

Shelter/NFI Working Group Meeting Minutes - 14 April 2016, Vial

Attendees: UNHCR, Samaritan's Purse, CESRT, Red Cross, Apostoli/IOCC, MDM, Drop in the Ocean, NRC, Souda Management

- Welcome by Evita and Ross – they informed the attendees that FRS cancelled last minute due to urgent issues regarding next day's detainees status with respect to the new law.
- Ross introduced the agenda protocol/structure, highlighting that any AOB should be raised before the meeting and discussed at the end, while any AOB raised during or at the end will be discussed in the next meeting.

What is the purpose of this group, and what should this weekly meeting accomplish?

- Evita explained the new established Coordination Structure in Greece and introduced herself and Ross under the role of coordinators and representatives of all Shelter/NFI actors in the field level, adding that they are also to be considered as alignment to the inter-agency Shelter/NFI Working Group in the national level and the Shelter/NFI Coordinator in Athens (**see attached for the Inter-Agency Coordination Structure in Greece**). The group will mainly focus in NFIs but will keep the same name as the, as this is the group where shelter issues will be raised as well.
- Actors contributed to this topic, with suggestions that were welcomed by the group:
 - Establish FRS's view on things. Map how agencies want to operate. Define the restrictions.
 - Allocate a few minutes at the end of the meeting to consider what possibly could go wrong so everyone is aware.
 - A draft TOR to be circulated >> **ACTION POINT.**
- It was agreed that the meeting will regularly take place on Wednesday – time/place TBA, based also in FRS's schedule.

Where are actors currently operating / would like to be operating, and what are their short term plans?

- **UNHCR** provides NFIs in Souda, Dipethe, Vial and the shoreline. Regarding Vial: UNHCR has suspended provision of material assistance to PoCs within closed facilities, on the basis that this kind of facility should be fully run by authorities. However, UNHCR still has some flex in the local level, in terms of filling gaps. UNHCR provides more than 25 types of NFIs (blankets, sleeping mats, sleeping bags, hygiene kits, baby care kits, clothing, footwear, wheelchairs, crutches etc), including food parcels. They are distributed by volunteers in the shoreline and Oinousses, and by Samaritan's Purse (UNHCR's implementing partner) in Souda, Dipethe and Vial. UNHCR does not have staff assigned to do distributions.
- **Samaritan's Purse** distribute NFIs provided by UNHCR, as well as their own NFIs (blankets, hygiene backpacks etc), and NFIs provided by other actors as "Gift in Kind" in Souda, Dipethe and (for gap filling) Vial. Also, they have been washing blankets and sleeping bags – this project needs to be reconsidered together with the Health Working Group, as there are health concerns about in all the sites (scabies, ticks, contagious diseases).
- **CESRT** volunteers distribute their own NFIs in the shoreline, in collaboration with the SMH Basque team. Since last week, they have been working in Souda and Dipethe, but not in Vial anymore, as the authorization for the presence of the volunteers in Vial remains unclear. They have a warehouse full of clothing, footwear and other basic items (private donations). They started doing targeted distributions, by visiting each house unit / tent and

assess the needs.

- **Red Cross** distributes their own NFIs (different kinds of kits, including food parcels) in Vial, with the help of the Red Cross Volunteers. They don't operate in Souda and Dipethe. They have a big number of blankets available and they consider hand them as "Gift in Kind" to FRS.
- **Apostoli/IOCC** distributes their own NFIs (hygiene kits, baby care kits, sleeping bags, food parcels, big water bottles etc) in Souda, Dipethe and Vial. They do not have a standard pipeline: they distribute based on their weekly stock, which differs every week. Only one person (Alex) is engaged in distributions on Chios, and he is assisted in distributions by volunteers. They have placed a container in Souda to facilitate distributions in collaboration with MDM.
- **MDM** distributes all kinds of baby items (diapers, cremes, baby feeding bottles) upon request in Souda. They are not present in Vial anymore. They will now start distribute their NFIs from the new placed container in Souda.
- **Metadrasi** resumed providing NFIs (hygiene kits, baby care kits, clothing, footwear) in Vial, as they did in the past, in Mersinidi detention center. They have been looking for volunteers to do the distributions and they have requested FRS to give permission to the volunteers, but FRS has not replied yet. They have stored the NFIs in Vial warehouses.
- **Drop in The Ocean** distribute their own NFIs (clothing, footwear etc) in Souda and Dipethe, but not in Vial anymore, as the way they used to distribute in Vial (through the fence) was not in accordance with the humanitarian standards.
- **NRC** used to run the clothing boutique in Vial, but they are not operating in Vial anymore. Their distribution team is on, and they can assist in distributions in other sites. NRC has a big stock of their own hygiene kits and sanitary pads, while they also have almost two containers full of clothing (private donations, "Gift in Kind"). They just procured some NFIs for recreational use: volley/basket balls, notepads, pens, playing cards and drawing pads – also 350 flip flops. They placed a container in Souda to facilitate distributions.
- Souda Coordination does not provide or distribute NFIs.

Currently what difficulties do actors face that this group may help address?

- Difficulties in cooperating with FRS – the belief that this group can address issues to FRS more insistently, so that immediate solutions can be found, was expressed.
- Lack of proper behavior/assistance during distributions by the Police in Vial was noted, together with a lack of coordination between Police and FRS.

Points / action points that came out of the discussion:

- A better distribution system must be in place now that we have populations staying long on the island - targeted distributions may be a better solution. Look at a practical section on distribution strategies / differences between targeted and in line distributions >> **ACTION POINT.**
- Data base / mapping of the population is needed to facilitate the distribution. NRC has started doing the mapping (families, vulnerable cases, nationality etc) in Souda and Dipethe, using the Police registration lists that UNHCR consolidated >> **ACTION POINT.**
- In Vial, although many NFIs are available, PoCs do not have full access, as there is a lack of staff to engage in distributions (FRS has not taken over). Clothing is strongly needed in Vial.
- NFIs much needed but not available by any actor: underwear, shampoo, kids shampoo, razors, summer shoes, jogging pants.
- NFIs in oversupply on the island: Hygiene kits, blankets.
- A special shelter to serve as a quarantine for patients in Souda could be useful.

- A shelter in Souda for people to eat and hang out is needed.
- Group members to share information about their stock / logistics / transportation of NFIs, so that the warehouses t be harmonized. The Common Pipeline Sheet to be shared among group members and to be introduced among new members of the group >> **ACTION POINT.**
- UNHCR to share statistics regarding NFIs distributed in 2016 >> **ACTION POINT.**
- A “shop” in Souda where NFIs are stored and PoCs can go and take whatever they need for free, was suggested. This has worked perfectly last summer, when refugees stayed in tents in the Public Garden. The “shop” was running for certain hours with the presence of one person.
- Bracelet system that used to be a good guide on who got what is not reliable anymore, as many different actors distribute NFIs.
- Group members to be added in what's app Shelter/NFI group and share info about their plans for distribution or concerns >> **ACTION POINT.**
- Commonly agreed: We should all work together!