

CWC Meeting Minutes

March 9th, 2016

Attendance

UNHCR (Virginia, Arwen, Ben), Salvation Army (Emily), Internews (Sue), Save the Children (Vicki), CRS (Carolyn), Caritas (Maria), Solidarity Now (Vaso), Network of Children's Rights

Agenda

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- Old Business and reading of minutes
 - New Business

TOUR DE TABLE

Internews

Sue Folgers introduced herself as the new Humanitarian Adviser (team leader) for Internews, Lesvos. They currently have a team scoping in Idomeni (where they have placed flyers and banners) and are looking at issues and possibilities of presence on the mainland. Still undecided.

Sue outlined that Internews focuses on clear, concise messaging. Dot points. One-pagers. On issues such as relocation / family reunification / access to asylum

Salvation Army

Victoria Square update. There were 400+ sleeping/occupying the area ...but everyone was cleared on Sunday (6/3) and sent to Elliniko . Police are now patrolling the Square. By Monday (7/3) hundreds of people were returning from other sites to visit the service centers around VS. Salvation Army reported that there was a map being distributed with only their service highlighted and so they were a little overwhelmed by people arriving - at one stage 100 people lined up for clothes. Other actors are still operational around VS - people are looking for NFIs, (primarily clothes). IOM are still in VS providing information.

SA report that some people have now started sleeping in the side streets, as VS is now off limits for sleeping. Doubled up on Police presence ~6-8.

Friday 11/3 - Blue Dot meeting for Victoria Square will occur. The emphasis of this meeting will be information provision at the Blue Dot and streamlining of same. Information desks for each theme e.g. relocation, voluntary repatriation. Can we really have that many information desks???

The Blue Dot will be located at the Salvation Army center - not at the Square itself.

VMM: UNHCR is cautious of the rapidly changing nature of information - potential for harm etc...

VMM: Approved information doesn't come quickly. We currently distribute this information via Dropbox. (If you're not a member let VMM know).

ACTION: Emily to add the revised and updated Victoria Square information leaflet to the Dropbox.

Save the Children

Setting up Elliniko 1 and Schisto (since 2 days - with 2 RHUs) with Child-Friendly spaces.

Mother/Baby space is coming. Big tent (CFS) is getting put up at Elliniko 1 tomorrow. Information guidelines for referral of services, food, NFIs, medical, vulnerable - mostly this is done at Elliniko through the camp coordinator. Currently struggling with human resources.

Mother/Baby and women's specifically targeted information with the CFS. Safe place. Still a work-in-progress.

Perhaps plan for a meeting-point.

Piraeus is currently on hold, but has been in discussions with Pep (UNHCR).

STC requested common guidelines for information delivery on protection - assistance from UNHCR really needed. Emphasized that a consistent communication strategy is required from all actors.

Salvation Army are requesting the same - a common messaging guide.

REQUEST: Access to the UNHCR Athens public site list: with number of people in each site and other services etc. Necessary to include contact info for UNHCR Site focal people.

ACTION: Virginia to check if it available for public distribution.

ACTION: Ben to add subscription link for data.unhcr.org updates.

Caritas

Mobile Athens service - information delivery. POC are disoriented, lack of legal pathways, legal aid and practical issues relating to service access. Request will come in the future for assistance from UNHCR.

Solidarity Now

Request for clear information around the relocation country candidates. Rumors are suggesting Bahrain are out and Burundi are in (since 4/3)

CWC Athens Dropbox

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/5v5mtp619ij2tjf/AABGBgC1HmJf3EDDIPS1c7hra?dl=0>

CRS

Working a lot at Piraeus and concerned about lack of information. What information should we be giving out? We have no information on referrals for relocation. No clear message for Afghans.

Biggest gap for information is at the Port.

CRS do leaflets in Farsi, Arabic, English. What else is being done at the Port?

There is no coordination at the Port.

CRS reported on the general meeting at the Piraeus on 8/3. Red Cross, MSF, UNHCR and other actors, but too many volunteers, all very opinionated and the coordination was difficult. Lots of

different gates - people are spread out. People expect that they will be going to a site/camp. Don't expect to be sleeping at the port.

Said volunteers wanted signs restricting media (the answer was no, this would not be done).

Messaging needs to be coordinated.

Info-sessions for volunteers are needed, but CWC needs to be a priority with actors/NGOs

Showers at E1 have ceased.

Luckily there is WiFi.

There isn't currently a coordination document that details who is where when.

REQUEST: Communication strategy that highlights what **SHOULDN'T BE CONVEYED OR SHARED BECAUSE IT MAY BE HARMFUL**. Particularly for interpreters and Arabic/Farsi speaking volunteers.

UNHCR (Arwen) reported on the flash-folders which includes a lot of the information that is shared in Dropbox e.g. Caritas leaflet, MSF leaflet, Athens service directory. Approval process is taking some time. At that time, we created it there was only E1. Now we probably need to maintain ~25 folders across all the actors.

Children's Rights Network

Giving information about services at Victoria Square is currently irresponsible as it is encouraging movement towards the area and upsetting the Government/Police/People. (Some discussion about this and most disagreed).

Sessions at Schisto - the information is mostly coming from mobile phones. Put up stickers that give access to approved content from the UN or another coordinating body. This information should be kept up-to-date and in real-time. With a daily update. Centrally controlled. Needs a dedicated team with focus on valid information and rapid translations.

We don't need leaflets. We need another solution.

OTHER ITEMS

Frequency of meetings

It was agreed that the coordination meetings should be held bi-weekly, instead of the previous monthly meetings.

Internews

We have a website. Fact-based information for refugees in English, Greek, Arabic and Farsi.

<https://newsthatmoves.org/en/>

We also have a weekly Rumors document. (VMM - find them all in the RUMORS folder in the Dropbox)

Victoria Square

Some discussion continued about directing people towards Victoria Square. We use the term 'Victoria' because that is the name of the metro station. People visiting the Square is driven by the smuggler network - not us. We could potentially print some large scale maps on an information board so they can be easily photographed.

Photography Sign

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/3c09rd6adzdq17d/NO%20PHOTOS.pdf?dl=0>

"If someone wants to take photos of you or your family,
you have the right to say no.

Do not let people take your photo if you do not want them to."

EASO

New resources on Access to Asylum in the Dropbox and available here:

<http://easo.europa.eu/accesstoprocedure>

Asylum Service

Information on Relocation:

http://asylo.gov.gr/en/?page_id=824

Facebook Athens

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/157689337908512/?ref=bookmarks>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/204202716585823/?ref=bookmarks>

Facebook Others (use google chrome for auto-translate)

<https://www.facebook.com/importantinfo4refugees/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/mazaraki/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1027902010600169/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1677916125828651/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/460007497517533/?ref=browser>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1636792079929760/?ref=browser>

<https://www.facebook.com/RefuComm-communication-and-information-for-refugees-145594569125687/?rc=p>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1636792079929760/?ref=browser>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1637579959839129/?ref=browser>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/766219550168182/?ref=browser>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/informationpointforlesvosvolunteers/?ref=browser>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1458300181135695/?ref=browser>