Inter-Agency URBAN Meeting

Date:	3 March 2017
Participants:	NRC, IFRC, MDM, Filoxenia,Arsis, Praxis, UNHCR, A21, MSF, NCA, Intervolve, UNICEF, TdH, Red Cross, MDM, independent volunteers.
Chair:	Mathilde de Riedmatten deriedma@unhcr.org Protection Officer, UNHCR
Agenda	• Accommodation update • Community Centres/Services updates • AoB

Agenda Item	Discussions
URBACT presentation	*Presentation by Thessaloniki Municipality Local Coordinator for URBACT/Arrival Cities* Thessaloniki is one of 10 European partners of the EU URBACT Arrival Cities project of which http://urbact.eu/arrival-cities. The project aims to foster social inclusion of refugees and other migrants in cities experiencing large flows of people, and in particular, to assist local authorities that face problems addressing challenges related to this. Thessaloniki municipality has formed a group of key stakeholders (municipality members, NGOs and other institutions) that will work together to produce a local action plan on integration that, once voted in by the municipality council, will serve as a road map / strategic priorities document of the municipality by which to guide integration work and against which to apply for funding. Some integration activities have already started (e.g. REACT accommodation project) and other activities including a Centre of Integration, entrepreneurship projects and the formulation of a database, are int eh planing phase.
Urban Response Guiding Principles	*Presentation by UNHCR (Urban Response Advisor): Urban Response Guiding Principles and UDOC* UNHCR introduced some of the key principles of urban response (presentation attached) and outlined the Centre Approach that, to some extent, is ongoing in Thessaloniki. The main point was that Community Centres are already functioning in Thessaloniki and one of the roles of the Urban Working Group is to encourage all Centres to adopt the core urban guiding principles that include working through local, rather than international partners, facilitating access to mainstream government services, access to host (urban poor) and migrant communities, etc. Some

	discussion followed about the potential role of neighbourhood committees, obstacles to local integration, avoiding competition between urban partners **Action Point:** The ToRs that embed the guiding principles will be circulated to the group ahead of the next meeting for comment.
Mapping	*Presentation by UNHCR: Data and mapping initiatives* See attached presentation on the product complied from the on-going service mapping work (googledoc). This is just one of the many examples of what can be done with the information provided. **Action Point:** Organise meeting with IM focal points of agencies to brainstorm on other possible information products
Separation of Accommodation	*Separating Urban and Accommodation groups* There was an agreement from the group to separate the accommodation and urban working groups. The rationale being that accommodation is just one service within the urban context where as the Urban Working Group should focus more on a mechanism/system of response that covers all sectors and embedded within the municipality.
Urban Coordination in Epirus	*Discussion: Urban coordination in Epirus* Oxfam from Epirus will aim to ensure that an Urban Working Group is established in Ioannina and welcomed the Thessaloniki municipality to approach the Ioannina municipality to encourage their participation. **Action Point:** Thessaloniki Municipality will reach out to Ioannina municipality to share their experience of URBACT and Arrival Cities.