

Memorandum of Understanding

between

the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Greece (UNHCR)

and

The Smile of the Child

A. PREAMBLE

1. This Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter MoU) represents an enhanced commitment to the strategic cooperation on the protection of children between the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Representation in Greece (UNHCR) and The Smile of the Child, (hereinafter collectively referred to as “the Parties” and individually as “a Party”). It has been developed in recognition of the respective mandates, responsibilities, strategic objectives and mission statements, as well as the possibilities of cooperation between the two organizations in Greece.
2. UNHCR, as a subsidiary body created by the UN General Assembly by the Article 22 of the United Nations Charter, constitutes an integral part of the United Nations and its status, privileges and immunities are governed by the Convention on the Status, Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations, adopted on 13 February 1946 and ratified by the Hellenic Republic by Law 412/1947 (Official Gazette 205 A’ of 02/10/1947).
3. UNHCR, on the basis of its statute of 1950, the 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the Statue of Refugees and subsequent resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and according to the Greek Law is mandated to provide international protection, assistance and solutions to refugees and other categories of persons of concern in Greece. As part of its mandate and given the high proportion of children amongst displaced populations currently as well as the fact that girls and boys face unique protection risks, the response to the specific needs of children is a key priority for UNHCR, Representation in Greece.
4. The Smile of the Child works nationwide in Greece and aims at the care and protection of children. The mission of The Smile of the Child is to provide services for all children regardless of ethnicity and/or religion, to prevent and address phenomena of violence, as well as to support children living in poverty or are threatened by poverty, children that face health problems and children that go missing. The non-profit child welfare organization considers as an uncompromising priority the child’s best interest, regarding security, wellbeing, physical and psychological health.
5. The Smile of the Child is a certified Organization from the Hellenic Ministry of Labour, Social Insurance and Solidarity for the provision of first, second and third-level services of social care.
6. The Smile of the Child signed a Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) with DG ECHO on 24 July 2017 in order to undertake actions of humanitarian aid in Greece in line with its principles of quality, impact and transparency of its actions.

7. UNHCR and The Smile of the Child together commit to uphold the rights of refugees and other persons of concern to UNHCR through partnership in provision of services and promotion of policies that promote the protection and well-being of child and youth populations under UNHCR's mandate¹.
8. This MoU applies to the most substantive areas of the Parties' collaboration and outlines current and future priority areas of cooperation where the capacities and expertise of the two organizations can be optimized and assistance towards persons of concern to UNHCR can be improved.

B. PRINCIPLES OF PARTNERSHIP

9. Both parties recognize rights-based (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, UNCRC), age, gender, diversity and community-based approaches as central to their collaboration.
10. Collaboration between the Parties builds upon their respective central roles and cooperation with the United Nations (The Smile of the Child enjoys special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, ECOSOC), the Council of Europe and international fora.

C. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

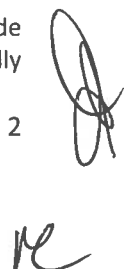
11. The purpose of the MoU is to institutionalize the partnership and cooperation between the parties.
12. UNHCR and The Smile of the Child are committed to collaborate in responding to the rights and protection needs of the child and youth populations of concern to UNHCR in Greece.

a. Information sharing, Coordination and Capacity development

- (i) The two Parties commit to regular bilateral communication and dialogue to orient their respective organizations in order to address key priorities and meet the rights, needs and protection of child and youth populations of concern in Greece through information sharing, programming, referral mechanisms, advocacy and effective leveraging of each Parties' expertise and partnerships.
- (ii) UNHCR shall facilitate the inclusion of The Smile of the Child in the National and sub-national coordination mechanisms of the Child Protection Working Groups.
- (iii) UNHCR shall provide capacity development to strengthen the existing expertise of The Smile of the Child on UNHCR's Framework for the Protection of Children also focusing but not limiting the relevant training on areas such as the Best Interest Procedures, access to Asylum and Family reunification procedures, Integration prospects, Code of conduct, Minimum Standards for the Reception conditions of UASC.

¹ *Children of concern to UNHCR* as defined in the preliminary paragraphs of ExCom Conclusion No. 107 (LVIII) - 2007 on Children at Risk.

Youth of concern to UNHCR as defined in the Conclusion of the ExCom No. 113 (LXVII) 2016 on Youth, include young people between the ages of 15-24 years of age, who are asylum seekers, refugees, are internally displaced or returnees assisted and protected by UNHCR, or are stateless.



