

7 September 2017

Regional IM Working Group

– Meeting minutes

Present: UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF, IFRC, Save the Children (UK)

General updates

1. The [published last meeting minutes](#) (19 July 2017).
2. For the most recent updates, see the [Mediterranean response data portal](#).
3. In Greece, IM focal points from IOM and UNHCR met at the end of August and agreed to try to collaborate more closely, particularly relating to alignment of data on arrivals, relocations, site profiles and activity monitoring. As the existing thematic working groups are meeting less frequently, an informal IMWG will be scheduled in the coming weeks.
4. IFRC continue to harmonise their knowledge platform portals, which is expected to be completed later in 2017, probably December.
5. IFRC's restoring family links survey is now live. Initial results should be available in October.
6. IOM's DTM completed another round of collection of flow monitoring surveys in Italy, Greece and other SE European countries at the end of August. In total, approximately 12,000 interviews have been conducted in Europe during 2017. Recent increased capacity in Romania enabled 400 interviews to be conducted during August. A profile of Nigerians arriving to Italy will be published during September. The sixth global DTM training for Europe and MENA region will be taking place in October in Vienna. The recent survey of users highlighted interest in greater analysis and summary dashboards. Analysis of the data will continue during the year.
7. The [data portal](#) is being extended to include additional information visualisations, initially for arrival and asylum statistics. These will support users to explore and link to the datasets and answer the questions that they have with the data (based on the numerous requests for information received by the IM support team). One aspect of this would be to increase the level of age and gender disaggregation of arrival data that is available on the portal, and this is currently being reviewed. The updates should be available during Q4.

Information available for the refugees and migrants arriving in Italy and Spain

IOM's DTM is planning to enhance the flow monitoring activities in the country to improve the quality and frequency of available updates.

UNHCR's planned profiling activities in Italy and Spain are now underway:

- a. A profiling coordinator has been hired to manage the project and will be based in Rome. The partner conducting the profile in Italy has been confirmed, and should also soon be finalised in Spain.
- b. In Italy, three nationalities have been selected: Guineans, Eritreans and Sudanese. Interviews will be conducted in North and Central Italy and on Sicily. Other nationalities, such as Nigerians, have been avoided so as not to duplicate other recent profiles.
- c. In Spain, profiling will be conducted generally for all arrivals in Melilla, Ceuta and the Andalusian coast.
- d. All organisations agreed that the profiles in both countries were useful additions to our existing situational awareness, particularly in Spain, where no information on the routes and protection risks experiences by refugees and migrants in Spain is available. No other organisations had plans during 2017 for similar profiles.
- e. The questionnaires for both countries will be shared once finalised. In brief, they will include research questions on demographic characteristics, socio-economic background, protection environment in country of origin, motivation for departure, routes taken, exposure to protection risks along the journey, transit countries and length of time in transit and the intended country of destination.

IM Coordination in Europe - collation of activities

Having been active for almost two years, it was agreed that it would be a good opportunity to take stock of what has been achieved by the IMWG. It might be useful to publish a joint summary factsheet highlighting these. Areas to note could include:

1. Regular IMWG's at the regional level to share information and coordinate ongoing activities. IMWG's at country level when needed.
2. Ensuring consistency in key datasets such as arrivals and dead and missing
3. Joint tools such as the assessment and research registry.
4. Coordination of several profiling exercises. Going forwards, this could include common approaches, such as wider use of UNICEF's ethical approach to the collection of data relating to children.
5. Collaboration on joint products, such as the factsheet on children
6. Supporting the development and monitoring of the RMRP
7. Activity summary datasets, including on Integration and 3W information for Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Greece, Germany, Italy and Turkey.

A regional interagency workshop focused on further developing the **strategic direction of the RIMWG** as well as **joint data collation and analysis** will be conducted, with a more concrete plan will be formulated in the coming weeks.

Linkages with private sector foundations

In May, UNHCR organised a workshop with approximately 30 private sector foundations, including Lumos, Comic Relief and Open Society. The workshop focused on child protection. A broad action plan was developed for continuing this collaboration and include three parallel workstreams: data capture, analysis and use, communication and campaigning and documenting and sharing good practices. The first workstream is the most relevant to the RIMWG and a follow-on discussion with Lumos is planned to evaluate how best to proceed.

Collaborate and finalise the Q2 Interagency factsheet on children

The interagency factsheet on children, produced by UNICEF, IOM and UNHCR, and should be published by the end of October. Some datasets are still not available, including refugee and migrant arrivals to Spain and the Q2 asylum decision statistics from Eurostat. Both are expected to be available in mid-September. This update will also include a summary of the recent REACH-UNICEF profiles in Italy and Greece. The review and final drafting will be done online so that everyone has access to the same version.

EU recommendations for data relating to children

UNHCR, UNICEF and IOM are formulating a joint position paper for the EU including recommendations for improvements of European statistics on refugee and migrant children, which is linked to the consultation being undertaken by DG Home in follow up to the [EU communication on the protection of refugee and migrant children in Europe](#). This will be finalised during October.

Collaboration on other common datasets

There was interest from IOM and UNHCR in collaborating more closely on common datasets, including the arrivals and dead and missing datasets.

In addition, joint analysis of datasets such as IOM's DTM information and other available profiling information could usefully identify trends and help extract additional value from data already collected.

Further discussion on both points will follow.

Upcoming reports, workshops and initiatives

1. **TransMonee** - In Athens, at the end of October, the Greek Statistics Office and UNICEF are convening a conference focused on statistics on children with participation of national statistic offices from Europe and Central Asia. The topic of this year's conference is migration and ethnicity. In the margins of the conference, a workshop/training with relevant partners and child rights monitoring actors will be conducted on the ethical considerations in data collection from children. There will also be a related data visualisation training which is open to all.
2. **Advisory group with EASO on asylum statistics** - UNHCR will meet with EASO in Malta in September to discuss common analytical products and best practises related to the collation and presentation of asylum statistics.
3. A joint publication between IOM and UNICEF using DTM data and highlighting exploitative practises will be published in September. The report will be called "Harrowing Journeys".

Follow up actions

1. UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM to identify the modalities for the **strategic direction of the RIMWG** as well as **joint data collation and analysis** workshop.
2. UNHCR and IOM to continue working together to ensure publications including dead and missing and arrivals datasets contain consistent figures.
3. UNHCR to share the analysis plan and questionnaire for the profiling in Italy and Spain.
4. UNHCR, UNICEF and IOM to finalise the Q2 interagency factsheet on refugee and migrant children in September.
5. UNHCR UNICEF and IOM to finalise the joint EU recommendations during October.
6. UNHCR and IOM to discuss greater collaboration on common datasets.

Next meeting

Tuesday 31 October from 1100 to 1230 at UNHCR, Geneva.