



Basic Needs Working Group National & Field Meeting, Meeting Minutes

Date & Location	28 January 2021, Field & National Virtual Meeting
Chaired by	Ahmet Ünver (UNHCR)
Minutes Prepared by	Elif Eser Mooty (UNHCR) & Ahmet Ünver (UNHCR)
Participating Agencies	
AAR Japan, ASAM, Bousla D&I, CARE, GIZ, GOAL, IBC, IFRC, IGAM, Ihsan R&D, IOM, Kirkayak Kültür, MUDEM, Merci Without Limits, Qatar Charity, Relief International, Support to Life, TIAFI, TRC, UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, Violet, WATAN Foundation, Welthungerhilfe	
Agenda	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Welcome & introductions2. Review action points and announcements3. Present sector achievements4. Discuss sector plan & priorities5. Program updates by partners<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) TRC/IFRC, IBC, WHH, MWL, CARE, UNICEF, UNFPA, IOM, UNDP6. AoB	
Action Points	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. BNWG to prepare a draft workplan based on prioritization of themes and share with members.2. BNWG to advertise position for Technical Advisor/s3. BNWG to revise Terms of Reference document	
Documents	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 28 January 2021 Meeting Presentation (PDF)• BNWG Indicator Guidance Note (PDF)• BNWG Indicator Guidance (PowerBI)• Revised KIZILAYKART Platform Info Exchange Mechanism cross-check documents	
Welcome & Introductions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The first BNWG meeting of the year is held as a joint field and national meeting, with participation of UN agencies, NGOs and donor agencies from eight cities around Turkey.	
Action Points and Announcements	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• BNWG to work with other relevant platforms to revive mapping of 3RP partners' support to municipalities – Pending• BNWG to share with STF, identified need for further inter-sectoral discussions on this topic – Pending• A brief outcomes document from the ad-hoc Basic Needs meeting on municipalities will be shared with partners once finalized	



- Quarterly the BNWG publishes IM products/dashboards summarizing the achievements of the sector. The Q3 and Q4 dashboards are complete. Furthermore, an interactive dashboard will be updated monthly and shared with partners.
- The CBI TWG has almost completed the mapping of CBI activities in Turkey, including a significant part of the Basic Needs assistance. Analysis of the mapping of these cash interventions will provide important information for the BNWG. The initial findings of the mapping have been shared with the CBI members and an in-depth analysis will be provided in the coming weeks.
- The IM team will have a new ActivityInfo database for data collection in 2021 and access will be granted to existing users automatically. If there are new focal points, partners can contact IM colleague Ozgur Savascioglu (savascio@unhcr.org).
- ActivityInfo trainings will be provided throughout February, and interested partners were asked to register through [here](#) for receiving the training links. The trainings will be available in English, Turkish and Arabic.
- The indicator guidance note for the Basic Needs sector has been prepared to guide partners through reporting processes. The sector has two new indicators – both under Objective 2. The first of which reports support to public institutions and disaggregates data by location. The second objective focuses on awareness raising trainings on recycling and water conservation, with a similar breakdown to other sector indicators.
- A new context breakdown has been added for some indicators – capturing whether the assistance is provided within TACs or urban areas. This data will be collected for only some activities under the sector.

Presentation of Sector Achievements

- The number of reporting partners under the BNWG has increased significantly this year.
- Cash-based interventions take the biggest part among sector interventions with complementary cash support programmes reaching 172 thousand people.
- The target for persons receiving food assistance has been overachieved – including urban and in-camp distribution, due to increasing need caused by COVID-19. The recorded need for food assistance is larger than this.
- Shelter programs could not be implemented with the same efficiency due to outreach limits and therefore the shelter programme targets could not be reached.
- For provision of hygiene kits, dignity kits and sanitary items was targeted as just over 110 thousand persons. However due to the added needs caused by COVID-19, more than 1.5 million beneficiaries were reached through interventions.
- The sector achievements for 2020 were shared via the interactive sector dashboard. 23 sector partners have reached more than 3.8 million beneficiaries in 2020. The number of partners has doubled within 2020, with some partners re-allocating their budget to provide COVID-specific basic needs assistance.
- The inter-active dashboard includes the distribution of basic needs assistance throughout Turkey, as well as a partner-specific demonstration of support provided.

