# Basic Needs Working Group

National Meeting Minutes

*31 October 2025, Online meeting*

Chaired by: Ahmet Ünver (UNHCR)

Minutes Prepared by: Umay Atik (UNHCR) & Ahmet Ünver (UNHCR)

Participating Agencies: **Buca Belediyesi, GIZ, IFRC, IOM, SGDD-ASAM, Türk Kızılay, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, Yeryüzü Çocukları Derneği**

## Announcements

- Preparations will begin for the **third round of the Municipal Support Mapping.** The new round will cover support activities implemented since 2022. A targeted meeting will be organized with relevant institutions to launch the process.

## Meeting Objective

- During the meeting, where the sector's 3RP 2026 strategy was discussed in light of current needs, it was emphasised that despite the continuation of individual self-organised voluntary returns, many refugees are expected to remain in Türkiye and their needs will persist. The importance of close and coordinated cooperation with the Presidency of Migration Management, particularly in activities related to returns, was also highlighted.

## Sector Progress and Funding against 3RP 2025

- UNHCR DIMA presented an overview of **progress toward sector targets and the funding situation**. *See relevant slides for details.*
  - In addition to notable progress in **MPCA**, partners provided **food assistance, shelter/WASH rehabilitation, and basic relief items**, mostly implemented in the southeastern provinces. However, achieved results remain significantly below annual targets (approximately 5-20%).
  - **As of the third quarter of 2025**, total funding received by 3RP partners under the sector amounted to **USD 24.5 million** out of the total required **USD 136 million**, corresponding to only an **18%** funding coverage. This was identified as the main reason for the low implementation rates, especially regarding resilience indicators concerning support to municipalities and public institutions.

## 3RP Planning Parameters and Sector Priorities for 3RP 2026

- For the 2026 planning period, **localisation and sustainability** will be prioritised both at sectoral and inter-sectoral levels. It was also underlined that the appeal will be more **targeted and prioritised**, with a focus on strengthening **inter-sectoral linkages**, which is a priority for donors.

## Discussion: Needs and Priorities

- During the discussion session, partners shared both their plans for 2026 and field observations:
  - A **partner** shared they learned informally from the **Provincial Directorate of Migration Management** that the temporary protection regime might end by late 2025. **UNHCR** noted that similar discussions have periodically emerged since the beginning of the Syria crisis but that no official statement has been made. It was emphasised that, as no such change currently exists, planning will continue under the assumption that the temporary protection regime remains in place.
  - **WFP** stated that **cash-based food assistance for people departing from camps has been extended for three additional months** until the end of 2025, with the decision approved by the Presidency of Migration Management. For the first half of 2026, WFP confirmed sufficient resources to support those who have left camps but continue living in Türkiye, as well as activities along the border areas.
  - **ASAM** reported that as of September 2025, more than **50,000** Syrians under temporary protection had been evacuated from camps, with the total expected to exceed **100,000**. In Hatay Hilalkent, interviews were

DRAFT

conducted with individuals evacuated from camps in collaboration with **Save the Children**, and a small group will receive MPCA.

- It was emphasised that people evacuated from camps are living in overcrowded conditions, often with multiple households sharing a single home, raising risks of domestic violence and sexual exploitation. **ASAM** stressed the need for the 3RP to address the urgent needs of these individuals through a **multisectoral approach** encompassing protection, shelter, basic needs, and income access, and underscored the need for preparedness for rapid interventions. This proposal was supported by other participants.
- **ASAM** and **IOM** highlighted that following camp evacuations, **non-residential structures** such as warehouses, shops, and barns are being converted into substandard shelters, exacerbating housing needs. It was noted that coordinated assessments could help jointly identify these needs.
- **ASAM** also shared details of a **WASH-livelihoods project targeting 10 camps**, under which 60 people will receive carpentry training and toolkits will be provided for repairs.
- **IOM** indicated that its **housing rehabilitation** project will continue in 2025-2026, with distribution of **core relief item kits** mainly planned in Gaziantep. **WASH** activities will also continue in İslahiye Camp during 2025-2026, alongside ongoing **MPCA** planning.
- **UNICEF** reported that while funding constraints affect programming, coordination with the Presidency of Migration Management continues, and **family travel kits are provided for WASH needs** within voluntary return processes where demanded. Support will continue based on available resources and needs.
- **UNFPA** stated that financial constraints have affected basic activities such as **hygiene kit distribution**, but that they remain ready to continue providing essential support, including menstrual hygiene products distributed with **ASAM**. **Cash assistance** to survivors of GBV also continues.
- Due to limited funding, **the number of active partners is expected to decrease in 2026**. However, as displacement resulting from camp evacuations continues to drive protection needs, **existing gaps are anticipated to widen further**. Priority concerns include **urgent shelter needs, high rental costs, and increasing transportation expenses for service access**, all of which remain insufficiently addressed by current support.

