

31 January 2018

Regional IM Working Group

– Meeting minutes

Present: UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF, Lumos

Location: UNICEF, Geneva

IM Retreat in December 2017

On the 5 December 2017, the RIMWG held a half-day retreat, attended by IFRC, IOM, UNICEF and UNHCR, with the objective to develop a common set of priorities for 2018 between the organisations participating in the IMWG, that can be managed and monitored within the IMWG during 2018. The following were the key outcomes from this retreat:

1. Strengthen the interagency IM coordination at the country level.
2. Greater awareness of all individuals involved in information management activities in Europe and their respective skillsets.
3. Organise a meeting with communication and advocacy colleagues from a range of organisations to better focus on priority areas for joint advocacy and supporting data related activities.
4. Coordinate joint needs assessment and joint analysis.
5. Strengthen collaboration on data collection and share best practices.
6. Develop common products for key thematic areas including child detention, access to education and health services and the impact of Dublin regulation.
7. Collate information on integration activities and projects being conducted in Europe and develop a common platform to publish these. Adopt common indicators to monitor the progress of these integration activities.
8. Identify opportunities to work with research institutes and academia and engage with them to carry out research projects (e.g. on social inclusion, combatting xenophobia access to services, developing predictive models for refugee and migrant arrival flows and to further inform contingency planning and operations in country offices).
9. Map research initiatives that have collected data.
10. Develop SOPs for how to share data and analysis in Turkey specifically.
11. Share the joint recommendations to the EU on data relating to refugee and migrant children with country teams (once published).

General updates

1. The [published last meeting minutes](#) (31 October 2018).
2. For the most recent updates, see the [Mediterranean response data portal](#).
3. The [RIMWG TORs](#) have now been accepted as a working document for the group.
4. While conditions for voluntary return to Syria remain difficult, there are reports of several thousand returnees in late 2017 and early 2018. All organisation will review what information is available on voluntary and forced returns, including the figures published

- by Eurostat, and how it can be consolidated in order to ensure that published figures on returns are accurate and consistent.
5. The joint position paper for the EU including recommendations for improvements of European statistics on refugee and migrant children, which is linked to the consultation being undertaken by DG Home, will now be presented to DG Home in February.
 6. IOM:
 - a. The next phase of the activities for the Mediterranean has been confirmed for a 26-month period. IOM are currently reviewing where to prioritise their data collection activities in Italy and Spain.
 - b. Both secondary and primary data collection in the Eastern Mediterranean countries will continue in 2018.
 - c. In Turkey, the DTM has been operational since 2016 and is fully funded for 2018. The DTM activities in 2018 will span 25 provinces. IOM is conducting a baseline assessment to determine migrant presence in the provinces and mobility between provinces. In addition, IOM is conducting surveys with a selected sample of migrants to better understand their profile and needs. The DTM activities are conducted in partnership with the Turkish Directorate General for Migration Management with which IOM has signed a Letter of Understanding to carry out DTM activities.
 - d. IOM have observed no recent arrivals via the Black Sea.
 - e. IOM are able to support RIMWG activities in 2018 which could include e.g. the graphic design of publications, hosting of meetings/events etc. The plans for this will be finalised in early 2018.
 7. UNHCR:
 - a. Are testing the new beta version of **DEEP** (Data Entry and Exploration Platform - see beta.thedeep.io/login/). DEEP is a tool that enables key information in reports, datasets, news articles and web pages to be tagged consistently using a customisable analytical framework. In Europe, this has potential to support media monitoring, replace the existing RIMWG assessment registry and to help analyse the increasing volume of qualitative and quantitative data.
 8. UNICEF:
 - a. UNICEF are conducting several interesting research projects in Europe that are collecting relevant data. These include a report on UASC in Nordic countries by the UNICEF national committees, which provides mainly qualitative data and is more policy-oriented. In addition, a research project has been started on children left behind in five Central Asian countries.
 - b. UNICEF's regional child rights monitoring continues. Activities are increasing in scope in Greece in particular, where UNICEF are partnering with the Ombudsman for children, the National Centre for Social Solidarity and the Ministry of Education. In Bulgaria UNICEF continues to monitor the situation of children in detention.
 - c. UNICEF are expected to close their international operations in Germany by mid-year but plan to sustain child rights monitoring capacity there.
 - d. Are seeking funding for a study in Italy looking at the situation of refugee and migrant children that have turned 18 after arriving in Italy.
 9. DG Justice programme:

- a. In 2017, this included IOM, UNICEF and Save the Children. IOM is conducting a survey with children in open reception centres in arrival and transit countries including Italy and Greece. In addition to understanding the socio-demographic profile of the children on the move, the surveys also focus on the quality of the services provided. The findings of these surveys should be available in June.
 - b. Save the Children are planning to collect the data for this project in early 2018.
 - c. UNHCR have now joined the project
 - d. UNICEF will create a shared Dropbox to share the information for this project as even if the raw data is not shareable, there is an opportunity to conduct joint analysis on the aggregated information available.
10. UNHCR - Middle East and North Africa
- a. Will provide a quick highlight of population movements in Libya and Algeria in future meetings
 - b. The ASSIST database is currently being rolled out to support interagency case management and referrals in Libya.

Update on profiling in Italy and Spain

In Italy, 360 Guineans, 360 Eritreans and 170 Sudanese have been profiled. It proved difficult to find a sufficient number of Sudanese that had recently arrived for the findings to be meaningfully statistically representative.

In Spain, 1,004 interviews have been completed. A broad range of nationalities have been profiled, with most respondents from West Africa (65%), North Africa (10%) and the Middle East (10%).

The reports will be published by early March and there will be an event to support the launch. A lessons learned exercise will be conducted in the coming weeks to help guide future exercises.

Education factsheet

As identified at the IM retreat, producing a common factsheet on education in Europe for refugee and migrant children is a priority. It was agreed that the next step would be to conduct a mapping of the available information which could include:

- a. Statistics at country level of the numbers of refugee and migrant children registered in schools.
- b. Information on Challenges and barriers to Education that has already been collated by UNICEF.
- c. Data from the IOM DTM flow monitoring surveys on the access to education of children interviewed
- d. Training initiatives in Western European countries that might provide access to information.

It was agreed that it would make sense to initially focus on countries where information is more readily available including Greece, Bulgaria and Serbia. However, other countries, such as Germany, should also be prioritised due to the significant number of refugee and migrant children in such countries.

Lumos research project

1. [Lumos](#) is a private sector foundation, started by the author JK Rowling. Lumos's focus is on replacing institutional care where possible with family care options.
2. They are currently working on two demonstration projects in Bulgaria and Ethiopia to evaluate how best to replace institutional care with family care arrangements.
3. In 2018, they will conduct a research project in six countries in Europe (see the [concept note](#)). The aim of the research would be to identify what data is available in various European countries on the kinds of care arrangements provided, to identify promising care arrangement practices and to attempt to evaluate the costs of different care arrangements.
4. They would like the support of organisations participating in the RIMWG in participating in a steering group. The TORs of the steering group are yet to be confirmed, but it is likely that the role would encompass providing guidance on different datasets available, helping to collate the available information and supporting the analysis of these datasets. Interested organisations should contact [Claire Connellan](#) and [Edgar Scrase](#) by 2 March 2018.

Refugee and migrant children factsheet for 2017

UNHCR, UNICEF and IOM will produce and publish the Q3 interagency factsheet on refugee and migrant children in early February. For the Q4 product, all three organisations will work on as much content as possible during February to support the publication of that factsheet in March.

Collaboration on common datasets

IOM and UNHCR will continue to explore opportunities for joint analysis of recently collected information from profiles and the DTM in order to maximise the utility of this data (e.g. by identifying trends).

Follow up actions

1. Organisations interested in participating in the steering group for the Lumos research project on child care arrangements should contact [Claire Connellan](#) and [Edgar Scrase](#) by 2 March 2018.
2. All organisation will review what information is available on voluntary and forced returns, including the figures published by Eurostat, and how it can be consolidated in order to ensure that published figures on returns are accurate and consistent.
3. UNHCR, UNICEF and IOM to finalise the Q3 interagency factsheet on refugee and migrant children in early February.
4. UNHCR UNICEF and IOM to finalise the joint EU recommendations during February.
5. UNHCR and IOM to further discuss greater collaboration on common datasets.
6. DG Justice programme - UNICEF will create a shared information repository.
7. RIMWG organisations to conduct a mapping of the available Education information.

Next meeting

To be confirmed - likely the 4 April 2017 (1400 to 1530) at IOM in Geneva