

Greece Support Structure

GREECE, JUNE 2016

ELEMENTS OF THE GREECE SUPPORT STRUCTURE

The Alternate Minister of Migration Policy is overall responsible for the coordination and leadership of the response to the refugee and migrant crisis. UNHCR is committed to provide support to the Ministry to ensure efficient and timely delivery of protection and assistance. As such, UNHCR provides a platform to assist the Ministry through the mechanisms outlined below.

Inter-Agency Consultation Forum

National forum for information sharing and open discussions on issues of national relevance. The Inter-Agency Consultation Forum promotes a venue for dialogue and information-sharing between the different actors engaged in the response and contributes to a consultative process where humanitarian actors have access to and stay abreast of new developments affecting the operation in the country. The Forum is chaired by the UNHCR Senior Inter-Agency Coordination Officer. Membership is open to all key stakeholders engaged in the response.

Inter-Sector Working Group

The Inter-Sector Working Group (ISWG) ensures coherent and consistent approaches between the response sectors by:

- Providing technical oversight and guidance to sector working groups;
- Guiding and facilitating information management to support decision-making;
- Promoting consistency in standards, processes and capacities between sectors;
- Ensuring cross-cutting issues are properly reflected in sector activities;
- Ensuring emergency preparedness, including contingency planning;
- Ensuring that timely participatory joint inter-agency needs assessments are carried out with the specific aim of working with communities to identify and prioritize key protection issues, gaps in assistance as well as community capacities to address them;
- Promoting the systematic application of rights and community-based protection approaches in all sector response activities;
- Ensuring accountability to populations of concern are an integral part of all interventions;
- Ensuring that an age, gender and diversity (AGD) approach is applied throughout the program cycle.

The ISWG is composed of the technical sector coordinators (Line Ministries or UNHCR) and the co-coordinators (NGO representatives).

Sector Working Groups

Under the Inter-Sector Working Group, the Sector Working Groups:

- Establish and maintain sector specific coordination mechanisms;
- Develop and manage sector response plans;
- Promote standards, guidelines and good practices;

- Ensure sector preparedness including contingency planning;
- Advocate on behalf of Persons of Concerns (PoCs) and sector participants; and,
- Ensure that accountability to affected population (AAP) is integral part in all responses and throughout the program cycle.

There are seven working groups, i.e. Protection (Child Protection, SGBV), WASH, Shelter and NFIs, Health/Nutrition, Education, Site Management Support and Food. National Sector Coordinators and Co-coordinators lead the sector working groups. Membership is limited to Government counterparts and Senior Level Technical Staff.

Technical Working Groups

Specialised technical bodies that provide technical direction and guidance in a specific area of expertise. The technical working groups can fill some but not all sectors functions. Their main focus is on modalities for assistance and service delivery. In the Greece context the technical working groups are:

- i. *Communication with Communities Working Group (CwC-WG)*: Part of Protection and in support of the ISWG the CwC WG provides a common framework to promote accountability, participation and two-way communication between POCs and response efforts.
- ii. *Cash Group*: Provides technical direction, common approaches and guidance for the usage of cash as a transfer modality for assistance.

The Information Management Unit: Serving in support of the response, the Information Management Unit led by UNHCR, supports evidence-based decision making and predictable responses, by:

- Setting standards and developing information products including reports, statistics, maps and assessments;
- Coordinating the development and management of information systems;
- Providing a forum to discuss data quality and data collection methodologies;
- Analysing inter-sector data with the participation of relevant sector actors;
- Promoting the harmonization of CoDs/FoDs and other essential data sets; and,
- Sharing technical expertise on information management related issues.

NATIONAL LEVEL

- **Area of Coverage:** country-wide.
- **Overarching Function:** Provision of strategic direction and guidance.

Additional Remarks: The primary responsibility to provide protection and assistance to refugees and migrants rests with the Government of Greece. Coordination needs are determined by the Government capacities and approaches. Respective Government counter-parts coordinate the response.

The national structure strengthens and promotes a decentralized approach by creating a reasonable level of alignment between and across the islands and the mainland, which is key to promote consistency, efficiency, accountability and common standards.

To ensure coordination structures are clear, coherent and effective over time, there is a clear distinction in function, scope and geographical coverage between the national and the field level coordination structures.

FIELD LEVEL

- **Area of Coverage:** Mainland (Attika, the North, and the Center/West) and the islands (Lesvos, Chios, Samos, Kos, Leros etc.)
- **Overarching Function:** Effective implementation and operationalization of strategic priorities.

Additional remarks: Field level structures may vary from one location to another based on size and needs and in line support of existing structures of the local authorities.

Field level actors should decide the coordination structure that most meet their needs, provided these are aligned and consistent with the national level. The key is to ensure all the basic sectors for service delivery are covered and that the standards and approaches are aligned with those at the National Level while allowing a degree of autonomy and flexibility. There is no one size fits all solution.

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