

18 June 2019

Regional IM Working Group - Meeting minutes

Present: UNHCR (colleagues from Europe and the Balkans), IOM, UNICEF, Lumos and IFRC

Location: UNICEF, Geneva

General updates

1. The [published last meeting minutes \(16 May 2019\)](#)
2. For the most recent updates, see the [Mediterranean response data portal](#) and [IOM's Flow Monitoring site for Europe](#).

RIMWG November 2018 Workshop - follow up

WIMA - A workshop on information management and analysis (WIMA) will take place in early July, organised by UNHCR, with participation from IOM, UNICEF, IFRC and UNHCR colleagues, primarily from countries in southern Europe and the Balkans. It will be a 3-day event with a practical focus on identifying key messages, applying analytical frameworks and understanding useful tools for joint analysis.

The workshop will include two sessions on joint analysis, one of which will be specifically on Europe. This should include:

- a. A quick summary of the differences in terms of mandates between organisations, highlighting that there are common protection areas of mutual interest that we can collaborate on.
- b. Good examples of common areas include children on the move, harmonised data, education, protection research such as the Lumos factsheet, the DTM child protection module and SGBV issues.
- c. Kiosks can help reinforce this message (e.g. kiosks from UNICEF and IOM on the above).
- d. A SWOT style exercise for colleagues in countries to identify concrete and actionable opportunities for collaboration to take place during the remainder of 2019.

Onwards movements through the Balkans

UNHCR has produced a *draft factsheet summarising arrival, asylum applications and refugee statistics* for the Balkans, which will be published externally in August and then on a monthly basis. IOM already publish the arrival and migrants' presence figures on a [weekly basis](#). Before publishing, IOM and UNHCR will review the methodologies and better understand the reasons for any inconsistencies between the two sets of statistics.

Significant inconsistencies include arrivals to North Macedonia and the stock figures for Bosnia and Herzegovina. For North Macedonia, IOM uses official figures provided by the Government (currently less than 700) and number of assistances provided by Red Cross mobile teams (slightly less than 10,000). The UNHCR figures, collected from fieldwork, help to corroborate the assistance figures produced by the Red Cross. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, there are differences between the number of refugees and migrants in country and the sources and methodologies for deriving these figures will be reviewed.

Other comments on the UNHCR factsheet were to add demographics and make it clearer that the UASC statistics are based on the stock figures.

UNHCR is also adapting the [site profiling](#) currently conducted in Serbia to be relevant for all countries in the Balkans. The scope of the data to be collected has been revised and UNHCR is currently awaiting approval to continue from key governments in the region, including Bosnia and Herzegovina. A useful output from this site profiling, will be additional demographic information that can then also be included in the UNHCR factsheet.

Inter-agency factsheets

Education factsheet - A few small improvements with the design remain. There will be a joint press release to launch the report in August. In the meantime, there is an opportunity to present the approach briefly at the Education in Emergencies global summit this week. This wouldn't cover the actual findings, but the process and types & limitations of the data.

Lumos research project on care arrangements for children

Lumos expressed thanks to all the country teams that have provided inputs, feedback and have addressed gaps in the report. Additional feedback from e.g. UNICEF and IOM in Greece will also follow shortly.

No relevant first-person stories have yet been identified and communications colleagues from UNHCR and UNICEF are following up on this.

In the report, the following additional suggestions were made:

- a. Strengthen the regional analysis and the analysis of the legal framework. I
- b. Organise the report to better highlight why the institutionalisation and care arrangements are interlinked.
- c. Better highlight the positive aspects within the report (this is e.g. particularly the case with Bulgaria).
- d. Quantify small, medium and large-scale institutions
- e. Clearly state the cut-off date for the data collection.
- f. Foster care in Greece - distinguish between the UNHCR and the government projects.

AoB

IFRC focal point for Europe - Federica Mastroianni is moving on, but thankfully remaining in Europe, but moving to the UNHCR Italy team. The RIMWG group expressed their thanks for all her useful contributions during the last year. A new focal point should be in place during the summer.

University dissertations - there is a possibility to provide research ideas to GIS masters students from the University of Edinburgh for their dissertations in 2020.

Follow up actions

1. All IMs are welcome join the [Europe Information Management group on Humanitarian ID](#).
2. WIMA - UNHCR to draft the presentation on joint analysis for Europe and share with the RIMWG for comments.

3. *Onwards movements through the Balkans* - IOM and UNHCR to review and better understand the consistency of statistics collected for the region.
4. *Care arrangements project*:
 - a. Lumos will follow up with UNICEF, IOM and UNHCR country teams with specific queries, keeping regional colleagues copied.
 - b. Lumos will adding some regional analysis to bracket each section.
 - c. Lumos will review whether some comments can be addressed by adding graphics or a callout box rather than adding additional narrative.
 - d. Lumos will share the next version in mid-July for review by senior management, with a view to publishing a final version in September / October.
 - e. To help build consensus on the recommendations, a joint workshop including key senior management would help to reduce the number of review iterations required and UNHCR will organise based on the availability of colleagues during August or September.
 - f. All organisations to identify opportunities on how will we can best promote the report at specific events, conferences or e.g. in Brussels, and also to identify relevant first-person stories.

Next meeting

7 August 2019 (1100 to 1230) at UNHCR in Geneva