

## Greece National Education Working Group

### MEETING MINUTES

17/10/2016 – UNHCR, ATHENS, GREECE

#### Agenda

1. Updates on the reception classes
  - a. Situation updates
  - b. Cultural mediators/translators
  - c. Communication with Greek and refugee communities
  - d. Material distribution – duplications and gaps
2. Access to sites
  - a. IEP accreditation/pending approval
3. Strategy on mother tongue education
4. Strategy on urban refugee children
5. IM updates and updates from partners
6. AOB
  - a. Standard rate of enumerations for Greek teachers
  - b. Employment for pre-registered refugee volunteer teachers

| Agenda item                         | Discussion points  | Action points<br>(by whom and by when)   |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| 1. Updates on the reception classes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Reception classes for 5 sites (see attached list) out of 6 planned, opened for the total of 430 students. A few schools protesting <a href="https://grecelists.wordpress.com/2016/10/10/day-1-for-1500-refugee-pupils-from-6-camps-at-20-greek-schools/">https://grecelists.wordpress.com/2016/10/10/day-1-for-1500-refugee-pupils-from-6-camps-at-20-greek-schools/</a></li><li>- Ritsona – children have not started to go to schools with an unknown reason (one school protesting, and there are other concerns such as hygiene and lack of payment for teachers). The parents and children are losing their patience and trust day by day and this needs an urgent clarification.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Clarify issues for Ritsona (IOM)</li></ul> |

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|             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eleonas – already 200 kids are attending, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> sector (90 more kids) to be included soon. There are 3 MOE coordinators.</li> <li>- A few schools protesting (Laghadikia, Academia Platonos, 81<sup>st</sup> elementary school of Athens).</li> <li>- In general, children are very excited, happy, waiting for the buses hours before they arrive.</li> <li>- MOE coordinators are doing a great job in organizing the registration and attendance</li> <li>- There are voices that multiple registration lists exist and not so clear. <u>Need better coordination between MOE coordinators and NGOs</u></li> <li>- New children are coming to register every day, and they are being accommodated every Monday to join the reception classes</li> <li>- There is a clear need for translators not only for the information sessions and registrations, but also during the bus rides and within schools as children tend to get into fights, sometimes very violent. Some children carry knives → need to developing leaflets for children/parents about their harmful behaviors? Disciplines in schools</li> <li>- Need for Cultural mediators/translators, as children between different nationalities are having troubles. Some children/parents started to express their unwillingness to attend. We need to propose through an official procedure (legal, ministerial) to change the policy – need a clear TOR to propose to MOE</li> <li>- Children over 15? Universities? No immediate plan. Can we support distance learning?</li> <li>- Next plan for the new reception classes? IOM will inform, but there is a certain sensitivity so the information needs to be dealt very carefully in collaboration with MOE.</li> <li>- NGOs can assist very much the MOE coordinators in collaborating for registration and information sessions. We can organize half a day training for NGOs to conduct focus group discussions – Attica and North working groups will decided on the needs.</li> <li>- Focus group discussions or anonymous feedback from parents on the reception classes will be helpful to understand how the children are doing in reception classes</li> <li>- Lunch distribution – children go to school hungry at 1:30pm as the catering happens only at 2pm. At site level, partners are liaising with Navy etc.</li> </ul> | <p>Need to develop a SOP with MOE for smoother collaboration with NGOs to help the MOE coordinators</p> <p>Develop TOR for cultural mediators (Finn Church, NCR, Save, ELIX)</p> <p>FGD instructions and trainings for NGOs to assist MOE<br/>FGD or anonymous feedback (SMS?) mechanism to be organized in sites (both children and parents)<br/>-clarify the current status and coordinate with other sectors to address the issue of lunch distribution time</p> |

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Duplications for school kits distribution: school kits for non-formal education in sites and formal reception classes are the same and there's a risk that children receive more than one kit. There's a need for better coordination</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Naoko requested IOM and HCR to verify already existing materials distributions/dates</li> </ul>    |
| <p>2. Communication with Greek and refugee communities</p> | <p>Naoko presented a CwC strategy – see attached</p> <p>There are many partners outside the Education partners. The government and civil society organization e.g. Ombudsman of the child, are already advocating.</p> <p><b>Ministry of Justice</b> is setting a strategy, meeting with partners, and organizing activities through the National Council against racism and intolerance. There is a Communication working group. Proposed activities – TV spots and radio spots, printed materials, to clarify the myths, in posters and leaflets, graphics, various newsletters.</p> <p>It is important to underline that access to school for refugee children will not deprive the Greek children of anything, and to highlight benefits that education for everyone could have.</p> <p>Greek children as champions of cultural mediators. UNHCR and UNICEF have been working on the school projects.</p> <p>UNHCR: since 1994 – sensitising Greek children about refugee rights. Annual national student competitions with MOE and Ombusman, academic institutions and NGOs. A call is made for artistic creations for all schools mainly for Greek children. Also training of teachers how to provide lessons to children, which can be expanded to parents.</p> <p>UNICEF has a very similar activity – training teachers on child rights and this year focused on refugee rights. An exhibition of the products produced by students is planned on mid-November.</p> <p>Goodwill ambassadors / celebrities to advocate?</p> <p>All partners need to consider how their projects can benefit host communities.</p> |  |
| <p>3. IEP submission/<br/>pending approval</p>             | <p>IEP might have already released the approval status?</p> <p>Xenia and Despina (and possibly representatives from Save) are meeting with MoMPo to clarify the SOP (standard operating procedure) after the approval from IEP</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Verify the current status and procedure (Xenia and Despina) and inform the way forward</li> </ul> |

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|  | Advocacy is needed for organizations that are at planning stage. How can we plan without visiting the sites and finding needs/gaps?   |   |
| 4. Mother tongue education   | Presentation was made by Naoko – see attached<br>A task force to start to verify materials  | –   |
| 5. Urban refugee children  | <p>There are 2 types of supporting needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Children that are already attending the morning classes</li> <li>- Children who have not yet registered to go to school</li> </ul> <p>It is agreed that children should be learning in separate, reception classes in the afternoon in order to better learn.</p> <p>However, it is extremely difficult to communicate with the people in squats. But NCR can try to facilitate discussions for identification of needs?</p> <p>Partners who host children under UNHCR accommodation schemes – Xenia will clarify what is going on</p> <p>Greek council for refugees – registered 200 children</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– NCR to seek a possibility of liaising with urban population</li> <li>– Xenia to gather information on UNHCR accommodation schemes</li> </ul> |
| 6. AOB<br>- Standard rate of enumerations for Greek teachers<br>- Employment for pre-registered refugee volunteer teachers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minimum wage for Greek teachers is 780 Euro. We need to set up some standard rates in order to minimize efforts that each organisation needs to investigate, and not to cause any problem with the MOE and different rates offered by different NGOs</li> <li>- Payment for pre-registered asylum seekers</li> </ul> <p>Ministry of Labour and MoMPo have not come to an agreement for the payment of pre-registered asylum seekers.</p> <p>Once it is allowed to pay the pre-registered refugees, the same scale applies without discrimination. Refugees and migrants have the same rights.</p>  | UNHCR/UNICEF to see the regional director of Attica for advice  |
| 7. Next meeting  | Monday, 31 <sup>st</sup> October, @ UNHCR offices   |   |

Participants:

|                               |                            |              |  |
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