15 March 2019

Regional IM Working Group – Meeting minutes

Present: UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF, Lumos, JIPS
Location: UNICEF, Geneva

General updates

1. The published last meeting minutes (6 November 2018).
2. The report the RIMWG November 2018 workshop on developing collaboration at regional and country level.
3. For the most recent updates, see the Mediterranean response data portal and IOM's Flow Monitoring site for Europe.

RIMWG Workshop – follow up

During the workshop in November 2018, participants agreed on the following four priorities:

1. **Improve quality of data:** Through new and existing partnerships, advocacy and technical support to government authorities improve disaggregation of data on arrivals, as well as refugees and migrants present. Agencies involved in site profiles, vulnerabilities assessments and needs assessments to streamline activities by designing joint data collection tools and joint products.
2. **Stronger inter-agency coordination at country level:** Agencies should aim at establishing formal or informal IMWG at country level (or use other already existing forums) to facilitate data sharing among the humanitarian community, to share good practices and knowledge on methodologies and tools and help respond to the information needs of the responders, donors, research and academia.
3. **More internal information sharing:** There was a shared interest to improve internal information/data sharing among the three agencies. This should also include better contingency planning at the country level and early warning on arrivals, emerging migration routes, etc. Agencies should also aim towards joint data analysis to support coordination and response activities. To address concerns over internal data sharing, the regional IMWG shall conduct an analysis of respective data protection and sharing policies and provide guidance to country staff from all three agencies on best ways to do so.
4. **Capacity Building:** IM focal points require additional support to build their capacity and that of government counterparts; UNHCR, UNICEF and IOM regional focal points will compile and share with COs training materials and courses existing within agencies that can benefit others. Whenever possible, in-person trainings undertaken by individual agencies could be expanded to invite participants from other sister agencies.

Following on from this, practical projects to support these were discussed in this meeting.

1. **Improve quality of data:** With the first priority, it was agreed to review the potential for joint products or dashboards highlighting key facts and figures for common countries of origin of refugees and migrants in Europe. These factsheets or dashboards would potentially:

a. Be as factual as possible, in order to simplify clearance. It would also be simpler also to consider initially a joint report rather than a joint dataset.
b. Include a focus on children – more information should soon be available on this too from the upcoming DTM analysis.
c. Include more information on the reasons for leaving and issues experienced on route (e.g. from the recent profiles and DTM information). UNICEF also have reports ("child notices") on the situation of the children in countries of origin with high numbers of children in those locations. The data was collated in 2016 but would still be relevant. IOM are also commencing vulnerability analyses of the arrivals via the Western, Central and Eastern routes.
d. Consider including other aspects for which some limited data is available, such as opportunities for return.

Initial priority nationalities to include could be Syrians, Afghans and Iranians, as well as several West African countries. Some draft content will be produced for review by May this year. IOM also have plans to publish profiles based on the DTM data for specific nationalities and the RIMWG products will be developed to avoid duplication on these.

2. **Stronger inter-agency coordination at country level:** will require follow up in key countries, particularly including in the Western Balkans. UNHCR is also conducting a series of consultations with governments and researchers (estimated to be approximately 60% of the data portal users) in order to better understand existing and near future information needs.

3. **More internal information sharing:** UNICEF, IOM and UNHCR will review their respective internal policies on data protection and produce guidance for country offices in April. IOM already share their anonymised raw datasets with key researchers, based on agreed data sharing protocols. UNHCR has developed a data anonymisation platform called RIDL that stores data in its most detailed form, but that then supports automated sharing of just the aggregated / anonymised information.

4. **Capacity Building:** [UNHCR's learning platform] and [UNICEF Agora learning platform] are online and available to all UN and NGO counterparts, who can register by following the relevant link (put one of the UNHCR RIMWG focal points as the UNHCR contact person). The learn and connect platforms contain a range of relevant courses on protection, programme management, and in particular a series of 25 modules on Operational Data Management. UNICEF, IOM and UNHCR will compile a list of relevant online trainings and share with country focal points from all three agencies.

In early July, UNHCR will organise an *analysis workshop*, potentially with the participation of IOM and UNICEF for selected countries in Europe. This will include an inter-agency focus, as well as to increase the collaboration between information management and protection colleagues. It's likely to be approximately 3 days with a practical focus on identifying key messages, developing analytical narratives and understanding useful tools for analysis. A concept note for this will be circulated in early April.

