

National Communicating with Communities (CwC) Working Group – September 2, 2021 - Meeting Minutes

Date:	September 2nd, 2021	
Location:	WEBEX	
Participants:	Konstantinos Vlastarakis ACCMR Digital Platform; Evangeline Atkinson, A.Ss.I.S.T; Richard Vyse A.Ss.I.S.T.; Yakinthi Menoudakou, ICRC; Maria Zygouri Hellenic Red Cross; Maro Verli Refugee.Info (IRC); Vangelis Tsilis, UNHCR; Marco Notarbartolo di Sciarra, UNHCR; Ann Noterdaeme Comms ASB; Cicilie Bråten-Lindblad - Athens Volunteers Information and Co-ordination Group; Ampanop Skopelitis (Metadrası-CBI team leader); Ioanna Konstantinou (GCR); Nizar Amri (DRC);	
Chairs:	Alexandra Zavvos (Solidarity Now); Valia Gkeka (UNHCR)	
Agenda	<u>Agenda</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Previous Meeting Minutes • Health Working Group Update on Update on Vaccination Process • Cash Programme Update • Participatory Assessment Announcement • Partner Updates • AoB 	
Talking points	Discussion	Action Points
Review of last meeting Minutes	Last meeting minutes were reviewed with no comments/edits from partners.	Minutes reviewed
Vaccination/HwG Update	<p>UNHCR Public Health Focal Point gave the group an update on Vaccination Campaign overall</p> <p>Ongoing Vaccination of PoC Vaccination of POCs continues but with limited participation. We do not have available official figures regarding vaccinated POCs but there is an estimation that approximately 1,050-1,100 POCs have been vaccinated on the islands while the total number for the whole country is estimated to be below 2,000. In mainland, EODY has started vaccination in several sites and the procedure is ongoing.</p>	Please share any issues accessing PAMKA with CwC coordinators or directly with PH coordinator

	<p>PAMKA Platform for temporary social security number is functional (here https://www.amka.gr/AMKAGR/). Based on the asylum service, all the data has been uploaded. Only small challenges have been reported in relation to issuance of PAMKA.</p> <p>Vaccination Certification</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Those residing and vaccinated in RICs and sites will receive the vaccination certificate from the management of the accommodation facility (the technical details are expected to be provided through an official document, pending)2) Those residing and vaccinated in urban areas but not holding an AFM and Taxisnet will need to visit a Citizens' Service Center (KEP) to request the certificate; the same is recommended regarding asylum seekers holding PAAYPA and PAMKA.3) For the undocumented POCs, the vaccination of the undocumented is foreseen in the Operational plan of the Government on vaccinations. However, as it is not implemented yet and thus the specific gap is remaining. <p>It is estimated that approximately 10,000 medical staff will be suspended in Hospitals on the basis of their non vaccination. The Government is planning to fill in gaps through transfers of staff but this is expected to take time and cause delays in hospital services.</p> <p>Metadrasi has started a new project supporting beneficiaries to get vaccinated (see also under CwC WG members' update).</p> <p>There was a question regarding asylum seekers who might have received a first dose of their vaccination in another EU country. Even though there is no official provision on the treatment of such cases, it is suggested that asylum seekers in this situation approach KEPs, demonstrating proof of their first dose and submit a relevant request.</p>	
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<p>RefugeeInfo Update on Vaccination Sensitization Campaign</p>	<p>RI updated the group on the progress of the campaign. Posters to promote the #vaccinationdone campaign available in CwC Drive here! Actors are encouraged to print the posters and place them in sites, centers or any other location that will increase visibility. The Posters can be found in EN-AR-FA-UR-FR-LINGALA (PDF + PNG format). Posters will also be posted in vaccination centers.</p> <p>Testimonies of POCs who have received vaccination have been gathered and will be shared in the next two weeks via RI fb page.</p> <p>For more information, see Minutes from the WG meeting held on 29 July 2021.</p>	<p>Please share RI Vaccination Campaign information with your teams and beneficiaries!</p>
<p>Participatory Assessment</p>	<p>UNHCR presented the ongoing participatory assessment to the rest of the group. More than 40 group discussions with asylum seekers and refugees took place during July and August in urban Athens and Thessaloniki including POCs staying in ESTIA apartments on islands. Approximately 200 POCs of different ages and backgrounds participated while humanitarian actors and authorities contributed to the exercise. This year’s focus of the Participatory Assessment in Greece is on self-reliance and integration.</p> <p>Some of the limitations/ challenges met during the exercise concerned the limited number of participants due to COVID restrictions as well as special circumstances linked to the summer period. Some of the key findings include the need of all groups for Greek language lessons, the gap of information especially in relation to social benefits and complaints mechanisms, and the importance of access and support to community network support. The capacities of the community were recorded while access to livelihoods (ex. work), accommodation and security remain among the basic challenges. During September the Participatory Assessment will continue in municipalities in North Greece and Crete.</p>	
<p>UNHCR’s Cash Programme Closure</p>	<p>UNHCR staff (Lefteris Konstantopoulos and Daphne Kapetanaki) shared updates regarding the conclusion of the UNHCR cash assistance program at the end of September 2021. The last payment was executed on 6 August. Asylum seekers residing in state run facilities received two months’ entitlement (for August and September). Asylum seekers who did not reside in state run facilities and were referred to UNHCR by the Ministry of Migration and Asylum as having applied for state accommodation and whose application was at</p>	