Discussion of Sector Plans and Priorities

- In 2020 BNWG has focused on a variety of priority areas, with COVID-19 influencing the discussions throughout the year. ESSN programme updates, sector achievements and partner updates were included regularly throughout sector meetings. 2020 sector priorities have been presented to partners in detail and will be made available with the minutes.
- Majority of planned priorities for 2020 were discussed, yet certain themes could not be covered – including the topic of transition to livelihoods, due to the increased basic needs caused from COVID-19.



- The WG received feedback from partners on what went well in 2020, as well as what could have been better. Partner inputs will be taken into consideration when prioritizing interventions for 2021.
- In 2021, the WG will prioritize increased inclusiveness in coordination as well as increased engagement with key stakeholders. In addition, new changes to the WG structure have been proposed to partners regarding the meeting structure and calendar, technical advisor(s), and theme based task groups.
- As per these suggestions,
 - Basic Needs regular meetings will be held bi-monthly starting from February. The months in between will host thematic WG meetings, placing more in-depth focus on specific themes and involving targeted stakeholders. These meetings will target to result in `products`.
 - Regular field meetings will not be separated per location, and a single meeting will be organized for all field locations, each round, on the third Thursday of every month. These will be followed by national BNWG meetings, during which outcomes of field meetings can be discussed towards more structured and advocacy-focused discussions.
 - A better linkage will be established between the Basic Needs and CBI TWG platforms.
- Meeting participants were asked if they agree with the proposed changes concerning meeting schedules and structure. The proposed modality was accepted after voting, with 85 percent of participants agreeing with the revised modality.
- BNWG participants were also asked if they would like to receive regular CBI TWG meeting invitations monthly, with the purpose of forming a linkage between the two platforms. It was agreed that the CBI invitations will be shared with BNWG partners regularly, however colleagues who don't want to receive the e-mail can contact the chair to be taken out.
- BNWG will also advertise a position for having technical advisor(s) in the working group. The advisory role will entail providing technical support and advice, sharing best practices and evidence-based guidance, providing technical input to develop the workplan, and supporting stronger linkages with relevant stakeholders. Interested colleagues can reach out to the chair.
- A prioritization exercise was carried out with WG members, to decide on priority areas for BNWG's 2021 planning. As per the results of online voting, members prioritized coordination with public institutions/municipalities, followed by joint/sectoral needs assessments, and identification of access barriers to assistance. The results will be shared with participants.
- A workplan for 2021 will be created based on the results of the prioritization exercise, and will be shared with partners once ready.

Program Updates by Partners

TRC/IFRC

- In 2020, 41,953 HHs (cumulative 2016-2020: 602,098 HHs) applied to the ESSN out of which 78,780 individuals (cumulative 2016-2020: 1,828,788 individuals) started to benefit from the programme with 7,562 (cumulative 2016-2020: 31,905 individuals) of them joining through the SASF Discretionary Allowance and 2,311 individuals (cumulative 2016-2020: 10,797 individuals) receiving the Severe Disability Allowance. The total amount of payment made was around 2.2 bn TRY (cumulative 2016-2020: about 9.2 bn TRY).
- Naturally, the ESSN application trend was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic which led it to drop down to 720-843 HHs respectively in April and May 2020, only to rise again to 4,627 HHs per month in July. December recorded 2,844 HH applications, with the launch of the recent outbreak countermeasures.
- #powertobe media campaign released by IFRC-TRC highlights through photos and videos the passions and dreams of four young refugees who got their chance to meet online with their respective influencer in Turkey, Spain, France, Austria and Romania. The campaign was a success and the stories of these four young refugees



reached to 79 million people through the social media accounts of IFRC, IFRC Europa, Red Cross EU, Turkish Red Crescent, TRC-KIZILAYKART and the participating influencers.

