

## Basic Needs Working Group

### Meeting Minutes

<b>Time&amp; Location:</b>	18 June 2020, National/Ankara Virtual Meeting
<b>Chaired by:</b>	Ahmet Ünver (UNHCR), Hiba Hanano (WFP)
<b>Participants:</b>	Akif Atlı (UNHCR), Ali Peymanfar (ASAM), Arda Köstem (UNDP), Asya Ergün (IFRC), Ayşenur Özcan (WFP), Berivan Erbil (UNICEF), Berna Köse (İGAM), Betül Ergin (ASAM), Bülent Öztürk (TRC), Burak Çınar (DG ECHO), Buruç Parlak (MSYD - ASRA), Cansu Şengür (ASAM), Ceylan Tunca (UNFPA), Dilara Türker (İGAM), Elif Eser Mooty (UNHCR), Emir Bengisoy (UNHCR), Ferit Yardak (MSYD - ASRA), Figen Kelemer (Concern), Gözde Gülgün (WFP), Hakkı Ersoy (UNICEF), Hanifi Kınacı (TRC), Hazal Aydın (GOAL), İsmet Yasak (UNHCR), Jonathan Brass (IFRC), Lara Özügergin (UNHCR), Livio Mercurio (UNHCR), Mazen Aboulhosn (IOM), Mesut Çelik (MSYDD), Miray Yücel (WFP), Sevgi Kelly (UNHCR), Orhan Koç (WALD), Orhan Hacımehmet (TRC), Özgür Savaşcioğlu (UNHCR), <b>Sultan K. I.</b> , Tomoko Nishino (UNDP), Zeynep Büker (UNFPA)
<b>Agenda:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Welcome &amp; Introductions</li> <li>2. Review Action Points &amp; Sector Dashboard</li> <li>3. Present Analysis of Material Tracking Tool Data <i>Requests &amp; Needs, Distributions, Gaps</i></li> <li>4. Discuss basic needs assistance in COVID-19 situation <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Brief Overview of Needs Assessments and Findings</li> <li>b) Updates of ESSN Program <i>ESSN Updates, ESSN cross-checking mechanism, Q&amp;A</i></li> <li>c) Updates of COVID-19 specific CBI Assistance Programs <i>Presentation of COVID-19 specific cash activities, Partners share further updates</i></li> <li>d) Updates of In-Kind Assistance Programs</li> <li>e) Updates of Technical Support to Municipalities</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

AGENDA POINT	DISCUSSION
<b>Previous action points follow up</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Partners share in-kind guidance materials; coordinators ensure wider distribution - <i>Done ✓</i></li> <li>2. Partners inform BNWG of local needs assessment results; coordinators ensure wider distribution - <i>Done ✓</i></li> <li>3. Partners share information on available support mechanisms among refugees, especially municipal services - <i>Done ✓</i></li> <li>4. Partners inform sector coordinators of their technical/coordination needs in reprogramming - <i>Ongoing</i></li> <li>5. Coordinators provide information about ID inactivation and consequent ESSN discontinuation to relevant UNHCR units to help concretize the advocacy with DGMM - <i>Done ✓</i></li> <li>6. Partners share individual cases of ID inactivation with UNHCR focal point <a href="#">Associate Registration Officer Mr.Orcun Celik</a> - <i>Done ✓</i></li> </ol>
<b>Action Points</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Partners to update the status of their services in Services Advisor; inform sector coordinators/IM for missing or incorrectly represented services by any stakeholder.</li> <li>2. Partners to share program updates (including new CBIs) continuously with sector coordinators.</li> <li>3. IM to work on Material Tracking Tool dashboard to include request-based analysis of distributions</li> <li>4. BNWG to refer discussion of CBI coordination and harmonization to CBI TWG.</li> </ol>

