

CwC MEETING MINUTES

CwC Meeting	
Meeting Subject	National CwC Working Group Meeting
Date, Time & place of meeting	19/04/2017, UNHCR Athens Office
Meeting Chair	Rachel Maher (UNHCR)
Minutes/notes prepared by	Spyros-Vlant Oikonomou (UNHCR, Protection Unit Intern)
Present organizations	UNHCR, Solidarity Now, DRC, HELP Refugees, Refugee Info, MsF, Salvation Army, Advocates Aboard, Translators Without Borders, HLHR, IRC

1. Review of previous meetings/matters arising

Point/details	Details/Going forward	Suggested Actions
	The Chair asked the attendees to provide their comments with respect to the minutes of the previous meeting. No comments were made. The minutes were approved.	

2. Briefing on relocation and Dublin

<u>Relocation Scheme</u>	<p>UNHCR's Assistant Protection Officer attended the meeting, during which she provided a briefing on the Relocation Scheme and Dublin procedures. Some of the issues discussed were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 11th E.C. progress report, as well as the renewed list of eligible nationalities for relocation which were recently published (reviewed quarterly). • The difference between the duration of the relocation procedure and the time of transfer was explained. As mentioned, from the time of full registration to that of acceptance of a relocation request, which is made by the Asylum Service to the potential host country's authorities (PoC only file one asylum application), there is an average waiting period of 49 days. From full registration to the eventual transfer, however, the interval may, on average, be that of 4 months. With countries (e.g. Sweden) having started pledging more places for the Scheme, this interval may decrease, as the aim is to have all beneficiaries of relocation transferred by September 2017. • Security checks, as a prerequisite for relocation differ between MS. On occasions, though a relocation may have been accepted, it may be withdrawn following these checks. This is not able to be appealed, nor is it accompanied by a relevant, issued decision, as the procedure is conducted at the level of internal communications between relevant Member State governmental services. As is the case when relocations are not accepted, so too in this case PoC are informed that their applications will be examined in Greece. • PoC who did not make the 20th of March threshold re the EU-Turkey agreement, but were nonetheless referred for relocation are those who landed during the gap between the EU decision, which did not 	
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<p><u>Assistance for Transportation</u></p>	<p>UNHCR's Senior Protection Officer also attended the meeting, during which he provided an overview of UNHCR's progressive handover of assistance for transportation. Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As mentioned, transportation assistance will be the responsibility of the SMS agencies, with the deadline for the full transition being the <u>10th of May</u>. • As per its commitment, UNHCR will continue supporting transportation to full registration appointments, for PoC living under UNHCR's accommodation scheme, and those being accommodated in UNHCR-managed sites. The rest, however, and with few exceptions, will be handed over to SMS agencies. • UNHCR's aim is to focus more on urban areas and retain its protection role via coordination and monitoring in sites. <p><u>Action Plan:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing discussions are carried out with SMS agencies for coordination purposes, and in order to ensure that transportation is available for all PoC. • A list of sites and SMS agencies will be shared and the the number of sites managed by UNHCR will be clear on that list. 	<p><u>Action points</u></p> <p>Information on transportation assistance will be developed / shared and the issue of who is not covered by transportation assistance, continues to be discussed</p>
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4. Communication With Communities

	<p>With respect the issue of other CWC matters, the discussion concerned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some aspects of island communications and the need to streamline CWC coordination. • Translators Without Borders provided an update on their platform. Their online program will revolve around connecting NGOs with interpreters, providing online trainings to interpreters, and ethical guidelines for NGOs. It is expected to be operational in the next, few, months. • HELP Refugees, similarly provided an update on their field of operations. The overall aim, as mentioned, is that of opening channels of communication and cover potential gaps, thus complementing the work that is already being done. • IRC presented an overview of the refugee.info blog and Facebook page. The issues covered regard aspects of protection and integration, with all content being available in English, Arabic and Farsi. Lastly, plans of expanding these platforms were also mentioned, including to a number of N. African countries, as well as Southeast European ones. 	
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