- ESSN will continue until March 31, 2022. Also, In-Camp Food Assistance Programme, CTE and ALT are respectively extended until Dec 2021, May 2022 and April 2021 with increased transfer values.
- C-ESSN (Complementary ESSN), a direct grant from DG NEAR (European Commission's Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations) will be launched in July 2021 and implemented by MoFLSS and TRC. This project is planned to target the most vulnerable group of refugees, including the ESSN beneficiaries who won't be able to join the workforce. For example, the C-ESSN will focus, amongst other criteria, on households with one or more people with disabilities. It is aimed to reach 475,000 beneficiaries, which will reduce the current ESSN caseload. For partners possible questions, TRC and IFRC will allocate separate sensitization sessions regarding C-ESSN & ESSN cross-cutting issues.
- Regarding C-ESSN Programme, partners wanted to learn some cross-cutting points with ESSN like Programme Coordination, any possible duplication with ESSN Programme and impact of this programme to ESSN future. TRC and IFRC representatives explained that ESSN and C-ESSN Programme will be implementing simultaneously. The Ministry uses the same system, TRC keep working same streamlines like in ESSN, for this reason no duplication will be ensured. Programme coordination with partners will be in place with current coordination structures with efforts of ESSN Task Force and BNWG etc. Direction of most vulnerable groups to C-ESSN will certainly reduce the ESSN caseload. On the other hand, a transition to employability from ESSN will also ensure ESSN caseload decrease as well. There will be a 6-month preparatory phase with all key stakeholders, and frequent updates will be provided to partners. All activities are done within current agreements frame. Regarding the longer-term strategy and future of the ESSN, this is not something that only TRC and IFRC decide but this is part of higher-level discussions between the Ministry, DG-ECHO, DG-Near and all stakeholders involved.
- TRC has been providing beneficiary cross check service thanks to their 2.7 million data pool under **KIZILAYKART Platform Info Exchange Mechanism** name.
- This service is quite useful and benefitted by the humanitarian actors in order to prevent duplication in assistances.
- As a response to the challenges that organization face while collecting data amid pandemic, TRC minimized the mandatory data fields in relevant cross-check documents to ease the data collection process of many organizations. **Please refer to documents section of minutes to access the documents.**
- TRC data team is also working on a more secure system to receive the partners lists instead of receiving via mail. Attached to the meeting minutes, respective revised documents and an information ppt will be provided.
- The processes between ESSN and C-ESSN will be streamlined, in order to avoid duplication of assistance.
- Further coordination can benefit from the outcomes of the CBI mapping exercise. BNWG will be open for future communication between partners on these issues.

IBC

- IBC's highlighted basic needs activity is the intervention on the earthquake in Izmir and relevant data has been shared through a published report. IBC's basic needs activities will continue into 2021. IBC started a Protection project for Uyghur Turks. They added a distribution of monthly food aid to 500 families in Istanbul and Kayseri. Winter clothing assistance will be provided to 500 children separately. IBC is planning to distribute 250 packets of winterization kits to the most vulnerable families and 250 blankets and 500 hygiene kits in Kilis and Sanliurfa. In addition, IBC will renovate 10 houses in Kilis and 10 houses in Sanliurfa based on outcomes of needs analyses.
- IBC is working with its current caseload and will welcome any needs analyses by partners concerning the mentioned cities.



WHH

- WHH has two winterization activities in Hatay and Gaziantep. The distribution process is ongoing with items still in distribution phase. In Hatay the total number of households reached is 2573, with 20 percent being from the host community. In Gaziantep 2901 Syrian households and 333 Turkish households were reached. Registration for the programme has stopped. Distribution is expected to take longer due to COVID-19.

Mercy Without Limits

- MWL is currently working in Gaziantep on two projects for cash for protection and empowerment. The cash project has been ongoing since 2016 and the empowerment project has started in 2020. Project services include cash on a monthly basis to beneficiaries via PTT money transfers, depending on the household size. Activities also include voucher distribution, as well as food and clothing items distribution.
- For 2021, MWL plans to focus more on empowerment with focus to livelihoods and cash for protection. These activities aim to reach 1210 beneficiaries in total in Gaziantep – including women, children, youth and experts.

CARE

- CARE has a shelter project in Gaziantep, Kilis and Sanliurfa, which will focus on rehabilitation of sub-standard shelter and WASH upgrades. Activities include household, building and communal upgrades. Implementation is done through cash for shelter and through sub-contractors for rehabilitation. Beneficiaries include Syrian tenants and host community families (10 percent).
- Cash for shelter has been a useful methodology and is used for majority of activities. This is a tenant-centered approach that is conflict-sensitive, and emphasizes linkages with local/refugee manual labour and suppliers.
- CARE's shelter/WASH programming has been strongly accepted by local authorities, as it builds trust, engages the community committees, integrates approaches together with municipalities and NGOs, works as advocacy at the local level, and provides strategic engagement and leadership at multiple levels.
- Beneficiaries are selected following neighbourhood assessments and technical assessments.

