

Ad hoc relocation schemes for UAC from Greece to Luxembourg and Germany

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Role of UNHCR Greece in ad hoc UAC relocations

UNHCR Greece: implementing the Best Interest procedures for the Dubs' scheme, UAC relocation to the UK, supporting the introduction of best interest procedures and guardianship in the Greek child protection system, UAC case management on islands/mainland, pilot best practice alternative care solutions (foster care, SIL)

The SS for the Protection UAM solicited the assistance of UNHCR Greece to assist in the best interests process for the urgent UAC relocation schemes to Luxembourg, Germany:

- Identification of eligible UAC on the islands of Lesbos, Samos, Chios – 12 UAC for Luxembourg, 53 UAC for Germany
- Implementation of Best Interest procedures for all cases
- Submission of cases to authorities in Greece and receiving countries

Operational framework

Preparatory phase

- List of identified UAC shared with UNHCR and Greek Asylum Service (cross-checking links by Dublin Unit) to verify inclusion

Best Interests process

- UNHCR coordinates the BI process: sets up UNHCR/EASO/CP partners (NGOs: METAdrasi, PRAKSIS) teams and provides training/coaching
- Supporting docs provided by Reception Identification Service and responsible actors: PSS reports, medical reports, specific needs, etc.
- Interviews with UAC, upon their assent, completed, and BI reports compiled by UNHCR, EASO, Child protection partners, UNHCR reviews/quality checks at two levels the BI reports
- UNHCR submits to the Greek authorities and receiving countries (child's form, Asylum card, BID report, medical/ social documents, age assessment documents, where available)
- Transfer of UAC from the islands to Athens with accompanying services by METAdrasi

Accommodation in Athens, medical checks, predeparture procedures by IOM

**** The Public Prosecutors (temporary guardians according to the law) are notified on every step taken throughout the process by the responsible involved actors***

Lessons learnt

- Eligibility criteria to be concluded and communicated, cleared list of UAC cases screened for family links by the Asylum Service/Dublin unit in advance of BI interviews
- The Reception and Identification Service (RIS) centrally and locally to be engaged in the relocation exercise to facilitate the involved actors' access to children's files
- Space and interpretation to be made available to conduct the interviews with the children in an efficient and timely manner
- Temporary guardians to be present to support the children throughout the process
- Comprehensive training on Best Interest procedures and coaching to be provided for CW workforce with tailored guidance on the drafting and reviewing of BI reports
- Information on the provision of services for UAC and the administrative treatment in receiving country should be available in advance of the exercise so the CWs can duly inform the children
- All procedures to be planned in advance so children are properly registered by the Asylum Service, provided with documentation, including for travelling and transferred in a timely and safe manner from the islands to mainland