

28 March 2017

Regional IM Working Group

– Meeting minutes

Present: UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF, REACH

General updates

1. For the most recent updates, see the [Mediterranean response data portal](#) .
2. While conducting **Flow Monitoring Surveys** with migrants in the Western Balkans, data collectors from IOM reported an increase in number of respondents who reported crossing through Albania, Kosovo (SRC 1244) and Montenegro. It is yet to be seen if these observations will be statistically reflected in the further analysis of collected surveys. There also appear to be regular population movements from Italy to Austria (approx. 60-70 people per day). There is anecdotal information regarding increasing numbers of people travelling via Russia and Central Europe, from African countries and Afghanistan in particular.
3. UNICEF, together with REACH, are conducting an **analysis of the situation of refugee and migrant children in Greece and Italy**. Profiling of children and families in sites and urban areas in Greece is underway. First deliverables (map of the child population in Greece, as well as children in urban areas in Athens and Thessaloniki) have been produced. A mapping of the monitoring systems for refugee and migrant children, as well as profiling of children in shelters for UASC in Italy are both underway and should be published in April. Rapid assessments have been conducted in Como and Ventimiglia (a third one is in the pipeline) and will be published in April.
4. REACH is conducting a study of **separated families, focusing on those left behind in their country of origin**. They have also just published an analysis of southern Libyan routes. Lastly in May, REACH will conduct a profile of Iraqi returnees on the Greek islands.
5. UNHCR will follow up with organisations with relevant focal points in Geneva to see how we can adapt the regional meetings to better suit their needs.
6. UNHCR are building information management capacity in Bulgaria with a new IMO due to join the team in Sofia during April.

Joint assessments and analysis

1. There is interest in doing more joint assessments and data collection across Europe. To avoid possible duplication and better inform and plan future joint activities, all organisations present agreed to build on/update the existing [regional assessment registry](#), and expand to cover key research and reports by academia, agencies and civil society around key issues (including protection, integration, etc.) and also available European data on HDX.
2. This is also an opportunity to reach out to research organisations and to bring all together to discuss collaboration, common areas of interest, protection focused research and related working modalities.

3. REACH have a small budget for a qualitative assessment in Europe and would be interested in the views of IMWG partners on information gaps to help guide a suitable location. During the meeting, the borders between Spain and Morocco and between Italy and Austria were discussed as potential areas of interest.

Priority Child Rights Monitoring Indicators

1. UNICEF presented the [indicators](#) (how they were defined, what is the purpose and how they will be rolled out) and suggested a joint approach with UNHCR and IOM on this. Much of the required data is readily available, but will need greater disaggregation by age and gender when published on e.g. the data portal. Other indicators (detention, family reunification and reported cases of violence/abuse/exploitation) are more sensitive for governments, but definitely of importance for other actors, so clearly an area where we can collaborate to improve evidence generation.

Inter-agency Factsheet on Children

1. UNICEF, IOM and UNHCR are working together on an interagency factsheet on refugee and migrant children, including a focus on Unaccompanied and Separated Children, in Europe for the whole of 2016. This will now be published in April.

Follow up actions

1. All organisations to urgently share any information gaps they are aware of with [Vincent Annoni](#) (REACH) by 5th May 2017. REACH will need to confirm the eligibility of the location and the population groups for this research with the donor (DFID).
2. UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM and REACH will map and compile relevant research and reports in the [online document](#) by next meeting. Contributions from all other regional partners are welcome.
3. Plan for a workshop/webinar with key academic institutions working on migration with the aim to establish linkages and ultimately collaborate and coordinate on priority evidence generation on refugees and migrants (ideally in June).
4. UNICEF to share the priority CRM indicators with the group for review and comments.
5. UNHCR to explore feasibility to improve disaggregation of data on their portal to meet the needs of UNICEF CRM indicators.
6. UNHCR to canvas views via an evaluation form on the new data portal during May.
7. UNHCR and IOM to work together to ensure publications including land arrivals contain consistent figures.
8. UNHCR will continue to follow up with organisations with relevant focal points in Geneva to see how we can adapt the regional meetings to better suit their needs.

Next meeting

23th May from 1100 to 1230 at IOM, Geneva.