## Brief: Basic Needs related key findings from Community Pulse 2025

- **UNHCR DIMA** presented key findings of the **Community Pulse survey** related to basic needs. *See relevant slides for details.*
  - Even among households benefiting from social assistance, **access to employment remains limited**, and their **capacity to meet basic needs is inadequate**.
  - The findings confirm the sector's identified needs and highlight that social assistance alone is insufficient to address refugees' socioeconomic challenges. In particular, only **10%** of respondents reported being able to fully meet their basic needs, while **67%** stated their economic situation had worsened over the past year.
  - Rent was cited as one of the largest expenditure items, and participants, particularly those facing the risk of camp evacuations, expressed a growing need for **rental support**. **Strengthening information and outreach on service access** and **enhancing inter-sectoral linkages for livelihoods opportunities** were also emphasised.

## Basic Needs Sector Indicator Review

- **UNHCR DIMA** shared the Basic Needs sector indicators, noting that last year's indicators have been retained. The up-to-date indicators and sectoral logical framework shared before the meeting will be re-circulated to partners. Partners applying for funding under the Basic Needs sector within the 3RP should take these materials into account. *See relevant slides for details.*

## 3RP 2026 Planning Process

- A summary timeline for the 3RP 2026 planning process was shared. Partners intending to be included in the 2026 funding appeal must submit their planned activities, targets, and estimated budgets between **3-14 November**. Figures related to the funding appeal will be finalised by the end of November for publication via global and regional platforms. Following feedback from public institutions, the launch of the Türkiye Chapter of the 3RP 2026 is planned for early 2026. *See relevant slides for details.*

## Updates on Kızılaykart Programmes

- **TRC** shared updates on Kızılaykart programmes. *See relevant slides for details.*

DRAFT

- Due to camp evacuations and some camp closures (e.g., the number of TACs under the programme has decreased from six to three), the number of **in-camp food assistance** beneficiaries has declined compared to previous periods. Moreover, changes in **SSN** eligibility criteria have led to a relative decrease in SSN beneficiaries as well, though the proportion of support provided under the **discretion of Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundations (SYDVs)** to highly vulnerable but non-eligible individuals has increased.
- Under the ***transition to urban life support in camps***, assistance has been provided in collaboration with **WFP** to individuals departing from camps for **three months** since **September**. In terms of updates from **October**, **2,124 households (8,329 people) received TRY 4,164 in cash assistance.**
- As of **September**, **top-up payments under the CCTE programme were increased**: from TRY 250 to 500 for preschool/primary level, TRY 500 to 1,000 for middle school, and TRY 1,000 to 2,000 for high school/preparatory level. **Incentive payments for regular school attendance have risen:** from TRY 500 to 1,000 for middle school and from TRY 750 to 1,500 for high school.

## SSN PDM 2 Presentation

- **TRC** presented findings from the second PDM report of the SSN. *See relevant slides for details.*
  - **Average household expenditures** were recorded as TRY 33,000 for SSN beneficiaries, TRY 26,000 for C-SSN beneficiaries, and TRY 34,000 for non-beneficiaries. Food and rent accounted for **56%** of total expenses. **70%** of households were in debt and compared to the previous round, debt levels rose by about **30%** among C-SSN beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries, while remaining stable for SSN households. The main causes of debt were food and rent expenditures. The full report will be published soon.
  - **UNHCR DIMA** and **TRC** plan to hold a follow-up meeting to explore possible linkages between the Community Pulse survey and SSN PDMs.

## SSN Programme Focus Group Discussion Findings

- **TRC** also shared a summary of key findings from Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) on voluntary returns. The related report is available on the Kızılaykart website.
  - FGDs conducted in **January 2025 across eight provinces with 127 participants** found that the groups most likely to return were individuals with financial stability and property in Syria, young men with professional skills, and those owning or planning to establish businesses in Syria.
  - Groups less likely to return cited security concerns and limited access to services compared to Türkiye. **SSN** beneficiaries reported that discontinuation of monthly assistance did not influence their decision to return, while C-SSN beneficiaries stated that assistance was an important factor in their decision-making.
  - Key prerequisites for sustainable returns include **peace and security in Syria, economic stability and employment opportunities, adequate housing and infrastructure, and access to education and health services.**

DRAFT