

Child Protection Sub-Working Group
21.03.2024 Minutes of Meeting

Date:	Thursday, 21 March 2024 at 10.00-12.00 a.m., via Webex	
Participants:	MoH, GSVF/MMA, UNHCR CO, IOM, PLOES, METAdrasi, IRC Hellas, GCR, NCR, The Home Project, Zeuxis, ELIL, Prolepsis Institute, KMOP, ELIX	
Chair:	UNHCR: Theodora D. Tsovili (tsovili@unhcr.org)	
Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) of adolescents in Greece, including unaccompanied adolescents (Ministry of Health, Ms Kazantzi, Head of Department B, Directorate of Mental Health) • MHPSS of adolescents inc. unaccompanied adolescents in Greece will also include presentation of the work in the field (Ploes) • Safe Areas of UAC in the CCACs Samos, Kos, Leros and Chios (Zeuxis) • Safe Areas for UAC on Lesvos (IOM) 	
Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) of adolescents in Greece, including unaccompanied adolescents (Ministry of Health)	<p>Under the auspices of the Ministry of Health, 5 units of child psycho-social support and rehabilitation for adolescents are operating which serve the general population including refugee children. These units are operated by the following 4 entities: PLOES, Mitos, Hellenic Society of Social Psychology, and the IASIS AMKE. Two of these shelters are hosting boys, other 2 are for girls, and one serves mixed population. They accommodate children with psycho-social rehabilitation needs.</p> <p>Additionally, there are 3 shelters specifically for adolescents and children with serious mental health issues, operated by EPAPSY, Sismanogleio, and Ormos. There is a circular issued by the Ministry of Health (see in the attached documents) outlining the referral pathways and transition to these specific shelter/housing units.</p> <p>The goal of these housing units is short-term rehabilitation aimed at reuniting children with their family environment and parents, without involving child custody removal from parents.</p> <p>Regarding children with autism, there are operational day centres where children engage in various activities throughout the day for several hours until midday.</p> <p>It should be noted that none of the aforementioned shelters, housing units, or day centres currently provide interpretation services for refugee children or adolescents who do not speak Greek. The following two units provide specialized services including interpretation for refugee population: BABEL - Mental Health Unit and Klimaka - "Iolaos" Day Center for refugees & asylum seekers with mental disorders</p>	Action Points: n/a

	<p>UNHCR advocates for ensuring that all refugee children and adolescents have access to the national system and calls for potential amendments to the current legal framework to address gaps in the provision of interpretation and cultural services.</p> <p>For more detailed information, please refer to the attached documents (zip folder) as the below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Two Excel files with Mental Health Units (Shelters, Day Centers, etc.) for adolescents operated by Legal Entities of Public Law (NPIs) and Legal Entities of Private Law (NPDD); 2) The circular for the transition of beneficiaries to housing units (Orphanages, Shelters); 3) The link for the Mental Health Map: https://bi.moh.gov.gr/mhealthmaps/showmap ; 4) The establishment licenses for Mental Health Units for adolescents, which will operate until summer; 	
<p>MHPSS of adolescents inc. unaccompanied adolescents in Greece will also include presentation of the work in the field (Ploes)</p>	<p><u>Psycho-social support for unaccompanied refugee children at the Day Center for Adolescents run by PLOES</u></p> <p>The Adolescents Day Centre consists of four key service components designed to provide comprehensive support to adolescents, including refugee and asylum-seeking children/adolescents: 1) Mental Health Services, 2) Psycho-social Support and Integration Workshops, 3) Community Integrated Intervention, and 4) Self-management - Advocacy - Self-representation.</p> <p>The first component includes adolescent counseling, parental counseling, family counseling, and child psychiatric monitoring. The second component offers cultural workshops, community workshops, and educational sessions.</p> <p>The third component, community interventions, is facilitated through a mobile team of professionals, enabling dynamic implementation and follow-up of the psycho-social intervention plan. This approach ensures coordinated support in collaboration with other organizations, with timely emergency interventions, scheduled external meetings (such as home visits, to temporary accommodations, or to detention centers), and street outreach. It also includes preventive measures and post-monitoring to reinforce family structures and address identified gaps.</p> <p>The fourth component provides adolescents and young adults with a space to practice self-management and autonomy. Serving as a community hub, the Day Centre encourages members to manage resources, participate in community groups and workshops, and utilize cultural workshop facilities like sound studios, libraries, and radio stations.</p> <p>These services, as described above, serve as tools and operational objectives to achieve the rehabilitative goals of the psycho-social intervention plan. To date, the Adolescents Day Centre has supported 38 cases of unaccompanied refugee children.</p>	<p>Action Points: n/a</p>

