

27 April 2018

# Regional IM Working Group

## – Meeting minutes

Present: UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF, Lumos, REACH

Location: UNHCR, Geneva

### General updates

1. The [published last meeting minutes](#) (27 March 2018).
2. For the most recent updates, see the [Mediterranean response data portal](#).
3. The [interagency factsheet on refugee and migrant children for 2017](#) has been published. This factsheet will now be published every six months, instead of quarterly, although the data will continue to be compiled every quarter.

### Update on UNHCR profiling in Italy and Spain

The reports for both Italy and Spain are being finalised and will now be available in May.

### Lumos research project on care arrangements for children

1. As explained in the [concept note](#), the aim of the research would be to identify what data is available in various European countries on the kinds of care arrangements provided, to identify promising care arrangement practices and to attempt to evaluate the costs of different care arrangements.
2. The secondary data review is ongoing and the data is being collated in this [online spreadsheet](#) and will be completed in May.
3. A questionnaire for all pilot countries is being developed to help identify what information is required in each and this will be shared with the country focal points during May.
4. Lumos will also meet with UNHCR in Bulgaria in early May to discuss how to proceed with the pilot there as UNHCR has recently commenced similar research.
5. The methodology in this project will be aligned with the [Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty](#), however the Global study is only just commencing and so the methodology will likely only be confirmed later this year. Ensuring consistency will therefore require regular coordination between the two research teams.

### Education factsheet

A data rich inter-agency Education factsheet will be developed, using a similar process to the [factsheet on refugee and migrant children](#). The datasets on refugee, asylum seeker and migrant children to be collated will include:

- a. Access to the formal and informal education
- b. Enrolment in schools with possible age, gender and nationality breakdown

- c. Achievements, gaps and challenges (language barrier etc.) in access to education;
- d. Any other relevant and available data

In many countries in Europe, such information is difficult to collate as the responsibility for Education is often devolved to each region. To make quick progress on this, the following activities will be conducted during May:

- a. *Secondary Data Review* - RIMWG colleagues and national counterparts will conduct a joint review of the available data, including case studies.
- b. *3W* - A quick review of what education related activities each organisation and their partners are involved with.
- c. *Workshop* - A collaborative data exploration workshop at the end of May to explore and agree on the possibilities with analysing and presenting the available information.

## Data portal improvements

The inter-agency data portal managed by UNHCR will be updated during 2018 with a greater number of relevant datasets to be published, both at regional and country levels, and more accessible interactive data visualisations will be developed. Mock-ups of the new templates will be circulated for review by the RIMWG in June.

## Qualitative data analysis

In April, the Swedish Migration Agency visited UNHCR to present recent qualitative data analysis that they are conducting using machine learning algorithms to explore unstructured information from several different departments / sources in Sweden to inform the decision-making process for asylum claims. More information is available in the presentations - [part I](#), [part II](#) and [part III](#) and the research team are interested in wider discussions with the humanitarian community.

There are similarities with [DEEP](#), the Data Entry and Exploration Platform that has been funded by ACAPS, UNHCR and OHCHR. DEEP is a tool that enables the collation and tagging of key information in reports, datasets, news articles and web pages consistently using a customisable analytical framework. It also has an assisted tagging function that uses machine learning algorithms to identify relevant text snippets. The tool has the capability to support media monitoring, an assessment registry and as a way of extracting relevant qualitative and quantitative information from a range of sources and reports.

## IMWG workshop plans 2018

A multi-day workshop, funded by IOM, is being planned for September, likely in Vienna, to take stock of data collection, particularly in countries of arrival and transit in Europe and to seek to improve the analysis and products generated from this data. It would be an opportunity for organisations to bring together country level focal points to better facilitate coordination between organisations. The concept note for the workshop is being drafted and will be shared before the next meeting.

Secondly, there is also interest in conducting a research-oriented workshop later in 2018, including organisations such as the Swedish Migration agency. A concept note for this workshop

will also be developed and shared with the RIMWG. Given the breadth of the possible areas of discussion, the key will be to ensure the objectives for the workshop remain clear, probably focused on tools and processes that can support joint analysis and data visualisation / dissemination to ensure that the information remains as accessible as possible.