<p><b>Analysis of the Material Tracking Tool Data</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Material Tracking Tool is being continuously updated to ensure requests and needs from government agencies are received, identified and reported. The focus continues to be on avoiding duplication and ensuring coordination around the provision of assistance in response to COVID-19 related material requests.</li> <li>• Significant progress was observed with regards to the request and provision of information, with a total of 1011 requests, 634 of which come from government agencies. The requests are concentrated in metropolitan cities with Izmir in the lead and Ankara showing the lowest among metropolitan cities. Nationwide requests (requests without city specification) reached 2.3 million.</li> <li>• Majority of the requests were from government agencies; in terms of reports, MoNE is the leading institution. In terms of requested items MoFLSS, DGMM and municipalities have the highest share in this respective order.</li> <li>• Approximately half of the nation-wide requests of basic needs items are from municipalities. However, one third of the reporting organizations will not meet the municipal request.</li> <li>• Distribution progress and gap analysis maps were created in the online dashboard by the IM team. 7.3 million requests have been received nation-wide, with 23.2 percent of these needs met as of date. Distribution rates are relatively higher in the Southeast.</li> <li>• A gap analysis of requests and assistance has been carried out. The widest distribution appears in <u>medical items</u>, whereas the greatest gap appears in distribution of food packages. It is important to underline that food assistance can be done through cash-based assistance; in-kind food assistance is relevant for households with limited or restricted mobility.</li> <li>• In Ankara, 19 percent of the requests are met, with 42 thousand items distributed. Delivery of medical items has been very successful; however, PPEs and PSS kits remain a gap.</li> <li>• As further data is made available, the online dashboard and link will be updated through the efforts of the IM team.</li> <li>• Organizations whom have not yet used the tool are encouraged to reach out to BNWG co-chairs.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Basic needs assistance in COVID-19 situation</b></p>	<p>A) Brief overview of Needs Assessments and Findings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many organizations have carried out needs assessments during the COVID-19 period and these assessments have been shared through inter-agency platforms with partners. Full reports are available through the <a href="#">UNHCR Data Portal registry</a>.</li> <li>• 14 relevant assessments out of these were reviewed by the BNWG for outlining specific impact on basic needs.</li> <li>• Refugees have stated difficulty accessing basic needs due to mobility restrictions, unavailability of services and financial barriers.</li> <li>• In the analyses, decreased access to livelihoods remains the core reason for not accessing basic needs. Different assessments indicate that more than 80 percent of persons surveyed have indicated that they have lost their jobs and sources of income. These challenges are expected to continue due to the uncertain nature of COVID-19 period and measures.</li> <li>• Across different assessments, food has been identified as the priority need for households.</li> <li>• Access to decent shelter conditions remains an issue as refugees became more vulnerable due to difficulties of paying rent due to loss of income.</li> <li>• Access to medical and hygiene items remain critical because of reduced purchasing power. A very low percentage of surveyed individuals indicated access to hygiene items; as the purchase of these items was de-prioritized.</li> <li>• The in-kind support provided by partners in the field is in place within identified context of carried needs assessments.</li> </ul> <p>B) Updates from the ESN Program</p> <p><u>Update from ESN Task Force</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ESN Task Force meetings will be held within a new cycle in the coming period. Istanbul, Ankara and Gaziantep meetings will occur as a standing agenda item under the BNWG, and Izmir meetings will take part under the ISWG in Izmir. Additional dedicated task force meetings will take place in Mardin, Sanliurfa, and Hatay quarterly, starting from July.</li> </ul>

- In case of requests for ad-hoc or separate meetings, TRC & IFRC will welcome separate meetings and therefore partners are encouraged to reach out in case.
- The new modality of ESSN TF meetings aims to focus on cross-cutting and common agenda items that are also of importance to the BNWG partners. TF meetings are integrated into the BNWG meeting Schedule in order to reduce long meeting times for partners.
- Since April, TRC has had a new partnership with IFRC and the new IFRC coordination team has been introduced to the National partners. IFRC Ankara Coordinator has provided her contact details; Asya ERGÜN [Asya.ERGUN@ifrc.org](mailto:Asya.ERGUN@ifrc.org), added that colleagues in other non-governmental organizations are welcome to contact in regards to the field level matters around Central and East Anatolia as well as Black Sea Region of Turkey.

