
31 October 2017

Regional IM Working Group

– Meeting minutes

Present: UNHCR, IOM, IFRC, Lumos

General updates

1. The [published last meeting minutes](#) (19 July 2017).
2. For the most recent updates, see the [Mediterranean response data portal](#).
3. The [mid-year factsheet on refugee and migrant children in Europe](#) was published.
4. In October, UNHCR published the [regular monthly update](#) for September and an [update on Resettlement to Europe](#) based on the July submissions data available from rsq.unhcr.org. A further resettlement update will be published in November using the available information up until September.
5. In Greece, a new [update on the large accommodation programme](#) for refugees and migrants was published, with similar updates for the cash assistance programme and the activities led by the working groups to be published in the coming weeks.
6. Factsheets on arrivals are also being updated for Bulgaria, Spain, Italy and Greece and will be published during November. In Bulgaria, a request for disaggregated information on immigration detention (used as a surrogate for arrivals) has been made to the government in mid-October. In Romania, details of the recent arrivals by sea have been collated and will be published shortly on the data portal.
7. An update to Desperate Journeys for Q3 2017 will be published in November.
8. IOM's new DTM website will be online during November.
9. IOM's [quarterly update of arrivals for Europe](#) has just been published, as well as monthly update for September which also contains information on recorded incidents in the Black Sea.
10. Earlier this month, IOM conducted a global training on DTM for 35 participants from Europe, Middle East and North Africa in Vienna, followed by a DTM team meeting in Brussels dedicated to outlining methodologies used in different regions including MENA, Central and West Africa, East Africa and Europe.
11. IOM has also published analysis of the interviews conducted with [Nigerian refugees and migrants in Italy](#) in 2016 and 2017 with focus on the section on human trafficking and other exploitative practices as well as analysis of the adult and children respondent interviewed in the Eastern and Central Mediterranean. Additional analysis and products based on the DTM data could include a quick analysis of arrivals to Romania based on the 400 interviews conducted there. A socio-demographic profile of refugees and migrants with comparisons between 2016 and 2017 is also planned as well as a report based on a counter trafficking survey of approximately 5,000 interviews conducted in 2017.

12. IFRC activities in Europe are increasingly focused on integration. In Italy, the national society is reviewing what support can be best provided to refugees and migrants outside the asylum centres where they currently work.
13. In the Central Mediterranean context, IFRC are also profiling refugees and migrants travelling through the Sahara Desert to Libya.
14. The Bulgarian Red Cross are partnering with UNHCR on a range of integration projects.
15. EASO meeting on asylum processes in September:
 - a. Wide participation including all member states, FRA, IOM and UNHCR.
 - b. EASO's objective for the meeting was to identify what additional analysis of asylum trends could be explored. Two key areas were identified, namely the variation in the recognition rate and to analyse issues related to double counting of applications.
 - c. EASO explained that when they conduct the analysis of the asylum statistics, they collect additional data which is not publicly available, but useful for triangulating the results.
 - d. EASO are also exploring the opportunities to provide trainings.
16. The RIMWG participants should review opportunities to collaborate with the [European Joint Research Centre](#).

Linkages with private sector foundations

- a. [Lumos](#) is a private sector foundation, started by the author JK Rowling. Lumos's focus is on replacing institutional care where possible with family care options. They are currently active in several European countries including Bulgaria, Romania and Moldova. In Bulgaria for example, while there has been an 85% reduction in the last few years in Bulgarian children in institutional care, many of the same facilities are still being used to accommodate refugee and migrant UASC.
- b. In May 2017, 12 foundations met with UNHCR in London and identified that linkages in common activities between foundations were limited, primarily due to the different channels for accountability. Three workstreams were agreed upon to seek to harmonise approaches, including on communications, documenting and sharing good practises and data analysis and forecasting. As part of the third workstream, Lumos and other foundations are interested in exploring how best to collaborate on data with organisations such as those participating in the RIMWG.
- c. During discussion in this meeting, three areas were identified in which there was broad interest:
 - i. Map activities conducted by private sector foundations in Europe using standard 3/4W activity tracking tools.
 - ii. Publish a summary of activities related to refugee and migrant children in Europe in the Q3 factsheet on refugee and migrant children.
 - iii. Explore which data is currently available and identify gaps as well as opportunities for the publication of factsheets relating to the wide range of care arrangement opportunities for refugee and migrant children as well as immigration detention of children. It was felt that detention statistics may be quite difficult to collect via a harmonised process in Europe. Discussions on detention statistics will therefore need to include other teams and organisations (e.g. Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, the UNHCR "Beyond

Detention” team, the Global Detention Project as well as several other foundations). Useful linkages should be possible also with the outputs from the meeting on child rights (see the upcoming meetings below).

Update on profiling in Italy and Spain

UNHCR’s profiling is underway with interviews commencing this week in Italy. It is envisaged that 360 interviews will be conducted by the end of the year by CESPI, with a report to be published in early 2018. In Spain, the questionnaire is being finalised by CSIS and interviews will commence in early November. UNHCR will share the questionnaires for both countries in early November with the RIMWG.

