

Minutes: Protection Working Group (national), Athens – revised

Date:	31 July 2018	
Participants:	UNHCR, DRC, EASO, UNICEF, Metadrassi, NCR, IRC, CEAR, SOLIDARITY NOW, SPANISH RED CROSS, IFRC, ICRC	
Chair:	Miriam Aertker, UNHCR, Petra Samways, DRC	
Agenda	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review of last month's meeting's action points and minutes 2. Update on the protection situation in the islands and mainland 3. Updates from CP, SGBV and CwC WG 4. OAED briefing 5. Initial findings of the 2018 participatory assessment exercise 6. PwSN SOP and guidance update for 2018 7. Protection Monitoring Dashboards (June quarterly external update/dashboards) 8. AOB 	
Theme	Notes:	Action Points
1. Review of last meeting's action points (28 June)	No comments or amendments on the minutes were received. Minutes were uploaded to the portal. Please find the link below: https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/64978	To check on the security in sites matrix for circulation, if available.
2. Update on the protection situation in the islands and mainland	<p>Islands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Approximately 1,200 new arrivals by sea were recorded during the period 9-22 July and approx. 670 arrivals, mostly Turkish nationals, through the land border of Evros. Two shipwrecks occurred in this period with loss of life and missing persons, one in the river of Evros and one in the Turkish waters between the Turkish Coast and Lesvos. – Currently there are approximately 16,000 refugees and migrants on the islands. RICs operate far beyond their capacity (3,800 persons capacity); approx. 11,000 stay in RICs, in overcrowded and substandard conditions. Discussions are underway on transfers to the mainland but there is limited capacity in mainland sites and ESTIA spaces. Authorities anticipate that during August and September the number of transfers to the mainland will be increased. Serious security incidents are recorded in the RICs (including physical and sexual, gender violence, high risk environment for children). Access to services in the RICs is also limited. The vulnerability screening process is delayed, creating a backlog for asylum interviews as well. – Long timelines for asylum interviews, including on the mainland: interviews scheduled through to 2021 or in some cases 2022. – UNHCR deployed experts in RIS to support with first reception processes. – UNHCR has handed over to RIS all activities related to transfers (compilation of lists, outreach and info provision) to mainland sites except from the transportation component which UNHCR will cover until the end of August 2018. 	Advocacy to be strengthened regarding SGBV (islands) e.g. through SGBV WG, Advocacy WG and Health WG.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – IRC: high numbers of survivors from sexual violence currently stranded in RICs being supported with IRCs MH/PSS services. There are no options to move them out of the RICs like Moria, in particular men who have experienced sexual violence. We need to advocate strongly for moving such cases out of RICs immediately for protection reasons, whether to the mainland or for other alternative/safe shelter on the islands. This issue should be addressed at multiple levels/channels (SGBV WG, AWG etc). UNHCR informed that ESTIA accommodation on the islands is also limited unless people move to the mainland. Since UNHCR will increase transfers to UNHCR accommodation from the islands to the mainland, it is expected that such vulnerable cases will be referred to apartments on the islands. <p>Evros RIC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The lack of vulnerability screening continues. MSF supports with the provision of primary health services but not vulnerability screening which remains a critical gap. Age assessment, family unity, UASC safety/accommodation within the RIC are other serious shortcomings. UNHCR continues its advocacy at all levels and has suggested the creation of an Evros Sub Working Group to tackle in depth all issues related to the RIC in Evros. <p>Mainland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Lack of capacity leads to continued congestion on the islands. In the last two weeks, slight improvement noted in mainland site capacity (200/300 spaces identified per week), which also led to higher numbers of transfers per week from the islands. – New mainland places being established and advocated for by the MoMP currently: Vagiochori with tents only, other sites under discussion (Kipselochori and Stileda) but not finalized. – Direct transfers into ESTIA accommodation increased greatly in the recent period as well, without interim placement in a site as a middle step (as was the preferred process by MoMP), as an exceptional measure to decongest the islands as soon as possible. These additional places linked to UNHCR’s decreased presence in sites meaning that fewer referrals were advancing from sites to ESTIA. UNHCR will, in tandem, focus on boosting referrals from sites through coordination with SMS actors as well. Process to be clarified for ESTIA referrals: possibly SMS > RIS > DPAS. – DPAS: the Directorate for the Protection of Asylum Seekers, newly established directorate under the MoMP, competent authority for allocation of safe accommodation for asylum seekers), but this needs to be made as efficient and effective as possible. DPAS is slowly becoming a greater player within this process but currently the referral pathways for each site is still being finalized (see point above around process). – Process for detainees: DPAS focuses only on asylum seekers, but DPAS is receiving GCR referrals from Amagdeleza, for instance. 	<p>UNHCR will inform about the setup of the Evros Sub Working Group</p>
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<p>3. Updates from CP, SGBV and CwC Working Groups</p>	<p>CWC WG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Focus on provision of information, production and dissemination of information materials, including IM tools, information sessions, as well as strengthening of complaint and feedback mechanisms (two way communication). – OAED procedures and income declaration procedures were clarified during the last CwC. – Athens Survival Guide: are updated and copies are available in French/Greek/English reprints will be done. Farsi/Arabic versions will be ready shortly. A Thessaloniki service mapping brochure is also available. – HELP website flyers were disseminated. <p>CP WG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – On 10 July the Parliament voted the law 4554/18 of the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Social Solidarity entitled <i>“Provisions on Social Security and Pension, tackling of undeclared work, strengthening of workers’ protection, guardianship of unaccompanied minors plus other provisions.”</i> The Law includes provisions on guardianship of unaccompanied children.¹ <p>SGBV WG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The WG is currently working on the systematization and analysis of gaps and challenges to the SGBV response focusing in sites in the mainland, including the security/police response to SGBV, – New projects on SGBV prevention and response through UNHCR IPs; Diotima in Lesvos (Moria) and in Urban Thessaly, PRAKSIS in Samos (Vathy), ARSIS in Leros/Kos (as of September) 	<p>Agencies to reach out to UNHCR for additional survival guide copies as well as feedback regarding UNHCR HELP website (challenges, information revisions etc.)</p>
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¹ For the first time in the Greek legislation on aliens, reception and asylum procedures a guardianship system (largely based on the regular system of the Greek Civil Code –CC- on guardianship of minors) is established, covering non-Greek nationals and stateless UAC. The provisions on Guardianship (articles 13 to 32 of the Law) includes definitions of the unaccompanied and separated child, of the roles of the competent authorities and the definition of the competence of the Public Prosecutor. It also defines the procedure for the appointment of the guardian by the Public Prosecutor, the appointment and replacement of the professional guardian, the competencies of the professional guardian, the establishment and composition of a Supervisory Board of Guardianship for unaccompanied children, a 3 member body charged with the assessment and determination of the Best Interest of the Child in cases where important decisions for the child are to be taken (e.g. health reasons, travel or settlement in another country, voluntary return, doubts regarding family reunification, doubts regarding the age of the minor etc.). The Law provides that the Guardian can arrange for the stay of the child to accommodation centres, or (with the permission of the Supervisory Board and the Public Prosecutor) for the placement on supported independent living or foster family. It provides that before any decision regarding the Child, an assessment of the Best Interest has to take place. The law also provides for the creation of a Registry for unaccompanied minors, a Registry for Professional Guardians and a Registry of Accommodation Centres for Unaccompanied Minors, the establishment of a new Directorate for the Protection of Unaccompanied Children under EKKA, the selection procedure for professional guardians, their training, supervision and support, suspension and termination of the guardianship. The new Directorate will also be competent for the management of positions of temporary accommodation (safe zones, hotels), the monitoring for the standards for the operation of accommodation centres for UAC and for the improvement of their quality and services. “Art. 32 provides for the entry into force of the provisions on guardianship. These will enter into force on the date of the issuance of the decision of the Minister of Labour by which the Regulation of the Supervisory Board for Unaccompanied Minors is approved (according to art. 19 par. 6 of the Law). Finally, art. 62 is providing for the procedures of registration of childbirths by undocumented mothers.

