Field Unit Athens

Child Protection
Updates - Challenges

September 2023

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Field Unit Athens

Field Unit Athens activities

- Reception Monitoring in the Controlled Facilities for the Temporary Accommodation of Asylum-seekers (CFTAASs).
- Regular presence and info sessions provided to Malakasa RIC
- Detention monitoring in Pre-removal Detention Centers – identification of alleged children in detention
- UNHCR Protection HelpDesk: Incoming Communications & referrals, as applicable
- Protection monitoring visits to communities centers
- Street Outreach Exercise

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South Greece Controlled Facilities for the Temporary Accommodation of Asylum-seekers (CFTAASs)

Significant increase of both accompanied and separated children (mainly Yazidis) in the facilities due to:

- the mass referrals from the CCACs of the islands to the mainland CFTAASs.
- the evacuation of Koutsochero CFTAAS and the transfer of residents to South Greece facilities.
- continuous transfers from Malakasa RIC following completion of RIS procedures.

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Challenges reported:

- Cases of child neglect, especially in cases of single mothers who need specialized support / complex CP-GBV cases.
- Lack of day care so that the parents can work.
- Child friendly spaces available in a very limited number of CFTAASs.
- Activities for children non-existent or not enough in some CFTAASs.
- Increased needs of NFIs (mainly clothes, diapers, hygiene items).
- Lack of motivation of children to follow formal education (only reception classes, children having to wait for the bus for several hours).
- Substandard conditions in some facilities, affecting directly also children (e.g. damaged containers/rooms, presence of insects and mice).

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Malakasa RIC:

- Increased needs of NFIs (mainly clothes, diapers, hygiene items).
- Substandard conditions affecting also children (e.g. damaged containers/rooms, presence of insects and mice).
- Lack of separate space for the accommodation of the UAC until their transfer to emergency accommodation facilities (in case they remain overnight) and of alleged UAC until age assessment procedures are completed.

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Good practices:

- Cooperation with NERM, SSPUAM reported by all locations (CFTAASs, RIC, PRDCs) as smooth – UAC transferred swiftly to appropriate accommodation.
- Non-formal education/activities provided in the CFTAASs through UNICEF's ACE programme.
- Recruitment of nursery and kindergarten teachers through the DYPA public benefit programme – possibility to be further engaged in child friendly activities.
- Swift age assessment procedures conducted for alleged UAC in PRDCs – alleged UAC detained separately from the adults.

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UNHCR HelpDesk

January – September 2023

- 2061 communications received –(phone calls, emails, WhatsApp).
- Among them 272 from families – (including 75 from single female/male households and 197 from nuclear families)
- 22 from UAC
- 3 regarding tracing of missing UAC

UNHCR Protection HelpDesk

January – September 2023

UNHCR Protection Helpdesk has recorded 48 cases of refugee and asylum-seeking households who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness in Athens, 6% of them are SFHH and 33% are families with children.

Challenges reported:

- Lack of social accommodation, including emergency/temporary accommodation for families from other regions when parents accompany children for medical services in hospital in Athens.
- Increased needs in financial support
- Increased needs in food provision and NFIs
- Lack of services from actors regarding day care for children whose parents are working or attending classes/trainings
- Lack of transition classes in schools for refugee children.

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UNHCR Protection HelpDesk

January – September 2023

Requests from UAC:

- Legal assistance for alleged children in detention
- Legal assistance with family reunification process
- Material support

Thank you

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