REACH is planning to conduct a small qualitative study focused on the routes taken by Syrians arriving to Spain which is complementary to the ongoing UNHCR exercise.

IOM’s DTM is also planning to enhance the flow monitoring activities in Spain to improve the quality and frequency of available updates.

Collation of information on activities in Europe, including Integration and response activities

4W information has now been collated for Greece, Italy, Serbia, Turkey and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. A summary map product of this information is being produced and will be published in November. In addition, UNHCR have collated limited information on integration projects in Europe considered as best practise. This will also be published in due course.

As discussed in the last meeting, these together with the other RIMWG achievements over the last two years will be compiled in a simply joint summary factsheet, for publication by the end of 2017. The content of this factsheet can be refined during the upcoming interagency retreat on the 5 December (see below for the details of this meeting).

Workplan for the Q3 Regional Child Protection Factsheet

A first draft of the third quarter update for the interagency factsheet on children, produced by UNICEF, IOM and UNHCR, will be available for review by the end of November. Key datasets, such as asylum decisions for Q3 may only be available though in early December.

Options for the content section in the middle of the factsheet (Education in Q1, the recent REACH-UNICEF profiles in Q2) could include a summary of activities by a range of actors during 2017 responding to the needs of refugee and migrant children arriving in Europe. This could include also activities conducted by private sector foundations, as noted above.

Given limited capacity currently from UNICEF, IOM and UNHCR will collaborate to produce the first draft. The review and final drafting will be done online so that everyone has access to the same version.

Update and adopt the revised RIMWG TORs

Following a recent review of the documentation relating to the IMWG, the terms of reference for the Regional Information Management Working Group in Europe have been updated to better reflect the role of the IMWG in Europe, particularly in terms of mixed migration. The [latest draft of the RIMWG TORs](#) are available for review by all organisations and will be adopted at the next meeting. Please provide any further comments to Edgar Scrase (scrase@unhcr.org) and Ivona Zakoska (izakovska@iom.int) by 24 November 2017.

EU recommendations for data relating to children

UNHCR and UNICEF are formulating a joint position paper for the EU including recommendations for improvements of European statistics on refugee and migrant children, which is linked to the consultation being undertaken by DG Home in follow up to the [EU communication on the protection of refugee and migrant children in Europe](#). This will be finalised during November.

Each country records the arrival of refugees and migrants differently, with particular variations in terms of the disaggregation by age, gender and diversity (e.g. there is currently no disaggregation of arrival data in Spain in terms of UASC). It might be useful to include the standardisation of this data as another recommendation to the EU.

Collaboration on common datasets

IOM and UNHCR will continue to explore opportunities for joint analysis of recently collected information from profiles and the DTM in order to maximise the utility of this data (e.g. by identifying trends).

Upcoming reports, workshops and initiatives

1. *11th European Forum on the rights of the child* - In Brussels from the 6-8 November. The meeting is a follow up to the [EU communication on the protection of children in migration](#) on the 12 April 2017. Almost 300 participants from member states are anticipated for the main event on the 7 November. Prior to this on the 6 November, data collectors from a range of organisations will convene to explore available data and help to highlight any data gaps. A side event on the pathways and vulnerabilities of children concerned by deprivation of liberty will also take place, starting on the 6 November.

Follow up actions

1. All organisations to provide comments on the updated draft of the [RIMWG TORs](#) by 24 November 2017 to Edgar Scrase (scrase@unhcr.org) and Ivona Zakoska (izakovska@iom.int).
1. UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM to identify the modalities for the **strategic direction of the RIMWG** as well as **joint data collation and analysis** workshop.
2. UNHCR to share the analysis plan and questionnaire for the profiling in Italy and Spain.
3. UNHCR, UNICEF and IOM to produce the first draft of the Q3 interagency factsheet on refugee and migrant children in November.

4. UNHCR UNICEF and IOM to finalise the joint EU recommendations during November.
5. UNHCR and IOM to further discuss greater collaboration on common datasets.
6. UNHCR and IOM to continue working together to ensure publications including dead and missing and arrivals datasets contain consistent figures.

Next meeting

On **5 December 2017 (1400 to 1730)** at [Chateau de Penthes](#) in Geneva, there will be an interagency information management retreat to which all IMWG members are welcome. Minutes of the retreat will be published and the regular IMWG meeting will be subsumed within this meeting.

This retreat will be an opportunity to take stock of what has been achieved collectively in 2017, and where gaps remain and to plan and build consensus on the strategic objectives for 2018. Critically, it should also be an opportunity to review the IM needs within Europe more widely, not just the Mediterranean response. The primary objective of the meeting is to develop a common set of priorities for 2018 between the organisations participating in the IMWG, that can be managed and monitored within the IMWG during 2018.

For this retreat, space is a little tight, so if you wish to participate, please contact Edgar Scrase (scrase@unhcr.org) by 17 November.