Updates from ESSN Program

- Currently 1.7 million individuals and 301 thousand households are benefiting from ESSN. 30.6 thousand of these persons are benefiting from ESSN under the persons with disabilities criteria.
- Highest number of ESSN beneficiaries reside in Gaziantep, followed by Istanbul and Sanliurfa.
- Almost 90 percent of beneficiaries are of Syrian nationality, followed by Iraqi, Afghan and Iranian beneficiaries. The majority of beneficiaries are between the ages of 0-17 years.
- Families with four or more children constitute the majority of beneficiaries, followed by families with a high number of dependents, and families with one or more disable persons. 52 percent of households and 64 percent of individuals who have applied have been found eligible for ESSN. Eligible household member average is 5.6. The program therefore covers a majority of persons in need.
- If partners are in touch with beneficiaries who are eligible under the ESSN criteria, they're welcomed to refer these beneficiaries to ESSN. In case of applications not being accepted, partners can share the contact details of these beneficiaries for further referral by TRC to SAFs for assistance. The SAF allowance is discretionary and exclusive and is only for persons who are excluded under ESSN yet still are highly vulnerable.
- Partners can coordinate follow-ups by contacting [kizilaykartdiserisim@kizilay.org.tr](mailto:kizilaykartdiserisim@kizilay.org.tr) mail address on this matter and TRC will reach SAFs for further action.
- Ankara specific ESSN figures are, %99 of all DGMM registered TP & IP owners applied to the program and eligibility rate in Ankara is %66 with 96.508 individuals who are benefiting from ESSN upon May payment cycle.
- 633 severely disabled people are being assisted by 600 TL severely disability allowance monthly basis in Ankara.

COVID-19 Survey

- A COVID-19 assessment has been carried out jointly by TRC and IFRC M&E teams in April with 468 households and the survey has been presented in the ad-hoc BNWG meeting in May. The main findings from the assessment were made available in the minutes.
- During the COVID-19 period, TRC has continued its efforts through remote communication channels, with the main channel remaining calls through call centers. 2.3 million SMSs have been shared with beneficiaries. More information is available online on the TRC website <http://platform.kizilaykart.org/en/suy>.
- All monthly reports and infographics are available under this site. Partners can find not only ESSN related data, but also other programs data is available under Kizilaykart Platform.

TRC Beneficiary Cross Check Mechanism

- TRC has received many requests from field partners and NGOs for the cross-checking mechanism. Its main objective is to reduce duplications in provision of assistance, as most NGOs would like to complement ESSN support.
- This increases coordination between institutions and the effectiveness of the support provided.
- Turk Kizilay Kizilaykart Programs made a cross-checking matrix available to all relevant actors in humanitarian field, and it has functional since August 2017. Partners can reach out to [suyveritakip@kizilay.org.tr](mailto:suyveritakip@kizilay.org.tr) for Turkish and [ESSNdatacheck@kizilay.org.tr](mailto:ESSNdatacheck@kizilay.org.tr) for English to touch base with Turk Kizilay, and request to cross-check their beneficiary list with ESSN beneficiary list. You may access a

one pager informative presentation, a sample official letter for requesting cross-checking and standard format of the data fields made available by TurkKızılay through the meeting materials to shared.

Q&A

- Nationwide, TRC's ESSN numbers are 2.7 million, and in terms of application rates 67 percent of applicants are covered by the ESSN programme.
- TRC has noted that, A decrease of 43 thousand beneficiaries of the ESSN programme in February was observed compared to December 2019. This is explained by the registered birth-dates of many beneficiaries being January 1st; which consequently made families ineligible due to children turning 18. From March until April TRC has observed a decrease of 3000 in numbers. An increasing trend onward is expected.
- Partners added that Seasonal agricultural workers, have address registration difficulties and hence no access to ESSN. TRC replied that similar problems can be referred to TRC, for follow-up through outreach teams [kizilaykartdiserisim@kizilay.org.tr](mailto:kizilaykartdiserisim@kizilay.org.tr).

