

National Protection Working Group

Meeting Minutes

Time & Location: Thursday, 24 June 2021 / Zoom

Chair: Lara Özügergin – Assistant Inter-Agency Coordination Officer (UNHCR)

Participants: AAR Japan, Concern, DRC, Dünya Doktorları, Expertise France, Hope Revival, IBC, ICMC, ICMPD, IDA, IKGV, IOM, KADAV, KAOS GL, Mavi Kalem, Maya Foundation, MHD, MSYD, MUDEM, Multeci-Der, REALS, Sevgi ve Kardeşlik Vakfı, SDGG-ASAM, Support to Life, Turkish Red Crescent, UN Women, UNHCR, UNFPA, UNICEF, WALD, WHO, World Vision International.

Meeting Agenda:

- I. Updates from National CP and GBV sWGs
- II. Overview of Municipal Mapping Exercise
- III. Overview of MHPSS Symposium and Outcomes
- IV. Efforts of and Potential Collaboration Areas with MHPSS sWG
- V. AoB

Agenda Item #1: Updates from National CP and GBV sWGs

- A presentation on the National GBV sub-Working Group Workplan was delivered by Asli Velieceoğlu Yonca from UNHCR, which will be made available with the minutes.
 - Under each different objective and output, various activities and deliverables are taking place. Under, i.e., objective 3 (prevention of and response to gender-based violence) and under the output 3.1 (refugees and most in need amongst the host community members have increased access to safe, confidential, and quality multi-sectoral GBV services and support programmes) various activities are taking place such as conducting a desk review to analyze the available information on GBV and identifying gaps to be addressed further during the advocacy visits once the advocacy (internal and external) paper is made available. Additionally, good practices on GBV prevention, mitigation, and response on the global and national levels to be compiled and disseminated. Ad-hoc good practices workshop to be organized for further information exchange among partners and also further contributions to the draft report. Through GBV Services Mapping (Activity 3.1.4), GBV services and referral documents to be able to contribute to the awareness-raising of the communities in their languages on available services and also for the sector partners for their support survivors and those at risk in their interventions.
 - With regards to capacity building documents (Output 3.3), Inter-Agency Standard Operating Procedures on GBV will be finalized, which is a longstanding document that was initially drafted together with the Ministry of Family and Social Services (MoFSS) and was put on hold at that time. Additionally, key GBV documents on global and country-level documents will be finalized for the benefit of the all-sector partners.



- An update on the national Child Protection Sub- Working Group (CPsWG) was delivered by Derya Köksal from UNHCR and Analisa Caparello from UNICEF. The first meeting was held on May 20 with the participation of several organizations. Currently, more than 20 organizations are the member of the CPsWG including UN agencies and I/NGOs. As decided, the meetings will be held on a bi-monthly basis. The CPsWG will serve as an experience and knowledge exchange fora including discussing joint considerations when it comes to child protection. The platform will also support the already existing sub-working groups, will closely work with South East and Istanbul platforms, and will provide further support to different regions in Turkey.
 - The platform will be focusing on developing standardized tools and guidance including within 2021. PWG will be supported with regard to data collection, analysis, and advocacy when it comes to child protection issues.
 - The focus areas of the platform will be mainly child labour, children at risk of violence and GBV, Child, Early and Forced Marriage (CEFM), children on the move, out of school children. As mentioned previously, the platform will be working in close collaboration with the national GBV sWG and PWG.
 - **Action Point:** A more detailed presentation on the main activities of the National CPsWG to be delivered at the next PWG meeting.

Agenda Item #2: Overview of Municipal Mapping Exercise

- A presentation on the overview of the Municipal Mapping Exercise was delivered by Ahmet Ünver from UNHCR, for which the PowerBI dashboard link will be made available with the minutes.
- Municipalities have demonstrated great resilience from the beginning of the crisis. As known, nearly 98% of the refugees settled in the urban areas; all 81 provinces across Turkey host refugees. Infrastructure and institutional capacity of the municipalities have been identified as a challenge to continue providing services to refugee populations. Partners of all 3RP sectors continue to contribute to the capacity development of public institutions and local authorities, including municipalities. Basic Needs is the only sector to have appeals and indicators specifically targeting support to municipalities. Basic Needs sector prioritized focusing on municipalities within a meeting in 2020. Increasing need for information around the support that goes to municipalities was identified as the main need, following this dedicated meeting. This led to a specific action point on reviving the mapping of municipal support by partners.
- The first round of the Mapping of Municipal Support by Partners captures more than 200 programs between 2014-2019 March and is accessible [here](#). The purpose of the mapping was to enhance coordination of support to municipalities and analyze the gaps. The tool was expected to be beneficial for Inter-Agency Coordination, partner organizations in both field and national levels, municipalities, the Union of Municipalities in Turkey, and donor organizations and IFIs.



- To be able to present the outcomes, the first round of data analyzed by the core group, structure and categorization has been revised, and the data collection tool has been developed. With regards to data collection; focal points from 44 organizations have been trained, and the deadline was set to 30 April 2021 for the data collection. Collected data has been cleaned and reflected in the [dashboard](#).
- With regards to the next steps, the findings will be shared in the relevant sectors, an overview report to be prepared, Turkish translation to be done, analysis and cross-referencing with UMT mapping to be done, and advocacy to continue. The third round to be done on a needs basis.

Key Discussion Points:

- Further information with regard to the budget is available on the first page of the dashboard, however, it should be noted that the budget information collection was voluntary basis; there is also no budget dimension on certain programs.
- The last page of the dashboard lays out the provided financial support, which will be used to communicate with donors with regard to the relation between regions, sectors, agencies, infrastructure, and municipal services. The dashboard could be also used to showcase the good work that is already available and could be beneficial to agencies with regards to programming to further screen the gaps and preparing appeals for the programs that are already not in place.
- Emphasis on the inclusion of individuals of nationalities other than Syrian in joint programming with municipalities was emphasized particularly considering the results of the Protection Needs Assessment reports, which indicate that these groups are at comparative disadvantage in relation to access to rights and services.
- With regards to geographical coverage of municipal collaboration and support, it was noted through both the results of the Mapping exercise and the Protection Needs Assessment that there is a clear gap in certain regions such as Central Anatolia and Eastern Turkey.
- PWG members are kindly asked to consider the above-mentioned particular areas while planning.
 - **Action Point:** The next PWG meeting will be focused on mid-year review. Sector indicators and progress against the M&E framework will be further analyzed. Support to municipalities should also be reported against relevant indicators, which will be reviewed during the next meeting.
- Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) was identified as the new chair and will be leading the Accountability to Affected Populations Task Force. The focus of the Task Force for the coming months will be to establish minimum standards on operating feedback, complaints, and response mechanisms.

Agenda Item #3: Overview of MHPSS Symposium and Outcomes

- A presentation on the MHPSS Symposium specifically focusing on refugees and access of refugees to MHPSS services, co-organized by WHO and Ministry of Health was delivered by Dr. Altın Malaj from WHO, which will be made available with the minutes.



- The symposium was held on June 21-23 at the Bilkent Hotel Ankara and 33 separate and parallel sessions in total were organized with a participation of more than 80 speakers. 200 participants attended in-person and more than 250 participants attended through online modalities. 45 papers have been collected and presented in the symposium. All the information including the participants, presentations, papers will be documented in a booklet format for further dissemination.
- Turkey is currently hosting the highest number of refugees in the region. Mental health and related services are provided to both the host community and the refugees. Refugees in Turkey receive health services and have access to all interventions for non-communicable disease control regardless of their status. All interventions for the refugees need to be inclusive with the principle of leaving no one behind. Psychosocial support (PSS) is one of the most important elements of the well-being of all population groups including the refugees. In addition to the tough living conditions, recent natural disasters in Turkey (earthquakes, floods, and avalanches) have affected all population groups and revealed the importance of effective implementation of mental health services in emergency situations.
- COVID-19 increased the perception of threat and stress response on the population, leading to chronic anxiety. Many people are facing the uncertainty caused by the COVID-19, not only with the threat of the disease but also with the burden of illness or loss of their relatives. It is clear that continuing mental health services in a way that reaches all segments of society is an indispensable element during the pandemic process. The Symposium aimed to bring practitioners from different organizations and fields to discuss the challenges (COVID-19, disasters, emergencies) and how mental health services are made accessible for refugees (including how to improve access). The symposium was open to all disciplines related to mental health.

Key Discussion Points:

- MHPSS was identified as one of the critical protection concerns that have been significantly impacted during the COVID-19 pandemic as outlined in the results of the Protection Needs Assessment.
- It was agreed that the National PWG and MHPSS sWG would continue to meet to collaborate on MHPSS and Protection linkages through follow-up meetings and deep-dive sessions.

Agenda Item #4: Efforts of and Potential Collaboration Areas with MHPSS sWG

- A presentation on the overview of MHPSS sWG was delivered İrem Umuroğlu from IOM, which will be made available with the minutes.
- The MHPSS sWG, co-led by WHO and IOM was established in June 2015. Meetings are held on a bi-monthly basis with the participation of Health WG participants, government, donors, UN, and I/NGOs.
- The roles of MHPSS sWG include coordinating programme planning and implementation through jointly developed workplans and utilization of member capacities/resources,

developing and disseminating guidelines and coordinating advocacy for MHPSS programming, mobilizing funding and resources as available and needed.

- One of the primary objectives of MHPSS sWG is to share current information on MHPSS activities at the national and field level. MHPSS sWG meetings have focused on COVID-19 and the impact it has had on activities and beneficiaries. The majority of organizations are working from home and have adjusted MHPSS programming, however, limited number of global guidance on transition to online platforms for MHPSS is identified as the main challenge throughout this period.
- In December 2020, MHPSS conducted research among its members to identify remote MHPSS services and identify gaps and needs.
- Many challenges have been identified under the general categories of remote MHPSS Activities. With regards to the community-focused activities; technical problems during remote implementation, lack of access to smart technology, lack of recreational materials at home, gathering both host and refugee communities via remote interventions, maintaining children’s attention span, reduced efficiency of the group based online PSS activities, ensuring the confidentiality of the sessions were mentioned as main challenges.
- With regards to the person-focused activities; lack of privacy at home, health facility-related restrictions due to COVID-19, remote modalities being inefficient for comprehensive initial assessments and evaluations for new cases, ensuring the confidentiality of the remote sessions, difficulties providing online prescription, tardiness in online schedules were identified as main challenges.
- With regards to the general activities to support MHPSS; measurements and limitations on in-person and face-to-face modalities were identified as challenges.
- Apart from the challenges, referrals from community members and self-referrals increased to referrals from other stakeholders. As a result, partners are increasingly able to identify MHPSS needs of communities. Further, access to MHPSS services persons living in rural and remote areas have been eased.
- Further engagement areas identified as MHPSS linkages with Protection and Livelihoods, capacity building on Community-based protection, disability inclusion, and protection mainstreaming.

Key Discussion Points:

- PWG members were asked to suggest key outputs and deliverables for the MHPSS sWG and PWG to collaborate on. These are mentioned below.
 - Development and exchange of MHPSS M&E tools; training and mapping for community-based PSS; partnership in services for vulnerable groups; capacity building/training for employees; inclusive awareness raising sessions for refugees and asylum seekers; tools to deal with staff burnout; support to LGBTI communities; protection mainstreaming; disability inclusion; advocacy on inclusion of well-being and capacity building for humanitarian workers; multisectoral project developments.



Agenda Item #5: AoB

- The July and August meetings will be merged and will focus on mid-year review (M&E). Meeting date will be shared with PWG.

Action Points

- A more detailed presentation on the main activities of the National CPsWG to be delivered at the next PWG meeting.
- The next PWG meeting will be focused on mid-year review. Sector indicators and progress against the M&E framework will be further analyzed. Support to municipalities should also be reported against relevant indicators, which will be reviewed during the next meeting.