

**Child Protection Sub-Working Group**  
**26.11.2020 Minutes of Meeting**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Thursday, 26 November 2020 at 09:30-11:30 a.m., via Webex</b>	
<b>Participants:</b>	Arsis Athens, Arsis Thessaloniki, Caritas Hellas, EKKA, Elix, Faros, GCR, ICRC, IOM, IRC, MoL (UAM Unit), Metadras, NCR, Panteion University, Praxis, Safe Passage, Solidarity Now, The HOME project, UNHCR (CO, Attika Unit, Lesvos, Kos), UNICEF	
<b>Chair:</b>	<b>UNHCR: Theodora D. Tsovili (<a href="mailto:tsovili@unhcr.org">tsovili@unhcr.org</a>)</b>	
<b>Agenda</b>	<p>-Briefing on the developments regarding family reunion procedures to the UK 2020/2021 (<b>Safe Passage</b>)</p> <p>-Introduction of the pilot national tracing and protection mechanism for homeless and living in precarious conditions UAC as an alternative to protective custody (<b>Special Secretary for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors</b>)</p> <p>-Update on child protection systems regarding asylum seeking and refugee children – Guardianship (<b>MoL/ EKKA</b>), Alternative care/ Reception (<b>UNHCR</b>)</p> <p>-Briefing on the Broad Voluntary Relocation Programme for UAC (<b>IOM &amp; UNHCR</b>)</p>	
<b>Briefing on the developments regarding family reunion procedures to the UK 2020/2021 (Safe Passage)</b>	<p>Following the Withdrawal Act among the UK and the EU, the Dublin III Regulation will cease to be applied after the end of the current year (2020) between Greece and the United Kingdom (as well as between all other Member States of the European Union) because of the Brexit. Legal aid actors have expressed their concerns that as of 01/01/2021 there will be no legal route – in addition to the provisions of the UK’s domestic legal framework – for the family reunification of asylum seekers from Greece with the family members legally residing in the UK.</p> <p>On 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020, the Legal Aid WG has shared a letter to the competent state authorities (Minister and Alternate Minister of Migration and Asylum, Secretary Special for UAMs, Secretary General for Reception, Head of Asylum Service and Head of Dublin Unit) signed by 20 legal actors* on BREXIT and the Dublin Family Reunification cases: urging the authorities for 1) the need of the immediate registration of cases in Greece falling under Dublin Regulation for family reunification, 2) to secure their transfer to the UK after the end of 2020 and 3) advocate for alternative routes for family reunification of asylum seekers in Greece with their family members in the UK.</p> <p>It is important to be noted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ cases with family reunification to the UK should be registered asap within 2020;</li> <li>➤ the taking charge requests by the Dublin Unit should be sent to the UK until the end of December 2020;</li> <li>➤ Rejected cases within 2020 will have the right to be re-examined.</li> </ul>	<b>Action Points:</b> <b>N/A</b>

