

CWC NATIONAL WORKING GROUP MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Subject	Communication With Communities National Working Group Meeting
Date, Time & place of meeting	4 April 2018 (UNHCR conference room 3)
Meeting Chair	Alexandra Zavvos (Solidarity Now) and Miriam Aertker (UNHCR)
Minutes/notes prepared by	Alexandra Zavvos (Solidarity Now) and Miriam Aertker (UNHCR)
Present organizations	METAdrasi, Solidarity Now; UNHCR; Asylum Links, IOM, Advocates Abroad, German Embassy, Campfire Innovation, Hestia Hellas, Refugee Info/IRC; DRC

1. Review of previous meetings/matters arising

Details/Going forward	Suggested Actions
<p>There were no comments regarding minutes of the previous meeting (21.2.2018) and they were approved. They can be accessed on the CwC Athens drop box as well as the data portal. See link below: https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/62992</p>	/

2. Presentation (German Embassy) about the “Rumours about Germany” website

<p>The German Embassy informed CwC members about a new website with reliable information about migration to Europe and Germany with the aim of debunking rumours: www.rumoursaboutgermany.info</p> <p>Also leaflets were handed out as well as posters in different languages such as Arabic, Farsi, French and English.</p>	<p>Action Points: Members to disseminate information about the project through FB, websites, and provision of leaflets to communities.</p> <p>Feedback on ‘Rumours about Germany’ to be shared with CwC.</p>
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3. Accommodation update

<p>UNHCR focal point for the accommodation programme updated the group on the ESTIA programme and answered any of the group’s questions relating to access and eligibility to the programme, the steps involved in allocations to accommodation.</p> <p>More information about the ESTIA accommodation/CBI program can be found on: estia.unhcr.gr/en/home/</p> <p>Currently the Accommodation Component of the ESTIA Programme is implemented by 16 Partners, from which 9 are Development or Public Benefit Organizations under Municipal Authorities. To this date, 24,000 accommodation places have been created in apartments and buildings throughout the mainland and the islands and more than 46,000 PoCs have benefitted from the accommodation scheme since the beginning of the scheme in mid-2016 and it aims to reach the 25,000</p>	<p>Action Points: /</p>
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<p>accommodation places by June 2018. Urban accommodation is addressed to serve the needs of asylum seekers and to promote decent conditions of living while also supporting the local economy. Services provided to PoCs include support from a social worker, PSS support on a case by case basis, ad hoc support on transportation e.t.c. Cash assistance restores dignity and empowers refugees and asylum-seekers who can now choose how to cover their basic daily needs. It also contributes directly to the economy of the host community through the purchase of services and goods. There is a scale implemented pending on the size, the vulnerability assessment of the family and the type of the accommodation that they reside. For more information on the ESTIA Programme you are more than welcome to visit the official ESTIA website: estia.unhcr.gr/en/home. There you will be able to find all necessary details and statistics which are periodically updated.</p>	
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4. Future of the CwC Working Group “Survey” and 2018 workplan

<p>The results of a short survey conducted regarding the future of the National CwC WG group was presented by CwC coordinators.</p> <p>The results showed the need for information provision to communities remains high and a CwC working group or taskforce or mandate should be maintained. Main CwC priorities identified include information sharing and coordinating the information provision amongst actors (including at grassroots level/with refugee communities), advocacy and capacity building as well as inclusion of government counterparts and to ensure effective progressive handover of CwC to the government. Members also agreed to enhance linkages with other working groups such as “advocacy”, ACCMR and use refugee voices to advocate.</p> <p>The CwC 2018 work plan was presented. It includes activities, priorities, timeframes as well as roles/responsibilities.</p> <p>Please find the official objectives of the WG, feedback is encouraged before full finalization:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The national WG aims to coordinate CwC activities of CwC actors or agencies working with PoC (asylum seekers/refugees including men, women and children) working in sites and urban areas, assessing communication needs, identifying gaps and addressing them according to the WG capacity. The national WG aims to be an information coordination forum and coordinate CwC activities at field level and includes PoCs, authorities, relevant partners (depending on the location). - To provide relevant and up to date information for CwC actors concerning policy and legislation development, contextual changes, available services and projects and strengthen information sharing mechanisms including two-way communication with PoCs, partners (including 	<p>Action Points: CwC survey results is attached to the minutes. Additional comments/inputs are welcome.</p> <p>Workplan: CwC members to provide feedback.</p>
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<p>grassroot organizations) and host communities. By sharing best practices, lessons learned and relevant tools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To coordinate with other sectors and provide CwC support to other sectors with relevant information needs. - When possible, the WG will strengthen advocacy and capacity building with the government regarding CwC. 	
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5. CWC project updates and new initiatives