Inter-agency factsheets

Education factsheet – has been finalised and will be published by early April after clearance by the regional directors of all three agencies.

Children's factsheet – the publication frequency of every six months will be retained as this remains a popular product. All the data should be available by mid-April (some flow monitoring

statistics and nationality and demographics from Spain are still being compiled) and the year end 2018 edition should be published by the end of April.

(Re)introducing qualitative data analysis using DEEP

JIPS presented an excellent summary of the Data Exploration and Analysis Platform (DEEP) which can be used to structure and analyse qualitative information (e.g. by curating information in Word or PDF documents or from RSS feeds and websites) as well as providing a useful assessment registry component. It has been used successfully in the Venezuela situation by IFRC to analyse social media information. In Yemen, a significant volume of secondary data has been populated by two analysts over approximately 2 years. UNHCR will follow up to find and share outputs from projects that have used DEEP to better highlight its utility.

DEEP's key use cases are:
 a. Social media monitoring - frequency and coverage
 b. Analysis of testimonies
 c. Ingest and tag qualitative data. It cannot currently be used to process quantitative data.
 d. Assessment registry

JIPs are also organising a Tagathon on the 22nd March to help explore DEEP and technical experts will be available to provide guidance on it.

Lumos research project on care arrangements for children

A first draft of the report has been produced on the care arrangements in the six pilot countries (see the concept note). It was agreed to structure the responses by type of care arrangement rather than by country, as while some information has been collected from all countries, it remains patchy. The status by country is as follows:

- **Italy** – IOM's consultant has submitted a detailed report, based on their survey of the many centres and practises in the country,
- **Bulgaria** – Lumos successfully requested the required information from the State Agency for Refugees via a freedom of information request.
- **Spain** – UNHCR's consultant will submit their report next week.
- **Greece** – information on a range of centres has been collated.
- **Netherlands** - NIDOS have provided the information from their own centres but have not yet had a response from COA. Lumos are following up, with support from UNHCR.
- **France** – secondary data has been provided by UNICEF and UNHCR and while not comprehensive, provides some useful information.

Once the remaining data is compiled, Lumos will sharpen the analysis, benchmarking the results against care arrangement standards, and more clearly identifying the gaps in the child care situations. The next version of the report will be circulated at the end of the first week in April. UNHCR and UNICEF will also follow up with communications teams in particular countries to see if we can complement the data collected with a story about an institution or foundation that provided the information as well as the possibility of human interest stories to strengthen the children's voices in the narrative.

Profiling activities

At the end of 2017, UNHCR collected useful profiles of recent arrivals to Italy (Eritreans, Guineans and Sudanese) and Spain (all nationalities). Between July and October in 2018, IOM

collected similarly useful information from the flow monitoring that started in Spain during 2018. All three reports have now been published (UNHCR's Italy and Spain reports and IOM's Spain report). The consistency between the findings and the methodologies is being reviewed.

Other relevant profiling activities include:

1. Libya - REACH and UNHCR conducted a joint profiling of the migratory experience of East Africans in Libya which will be published shortly.
2. Libya - REACH and UNICEF have now concluded research on refugee and migrant children in Libya, which will be published shortly.
3. Italy - the report on the Aging out interagency research is close to being finalised.
4. Thessaloniki, Greece – a profiling of the potential and obstacles to local integration of refugees, asylum seekers and persons without asylum service documentation has been conducted by JIPS, the municipality and UNHCR. The report should be published in April.

AoB

IOM GMDAC and UNICEF HQ jointly with the Moroccan government are hosting a workshop on improving data on children on the move.

Follow up actions

1. All IMs are welcome join the Europe Information Management group on Humanitarian ID.
2. Refugee and migrant children factsheet (year end 2018) – will be drafted and published in April.
3. Education factsheet – requires clearance and will be published in April.
4. UNHCR and UNICEF to assess requirements under their data protection agreements for sharing information between agencies.
5. UNHCR will follow up on trying to find outputs from projects that have used DEEP to better highlight its utility.
6. Care arrangements project - the next version of the report will be circulated at the end of the first week in April.
7. Care arrangements project - UNHCR will also follow up with communications teams in particular countries to produce a story about an institution or foundation and also on the possibility of a human interest story from one of the children's perspectives.

Next meeting

11 April 2019 (1100 to 1230) at UNHCR in Geneva