	<p><b>!!!All actors are strongly advised and encouraged to flag and liaise with competent state actors when cases with family reunification to the UK will be identified for all necessary steps for prioritised registration and submission of the Dublin taking charge request within 2020.</b></p> <p>SSPUAM's office confirms the political will to assist and ensure that all procedures will be completed by the state competent services for the cases of UASC with family reunification to the UK. The SSPUAM's office has received a list of 20 such cases so far and all the CP actors are encouraged to contact SSPUAM's office as regards the identification of such cases.</p> <p><i>*Arsis, DRC, NCR, Diotima, GCR, Equal Rights Beyond Borders, European Lawyers in Lesvos, HIAS Greece, Human rights 360, Iliaktida MAKE, Help Refugees-Choose Love, Ecumenical Refugee Programme - KSPM, Metadrasi, Legal Centre Lesvos, PRAKSIS, RLS-Athens, Solidarity Now, Terre Des Hommes Greece, Refugee Support Aegean - RSA, Safe Passage International.</i></p>	
<p><b>Introduction of the pilot national tracing and protection mechanism for homeless and living in precarious conditions UAC as an alternative to protective custody (Special Secretary for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors)</b></p>	<p>SSPUAM will submit to the Greek parliament a legislative amendment on the abolishment of the protective custody of UAC in Greece. To this end, SSPUAM in collaboration with UNHCR are developing a pilot national tracing and protection mechanism for the homeless and living in precarious conditions UAC as alternative to protective custody and their accommodation to emergency facilities. A 24-hours line will be established within the pilot mechanism under the SSPUAM's office. Metadrasi and NCR will further assist the pilot national tracing and protection mechanism in the proper identification and tracing of homeless/in precarious conditions UAC establishment of Mobile Units, tracing, assess the best interest of the identified UAC once placed in the emergency facilities, etc.</p>	<p><b>Action Points:</b> N/A</p>
<p><b>Update on child protection systems regarding asylum seeking and refugee children – Guardianship (MoL/ EKKKA), Alternative care/ Reception (UNHCR)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ On 12 November 2020, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs issued a call for NGOs/a contractor to undertake the interim guardianship program for unaccompanied children which will last for 8 months until the national program will be ready (expected in August 2021).The deadline for the submission of proposals is on 24 November 2020 and the implementation of the interim program is expected to start withing the month of December. The interim project will cover the needs country wide while EKKKA is in collaboration with SSPUAM for the identification of immediate needs and the strategic allocation of guardians per location .</li> <li>➤ Reception: During the last 2 month the majority of UAC have been transferred from the RICs on the islands and Fylakio to care arrangement facilities on the mainland. In addition to this, between 4-14 November, approximately 170 unaccompanied children, who were under protective custody, in police stations and Pre-removal Detention Centers, transferred to long-term and temporary care arrangements across Greece.</li> <li>➤ Alternative Care: the SIL scheme is still scaling up successfully with more actors joining operationally (i.e. SN in Athens and in Thessaloniki). UNHCR continues to provide cash assistance to all UAC accommodated in SIL apartments. As the monthly</li> </ul>	<p><b>Action Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNHCR to reach out to CP actors regarding the current challenges on referrals to SIL</li> <li>• UNHCR/SSPUAM to organise a specific meeting on the current challenges in the implementation of SIL</li> </ul>

	cash assistance programme for asylum seekers will be transitioned by UNHCR to the State – the component for the provision of cash to UAC in SIL will be taken over by the State.	
<b>Briefing on the Broad Voluntary Relocation Programme for UAC (IOM &amp; UNHCR)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 5200 pledges have been announced by the MSs among them almost 1600 pledges are for unaccompanied children.</li> <li>➤ 475 UAC* have departed from Greece within the voluntary relocation scheme while 71 departures are expected to take place until the end of 2020.</li> <li>➤ In total 1639 beneficiaries have been relocated from Greece to EUMSs.</li> <li>➤ IOM runs 1300 places in Transit Hubs providing accommodation to the relocation candidates. 800 places in the Transit Hubs are activated for the provision of accommodation to UAC while the rest are addressed for the rest of the caseloads (applications of international protection: families with children with severe medical conditions and beneficiaries of international protection).</li> <li>➤ As of 28 October, 941 BIAs have been conducted jointly by EASO and UNHCR countrywide since the initiation of the Voluntary Relocation Scheme. Among them UNHCR and its partners have conducted 422 BIAs, almost 45% of the total caseload.</li> <li>➤ Relocation exercise for homeless and in precarious conditions UAC: as of 26 November, UNHCR has conducted 66 BIA interviews among whom 61 were considered eligible following the BI process.</li> </ul> <p><i>*Breakdown per country of destination: 18 Belgium, 17 Bulgaria, 72 Finland, 103 France, 197 Germany, 12 LUX, 47 Portugal, 1 Lithuania, 8 Ireland</i></p>	<b>Action Points:</b> N/A
<b>AOB</b>	The next CPsWG will take place in January 2021, the date is still to be confirmed	<b>Action Points:</b> N/A