

Child Protection Sub-Working Group
27.04.2023 Minutes of Meeting

Date:	Thursday, 27 April 2023 at 10.00-12.00 a.m., via Webex	
Participants:	Special Secretariat for the Protection of UAM/ MoMA, MoLSA (UAM Unit), EC, UNHCR CO, UNHCR FO Thessaloniki, UNHCR FO Kos, UNHCR FU Athens, UNICEF, IOM, Metadrasi, IRC Hellas, Solidarity Now, Velos Youth, NCR, DRC Hellas, ELIX, PRAKSIS, HRC, Faros, ICSD Ioannina, European Lawyers in Lesvos (ELIL), The Home Project, SOS Children's Villages Greece	
Chair:	UNHCR: Theodora D. Tsovili (tsovili@unhcr.org)	
Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting resilience of refugee children at risk, inc. GBV survivors, in the urban settings (PRAKSIS) • MERIMNA II project on the islands (IOM) • Child Friendly Sites Checklist – 4th assessment (UNICEF) 	
MERIMNA II project on the islands (IOM)	<p>As of 1st March, IOM launches its intervention on the islands under Merimna II project undertaking the management of the safe areas for UAC on Samos, Chios, Kos and Leros while continues as per the practice so far on Lesvos. The funding for the specific program is under the EU Voluntary Solidarity Mechanism, provided by the following countries: Switzerland, Czech Republic, and the Netherlands. The funding provided through the EU Solidarity Mechanism will serve as a transitional measure until Merimna II can be supported by national funding. The program will be running (funded secured) until the end of December 2023.</p> <p>From 2018 until March 2022, IOM had the responsibility of overseeing the Safe Areas on all five islands (Lesvos, Chios, Samos, Kos, and Leros). The activities were concluded in the end of March 2022, except for Lesvos, primarily due to the conclusion of funding.</p> <p>Currently, the Safe Area for UAC on Lesvos is situated outside the CCAC. IOM has rented a space approximately 30 minutes away from Mavrovouni to serve as the Safe Area for UAC. This arrangement will continue until further coordination with RIS, as there are plans to eventually relocate the Safe Area inside the CCAC.</p> <p>The dedicated IOM team on Lesvos remains present, providing round-the-clock support (24/7) and a range of services. These services include provision of food, NFIs, clothing, transportation to the hospital, Mavrovouni, or other services based on the UAC's specific needs.</p>	Action Points: n/a

	<p>The composition of the team has changed due to staffing adjustments resulting from reduced funding under Merimna II. Despite this, the essential needs of UAC are being met, and the current project on Lesvos is operating smoothly.</p> <p>Regarding the remaining four islands (Chios, Samos, Kos, and Leros), a dedicated field coordinator by IOM is currently stationed at each location to familiarize themselves with the situation on the ground. The implementing partner for these locations will be Zeuxis, who will deploy a team consisting of social workers, case workers, care givers, interpreters, and potentially lawyers and psychologists (depending on specific needs). The staff will be available only during morning shift. To facilitate the provision of NFIs and clothing, IOM will collaborate with local active stakeholders who can offer these services. Additionally, IOM will arrange transportation of UAC to hospitals with the assistance of a dedicated van stationed on each island. Zeuxis is expected to be present on the four islands by mid-May.</p>	
<p>Promoting resilience of refugee children at risk, inc. GBV survivors, in the urban settings (PRAKSIS)</p>	<p>Praxis presented the project <i>“Promoting resilience of refugee children at risk, Inc. GBV survivors, in the urban settings”</i> which is implemented with the support of UNHCR. Since January 2023, the project is operational in Athens and in Thessaloniki aiming to enhance the protection of asylum seeking and refugee children being at risk. As part of the project, dedicated interdisciplinary teams have been established in Athens and Thessaloniki to address the needs of various vulnerable groups, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newborn babies in families. • Underage pregnant girls. • Children in single-parent families. • Accompanied children facing health issues. • Caregivers of separated children, including elderly individuals, siblings, and separated children themselves. • Children who have survived torture, rape, or other forms of severe psychological, physical, or sexual violence or exploitation (including their caregivers). • Accompanied children whose families have been reported to NGOs or authorities due to potential exploitation, neglect, or abuse. <p>At the heart of the project lies a pilot therapeutic intervention specifically designed for children who have survived gender-based violence (GBV). The outcome of this intervention will serve as the foundation for a proposed psychotherapeutic methodology, which will be a vital component of the National Action Plan for the Protection of Children from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation.</p>	<p>Action Points: n/a</p>

	To obtain further information about the program and details regarding referrals to the interdisciplinary teams, kindly refer to the two attached presentations. These presentations offer comprehensive information and guidance on the program's various aspects.	
Child Friendly Sites Checklist – 4th assessment (UNICEF)	<p>UNICEF presented the outcomes of the 4th cycle of assessment of the Child Friendly Sites Checklist (December 2022). This evaluation focused on the 22 open accommodation facilities for asylum seekers on the mainland and it was carried in collaboration with RIS. Similar assessments were carried out in previous years, specifically in 2019 (covering 22 facilities), 2020 (covering 26 facilities), and 2021 (covering 27 facilities). It is to be noted that each assessment provides a snapshot of the conditions and circumstances at the time it was conducted.</p> <p>The tool includes a questionnaire on the following pillars: i) health, ii) protection of children from exploitation, violence (including GBV), neglect and abuse, iii) access to social services, iv) participation of children towards decisions and ensure the view of the child, v) safety and security, vi) opportunities for social integration, vii) monitoring mechanism in the facilities.</p> <p>Please refer to the attached presentation for more information on the methodology of the tool and the recommendations upon the results of the assessment.</p>	Action Points: n/a
AOB	The next CPsWG will take place in May 2023. The date and time will be confirmed.	Action Points: n/a