

9 October 2018

Regional IM Working Group

– Meeting minutes

Present: UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF, Lumos, IFRC

Location: UNHCR, Geneva

General updates

1. The [published last meeting minutes](#) (9 August 2018).
2. For the most recent updates, see the [Mediterranean response data portal](#).

Recent changes in arrivals trends

Data on arrivals to the north of Italy, from Slovenia and Croatia has been collected by UNHCR based on official border police figures and UNHCR estimates. In total, approximately 1,000 individuals per year since 2016 have arrived in the north of Italy through this route, primarily Pakistanis and Afghans. However, based on estimates of arrivals in the Balkans, the likely scale of informal onwards movements is likely to be significantly higher.

Profiling updates

Balkan research on access to territory - UNICEF is currently exploring the possibility to conduct research in 2019 that will help to identify the impact on children's well-being of exposure to being constantly on the move. The research would also try to identify whether refugees, migrants and operational partners in these countries are aware of the full range of services and entitlements available to refugees and migrants in each country. This research is important as in the sub-region, onwards movement is prevalent, even amongst those that have applied or even received for asylum in particular countries. The modalities of the research are still being explored including where to conduct the interviews. One option would be in the reception centres, but this would likely miss many refugees and migrants. IOM and UNHCR expressed interest in supporting this initiative. If the scope were to include human rights violations, then OHCHR should also be included in the planning.

Before the research commences, a mapping of the available data will be conducted including, for example, available data from IOM DTM (official data on irregular apprehensions and surveys conducted with children) and the UNHCR border protection monitoring datasets. Secondly, the definitions used within the Balkan region are not consistent for key datasets including arrivals and terms such as pushbacks. Harmonisation of these would usefully support this project and help improve the consistency of published statistics more generally from this region. To achieve this, a regional webinar with respective country offices and missions would be a helpful opportunity to discuss and address the issues.

DTM flow monitoring - the latest [analysis of Flow Monitoring Surveys \(FMS\)](#) includes analysis produced from the new Child Protection module. In total, 409 interviews have been conducted

with children in Bulgaria, Greece, Croatia, Hungary, Italy and Slovenia. This module is a key component of the regional child protection project “Protecting children in the context of the refugee and migrants crisis in Europe” funded by DG Justice’s Rights, Equality and Citizenship Program that started in October 2016. The project aims to prevent violence against children and promote respect for the human rights of refugee and migrant children along the migration routes in seven EU Member States (Austria in addition to the above-mentioned countries). The questionnaire used for the data collection was developed within this project and as a deliverable of the project in cooperation with IOM DTM team. Apart from the information on demographic and socio-economic characteristics, the survey also contains questions on the experience during the journey, perceptions of danger, health problems, perceptions pertaining to the conditions in the reception centers, reception staff’s capacity, service and information provision at the reception centers. The analysis is conducted on country level but also, per different nationality/age/sex groups.

UNHCR profiling - the reports for both Italy and Spain are being finalised by UNHCR and will be available during October.

UNECE and Prague process conferences on migration data and statistics

The latest workshop to support the [Prague Process](#) took place in Skopje on the 2-3 October, organised by ICMPD (the International Centre for Migration Policy Development). The Prague Process is a state-led inter-governmental dialogue on migration established in 2009 by the Czech Republic. It covers all European countries as well as several from Central Asia. The workshop included presentations on the gathering, analysis and dissemination of data relating to refugees and migrants by 22 European government and 10 non-government participants. The presentations will be made available on the ICMPD website.

A separate workshop on [migration statistics](#) will take place on the 24-26 October in Geneva and is organised by UNECE and Eurostat.

Lumos research project on care arrangements for children

Responses to the questionnaire for the data collection from the centres (see the [concept note](#)) are starting to come through:

- **Italy** - IOM have hired a consultant to support the data collection, which is now underway, focused on a sample of centres by type and location,
- **Netherlands** - NIDOS have provided the information from their own centres but have not yet had a response from COA. This response is important, as COA runs several big centres. Lumos will follow up and alternative routes to collect this information may need to be explored.
- **Spain** - Responses have been received from Madrid and Catalonia and are being translated. UNICEF is supporting the data collection in Ceuta, Melilla and Andalusia. UNHCR will hire a consultant to help with the remaining data collection and the position will be advertised in October, with a likely start date during November for three months.
- **Greece** - EKKA have responded with policies, capacities and numbers of unaccompanied children in the system, and provided contact details of the shelter managers. Metadrasi have provided details on their centres. UNHCR discussed options on how to collect the

remaining information at the September working group and Lumos will follow up to identify the most appropriate way forward.

- **Bulgaria** - the State Agency for Refugees has not yet provided the requested information to Lumos. Lumos will identify the best way forward.
- **France** - secondary data has been provided by UNICEF and UNHCR. Additional information may also be available from ECPAT (End Child Prostitution and Trafficking), an inter-agency group. Once this information has been reviewed, Lumos will identify the best way forward to collect the remaining facility-specific information.

Factsheet on refugee and migrant children

All relevant data is now available and the final draft will be produced for review by the end of October in order to publish the document by the middle of November.

Education factsheet

The final comments have been received and are being addressed. The report will be published by the end of October.

IMWG workshop plans 2018

The inter-agency workshop with field participation being organised by IOM will take place on the 21-22 November in Vienna.

UNHCR will circulate a concept note for a project focused on analysing qualitative data that would include crowd-sourced support and also a hackathon event.

Data portal improvements

The [inter-agency data portal](#) managed by UNHCR is being updated to include broader coverage of European countries, a greater number of published relevant datasets at both regional and country levels, and more accessible interactive data visualisations. A version will be made available for testing during October.

IOM DTM is finalising a new Geoportal for displaying data and information collected through the flow monitoring system in Europe that will replace the existing [Migration - Flows Europe portal](#). The new portal will be fully functional and public by the end of the month.

Follow up actions

1. All IMs are welcome join the [Europe Information Management](#) group on [Humanitarian ID](#).
2. Care arrangements project - Lumos to follow up on the data collection in each country, define a clear plan for the drafting and review process of the report, and update the ToRs of the Steering Group.
3. Balkan research on access to territory:
 - a. conduct a mapping of the available datasets,
 - b. work towards improved harmonisation of definitions of key terms and datasets within the region
 - c. conduct a regional webinar to discuss and address these topics.

4. Refugee and migrant children factsheet - will be drafted in October for publication by the middle of November.
5. Education factsheet - address the remaining comments and publish the report by the end of October.
6. IM workshop- finalise concept note and circulate invitation to relevant countries by third week of October
7. Qualitative data project - UNHCR to circulate a concept note for discussion.

Next meeting

6 November 2018 (1100 to 1230) at UNICEF in Geneva