Greece National Education Sector Working Group

Meeting Minutes

Monday, 28 January 2019 @ UNHCR, Athens, Greece

**MEETING AGENDA**

1. Review of action points from the previous meeting

2. Updates on Formal Education

3. Updates on Non Formal Education

4. Updated from local ESWGs

5.  AOB

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| AGENDA ITEM | DISCUSSION POINTS | ACTION POINTS (by whom and when) |
| 1. Review of action points | Review of Action Points from the previous ESWG:   * Sharing of UNICEF campaign in the ESWG mailing list – done * UNICEF to translate text in Greek in order to send to METAdrasi – not done | UNICEF/METAdrasi to send Greek, Sorani to IRC to upload.  Anyone who can volunteer to assist with the translation from English to Greek, please contact pkaisariernst@unicef.org |
| 1. Updates on Formal Education | **Education Meeting of the Network of Chidlren on the Move:**  On Thursday 24th of January the ‘Network of Children on the Move’ which works under the auspice of the Deputy Ombudsperson of the Child (Ms. Koufonikolakou) called on a meeting on the thematic of Education and advocacy.  Topics that were discussed in the meeting are:   * The issues of congestion in some urban areas; * Advocacy for the extension on enrollment to EPAL to be possible throughout the year. For example, in Thessaloniki enrollments were halted on the 15th of October. Alternatively, these children in question to be registered as ‘potential students’ when they try to enroll after deadlines; * Advocacy for the children 16+: Reception classes not to be only for Greek, but also for other subjects. * Assessment of level of students on prior knowledge and provide appropriate level of teaching; * Second chance schools to be extended for primary education; * School monitoring attendance of refugee students.   Ms. Koufonikolakou is collecting advocacy messages on Education in order to mediate between refugees and the Greek authorities  **IOM:**  Hotels in Grevena – Agioi Theodoroi – Porto Cheli where children do not have access to education due to lack of capacity in local schools. This has been informed to MOE from the beginning, and a lot of advocacy has been done from IOM to MoMP.  It was proposed by partners that this could a be a possible urgent advocacy point through the Deputy Ombudsperson of the Child - Not to open hotels in isolated places or where they don’t have schools to accept, which excludes children from education. With appropriate advocacy by NGOs this could be a case for the European Court of Human Rights.  Tension in Malakasa – 200 children are registered in the local schools –  80-90 children from Malakasa camp per school.  Parents from Agios Stefanos village are complaining.  Transportation for children in primary school age living in Oinofyta started on the 11th of December.  The previous year IOM was transporting children to **125 schools**.  This year the number has increased to **270 schools**.  Soon there will be a DYEP opening in Kos  More DYEPs are planned to open in the mainland – 50 more schools will be added.  **School enrolment survey:**  An assessment on enrollments in formal education in urban accommodations is completed.  In the meantime, the preliminary results from the urban locations (apartments, UAC shelters and hotels) were presented by UNICEF (see attached). There is an overall increase in enrollments since May 2018. The dashboard will be shared with the mailing list once it is completed. | Invite the ombudsperson to talk about possible advocacy points  Suggestion to the Ombudsperson: Highlight the hotels and camps with lack of access to education.  Create attendance task force in order to create advocacy suggestions to be shared with the Deputy Ombudsperson.  Presentation from the meeting will be shared with the ESWG mailing list once it is available.  Share the dashboard with the ESWG once it is finalized |
| 1. Updates on Non Formal Education | **Big SMS project:**  From January 2019, With the funding from DG Home, IOM will be responsible for coordinating all 26 camps. Under which, there will be 3 components of services: Site Management Support (SMS), Protection and Non-formal Education. IOM will take over the Site-management support in 13 camps with UNICEF-Solidarity Now as an implementing partner for NFE.  In the camps that ASB (4) and DRC (9) are responsible for the Site-management support these organizations will also provide NFE services.  Islands: the Education Cannot Wait funding unfortunately did not come through due to the rejection by the board. UNHCR renewed partnerships with NGOs.  For Moria RIC, UNICEF continues with Iliaktida and Better Days for providing integrated services for NFE, child protection and female friendly places in Tapuat Centre.  **Solidarity Now:**  Solidarity Now starts a program called ‘Business for Youth’. Through this program children can learn how to start their own businesses. The first sessions are for Farsi speakers from 17y.o. Interviews for participating in this series of workshops will take place this Friday (1/2/2019). Please contact [youth@solidaritynow.org](mailto:youth@solidaritynow.org) to register.  **KEDFX**:  Greek classes every Thursday in the Kiriakatiko Scholeio Metanaston.  **Zeuksis:**  Education has started to provide education for children that are receiving psychological support there. | UNHCR to report the updates of the partnership on the islands.  Forward Solidarity Now’s activity to the mailing list |
| 1. Updated from local ESWGs | **Epirus:**  Epirus WG has had a roving system till now, with every meeting being chaired by a different organization. Finally, after voting by the members, Charikleia Giatroudi from Solidarity Now will be leading the WG with the support of Arsis..  **Chios:**  Action for Education informed the participants that the ‘High School’ operating in the Chios city will close on January 19, 2019 for budgetary issues.  The REC raised concerns that low attendance of UAC in the EPAL may hinder access to children in EPAL. Partners are considering to conduct a focus group discussions with UAC in order to understand the reasons for the drop-out.  **Lesvos:**  Currently there are eight DYEP classes in three schools, latest opening in the 17th of December;  There are 120 children registered, aged 6 to 12 years old. However, with the recent transfers and the bad weather conditions, on the 8th of January 92 attended.  There are also two DYEP classes in the high-school. Currently there are around 35-40 children attending.  The morning ZEP classes continue as usual. For the moment, there are six primary schools, five in Mytilene and one in Loutra that are hosting ZEP classes. Moreover, there are five middle schools operating morning reception classes.  It was mentioned that if a child that attends DYEP leaves with her/his family from Kara Tepe to an apartment, it is possible that they continue attending the DYEP classes. |  |
| 1. AOB | **UNHCR:**  Organizing a workshop with the MoE on the 19th of March,  discussing good practices and challenges. The workshop will take place in the MoE with UNHCR staff from the islands, RECs and UNICEF. An EC representative will be present. | Invite mr. Kassianos (special education of the MoE) to discuss about refugee children with disabilities and enrolment in public education  Invite MoMP  Invite KEM  Invite HELIOS II program people  Invite MoE for updates on formal education |

The next national ESWG meeting will be held on Monday 11th February @ UNHCR.

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