Basic Needs Working Group

National Meeting Minutes

6 August 2026, Online Meeting

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Participating Organisations: **ARSA, Buca Municipality, GIZ, GOAL, ImpactNexusLab, IOM, STL, TRC, UNFPA, UNHCR, WFP**

Announcements

- The publication of the third round of the Inter-Agency Municipal Support Mapping Report was reminded, and the report was re-shared with partners. Partners were reminded of the publication of the **third round** of the Inter-Agency Municipal Support Mapping Report, and the report was re-shared.
- The updated Cash-Based Interventions Technical Working Group (CBI TWG) **guidance on the recommended MPCA transfer values** for the second half of the year will also be published soon.

Mid-Year Review

Presentation of Findings

- The sectoral mid-year review aims to assess progress against the 2026 3RP Basic Needs sector appeal, identify projected funding and implementation gaps, and inform sector coordination and **donor advocacy**.
- Due to shrinking funding, targets and funding under the second sector objective, which covers institutional support, have remained more limited, shifting the focus towards the first sector objective on basic needs assistance.
- Most appealing sector partners have set targets for **Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA), hygiene kits, and food assistance**. Excluding **transportation assistance for voluntary returns**, the greatest funding needs and most critical implementation gaps are in these areas, as well as in **shelter and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)**.
  - Despite high needs, significant gaps remain in **shelter and WASH** due to funding constraints, and the relevant partners anticipate lower year-end targets than originally planned.
  - **MPCA** programmes remain more limited than in previous years due to funding shortages. Progress stands at approximately 20%, while significant gaps persist relative to needs. Owing to the reduced cash assistance capacity of many partners working in this area, MPCA also accounts for the largest downward revision in year-end target projections.
  - The funding situation for **Core Relief Items (CRIs)** was assessed to be relatively positive, and some partners may have built up stocks.
  - **Food assistance** has secured approximately 40% funding, with several major programmes ongoing.
  - **Hygiene kit** activities had received only 3% funding by mid-year, reflecting the funding-dependent fluctuations typically observed in this area. However, as several organisations are planning significant interventions during the second half of the year, progress may increase. Nevertheless, partners have revised their year-end target projections downwards.
  - Although activities supporting the **transition from basic needs assistance to livelihoods** remain a priority, no progress has yet been achieved due to funding constraints.

Discussion on 2026 Gaps and Priority Needs

- **IOM:** According to field observations, **Syrians under temporary protection** affected by **camp closures** are facing difficulties in finding housing and registering their residence due to neighbourhoods being closed to their address registration and high rental costs. This, in turn, is negatively affecting **children's school enrolment and attendance**.

  - Significant challenges also persist for **Syrians under temporary protection with chronic illnesses and those requiring medical devices** due to changes in **access to health** services.
  - Irregular employment and low income are further increasing the vulnerability of already at-risk households. Existing cash assistance is insufficient to meet their needs.
- **GIZ:** According to field observations reported by GIZ's partners in **Gaziantep** and **Istanbul**, **home births** have increased significantly among **Syrians who have lost access to health coverage**. Consequently, cases have been observed where children's births could not be registered for extended periods.
- **TRC:** Submission of a **Disability Health Report** is a prerequisite for receiving Complementary Social Safety Net (C-SSN) assistance. However, difficulties in accessing health services for Syrians under temporary protection are making procedures such as renewing these reports more difficult, creating an additional risk for C-SSN beneficiaries.
- **GOAL:** In partnership with **ASAM**, **GOAL** is implementing an MPCA project for individuals who meet the eligibility criteria for the renewal of their health coverage but whose coverage renewal process is delayed. According to field observations from **Hatay** and **Gaziantep**, challenges include patients being unable to leave hospitals due to outstanding debts, the non-issuance of birth certificates, even cancer cases being placed on waiting lists, the refusal to admit patients who are not transported by ambulance or are not in critical condition, difficulties related to referrals from overcrowded city hospitals to other facilities and debt-related issues, as well as delays in Social Security Institution (SSI) procedures in some cases.
- **WFP:** Food assistance of **TRY 1,050** and **TRY 1,000** continues to be provided to beneficiaries **residing in camps and those who have left camps**, respectively. However, beneficiary surveys indicate that the current transfer values are insufficient to meet existing needs. Plans are in place to increase the transfer values, subject to the availability of additional funding.
  - The number of beneficiaries receiving camp-related assistance continues to decline. For example, while activities continue through the **Adana Sarıçam, Elazığ and İslahiye Temporary Accommodation Centres (TACs)**, only 80 individuals have recently received assistance in İslahiye.
  - **Cash for food assistance** currently targets approximately **1,000 individuals** in **Hatay, Adıyaman and Kahramanmaraş**, and needs in this area remain significant.
  - Ready-to-eat food packages continue to be provided at border crossing points for **voluntary returnees**, together with in-kind food parcels sufficient to cover approximately one week's needs upon arrival in Syria.

Programme Updates

SSN Programme Updates and Trend Analysis

- TRC shared updates on the SSN, C-SSN, and In-Camp Food Assistance programmes, and presented a trend analysis based on the findings of the Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) and Inter-Sectoral Vulnerability Surveys (IVS) conducted between late 2023 and early 2026. *Please refer to the presentation for further details.*
- The latest PDM 5 and IVS 3 reports, focusing on 2026, have also been published and are available through the respective links.
- As of January 2026, assistance amounts under the Conditional Cash Transfer for Education (CCTE), SSN and C-SSN programmes were increased. CCTE transfer values were tripled to align with the national assistance amounts.
  - Under the **CCTE** programme, a **one-off performance payment of TRY 1,200** was provided during the April 2026 payment cycle to **more than 8,000 middle and high school students with no more than one day of absenteeism.**
- The trend analysis indicates an increasing proportion of households whose expenditure falls below the **Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB)**, with this trend continuing in the findings of PDM 5 and IVS 3 in 2026.
- Seasonal fluctuations largely explain the changes observed in the food consumption and livelihoods coping strategy indices. In particular, households were found to rely more heavily on coping strategies during the PDM and IVS exercises conducted in the winter months. This seasonal effect was reported to be more pronounced in the IVS, which covers a longer data collection period.

- As most households have neither savings nor valuable assets to sell, their inability to resort to these coping strategies reflects a lack of available assets rather than lower levels of need.

Other Programme Updates

- **UNFPA:** 588 **hygiene kits** provided to ASAM in late 2025 and early 2026 were subsequently reported by UNFPA for Van but were not reflected in the mid-year review. In addition, further 500 hygiene kits procured through the emergency fund have not yet been distributed.
  - The EU-funded ***Advancing Gender Equality in Partnership with Civil Society*** programme, implemented by UNFPA, has commenced. Activities implemented by the programme's partners, which were previously not reported under the 3RP, are now expected to be reported under the 3RP and the Basic Needs sector. In this context, **ASAM** and **Mavi Kalem** will report on **menstrual hygiene management vouchers** during the second half of the year. Activities implemented by **KAMER** under a separate programme that has been ongoing since the beginning of the year are also expected to be reported during the second half of the year as implementation progresses. Accordingly, an increase in hygiene kit indicators is expected in late 2026. However, year-end targets are still projected to remain below planned levels due to funding constraints, while efforts to secure additional funding continue.