

31 May 2018

Regional IM Working Group

– Meeting minutes

Present: UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF, Lumos

Location: UNICEF, Geneva

General updates

1. The [published last meeting minutes](#) (27 April 2018).
2. For the most recent updates, see the [Mediterranean response data portal](#).

Profiling updates

The reports for both Italy and Spain are being finalised by UNHCR and will now be available in July.

UNICEF's planned survey of refugee and migrant children that are coming to age in Italy will be a collaboration between UNICEF, IOM and UNHCR. The terms of reference have been reviewed externally and are being advertised.

Lumos research project on care arrangements for children

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 such care arrangements.

UNHCR, IOM and UNICEF provided feedback on the draft questionnaire and methodology which will be sent to data practitioners in each pilot country. It was agreed that given the capacity of the research team and amount of research, questions will be prioritised and phased. Follow up to the questionnaire will include Skype/phone interviews but not direct missions.

Lumos will finalise the questionnaire and present preliminary findings of the secondary data review (SDR) to the steering group during early June. These will then be shared with country teams from UNICEF, IOM and UNHCR in mid-June in all pilot countries for review, with the questions tailored for each country based on the information gaps identified in the SDR. For better coordination and to streamline the process one agency will lead the coordination of the responses in each country: UNICEF (Greece, France); UNHCR (Spain); IOM (Italy); Lumos (Bulgaria; the Netherlands). UNICEF's national committees will also be consulted, where relevant. Country teams will provide feedback on the relevance of the questionnaires and the quality of the SDR, provide available information to some of the questions that have not been answered and facilitate access to partners/ authorities that might be able to provide information of interest.

Education factsheet

Building on the data review last year by UNICEF, a data rich inter-agency Education factsheet is being developed. It will capture both quantitative and qualitative information based on public sources including:

- The number and profile of refugee and migrant children in need of education in Europe
- Challenges and barriers to access to education for refugee and migrant children
- Agencies' activities, results and achievements in supporting children's access to education
- Highlight some good/promising practices across Europe

The purpose of the document will be two-fold: to bring key information on access to education into a single inter-agency reference document for communication purposes, and secondly, to facilitate discussions on further inter-agency collaboration on education as part of the social inclusion of refugees and migrants in Europe.

The factsheet will focus on publicly available sources of information and will be focused on countries where agencies conduct Education activities and hence more information is available (e.g. Greece, Serbia, Bulgaria, Italy and Germany). In addition, other European countries with high numbers of asylum seeking children will also be included where possible. An analysis of existing information is currently being undertaken, while additional information is being requested through UNICEF, UNHCR and IOM country teams, as well as UNICEF national committees in Western and Northern Europe.

Turkey will not be part of the factsheet, but a link with reference to the caseload and education inter-agency activities shall be included.

A first draft should be available by end of June.

IMWG workshop plans 2018

A research workshop will be organised by UNHCR in October 2018 in the context of the RIMWG. The workshop will be a one-day event and will consist of 3-4 sessions with presentations and discussions. Participants will include government migration agencies dealing with research, EC, academia and partners engaged with field research. Sessions are currently being defined, but based on initial consultation could include:

- a. Predictive analysis of refugee and migrant flows
- b. Qualitative data analyses - particularly the impact on decision making
- c. Strategic use of data for greater impact
- d. Research on child related issues.

Secondly, an inter-agency workshop with field participation is being organised by IOM in September 2018, most probably in Vienna. The aims of this workshop are to strengthen in-country coordination mechanisms on mixed migration and secondly to identify common priorities for data collection/analysis/collaboration. Participation will be limited to one person per organisation per country and it will be important to include participants from Italy, Greece, Spain, Bulgaria, Romania, Bosnia and Herzegovina & Turkey.

Arrivals in Bosnia Herzegovina

A useful summary of the refugee and Migrant situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina - the [Multi-Cluster/Sector Initial Rapid Assessment \(MIRA\) Report, May 2018](#), has now been published.

IOM has also been regularly monitoring the irregular flows through, as summarised in the [April 2018 Flow Compilation report](#) (page 53 for SE Europe). Arrivals in Bosnia Herzegovina have continued to increase, with 1,419 new arrivals in April, bringing the total for the first four months of 2018 to just over 2,700, ten times more than during the same period in 2017. There has been an increase in the number of families with children arriving in Bosnia and Herzegovina compared to last year. Many refugees and migrants are attempting to cross into Croatia, resulting in many waiting in Bosnia and Herzegovina close to the border with Croatia. For those that do continue onwards into Croatia, it is not clear whether people continue their journey towards Italy or Austria as official statistics by the Croatian police are difficult to obtain. Both Slovenia and Austria have recorded increased numbers of new arrivals.

IOM is planning a scoping mission at the Italian-Slovenian border during the second half of July to get a better sense of the situation.

UNICEF conducted a [child focused assessment in Bosnia](#), which was an inter-agency effort and is now public (published in June 2018).

Data portal improvements

The [inter-agency data portal](#) managed by UNHCR will be updated during summer 2018 with broader coverage of European countries, a greater number of published relevant datasets at both regional and country levels, and more accessible interactive data visualisations will be developed, which will include data on Stateless, asylum-seekers and refugees. The new templates will be circulated for review by the RIMWG in June.

The page for [Europe on IOM's flow monitoring site](#) has also just been published. The portal is being expanded to include other regions as well and this will fill an important information gap on intra-regional migration in Africa, for example.

UNICEF presented the new [page on refugee and migrant children](#) on UNICEF regional website, and particularly the [data-related page](#), which will continue to be expanded with data on children affected by migration.

Inter-agency IM focal point list in Europe

The list of IM officers in Europe has been created on [Humanitarian ID](#) for [Europe Information Management](#), and continues to be updated. All other IM officers and IM focal points in Europe are warmly encouraged to join the list.

Follow up actions

1. All IMs are welcome join the [Europe Information Management](#) group on [Humanitarian ID](#).
2. IMWG Workshop - UNHCR and IOM to share the concept notes for the IM focal point and the research workshops for review before the next meeting.

3. Education factsheet - UNHCR, IOM and UNICEF to finalise a Secondary data review, 3W and a collaborative data exploration workshop by the end of May to identify available datasets for the factsheet

From previous minutes:

4. UNHCR to share the two forms for the Border Monitoring.
5. UNHCR, UNICEF and IOM to compile a quick summary of mixed migration monitoring best practise in Europe to support the research by the 27 May.
6. Returns - data on voluntary and forced returns will be updated during July by UNHCR, UNICEF and IOM.

Next meeting

28 June 2018 (1300 to 1430) at UNHCR in Geneva