

Athens, 18.09.2020

Minutes of the 82nd MHPSS Technical Working Group at Babel Day Centre

Chaired by Nikos Gkionakis, Maria Ntetsika

Participants: ARSIS, Society of Social Psychiatry P. Sakellaropoulos, Network for Children’s Rights, GCR, ADDMA, UNHCR, DRC, IRC, Velos Youth, Unit for Social Integration and Support of Unaccompanied Minors, Chamomile, MsF Swiss, MsF Belgium, EPAPSY, PRAKSIS, Babel Day Centre

Agenda:

- Updates from the field and the other WGs
- Discussion on the psychosocial impacts of homelessness
- AOB

Updates from the field	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DRC: Schisto site is on lockdown, as eight other sites, since there was found a case of COVID_19. Due to lockdown, food parcels are given to residents of Schisto in a weekly basis. The staff of DRC is still in the sites after taking all the appropriate measures.-There are some cases, that negative COVID_19 test was requested only by refugee/ asylum seeker children so that they can go to school. Moreover, some parents are afraid to send their children to school due to COVID_19 or bullying incidents that took place the previous year.-Due to lockdowns in some sites, there is a number of UAMs that their transfer to an apartment has been confirmed by EKKA, however, they are unable to leave the site.
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-Thirty three people were transferred to Lavrio, after the shipwreck close to Crete island. There are some UAMs among them.

- **GCR:** Elaionas site in on lockdown. The number of people with COVID_19 is being increased (eight people up to now). EODY has informed the professionals in the site that there is a difficulty on securing enough tests to be conducted in the whole population of the site. In the safe zone, the situation is quite challenging, as the UAMs cannot go to school and there are obliged to stay in their containers. A rumor that recognized refugees would be transferred to TAE KWO DO due to IANOS hurricane was circulated in the site. However, they were still there until Friday morning.
- **Unit for Social Integration and Support of Unaccompanied Minors:** The issue of children transfer in the schools remains crucial for many sites. Almost 12% of refugee children are estimated that are going to school at the moment. Due to continuous lockdowns in some sites, children have not be able to go to school since the last March.
- **IRC:** Three COVID_19 cases were found in Samos site, so the site remains on lockdown since 15th September. However, people are left to go to some supermarkets close to the site, so that they can buy food and other necessities, since there are some issues with the food distribution.
- **MsF Swiss:** MsF continues providing mental health services remotely in Samos island. A number of volunteers, trained by Msf, have access in the site and support MsF on the provision of services.
- **Society of Social Psychiatry P. Sakellaropoulos:** The Society of Social Psychiatry P. Sakellaropoulos has translated a series of information leaflets on basic issues affecting mental health including depression, grief, post-traumatic stress disorder,

	<p>communication (in Arabic) as well as depression, communication and social phobia (in Farsi). In case that an organization is interested in receiving the hardcopy material needs to send by telephone (210 9221739) or email (ekpsath@otenet.gr) the postal address and the contact person, in order to have the leaflets sent for free. A digital version of the leaflets can be accessed in the following link: https://bit.ly/3hEqaEi.</p>
<p>Updates from the situation in Lesbos island</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The situation in Moria remains crucial. Many families are still living in the streets. PRAKSIS mobile unit conducts outreach in the streets for families and UAM. • Four hundred and six UAMs were transferred to North Greece. Some EU countries has agreed on receiving all the UAMs from Moria, however the criteria that they put are very high and difficult to be met. • The number of PoCs entering the new site is increasing daily. All the PoCs are obliged to be examined for COVID_19 before entering the new site. • The interviews for asylum will be conducted remotely for the PoCs that are residing in the new site. It was announced that the procedure is to start on Monday 21st September. However, the access to legal aid services for the PoCs in the site remains difficult. • According to “Diavgeia”, the land for the new site was rent for five years by the government. However, the new site is being presented as a not permanent one. • IRC provides its services even evenings and weekends the last days, due to the emergency situation. Mental health services are provided remotely and the PFA line is still operating. The access to PoCs at the moment remains difficult. However, access to medicaments has been secured for PoCs. • The services provided in the new site as well as the way that it operates remain unclear for the moment. • MsF keeps providing their service in the two clinics in the islands. • There isn’t any referral mechanism for psychiatric emergency cases established in the island.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IRC is launching a new project focused on child protection, as part of the emergency response. Case workers and child psychologist will be hired. A need's assessment to families is now being conducted, so that the project will be designed accordingly.
<p>Discussion on the psychosocial impacts of homelessness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MsF Belgium: A high number of PoCs that are receiving services in MsF clinic in Mithimnis were already living in precarious conditions. Some of them tried to enter Helios project but they didn't manage to find an apartment. The demand of a psychiatric assessment as a prerequisite for entering a house is something that concerns the MsF staff. • ADDMA: The regulations for entering the houses are changing very often due to COVID_19 pandemic, which makes it difficult for PoCs to follow them. A big number of PoCs that were recognized as refugees still remain in the apartments. • Network for Children's' Rights: There is an increase on the Minors that are living in precarious conditions or are homeless the last months. Many of them are not aware of their rights and they are not even subscribed in EKKA. Many UAMs are trying to continue their journey the last months. • Babel: For people receiving services at Babel, the situation regarding the accommodation is better than it used to be two months ago. The majority of them are focused on the announced changes in the cash card, which will not allow them to support their rent. Many of them are asking to have a certificate that they are receiving mental health services so that they can prolong their staying in the apartments.
<p>AOB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A feedback regarding the TOT PFA by Nancy Baron needs to be sent to EPAPSY. A reminding e-mail will be sent to all the members of the WG. • Any organization, who would like to participate in a meeting focused in exchanging information on the current situation of UAMs in Greece organized by the Unit for Social Integration

	and Support of Unaccompanied Minors , needs to send an email at: e.patavou@migration.gov.gr
Agenda for the next WG	-Discussion and updates on the current situation -AOB

The next MHPSS WG meeting is going to take place on **Friday 2nd of October** at **09:30 -11:30**.