



Greece Crisis Response Plan 2020

2020

Funding Required

\$158,989,033

Target Beneficiaries

60,000

IOM Vision

IOM Greece aims to improve the living conditions of migrant and refugee communities in the country through a wide range of activities and is working towards finding sustainable solutions for these vulnerable populations. Special care and attention will be provided to the most vulnerable groups, including unaccompanied migrant children. Planned activities in 2020 include accommodation support, capacity building of local actors, protection, legal counselling, psychosocial support, integration, interpretation services, transportation, access to education and non-formal education services, population mapping, community participation, care and maintenance, and provision of non-food items (NFIs).

Context Analysis

Since 2015, Greece has become one of the main gateways to the European Union for hundreds of thousands of people coming from the Middle East, Africa and Asia. War and political and economic instability in different regions has increased the number of irregular migrants and asylum seekers entering Greece from the eastern sea borders and by land, overcrowding the islands' reception and identification centres (RICs). The number of arrivals has particularly spiked over the last months, with large inflows and very limited outflows from the country. The efforts to decongest the overcrowded reception facilities on the Aegean islands are ongoing but are slow given the limited amount of accommodation available in the

mainland. There is an imperative need to reinforce the current accommodation capacities within the emergency reception schemes.

Greek authorities, with the support of IOM and other stakeholders, are making efforts to alleviate human suffering and ensure proper living conditions of the populations by prioritizing decongestion of the reception facilities on the islands and/or other locations. Consequently, it is of crucial importance to maintain and further expand the reception schemes and improve and facilitate site management procedures (including emergency transportation and interpretation) in mainland Greece. Under this framework, it is of utmost importance to cover beneficiaries' basic needs (such as shelter, food, water and sanitation) and ensure protection assistance is mainstreamed, in order to address vulnerabilities and promote the well-being of beneficiaries.

Coordination

The Government of Greece is the main responder for the management of the migrant crisis in the country, primarily coordinating activities through key institutions such as the Ministry of Migration and Asylum (MoMA), other relevant ministries and the Reception and Identification Service (RIS).

An informal coordination mechanism was established, and regular meetings take place at all levels among all relevant actors, including UN agencies, governmental counterparts, donors and NGOs. A Steering Committee meeting convenes regularly in order to monitor the progress of the emergency response in Greece and coordinate related activities, with the participation of relevant ministries (such as the MoMA, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Labour, and Ministry of Health), the European Commission/DG Home, IOM, UNHCR and UNICEF.

In parallel, numerous sector working groups (WG) take place to coordinate activities on a technical level; notably, IOM is chairing the National Site Management Support (SMS / CCCM) working group and participates in the Protection, Education and Health working groups. Additionally, IOM attends various inter-agency meetings, including Emergency Support to Integration and Accommodation (ESTIA) and cash-assistance related, and conducts regular consultations with authorities, including RIS, Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Labour.

IOM Greece is the main Site Management Support (SMS) actor supervising interventions across mainland accommodation centres in order to reinforce collective efforts made by the Greek authorities and relevant actors to improve reception conditions and build a more sustainable/effective site coordination system.

IOM Capacity

IOM has been present in Greece (a founding member of IOM) since 1952 and has a lengthy cooperation experience with the Greek government, other UN agencies and civil society aiming at assisting and supporting migrants. The Mission promotes the safety and dignity of migrants, advances the understanding of migration issues and encourages social and economic development through migration, in support of the government in meeting the growing

operational challenges of migration management.

IOM Greece implements projects aiming at the improvement of migrants' living conditions (food, water, shelter, protection), migrant integration, legal and orderly migration to EU and non-EU countries, the countering of racism, xenophobia and human trafficking. To date, IOM has supported the Greek government with assisted voluntary returns and reintegration, relocations to other EU member states, site management support, migrant integration with the collaboration of Greek municipalities, primary health care with implementing partners, creation and development of accommodation settings for unaccompanied children (such as safe zones, shelters), formal education of migrant and refugee children, as well as non-formal education (for youth and adults).

Objective

Save lives and respond to needs through humanitarian assistance and protection

\$122,025,337

Funding Required

40,000

Target Beneficiaries

Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, with a particular focus on families and children, as well as unaccompanied migrant children and other vulnerable groups.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Funding Required

\$78,986,009

The continuous migratory flows in Greece since the start of the Mediterranean crisis have resulted in an exponential increase of the asylum-seeking and refugee population residing in the country and in need of basic and specialized services, including shelter, medical care and legal assistance, as per the national and EU provisions. During 2019, and particularly since the summer months, Greece faced a sudden increase in flows both from sea and land borders, reaching over 64,200 new arrivals to date^[1]. Accordingly, approximately 35,500 migrants remain currently stranded in the reception and identification centres on the islands while awaiting their transfer to accommodation structures in mainland Greece.