	<p>As part of the community integrated intervention, the following tools have been developed: Enhanced Community Intervention Service, Mobile Unit, Emergency Interventions (in-person and/or telephone), and Consistent Collaboration among agencies supporting the adolescent.</p> <p>For more detailed information, please refer to the attached presentation provided by PLOES available in Greek.</p>	
<p>Safe Areas of UAC in the CCACs Samos, Kos, Leros and Chios (Zeuxis)</p>	<p>Zeuxis has been active as an IOM’s implementing partner in in the CCAC’s Safe Areas for UAC on Kos and Leros since 2019 until 2022 and from May 2023 to January 2024. Given Zeuxis's long presence and experience within the safe areas on the islands, Zeuxis currently operates in the Safe Areas of the CCACs on Chios, Samos, Kos, and Leros since February 2024, with funding until January 31, 2025, in collaboration with GSVP/MMA under the Swiss-Greek Cooperation Programme. This initiative aims to meet the needs of approximately 1,000 unaccompanied children across these islands, ensuring a 24/7 presence with rotating staff, especially caregivers at night when urgent incidents are more likely.</p> <p>Another new element of the project includes GSVP assistance to facilitate direct communication between Safe Area case workers and those in long-term shelters, ensuring continuity in the children’s case files. This, along with the use of Best Interest Assessment tools within the GSVP’s project framework “Harmonization, Establishment and Certification of Best Interests Procedures”.</p> <p>The project provides comprehensive 24/7 services, including psycho-social and legal support, dedicated legal counseling, and thorough best interest assessments. Basic needs are met through the provision of essential items like clothes, shoes, and sanitary items in a welcome kit upon arrival, daily snacks, and continuous caregiver presence.</p> <p>Additionally, Zeuxis staff facilitate access to healthcare centers and hospitals, provide necessary medication, and offer comprehensive counseling and psychosocial support. Legal counseling, particularly for asylum procedures, and interpretation services are provided to bridge communication gaps. Transportation within the island is also ensured to meet various needs.</p> <p>The team composition includes a coordinator, administrative support, lawyers, social workers/psychologists, caregivers, and interpreters, with 14 staff members per island.</p> <p>The staff engage the children in various recreational activities, educational visits (e.g., museums), preparations for carnivals, intercultural activities, sports, and more.</p> <p>For more detailed information, please refer to the attached presentation provided by Zeuxis in English.</p>	<p>Action Points: n/a</p>

<p>Safe Areas for UAC on Lesbos (IOM)</p>	<p><u>Safe Area for UAC on Lesbos</u></p> <p>IOM continues to manage the Safe Area for UAC on Lesbos under Merimna III. The team includes a field coordinator, 2 social workers, 9 caregivers, 2 interpreters, 1 psychologist, and 1 nurse, tailored to meet the specific needs of Lesbos.</p> <p>Similar to Zeuxis on other islands, IOM operates the Safe Area with continuous 24/7 services. At the time of the meeting, the Safe Area hosted 27 unaccompanied children, and the timelines for transferring UAC from arrival on the island to long-term shelters on the mainland have been reduced to between one to two weeks, with no recent delays observed.</p> <p>IOM collaborates closely with Guardianship Mandated Persons to facilitate various recreational activities, educational programs, sports, and more outside the Safe Area.</p> <p><u>RIC Fylakio</u></p> <p>At RIC Fylakio, IOM implements services through Arsis CP with a small team consisting of 1 lawyer, 2 social workers, 1 administrative support (based in Orestiada), and 1 interpreter. Discussions are underway with the RIC Manager to establish a Safe Area for UAC at Fylakio RIC as also recommended by the GSVP/MMA, with a potential location identified during IOM's visit to the newly extended area. Currently, due to human resource constraints, the team does not provide 24/7 presence. Starting from April 1st, with additional funding from the Czech Republic government, Arsis's team is expected to strengthen, enabling round-the-clock presence.</p>	<p>Action Points: n/a</p>
<p>AOB</p>	<p>The next CPsWG will take place in May. The date and time will be confirmed.</p>	<p>Action Points: n/a</p>