UNICEF

- UNICEF continues with the implementation of the one-off winterization cash programme, which is in its fourth year and is complementary to the ESN programme. The programme reached more than 13 thousand people in more than 4500 households, split between Syrians and vulnerable host community members. This has been lower than the projected target, due to the expanding ESN programme and in order to avoid duplication.
- UNICEF's COVID-19 in-kind distribution includes more than 114 thousand hygiene kits provided to over half a million people. Learn at home kits and PSS kits have been distributed for children.
- UNICEF continued its work with municipalities including the winterization programme which has targeted more than 4900 households. UNICEF continues working with SASFs as the key implementing partner. In 2021, work will continue with Kilis, Gaziantep and Sanliurfa municipalities, as well as Izmit and Adana municipalities. At the central level, technical partnership is formed with the Union of Municipalities.
- 2021 plans include continuing in-kind support for COVID-19 related basic needs assistance including family hygiene kits targeting 10 thousand households.
- The CTE programme has continued in 2020 and will be continuing in the coming years. The CTE programme increasingly integrates protection components with assessments and outreach activities, helping to identify more vulnerable cases and follow up with referrals. The 2020 target has been exceeded.

UNFPA

- UNFPA will be operating four WGSS in Eskisehir, Hatay, Diyarbakir and Sanliurfa. Key refugee group centres will continue their operations in Mersin, Yalova, Ankara, Istanbul, Izmir, Denizli, Eskisehir and Adana. UNFPA



will also support service provision of SSCs with human resources, physical rehabilitation, equipment and supply of mobile units. In addition, 12 mobile rural service units will provide health and protection services to refugees in rural areas in 5 provinces. Youth centers will be implemented in 4 cities.

- In coordination with Ankara Metropolitan Municipality, a Women and Youth Empowerment Center has been established in Altindag, Ankara to provide protection and health counselling services. Family dignity kits will be distributed to refugees in need, under this center.
- In 2021 UNFPA will continue distributing key refugee groups dignity kits, mini COVID-19 kits, family kits and maternity kits to vulnerable groups. Hygiene awareness raising sessions will be conducted.

IOM

- IOM has finalized beneficiary assessment and registration processes under the winterization project. IOM plans to reach 1000 households in Gaziantep with 80 percent for Syrians and 20 percent for host community. The assistance amount will depend on the household size and the list of beneficiaries have been shared with TRC and WHH to cross-check for overlaps. Distribution will start February 1st and it will be restricted and unconditional through PTT cards.
- IOM's shelter rehabilitation activities ongoing with 350 shelters in Sanliurfa, Hatay and Izmir, rehabilitated through the contractor modality. Municipality support activities also continue, reaching more than 180 thousand beneficiaries in 2020, through more than 35 community stabilization projects.
- IOM also distributes hygiene kits and PPEs for different government entities.

UNDP

- UNDP's ongoing project on waste management is funded by BPRM, and UNDP is working with the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization with Kilis and Sanliurfa municipalities as beneficiaries. The project focuses on waste management capacities of these municipalities. These municipalities are also supported through institutional capacity building support to establish Zero Waste Management systems. Trainings on this topic have been provided to public institutions, as well as Syrians and host community members. Awareness raising activities on the same topic have taken place since December 21.
- In 2021, UNDP will work on integrated waste management systems to use resources efficiently, and updating waste management capacities.
- UNDP has entered its fourth year in the municipality project and plans to complete the activities by June 2021.
- UNDP has provided municipalities in Kilis, Hatay, Gaziantep and Sanliurfa with PPEs, hygiene kits, and disinfectants as part of COVID interventions.
- The Global Task Force on Migration – which was set up following the Gaziantep Municipal Forum – will have its second meeting on February 3. The meeting will focus on multi-level governance to ensure effective local responses to the migration-displacement crisis. The invitation will be shared.
- UNDP has had a discussion with GIZ on municipal support – and they're planning a detailed mapping of municipal work being undertaken.

Next meeting	The next regular field meeting will be held on 11 February, and the national meeting on 18 February. The next CBI meeting will be on 23 March.
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