

Meeting Minutes			
Name	Victoria Site Coordination	Meeting Date	10/06/2016
Meeting Location	Salvation Army Corps, Athens	Meeting Time	15:00
Chair person	Emily Carlsson, Program Coordinator, Salvation Army	Meeting Duration	2:00 hours
Minutes prepared by	Anne Veildkamp, Volunteer		
Participants	Caritas Athens Refugee Centre, Caritas Hellas, Faros, Internews, JRS, KHORA, Lalibela, Mercy Corps, Melissa Network, Municipality of Athens, PRAKSIS, Salvation Army, United Society, UNHCR, Amurtel, ELIX, One Child One World, AMEL,		
Agenda	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction of new actors 2. Update on VS Mapping & Site Profile 3. Education 4. Caritas new program 5. VS brochure, version 2: changes and updates 6. Emergency Preparedness and Contingency Planning for VS 7. Meeting with UNHCR CWC 8. AOB 		

Summary of discussions and action points

1.	Introduction of new actors
	Amurtel, ELIX, One Child One World, AMEL
2.	Update on VS Mapping & Site profile
	<p>SA: the taskforce has been selected. There are 4 categories of people: in apartments, hotels, squats, and new arrivals</p> <p>It will be useful to know how many people there are, what are the nationalities, their needs, etc...</p> <p>In the squats there are around 1000 people plus another 1000 living in hotels & apartments.</p> <p>UNHCR: The preregistration for these people might be at the end of July.</p> <p>Internews: they are working on the Audio in the busses that will take people from the camps to the registration places.</p>

3.	<p>Education</p>
	<p>JRS: is working with Elix: it has applied for 2 schools in the area for the summer. This will be for children age 6-12. It will be recreational activities, not learning except maybe basic English. 60 children will attend every day from Monday to Friday 8am-2pm. They are looking for patchwork funding.</p> <p>They are also thinking of how to integrate migrant children to Greek schools. This is a plan from the Ministry of Education to put refugee children in compulsory schooling starting in September. An ad hoc working group has been set up to think of solutions. The State does not have the financial means so it is unclear how it can happen. If it happens, VS will be a pilot program. They would need more funding to pay 3 teachers and 1 coordinator.</p> <p>The representative from JRS will send a draft to Emily detailing what they need exactly. Emily will forward to the group so anyone who can help can contact them directly.</p> <p>Melissa explained their new project: it is basic Greek training (language plus integration) for men and women 16-28 in the form of a crash course starting on June 21 with maximum 12 people per class. Melissa covers women's needs and the Forum for Refugee will take care of the men. There are 2 locations: one near VS and one near Alexandras (municipal building). It falls under the Municipality of Athens with the support of Mercy Corps. The module is navigational Greek that people can use daily. It selects a series of subjects useful in their daily life. The classes will be interactive, given by highly trained teachers with experience teaching Greek as a Second Language. There will be 2 morning sessions (9-13) and 2 afternoon session for approximately 48 men and 40 women. The long term goal is to put people in contact with potential employers. Trainers and translators will be involved. People interested will simply come by and register. Transportation costs will be covered and some food will be provided. Lunch served 1-2pm. Melissa also informed the group that they have a playroom and starting next month, they will be providing activities for young children to encourage mothers to come and attend the course.</p> <p>One child One World explained that they provide courses for children 6-12 years old who already go to school. This is for people that have been in Greece for a long time and will stay. They don't have requests from refugees.</p>
4.	<p>Caritas Hellas new program</p>
	<p>Caritas Hellas is opening a new day care center for information close to Plateia Valhi, Caritas Refugee Centre</p> <p>Hopefully this will happen next week. It consists of 4 social workers and 4 interpreters in Arabic Farsi French and English. It is for immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers. They also make referrals. The opening hours will 10am-3pm for the migrants but the center will be opened 9am-5pm.</p> <p>Caritas also mentioned the Christina hotel where 70 people are staying. The phone number is: 210-5202177</p> <p>Social worker is Zenya. It provides 3 meals a day (with special hours now for Ramadan). There will be another center (Information/Help Centre) opening in Exarchia on Benaki street for the general population and refugees where people can do arts, crafts, etc...</p>

5.	VS Brochure version 2
	United Society will be working on it. Emily asked those whose organizations are already mentioned on the brochure to send her the changes, if any, with cc to Rebecca (United Society). And for those who are not yet on the brochure they are invited to send their information. This brochure is for the VS area and not just the square. The printed copies are to be found in all the centers. There is also an online version, that can be printed as a poster.
6.	Emergency preparedness and contingency Planning for VS
	This topic is being discussed by all working sector working groups in case the EU-Turkey deal collapses. If suddenly thousands of people show up at VS again, the organizations need to be ready and act right away. The need is now to focus on the people who will be involved and to form a group that will work on the plan. It is important that all organizations are involved. Having a plan explaining who is responsible for what will help saving money.
7.	Meeting with UNHCR CWC (Communication with communities)
	A VS Coordination meeting with Timo Luege from UNHCR CWC, was agreed on for Friday the 17th June at 3pm. Communication about preregistration for urban areas should also be discussed.
8.	AOB
	<p>Didi from Amurtell explained that it is a women NGO focusing in Greece on the prenatal period. It works with midwives to help refugees. It is looking into opening a place in VS area specially for pregnant women. They help them with breastfeeding, give supplement nutrition for mothers breastfeeding. Before opening such a center they want to assess the needs. So She is looking forward to receiving people's input.</p> <p>Khora: explained that they are opening a new center near Exarchia Hill. Since it is a very big building of 7 floors (which is being renovated now) there will be space left for other organizations if they are interested.</p> <p>They will build a community kitchen, there will be language programs and all sorts of activities. The lease is for 1 year and it will open in one month.</p> <p>Faros told the group that they are expanding their center as of next week. The new center will have 3 showers, toilets, information, snacks, Breastfeeding facilities. It is mainly for women and children, but they are planning on opening to fathers as well. It will accommodate 60 people next to the current building. Opening time will be 11am-7pm while the actual center is open 10am-2pm.</p> <p>Internews: gave details on their Rumor Tracker project which collects all the rumors among refugees passing through Europe and debunk them. This is interesting because people can see where the information get twisted. She invited the participants to join their mailing list. It is very useful for refugees.</p> <p>There is also a new project called "In the Loop" which takes feedback from refugees. It is being designed and hopefully will be available next week. It is an A4 document easy to read and again she invited the participants to join the mailing list.</p> <p>The municipality had no update today.</p> <p>UNHCR described a new facility (dormitories) for about 300 people in Elefsina. The space is good, there are showers and bathrooms but because it is communal living families are less interested. The representative mentioned a recent article by The Independent about the sexual exploitation of young men. This is a recurring topic.</p> <p>The Khora representative told the group that it is a common practice in the VS area where some young men (Iranian about 20-25 years old or maybe even younger) sell sex for 20 euros. They take friends with them that sometimes have no idea what is going on and this is how it expands.</p>