



Inter-Agency
Coordination
Türkiye

National Protection Working Group

Meeting Minutes

Time & Location: Thursday, 28 March 2024, 10:00 – 12:30 hrs / Zoom

Chairs: Lara Özügergin – 3RP National Protection Sector Coordinator (UNHCR)

Participants: AAR Japan, AHCSA, Aile ve Sosyal Hizmetler Bakanlığı, Amal İnsani Yardım Derneği, Ankara Meslek Edindirme Derneği (MESEDER), ARSA, Cumhurbaşkanlığı Strateji ve Bütçe Başkanlığı, Dünya Doktorları Derneği, El Bir Yardımlaşma ve Dayanışma Derneği, Genç Hayat Vakfı, Hayata Destek Derneği, Hope Revival, IBC, İçişleri Bakanlığı Sivil Toplumla İlişkiler Genel Müdürlüğü, ICMC, IGAM, IKGV, IOM, Kilis Belediyesi, Mavi Kalem, MSYDD, MUDEM, Pozitif Yaşam Derneği, Peace Winds Japan, Qatar Charity, Refugee Rights Turkey, Save the Children, SGDD – ASAM, SRP, Takaful Alsham, Türk Kızılay, Uçan Süpürge Kadın İletişim ve Araştırma Derneği, Uluslararası Göçmen Kadınlar Dayanışma Derneği, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WALD, World Vision, Yeryüzü Çocukları Derneği, YSYD

Meeting Agenda:

- I. Welcome & Updates
- II. Brief Introduction of the Public Institutions Participating in the Meeting
- III. Presentation by the Ministry of Interior Directorate General of Relations with Civil Society
- IV. Presentation by the Presidency of Strategy and Budget Directorate General of Sectors and Public Investments
- V. Presentation of Inter-Agency Coordination Unit
- VI. Presentation by the Ministry of Family and Social Services (MoFSS), Presidency of Strategy Development, Civil Society and Project Department
- VII. Question & Answer Session
- VIII. AoB & Closure

Agenda Item #1: Welcome & Updates

- Basic introductory and focal point trainings were conducted in Ankara in March as part of the activities outlined in the 2024 Work Plan of the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Network Türkiye. The same trainings are scheduled to take place in İstanbul in April and İzmir in May. Similar sessions will be repeated in the EQ region until the end of June. Promoting and disseminating the mechanism for reporting and referring allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse is prioritized during



both introduction and focal point trainings. It is also crucial to ensure that entering PSEA focal point information of organizations to the system:

- [PSEA Focal Point Mapping \(ActivityInfo\)](#) - tool for inputs
- [PSEA Focal Point Mapping \(PowerBI Dashboard\)](#)
- The National Protection Working Group (NPWG) continues its discussions with the Ageing and Disability Inclusion Task Team on both organizing trainings and mapping organizations established/led by persons with disabilities.
- Preparations are ongoing regarding presenting the protection mainstreaming plans outlined in the NPWG Work Plan to inter-sector and sector coordinators. Once the coordinators' meeting is scheduled, a presentation on the plans will be delivered with the aim of identifying way forward at the 3RP level. Following the presentation, a needs analysis will be shared with the sectors based on joint decisions and an inter-sectoral team of trainers will then be formed from protection sector partners, and trainings will be organized. The objective is to conduct these trainings before the next 3RP planning period to enable non-protection sector partners to plan their projects and activities while taking into account protection principles and outputs.
- Preparations for the eighth round of the annual sector-level Inter-Agency Protection Needs Assessment will start in May or June.
- Capacity Development Training on Addiction and Substance Use: The recordings of the training series held in November and December have recently been disseminated. If you have not received and would like to access, kindly contact the NPWG team.

Agenda Item #2: Brief Introduction of the Public Institutions Participating in the Meeting

- Participants from Ministry of Family and Social Services (MoFSS), Presidency of Strategy Development, Civil Society and Project Department, Ministry of Interior Directorate General of Relations with Civil Society, Presidency of Strategy and Budget Directorate General of Sectors and Public Investments briefly introduced themselves.

