

National Communicating with Communities (CwC) Working Group – June 30th 2021 - Meeting Minutes

Date:	June 30, 2021	
Location:	WEBEX	
Participants:	Maria Karpodini ASB; Richard Vyse - A.Ss.I.S.T.; Gabriella ECHO100PLUS; Maria Zygouri, HRC; Yakinthi Menoudakou, ICRC; Natalia Xouria - IOM (HELIOS); Iro Ntrouva IOM SMS; Athina Vrakatseli, KEM; Maria Bena – METAdrasi; Pisti Xanthakou - MFC Athens, Hellenic Red Cross; Maro Verli - Refugee.Info	
Chairs:	Alexandra Zavvos (Solidarity Now); Marco Notarbartolo di Sciara (UNHCR)	
Agenda	<u>Agenda</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Minutes (to follow through) • CwC TaskForce update and presentation of new material • Presentation of Hellenic Red Cross survey on Attitudes towards Vaccinations • CwC WG members' update • AoB 	
Talking points	Discussion	Action Points
Review of last meeting Minutes	Last meeting minutes were reviewed with no comments/edits from partners. It was just noted that all translations of the Vaccination FAQ, which in the previous meeting minutes were marked as still pending, has been shared in the meantime.	Minutes reviewed
CwC Vaccination Taskforce Update and presentation of new material	<p>Vaccination Taskforce (CwC) update: Recap/update and clarifications on the CwC material on vaccination against COVID-19 available:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) of the CwC WG Vaccination taskforce (DRC, IOM, KEM, MFC (HRC), RI, SN, UNHCR, ACCMR) has been uploaded on the dedicated drive in English, Greek, French, Farsi, Somali, Arabic, Turkish, Sorani, Urdu, Bengali (translations by METAdrasi), as well as Pulaar and Kinyarwanda (by Hellenic Red Cross's MFC). The FAQ document is available in two versions: one for urban-self accommodated population (Here on Drive) and one for population residing in official sites/RICs (here on Drive). 2) The Ministry of Health (MoH) created 4 written messages around COVID-19 for Persons of Concern (PoC), that were also incorporated in the CwC FAQ. These were translated by Refugee.Info in several 	<p>Please share Covid-19 Vaccination material with your field teams/organization</p> <p>CwC folder/drive link to be re-shared in next email.</p>

	<p>languages including: Arabic-Urdu-Farsi-French-English-Lingala-Somali-Turkish. They are shorter than the FAQ and may be more easily shared through e.g. Whatsapp channels. Here on Drive</p> <p>3) Babel’s translation of the complete EODY FAQ (EODY is Hellenic National Public Health Organization) available on the EODY.gov.gr site has been created in English, French, Farsi and French, as well as shorter versions. These are translated from the original and not adapted to PoC needs. They have been uploaded to their site: https://babeldc.gr/en/questions-and-answers-regarding-vaccination-against-the-sars-cov-2-coronavirus-english-french-farsi-arabic/. It is also available on the drive here.</p> <p>4) IOM developed audio messages reading out the MoH messages (see point 2) in English, French, Arabic, Farsi, Lingala, Somali, Sorani, Urdu, Pashto. Such audio messages are meant to be disseminated through Whatsapp or other messaging apps. available to be downloaded on the drive here!</p> <p>The material above is all being uploaded the CwC shared folder on GoogleDrive, in a COVID-19 Vaccination specific file in the COVID-19 folder: here . This should ease the process of identifying necessary documents for all partners’ needs.</p> <p>These are also available on UNHCR’s Help website (here), SolidarityNow page (only FAQ here) and in a combined format on Refugee.Info.</p>	
<p>Feedback on Channels of Dissemination in Urban/Sites</p>	<p>IOM has disseminated the audio messages through Whatsapp broadcast channels and feedback from the communities has so far been positive. Longer documents like FAQ have also been posted on Info Boards in the sites.</p>	