Details	Suggested Actions
<p><u>RefugeeInfo live- Tarjimly: Realtime Translators for Refugees:</u></p> <p>RefugeeInfo informed about an upcoming live facebook chat on 4 April in order to discuss Tarjimly services, interpretation and its challenges. RefugeeInfo’s live chats happen on ad hoc basis to cover timely subjects in the relevant languages, thanks to qualified cultural mediators.</p> <p><u>Update from Solidarity Now (Business for YOUTH projects)</u></p> <p>SolidarityNow, with the support of the International Rescue Committee (IRC), and in collaboration with the Social Enterprise Knowl, is organizing a 40-hour free Youth Entrepreneurship training program in Athens. The aim is to empower young aspiring entrepreneurs and equip them with the basic knowledge and skills to start their own business or to develop their professional potential. There are 15 cycles which targets 330 participants. There are cycles in Greek, English, Arabic, and other languages based on demand, Farsi, French. 40 of the best candidates will follow be admitted to the 2nd phase, where they will receive a mentorship to help them complete their business plan.</p> <p>CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants for the duration of the program have to be based in Athens. • Young people aged between 18-30 years • Refugees or Asylum Seekers legally residing in Greece, benefiting from the International Protection in Greece, immigrants with a residence permit for Greece, unemployed Greeks. • Adequacy in at least one of the languages offered: Greek, English, Arabic, Farsi or French. <p>SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS;</p> <p>A) Online application: http://www.solidaritynow.org/en/businessforyouth/</p>	<p>Action Points:</p> <p>CwC members to share the chat with communities, and consult with refugee communities and share feedback about the Tarjimly project.</p> <p>Share Entrepreneurship training with interested potential candidates. It will be running through 2018 to the summer of 2019.</p>

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<p>B) The final pool of participants will be selected through personal interviews.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The course started in March with a Greek speaking group(1 cycle=1 month), an English speaking group is currently ongoing, with participants from Iran, Tunisia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Cameroon, and more. Participants receive a certificate of participation after the completion of the training. <p>RefugeeInfo blogpost: https://blog.refugee.info/business-training-solidarity-now-athens/ https://blog.refugee.info/business-training-solidarity-now-athens-fr/ https://blog.refugee.info/business-training-solidarity-now-athens-ur/ https://blog.refugee.info/business-training-solidarity-now-athens-ar/ and more languages</p> <p><u>Hestia Hellas introduction:</u></p> <p>Hestia Hellas, introduced its work in Greece to the group, it is an Athens based NGO, working on PSS, livelihoods, CFS and is specialized in working with children with special needs (Refugees/host community)amongst other: https://hestiahellas.org/</p>	
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6. Any Other Business(AoB)

<p><u>UNHCR website update:</u></p> <p>UNHCR Representation in Greece has a new website (www.unhcr.gr), mirroring the layout, look and feel of the central UNHCR website (www.unhcr.org).</p> <p><u>UNHCR operational portal:</u></p> <p>Can be accessed at: http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/mediterranean/location/5179</p> <p>Information products such as fact sheets and dashboards are found on the portal including cash assistance, accommodation, returns from Greece to Turkey, site profiles and sea arrivals.</p> <p><u>European Hotline on missing children and Amina project:</u></p> <p>Information can be found here: https://www.hamogelo.gr/gr/en/116000/ http://missingchildreurope.eu</p> <p><u>Grassroot meeting update:</u></p> <p>CwC gathered grassroot groups and organizations working with grassroots to get together with the (UNHCR)interagency team, to</p>	<p>Action Points: /</p>
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establish a channel of communication between different actors, discuss ways to overcome communicator information gaps and discuss some areas for potential synergies. We will attempt organizing meetings on a more frequent basis to cover specific and relevant issues.

Upcoming CwC meeting:

9 May at 15:00 at UNHCR conference room 3. A session on employment/access to rights will be included in the agenda.

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