Agenda Item #3: Presentation by the Ministry of Interior Directorate General of Relations with Civil Society

- Hüseyin Cevahir Özalp from the Ministry of Interior Directorate General of Relations with Civil Society delivered a presentation focusing on the ministry's activities related to civil society.



- During the presentation, an overview of the Directorate General, information on statistics related to civil society engagement, project support, digital services and recent sectoral activities were shared.
- **Project Support:** The application guidance for this period and details on priority areas can be found [here](#). This support is only offered to associations.
- **Action Point:** During the meeting, it was conveyed that the DERBIS system is sometimes inaccessible due to technical problems. The Ministry of Interior Directorate General of Relations with Civil Society stated that they are aware of the problems and are working to fix them. It was indicated that the technical problems can be communicated through the help desk of the ministry. Partners can also communicate through the NPWG team as well.
- **Action Point:** NPWG coordinator asked whether a representative from 3RP could be appointed/represented at the Civil Society Advisory Board. It was stated that this will be discussed in more detail with the ministry in the coming periods, as it is important for the NPWG to be included in the coordination structure led by the government.
- **Action Point:** Taking into account the experience of NGOs working in the refugee field, the NPWG coordinator stated that the NPWG could contribute to the Civil Society Strategy Document and Action Plan prepared by the Ministry, if support is requested.

Agenda Item #4: Presentation by the Presidency of Strategy and Budget Directorate General of Sectors and Public Investments

- Veysi Kassap from the Presidency of Strategy and Budget Directorate General of Sectors and Public Investments introduced activities of the public institution and its related activities concerning civil society.
- In the presentation, the mission and mandate of the institution, the role of civil society in the preparation of the 12th Development Plan, and measures to strengthen civil society were mentioned.
- It is indicated that The Presidency of Strategy and Budget is responsible for formulating strategies for Türkiye's economic and social development, drafting development plans, and overseeing implementation of these plans. Given the multidimensional and sector-specific nature of development, the Directorate comprises different sectors, each focusing on distinct areas. While the institution does not directly allocate resources to NGOs, it does allocate resources for projects conducted by public institutions in collaboration with civil society.



- The 12th Development Plan entered into force in 2023. A participatory approach was applied during the preparation phase of the development plan. This involved the utilization of 60 specialized committees, 27 working groups, and a citizenship survey. However, the most significant contribution to the plan's preparation came from various sectors, including the public sector, private sector, NGOs, international organizations, professional organizations, and unions, which collaborated during consultations and set important targets. The participation of civil society was vital in these consultation processes, while ensuring that policies were more inclusive.
- Given the importance of cooperation with civil society, [the 12th Development Plan](#) includes a section on civil society.
- If organizations need to contact the Presidency, they can always reach out through NPWG coordinator.
- **Action Point:** NPWG coordinator suggested following-up on cooperation models, particularly regarding the participation of 3RP partners in policy development processes. Considering there is limited access to resources lately, it was proposed to organize a meeting to discuss future steps and how local organizations can access resources.

Agenda Item #5: Inter-Agency Coordination Unit

- NPWG coordinator delivered a brief presentation introducing the 3RP Protection sector and the activities of the National Protection Working Group.

Agenda Item #6: Presentation by the Ministry of Family and Social Services (MoFSS), Presidency of Strategy Development, Civil Society and Project Department

- Özge Yenice from the Ministry of Family and Social Services (MoFSS), Presidency of Strategy Development, Civil Society and Project Department, delivered a presentation focusing on the responsibilities of the Presidency of Strategy Development, collaboration and project initiatives with civil society, efforts to enhance cooperation and coordination, and the Civil Society Vision Paper and Action Plan.
- Previously, as part of the preparations for the Civil Society Vision Paper and Action Plan for 2022-2023, five civil society meetings were organized focusing on women, children, migration and humanitarian assistance, persons with disabilities and older persons, and relatives of martyrs and veterans. Consultations were conducted with the participation of more than two hundred NGOs, and those who could not attend were



engaged through surveys and in-depth interviews. As a result, the Civil Society Vision Paper and Action Plan was published on March 11, 2022.

