

Meeting Minutes			
Name	Victoria Site Coordination	Meeting Date	16/09/2016
Meeting Location	Salvation Army Corps, Athens	Meeting Time	15:00
Chair person	Emily Carlsson, Program Coordinator, Salvation Army	Meeting Duration	1:30 hours
Minutes prepared by	Anne Veildkamp, Volunteer		
Participants	Refucomm, UNHCR, BABEL, OKANA, CARE, IOM, Amurtel, KHORA, EADAP, Caritas Athens, Solidarity Now, Faros, IMC, UNICEF, Caritas Hellas, MSF, PRAKSIS, Salvation Army, United Society, JRS, Samaritan's Purse		
Agenda	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction 2. Validation of last meetings minutes 3. Activities in informal urban accommodation (squats) 4. Issues or concerns in the Day Centres 5. Gaps: Accommodation/Shelter; Single men; Employment; Education; Integration 6. AOB 		

Summary of discussions and action points

1.	<p>Introduction</p> <p>Overview: The existence of a group dealing with urban living similar to the Victoria Square coordination group was mentioned. It works on a national level and looks at longer term appropriate strategy to integrate people who do not live in the camps. It tries to support existing groups. It is a separate group which will not affect the VS group. Both groups will exchange information.</p> <p>Emily (SA) reiterated the urgent need for everyone to let her know how many leaflets are wanted in each language (English, Arabic, Farsi and Urdu). UNHCR has started printing.</p> <p>Action Point: All organizations are to contact Rebecca (USPG) by COB Monday 19th September with the number of leaflets that they would like printed in each of the four languages.</p>
2.	<p>Validation of last meetings minutes</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were approved</p>

3.	<p>Activities in informal urban accommodation (squats)</p>
	<p>Emily asked how many organizations have contact with the squats whether formal or informal. A discussion followed. Due to the informal nature of many of the activities these have not been recorded.</p> <p>Action Point: A informal sub-group will be formed for organisations currently working in or interested in working in the squats.</p>
4.	<p>Issues and concerns in the Day Centres</p>
	<p>Caritas asked why the Samaritan’s Purse day center was closed. The representative from Samaritan’s Purse explained that it has closed at the beginning of September due to a “nasty neighbor”. Lawyers are working on it and they hope to reopen (same location or somewhere else). Another representative also asked if it was possible to visit the different centers to see what is provided to make it easier to refer people.</p> <p>Caritas managed to register children to schools. The schools did not care about the address and accepted squat addresses.</p> <p>Emily (SA) said she needs to know how many children have been registered already and how many still need be to be registered in order to get assistance from the Government. No one could answer, it is difficult to assess. Children from City Plaza are registered. Some women staying at the Plaza who have enrolled their children at the intercultural school in Gazi reported that it is far and they can’t take the children there.</p> <p>Kindergarten appear to be full. In principle all children should be accepted in primary schools but the reality is different. There is not enough staff, teachers went on strike recently. One has to look not only at the registration of the children but also at the functioning inside the schools. There is a lack of money.</p> <p>For questions relating to children registration in schools, please contact the education group (met recently for the first time) and give them feedback as well.</p> <p>Someone mentioned a secondary school in Alimos near Eleniko: children who can travel on their own can go there, the school accepts all kids.</p> <p>Action Point: Caritas Athens Day Center to share (informal) advice – based on their own experience - on how they have been registering children in schools</p>
5.	<p>Gaps: Accommodation/Shelter; Single Men; Employment; Education; Integration</p>
	<p><u>Accommodation/ Shelter</u> The biggest is of course accommodation and shelter.</p> <p>JRS is looking into expanding. They have 40 people in their shelter and they want to open a second shelter for vulnerable people.</p> <p>Caritas Athens will soon open shelters for relocation in cooperation with UNHCR and CRS.</p>

Amurtel would like to cooperate with other NGOs. They need to be able to refer women without husbands, vulnerable people to other organizations.

MSF asked anyone wanting to open a new shelter to think of people who had an operation, pregnant women and especially women who just gave birth and need a safe place for a few days.

Praksis mentioned a new program where Greek families are hosting migrants who are being relocated. She did not remember the name.

Single Men

Emily asked if anyone was doing something for this group that is often left out.

Caritas Athens Day Center said that they have accepted single men for skype, social services, wifi during the summer. They have 2 computers at their disposal. Many of them make an appointment and come. Now, due to high numbers of families coming to the Center, single men will be allowed only for social services.

Khora is going to receive computers donated by a British company at the end of October. They will allow people to come in and use them.

JRS wants to open workshops for men. They want to use their skills. The teachers will be refugees themselves teaching other refugees; IT, English lessons, sewing lessons for women... They already have started English lessons. This could also concern single men.

Employment

Another gap is employment: Emily asked if anyone was involved in helping people get their paperwork done or find a job?

Solidarity Now is trying to do skills assessment. They want to get people more involved in their own integration.

It is also important to help them with the basics first, such as get their children to school, kindergarten, etc...

Emily said it would be good if all centers would do skills assessment so that later it would be clear who has which skills once a work program starts.

Khora added that they are already doing that in the squats. Especially with plumbers etc... they use their skills whenever needed. Emily asked Khora to share their assessment skills format with the other organizations so that all centers use the same format to collect information.

MSF then moved on to access of refugees to medical services. The representative explained that they ask their chronic patients to have an AMKA number. If they are pre-registered they have the right to have a number. But not all KEP offices have the same approach. Emily asked all to share information on this issue.

Praksis said that the problem with AMKA is that two different ministries are involved and KEPs have different directors. The Ministry of Health decided to issue cards with which refugees would be able to access hospitals but it is not ready yet.

	<p><u>Education</u> No additional comments were made</p> <p><u>Integration</u> EADAP explained that they have a mother/baby group with local families that are on a poverty list of the municipality. The aim is to integrate people on this list with refugee families. So far they have French Africans, Albanians, people from Eastern Europe but no refugees. The idea of having local families and refugees spend mornings together is good. But they need Farsi and Arabic interpreters. It was mentioned that the Greek NGO Metadrasi offers such services but it is not free as there is a fee to source the translator. Emily suggested to contact Translator Without Borders.</p> <p>Khora said they are trying to involve the neighborhood of their social center. They want to have Greek families and refugees helping each other. It should start in October, they are now looking for Greek people interested.</p> <p>Samaritan’s Purse asked whether it is possible to use refugees without permit to work as interpreters. The answer is yes if it is on a volunteer basis but even a bus ticket can be considered as payment</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>AOB</p>
	<p>Victoria Square has a huge problem with prostitution and pedophilia Children as young as 12 are involved and need help. There are men taking pictures around. Emily insisted that these issues need to be reported. She asked people to send her reports of what they see/know and she will compile the information. Caritas said the police should interfere.</p> <p>The next meeting will in three weeks’ time on Friday 7th October.</p>