UNHCR shall exercise its monitoring role to ensure that minimum standards for the reception conditions of UASC are met and shall provide guidance, as necessary.

d. Health & Psychosocial Support Services

Concerning the provision of comprehensive quality health and psychosocial support services including for infants, children and youth and their caregivers of concern to UNHCR in Greece,

- (i) The Smile of the Child shall make available the services provided by
- the Medical Support Center,
 - the Mobile Medical Units (ambulances) for the transportation of children and infants from or between the places of treatment in coordination with EKAV Emergency Services (National Centre),
 - the three (3) Preventive Medicine Units which operate under the auspices of the competent Hellenic Ministries: Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs and Ministry of Health,
 - the teams of professionals who organize recreational activities in Children's Hospitals,
 - The House of the Child, a Day Center for the Provision of Customized Mental Health Services to Children and Adolescents.
- (ii) UNHCR shall support the inclusion of the above-mentioned health and psychosocial support services in the existing referral pathways in the sites and the urban setting including also the ones in UNHCR's accommodation scheme.

D. MODALITIES OF COOPERATION

13. The implementation of activities under this agreement by UNHCR and The Smile of the Child will be carried out in accordance with each organization's mandate, regulations and procedures. Each Party shall bear its own costs generated as a result of this Agreement unless otherwise specifically agreed by the Parties.
14. Both parties will disseminate this MoU to their respective central offices and field operations and will take all necessary action to promote implementation by in parallel providing appropriate guidance.
15. The Parties shall designate one senior lead who takes responsibility for the overall vision, the strategic direction and delivery of this agreement; for The Smile of the Child, the President of the Board of Directors Costas Yannopoulos and for UNHCR, the Senior Protection Officer (Community Based) Josep Herreros. Both parties will also designate leads to take responsibility for delivering the various components of the cooperation in the respective areas.
16. The Parties commit to meet periodically, not less than once per three months, to develop action plans, review them accordingly and propose, if necessary, amendments.

hosting of UAC (with earmarked specific number of places for UASC) according to its mixed model of operation (half children UASC and other half children in danger).



b. Education

Concerning the provision of formal and non-formal education to child and youth populations of concern in Greece,

- (i) Both parties shall advocate to the Hellenic Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs for the continuous facilitation of school enrolment for refugee children and their inclusion in national multiyear education plans for all educational levels.
- (ii) The Smile of the Child shall promote good educational practices and awareness raising campaigns for learning and for the prevention of trafficking in both sites and outside sites' settings.
- (iii) The Smile of the Child shall support the capacity building and active involvement of refugee teachers in the provision of non-formal education initiatives.
- (iv) The Smile of the Child shall promote and support youth engagement through innovation projects and social media.

c. Child and Youth protection

Concerning the strengthening of the existing child protection systems and effective engagement of the communities to improve protection and access to the solutions for child and youth populations of concern in Greece,

- (i) both parties commit to a bilateral regular communication and dialogue by developing linkages with the national child protection system and by promoting the goals and principles set forth in UNHCR's Framework for the Protection of Children, UNHCR's Policy and Guidelines, Executive Committee Conclusions and other Inter agency and International tools.
- (ii) The Smile of the Child shall make available the services offered by its National Center for Missing & Exploited Children across Greece:
 - The National Helpline for Children SOS 1056,
 - The European Hotline for Missing Children 116 000 and
 - The European Helpline for Children and Adolescents 116 111.

Both parties shall develop an action plan for communicating with the communities on the promotion and use of the national Help/hotlines in coordination with the CPWGs and the national competent authorities.

- (iii) The Smile of the Child shall make available to the Unaccompanied and Separated Children in Greece the eleven (11) residential care facilities (Homes) which host children of different ages, irrespective of their nationality and origin, with the order of the competent Public Prosecutor & Judicial Authorities and in full cooperation and compliance with the national referral mechanism coordinated by EKKA².

² While the 10 Homes do not have earmarked number of available places for UASC, yet already host and can host UASC, the 11th home that The Smile of the Child recently inaugurated, supported by ECHO, is included in EKKA's referral mechanism for the

E. GENERAL PROVISIONS

17. This MoU shall enter into force on the date of its signature by the duly authorized representatives of the Parties. It may be terminated by either Party by providing the other Party with prior written notice. The MoU can be modified in writing at any time by mutual consent of the Parties.
18. Neither Party shall use the name, abbreviation of the name, emblem, logo of the other in any advertisement, press release, publicity or other materials printed or published with reference to this MoU or otherwise without the express written consent of the other. This provision shall survive the expiration or termination of this MoU.

Mr. Philippe Leclerc



Representative

UNHCR Representation in Greece,

Athens, 5 March 2018



Mr. Costas Giannopoulos



President

The Smile of the Child

Athens, 9 March 2018

