

MINUTES OF THE NATIONAL HEALTH AND NUTRITION WG, ATHENS 4/10

Participants: IFRC, MdM, SRC, UNHCR, MSF Swiss, IMC, Save the Children, Praksis, WAHA, HRC, MSF France, ECHO

Venue : Hellenic Red Cross

Chair : UNHCR

- The meeting held at EKEPY office on the 3rd October, with the presence of the MoH, KEELPNO and all the NGOs was discussed. EKEPI will have the role of coordinating and KEELPNO will be the implementer of health care services in the camps. KEELPNO is in the process of recruiting 850 health workers, doctors, nurses, social workers, interpreters and psychologists, to be posted in the various camps. The desire of EKEPI is that NGOs remain and cover the night shifts, in order to have 24/7 coverage. Further analysis will follow when the final plans of EKEPY will be shared.
- Information on the AMKA number was shared by the partners. Although the law is clear about PoCs having the right to receive the number, there is resistance in the implementation at the local municipality offices where the number should be issued to the PoCs. MSF informed the group that AMKA was attained for many of their patients by being assertive at the municipality office.
- The issue of secondary health care medications for chronic patients was discussed again. The Global Health Officer of ECHO attended the meeting and confirmed that drugs for secondary health care can be funded by ECHO as a last resort.
- MSF informed that the vaccination in urban areas in Attica and the North is going to start next week.
- Praksis with the support of MSF informed the group that they are going to vaccinate in Kos and Leros islands.
- Save the Children informed that the vaccine of chickenpox is not mandatory for the PoC children in order to attend the school.
- The referral pathway from the islands to the mainland was discussed. An SoP has been developed by UNHCR on the process involved in the referrals of PoCs from the islands to the mainland: the patient cannot be referred by the general practitioner working in the camp clinic but ONLY by the specialist physician who has examined the patient in the local hospital and decides that a higher level of health care service is needed.

- Red Cross informed they will provide first aid training for the PoC community in the camps. This will decrease the number of calls for ambulances from the camps for trivial cases.
- The transportation issue of non-emergency patients to hospitals was discussed. Yet no final solution was found.
- NUTRITION
- Save the Children informed the meeting on the feed-back received from the Government on the Joint Statement on Infant and Young Child Feeding.

Next Health and Nutrition WG meeting will be held on Friday, 21st October at 14:00, at the UNHCR office, Michalakopoulou 91