

ENSURING PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE TO UNACCOMPANIED MIGRANT CHILDREN DURING RELOCATION – IOM'S EXPERIENCES

IOM OFFICE IN GREECE

IOM'S ROLE FOR ADEQUATE CARE DURING THE PRE-DEPARTURE PHASE

- **Provision of Pre-departure accommodations (Transit Hubs):**
 - In close collaboration with the relevant authorities, the aim is for UMC currently in inappropriate and dangerous living conditions to be provided with safe transit accommodations and case management until the necessary assessment and pre-departure procedures are completed for their relocation to EUMS
- **Counselling and information provision/ contribution to BID:**
 - Provision of relevant child-specific information in the country of relocation: asylum process and legal status, possibility of family reunion (where applicable), short, medium and long-term reception and care arrangements, including accommodation, education/training/work opportunities, presence of migrant communities, places to worship, availability of medical/psycho-social support, other available benefits, rights and obligations;
 - Inclusion of relevant information in report submitted for each UMC to the Public Prosecutor to obtain the consent for the child's transfer to the specific MS and authorization of IOM escort(s).
- **Pre-migration health activities:**
 - Pre-migration health assessment including assessment for follow-up psychological/psychiatric treatment and care as relevant, depending on findings of BIA report and counselling session;
 - COVID-19 testing and care during related isolation/quarantine
 - Pre-embarkation check (24-72 hours before departure)
- **Pre-departure orientation:**
 - Engaging children in information sessions on the country of relocation, its laws and legislation, where/who to contact for assistance/support (children's hotlines/helplines, NGOs etc.), more general information on opportunities for integration
- **Pre-embarkation orientation:**
 - Provision of information about the day of departure: times and dates, pick-up and transfer to airport, what can be taken in carry-ons and checked in luggage, assistance with check-in, flight information, arrival information, escorts who will be there to assist, etc.

IOM'S ROLE FOR ADEQUATE CARE DURING THE TRANSFER

- Ensuring travel arrangements until the country of relocation, including escorts (charter arrangements in view of COVID-19 mobility restrictions and quarantine requirements)
- Provision of assistance at the airport in Athens and upon arrival
- Handover of the children to the responsible authorities in the country of relocation



RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Ensure availability of comprehensive pre-departure and travel support, including with sufficient time for necessary steps
2. Establishment of a **working group** with all involved actors in order to ensure the **smooth coordination** and implementation of the planned activities (SSUAM, GAS, RIS, EASO, UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF)
3. Establishment of **monitoring activities in the reception countries** to assess effectiveness of activities and adopt changes to the relocation procedure as necessary and to **learn from outcomes of relocation of children**



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS