Basic Needs Working Group

Joint National Basic Needs Working Group (BNWG) & ESSN Task Force Meeting Minutes

Date & Location	22 August 2023, National Hybrid Meeting
Chaired by	UNHCR, TRC & IFRC
Minutes Prepared by	Büşra Seray Düzyol (UNHCR), Umay Atik (UNHCR)

Participating Agencies

ACHSA, CARE, Dünya Doktorları Derneği, EKSİ 25, El Bir Yardımlaşma ve Dayanışma Derneği, GIZ, HRDF, ICMC, IFRC, Ihsan RD, IOM, Karabağlar Belediyesi, MAAN, MSYD-YSYD, MUDEM, People in Need, Pozitif Yaşam Derneği, Refugees and Asylum Seekers Assistance and Solidarity Association, Save the Children, SGDD-ASAM, Support to Life, TRC, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, Watan

Agenda

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Operational Review
   a. Highlights from Field BNWG Meetings and Observations
   b. IAPNA Round 7 Basic Needs Findings
   c. Information Management Review
   d. Programme Updates
3. ESSN Task Force Meeting and Updates
4. AOB

Action Points

1. A one-pager concerning the refugee needs and gaps highlighted in the partner updates to be drafted,
2. Issues including winterisation assistance, municipal support, and cash for work to be followed-up,
3. Winterisation coordination for the upcoming winter season to be initiated.

Operational Review

Highlights from Field BNWG Meetings and Observations

- A brief summary of the recent BNWG field meetings (SET, Marmara and Aegean) were presented.
- Shelter rehabilitation, rent assistance and an increasing demand for health service support are listed as the prominent needs in the field while increasing level of child labour and barriers to accessing assistances by refugees are highlighted as observed challenges. Also, winterisation demand is becoming more relevant.
- NGOs and civil society experiencing hardships while providing assistance due to the limited emergency cash assistance funds of their programmes.

IAPNA Round 7 Basic Needs Findings

- IAPNA Round 7 was conducted with the participation of 25 partners supporting data collection and conducting over 4,000 interviews in-person or over the phone.
- IAPNA results concerning Basic Needs sector was presented in comparison with IAPNA Round 6. Results indicate that 60% of the respondents receive cash/in-kind assistance, marking a 10% increase from the previous round.

- Additionally, 65% of the respondents receive only in-kind assistance while this ratio is 86% in the previous Round. This decrease signals for the necessity of in-kind assistance in certain areas, especially in the earthquake zone. Detailed information can be found between *Slides 5-12*.

Information Management Review

- Basic Needs Sector achievements under relevant indicators including cash-based interventions, hygiene kit distributions and capacity strengthening for municipalities and public institutions at the national level as of June 2023 were presented. Further details can be found in the relevant slides.
- Achievements under the EQ response sectors with activities corresponding to those of the 3RP Basic Needs sector such as MPCA, food assistance, shelter and WASH support were presented as well. Further details can be found in the related slides.
- Members are encouraged to report their activities on ActivityInfo. For questions on reporting and requests for retrospective reporting, please reach out to the Basic Needs sector IM focal point Ozgur Savascioglu (savascio@unhcr.org).
- As of mid-August, the OCHA-led EQ coordination system will phase out and the transition period with area-based coordination will follow. In this context, further information on how to proceed with the 3RP sectoral planning revision by also accommodating coordination with the BN-related indicators of the EQ response will be shared upon receiving further guidance.

Programme Updates

UNDP

- UNDP has an upcoming project funded by PRM with USD 8.4 million budget. The project will be implemented in the earthquake region as well as in İzmir and surrounding provinces. The focus will be social cohesion, waste management, zero waste and capacity building support to the municipalities.
- One component of the project will be focusing on seasonal agricultural workers. More details will be provided in the upcoming BNWG meeting.

MAAN

- MAAN has a project ongoing for two years supporting 100 pregnant refugee women from 8th week of pregnancy to the birth by providing financial aid, health care and support in special birth conditions, if needed.
- Another project focuses on providing legal support to Syrians experiencing ID problems especially in Istanbul. MAAN also supports refugees wanting to move out from the earthquake zone and refugees experiencing rental problems.

IOM

- IOM will start their nationwide shelter rehabilitation support programme, targeting 850 shelters and including both refugees and host community members.
- They are planning to distribute prepaid market cards to 4,000 households and provide winterisation support 2,000 households.
- IOM will continue to provide BN support such as in-kind assistance for food and hygiene kits.
- Their capacity strengthening and infrastructure support to municipalities and public institutions will continue as well. Their support in this regard was mostly under the 3RP, but they also provided support regarding containers, WASH facilities and mobile kitchens under the EQ response.

Support to Life

- In Hatay, Adıyaman, and Kahramanmaraş, they have two programmes related to WASH targeting 1,000 individuals. One of the projects will start next month and the components of the project will be MPCA followed by cash for work, while the other one will be a voucher programme.
- They are planning to start a winterisation programme and waiting for the identification of the amount of the winterisation kit in the relevant coordination platforms. This programme is expected to start in either late September or early October.

ESSN Task Force Meeting and Updates

- IFRC and TRC presented ESSN, C-ESSN and other programme updates, activities conducted within the scope of the earthquake response and ESSN transition updates.
- TRC provided programme updates for the projects under the KIZILAYKART umbrella including In-Camp Food Assistance, ESSN, C-ESSN, CCTE, Vocational Course Incentive, Elazığ TAC MPCA, Collective Kindness and Children First Project. Detailed information can be found between *Slides 28-46*.
- ESSN programme reached almost 1.5 million individuals consisted of 54% female and majority is Syrians while over 377.000 individuals benefitted from C-ESSN programme whose majority is also female (55%) and Syrians.
- KIZILAYKART call centre received over 1.8 million calls and over 40 million SMSs were sent to beneficiaries enabling information provision on many programme-related issues and topics.
- TRC presented their M&E frameworks for ESSN, C-ESSN and Collective Kindness programmes. Within the scope of ESSN, PDM 17 was conducted as their last round of monitoring articulating EQ's effects on the refugee households. Coping strategy scores marked an improvement when compared to PDM 16.
- ESSN FGD Analysis report published in June 2023 concludes that expenditures, unemployment, reliance on debt and children's discontinuation of education rates have increased while families are traumatised due to the EQ. To address these issues, the report recommends ad-hoc top-ups, PSS, referrals, sensitisation and providing financial stipends.
- Transaction Analyses of KIZILAYKART Report for July was presented. Data indicates that 95% of the cumulative assistance was used as of 7 July and almost 47% of the beneficiaries are residing in the EQ area.
- As of July 2023, TRC & IFRC partnership for the ESSN programme came to an end and the programme will continue under the co-leadership of the MoFSS and TRC from now on.
- For the next steps, TRC – IFRC collaboration will continue for the EQ response and Ukrainian operations.

AOB

- In September and October, the BNWG will conduct 3RP planning revision consultations and share updates with partners in relation to the processes of the 3RP review and EQ response transition.
- Next meeting date: to be announced