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| **FGD on journey and decision making – UASC / Italy**  **Analysis of migration trends and profiles of children migrating to Italy Greece** | |
| **26 December 2016**  **[Draft Three]** | **C:\Users\Megan\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Word\REACH logo white (for a coloured background).jpg** |

**Focus Group Discussion Guide**

*Target group: separated and unaccompanied children aged 15 to 17 years old.*

*Note to enumerators on location:*

*• The interview/focus group should take place in a room that guarantees the security and privacy of the respondents. Therefore, enumerators shall ask the reception centre management for a place where they and the respondents will not be heard by non-participants.*

*• If non-participants are present in the data collection room, enumerators explain them that in order to protect the participants’ privacy, non-participants should leave the room.*

*• If privacy cannot be guaranteed the interview is rescheduled and Enumerators refer to the Field Coordinator.*

*• If third parties are interfering with an interview or focus group, the Enumerators will interrupt the data collection exercise*

1. **Facilitator’s welcome, introduction and instructions to participants [5 minutes]**

* Welcome and thank you for volunteering to take part in this focus group discussion about the situation of children in Italy. You have been asked to participate as your point of view about you and your community situation and needs is important. I appreciate your time.
* **Please note that this meeting does not have any impact on your international protection application.**
* **Confidentiality:** I would like to assure you that the discussion will be confidential. This means that we will not share your name to any other people and, when we present the findings, do not refer to you individually. I and the other focus group participants ask that you must not talk about anything said here today with anyone outside of the focus group. If there are any questions or discussions that you do not wish to answer or participate in, you do not have to do so; however please try to answer and be as involved as possible.
* **This conversation is completely confidential. None from the centre management or from the Italian state will know what you said and, as it is completely confidential, no one will be able to track back your answer and identify you.**
* **Please also note that this meeting does not have any impact on the assistance provided. However, if you require specific assistance ask me after our discussion and I can tell you about the existing referral procedures in your site**
* The discussion will take no more than 90 minutes. After 45 minutes we will have a quick break.

1. **Ground rules [2 minutes]**

* The most important rule is that only one person speaks at a time. There may be a temptation to jump in when someone is talking but please wait until they have finished. We will ensure to give the opportunity to all participants that want to speak.
* There are no right or wrong answers
* You do not have to agree with the views of other people in the group
* When you do have something to say, please do so. There are many of you in the group and it is important that I hear the views of each of you
* You do not have to speak in any particular order
* Does anyone have any questions? (answers).
* OK, let’s begin

## STAGE 1: ICE-breaking, UNDERSTANDING Context & Participants’ NEeds

Questions to Participants:

1. ***(Engagement question)*** Did you ever participate in an assessment exercise with UN agencies or NGOs? If yes, what did you enjoy? [5 minutes] if no, do you have any expectations about how it will go?

***Answer:*** The respondents replies that the Un agencts come but they didnt want to talk with them. The respondent 2 asks that why am I asked and share these informations with the enumerators and my room mates.

* + *This is a warm up question, encourage a lively discussion – but don’t let the conversation stray too far off topic. As soon as you feel everyone is engaged and talking, move on to question 2.*

1. **How long have you been in Italy now? How months andvare you doing? How is the centre/village? [10 minutes]**

Answer: respondent 1 year and respondent 18 months and 3 months and 6 months.

One of the respondent is stressed of staying too long in the camp. 0

* Probing Questions:
  + *Psycho-social distress: see whether children mention the following: tired of waiting; tense; angry about the situation; if children speak confidently about these issues, probe cautiously about their experiences, but also experiences of other children and how they deal with their situation*
  + *If participants state they do not experience problems/ particular needs in Italy, ask why?*

## STAGE 2: DECISION MAKING

Draw a line on the floor and scale it from 1 to 5. 1 means “Don’t agree at all”, 5 means “completely agree”. Read out each of the statements below and ask participants after each statement to go and stand by the number which best captures their opinion. The following questions may be perceived as sensitive and confidential. If you feel that any of the questions is jeopardizing participants’ wellbeing, skip that question. If you feel that it is inappropriate to take notes while you are conducting this second stage of the FGDs, try to memorize the answers and put your notes down only when participants have left.

Nigeria : not agree no future --

Nigeria : agree boko haram, girls cant get out the house.

Gambia : agree no democracy

Gambia : not agree I lost my taxy and im here to get money.

