

27 March 2018

Regional IM Working Group

– Meeting minutes

Present: UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF, Lumos

Location: IOM, Geneva

General updates

1. The [published last meeting minutes](#) (31 January 2018).
2. For the most recent updates, see the [Mediterranean response data portal](#).

Update on profiling in Italy and Spain

The reports for both Italy and Spain are being finalised and will now be available in late April.

UNHCR border protection monitoring in Europe

UNHCR consulted with all their offices in Europe in late 2016 and identified that while most were engaged in border monitoring, the process was not consistent and often paper based. To improve the consistency of the processes:

- a. In 2017, two electronic forms were created, a quick form and an individual form, to identify protection trends, support strategic litigation and also to support case management. The quick form has been designed to be used to capture secondary data as well and takes about 20 to 40 minutes to fill.
- b. The data in both forms can be collected anonymously and the interviews do not need to be conducted directly at the border.
- c. A web-based tool lets users edit the data in the database, browse the information and view the information on a dashboard and export it.
- d. The tools have been piloted in Macedonia, Spain, Bulgaria and Greece. They are now also being used in Serbia.
- e. The information produced is unlikely to be publicly accessible, but the supporting narrative and analysis produced from the data could be used to support common reports including the inter-agency factsheet on children and Desperate Journeys. There are clear linkages with e.g. the IOM DTM process and UNICEF's risk monitoring in the Balkans.
- f. More information is available in this PowerPoint [summary of the border monitoring tools](#). Once the revisions to the latest versions of the forms are ready, they will be shared with the RIMWG.
- g. The analysis on the incidents recorded during the pilot is now underway - additional analysis can be incorporated as needed (e.g. perhaps focusing on protection incidents relating specifically to UASC).
- h. A meeting with Frontex is planned later in 2018 to discuss the output of the tool and whether closer coordination would be useful.

IOM activities in Bosnia Herzegovina

IOM conducted a DTM training in Bosnia Herzegovina last week. Recent trends highlighted by the DTM data in Bosnia Herzegovina and elsewhere in SE Europe include:

- a. Arrivals from Turkey to Albania, Montenegro and further to Bosnia Herzegovina via Greece have increased.
- b. The visa free regime in Serbia for Iranians and the direct flights from Iran to Belgrade have led to increasing numbers arriving in Serbia, some include also Afghan nationals that had previously sought refuge in Iran.
- c. Of the approximately 1,000 refugees and migrants arriving recently in Bosnia Herzegovina, many are of Turkish citizenship.
- d. Some reception centres in Bosnia Herzegovina are open, while others are closed and some refugees and migrants stay in more informal accommodation.
- e. The flow monitoring survey in Bosnia Herzegovina will last until 15 May with the intention to try to collect around 150 interviews and to publish the analysis by the end of May. The standard flow monitoring questionnaire is being used, which now includes also 3 new questions about what assistance has been provided along the route.
- f. This approach will be replicated in Albania and Montenegro in mid-2018.
- g. The interviews will include children above the age of 14 and there are not currently many UASC.
- h. Of the interviews conducted so far, most are Afghan or Pakistani.

UNICEF UASC research in Northern Europe

UNICEF have just completed and published a study - "[Protected on Paper](#)" - which is an analysis of legal and procedural standards for migrant and refugee children, and the extent to which they are being applied on the ground in the five Nordic countries responses to asylum-seeking children. The study was conducted by the UNICEF office of research - Innocenti in Florence and national committees for UNICEF in each country. Besides challenges and shortfalls, the report highlights a number of good practices. Some of them include:

- a. Children's' interviews are conducted in a child protection centre and other relevant immigration officers can watch the interview by video.
- b. Sweden has emerged as having the strongest child protection legislation, including with regards to access to services.
- c. Finland and Norway both provide residence permits for unaccompanied children who do not meet the legal requirements to enter and stay in the country, but who cannot be returned to their countries of origin.

The findings will be used to advocate with other governments and to try to encourage them to reflect on their own processes. All recommendations provided in the report are fully in line with UNHCR-UNICEF-IRC Way Forward.

Interestingly, not all countries were systematically reporting on EuroStat (e.g. Iceland).

UNICEF will extract any datasets that were produced that could be added to the inter-agency assessment registry.

Lumos research project on care arrangements for children

1. As explained in the [concept note](#), the aim of the research would be to identify what data is available in various European countries on the kinds of care arrangements provided, to identify promising care arrangement practices and to attempt to evaluate the costs of different care arrangements.
2. Five pilot countries have been confirmed (Italy, Greece, Spain, France and the Netherlands) with the last pilot country likely to be in Central or South-Eastern Europe.
3. The steering group has been formed with relevant [terms of reference](#) and currently comprises IOM, UNICEF and UNHCR.

Migration Monitoring Review (MMR) - Mixed migration initiative in MENA

UNHCR MENA are interested to conduct a mapping of the various mixed migration initiative and tools used in MENA, Africa and Europe. They are compiling a concept note for this project and will share this with relevant organisations for review in April.

Inter-agency IM focal point list in Europe

To replace our out-of-date Europe contact list for IM staff, a new list has been created on [Humanitarian ID](#) for [Europe Information Management](#). All IM officers and IM focal points in Europe are encouraged to join the list, including those e.g. protection staff that are also involved in IM. Being aware of who is working for which organisations and where will help support closer inter-agency collaboration at country level.

At a later stage, it would be useful for IM's to self-assess their skills according to the profiles being developed by the global IMWG (see this [summary of common IM profiles](#)).

IMWG workshop plans 2018

A 1.5 to 2-day workshop, probably funded by IOM, will be planned for September, likely in Vienna, to take stock of data collection, particularly in countries of arrival and transit in Europe and to seek to improve the analysis and products generated from this data. It would be an opportunity for organisations to bring together country level focal points in order to better facilitate coordination between organisations.

Follow up actions

1. All IMs to join the [Europe Information Management](#) group on [Humanitarian ID](#).
2. UNHCR, UNICEF and IOM to finalise the Q4 interagency factsheet on refugee and migrant children in April.
3. UNHCR to share the two forms for the Border Monitoring
4. UNICEF to collate any relevant datasets from the recent UASC study in Northern Europe
5. UNHCR and UNICEF to finalise the joint EU recommendations and present this to DG Home during April.
6. UNHCR and IOM to further discuss greater collaboration on common datasets.

7. DG Justice programme - UNICEF will create a shared information repository.
8. RIMWG organisations to conduct a mapping of the available Education information.

Next meeting

27 April 2018 (1400 to 1530) at UNHCR in Geneva