

23 May 2017

Regional IM Working Group

– Meeting minutes

Present: UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF, Save the Children (UK)

General updates

1. The [published last meeting minutes](#) (28 March 2017).
2. For the most recent updates, see the [Mediterranean response data portal](#) .
3. UNICEF released a report last week called [A child is a child](#) on protecting children on the move from violence, abuse and exploitation.
4. The final report of the **analysis of the situation of refugee and migrant children in Greece and Italy** conducted by REACH and UNICEF is being finalised. Of note, the report highlights that significant numbers of Eritrean children are dropping out of the reception system in Sicily, and a rapid assessment was conducted to gain a better understanding of the reasons behind this phenomenon. Related factsheets for other nationalities including Gambians, Egyptians, Nigerians and Guineans are also being compiled. An interesting finding was the relatively high proportion of children who referred to violence at home as main reason for departing. The report also highlights that substantial numbers of children worked in their countries of origin. Lastly, the related review of the monitoring systems in Italy highlighted that only very limited monitoring takes place and monitoring practices vary widely, even at regional level.
5. UNICEF are seeking to ensure continuous monitoring capacity in Hungary.
6. Recent IOM **Flow Monitoring Surveys** have highlighted that:
 - a. Increasing numbers of refugees and migrants intend to travel through Romania from Ukraine or Bulgaria. During the first 4.5 months of 2017, 718 refugees and migrants reported their intention to travel this route.
 - b. New routes are being taken by refugees and migrants from Bulgaria directly to Italy by sea.
 - c. Approximately 2,160 surveys have been conducted in Italy. Of these respondents, roughly half reported having suffered from physical violence.
 - d. When asked if respondents had observed sexual or gender based violence on their way to Europe, 26% said yes and 48% did not respond.
 - e. For both of the previous points, most issues happened in Libya.
 - f. Flow monitoring in West Africa - the questionnaire is being revised and standardised and the core questions are being aligned. The process has been more difficult than in e.g. the Middle East.
 - g. Interestingly, in Libya, Mali, Niger, Cote D'Ivoire and Burkina Faso, most refugees and migrants interviewed are not planning to travel onwards to Europe and are instead intending to travel onwards to another Africa country.
 - h. Conversely, in Turkey, flow monitoring has also been operational for about 2 months. 73% of respondents expressed an intention to travel onwards to Europe. It would be interesting to compare the countries to which refugees and migrants

intended to travel to with the number of asylum applications, and particularly the asylum acceptance rates.

- i. Of those that had returned to their country of origin after attempting to reach Europe, 70% would not recommend it to someone else, but 65% would try again.
7. There is an upcoming conference on Children on the Move in Berlin (11-13 June), organised within the Global Compact on Migration.
8. IOM are working on a report about migrants that are stranded in Serbia which will be shared with the Government for approval for publishing.
9. The [Data portal](#) is being extended to include additional information visualisations, initially for arrival and asylum statistics. These will support users to explore and link to the datasets and answer the questions that they have with the data (based on the numerous requests for information received by the IM support team). One aspect of this would be to increase the level of age and gender disaggregation of arrival data that is available on the portal, and this is currently being reviewed. The updates will be available in August. In parallel, users have an opportunity to help guide the development of the data portal by providing feedback in this [survey form](#).

Joint assessments

1. REACH are still confirming with donors and other stakeholders (e.g. organisations based in MENA) on the suitability of the two potential participatory assessments identified by the RIMWG last month (Spanish enclaves and the NE Italian border).
2. Three requests for JIPS support have been submitted for profiles of Guineans, Nigerians and Eritreans in Italy. The outcome of these requests should be confirmed in early June.
3. The RIMWG participants should strategize on our collective information needs, which available information can fulfil the specific purposes identified, and who should be involved in the collection of this information. We will organise a follow on meeting to discuss the priorities for information collection going forwards (e.g. what information is required by country and nationality of arrivals).

Working with the assessment registry

1. A broad range of research activities relating to refugees and migrants has been collected in the [regional assessment registry](#), particularly relating to the many data visualisation activities that have been conducted with data on refugees and migrants. The annex to the registry now includes output from approximately 20 research organisations in Europe.
2. Interestingly, some networks already exist. For example, there is a European network of researchers on migration. Also, an EU tender was recently launched in order to identify an organisation that would be able to map all the data collection and research activities related to refugees and migrants in Europe.
3. Related to point 3 in the section on Joint assessments above, part of the analysis of the information needs of humanitarian organisations in Europe should also include a discussion on how best to work with academic and research organisations to collaborate and coordinate on priority evidence generation on refugees and migrants, protection focused research etc. (e.g. a workshop).

Inter-agency Factsheet on Children

1. The 2016 version of the interagency factsheet, produced by UNICEF, IOM and UNHCR, has been downloaded over 12,000 times. An update for the first quarter on 2017 will be published in June and will include information on access to services.
2. A future update of this factsheet could include children's perception of Education services in Iraq, Syria and neighbouring countries.

Follow up actions

1. UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM will identify any current information / dissemination gaps and how best to resolve these (e.g. additional data collection or collaboration with research organisations).
2. UNHCR to compare the countries to which refugees and migrants intended to travel to with the number of asylum applications, and particularly the asylum acceptance rates.
3. UNHCR will canvas views via a [survey form](#) on the new data portal and then analyse and publish the results in August 2017.
4. UNHCR and IOM to continue working together to ensure publications including land arrivals contain consistent figures.

Next meeting

26th July from 1100 to 1230 at UNHCR, Geneva.