Inter-Agency Coordination Turkey

Advocacy Note: Winterisation Response 2025–2026

Introduction

This advocacy paper presents an overview of the planned inter-sector winterisation response for 2025–2026, focusing on response capacity, projected needs, and funding gaps. Developed by the **Winterisation Task Force in Türkiye**, co-led by **IOM and UNHCR** under the Basic Needs Working Group, the note reflects the collective inputs of sector focal points, cross-cutting groups, UN agencies, NGOs, and Red Cross/Red Crescent actors.

The Task Force has established a Standard Operating Procedure[1] that sets out priority interventions, geographic focus, targeting considerations, and transfer values. While the SOP contains the full operational detail, this advocacy paper highlights the **core approach, and the resources** required to ensure a timely and effective response.

Summary of Approach, Targeting, Transfer Value

The Winterisation SOP outlines a harmonized inter-agency model prioritizing the most vulnerable households across the eleven earthquake-affected provinces. Based on provincial Syrian population data and findings from recent vulnerability assessments, an estimated **47,000** refugees not reached by ESSN or C-SSN will require winter assistance, with partners able to include up to 50 percent of their total number of assistances with host community members where relevant. Eligible households will receive a one-off winter cash transfer combining a fixed heater cost (TRY 4,500) and variable utility and winter NFI amounts (TRY 845 per person). Households that have not previously received MPCA this year will receive both the MPCA one-off transfer and the winter top-up. This approach enables partners with varying response capacities to support different population groups while ensuring resources are used efficiently and the overall impact of the winter response is maximized. Given the severity of winter conditions, partners aim to deliver assistance between November and January, with post-distribution monitoring starting one month after delivery. Full details are outlined in the SOP.

Budget Requirements and Consequences of Underfunding

Providing assistance to the **47,000** identified individuals requires **USD 6.17 million**. In a context of shrinking humanitarian budgets and an emphasis on responsible planning, this represents a significant reduction in the financial ask compared to last year's winterisation response, which required USD 27.1 million. To date, resources are available for only **6,034 individuals**, with **USD 585,000 secured** thanks to the generosity of donors**.** Current funding level unfortunately leaves a critical shortfall of nearly **USD 5.31 million**.

Without additional funding, thousands of households will enter the winter months without adequate heating or essential items, increasing reliance on negative coping strategies such as reducing food intake, accruing unsustainable debt, or deprioritizing health and education expenses. Women, who often manage caregiving responsibilities in cold and poorly insulated homes, face heightened health and protection risks, while children are particularly vulnerable to the effects of substandard living conditions.

[1] https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/119899

Underfunding amplifies wider humanitarian and social risks. Families may resort to unsafe heating practices, increasing the likelihood of fires or carbon monoxide poisoning. Diverting limited income toward urgent winter needs can deepen poverty and erode household resilience. Assistance should be inclusive of all that is in need, without leaving no one behind, thus preventing social tension and perception of inequity.

A Critical Season Overlapping with Ramadan Needs

This year's winter hardship will overlap with Ramadan, which begins in February 2026, a period when families traditionally share meals, host relatives, and observe religious practices that require stability, dignity, and adequate living conditions. Underfunding will place additional pressure on households already struggling with winter expenses, forcing many to balance essential heating needs with Ramadan-related costs. As budgets tighten, families may reduce food consumption even during a month centered on nourishment and community, while also being unable to properly heat their homes during family gatherings. Ensuring adequate winterisation support before February is not only a humanitarian necessity, it is essential for preserving dignity, cultural continuity, and emotional well-being during one of the most meaningful times of the year for many households.

Good Practice Standards Supported by Adequate Funding

Funding would enable partners to uphold core standards of diversity, inclusion and protection throughout the winterisation response. This includes engaging specialised actors such as women's organisations and disability groups, deploying gender-balanced field teams aware of referral pathways, and embedding GBV and SEA risk mitigation into all assistance. It also ensures safe, warm, accessible spaces for women and children, adapted communication materials for different groups, and tailored support for households with older persons or persons with disabilities. Efforts will be including door-to-door delivery where needed. These measures are essential for ensuring an equitable and accountable winter response.

Call to Action

The severity of winter conditions, combined with the lasting impact of the earthquakes and reduced household resilience due to economic challenges, leaves thousands of vulnerable families at risk of significant harm if support is delayed or insufficient. To ensure that the 2025–2026 winterisation response reaches all identified households in need, **urgent and flexible funding is required to close the nearly USD 5.31 million gap.**

Without immediate donor support, the humanitarian community will be unable to support efforts of the public authorities to protect thousands of vulnerable families from the harsh realities of Türkiye's winter months.

We call on donors, partners, and key stakeholders to mobilize resources as early as possible, enabling procurement, coordination and delivery to take place within the agreed November to January timeline. Partners stand ready to scale up and coordinate efforts, provided the resources are in place.

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