1. **What were the main reasons why you left your last country of residence and came here? [15 minutes]:**

**Answer:** respondent from Nigeria says that my father use to work for big newspaper but the dictator. The Gambian respondent want to stay in Italy. Respondent from Nigeria say he don’t like the place and the food.

**gam**

Instruction: Don’t read out options below as we want participants to voice their own reasons; also, don’t ask for each individual to give an answer as we do not want to pressurise individuals to respond if they don’t want to; however, if no one speaks use these as probing questions.

* + - I did not have the means to sustain myself and I looked for better economic opportunities
    - I looked for better education or health services ( 2 Nigerians and Gambian ) not agree and one gambian agree)

Nigerian want to study in London.

* + - I wanted to join my family in Europe

A Nigerian guy want join family in Europe with his family in Denmark and onother Nigerian want to join his uncle in London.

* + - I escaped from conflicts, widespread violence, risk of being imprisoned or persecuted

Nigerian: we have boko haram, we don’t have access to anything and for my sister it was difficult for her.

Nigerian: I want to study and I want to help my father.

Gambian no democracy and no freedom.

Gambian: I was prosecuted because they burned my car and got threaten but no conflict is in my area

For each: please explain your position. In order to reduce likelihood of imitative behaviours, try to jump from a category to the other while calling people to speak.

As there might be a tendency to concentrate on the "Safety" reason, stress that there are no good or bad answers.

*Indicators: Reasons behind the decision to migrate*

1. **Who decided that you should leave your country and come here? [10 minutes]**

**Answer:** Nigerian: everyone wanted me to leave and my family in Europe wanted me to join them, my cousins and my uncle wanted me to leave and join them, I wanted to leave by myself as well. My dad is dead

Nigerian: my dad paid my journey and decieded for me. My family is well established in lagos and I didn’t want to leave.

Gambia: I came by myself and It was my decision. And I decided to leave alone.

Gambia: me and my family decided for me to leave. My parents couldn’t come with me

Instruction: Don’t read out options below as we want participants to voice their own replies; also, don’t ask for each individual to give an answer as we do not want to pressurise individuals to respond if they don’t want to. Rather put the question out in the room and let children discuss among each other; for probing purposes include:

* + - Was it your own decision?
    - Did your parents/caretakers decide?
    - Was it your extended family?
    - Try to capture if the decision-maker over the country of reference and the one over the decision to migrate are different (e.g. My parents decided I had to leave and I chose to come to Italy)
    - Stress: who decided that you should leave alone?
    - Cross check with answers to question n°1

*Indicators: Person who took the final decision to migrate; Person who took the final decision on the country of destination; Person who took the final decision to migrate alone*

1. **If you travelled without your parents, why did you do so? (If relevant to the discussion!) Discussion round [5 minutes]:**

**Answer:**

Instruction: we want participants to voice their own replies; don’t ask for each individual to give an answer as we do not want to pressurise individuals to respond if they don’t want to. Rather put the question out in the room and let children discuss among each other; for probing purposes can include some of the following:

* + - parents/caretakers could not come for money or vulnerability reasons
    - parents/caretakers did not want to come
    - it was perceived that it was easier to stay in the EU or ask for family reunification if travelling alone;
    - Avoid discussing specific situations

*Indicators: Information over the country of destination*

1. **How did you collect information on your country of destination? Discussion round [5 minutes]:**

**Answer:**

* + - Ask each participant to explain what his personal situation is.
    - Stimulate discussion by providing examples of (1) Traditional Media (TV/Newspapers/Radio); (2) Social Media (Facebook/Whatsapp); (3) telling of family/other acquaintances; (4) information from smugglers/passeurs
    - If decision over the country of destination varied during the trip, ask which information tool influenced the decision-making process
    - Probe: What information would you have found useful before leaving for country of residence?

Nigeria: My realtives in Denmark sent me photos, and it was nice so I came. And I also speak with my cousin on facebook.

Gambia: I didn’t had any information about Europe or Italy and I came by myself and people on my way were talking about Europe.

Gambia: friends from whatsaap.

Nigeria: with my friends we gathered information to come London.

Gambia: I have food everyday

- Now ten minutes break

Instructions to Enumerators:

The following questions may be perceived as sensitive and confidential. If you feel that any of the questions is jeopardizing your security, or participants’ security, skip that question. If you feel that it is inappropriate to take note while you are conducting this second stage of the FGDs, try to memorize the answers and put your notes down only when participants have left.