- Within the scope of the new period planning activities for the Civil Society Vision Paper and Action Plan, consultation meetings, preparatory workshops, in-depth interviews and focus group discussions, and NGO surveys were conducted to identify targets and activities.

Agenda Item #7: Question & Answer Session

- MoFSS emphasized that the Civil Society Vision Paper and Action Plan should be viewed as an ongoing process based on evidence-based data. Therefore, while referring to the relevant document, the Ministry stated that prioritized activities include digitalization, disaster preparedness, identification of more concrete outputs and consultations, and establishment of clearer targets.
- Feedback and priorities of NGOs relayed during the Q&A session of the meeting are summarized below:
 - Importance of collecting and sharing feedback to enhance disaster preparedness was emphasized. It was also recommended to prepare a framework that identifies areas where NGOs can support existing public services as complementary services.
 - It was also emphasized that the focus should be on identifying the necessary actions for disaster preparedness and how both institutions and communities can be prepared (e.g through information dissemination and awareness-raising activities). NPWG expressed its willingness to contribute for discussions/consultation processes/activities that might be initiated in this regard.,
 - Concerning disaster preparedness, it was suggested that conducting preparedness activities should cover not only the EQ but also climate change. While data exists on which provinces will be affected and to what extent, there is currently a lack of data on which vulnerable groups will be affected. Protection sector can support if an activity is initiated in this regard.
 - The significance of conducting activities between NGOs and public institutions under a protocol was emphasized. It was also highlighted increasing the number of protocols would be beneficial for protection sector partners.
 - During the meeting, the differences in objectives among provinces concerning vulnerable groups were highlighted. Therefore, importance of maintaining regular



coordination between provinces and districts in providing services to protection sector and vulnerable persons was stated.

- **MoFSS comment on this suggestion:** MoFSS emphasized the significance of provincial structuring, highlighting its importance not only within the scope of the vision paper but also as a ministry policy. Consequently, MoFSS highlighted that efforts are underway to initiate a new provincial structure, where a deputy provincial director will oversee cooperation activities with civil society.
- During the meeting, it was emphasized that evidence-based data collection is quite important as stated in the vision document. Therefore, Inter-Agency Protection Needs Assessments can be conducted jointly or similar studies can be conducted jointly at the provincial level.
- There are existing tools in the sector which are already recognized and officially used. Therefore, it was suggested that various activities could be undertaken to enhance collaboration on this issue, including by establishing a common documentation tracking system and tool.
- Additionally, it was suggested that efforts on behalf of children should be prioritized as much as possible. This could involve focusing on issues such as schooling, access to health, registration, and more.
- It is very important to reach beneficiaries who cannot contact NGOs or access through digital methods. Therefore, it would be beneficial to conduct outreach activities via mobile modalities instead of relying on fixed centers for service delivery in the future.
- **MoFSS comment on this suggestion:** MoFSS emphasized the significance of local involvement, while highlighting the crucial role of municipalities in this context. It was indicated that this will be incorporated into the vision paper.
- It was highlighted that not only municipalities but also police units face numerous cases. Therefore, their inclusion in the coordination structure would be beneficial for the enhanced delivery of protection services.

Agenda Item #6: AoB & Closure

- In their closing remarks, UNICEF, UNHCR, and UNFPA emphasized the importance of cooperation and concrete steps to be taken in this regard. They expressed gratitude for the support received throughout the consultation processes and expressed the willingness for active involvement in future coordination activities.



- Both NGOs and the ministry have their own resources and experiences. Cross-fertilization of resources and experiences would also help in utilizing resources, especially considering challenges in accessing funding.

Action Points

- **Action Point:** During the meeting, it was conveyed that the DERBIS system is sometimes inaccessible due to technical problems. The Ministry of Interior Directorate General of Relations with Civil Society stated that they are aware of the problems and are working to fix them. It was indicated that the technical problems can be communicated through the help desk of the ministry. Partners can also communicate through the NPWG team as well.
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