

Meeting Minutes			
Name	Victoria Site Coordination	Meeting Date	20/05/2016
Meeting Location	Salvation Army Corps, Athens	Meeting Time	15:00
Chair person	Emily Carlsson, Program Coordinator, Salvation Army <i>Emily was excused. Veronica from Caritas chaired the meeting.</i>	Meeting Duration	2 hours
Minutes prepared by	Anne Veildkamp, Volunteer		
Participants	Caritas Athens Refugee Centre, Faros, JRS, Lalibela, Mercy Corps, MSF Paris, MSF Switzerland, Salvation Army, Samaritan's Purse, Solidarity Now		
Agenda	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brief introduction of participants 2. Update on preregistration 3. Update from the municipality 4. Update on informal education in the Victoria Square area 5. Introduction to Solidarity Now 6. Ramadan meals/packages 7. Q & A between organisations 8. AOB 9. Next Meeting 27.5.2016 - Focused on creating a Task Force to work on the VS Mapping & Site Profile 		

Summary of discussions and action points

2.	Preregistration
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Overview:

The representative of Mercy corps gave an update on the process.

On 31st of May there will be a pre-registration exercise by the Asylum office with the assistance of UNHCR. It is for people that have arrived after before 20th March. It will be divided into 3 groups/phases:

1. People from the camps (exluding Pireaus and Idomeni)
2. People outside of the camps: the Port and Idomeni
3. Urban migrants refugees

It will be a physical registration where each individual will receive a pre-registration card plus with a photo id, the card will be valid for 12 months. They will get an appointment date for the an interview and full registration where people will be allowed to ask for relocation and family reunification.

This exercise will allow the consolidation of the database in the mainland.

It will not replace the Skype procedure (which will still work) but will facilitate the entire process of getting an appointment. And it will make it easier for the 2nd and 3rd group to register with Skype.

This procedure will start in Athens and the North then move on to and Western areas, but not the islands.

UNHCR is not organizing this but will help. It will come to the camps, give people bracelets to identify them. The next day they will be taken by bus from the camps to the pre-registration place.

It should take about 2 months for the first phase. The estimation is approximately 700 people a day, with about 12 min/adults. Delays are to be expected. UNHRC will conduct the interviews together with IOM and Asylum office. The Asylum office is the organization in charge.

People will be asked what their plans are for the future and hopefully the questioning will be thorough so as to check identities and provenance. The information has been based on the police database so far.

It was noted that registration through Asylum office is obligatory in order to be eligible for family reunification or relocation. If relocation occurs before the end of the process of asylum seeking, people will travel with their asylum file.

For registration cards that have expired a request has been made to the Chief Police to extend the validity for 6 months for everyone but there is no answer from the Police yet.

The pre-registration card gives right to all the social benefits but not to employment. Only when people have the asylum seekers card are they allowed to seek employment by showing their card.

Concerning housing it was explained that the pre-registration gives people the right to rent an apartment just like during the asylum seeking procedure.

3.	Update from the municipality
	none
4.	Update on informal education in the Victoria Square area
	<p>Overview: Veronica read a statement from the Education informal VS working group, from Rebecca Boardman. "JRS, Lalibela, EADAP and Save the Children have been discussing starting a collaborative informal education project for those living within the Victoria Square area. At present, the challenge is to find a site to operate out of until the Summer holiday. The group would be looking to operate a 'holiday school' during the break. In the school break (July-August) the group is looking into writing a proposal to operate within a school building (as the school is closed for the holiday). This is a written proposal to Athens municipality. Stella from JRS is co-ordinating this with ELIX a Greek NGO with experience in running holiday schools in this way. Until then the group is looking for a site to operate after-school or weekend lessons".</p> <p>Actions: These groups have also been working and discussing with UN agencies and other NGOs in coordinating 'education' group.</p>
5.	Introduction to Solidarity Now
	<p>Overview: The representative of SN explained their initiative which consists of finding accommodation in Greek homes for refugees: 600 accommodation in Attica and 100 in Thessaloniki. SN provides support to the hosts and the hosted through interpreters, social workers, financial assistance for utilities and food coupons (euros 150/person/month or euros 250/family/month). They are creating a list of people that need to be hosted to match them with hosts that have shown interest or are currently hosting. This service is geared towards asylum seekers from Iraq, Syria and Eritrea eligible for relocation in general for the period that they live in Greece. Especially vulnerable people like mothers with children. Some of the host families heard about the project through 2 TV programs in March. They are interviewed by social workers to check if their home is suited. They indicate at the beginning for how long they wish to host, minimum being 2 weeks and maximum until end of the program.</p> <p>There are at the moment 85 families hosting and more than 20 have contacted SN but not registered yet. The difference with accommodation in a hotel is that refugees share the daily life of a family and make friends which helps with their integration. The feedback is good. SN constantly evaluates the homes.</p> <p>Actions: The best way to proceed is to give SN a call and they will visit the refugees or have them visit their office. They have interpreters and social workers. The office number is: 210-6772500 or Ioanna's mobile phone: 6978785659 (email: ioannaz@solidaritynow.org)</p>

6.	Ramadan meals/packages
	<p>Overview: MC indicated they are looking into snacks such as dates, fruits and Arab bread. The situation will depend on each camp, some having agreed to adjust delivering schedule (normal times for those not fasting and morning/evening for the others) while other camps will just follow their regular schedule. It will be challenging to keep the food from going off due to the heat.</p>
7.	Q & A between organisations
	None
8.	AOB
	<p>MSF: explained about their new psychological support service:</p> <p>The services are available 4 -9pm in Arabic on Tuesdays/Thursdays and in Farsi on Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays in Faros Day Center.</p> <p>In conclusion SA noted that more people had visited the day center that week, especially on Monday when it had been very busy. Caritas added that people are still asking for tents. They use them in the camps outside to protect from the sun and also inside for instance in the school in Exarchia to get some privacy.</p> <p>The school of Polytechnic will close on Monday. People have been informed that as of Sunday night they need to find new accommodation.</p> <p>2 visitors from Spain explained that they come from a children's' hospital in Spain and that they have a permanent team in Athens exploring possibilities to work here with other NGOs.</p>
	Next meeting & Closing note:
	The next meeting is planned on 27th May to discuss the task force for the mapping of Victoria Square. Emily will send an email to confirm.