

CwC Meeting – 8 March 2016

Minutes

Chair: Internews

Present: Internews, IRC, UNHCR, Humanity Crew, Samaritan's Purse, No borders kitchen, Red Cross (RC), DRC, Hliactida, Action!Aid, Better days for Moria, Save the Children.

Updates

- **DRC/IRC:** Meeting with the vice-president of the local (private) bus company
 - o The bus company has permission to set a bus station outside the sites of Moria and Kara Tepe which means the bus can wait until it's full to leave.
 - o They are happy to provide information in the buses. DRC is starting translations.
 - o Any messages from partners can be facilitated to be put in these buses as well.
 - o There are ongoing arguments between the taxi drivers and the bus company.
 - o There is still a big need for crowd control outside Moria that should be discussed in an interagency level.
 - o UNHCR offers to support efforts to start similar initiative with the taxi drivers
 - o UNHCR suggests to meet with the municipality and the Ministry of transportation
- **Mercy Corps:** request DRC to share the volunteers guide book with the services available in Moria. DRC is happy to do so
- **BDM and DRC** set up new whatsapp-group called "Moria shift leaders"
- **UNHCR** has a new duty phone.
- **DRC:** A new system has started in Moria with wrist bands. Volunteers are the ones giving the wrist bands out based on language, not nationality. (This is strictly a Frontex/ authorities task).
 - o Communication with refugees is needed to explain the system.
 - o Internews asks to communicate not just what it is for, but also what it is not for.
 - o BDM asks if there's been an ethical discussion on wrist-bands/labelling refugees with barcodes.
 - o DRC said that the number under the barcode of the wrist band is also the registration number in the line that will be displayed in the boards to know when each refugees turn is in order to register.
 - o UNHCR explains the system is still in its pilot stage. There should be an extra different meeting only for the communication strategies of the new wrist-band system.
- **Red Cross:** audio program is being translated for Kara Tepe and will be ready and in use soon.
 - o The walkie talkie for the RFL services is ready.
 - o They are compiling an information guide on local businesses in Mytilene for migrants/refugees. When it will be translated in Farsi and Arabic it will be given to the shops and local businesses.
 - o Internews refers to similar exercise MercyCorps has conducted – and suggests to build on this.
- **Save the Children:** carried out an assessment for their nutrition program.
 - o It revealed there were still information gaps:
 - that the doctors provide free services on the sites,
 - that water is drinkable
 - that they can use all services even if they are not registered yet.
 - o Some of these issues are part of the existing messages produced by Internews – these messages will be shared again
- **MercyCorps** asks if information to refugees about the situation in Idomeni is being distributed
 - o Internews refers to a general info-flyer distributed two weeks ago. But an update is definitively necessary – Internews will circulate updated and more detailed information soon.

- **BDM:** held a peaceful protest today upon request of Pakistani refugees. Around 1000 people were present with signs and slogans like “Europe wake up!”, “We are all equal”, “We love Europe” etc. and very strong voices for awareness. There was a lot of press and also a group of MEPs was present and visiting and asking about their organisation.
- **Hliactida:** We should communicate to refugees not to buy tickets to Idomeni from here, since buses are not running anymore from Piraeus port.
 - There should be messaging on the ferries about the situation in Idomeni and also about
 - Increased trafficking and smuggling when they arrive at the Piraeus port.
 - Furthermore they should communicate to the refugees later on the opening of 15 new camps throughout Greece so they know they can also stay there.
 - DRC insisted that the protection counterparts should be on-board on what information to provide. They will raise it in the protection meeting tomorrow, but more cooperation should be done with them (raising of Action Point).
- **UNHCR** says people should be introduced to the asylum service and the new “Blue dots” in Greece.
 - If things change the communication will have to be reviewed on the island.
 - Relocation programme has to be pushed and leaflets from EASO have to be distributed
 - All partners should be informed and share the relevant information.
 - IRC says that the refugees want to be as close to the border as possible because the relocation program takes 3 months to be actually implemented.
 - DRC emphasizes again the importance of the protection officers of each partner organisation have to be on-board before distributing any information.
 - ActionAid suggested for humanitarians to use a map of the route from Lesvos to Idomeni telling the situation in each stop, i.e. how many volunteers/refugees are there? What supplies are needed etc. They will share the online map with the partners.
- **UNHCR** said that we all must be careful with the information and that a small cwc group has to cooperate with the protection group and the outcomes of the protection meetings should be shared by email.
- **ActionAid** announced that tomorrow due to an internal meeting the tents in Kara Tepe and Moria will open after 12pm. Save the Children in Moria will open in the Action Aids space from 10am until the constructions are done.
- **UNHCR:** makes a statement about “Asylum shopping”. It’s not up to the refugees to choose their destination country, but because there is absence to any legal option, the refugees end up to choose work with smugglers. The experiences are traumatizing not only for the refugees but also for the host communities. We should push the governments to have legal ways on legal routes since now is the momentum.
- **MercyCorps:** Asks for dvds or any information to the refugees (adults and children to be screened on their TV in the cash program offices.