



### KEY FACTS \*



**11,133**  
Sea arrivals  
in 2018



**29,718**  
arrivals in 2017  
**54 Dead / Missing**



**16,628**  
migrants and refugees on  
the islands



**Nearly 60%** of arrivals  
are women and  
children



Almost **7 out of 10**  
Children  
are below the age  
of 12

**80%** of total arrivals from refugee  
producing countries  
**Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, DRC**

### KEY INFORMATION

Greece is one of the main gateways to Europe, together with Italy and Spain in the Mediterranean region. Refugees and migrants reach Greece both through its land border with Turkey in the North and, mainly, through the Greek-Turkish sea frontier in the Aegean. During 2015, almost one million refugees and migrants arrived in Greece, in their majority viewing Greece as their first stop and as a transit country towards their final destination to central and northern European states.

The EU-Turkey agreement on migration had further significant consequences in the refugee response in Greece. Since March 2016, when the deal went into effect, the vast majority of asylum seekers and migrants that arrived on the Greek islands have been restricted to the islands, often held in the “hotspots”, in places where they were designed for transit and not for long term periods of stay.

Only migrants who are considered to be “vulnerable” such as unaccompanied minors, disabled persons or persons with serious health problems, seniors, pregnant women and victims of trafficking, torture, violence or abuse, family reunification cases and those admitted to the Greek asylum system following admissibility interviews, are excluded from the scope of the EU-Turkey Agreement, so that they can ultimately be transported to mainland Greece where their special needs can actually be addressed.

However, due to the increased number of arrivals and gaps in healthcare services on the islands there is often a backlog in vulnerability assessments. As a result many migrants undergo their asylum procedure without having their vulnerability properly assessed and identified.

16,628 refugees and migrants are currently residing on the Aegean islands, i.e. mostly on 5 islands (Lesvos, Chios, Kos, Samos and Leros). Lesvos continues to shoulder the biggest number of arrivals, having received more 56% of total sea arrivals on Lesvos in 2018. The number is significant and continues to put pressure on the already overwhelmed Greek reception and asylum system. Overcrowding, inadequate and insufficient living conditions, lack of protection and insecurity, are some of the problems refugees face.



## MDM ACTION

MdM aims to guarantee access to basic health services migrants in Mavrovouni - Kara Tepe Hospitality Center of the Municipality of Lesvos (overall accommodation capacity ~ 1.300 persons) and to Alternative Accommodation Facilities in Chios in collaboration with UNHCR, focusing on the needs of the most vulnerable populations (such as women and people in need of psychosocial support, SGBV survivors as well as people with chronic medical condition).

This goal has been met through the maintenance and adaptation of community based health services offered by MdM teams (including primary health care, sexual and reproductive health/SRH planning, psycho-social support and referral to the National Health System).

At the same time, MdM - Greece aside from the emphasis on the quality and decency of services provided, strives to support its beneficiaries in all ways possible, including linking them to other projects of MdM - Greece (such as shelters, emergency projects for most vulnerable cases etc.) and refer them to other stakeholders. MdM action has a significant and long-term impact with regards to the quality of life of its beneficiaries and the promotion of the right of access to humanitarian services for all.

## FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 2018 MAIN ACTIVITIES



27

Employees



5,594

Total Number of  
People



7,946

Total Number of  
Medical consultations



7,677

Total Number of MH-  
PSS actions





## HEALTH SITUATION

The most common diseases identified so far by the MdM medical team in Kara Tepe in Lesvos are diabetes, arterial hypertension, neurological diseases, heart diseases, respiratory infections and Mental Health problems. Other emergency cases confronted by the medical teams are cardiological cases, pregnancies, injuries, various psychological disorders as well as SGBV cases.

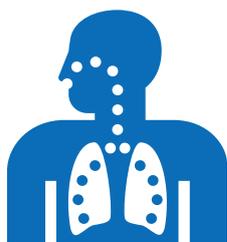
An average of 60 persons per day are visiting the MdM medical office in KT. Approximately 11% of the medical cases is being referred to the local hospital of Mytilene and other primary health facilities of the Island either for emergency or follow up for chronic diseases in respected specialists.

In terms of SRH services, the MdM midwife and volunteer gynaecologist, are carrying out approximately 152 gynaecological consultations per month, which explains why the provision of Sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services is of great importance in the framework of MdM actions in KT. More specifically, a total of 456 SRH consultations were carried out from January until March 2018.

As far as Chios is concerned, the most common diseases identified during PHC consultations carried out in Alternative Accommodation Facilities (AAF) by the MdM mobile team, were: upper respiratory infections, tonsillitis, otitis, urinary infections and mental health problems.

According to MdM data gathered and field assessment activities, there is a significant deterioration in mental health for refugees and migrants due to the harsh living conditions and their restriction of movement on the islands, following the implementation of the EU-Turkey statement on migration. Fear, use of alcohol and drugs, Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) in camps are also aspects of the refugee's deteriorating everyday life on the islands.

## MOST COMMON HEALTH ISSUES



Respiratory Infections



Mental Health problems



Sexual and Gender Based Violence



Cardiological Diseases

## VOICES FROM THE FIELD



“Being a member of a Medical Organization, such as “Medecins Du Monde” (Mdm), offering humanitarian aid to Refugees in the islands - “gates” of the Aegean Sea, namely Lesbos and Chios, is both an honor and a huge responsibility.

Responsibility to respond promptly and accurately to great challenges, responsibility to seek solutions to complicated problems, responsibility to adapt to a highly volatile ‘environment’, responsibility to provide quality services in terms of professionalism, respect and dignity, responsibility to remain calm yet not cynical, responsibility to collaborate avoiding overlapping so that your work is both efficient and effective, responsibility to coexist and respect the local community, responsibility to defend rights and condemn/report, responsibility to exercise both criticism and self-criticism, responsibility to progress and improve, responsibility to provide explanations and arguments, responsibility to remain neutral and true to personal values and those shared by your organization, responsibility to override frustration without setting feedback as a prerequisite, responsibility to speak out, but above all to listen, responsibility to attempt to eliminate all those reasons that make your actions and reactions necessary.

Strength can be derived from the trust and support that the Organization provides, from the mental vigor shown by thousands of fellow human beings attempting the dangerous journey to salvation, from the islands’ local communities, the majority of which is standing beside the refugees with solidarity and understanding, and last but not least from the colleagues, whose professionalism, consistency and synergy during their daily-common struggle, prove that what for one may seem impossible, for many, can be feasible and that’s why I have to thank them.”

**Dimitris Papandreou Mdm Field Coordinator for Lesbos and Chios**



“My name is Mahdi and I am 27 years old. I am from Iran and I could not sleep because I couldn’t stop thinking about what happened in my country and during my trip from Iran to Greece. I could not find any meaning in socializing with other people. Back in Iran I was tortured by a gang. In my darkest moments I thought that I should end my life.

Hopefully, Doctors of the World helped me very much. I talked with a psychologist about my experiences and he encouraged me to make a program for my daily routine. Now I sleep better than in the past and I started communicating with other people. Sometimes I feel optimistic as well and I hope that this feeling will continue.”

**Mahdi 27 years old, Refugee from Iran**

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## LINKS:

