Child Protection Sub-Working Group
15.01.2020 Minutes of Meeting

Date:	**Wednesday, 15th January 2020 at 09.30 a.m., Conference Room 2**	
Participants:	GCR, UNHCR Attica Team, TdH Hellas, UNHCR CO, Safe Passage, Solidarity Now, ARSIS, IRC, Humanity Crew, Metadrasi, IOM, The Home Project, The Smile of the Child, PRAKSIS, NCR, UNICEF, Hellenic Red Cross, STEPS, European Expression	
Chair:	**UNHCR: Theodora D. Tsovili (tsovili@unhcr.org)**	

Agenda	- General update on the situation in the mainland (UNHCR)
	- General update on the situation on the islands (UNHCR)
	- Specific updates on asylum seeking and refugee children including UAC
	  o Guardianship transition program (UNHCR, METAdrasi)
	  o Scaling up of SIL & UNHCR Cash Based Interventions (UNHCR)
	  o Safe areas in the RICs (IOM)
	  o Emergency measures undertaken for the transfer of UAC in the mainland (IOM)
	  o Homeless UAC – Research conducted: Children cast adrift (Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung office in Greece, GCR, HIAS, STEPS).	

• **General update on the situation in the mainland (UNHCR)**	UNHCR provided a brief update on the general situation in the mainland. **ESTIA – UNHCR's Accommodation in apartments: As of end of January 2020,** 21,450 people were hosted. Since March 2019 , 6,700 people fall under the exit criteria as per the Ministerial Decision (MD) out of which 2,000 exited ESTIA and approximately 3,000 have been extended by falling under the relevant provisions of the MD. Open Reception Facilities: 30 sites currently operating in the mainland, including Pyrgos and Grevena Hotel, hosting in total 24,460 people. Korinthos is used as transit site and the population is dispersed to the rest of the sites in the country. Due to the irregular abandon, there is a high turn over in the population. Army has an enhanced role in identifying future receptions sites in the mainland. IOM runs 68 hotels where approximately 6,773 persons are benefited. General protection concerns/challenges: ongoing lack of capacity in sites in relation to the increased population; only three sites are officially established under RIS' management (Schisto, Elaionas, Diavata) while a Joing Ministerial Decision is still pending setting the official site management for the rest of the sites; no	**Action Points:** **N/A**

	alternative solution provided despite the continuous pace in the exit process from ESTIA for the recognized refugee.	
• **General update on the situation on the islands**	UNHCR provided a brief update on the general situation in the islands. In January 2020, 41,300 refugees and asylum seekers are on the islands while the capacity of all five RICs (Lesvos, Chios, Samos, Kos and Leros) is 5,400 places. There are 2,193 UAC on the ilsands as of 12 January. The transfers of people from the islands to mainland are continued for the decongestion of the RICs. From October to December 2019, in total 2,500 people were transferred to mainland. In January 2020, 2,000 people already transferred from the ilsands. Deplorable Living conditions: makeshift tents; no heat; not enough electricity power (frequent electricity cuts due to overload); limited access to WASH facilities; exposure to weather conditions; flood in Chios and Samos RICs; in Leros 3000 people are living in the abandoned building of the Psychiatric Clinic; 30% to 40 % of the total population in the RICs are children; provision of basic primary health care. Winterization: complementary support by actors to over come weather conditions, UNHCR provided NFIs and one-off winter assistance with extra cash amount.	**Action points:** **N/A**
• **Guardianship transition program (UNHCR, METAdrasi)**	**The Tripartite Agreement among UNHCR, MoL/EKKA and Metadrasi concluded at the end of 2019** as the donor, European Commission (EC), did not extend the funding on the grounds that funds are already available for Greece in the AMIF National Envelope. UNHCR had cautioned repeatedly the Government and the EC of the potential dangers from a gap in the programme. UNHCR stands ready to support the Government's solutions for the revival of the programme. UNHCR colleagues in the field liaise locally with Metadrasi, RIS and all CP actors to discuss together the distribution of tasks and responsibilities, futher assistance needed and hand over. Currently Metadrasi is operating under its own resources with 12 staff currently being active. In particular, 1 staff is present per islands, one staff in Evros, 2 staff in Thessaloniki, 6 staff in Athens, and 4 additional staff are expected in Athens. Five staff of the total are coordinating and the rest are focal points. The Metadrasi	**Action Points:** **N/A**

focal persons will operate as authorised represtatives in the Asylum Service for the homeless and vulnerable unaccompanied children, focusing on the family reunification cases under Dublin Cases with strict deadlines.

Kindly find below the stats on UASC per RIC, as of 12 January 2019:

Total	**2,372**	**RICs**	**2,193**	**Out of RICs**	**179**
Lesvos	1,220	Moria	1,078	Lesvos	142
Chios	309	Vial	294	Chios	15
Samos	372	Vathy	361	Samos	11
Kos	136	Pyli	134	Kos	2
Leros	119	Lepida	111	Leros	8
Rhodes	1	-	-	Rhodes	1
Evros	215	Fylakio	215	-	-

- **Scaling up of SIL & UNHCR Cash Based Interventions (UNHCR)**

The efforts for the scaling up of SIL scheme for UAC older than 16 years old are still ongoing to reach 260 places (200 by IOM and 60 by UNHCR).

According to EKKA dashboard (15 January 2020), the current capacity for SIL is: 35 apartments with total 140 places.

UNHCR is providing cash assistance to the UAC beneficiaries of SIL Scheme in accordance to the eligibility criteria: 1) UAC between 16- 18 years old, 2) who are asylum seekers or granted refugee status.