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4. OAED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A detailed briefing was given by UNHCR on the attached “<i>note on the structure, competence, and services offered by OAED</i>”, including administrative procedures for the registration of unemployed PoC², as well as on income declarations. In addition to benefits outlined in the note, registering with the unemployment services is a prerequisite in order to receive support in seeking employment (vocational training, job placements, traineeships, counselling etc.). Submitting an Income Declaration and receiving a Tax Clearance Notice (ekataristiko simeioma) is a prerequisite for applying for state assistance. – 15-74 year olds eligible to enroll, including beneficiaries of international protection. Requires registering in person with: an income tax declaration or a solemn declaration of not being obliged to submit a tax declaration; a utility bill with a legal address; AMKA; official ID; residence permit.³ 	PP presentation and briefing notes attached to the minutes
5. Update: Participatory assessment (initial results)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The PA report is currently being compiled/systematized. In total, 158 focus groups were carried out together with 39 organizations operating in Greece (including UN, NGOs, and authorities). FGD were carried out in Farsi, Arabic, French, English, Kurmanji, Sorani, Greek, Urdu and Dari with PoCs of 30 different countries (including Greece). 88 FGD were held on the islands and 70 on the mainland in 11 locations. 1436 (787 men, 649 females) participated. Several focus groups were carried out with PwSN, LGBTI, older persons as well as host community members. – Risks and recommendations (general overview) are found in the attached PowerPoint presentation. 	PP presentation is attached to the minutes. Report (draft) will be shared in mid-August for review and dashboards in September.
6. PWSN SOP and guidance (revised 2018)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Revised and circulated. Currently the SOP and guidance note is being translated in Greek. 	Any feedback and comment is welcome from PWG members.
7. Protection Monitoring Dashboards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Quarterly external protection monitoring mainland/sites dashboards (June) were briefly presented. PWG to brainstorm on how to analyze the information (also for advocacy) 	Finalized dashboards are attached after review by SMS actors.
8. AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – DRC: Detention of asylum seekers in Attica, they are deprived access to legal remedies, legal support and access to asylum. Issue to be raised in the next Legal Actors WG (scheduled for September). 	DRC to share briefing note with UNHCR/detention monitoring team, for follow up/advocacy brainstorming via email.

Next PWG meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday 11 September at 10am, UNHCR conference room 2 (and not 28th August)**.

² Manpower Employment Organisation, supervised by the Ministry of Labour. 6 offices for special social groups, including asylum seekers and refugees.

³ Much further detail in PP presentation, including benefits of registration and tax declaration issue.