are facing an over-demand.
- CARE is providing food assistance in several provinces, shelter activities, cash for shelter and communal space updates are on-going. CARE is responding to urgent needs; partners can refer cases to CARE. (details to be added)
- ServicesAdvisor is updated, available services during the COVID-19 can be seen.
- C) Reprogramming, basic needs/non-basic needs partners
 - Coordinators welcomed partners to share needs for technical/coordination support with basic needs working group. The coordinators can link partners who are in need of technical expertise support with experts in the field.
 - Basic needs working group will continue to provide platform for information sharing and coordination, and support process by providing coordination tools and guidance materials.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sector coordinator shared global discussion around reprogramming. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Humanitarian organizations are trying to reprioritize their funding. There will be a need not only to support the unemployed but also protect the jobs. Basic needs sector will closely work with livelihood sector in following period to support longer term economic recovery. ○ Many organisations advise that humanitarian response should focus on the vertical and horizontal expansion of programmes and avoid developing ad-hoc supports which may bring about programs with high administrative costs compared to positive outcomes. ○ Humanitarian response should consider groups that are not considered by other responders and service providers: having a gender lens and identifying needs with that perspective is crucial. • Partners considering to provide CBI are urged to review the online CBI Programs in Turkey Dashboard to overview the current programs, geographical coverage, transfer values & mechanisms in place (product of CBI TWG platform)
<p>Present tracking tool for COVID-19 needs & requests</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic Needs Working Group is rolling out an “Online Tracking Tool for Requests & Needs in COVID-19 Situation” • Tool is ActivityInfo based, and it aims to compile and present the 1) basic needs request of local authorities (such as material support) received by partners, and 2) basic needs of refugees assessed by partners. • The tracking tool has pre-set categories to capture request and needs of basic needs modalities (such as food assistance, hygiene kits, sanitary items etc) to facilitate accurate and effective data collection. • Compiled data will be made available to interested partner organisations through an online dashboard which will 1) help prevent duplication in responding the requests received from local authorities and 2) provide a general overview of needs in Turkey to feed into reprogramming and planning processes around COVID-19 situation • This online tracking tool <u>will not be a new platform to report partner activities</u>; reporting will still be done through ActivityInfo against indicators under 3RP. This tool aims to capture requests & needs, and it will also be tracking status updates related with these entries. • Sector coordinators will request organisations to share focal points for the online tracking tool; focal points will be trained on how to use the tool with online sessions in the following week.
<p>Present guidance materials for in-kind distribution in crisis situation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turkey and other 16 countries, imports wheat from Russia and rice from India. 9 out of 17 countries import more than 60 percent of the wheat consumed and 11 out of 17 countries import more than 60 percent of rice consumed. • As of April 5th, 2020, there were no trade restrictions imposed on either wheat or rice from major exporting countries. • For the economic accessibility of food, potential trade restrictions, herding behaviour and panic buying could lead to higher food prices affecting negatively the purchasing power of households. • Countries like Iran, Sudan, Syria, Lebanon and Turkey were already experiencing high inflation rates as of February 2019. These countries are subject to more severe adverse impact of COVID-19 compared to countries that were experiencing relative price stability.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to high prices, purchasing power could be further threatened by loss of income and higher unemployment rates. Beneficiaries are likely to be affected the most, Turkey is one of the countries that host the highest number of WFP beneficiaries. • To be able to estimate the impact of COVID-19 outbreak on communities, it is important to understand the volume of those most vulnerable populations in the region. Age, health, food insecure and economics are important factors to determine vulnerability. • Protection, community engagement, distribution layout, distribution planning should be considered while planning or designing distributions. Further considerations such as marking, having a hand washing area are highlighted in the presentation. • The sample site plan for food distribution sites in the COVID-19 environment is presented. All phases which begin in hand washing area and end with the exit are explained clearly. • The checklist for possible adjustments is presented. There are different factors to understand the impact and partners' role and mechanisms. • To change transfer mechanisms, large-scale closure of needed mobile agents, banks, ATMs is needed. Lack of liquidity
<p>AOB</p>	<p>Brief presentation of the basic needs assistance provided at the western border:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between the dates of 2 and 15 of March, the number of individuals remain in Pazarkule remained stable. Edirne PDMM and DGMM encouraged to return cities of residences. The number of people started to decrease gradually. • On 13 March, the Turkish government decided to evacuate the remaining 6000 people in Pazarkule. Majority of these people sent to removal centers across the country for 14 days of quarantine. • DGMM and Edirne governor coordinated all response. Coordination and cooperation between public institutions, UN Agencies and NGOs formed the basis of the responses. • Basic needs materials were distributed to refugees and migrants remaining in Pazarkule, details can be seen in the online dashboard. The coordination of the distribution of all materials was handled by PDMM initially. Later they handed over the coordination to AFAD. • UNHCR provided technical IM support on analysis of distribution data. UNHCR shared daily reports and analysis on the type & amount of materials distributed as well as the institutions that provided these items. • The actual distribution line was organized by ASAM. Distribution of all materials was channelled through one distribution point and ASAM was responsible for it. • ASAM worked with a protection sensitive distribution approach. Persons with vulnerabilities were prioritized or the materials were brought to the locations they stay. ASAM and TRC cooperated on vulnerability identification. • In cooperation with DGMM, UNHCR supported incentivizing returns from Pazarkule to their province of registration. They were provided bus tickets and cash support by UNHCR. In total, 322 individuals were provided bus tickets. Cash support provided to 154 individuals. The cash was distributed through ASAM.



Next meeting

Next meeting will be announced with respect to needs and developments.