Upon referral and placement to SIL, each adolescent is receiving a UNHCR Cash Card which is provided only upon SIL actor's confirmation. Upon the transfer to the SIL apartement, the adolescent is referred to the regular Cash Venue in Athens (in Liosion) for the enrolment in the UNHCR Protection Database – ProGres V4 and the distribution of the cash card. The total amount of cash assistance is 150 Euros per month. Initially, each cash card distributed to SIL beneficiaries has restrictions for two-months – meaning that an ATM block status is active and the cash card can only be used at POS. During this two month period, the adolescents are

Action Points:
N/A

	encouraged to learn how to manage their money in order to properly cover their needs (i.e. food, clothes, etc.). The SIL beneficiaries receive two equal installements for the first two months period (75 euros). The SIL beneficiary will start receiving the total amount in one installement with the confirmation of the SIL actors that the adolescent has successfully graduated form the initial two months' period. The Ministerial Decision for the Semi-idependent living apartments for UAC 16 yearls old and above was published in December 2019 and the Annex with the Standard Operating procedures (SOPs) are to be published soon. An open call is to be announced soon for the actors to apply for funding uder AMIF.	
• **Safe areas in the RICs (IOM)**	**IOM Safe areas in RICs:** Since November 2019, IOM has presence to all 5 islands with the implementation of the Safe Areas. In particular, in Kos and Leros all UAC are in the safe areas with all needs covered while in the rest of the locations the safe areas have reached full capacity due to increased population of UAC. IOM staff and Implementing partners staff are in the safe areas with 24/7 presence. There is ongoing reconstruction of all safe areas for security and infrastructure purposes. **IOM Safe Areas Capacity per Location:** 1) Lesvos (implementation partner Iliachtida): 66 places expanded to 88 places 2) Samos (implementation partner Metadrasi): 65 places 3) Chios (IOM direct implementation): 95 places 4) Kos (implementation partner Metadrasi): 115 places 5) Leros (implementation partner Zeuxis): 46 places	**Action Points:** **N/A**
• **Emergency measures undertaken for the transfer of UAC in the mainland (IOM)**	**IOM Interim Measures – Agios Andreas summer camp:** In December 2019, IOM received referrals directly through the RIS regarding the transfer and placement of the younger Afghani UAC, 8-14 years old, from the Safe Area and the broader area of Moria RIC to Agios Andreas summer camp, Attrica region. The transfer was coordinated out of the national referral pathway without the collaboration of EKKA. The UAC were transferred with the escort of the Hellenic Police in regular buses. The Agios Andreas summer camp was provided by the Municipality of Athens and according to the	**Action Points:** **N/A**

	initial plan it would accommodate 150 UAC. At the moment, 78 UAC are hosted and the population may increase to 100 children. Approx. 20 UAC have family reunification cases with relatives under Dublin Regulation. Agios Andreas summer camp is staffed with 70 IOM staff: care givers, social workers, legal staff, psychologist, educators, interpreters, drivers. 5 meals are provided daily. IOM has undertaken directly the case management of the cases while Elix/ UNICEF has undertaken the educational component and the Sile of the Child the medical support through the mobile unit. IOM is in discussion with the Ministry to ensure that new shelters will be operational to welcome these unaccompanied children by the end of March. In addition IOM, provides 540 slots for UAC in 14 IOM Hotels which run in full capacity with secured funding until the end of March 2020.	
• **Homeless UAC – Research conducted: Children cast adrift (Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung office in Greece, GCR, HIAS, STEPS)**	Research "Children cast adrift" by Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung office in Greece, GCR, HIAS, STEPS: These are the links where you can find the reports for Greece, Italy, Spain as well as the comparative study, https://rosalux.gr/el/publication/paidia-ermaia-sygkritiki-meleti https://rosalux.gr/el/publication/paidia-ermaia-ethniki-meleti https://rosalux.gr/en/publication/children-cast-adrift-italy https://rosalux.gr/en/publication/children-cast-adrift-spain Comparative common areas and the most particular ones on the differences in the systems The national report "Children cast adrift" focuses in three main areas of the protection for unaccompanied children: the Greek reception system, legal framework and representation. According to the findings of the report, in the area of child protection there are systemic challenges which already existed prior to the refugee crises in 2015. Despite the judicial developments (i.e. guardianship Law) there is no substantial progress regarding the quality of life for the UAC.	**Action Points:** **N/A**

	The research was funded by the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung office in Greece with two national researchers Aggeliki Theodoropoulou (GCR) and Elina Sarandou (HIAS). STEPS undertook the coordination for arranging the interviews with experts in the field. The report relies on interviews with professionals working directly with UAC and key experts engaged in streetwork.	
AOB	• The next CPsWG will take place in February 2020. • **On the issuance of AMKA:** No further news from UNHCR side. Asylum seeking UAC (as all other asylum seekers) do not have the right to obtain an AMKA number. They should be issued with a PAAYPA (Prosorinos Aritmos Asfalisis kai Ygionomikis Perithalpsis Allodapou). A joint ministerial decision has to be issued regulating the details on how this number will be issued to POCs. It is still pending. More than 50,000 asylum seekers are estimated to be in a limbo re their access to medical/ health services since July 2019. UAC with refugee or subsidiary protection status do have the right to issue an AMKA number and there should be no problem (at least in theory) to have it. You are encouraged to report any cases of UAC with intl protection status who have been refused access to AMKA to the Deputy Ombudswoman for Children's Rights or to MoL, MoH.	**Action points:** **UNHCR to share update on the issuance of AMKA**