

GREECE NATIONAL EDUCATION SECTOR WORKING GROUP MEETING MINUTES

21, AUGUST 2017 @ UNICEF, ATHENS, GREECE

MEETING AGENDA

National ESWG

1. Review of action points from the last meeting
2. Update on the new school year preparation
 - Presentation on the analysis of the pre-registration exercise
 - Update from MOE
 - Preparation for the communication campaign
3. Brief presentation by the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) Sub Working Group on referral pathways
4. AOB

Attica WG

1. Review of action points from the last meeting
2. Updates from Athens Municipality coordination group
3. IM updates
4. AOB

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION POINTS	ACTION POINTS (by whom and when)
1. Review of action points from the last meeting	Standard agenda point: Not done in this meeting	
2. Update on the new school year preparation	<p>a) Presentation on the preliminary analysis of the pre-registration exercise – see attached presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pre-registration of refugee students for 2017/2018 school year took place during the month of June (deadlines were 16 June for primary 6-12 years and 30 June for 13-15 years). - Dissemination and sensitization efforts were done through different tools for communication dissemination: MOE circular, Facebook, Refugee.Info website. NGOs did direct face-to-face communications and outreach, and accompanied 	Action: Naoko to share presentation with meeting minutes → the preliminary result presentation was already shared, waiting for more inputs by some partners by Fri 25 Aug to produce the latest version.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assessment by ESWG coordination team conducted over two-week period in July with Accommodation and UAC shelter partners. The preliminary result is not representative but provides an indication/snapshot of situation in June - Findings show 49% of 6-12 years were pre-registered, variations across age ranges - Afghans were only 5% of assessed population but 63% had pre-registered. Syrians were largest group and 40% pre-registered. - Reasons for not pre-registering (see PPT). Include arriving at school after deadlines, lack of children motivation. From the islands, children were awaiting transfer and multiple cases of children with special needs pending assessment from KEDDY - Recommendations include continuing to work with MoE to sensitize refugee community from Sept onwards <p>2) Update from MOE- Gelly Aroni, Coordinator of the Refugee Education Working Group, MOE</p> <p><u>General</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thanked partners for support for NGO support in pre-registration, flagging it would not have been possible otherwise - MoE is preparing the circular for 2017/2018 for the establishment of morning and afternoon reception classes - awaiting Ministry of Finance for sign-off. This circular will most likely be approved in mid-September, then RECs and teachers will be recruited/hired. - MOE is seeking ways to support 15 year+ group. All children, including over 15 years old, can still register at mainstream school and can't be legally turned away but to attend a school without reception class would not provide them the specialized support - MoE flagged need for support on vaccination campaigns for those children in accommodation/urban areas. - 2 new colleagues have been introduced into MoE team; Tita, will regularly attend ESWG meetings. Vasiliki, another member will be working on communication campaign and sensitization (will be working with IEP). Thanked UNICEF for their support. - ESWG, under the guidance of MoE, will work with Refugee.info for an updated blog, to be translated into refugees' languages (Arabic, Farsi, Kurdish, Sorani and Urdu) and printed information on registration information - No plan for interpreters to assist reception classes- not sufficient funds. Working with UNICEF to hire cultural mediators who can support RECs on enrolment and consultation, not in-class support 	<p>NGOs to disseminate the information on school enrollment for urban accommodations and for camps, support sensitization on enrollment and accompany to nearby schools</p> <p>MOE and ESWG will work on the blog post on Refugee.info to be translated into refugees' languages</p>
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	<p>Off-site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By law, any refugee or migrant child can register throughout the year but difficulty is if reception classes are full. - MOE secured funds for 700 reception morning classes. A circular has been distributed to EWG actors with schools which will have reception classes, including in high schools. - More schools can be added in September to accommodate children unable to register by June deadlines. Challenges still prevail in providing education to refugees, especially problems in data due to transient and refugee movement patterns. There may be shortage of specialized teachers (science, math etc.) at gymnasium level but Greek language classes is priority - For students who pre-registered they are to start on 11 Sept to the schools they registered. Which schools will have reception classes (ZEP) will only be officially communicated after the Ministerial decision is approved around mid-September, then teacher recruitment will follow. Until then, refugee children will attend only regular classes with Greek children. - For student who have not yet pre-registered: they have to enroll in nearby schools from 1st Sept. Although the registration can happen throughout the year, it will be recommended to enroll before the 11th Sept. Since the principals changed, the 1st Sept might be too