

MEETING MINUTES

Sector Working Group NORTH:	Site Management Support (SMS)
Date:	26/08/2016
Venue:	Ministry of Makedonia and Thrace
Chair:	NRC – Francesco Rancati
Participants:	
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Agenda:

1. Review of action points from previous meetings
2. Update on closure of current sites and opening of new facilities
3. Update on the High Commissioner's visit
4. Mapping of the community watch groups
5. Update on the cash program
6. AOB

1. Review of action points from previous meetings

- NRC to check presence of Govt in National SMS WG → Govt officials participate neither in the National SMS SWG meetings in Athens nor in the Sub-national Attica SMS SWG meetings. UNHCR is still trying to identify a focal point from MoMP willing to engage with SMS WG. For now engagement with Govt authorities is led by Lydia Bolani, who is a UNHCR officer embedded in Mr Voudouris office.
- Govt to share with all agencies a list of sites that will remain → See Agenda Point n.2

2. Update on closure of current sites and opening of new facilities

- List of long-term sites shared and circulated by Mr Voudouris office
- **Mr. Apostolou intervened and informed that the list circulated is still not the final one and the MoMP has internally postponed the deadline for the release of the final list of permanent sites. New deadline: 30 September.**
- Delay in the release of the list is having serious implications for the winterization process

→ **Action Point: NRC to share soft copy of long-term site list circulated by Mr. Voudouris office with WG members**

3. Update on the High Commissioner's visit

- Visit to Lagadikia smooth. Minister Mouzalas accompanying Filippo Grandi emphasized the fact that Lagadikia is an example of peaceful coexistence between refugees and host community.
- Filippo Grandi meeting with Tsipras in Athens and stressing a number of advocacy points, first and foremost security in sites and need for law and order enforcement by the Greek authorities.

→ **Action Point: Dennis to share UNHCR press review with summary of the HC's visit**

4. Mapping of the community watch groups

- ECHO requesting SMS SWG to map out community engagement initiatives in the various sites, with a particular focus on Community Watch Groups (CWG)
- ➔ Action Point: WG members to add at the end of their SMS weekly report what type of committees they have so far formed in their respective sites

5. Update on cash programme

- Agencies doing ad hoc CBI since November 2015 → Need for harmonization, especially in terms of amount. MC, SP and Caritas first to start providing cash assistance in Greece.
- The Greek government also has a programme to provide a safety net to poor Greeks, therefore need to provide cash which is not above the safety net cash by the Government.
- 4 agencies are currently doing blanket cash distribution: MC, CRS/Caritas, UNHCR (through relocation programme), IRC. 3 more are planning to start.
- In some cases there have been one-off cash distribution from different volunteer groups, but they do not coordinate.
- CWG's focus is on unconditional multi-purpose cash assistance, although there are other forms.
- MEB (Minimum Expenditure Basket) is proportional to the size of the target families, but weighed in a way which does not exceed the minimum cash support provided by the Government.
- Plan for blanket distribution (no targeting) in all the sites. The first month in each site both pre-registered and non-pre-registered will receive. However, from the second month onwards only pre-registered refugees will receive cash. People able to show evidence they are in the process of registering will be considered for cash distribution.
- Cash Cards will differ in color based on the distributing agency and its financial service provider.
- Distributions are monthly.
- UNHCR will be provider of last resort and step in in every site where there is a gap.
- The only non-harmonized package at the moment is the IFRC one which is mixed (NFIs, food and cash)
- Impossible to cover all sites with CBIs at the same time. As things stand now, the CWG has decided not to retroactively distribute cash in the sites where cash distribution will start later. **Potential major security issue.**
- MoMP in the North said that no cash distribution will be allowed until cash actors figure out a way to start concurrently in all the sites.
- Need to figure out how to integrate arrivals from the islands into the CBI system.
- NFI WG working on monetizing NFI needs for winter. Most likely people will receive an additional lumpsum of 200 Euros/person one-off while for Children U5 will be 1/2) – the lumpsum calculation does not include blankets (distributed by UNHCR) and shelter winterization kits (hammers and nails). The distribution of the lumpsum is planned for November and will be for everyone (in camps and out of camps).
- List of sites and cash agencies finalized (July – late October to start CBIs; average duration: 3 – 6 months)
- Messages on cash drafted in cooperation with CWC WG
- ➔ Action Point: NRC to share list of sites and related cash actors with WG members.
- ➔ Action Point: NRC to call for an ad-hoc meeting on data collection at Central Macedonia level in order to discuss harmonization of population data in view of CBI roll-out.

6. AOB

- **SMS Minimum Package:** RRM RP Document: "80% of sites with SMS minimum standard package is implemented" (available at <http://www.unhcr.org/partners/donors/577220cf7/regional-refugee-migrant-response-plan-europe-january-december-2016-revision.html?query=RRMRP>). Since there are only 4 months left in 2016, shortly the SMS SWG will start monitoring the implementation of the minimum package in the sites where SMS agencies are currently operating. The SMS minimum standard package is based on the SMS activity checklist endorsed by the WG about a month ago:



Greece Response -
SMS Agency Activities