Child Protection Sub-Working Group
26.01.2023 Minutes of Meeting

Date:	**Thursday, 26 January 2023 at 10.00-12.00 a.m., via Webex**	
Participants:	Special Secretariat for the Protection of UAM/ MoMA, MoLSA (UAM Unit), RIS, UNHCR CO, UNHCR FO Samos, UNHCR SO Lesvos, UNHCR FU Evros, UNHCR FU Athens, UNHCR FO Kos, UNICEF, IOM, ARSIS, Metadrasi, IRC Hellas, Solidarity Now, Velos Youth, The Home Project, ELIL, SOS Children's Villages, , DRC Hellas, Society for the care of minors and youth, Smile of the child, ELIX, GCR, PRAKSIS, HRC, Faros	
Chair:	**UNHCR: Theodora D. Tsovili (tsovili@unhcr.org)**	
Agenda	- CP situation on the islands and Evros (UNHCR) & in mainland (IOM) - National Emergency Response Mechanism for unaccompanied minors in precarious living conditions (NERM): state of play, challenges, and future plans (NERM's unit/ SSPUAM) - Care facilities for UAC: state of play and challenges (Management of UAM's Accommodation Referrals and Relocation Unit /SSPUAM) - Foster care of UAC (MoLSA) - ACE Program – Education update (UNICEF)	
CP situation on the islands and Evros (UNHCR) & in mainland (IOM)	**CP situation on islands** As of January 2023, the population of children with families is almost 800 while 375 unaccompanied children are hosted in CCACs on the islands pending their transfer to age and gender appropriate care arrangement facilities on the mainland. Please see in detail the attached presentation for the situation of children in the eastern Aegean islands including their access to formal and non-formal education, the asylum procedures. and the observed challenges in the field. **CP Situation on Evros** • **Current Population of UASC at Fylakio RIC:** 34 are UAC out of 127 total population - 1 of whom is an unaccompanied girl from Syria and the rest are boys. Nationality Breakdown:14 Afghanistan, 12 Syria, 6 Egypt, 1 Palestine, 1 Pakistan. 19 out of 34 are in the RIC for more than 25 days. The maximum duration of staying is 1 month. The transfer of 14 UAC has been scheduled to take place on 26/01/2023 to shelters on the mainland. Due to the weather conditions in the North of Greece, a decrease in the new arrivals has been observed in the beginning of 2023. • On 2022, in total 444 UAC arrived at Fylakio RIC while 123 have been registered as adults after being subjected to age assessment procedures.	**Action Points:** n/a

	• **Acceleration of registration procedures:** As of 21.12.2022, the full registration of the asylum claims of the UAC takes place on the first day of their arrival. In most cases, the registration is completed with the presence of Metadrasi's Authorized Representative. According to the RIS, after the referral of the case to the child protection actor (ARSIS or HR360) the initial registration form can be modified according to the best interest of the child. UNHCR has observed gaps due to the lack of experienced staff for the asylum registration and especially to more technical issues related to family reunification cases. **CP Situation on mainland** IOM's presence in the Controlled Facilities for the Temporary Accommodation of Asylum-Seekers (CFTAASs): • The HARP Project is heading to its closure by the end of March 2023. IOM staff are preparing CP cases' handover, although it is not yet decided which actor will take over the role (EUAA, EODY or other). • In all CFTAASs, both North and South, following IOM's advocacy, all children regardless of legal status will be officially included in the catering list of RIS. • Presence of UAC in CFTAASs: -Delays observed in the procedures for the transfer of UAC from the CFTAASs to shelters due to the current limited capacity. The transfers that took place during January 2023 were based on vulnerability in cooperation with SSPUAM, i.e. unaccompanied girls from Somalia residing in Ritsona were prioritized for their transfer to a shelter. -IOM observed spontaneous arrivals of UAC in "old" Malakasa that transferred to RIC of Malakasa and they hosted there until their transfer to shelters. -The separated children identified from the shipwrecks off Crete in late December were officially transferred to Koutsochero site and in Northern Greece mostly after their registration in Malakasa RIC was completed. Following IOM's handover and until the end of 2023, there will be "Roving field protection Teams" run by IOM receiving referrals of cases. IOM Emergency Accommodation Facilities: The IOM Emergency Accommodation Facilities for UAC run in full capacity every day – the total capacity is 240 places. The asylum registrations at RAOs for the UAC hosted in the Emergency facilities run smoothly and the provision of interpretation is now covered overpassing challenges identified two months ago.	

