Child Protection Sub-Working Group

20.03.2019 Minutes of Meeting

Date:	Wednesday, 20th March 2019 at 09.30
Participants:	EKKA, IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, Metadrasi, PRAKSIS, MdM, NCR, TdH, Velos Youth, Safe Passage, ICRC, Hellenic Red Cross, GCR, DRC, DCI Greece, The Home Project, Prolepsis
Chair:	**UNHCR: Theodora D. Tsovili (tsovili@unhcr.org)**
Agenda	▪ Guardianship MoL & EKKA/ Metadrasi/ UNHCR: Guardianship – Transition Program (EKKA) ▪ Education - Ministry of Education & UNICEF: School enrolment survey (UNICEF) ▪ Protection - Detention of UAC & strategic litigation (UNHCR) ▪ Health - EU VET CARE project: FAROS/ Prolepsis/ ETHNO-MEDIZINISCHES ZENTRUS, Germany: three-year project on the training of professionals providing health care to refugee/migrant children ▪ AOB
Follow up on previous actions points	A) A meeting was organised among EKKA, Metadrasi, MoMP, RIS, UNICEF, UNHCR, MoL, KEELPNO on "finding ways to accelerate transfers of UAC from the RICs to the mainland". The challenges in the field were discussed: -Delays due to age assessment (high % of UAC in IOM facilities registered as children – no clear figures though – many actors reported the same also in SZs and shelters) -Delays on administrative procedures in the RICs due to non presence of KEELPNO to conduct PSS assessments -Delays on the completion of the medical exams Solutions proposed: <u>Age assessment:</u> harmonised procedures to be conducted, discussions of the authorities on the role of RIS & KEELPNO should continue for a better understanding Legal framework exists Lack of staff in the the PSS unit/ in RICs UNHCR conducted field assessment along with recommendations - to be shared with the Ministries <u>Medical exams:</u> (TBC, xrays, skin tests) it is proposed by MoMP only some of them to be compulsory – discussions are on going KEELPNO (mobile units) once/week present for these exams in the RICs to speed up transfers of UAC to shelters Medical file to be completed before the referral to EKKA in order to avoid booking of places in the shelters/ IOM facilities which remain reserved and empty for long periods <u>Administrative procedures:</u> PSS assessment not to be completed before the referral so not create delays

	B) Issuance of an internal guidance to RICs by RIS (August 2018): all UAC who went through age assessment by AS will be treated as UAC and have access to all services and procedures including the referral to EKKA for care arrangement – the internal guidance provided solution to up to 40 children that their cases were pending in the RIC in Moria. In Fylakio RIC same challenges were identified recently: the same guidance should be sent by RIS central team to all RICs across Greece) C) IOM missions for the establishment of safe areas at the entry points were conducted: KOS, LEROS, CHIOS, SAMOS, LESVOS not FYLAKIO. More feedback on on the current developments to be provided in the next CPWG by IOM	
Guardianship - MoL-EKKA/ Metadrasi/ UNHCR: Guardianship – Transition Program (EKKA)	The Tripatrite agreement between MoL/EKKA, Metadrasi and UNHCR, was signed and transition on the Guardianship Law was initiated in Jan 2019. **EKKA** Current develpments: • Metadrasi coordinators and guardians are located at EKKA premises for the smoother transition on the guardianship law • 900 -1000 UAC (in SIL, hospitals, homeless, RICs) protected under the transition scheme • 60 staff members (guardians and coordinators) • The vulnerable unaccompanied children are prioritised in this transition period • The proper implementation of SIL requires appointment of guardians for the hosted UAC Staff seconded by UNICEF to EKKA are working on the drafting of the relevant Ministerial Decisions so that the law gets fully in force in September 2019. The draft version of the 4 first Ministerial Decisions are in the process of finalization: *Ministerial Decision 1*: Development of the operational and technical specifications regarding the registry for unaccompanied minors; *Ministerial Decision 2*: Development of the operational and technical specifications regarding the registry for guardians. *Ministerial Decision 3:* Development of the operational and technical specifications regarding the registry for accommodation centres, *Joint Ministerial Decision 4:* Establishment of the required qualifications for the recruitment of guardians, the content of the application form, the ratio of unaccompanied minors per guardian, the definition of technical details of their recruitment procedure, evaluation, terms/content of the contract and salary, financial allocation under the National Programme Additional ministerial decisions will include implementation details for the Best Interest procedures in Greece as well as for the implementation of SIL.	**Action points:** ▪ N/A

