

28 June 2018

# Regional IM Working Group

## – Meeting minutes

Present: UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF, Lumos

Location: UNHCR, Geneva

### General updates

1. The [published last meeting minutes](#) (31 May 2018).
2. For the most recent updates, see the [Mediterranean response data portal](#).

### Profiling updates

The reports for both Italy and Spain are still being finalised and will be available at the end of September.

### Lumos research project on care arrangements for children

The questionnaire for the data collection from the centres (see the [concept note](#)) has been finalised and sent out to the relevant government counterparts in each country. The responses will be reviewed in the first week of July, at which stage any required follow-up will be planned.

### Education factsheet

Building on the data review last year by UNICEF, a data rich inter-agency Education factsheet is being developed and a first version has nearly been finalised. Data gaps in key countries, such as Italy remain. As such, there may be value in conducting an education assessment in the near future. The narrative might also benefit from specific stories of children in schools and also inputs from the DG Justice project.

IOM will coordinate the graphic design version.

### IMWG workshop plans 2018

Feedback on the inter-agency workshop with field participation being organised by IOM in Q4 2018 should be submitted by the end of next week. There are likely to be 25-30 attendees with participation from key Mediterranean and Balkan countries - these are likely to include Italy, Greece, Spain, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia & Turkey.

The concept note for the Research workshop to be organised by UNHCR will follow; EASO, Frontex and SMA all keen to attend. Two potentially interesting topics are on child related communication for development and how this can be used to change behaviours. Secondly, mitigating Xenophobia in Europe. Relevant research has been conducted in Armenia/Georgia on stereotypes around Roma populations. The UNHCR series of positive stories about migration may also be useful.

## Arrivals in the Balkans

Secondary movements through the Western Balkan countries have increased this year, compared to 2017. This is probably due to increased sea and land arrivals to Greece, and significant numbers of refugees and migrants that were already accommodated in the reception centres in transit countries in the region. Onwards movements have been most visible through Albania, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina, where authorities registered a total of 11,267 irregular migrants (more than four times arrivals in 2017). 70% of these migrants were registered in Bosnia and Herzegovina (8,034). Another 2,000 were registered by the authorities in Montenegro and 1,233 in Albania. Authorities in Albania also registered an additional 590 individuals who attempted to exit the country towards Montenegro. Comparing statistics for June with May, a decrease is observed in Albania (42 in June and 134 in May) and Montenegro (552 in June vs. 583 in May), while the number of arrivals to Bosnia and Herzegovina continued to rise (2,744 in June vs. 2,557 in May). More information about the situation in the Western Balkans can be found in the [June edition of the DTM Flow Compilation Report](#). A detailed nationality breakdown is also available in the [Q2 Dataset](#).

## Sustainable Development Goals

Data collection exercises are planned in a number of European countries to support the collection of the SDG data. These exercises will use among others UNICEF's Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS). MICS require substantial planning and therefore it is unlikely that any additional disaggregation of this data for refugees and migrants will be possible for those countries in which the exercises commence this year unless the discussion happens soon with government authorities supporting MICS. All organisations should ensure their participation in the planning process for the countries that are being prioritised for next year (BiH, Serbia and Ukraine, with Azerbaijan in 2020).

## Inter-agency IM focal point list in Europe

The list of IM officers in Europe has been created on [Humanitarian ID](#) for [Europe Information Management](#), and continues to be updated. All other IM officers and IM focal points in Europe are warmly encouraged to join the list.

## AoB

1. **Italy** - IOM and UNHCR may need to generate joint estimates of arrival demographics if government demographic breakdown remains unavailable.
2. **EASO and Frontex** - UNHCR met both organisations in May to discuss what public datasets could readily be shared and in order to try to harmonise definitions and currently available statistics and better understand the reasons for differences.
3. **IOM GMDAC** - are conducting relevant research and future collaboration would be useful. While GMDAC do not conduct primary data collection, they are building a broad data warehouse of migration data. UNICEF and GMDAC are organising a joint global workshop in Spring/Summer 2019 related to children on the move.

## Follow up actions

1. Lumos - Follow up on the questionnaire responses in July (Lumos, UNHCR, IOM and UNICEF).
2. Education factsheet - review and comment on the first version (all)
3. IMWG plans - share the concept notes and draft participant lists for both workshops (UNHCR and IOM)
4. SDGs collection via MICs - ensure appropriate participation in the planning of data collection in BiH, Serbia, Ukraine and Azerbaijan.

## Next meeting

**9 August 2018 (1400 to 1530) at IOM in Geneva**