	<p>Refugee.Info is working in coordination with UNHCR on developing an online campaign using key messages on vaccination, aiming at involving also community members themselves. RI has also produced articles on the Covid-19 and related vaccination situation in 4 of the main countries of origin of their beneficiaries, to show the global impact of the virus. Audio-messages are also available on the RI page.</p> <p>Diotima has used the CwC WG Vaccination FAQ in hard-copy form to feed in-person sessions about Covid-19 vaccinations with women, mostly African French-speaking women, covering topics such as consent and how to take an informed decision about the vaccination process. The participants’ feedback showed skepticism of the government’s vaccination campaign, based on the fact that they have very little support from the authorities so far, thus demonstrating little trust towards the vaccine. Diotima tried to talk through the vaccination process in their countries to show that vaccination is happening elsewhere in the world including their own country, and tried to encourage the women making informed decisions before rejecting options. The feedback from Diotima was that the FAQ (available here) is a good tool to use as a base for further discussions.</p> <p>KEM Athens has organized an event with the ACCMR and City of Athens Migrants' Integration Council to share material and answer participants’ questions with the support of EODY experts. Useful resources and information had already been shared. Questions were pre-collected and addressed during the session, mostly covering self-tests, vaccinations procedures, rumors, issues connected with lack of documentation.</p> <p>UNHCR has conducted a session with representatives of refugee-led organizations, with the presence of EODY management to answer questions on vaccination campaign and self-test. Participants posed several questions directly to EODY staff and suggested to organize a session opened to all community members and facilitated by a doctor, to address technical questions on the vaccination (e.g. different vaccines, side effects)</p> <p>Other members of the CwC working group agreed that including both more members of the community and especially experts like doctors would only have a positive effect.</p>	
<p>Presentation of the findings of the Hellenic Red Cross’</p>	<p>Hellenic Red Cross presented on a survey conducted during 3 weeks in April 2021, aiming at tracking down the communities’ perception on the vaccination (see PPT presentation attached to these minutes or in CwC</p>	

<p>Survey on Attitude towards Vaccination</p>	<p>Drive). The survey, which was supported by field staff such as interpreters, social workers, nurses, had the following objectives.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Measuring attitudes towards COVID-19 2) Collect valid information regarding perception on the vaccination 3) Investigate the sources of information used by communities <p>Questions were drafted in a simple, immediate language, to prevent misunderstandings. 569 responses were gathered from 10 service points across Greece, with a balanced gender breakdown across all age groups. The vast majority of respondents spoke Farsi/Dari (30%), Arabic (24%) and French (19%).</p> <p>As for the findings: most respondents believes in the existence of the COVID-19 pandemic but only a smaller percentage reported feeling susceptible to it. Main sources of information on COVID-19 are: 1st social media, 2nd friends/social environment and 3rd health professionals. Majority of respondents confirmed that vaccines are important and that the vaccination will help to end the pandemic, but then a much smaller portion reported wanting to get the vaccination. Main reasons for refusing the shot included 1) many side effects of vaccines, 2) not believing to be in danger by COVID, 3) don't believing in the pandemic, 4) not having the full information on the vaccination safety, 5) hesitation because the vaccines have been recently developed.</p> <p>Additional feedback from the data gathering: skepticism is also linked by the fact that refugees/asylum seekers are receiving a different kind of vaccination than the one provided to the Greek population. A case study will be developed and shared later on with all members.</p>	
<p>CwC WG members' update</p>	<p>Diotima's Here for Us campaign: material disseminated on social media and other channels from January until June, in preparation for World Refugee Day. The hashtag campaign Here for Us aims to highlight GBV issues, which are the options for GBV survivors, encourage community care etc.</p> <p>Platform to obtain PAMKA is set to be activated in the coming weeks.</p>	

	<p>UNHCR has announced the termination of its ESTIA cash programme at the end of September 2021; as of 1 October 2021, the Greek authorities will be responsible for providing assistance to asylum-seekers to cover their basic needs. A dedicated Q&A has been developed and uploaded on HELP website (https://help.unhcr.org/greece/living-in-greece/access-to-cash-assistance/ - currently only in English, translations to be uploaded as soon as ready)</p>	
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