



Greece Crisis Response Plan 2021

2021

Funding Required

\$169,665,039

Target Beneficiaries

80,000

IOM Vision

In 2021, IOM Greece aims to continue to improve the well-being of migrant communities in the country and support the Greek authorities in providing immediate and long-term solutions through a wide range of activities, including Site Management Support (SMS) and shelter support, capacity building of local actors, protection, legal counselling, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), health support, integration, relocation to European Union (EU) Member States and associated countries, coupled with interventions to address the COVID-19 emergency and ensuring COVID-19 mainstreaming throughout. Special care and attention will be paid to migrants in a situation of heightened vulnerability, including unaccompanied migrant children.

Context Analysis

Over the last five years, Greece has seen the arrival of over 1,200,000 migrants to its territory, through both its land and sea borders, leading to a cumulative increase in the number of migrants present in the country. As arrivals continue, the Greek reception system is overstretched, with most of its facilities heavily overpopulated. The COVID-19 pandemic has placed an additional burden on the reception system and on the migrant communities hosted therein, calling for emergency measures to ensure their dignified living, safety and protection, as well as to protect public health through efforts made to ensure access to healthcare and

medication, including access to the COVID-19 vaccination when available. The Greek authorities, with the support of IOM and other stakeholders, are making efforts to alleviate human suffering and ensure adequate living conditions, by ensuring decent reception standards and conditions for migrants, including Unaccompanied Migrant Children (UMC). Essential support is being provided to the Greek authorities in the daily operation of migrant settings in the mainland (e.g. open accommodation sites, emergency facilities), through a comprehensive Site Management Support and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (SMS/CCCM) approach, with a view to devolve the site management responsibilities for the Reception and Identification Service (RIS), in view of the gradual assumption of ownership by the Greek authorities. Furthermore, a new mechanism for the relocation of migrants, including both applicants and beneficiaries of international protection, from Greece to other European Union Member States (EUMS) and associated countries, has been put in place. At the same time, the focus is shifting to identifying long-term integration prospects for migrants staying in the country.

Coordination

The Government of Greece, through the Ministry of Migration and Asylum (MoMA) and its RIS, has the main responsibility for migration management in the country, while coordination is ensured with other key ministries and institutions in relevant fields (e.g. the Greek Asylum Service, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Citizens' Protection). UN agencies (IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF), EU institutions (European Asylum Support Office - EASO) and other civil society actors also contribute actively to addressing migrants' needs on the ground and strengthening institutional capacities. There is strong coordination with the EU, especially under the new EU Pact on Migration and Asylum. An informal coordination mechanism is established amongst the aforementioned actors, and regular meetings take place at several levels. These include a Steering Committee with the participation of EU representatives, relevant ministries (e.g. MoMA, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Labour, and Ministry of Health), UN agencies, as well as technical working groups (WGs).

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 and effective site coordination system. IOM chairs the National Site Management Support working group on a monthly basis. In the SMS WG, the Ministry and donors are present where issues pertinent to the population residing in mainland sites are advocated, flagged and relevant stakeholders are held accountable for follow up. Advocacy for the need of vaccinations, winterization solutions, legal procedures and harmonization of COVID-19 response is a continuous theme; COVID-19 response is integrated thematically across all sectors. Additionally, IOM participates in the Protection, Education and Health working groups. In the Health WG, medical gaps are presented and advocated for, especially to promote migrants' access to health care and COVID-19 vaccinations. IOM also attends various inter-agency meetings, including those related to Emergency Support, to Integration and Accommodation (ESTIA) and cash-assistance, and conducts regular consultations with authorities, including RIS, the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Labour.

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. IOM 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 (e.g. through food, water, non-food items, shelter, protection), migrant integration, regular and orderly migration to EU and non-EU countries, and the countering of racism, xenophobia and human trafficking. To date, IOM has supported the Government of Greece with assisted voluntary returns and reintegration, relocations to other EU member states, site management support in long-term accommodation sites and temporary accommodation facilities (in mainland Greece), migrant integration initiatives with the collaboration of Greek municipalities, primary health care with implementing partners, the creation and development of accommodation settings for unaccompanied children (e.g. safe zones, shelters), facilitating children's access to formal education and providing non-formal education opportunities for children, youth and adults.

Objective

Save lives and respond to needs through humanitarian assistance and protection

\$128,536,955

Funding Required

60,000

Target Beneficiaries

Migrants, including applicants and beneficiaries of international protection, with a particular focus on families and children, as well as Unaccompanied Migrant Children and other migrants in a situation of vulnerability.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Funding Required

\$58,401,880

IOM's Camp Coordination and Camp Management initiatives will include:

- Enhancing Site Management Support through comprehensive streamlining and harmonization of procedures and the provision of technical assistance to Government counterparts on operational matters (e.g. transfer/allocation of migrants to sites).
- Improving shelter and WASH conditions through care and maintenance of the reception and accommodation facilities, ensuring access to safe water, coverage of utilities, repair of damaged facilities, solid waste management, garbage collection and disposal, maintenance of communal facilities and access to the internet.
- Improving living conditions through the provision of basic needs/supplies, such as food

baskets and welcome kits (WKs) containing basic non-food items and safe IOM-organised transportation from remote sites to city centres.

