

PWG MEETING NOTES

Protection WG Meeting	
Meeting Subject	Protection Working Group Coordination Meeting
Date, Time & place of meeting	31/05/2016, 09:00-10:30, UNHCR Athens Office
Meeting Chair	Tigist Girma (UNHCR)
Minutes/notes prepared by	Giorgos Dafnis, Tigist Girma
Present (organizations)	UNHCR, INTERSOS, ActionAID, OXFAM, Advocates Abroad, ARSIS, KSPN-ERP, AMEL, JRS, IMC, Network for Child Rights, UNICEF, Secours Islamique France, ARSIS, METADRASI, GCR, Save the Children, Mercy Corps
Next Meeting	7/06/2016

Agenda:

1. Review of action points from previous PWG meeting

Point/details	Going forward/action points	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Activity matrix for the protection working group. Some organizations have sent their already existing and/or planned activities. The remaining organizations are requested to send in their contributions before the next PWG meeting so that the PWG plan could be finalized. - Date for the Community Based Protection Workshop to be agreed - Topics to be covered during the CBP to be communicated with the PWG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The remainder of the organizations to send in their activities 	Pending
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A half day workshop on CBP will be conducted on Tue 14 June 13:00. 	June 14
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNHCR to share the proposed topics for comment from the PGW 	Done

2. Gaps in legal aid services

<p>Based on the request from the PWG that more detailed analysis should be done on gaps in legal aid for persons of concern, the UNHCR protection team presented the following (pls find also attached the presentation):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is limited provision of services regarding legal assistance 2. The approach to legal aid lacks uniformity services ranging from provision of legal information to legal representation in some form. 3. Legal aid lacks a coordination approach with some locations having almost no services some locations having a more systematic services in Lesvos. Some examples are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In some locations, such as Kos, Leros and Kalymnos legal aid is almost non-existent - Other locations, such as Samos have very limited legal aid services mostly through partners who provide legal services for asylum and non-asylum related matters. - In many locations NGOs partners are providing services mostly on ad hoc and on needs basis and sometimes as an emergency measure . <p>Lack of funding, uncoordinated and non-uniform approach led to:</p>	<p>Going forward and action points:</p> <p>UNHCR to take the lead in creating a taskforce for coordination of legal assistance activities, taking also into consideration model of legal aid services on Lesvos (SOPs, referral mechanism, etc) and provide feedback in order to ensure sustainability, uniformity and coordination.</p> <p>Need to take into account inputs also from UASC sub-working group</p>	<p>On going</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More focus on legal information than representation - Lack of services in a sustainable manner - Lack of information and interpretation support to communication legal and administrative decisions - Lack of respect to legal safeguards such as the right to communication of decisions in language the persons understand - Lack of/limited legal aid for first instance, after negative administrative decisions, for persons with specific needs including UASC <p>Resources available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNHCR has funded legal assistance against arbitrary detention and Dublin cases that can also be extended to related admin procedures - There is a possibility of a more sustainable partnership with Bar Associations - Cooperation with the Council of Europe for online training programs <p>MSF will continue as gap fillers until a more sustainable solution is found</p> <p>Advocates Abroad has a team of 7 lawyers who can be deployed based on agreed arrangements</p> <p>IMC has legal aid as part of its SGBV response capacity and can explore the possibility of expanding the services</p> <p>ARSIS has a community center in Athens as well as limited budget for judicial fees and there is also legal assistance in Frourarhio.</p> <p>Coordination of actors for legal assistance services offered on islands and at the mainland/case management</p> <p>Coordination of psychosocial support activities with legal aid activities (e.g. Save the children multidisciplinary teams)</p> <p>Risk assessment regarding developments on policies that affect the needs for provision of legal assistance</p>		
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3. Contingency Planning

<p>The Inter-Sectoral Working Group is working on contingency planning scenarios that will be used by the different working groups for planning purposes.</p>	<p>PWG chair will share the contingency planning tools from ISWG</p>	<p>Done.</p>
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