To address these issues, IOM plans to carry out the following activities:

- Enhanced Site Management Support (SMS/CCCM) through the comprehensive streamlining and harmonization of procedures and the provision of technical assistance to Government counterparts.
- Improved shelter and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) conditions through care and maintenance of the reception and accommodation facilities, ensuring access to safe water, coverage of utilities, repairing of damaged facilities, solid waste management, garbage collection and disposal, maintenance of communal facilities and access to the internet.
- Improved daily living conditions through the provision of basic needs/supplies (such as

food baskets and welcome kits (WKS) containing basic non-food items, transportation from remote sites to city centres).

- Strengthening of AAP through community engagement activities (such as participation/representation in community meetings and in community-based events).

[1] IOM DTM data, available at <https://migration.iom.int/europe?type=arrivals> (accessed on 09/12/2019).

Protection

Funding Required

\$43,039,328

The reception and integration centres are severely overpopulated, reaching approximately 550 per cent of their actual capacity, which raises high concerns about the well-being of that group, a large part of which are vulnerable (e.g. unaccompanied migrant children (UMC), severe medical/mental health cases, gender-based violence (GBV) survivors, and so on). Such concerns are also heightened by the limited outflows from the country, resulting from the suspension of legal pathways (such as the EU Relocation scheme), the slow processing of asylum cases, and the low re-admissions to Turkey under the EU-Turkey Statement.

To address these issues, IOM plans to carry out the following activities:

- Improved identification of needs and responding to vulnerabilities through case management of vulnerable cases, including child protection/UMC, trafficking in persons and GBV (such as mental health and psychosocial support, sexual reproductive health, legal support, legal counselling);
- Capacity building of Greek authorities through technical assistance in key areas and positions (for example interpretation related to public services such as hospitals, medical centres, on-site state medical actor, RIS on-site representatives, TAX office, citizens' service centres, strategic planning coordination and implementation; active and sufficient operational management and decision-making both at central but also field level);
- Improved access to services and socio-economic benefits (such as health, education) through interpretation, accompaniment and establishment of open communication channels;
- Enhancement of beneficiaries skills and knowledge through non-formal education;
- Increased potential for integration within host communities through the acquisition of new skills (such as language and other soft skills);
- Enhancement of social cohesion through improved communication with local communities and authorities.

Objective

Address the drivers and longer term impacts of crises and displacement through investments in recovery and crisis prevention

\$36,963,696

Funding Required

20,000

Target Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries of international protection, recognized as such after 1 January 2017 and residing in Reception and Identification Centers (RICs), ESTIA apartments, accommodation centres and emergency accommodation facilities. In addition, this target group also includes beneficiaries of international protection residing in shelters for SGBV survivors.

Durable Solutions

Funding Required

\$36,963,696

Emergency relief measures in the country have largely focused on improving reception standards and protection services for asylum seekers, including for vulnerable groups. However, given the number of beneficiaries regularly entering and residing at present in Greece, there is a need to reinforce the current accommodation capacity of the Greek accommodation system, alongside strengthening mechanisms that will regulate the exiting of different categories of migrants and refugees from reception schemes into more permanent accommodation solutions in accordance with their legal status and in line with relevant EU regulations.

To provide durable solutions, IOM targets beneficiaries of international protection, recognized as such after 1 January 2017 and residing in Reception and Identification Centers (RICs), ESTIA apartments, accommodation centres and emergency accommodation facilities. In addition, this target group also includes beneficiaries of international protection residing in shelters for SGBV survivors.

In close collaboration with national authorities and other experienced partners, IOM aims at promoting the integration of beneficiaries of international protection currently residing in temporary accommodation schemes into the Greek society, through the following components:

- Conducting Integration Courses within Integration Learning Centers set-up across Greece. Each course cycle lasts for 6 months and consists of modules on Greek language learning, cultural orientation, job readiness and life skills.
- Supporting beneficiaries towards independent accommodation in apartments rented in their name, by providing contributions to rental and move-in costs and communicating with apartment owners.
- Provision of individual employability and job readiness support, including through job counselling, access to job-related certifications and networking with private employers.
- Regular monitoring and assessment of the integration progress of the beneficiaries to ensure that they will be in a position to confidently navigate through Greek public service providers once they start living independently in Greece.
- Organizing sensitization workshops, activities and events and the production of a nationwide media campaign to create dialogue opportunities between migrants and their host communities, highlighting the value of the integration of migrants into Greek society.

OPERATIONAL PRESENCE

International staff and affiliated work force

577

National staff and affiliated work force

2

IOM Field Offices