	EKKA – Metadrasi: working on development of tools to be used by the guardians in a harmoniswed way and in compliance with the Law. Joint Missions (EKKA, Metadrasi, UNHCR) are conducted to the entry points to identify the challenges (Samos & Lesvos completed, next one to be conducted to Evros) → advocacy in order for the guardians to be present in the RICs and in the screening phase of the UAC registration. During the joint missions meetings take place with stake holders and authorities: RIS, PPs , AS in order to inform them on the transition programme on the Guardianship law. Official lines of communication have been inititated by EKKA with the MoJ, MoH (specifically on mental health issues), Ministry of Transport (on free tickets for UAC), the Public Prosecutor of the Surpeme Court so that the implementation of the guardianship law is facilitated through the existing national capacity. Regarding collaboration with RIS: the internal regulatory framework of RIS is discussed with MoL so that the presence of guardians in the RICs is facilitated and the role of the guardians is defined for effective collaboration with the Police and FRONTEX. Not clarified yet by the law: how guardians will be appointed for homeless children, and how their screening and registration will be conducted.	
Education - Ministry of Education & UNICEF: School enrolment survey (UNICEF)	UNICEF presented the School Enrolment Survey on the access of refugee and migrant children to formal education. The survey includes the children population residing in the urban accommodation: apartments, shelters, and hotels for UAC, SIL apartments up until January 2019. Main findings: ▪ **66%** of assessed refugee and migrant children 4-17 years old, residing in urban accommodation, are enrolled in formal school. The percentage is higher than previous years. ▪ Estimated **5,760** children out of 8,700 children 4-17 years old in apartments, shelters, and hotels for UAC, or SIL apartments ▪ The survey includes also an age break down: the higher percentage of enrolements is in ages of 6-12 years old, 75%.	**Action points:** ▪ The survey to be shared with the participants of the WG.

	▪ Sex of enrolled children 4-17 years old**:** The percentage of enrolled boys is very similar to the percentage of enrolled girls - except for the 16-17 years old, when the percentage of enrolled boys is higher: 63% for boys and 51% for girls. ▪ Nationality break down: the majority of children are from Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan. ▪ Break down per accommodation type: the percenatages vary per accommodation type. Regardless the age break down, the higher percentages are met for the children in shelters. The percentages in the IOM facilities vary but they are higher than last year ▪ Enrollment VS attendance: the EWG is working for collecting data on attendance. ▪ The data collected for the survey did not include the refugee children population in the RICs, the open reception accommodation sites, the self – accommodated and the population in squats. Challenges: Interpretation for the registration of children at schools, congestion in the schools of central Athens (due to the high number of PoCs accommodated under ESTIA), lack of proper information to the refugees, lack of proper orientation for principals and administrative staff in schools	
Protection - Detention of UAC & strategic litigation (UNHCR)	UNHCR Detention monitoring – main challenges observed: ▪ Children being detained as adults, ▪ UAC remain in protective custody pending placements due to limited available capacity in shelters, ▪ no vulnerability assessment or no proper referral to EKKA due to limited or lack of presence of CP actors in Police Stations. UNHCR conducts detention monitoring visits directly or through implementing partners (ARSIS & GCR) – ensures that EKKA is properly informed by the Police in order to assess and prioritise referrals of UAC to care arrangements. ARSIS and GCR conduct weekly monitoring visits in Amygdaleza, Petrou Rally and provide legal aid and PSS support. In addition, ARSIS also provides non formal education. Detention monitoring tool: not publicly shared but used by UNHCR and implementing partners/ CP actors for the monitoring activities in detention. Approximately 80 children per week are detained in all Police Stations across Greece – the number of children in detention is lower than one year and half ago. MoMP, MoL and	**Action points:** • The Detention Monitoring Tool to be shared with the WG.

	MoCitizen Protection are working closely in order to ensure that the children are transferred to SZs in not more than 2-3 weeks EKKA figures include children in detention who have been referred – those not referred are not included in the figures and remain unidetected	
Health - EU VET CARE project: FAROS/ Prolepsis/ ETHNO-MEDIZINISCHES ZENTRUS, Germany: three-year project on the training of professionals providing health care to refugee/migrant children	• Presentation on the projects run by the PROLEPSIS INSTITUTE. PROLEPSIS Institute is an non-profit-organisation established in 1990 engaged in the Public Health sector. 5,500 children were supported through humanitarian actions since 2012 funded by the Niarchos Foundation and included also provision of food in collaboration with MoH. • Prolepsis is part of the Mig-HealthCare project (2017-2020) "Strengthen Community Based Care to minimize health inequalities and improve the integration of vulnerable migrants and refugees into local communities". Goal: to improve the access of migrants and refugees in health care services. Road map to identify tools, figures and good practices for better conditions and provision of services by Health providers to refugees • Collaboration with the Home Project: food aid support, nutrition consultation, promotion of health nutrition's interventions. • EU VET CARE (2018 -2021) project under Erasmus+: FAROS/ Prolepsis/ ETHNO-MEDIZINISCHES ZENTRUS, Germany are participating in this three-year project to provide trainings and strengthen the capacities of professionals who provide health care to refugee/migrant children. EKKA and CP actors to be invited by PROLEPSIS in the relevant focus groups discussions.	**Action points:** • The PROLEPSIS presentation to be shared with the WG.
AOB	The next CPWG will take place before Easter holidays, Wednesday 17th April 2019.	**Action points:** N/A