C) Share Updates of COVID-19 specific CBI Assistance Programs

- CBI TWG latest mapping tracked more than 40 ongoing programs by 17 partners. However, new CBI programs emerged after March 2020, so In consultation with field coordinators, BNWG reached out to partners to collect the key information of new COVID-19 specific CBI assistance programmes.
- UNHCR, WFP, IOM, STL, WHH, Sevkar, GOAL, DRC, and AAR Japan have active COVID-19 dedicated CBI programs across Turkey. In addition, WFP, UNHCR, IOM, WHH and STL are working on scaling up their CBIs.
- Majority of ongoing programs are aligned with the 1000 TL provided by the Turkish government, and through PTT cards, Bank debit cards and e-vouchers. The BNWG advocates towards alignment with this amount for ease of coordination and communication.
- A 2020 specific cash-based assistance mapping dashboard has been developed with the CBI mapping information collected between February-March 2020 from partners. Please check the [CBI Mapping dashboard 2020](#).
- Coordination platforms are available to avoid duplication in provision of assistance. partners are encouraged to avoid duplication, including ESSN programme Considering the COVID-19 implementation to reach as many people as possible in this context of resource constraints.
- In review of the selection criteria, there are very few programmes focusing on seasonal agriculture workers, persons on the move and unregistered persons.
- Majority of COVID-19 specific CBI programmes are focused in the Southeast. Coordinators underline that metropolitan cities inhabitants outside of SET have also lost their livelihoods and in need of assistance. .
- Details of CBI programs funding and implementation plans were shared In addition, MSYD-ASRA has stated their plans to start a cash support programme for Afghan citizens (details are added to the presentation).

D) Share Updates of In-Kind Assistance Programs

UNHCR Ankara Field Unit's Updates of in-kind Assistance

- UNHCR's AFU distributed hygiene packs covering Central and Eastern Anatolia and Southeast Anatolia, and worked on CBI assistance. Distribution of food packages was not part of the programme; however, many households underlined their in-kind food assistance needs
- The field unit observed significant distribution of assistance in these areas by municipalities, charities and I/NGOs.
- AFU highlighted the vulnerability of unregistered persons, and their challenges in accessing assistance and services.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-kind assistance main difficulty is lack of clarity around eligibility criteria and application procedures, more information is needed in this area.</li> <li>• Harmonizing efforts across agencies remains important, especially with regards to provision of CBI and in-kind assistance. AFU advocated that CBI assistance should not be unconditionally prioritised over in-kind; sector should discuss that specific needs of vulnerable groups and most effective modality should be considered in programming.</li> <li>• AFU shared that assistance mechanisms in Central, Eastern and Southeast Anatolia is less available to persons of concern compared to other regions.</li> </ul> <p><u>Updates from partners on in-kind assistance</u></p> <p>UNICEF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responding to the pandemic, UNICEF continues providing hygiene kits nationwide (aim is to reach 66 thousand), formal and non-formal education kits – including learn-at-home kits, and psycho-social support kits (50 thousand) to beneficiaries. joint efforts of UNICEF and public offices including ministries, municipalities, as well as the TRC are in place for the distribution.</li> <li>• Second-generation hygiene kits distribution continued to respond the needs in COVID-19 situation.</li> <li>• PDM activities will start soon and help shape future approach concerning distribution of items.</li> </ul> <p>UNFPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNFPA provided 13.200 customized dignity kits to 23 removal centers (Adana, Ağrı, Ankara , Antalya, Aydın, Bursa, Çanakkale, Çankırı, Edirne, Erzurum, Gaziantep, Hatay, Iğdır, İstanbul, İzmir, Kayseri, Kırıkkale, Kırklareli,Kocaeli, Malatya, Muğla,Osmaniye, Van) distributed by ASAM, 500 customized dignity kits to Ankara Provincial Health Directorate, 3500 to Edirne and keeps providing dignity kits through Women and Girls Safe Spaces in stanbul, Hatay, Eskişehir, Diyarbakır and Şanlıurfa.</li> <li>• UNFPA dignity kits include soap, sanitary pads, dressing cotton, wet wipes, shampoo, tooth paste, tooth brush, hair comb and shoulder bags.</li> </ul> <p>TRC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TRC and IFRC are awaiting an official decision with regards to their top-up payment plan, which targets ESN beneficiaries. TRC colleagues have informed technical structures needed for distribution are prepared and ready.</li> </ul> <p>E) Updates on Technical Support to Municipalities</p> <p>UNDP's support to municipalities is threefold:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of medical items including disinfectants for public offices and transportation, (at procurement stage.)</li> <li>• Support to business continuity including IT support to municipalities and government offices.</li> <li>• Providing infrastructure support to municipalities in line with the administrative circular issued by the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization which advised municipalities to increase their capacity of waste management and storing. UNDP continues working with municipalities to supply waste processing and management equipment.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Next meeting</b></p>	<p>Next meeting will be announced with respect to needs and developments. An ad-hoc BNWG meeting can be planned in the coming period based on the need, with possible participation from national and field colleagues together.</p>