

11 April 2019

Regional IM Working Group - Meeting minutes

Present: UNHCR (colleagues from Europe, Spain and West Balkans teams), IOM, UNICEF, Lumos

Location: UNHCR, Geneva

General updates

1. The [published last meeting minutes \(15 March 2019\)](#)
2. For the most recent updates, see the [Mediterranean response data portal](#) and [IOM's Flow Monitoring site for Europe](#).

RIMWG Workshop - follow up

At the inter-agency [workshop in November 2018](#) participants agreed to improve the quality of data, seek stronger inter-agency coordination at country level, improve internal information sharing and conduct more capacity building.

With the first priority, there is limited appetite for joint factsheets on common countries of origin from all three agencies mainly due to the lengthy processes for review and approval of the narrative, but there remains interest in factual dashboard products, which should be quicker to compile and simplify clearance processes. These will be piloted for review in May.

A workshop on information management and analysis (WIMA) will take place in early July, organised by UNHCR, with participation from IOM, UNICEF, IFRC and UNHCR from selected countries in Europe. It will be a 3-day event with a practical focus on identifying key messages, developing analytical frameworks and understanding useful tools for joint analysis.

Developing the content for the workshop, as well as the interaction during the workshop, will provide a useful catalyst for *improving inter-agency coordination at country level*, developing *joint analytical products*, better understanding different agencies *policies for data sharing and key definitions*, as well as helping to *build the capacity* of information managers in the region.

A summary of the consultations that UNHCR is currently conducting with governments and researchers (estimated to be approximately 60% of the data portal users) to better understand existing and near future information needs will be presented at the next meeting.

Inter-agency factsheets

Education factsheet - has required additional clearance at director level in all three agencies, which has taken several weeks. The final document should be finalized and published in May. Once published, the report will be accompanied by a joint press release.

Children's factsheet - good progress is being made with the data analysis and summarisation. The document should be published in early May once finalised.

Lumos research project on care arrangements for children

A second draft of the report has been produced on the care arrangements in the six pilot countries (see the [concept note](#) for background). Feedback from UNHCR, UNICEF and IOM at regional level will be duly reflected so that a more advanced version can be shared with each agency's country offices for review. UNHCR will share the report compiled by their consultant in Spain to support the care arrangements project.

UNHCR communications colleagues are following up in the pilot countries to identify opportunities for 2-3 human interest stories to strengthen the children's voices in the narrative. These should be produced in May. UNICEF will look into this as well.

IM coordination in Spain

Data sharing and a harmonised approach to the data collection were identified as priorities in recent missions by regional colleagues from IOM and UNHCR to Spain. Key issues and proposed solutions include:

1. **Nationality and demographic breakdowns often require estimation.** A shared approach to these would ensure that these statistics were used consistently. Currently, UNHCR provides these estimates, but it was agreed that prior to publication these could usefully be validated by IOM (particularly once the DTM activities recommence this year and IOM have a stronger field presence), and also IFRC, whose Red Cross society colleagues are present at all disembarkations and collect relevant data. While the main nationalities tend to be well defined, it has proved harder for the Spanish government to quickly differentiate sub-Saharan nationalities and get confirmation from respective diplomatic and consular offices, resulting in these being combined, at least temporarily, into an "other sub-Saharan" grouping.
2. **Sourcing data on UASC** has been very challenging for Spain. In part this is due the regionalisation of the management of UASC, which results in difficulties in following up with children once they have been referred to centres. Another challenge is that children often declare that they are over 18 as they are travelling in a group and do not want to be separated. While internal information from the Spanish government has been accessed through UNICEF National Committee in Spain, there may be a need for some further capacity strengthening among partners and relevant authorities to resolve remaining issues in a sustainable manner. A common approach with this regard could be explored by building on good practices in Bulgaria and Greece.

In 2019, UNHCR will not conduct a similar profile to that [conducted at the end of 2017](#), while IOM will recommence flow monitoring surveys in the summer once the monitoring locations have been confirmed.

UNHCR also produced a short internal summary of onwards movements from Spain to France and will review what can be shared bilaterally. Once these reports have been circulated, UNICEF will consider whether there is a need to conduct additional research in 2019 on UASC.

In May, RIMWG colleagues will organise a dedicated call for all IM and protection colleagues in Spain to improve awareness and coordination of data related activities.

AoB

IOM and UNHCR's global counterparts will hold a bilateral meeting in May to discuss improved coordination. It is likely that a presentation on the relatively positive coordination experiences in Europe will be required to be presented by the RIMWG.

UNHCR is [advertising](#) a consultancy (closing date is 6 May) to collate information on onwards movements.

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 published in May.
3. Education factsheet - will be published in May.
4. All agencies 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:
 - a. the next version of the report will be circulated on the 16 April, incorporating UNHCR's latest comments, for review by IOM and UNICEF (and possibly UNHCR again). A further draft will be circulated in early May for a final review of the narrative.
 - b. UNHCR will identify relevant human-interest stories, collaborating closely with Lumos on the content.
 - c. UNHCR to circulate the report produced by their consultant in Spain.
7. IM coordination in Spain:
 - a. Work with colleagues in Spain to organise an inter-agency harmonised approach to producing nationality and demographic breakdowns.
 - b. Follow up with IFRC on the possibility of validating the UNHCR estimates of nationalities and demographics prior to publication.
 - c. Collate good practises on sourcing data on UASC from e.g. Bulgaria and Greece
 - d. Organise a call for all inter-agency IM colleagues in Spain to improve coordination of data related activities.

Next meeting

16 May 2019 (1100 to 1230) at IOM in Geneva