

MEETING MINUTES

National Sector Working Group:	Site Management Support (SMS)
Date:	08 September 2016
Venue:	UNHCR Office – Michalacopoulou 91, Athens
Chair:	Dennis Moroni (National SMS Coordinator) / Francesco Rancati (National SMS Co-coordinator)
Participants:	
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Agenda:

1. Review of action points from previous meetings
2. Briefing on outcome of the pre-registration exercise and ongoing interview process
3. Site-level data collection
4. DRC updates on SMS activities in Central Greece
5. AOB

1. Review of action points from previous meetings

- OXFAM to start sending weekly updates on Epirus sites to IOM for submission of weekly reports to WG Coordinators → **Pending. OXFAM not present at the meeting**
- Dennis to request IACU to share the Response Capacity Assessment report and share it with WG members → **Pending.**
- Carla to share SOP for Cash with SMS WG for inputs → **Done.**
- Dennis/Francesco to bring up at next ISWG the need for improved coordination/harmonization on packages of assistance provided on the islands to refugees travelling to the mainland → **Done.** UNHCR assists some vulnerable cases (return tickets) + extreme vulnerable medical cases (flight ticket). DRC providing cash assistance to beneficiaries on Lesvos (transportation, food allowance, accommodation. Only supposed to cover 2 days. Cases identified by UNHCR).
- DRC to check if the authorities are planning to hire additional staff for Skaramangas as well → **Done.** Unemployment scheme ongoing. Unclear number, locations and roles and responsibilities, who pays (MoL or MoMP?), how long the scheme lasts. In Eleonas there seems to have a plan to have 24/7 shifts.
- Dennis to share finalized multi-sector RNA form with SMS SWG members → **Done.**

2. Briefing on the outcome of the pre-registration exercise and ongoing interview process (UNHCR)

- 37,592 pre-registered individuals during the exercise

For clarification on the content of these minutes, please contact:

Dennis Moroni – email: moronid@unhcr.org

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- Interview schedule based on 4 criteria:
 - Vulnerability
 - Arrival date
 - Availability of interpreters
 - Availability of interviewers
- 5 GAS offices conducting interviews:
 - Attica (only Syrians who are seeking asylum in Greece – not eligible for relocation)
 - Piraeus (only non-Syrians non eligible for relocation)
 - Katehaki (Attica caseload) → Replaced by office in Alimos from 25th Sept
 - Thessaloniki (Central Macedonia, Epirus and Central Greece caseloads)
 - Alexandroupoli (cases from 6 sites in the North-East)
- Transportation: GAS has asked UNHCR to support. As a result, transportation will be provided to all existing asylum candidates. Refugees close to urban centers will be given bus tickets, while those in more remote sites will be transported by UNHCR-contracted buses.
- Unaccompanied Minors: they are under the custody of the General Prosecutor. All children under 15 years old have to be accompanied by the Guardian. If they have turned 15, they do not need to be accompanied. UNHCR will provide bus transport for all UAMs.
- Communication of the interview schedule: the interview schedule for the entire pre-registered asylum-seeker population will be published by the end of September. SMS with details of the interview appointment will be sent to refugees every two weeks.
- Urban Population: In Athens for info dissemination UNHCR will rely on NGOs working in VS

3. Site-level data collection

- Task Force on data collection had a meeting on Monday in Thessaloniki.
- The purpose of the TF is to try to harmonize population data collection at site level in the sites in Central Macedonia and possibly figure out a protocol to share data between SMS agencies → Useful for the implementation of a large number of humanitarian activities, including distribution, winterization and education programmes.
- Ideally data collection should be followed by the distribution of bar coded “resident cards” to the site population (DRC has already done it in Lagadikia)
- Roll-out of UNHCR ProGres will take time
- The MoMP has also designed a data collection form for sites. Already rolled-out in the smaller Attica sites.
- Michail (UNHCR):
 - New site profiles coming out soon. UNHCR IM Unit is working on them.
 - UNHCR is looking for agencies which would be interested in collecting and sharing data about living conditions in the different sites by using the standard Kobo data collection form
- **Concern! Risk of survey fatigue due to several actors trying to roll out data collection in the sites.**

4. DRC updates on SMS activities in Central Greece

- DRC planning to withdraw from Thermopiles
- DRC doing SMS in:
 - Volos, where there is a need to rehabilitate the site
 - Koutsochero → In fact the site is empty at the moment
 - Kipselohori → Temporary intervention while waiting for Koutsochero to be populated
- DRC has the capacity to take over one more site in Central Greece if needed. Trikala could be an option, although it is not in the list of permanent sites. Palladium could become a site in Larissa town, as it is in the Government list.

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- DRC will build and manage a new site in Avlona (near Ritsona) – capacity = 1,000 people. However, for now the MoU with the Government has not been signed.

5. AOB

- IOM asking for clarification regarding the procedure to request NFIs from UNHCR for distribution in the sites where UNHCR is not SMS agency → Answer: First of all, the SMS agency should be checking whether resources are available at site level (other agencies with needed items already in stock or planned to be procured). If items are not available at site level, formal request should be addressed to UNHCR, which will consider whether they are in a position to assist.
- In terms of SMS response coordination, Central Greece will probably be integrated with Northern Greece. The UNHCR person overseeing SMS in the North (Steve Catling) is also responsible for the sites in Central Greece. The DRC SMS Manager in Larissa could travel to the North every other week and attend WG Meetings in Thessaloniki.
- General recommendation by DRC: All SMS agencies should apply a principled approach, whereby if they are approached by the Government and asked to take over sites where another SMS agency is already operating, they should flag it out at WG level.

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