Encourage people to avoid disclosing confidential information about specific incidents of violence. If someone discloses they or someone they know have experienced violence, speak to them individually and refer them to any available services in their area.

1. **Before leaving (the country where you lived the most), did you think about the risks this decision would imply? Did you think of the positives it could bring? If yes, which risks did you consider? Discussion round [15 minutes]**
   * + .
     + To stimulate discussion, ask which were the main risks perceived in their community of origin using the 4 categories listed below
     + Try to concentrate the discussion over four types of risks anticipated: (1) Economic risks: running out of money; (2) Accidents: Shipwreck, car accidents; (3) Protection issues: getting hurt, getting lost, not reaching country of destination, kidnapped, abused, killed; (4) Communication issues;
     + Ask which were the risks specifically associated to the decision to migrate (without close family members) alone: e.g. Loneliness and isolation, communication issues
     + Did these concerns get confirmed during the journey? (move to the next part)

*Indicators: Risks identified before taking the decision to migrate; Risks identified before taking the decision to migrate alone*

## STAGE 3: WAY OF TRAVELLING

*Indicators: risks identified and protection issues on the way;* other issues witnessed affecting the well being during the journey and frequency

1. **What issues did you experience during your journey that affected your well-being? Discussion round [5 minutes]**
   * + Focus on elements leading to psycho-social distress: (1) economic insecurity, (2)inadequate living conditions lack of a safe place to sleep, sense of insecurity, lack of basic services, (3) isolation, fear of getting lost, never reaching my country of destination, experiencing communication issues;
     + How often did it happen? Where mostly?
     + Did you meet/hear of anyone who encountered these issues during the trip? Did you see anyone suffering from these issues?

*Indicators: Protection issues faced during the journey and frequency; Protection issues witnessed during the journey and frequency*

1. **How long are you planning to stay in this reception centre? [5 minutes]**
   * + Ask each participant to explain what his personal situation is, but also let participants interact with each other – why do they want to stay X amount of time (or not)?
     + Try to understand whether they are more oriented towards a short staying (1-3 months) or more long-term (6-12 months)
     + Ask which are the critical factors leading to the decision to leave

*Indicators:* Period of time UASC intend to stay at the reception centres; Push and pull factors leading to the decision to leave the reception centres

1. **How did you decide to stay or leave? Who do you ask and discuss with? [5 minutes]**
   * + Ask participants to discuss with each other.
     + If needed provide examples such as: looked on the internet, asked other family members/acquaintances; talked to the centre coordinator/staff
     + If you had to take again this decision, who would you ask? Who would you trust the most? Why?

*Indicators:* Source of information used for decision to travel onward/ stay put, by reason; Source of information most trusted for decision to travel onward/ stay put, by reason

1. **What are your biggest concerns about the future? Round discussion [5 minutes]**
   * + Let participants discuss among each other if you feel it is appropriate; if participants seem distressed skip this question!
     + If needed provide examples such as: delays in bureaucratic procedures, lack of job perspective, family reunion.
     + Remind that you cannot improve their situation but that you can refer them to other organisations which provide assistance.

*Indicators: UASC with fear about the future, by reason*

1. **Is your current condition very different to what you expected before leaving? If yes how? [5 minutes]**
   * + Ask each participant to explain what his personal situation is.
     + What did you expect to be different?

*Indicators:* Expectations before leaving versus current situation

**STAGE 4: conclusion**

**Conclusion** [10 minutes]

De-escalating activity: Feedback Web

The children stand in a circle facing inwards. The Facilitator starts with a ball of string and holds one end of the string. She/he then says one thing (about the workshop or positive feedback / to thank another person for something they have contributed) and throws / passes the ball of string to them, still holding onto the end. This person then holds onto the string so that it is taught between the ﬁrst person and them and passes the ball of string onto another person, giving them positive feedback and so on until everyone is connected by the string and there is a web of string (and thanks, feedback etc) among all.

* Thank you for participating. This has been a very successful discussion
* Your opinions will be a valuable asset to the study
* We hope you have found the discussion interesting
* I would like to remind you that any comments featuring in this report will be confidential

If there is anything you are unhappy with or wish to complain about, you can also contact XYZ - my supervisor, by whatsapp or phone at the following number TBA.