

CWC NATIONAL WORKING GROUP MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Subject	Communication With Communities National Working Group Meeting
Date, Time & place of meeting	24/05/2017, 14.00, UNHCR Athens Office
Meeting Chair	Alexandra Zavvos (Solidarity Now)
Minutes/notes prepared by	Alexandra Zavvos (Solidarity Now)
Present organizations	UNHCR; UNHCR Cash Alliance; Solidarity Now; UNICEF/ESWG; Translators without Borders(TWB); METAdrasi; Hellenic Red Cross(HRC); Caritas Hellas; Red Cross

1. Review of previous meetings/matters arising

Point/details	Details/Going forward	Suggested Actions
	The Chair asked the attendees to provide their comments with respect to the minutes of the previous meeting. No comments were made. The minutes were approved.	

2. New Education Programme in Public schools

	<p>Education focal point for UNICEF / ESWG Coordinator attended and presented an education update regarding a ministerial decision (attached herewith) announcing the establishment of a new education programme as of September 2017, aiming to enrol off-site children in public schools. The programme operates in public schools, but consists of specific classes tailored to refugee (or other minority/vulnerable) groups' language levels and needs. ZEP (morning reception classes) will be delivered in two programmes, depending on the children's level of proficiency in Greek.</p> <p>The deadline for enrolling these children in schools is the 7th of June.</p> <p>The enrolment will be ongoing, with other deadlines in the future, however capturing as much of the population as possible before June 7th will increase the initial inclusion and facilitate the operation.</p> <p><u>Eligibility:</u> ZEP classes are open to children from off-site accommodation, such as apartments. This includes primary to secondary but excludes kindergarten (4-5) and those over 15 years, and children originating from other non-Greek or vulnerable/minority groups e.g. Roma. These schemes cover the mainland, islands will be the next phase. The option of DYEP (afternoon school classes) continues for children in camps. Children who do not belong to these age-groups have access to normal classes in schools.</p> <p><u>Plan for sharing this information:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ESWG is aiming to gain more clarity on the necessary prerequisites for enrolling children into schools i.e. only 	<p>Action points</p> <p>ESWG Focal Point to share MoE approved messages / Q& A once ready.</p> <p>ESWG Focal Point to coordinate with RefugeeInfo on producing online communication info for PoC and ensure other NGOs and Partners in Accommodation Scheme are aware of ministerial decision to support enrolment of beneficiaries.</p>
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	<p>vaccination is a compulsory according to MoE (the type is unclear).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Information to be delivered in a clear and timely manner:</u> ESWG Coordinator is updating the Q&A and finalizing messages on new procedures. IRC/RefugeeInfo suggested publishing messages online, and translating the ministerial decision. MetaDrasi offered translation of the documents into mother-tongues. • CWC WG also discussed ensuring that NGOs are informed; providing leaflets with information and numbers to call, and referring urban refugees without support to NGOs who are willing to support. • <u>Dealing with obstacles in the enrolment:</u> persuading families to enrol in ZEP classes, ESWG suggested outreach discussion groups within UNHCR accommodation scheme sites about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Providing support to PoC facing resistance from school or headmaster; - Ensuring feedback mechanism in place to report refusals from school. The ESWG is hoping to set up a call line until then NGOs to report to ESWG. <p>Contact eswg.greece@gmail.com for any questions you may have. - Next ESWG at 11 Monday 29th</p>	
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3. Cash Update

	<p><u>Cash Alliance Introduction</u></p> <p>Greece Cash Alliance Coordinator attended to give a brief presentation on the UNHCR Cash Programme, the Greek Cash Alliance (GCA), which operates to cover all the eligible population with monthly cash grants and ensure the transition from partial to full cash where applicable (in sites where catering will be discontinued). The Cash working group has been replaced by a working group of Echo funded cash coordinators within the cash alliance.</p> <p>The Greece Cash Alliance Coordinator answered questions from the CwC WG members' regarding the CBI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spanish Red Cross referred to reports from the field that claim PoC in sites are confused by the composition of the cash grant, whether the full cash package covers aspects like transport, NFIs etc.. Information concerning relevant cash package had not been reaching every PoC. Coordinator confirmed standard communication information package materials are provided and consistent across cash actors for each type of site, 	<p><u>Action points</u></p> <p>Greece Cash Alliance Coordinator to discuss waiting list with Care re urban caseload and also to explore communication strategy to urban caseload.</p> <p>CWC National Co-ordinator to work on communications with communities with GCA Co-ordinator.</p>
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	<p>including illustrations and translations in each relevant language.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only cash actors have the exclusive right to share cash-related information to ensure consistency. A Helpdesk is open during specific days and hours of the week in each site. There is no helpdesk in the urban setting but there should be a hotline for the urban area operated by Care International. <p><u>Urban Population and access to cash assistance:</u></p> <p>CWC field actors have reported a lack of responses to cash requests; the Greece Cash Alliance Coordinator explained that the large caseload and backlog in the urban area has resulted in long delays and a waiting list to receive cash grants. Greece Cash Alliance Coordinator agreed to work on providing an estimation or waiting list for urban refugees. Furthermore, the Greece Cash Alliance Coordinator will discuss with Care the possibility of an outreach strategy to inform PoC about status of urban cash programme eg. mass texts.</p>	
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4. Solidarity Now's Future Interpreters Training Scheme

	<p>SN started a programme implemented in collaboration with the Society for Care of Minors (SMA) and the Panhellenic Association of Professional Translators Graduates of the Ionian University (PEEMPIP), funded by the Guerrilla Foundation, entitled "Future Interpreters" with the aim of training asylum seekers, refugees and other PoC on the practices and methodologies of interpretation and intercultural mediation to be used in diverse sectors incl. healthcare, asylum proceedings, courts as a livelihood project. The participants will be connected to SN's ongoing employability schemes.</p> <p>The pilot project targets a minimum of 105 PoC in Athens and Thessaloniki and consists of 96 hours participation time (over approximately 6 weeks). Participants receive a certificate from the PEEMPIP after completion. Training material has been produced in cooperation with other agencies/institutions.</p> <p><u>Eligibility and Prerequisites:</u></p> <p>Asylum seekers, refugees (including) other status with fluent/mother tongue (but not limited to): Arabic, Farsi, Dari, Sorani or Kurmanji. Participants should reside in Athens and Thessaloniki and speak English and/or Greek fluently.</p> <p>Contact: training@solidaritynow.org</p>	<p><u>Action points</u></p> <p>Share information/flyers in order to ensure all interested beneficiaries have a chance to participate.</p>
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