## Arrivals in Bosnia Herzegovina

Arrivals in Bosnia Herzegovina have continued to increase, with 666 new arrivals in March bringing the total for the quarter to just over 1,314, six times more than during the first quarter in 2017. These arrivals are well summarised on a map on page 53 of the [IOM flow compilation report from March 2018](#). Based on the information collected on ground and through different media sources, it appears likely that there are two broad reasons for the recent surge in arrivals. Firstly, several hundred refugees and migrants that were in Serbia and had tried to cross into Hungary became increasingly frustrated and have moved onwards into Bosnia Herzegovina. Secondly, several hundred refugees and migrants, who have previously spent some time Greece or have crossed from Turkey recently, arrived via a coastal route through Albania and Montenegro. The new arrivals in Bosnia Herzegovina are most commonly Syrian, Libyan, Pakistani or Afghan and most wish to try to move onwards into Croatia.

Given, the limited reception capacity (220) in Bosnia Herzegovina, the situation is being monitored closely.

## Migration Monitoring Review (MMR) - Mixed migration initiative in MENA

UNHCR MENA are developing a concept note for a project that will include a mapping of the various mixed migration data collection initiatives and tools used in MENA, Africa and Europe, together with an analysis of the best practises identified. They are seeking participation from a broad range of organisations, and also support for the budget. All those organisations interested in participating and/or funding the project should contact [Zeeshan Qamar](#) by the end of May.

In anticipation of this project, there is already some best practise that could usefully be compiled, for example on consistency between datasets and the usage of standardised terminology for mixed migration.

## Data on returns

Available data on returns (voluntary and forced) will be compiled and made available for analysis during May. There has been increasing interest in the return of trends to countries including Afghanistan and Syria as well as specific situations at e.g. the border between Spain and Morocco. The available information is patchy, with countries such as Hungary publishing this daily and others not publishing any information.

## REACH profiling update

In December 2017, [REACH](#) published their study '[From Syria to Spain](#)' on the Mixed Migration Platform. The study is focussed on Syrian migration to Spain, comparing the experiences of

Syrians who reached Spain through irregular and legal pathways (resettlement, relocation, family reunification) and their integration once in Europe.

In partnership with UNICEF Libya, REACH is currently conducting a study on unaccompanied and separated children's protection risks and coping mechanisms in Libya. Data collection activities, including approximately 330 individual interviews with UASC and key informants, have commenced in both Libya and Italy (primarily Sicily). The report due to be published in July 2018.

## Inter-agency IM focal point list in Europe

The new list of IM officers in Europe has been created on [Humanitarian ID](#) for [Europe Information Management](#), with about 20 people checked in so far. All other IM officers and IM focal points in Europe are also welcome and actively encouraged to join the list.

## EU recommendations joint paper

UNICEF and UNHCR have submitted their recommendations on data about children to the EU.

## Follow up actions

1. All IMs are welcome join the [Europe Information Management](#) group on [Humanitarian ID](#).
2. IMWG Workshop - Share the concept notes for the IM focal point and the research workshops for review before the next meeting.
3. Education factsheet - UNHCR, IOM and UNICEF to organise a Secondary data review, 3W and a collaborative data exploration workshop by the end of May to identify available datasets for the factsheet
4. Migration monitoring review - the concept will be shared in mid-May. All organisations interested in participating and / or funding the Migration Monitoring Review should contact [Zeeshan Qamar](#) by the 27 May.
5. UNHCR, UNICEF and IOM to compile a quick summary of mixed migration best practise in Europe to support the research by the 27 May.
6. Returns - data on voluntary and forced returns will be compiled during May by UNHCR, UNICEF and IOM.
7. UNHCR to share the two forms for the Border Monitoring.
8. UNICEF to collate any relevant datasets from the recent UASC study in Northern Europe.
9. DG Justice programme - UNICEF will create a shared information repository.

## Next meeting

**31 May 2018 (1100 to 1230) at UNICEF in Geneva**