hectic to enroll. By Sept 4/5th, the new principals will be in a better position. - Once the ministerial decision is approved and if children are enrolled in schools where no ZEP is allocated, the children can be transferred to nearby schools which have ZEP. If there are more than 9 foreign students, the MoE can consider the establishment of a ZEP class. - It is important that the MoE is informed when any problem occurs during the registration. Any problems can be sent to Tita and Gelly (Εκπαίδευση Προσφύγων info-refugee-education@minedu.gov.gr), who can speak to specific departments and support individual schools to register children <p>Accommodation sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There will still be afternoon classes (DYEP) for large camps but fewer than 2017. - Mid-September is likely for start of contracts for Refugee Education Coordinators (RECs). This means that registration for the afternoon reception classes for camps will only happen after that – this needs to be communicated with the Site Management Support partners and education partners working in camps. - On transportation, funds are secured for this 2017/2018 academic year from ECHO to IOM, for transport from reception sites but won't be for 2018/2019, in line with the strategy for MoMP to move people towards urban areas and away from reception sites. 	<p>NGOs to support school enrollment from 1st September, preferably before 11th Sept but continuously</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In some camps which have public schools in the vicinity, such as Eleonas and Ritsona (gymnasium), and if the children have already gone through the the afternoon reception classes during the last school year, they are encouraged to enroll in nearby regular schools. The RECs should already have started communicating this information in June but if not, they should enroll in nearby schools outside the camps. However, there will still be the afternoon reception classes especially for the new arrivals in Eleonas. <p>Islands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No authorization for MoE to establish the afternoon reception classes (DYEP) for children living in camps and RICs. Morning reception classes (ZEP) only for those outside of accommodation centres. In accommodation centres, only progress has been to have kindergarten there. <p>Update on vaccinations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shortage of MMR has been solved thanks to UNICEF support. - UNHCR with KELPNO planning on campaigns from mid/end of-sept until end of Oct/Nov for refugee children living in apartments. Receiving info now to procure vaccines. - For RICs, KELPNO will be in charge of health services. Those already planned by actors such as MDM are likely to still continue - UNHCR still mapping out gaps in vaccinations <p>3) Preparation for the communication campaign</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Different key messages required for different groups to start registration from 4th September - ESWG will work together with ESWG, accommodation and UAC shelter actors - Need sensitization campaign including TV spots targeting both refugee and Greek populations - Come September/October, ESWG actors to proactively target children who have not yet registered 	<p>Issues on registration on the islands need to be discussed closely with MOE</p> <p>ESWG to collect information on vaccination needs</p> <p>Next meeting: Friday 1 September at UNHCR from 11am to launch messages on school enrollment process</p>
<p>3. Brief presentation by the GBV SWG on referral pathways</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNHCR colleagues (Marina and Tatiana) shared what SGBV WG has been working on regarding referral pathways for the accommodation sites (for urban settings this has not been finalized). In order to ensure that non-formal education teachers are aware of the pathways, the ESWG need to ensure that they are linked to GBV focal points in each site. Document includes all the steps when a survivor discloses an incident. Document includes; reporting entry points, names of camp actors, and also some useful hotline contact detail. 	<p>Link the focal point with ESWG members in each site</p> <p>Action: Training and teacher materials development- meet with</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recommend survivors to come into contact with the case management actor so can be a holistic approach and refer to more services than just health - Can share for each site, the general mapping they have done of camp actors at each site for SGBV referral pathways. Given turnover and changes in actors, best to contact UNHCR when information required. - Action plan in place– discussed need for guidance note for students and training for teachers. They have training for general audience, main definitions etc but it needs to be contextualized for the audience of teachers. 	Education volunteers to review materials and contextualize for Education. Volunteers: Angeliki (METAdrasi), Nick (BAAS), Lourdes (TdH), Christina (Giving for Better Future)
Attica ESWG		
4. General Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update from Save the Children as their Attica Field Office closes on 31st August, handover of activities to DRC (Schisto), SIF (Malakasa) and UNICEF, British Council and ELIX (Skaramangas) - 28th August meeting with Municipality planned, with UNICEF working on TOR for the group 	

PARTICIPANT LIST (as per the finalized list)

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NEXT MEETING:

Friday 1st September (11.00am) @ UNHCR meeting room, 91 Michalakopoulou, Athens

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