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	<p>the time of processing the final payment still pending received a payment covering July, August and September, i.e. three months' lumpsum. Concerned individuals were notified through SMS about the final loading of their cards and the upcoming card closure as of 15.09.21 and were advised to use any remaining balance before this date.</p> <p>The Ministerial Decision (MD) 115202/26.07.2021 foresees the terms of provision of material assistance to asylum seekers while it revised slightly the cash assistance amounts. However, the MD does not include information on how the material assistance will be provided to beneficiaries after the UNHCR programme is concluded; this remains to be announced. UNHCR is aware that there are relevant discussions but remains concerned on the timing of the implementation of the new programme. A final point is that the that payment which was executed in August was based on data shared by the Asylum Service at the end of June. Thus asylum seekers who submitted their application after that were not included in the last UNHCR payment and will need to wait for the new programme in order to receive material assistance.</p> <p>Additional information has been developed, translated and uploaded on HELP (see here)</p>	
<p>CwC WG members' update</p>	<p>Refugee Info informed participants that Guides for Asylum-seekers and Refugees mapping services in Athens and Thessaloniki have been now issued. An electronic version is available here https://help.unhcr.org/greece/where-to-seek-help/other-services/. Printed copies have been issued in a limited number and will be distributed further. The two Guides are available in eight different languages: one version is in English, Arabic, Farsi, and Urdu and one version in Greek, French, Turkish and Somali.</p> <p>Metadrasi informed participants about its new Helpdesks in Athens and Thessaloniki assisting asylum seekers and refugees to register their appointment for COVID-19 vaccination. Until the day of the GW meeting they had received more than 100 requests, they had manage to arrange more than 20 vaccination appointments while 10 refugees had already been vaccinated.</p> <p>For POCs without PAMKA living outside Athens and Thessaloniki Metadrasi gives instructions on how to book an appointment in the local KEP offices and how to address a local pharmacy for arranging an appointment for vaccination. For POCs living in Athens and Thessaloniki, Metadrasi accompanies POCs to the KEPs. More info is available here</p>	

	<p>Athina Vrakatseli from Athens KEM informed participants that about the new community programme run by the AntetokounBros Academy offering basketball training and educational inspiration to underprivileged young boys and girls aged 12 to 16, The Municipality offers two basketball courts for the training sessions and registrations started on 2 September. For more information go to https://www.antetokounbrosacademy.net/en/</p> <p>Moreover, 'Little Amal', the 3.5 meter-tall puppet of a young refugee girl, continued its journey in Athens, visited the Site of Elaionas and continued its journey to Technopolis of the Athens Municipality.</p> <p>Ann Noterdaeme from ASB noted that Little Amal had already visited Ioannina on 27 August where it was welcomed in a very positive atmosphere; the events were participated both by the host as well as the refugee community and it was a very nice experience for all.</p> <p>Finally, Ioanna Konstantinou from GCR informed participants that the GCR Helpline is again operation after a period of two months. Information on the contact details, languages etc can be found on the Facebook page of the GCR Helpdesk page here.</p>	
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