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*The images have been loaned by Pablo Simón, @psimoneasp, collaborating professor of EASP and volunteer of Doctors of the World providing aid for refugees in Lesvos Island (Greece). December 2015*

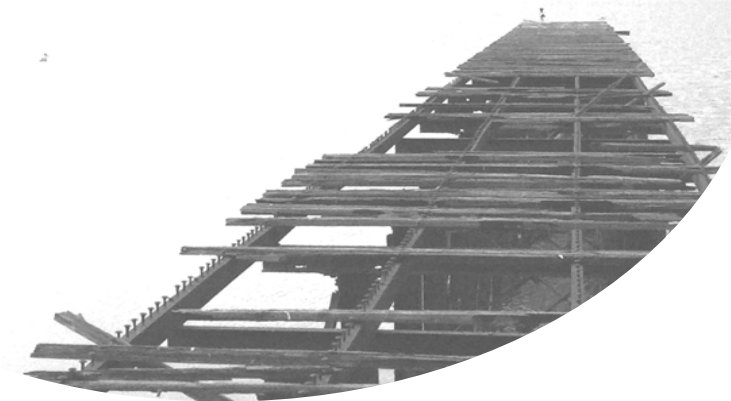
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**SUPPORTING HEALTH COORDINATION,  
ASSESSMENTS, PLANNING, ACCESS TO  
HEALTH CARE AND CAPACITY  
BUILDING IN MEMBER STATES UNDER  
PARTICULAR MIGRATORY PRESSURE**

**SH - CAPAC**



## Health needs of the refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants

The health needs of a vulnerable population of at least 1,000,000 people who have entered the EU in 2015 is an issue of public health importance. This population may amount to two million refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants at the end of 2016.

The health needs we are observing are a compounded effect of acute critical health needs that warrant humanitarian interventions as well as health needs that require access to regular comprehensive health care and public health interventions provided by the countries' health systems.

The deteriorated purchasing power of these population groups, among others things, leads to rising malnutrition rates. Their access to care other than emergency care is limited.

Gaps exist in the national health information and disease surveillance systems. These, in turn, increase the risk of vaccine preventable diseases and epidemic outbreaks. Hundreds of thousands of children should keep on track with their vaccination schedule.

The profile of the displaced population indicates an increased need for sexual, reproductive and child health services, as well as geriatric care. Sexual violence is also a specific reason for claiming asylum and a priority health concern, which requires specific interventions.

Many of these migrants are survivors of violence and have serious medical conditions. Some are amputees needing prostheses, victims of trauma needing specialized treatment or cancer patients.

Responding to these needs requires an enormous coordinated effort of EU Governments, Red Cross societies, NGOs, the European Union, the UN agencies (especially UNHCR, WHO and UNICEF) and the International Organization of Migration (IOM).



## General Objective

Support Member States under particular migratory pressure in their response to health related challenges

## Specific Objectives

1. Support Member States to establish, in close collaboration with international stakeholders, national and international health sector coordination mechanisms for implementing a coherent and consolidated national and international response to the health needs of the refugees and asylum seekers and other migrant populations.
2. Support Member States to analyse health challenges and unmet health needs that the massive population influx poses, as well as to conduct periodic assessments of the health care response and public health interventions needed.
3. Support Member States to develop action plans for implementing a public health response and for reinforcing their health systems in order to respond to the health challenges of the refugee, asylum seekers and other migrants influx.
4. Support Member States to promote and ensure access of the refugee, asylum seekers and other migrants populations to health care and public health interventions through the reduction of access barriers.
5. Build national capacity through training of trainers in affected countries, so health workers can develop intercultural competences and have a clear understanding of a migrant sensitive health care delivery model, respecting human rights and dignity.

## The Project



SH-CAPAC is a project launched on January 1st 2016 to support EU Member States under particular migratory pressure in their response to health related challenges. The project is aimed at building capacity in areas of coordination practices, needs assessments, planning actions to strengthen the public health response of local health systems, improving access to health care, and developing health workers' competencies for the delivery of migrant/refugee sensitive health services.

The project is directed at supporting countries' health systems and public health infrastructures in the following nineteen EU Member States:

Austria	Belgium	Bulgaria	Croatia	Denmark	France
Germany	Greece	Hungary	Italy	Malta	Netherlands
Poland	Portugal	Romania	Slovakia	Slovenia	Spain
Sweden					

## Expected results at the end of 2016

At the end of 2016, the target countries participating in the project will have:

- Implemented a coordinated approach to organise the multi-stakeholder health sector response to the refugee influx in their territory.
- Conducted comprehensive public health and health systems assessments of the impact of the migratory pressures and the response needed by the national health systems.
- Develop action plans for addressing the health needs of refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants.
- Taken the necessary measures to improve access to health care and public health interventions for the refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants in their territories and health systems.
- Developed institutional capacity and workforce competence to provide migrant sensitive health services.