National Emergency Response Mechanism for unaccompanied minors in precarious living conditions (NERM): state of play, challenges, and future plans (NERM's unit/ SSPUAM)	UNHCR officially handed over NERM to the Ministry of Migration and Asylum and the SSPUAM as of 1 January 2023. UNHCR will continue to support NERM with a seconded staff until end June 2023 to ensure smooth transition to the state. In total, from 5 April 2021 until 31 December 2022, NERM received 7446 incoming communications. Among them, 6319 concerned accommodation, 574 legal aid and 553 other types of assistance (i.e. psychosocial support, medical aid, information provision). During the same reporting period, 3059 unaccompanied children homeless or in precarious living conditions were provided with accommodation through the NERM. In January 2023, 101 UAC were accommodated from the total 124 of incoming calls. In the first month of 2023, there was a decrease in the referrals of separated children from Ukraine accompanied by relatives that NERM received in comparison to last year. Most of the separated children from Ukraine stay in Greece for a short period of time and they return to Ukraine. An increase of homeless UAC from Pakistan observed while in 2021 and 2022 most accommodation requests that NERM received were from homeless UAC from Afghanistan. Please see the attached presentation for more details on the figures of the two years on NERM's implementation.	**Action Points:** n/a
Care facilities for UAC: state of play and challenges (Management of UAM's Accommodation Referrals and Relocation Unit /SSPUAM)	As of 26 January, approximately 400 unaccompanied and separated children hosted in the CCACs on the islands and the RIC of Evros – most of them located on Lesvos. Half of them have almost completed the procedures for their medical exams prior their transfer to shelters on the mainland. As a result, an acceleration of the flow of transfers of UAC to shelters is expected in the coming weeks. Although, the limited available capacity in shelters remains a challenge. In addition, during the last months an increase has been observed in the arrivals of unaccompanied girls on Lesvos while the available space for girls in shelters remains limited. SSPUAM is also looking into the acceleration of transfers from the emergency accommodation facilities to the long-term facilities so that more space will be available for the homeless UAC. ✓ Shelter's total capacity is 1960 places with 96% already filled in. ✓ SIL's total capacity is 77 apartments (380 places) with an occupancy rate around 83%.	**Action Points:** n/a

Foster care of UAC (MoLSA)	MoLSA presented in brief the foster care system in Greece and the legal framework in the context of a de-institutionalisation policy nationwide. MoLSA has signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with UNHCR – operational in 2022 which will be renewed for 2023 – for the inclusion of refugee and migrant children to the national foster care system as well as the inclusion of refugees and migrants as foster parents for unaccompanied and separated children. According to the latest data from EKKA (4th quarter 2022): 72 UAC are registered in the National Registry of Minors (L. 4538/2018) of which 35 are boys and 37 are girls. Please see in detail the attached presentation by MoLSA.	**Action Points:** n/a
ACE Program – Education update (UNICEF)	UNICEF presented in brief the project "All Children in Education (ACE)" which aims to facilitate the integration of refugee and migrant children in the formal education setting through the provision of non-formal education (NFE) services. The project is implemented in the following regions across Greece: Attica, Central Greece, Peloponnese, Aegean Islands, Crete, Central and Eastern Macedonia, Epirus, Western Greece, and Thessaly. Key figures: -16,109 refugee and migrant children attending education during December 2022; - 13,961 refugee and migrant children, including 832 children from Ukraine benefitting from activities through ACE since the project started; - 62% of the children and migrant children benefitting from ACE during December were enrolled also to formal education; - 3,909 refugee and migrant children provided with continuous support to access formal education. Please see in detail the attached presentation by UNICEF including the challenges and the achievements of the project.	**Action Points:** n/a
AOB	The next CPsWG will take place on March 2023. The date and time will be confirmed.	**Action Points:** n/a