

Child Protection Sub-Working Group
30.05.2022 Minutes of Meeting

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| Date: | Monday, 30 May 2022 at 10.00-12.00 a.m., via Webex | |
| Participants: | Special Secretary for the Protection of UAM/ MoMA, MoLSA (UAM Unit), MoJ, RIS, EKKA, UNICEF, IOM, EUAA, NCR, ARSIS Thessaloniki, GCR, Metadrasi, IRC, Smile of the Child, Mdm, Safe Passage, EPAPSY, Elix, Faros, SMAN, Hellenic Red Cross (Tracing/RFL Unit), Equal Rights Beyond Borders, KMOP, ISCD, SOS Village, SMAA, Intersos, Zefxis | |
| Chair: | UNHCR: Theodora D. Tsovili (tsovili@unhcr.org) | |
| Agenda | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Priorities of the Special Secretariat in 2022 presented by the Special Secretary, Heracles Moskof - National Emergency Response Mechanism: results & challenges, NERM team/ SSPUAM - SSPUAM statistics on the situation of UASC in the country (monthly dashboard), Information Management team/ SSPUAM - Care facilities for UASC in the country: progress and challenges, Department of management of accommodation requests for unaccompanied minors/ SSPUAM - Mental Health Hub: program in support of UAC and professionals working in UAC shelters, SSPUAM & SOS Villages - Protection of children from Ukraine across Europe, UNHCR | |
| Priorities of the Special Secretariat in 2022 presented by the Special Secretary, Heracles Moskof | <p>The Special Secretary presented the priorities of the Special Secretariat for the protection of a UAM for 2022. Please see below in brief the actions on behalf of SSPUAM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guardianship: the draft law has been prepared by the SSPUAM/MoMA and submitted to the General directorate of Legal and Parliamentary Affairs. The draft law will be reviewed and shared with the involved Ministries for the collection of comments, as per competency. As soon as the deliberation period of the involved Ministries is completed, the draft law will be released for a public consultation for two weeks. <p>The draft Law also includes specific provision for the institutionalisation of the National Emergency Response Mechanism (NERM). The Special Secretary conveyed his thanks to UNHCR for continuing to support NERM.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health Hub project: more information is shared in the relevant presentation. • National Best Interest Procedures' (BIP) accreditation system: SSPUAM is working with the support of UNHCR and EUAA on the development and establishment of a national system which will train and certify the child protection professionals on the procedures to assess and determine the best interest. | Action Points: n/a |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ukrainian Crisis situation: SSPUAM is in close coordination with competent stake holders and its Ukrainian counterparts to provide support and assistance to the unaccompanied and/or separated children from Ukraine entering Greece. To this end, the National Emergency Response Mechanism has been assigned as the receiving responsible agency for UASC from Ukraine. | |
| <p>National Emergency Response Mechanism: results & challenges, NERM team/ SSPUAM</p> | <p>SSPUAM provided a brief presentation of the National Emergency Response Mechanism focusing on the updates and results for the period January – May 2022.</p> <p>NERM started being operational in April 2021. From April 2021 until May 2022, NERM has received 2.934 referrals of unaccompanied children being in precarious living conditions including homeless among them 1516 were placed in age-appropriate care arrangements. Most children are referred to NERM by CP actors in the field, the Regional Asylum Offices and the Hellenic Police (Police Departments).</p> <p>More than 90% of the referrals are boys mainly from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh. It is important to highlight that almost 50% of the total number of unaccompanied children referred to the NERM were undocumented.</p> <p>Since the Ukrainian crisis and until end May 2022, NERM has received more than 390 referrals of unaccompanied or separated children from Ukraine who entered Greece. NERM/SSPUAM is in close coordination with the Hellenic Police at central level to ensure that all UASC cases from Ukraine entering Greece through the main point of entry at Promachonas border station are immediately referred to the mechanism.</p> | <p>Action Points: n/a</p> |

