Basic Needs Working Group

Meeting Minutes

Date & Location	5 August 2025, Online Meeting
Chaired by	Ahmet Ünver (UNHCR)
Minutes Prepared by	Büşra Seray Düzyol (UNHCR)

Participating Agencies

Buca Belediyesi, ECHO, GIZ, IFRC, IOM, Olive Branch, Save the Children, SGDD-ASAM, Support to Life, Türk Kızılay, UNHCR, WFP

Agenda

1) Welcome & Introductions
2) Review Action Points & Announcements
   - Action points and tasks
   - Announcements
   - 3RP Updates
3) Operational Issues
   - Sector Progress against 3RP Targets
   - Brief on Closure of Container Sites and Follow-Up at National Level
   - Sub-sector / Sector Updates (Winterisation TF, Shelter sector, WASH sector)
   - Programme Updates (45 mins)
     i) SSN Programme Updates (15 mins)
     ii) Voluntary Transition Project (15 mins)
     iii) Other program updates (15 mins)
4) AoB

Review: Action Points & Announcements

Review Action Points & Tasks

- Ongoing challenges in accessing healthcare within temporary shelters are relayed to the Health Sector and Intersectoral Coordination teams.
- A briefing note is being developed to address the needs of economically vulnerable individuals, especially in light of the upcoming 3RP planning cycle.
- The updated MPCA (Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance) Guidance Note July 2025 is available online for interested partners via this link.
- ECHO hosted a consultation meeting on July 17 to discuss the 2026 Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIP). UNHCR highlighted the risks of abruptly ending cash assistance programs and the increasing vulnerability of households due to economic challenges.

3RP Planning Updates

- A coordination meeting was held on August 1 with partners involved in the 2025 funding appeal. The meeting reviewed historical funding trends, current needs, and priorities for 2026. The report including the appeal numbers, financial needs of the partners and targets can be reached (EN/TR) online.
- The 2026 planning cycle will begin in September with sectoral and inter-sectoral consultations, followed by workshops in October and feedback sessions with public institutions in November.

- Finalized data and targets will be included in the Global Humanitarian Overview report in December, with the 3RP launch scheduled for February.

Operational Issues

Sector Progress Against 3RP Targets

- The Information Management Unit presented progress data for the first half of the year.
- Funding shortages have led to reduced activity levels compared to previous years.
- Under 3RP:
  - Food assistance reached 60,000 beneficiaries (18% progress).
  - Hygiene awareness sessions reached 4,300 beneficiaries (10% progress).
  - Cash-based assistance reached 4,280 beneficiaries (2% progress).
  - Emergency kits reached 914 beneficiaries (1.3% progress).
- Outside 3RP:
  - The SSN program showed significant progress with 1.4 million beneficiaries (585% progress).
  - Activities are concentrated in southeastern and earthquake-affected provinces, with national coverage driven by the SSN program.
- The number of Turkish citizens benefiting from Basic Needs activities has declined, reflecting the reduced focus on earthquake-specific interventions.

Brief on Closure of Container Sites and Follow-Up at National Level

- UNHCR's Policy Development Unit shared updates on the closure or downsizing of Temporary Accommodation Centers (TACs).
- Individuals not classified as having special needs must leave TACs by September 1, 2025.
- Criteria for special needs include disability, elderly, unaccompanied children, single parents, survivors of violence, pregnancy, and trauma and the criteria listed under Turkish Law on Foreigners and International Protection (Law No. 6458).
- Advocacy efforts focus on ensuring access to alternative housing and exemption from closed neighborhood restrictions.
- Transfers to Sarıçam TAC in Adana are planned for special needs cases.
- There are concerns about continued assistance for those leaving TACs, especially regarding the discontinuation of e-voucher support.
- Unconfirmed reports suggest two TACs may be fully closed.
- Turkish Red Crescent reported that food assistance continues in Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, and Osmaniye TACs, but foreign nationals may no longer be accommodated after September 1.

Sub Sector/Sector Updates

- **Winterisation Task Force 2025-26:** As per the practice, the Winterisation TF will be led by IOM with support from UNHCR. Needs assessments are underway; guidance documents and advocacy notes will be published within weeks. A registration link was shared for the upcoming coordination meeting. Partners are encouraged to coordinate with IOM's focal point, Elif Ezgi Çetinsaya (ecetinsaya@iom.int) for their inquiries.
- **Shelter Sector:** High rental costs, overcrowding, and substandard housing are major concerns, especially in cities like Gaziantep. Stronger coordination between protection and shelter sectors is needed. Flexible shelter solutions and rental support are being reconsidered due to shifting donor priorities.

- **WASH Sector:** Activity levels dropped significantly in the second half of the year. Hygiene issues are rising, especially in summer. UNICEF plans to distribute travel hygiene kits to the returnees. A water dispenser with filtration is planned for Öncüpınar Border Gate. Partners are facing funding delays and may need to revise their plans due to camp closures.

Programme Updates

SSN Updates

- In July 2025, the SSN programme provided 455,3 million TRY in cash assistance to approximately 910 thousand individuals, with 63% of recipients being women and 72% under the age of 18. An additional 34,000 people received support through the discretionary quota despite not meeting the standard SSN criteria.
- C-SSN programme reached over 319,000 vulnerable individuals with 263 million TRY in assistance, prioritizing those with severe disabilities, chronic illnesses, or single-parent households. Most recipients across both programs are Syrian nationals.
- The monthly payment for severely disabled beneficiaries was increased from 2,400 to 2,700 TRY. Monthly ESSN transfer amount is 500 TRY and C-ESSN amount is 700 TRY.
- A decline in the SSN beneficiaries is observed due to recent criteria change. The dependency ratio which was equal or over 1.5 is updated as equal or over 2 and subsequently 38,950 beneficiaries dropped from the assistance. The decline is expected to be continue and observed in other programmes due to the multiplier effect.
- In collaboration with WFP, the in-camp food support program distributed 12,4 million TRY to around 29,000 people in six temporary accommodation centers, with a notable concentration of Ukrainian beneficiaries in Elazığ. The decline in the beneficiary numbers are observed for this assistance as well.
- Overall, KızılayKart programs supported nearly 321,000 households in July, primarily in Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, and Istanbul with around 796 million TRY assistance amount.

Voluntary Transition Project

- The Voluntary Transition Project is implemented in collaboration with the Presidency of Migration Management (PMM), WFP, UNHCR, and UNICEF. The project aims to provide financial support to individuals transitioning from camps to urban areas.
- WFP will provide a one-time MPCA of 15,000 TL per person to individuals who complete their address registration at the Provincial Migration Management Offices in the cities they move to. This financial support is intended to help individuals meet their basic needs for a limited period after relocation. The transfer amount is calculated based on the MEB and is designed to cover approximately four months of expenses.
- The pilot phase of the project was conducted between November 2024 and April 2025 in Adana Sarıçam Temporary Accommodation Center (TAC), targeting 2,000 beneficiaries.
- The financial service provider for the pilot was PTT.Beneficiaries were allowed to withdraw the assistance amount in multiple transactions after receiving their cards.
- Out of 1,046 applicants, 1,022 individuals successfully completed their address registration and became eligible for the assistance.
- The new phase of the project targets 1,670 beneficiaries residing in Adana Sarıçam GBM. The implementation period is July to December 2025. Applications were accepted between July 16 and July 28, and a total of 1,588 individuals completed their applications. PTT remains the financial service provider for this phase as well.

Closing Remarks

Action Points

- Partners wishing to include program updates in BNWG minutes should contact Büşra Seray Düzyol (duzyol@unhcr.org).

AoB

N/A