- Strengthening of Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) through community engagement activities (e.g. participation/representation in community meetings and in community-based events), including health promotion sessions focused on topics such as vaccinations, nutrition, direct health care service provision, management of communicable and non-communicable diseases, COVID-19 protective measures.

Protection

Funding Required

\$44,400,822

IOM's protection initiatives will include:

- Improving outreach to migrant communities residing in migrant settings to identify needs and respond to protection risks through direct assistance (e.g. case management), encompassing MHPSS, legal assistance, Child Protection.
- Streamlining Gender-Based Violence (GBV) mitigation measures and in case of disclosure of a GBV incident, safely and ethically linking survivors to available specialized services/referral pathways (offered by national authorities' specialized actors).
- Continuous coordination with other protection actors (including governmental authorities and NGOs) through field-level coordination meetings with site actors, attendance in protection working group and ad hoc communication.
- Piloting and potentially expanding counter-trafficking initiatives to increase awareness within the affected communities, front-line respondents and authorities, as well as to provide direct assistance to victims and suspected cases of trafficking.
- Targeted and comprehensive assistance to UMCs through the operation of specialized accommodation facilities for temporary and long-term accommodation on the islands (e.g. safe areas) and on the mainland (e.g. safe zones in open accommodation sites, shelters), including accommodation, food, non-food items, protection assistance (psychosocial and legal support) and liaison with relevant services.
- Improving access to services and socio-economic benefits (e.g. health, education) through interpretation, accompaniment and establishment of open communication channels with relevant authorities, public services and civil society actors (e.g. NGOs, volunteer groups, etc.).
- Increasing opportunities for integration of migrants with host communities through non-formal education (e.g. language learning) and the acquisition of new skills (e.g. technical skills, soft skills).
- Enhancing social cohesion through improved communication with local communities and relevant Migration, Health and Education authorities, aimed at promoting the prevention of abuse, neglect and exploitation of migrants and restoring their dignity through their inclusion in the social welfare system.

Health Support

Funding Required

\$9,635,546

IOM's health support initiatives will include:

- Providing primary health-care services to UMC residing in specialized UMC accommodation facilities (e.g. hotels, shelters) through the deployment of minimum medical personnel (e.g. nurses).
- Increasing awareness on hygiene and health promotion, inclusive of COVID-19 prevention and protection measures by tapping into Communication with Communities' (CwC) mechanisms.
- Facilitating COVID-19 testing and vaccination procedures for affected populations to complement efforts in coordination with the national authorities, including UMC residing in specialized accommodation facilities on the islands and the Greek mainland and migrants residing in Reception and Identification Centres (RICs).
- Strengthening access to health care, irrespective of gender and age, by facilitating the scheduling of appointments with public health care structures and providing interpretation in public health care structures.
- Provision of COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), in accordance with national standards for migrants, and professionals working with migrant communities.

Movement Assistance

Funding Required

\$16,098,707

IOM's movement assistance initiatives will include:

- Enhancing responsibility-sharing amongst EUMS and associated countries through the relocation of migrants from Greece to other countries in the EU.
- Safeguarding migrants' rights and best interests throughout the relocation process by information provision, targeted counselling, as needed, and especially in the case of UMC, Best Interest Assessments.
- Ensuring voluntary, safe and dignified movement throughout the movement continuum including pre-departure, departure, transit and assistance upon arrival, as well as Migration Health Activities (e.g. pre-departure health assessments, COVID-19 testing) and Pre-Departure Orientation and provision of accommodation.
- Supporting the successful post-arrival integration of migrants in the country of relocation through arrival assistance and monitoring.

Objective

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

\$41,128,084

Funding Required

20,000

Target Beneficiaries

Migrants, including applicants and beneficiaries of international protection.

Community stabilization

Funding Required

\$41,128,084

IOM's community stabilization initiatives will include:

Restoring basic rights and promoting access to essential services

- Conducting Integration Courses within Integration Learning Centres, both via physical attendance and conducting online courses through newly developed e-platforms, consisting 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.
- Providing individual employability and job readiness support, including through job counselling, access to job-related certifications and networking with private employers.
- Reinforcing employability opportunities by providing vocational training courses, traineeship options, entrepreneurship grants and other alternatives to accessing labour.

Supporting social cohesion

- 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.
- Organising sensitisation 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.
- Organising outreach and awareness-raising initiatives, joint events between migrant and local communities and other interventions (e.g. investments to public infrastructure at the local level) to reduce migration-related tensions in Greece and increase tolerance.

Promoting non-violence

- Organising participatory activities within the migrant and host communities (e.g. trainings, focus group discussions, joint events and workshops) to promote migrants' access to essential services, such as employability and health and to lay the foundation to prevent forms of violence, such as violent extremism

OPERATIONAL PRESENCE

11

International staff and affiliated work force

1648

National staff and affiliated work force

16

IOM Field Offices