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| <p>SSPUAM statistics on the situation of UASC in the country (monthly dashboard), Information Management team/ SSPUAM</p> | <p>Since March 2022, the monthly UASC dashboard is published by MoMA/SSPUAM supported by EKKA. The dashboard will be published monthly at the beginning of each month, and it can be found at SSPUAM’s official site in the links below:</p> <p>https://migration.gov.gr/statistika/</p> <p>and/or</p> <p>https://migration.gov.gr/grammateies/eidiki-grammateia-prostasias-asynodeyton-anilikon/</p> <p>The statistics related to NERM are included in the dashboard while since April 2022 information on the UASC population from Ukraine have been incorporated too.</p> <p>Information on the availability of places for accommodation (both long term and emergency care arrangements) are reflected in the 3rd page of the dashboard.</p> | <p>Action Points: n/a</p> |
| <p>Care facilities for UASC in the country: progress and challenges, Department of management of accommodation requests for unaccompanied minors/ SSPUAM</p> | <p>SSPUAM provided a brief presentation on the role and the actions taken by of the <i>Management of UAM Accommodation Referrals & Relocation Unit</i>, shared updated statistics, the progress and the challenges faced so far.</p> <p>The <i>Management of UAM Accommodation Referrals & Relocation Unit</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Coordinates the National Referral and Placement Mechanism for UAM; b) Conducts case management processes in collaboration with care facilities, child protection actors in the field and national authorities; c) Collaborates with NERM for vulnerable cases, while coordinates also with other units within SSPUAM or MoMA for the implementation of different projects. <p><u>Care Arrangements for UAC in Greece (updated until 01.05.2022):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UAC Accommodation Centers (shelters): 70 UAC shelters with a total of 1956 places • SIL apartments: 91 apartments for 16+ with a total of 364 places • Emergency Accommodation Facilities: 5 emergency facilities with a total of 180 places <p>* The proper support, assistance, and provision of accommodation to the 18+ young adults (ex-unaccompanied children), who have managed to be integrated in Greece but received a negative decision, was flagged as a remaining challenge among the participants. UNHCR observed the reduction of SIL apartments and recommended the expansion of SIL apartments to host 18+ young adults (ex-UAC), as a proposed solution to further support this population. SSPUAM noted that UNHCR’s proposal is among SSPUAM’s intentions although there are financial constraints that need to be overcome towards the proposed direction.</p> | <p>Action Points: n/a</p> |

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| <p>Mental Health Hub: program in support of UAC and professionals working in UAC shelters, SSPUAM & SOS Villages</p> | <p>MENTAL HEALTH HUBS</p> <p>SSPUAM and SOS Villages presented the key objectives of the project “MENTAL HEALTH HUBS (2021-2025)”:</p> <p>a) to address the needs of unaccompanied children for physical and mental health; b) to mainstream mental health promotion and mental illness prevention; c) to strengthen the capacity of mental health professionals.</p> <p>The project was designed through inputs and feedback received from the professionals in the field. Target group of the project are the professionals working in care arrangements for UAC and the UAC hosted in care arrangements across Greece.</p> <p>Until end of May, 281 professionals, from 47 accommodation shelters, have benefitted from the project.</p> <p>For more information on the project feel free to reach out the focal persons below:</p> <p>Claire Pavlaki (SSPUAM) ch.pavlaki@migration.gov.gr</p> <p>Evdokia Bakalou (SSPUAM) e.bakalou@migration.gov.gr</p> <p>Chrysa Tatsi (SOS Villages) ctatsi@sos-villages.gr</p> | <p>Action Points: n/a</p> |
| <p>Protection of children from Ukraine across Europe, UNHCR</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Children and Family Protection Support Hubs (Blue Dots) provide a minimum set of key child protection and social services, referrals for children and families and are implemented by UNHCR, UNICEF and relevant partners as a response to protect the children from Ukraine who flee in neighbouring countries. 19 Blue Dots have been established in Moldova, Romania, Poland, Bulgaria, Italy and Slovakia. The minimum set of services offered at the Blue Dots include the following: proper identification and referral of children at risk, assessment of the best interest of children at risk, psychosocial support, legal services, information provision, child and family friendly spaces, restoring family links’ component in collaboration with ICRC. • Regional Child Protection Sub-Working Group: The regional child protection sub-working group for the Ukraine situation was launched on 26 April, co-chaired between UNHCR and UNICEF. • National Emergency Response Mechanism in Greece is assigned for the protection of UASC arriving from Ukraine: 317 (276 separated children, 41 UAC). • MoE is collaborating with the Ukrainian communities in Greece, in order to encourage them to increase the number of enrolled children. As of 10 May, 678 children (539 in primary education and 139 in secondary education) from Ukraine enrolled in Greek schools out of the estimated 7,032 currently hosted in the country (Source: Ministry of Education). | <p>Action Points: n/a</p> |

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The next CPsWG will take place in June 2022, the date is still to be confirmed.

Action Points:

n/a