

WHO/Europe action plan

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**World Health
Organization**

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Europe

WHO support

- WHO/EMRO provides significant and direct support to displaced populations in northern Africa, especially in Egypt, Tunisia and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
- WHO/Europe provides technical support to Italy (including deployment of a Special Representative), Malta and Greece
- Fact-finding missions conducted in Italy (Lampedusa and Sicily), Malta and Greece
 - In collaboration with health ministries and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
- Coordination with the European Commission Directorate-General for Health and Consumers (Health Security Committee)

Key findings of the missions

- Country-specific problems:
 - Water and sanitation in Lampedusa, Italy
 - Limited health workforce and gaps in surge capacity in Malta
 - Severely overcrowded detention centres in Greece
- Commonalities:
 - Need for consolidated international action and harmonized public health interventions



WHO/Europe action plan – 1

- Support the preparedness efforts of **local health systems**
(emergency preparedness plans, contingency plans of health facilities and assessment of the health needs of migrants with different disease patterns than the host population)
- Support the **coordination** of preparedness and health response actions between ministries and health partners
- Technical support on **environmental health aspects** (water and sanitation, food safety and waste management)

WHO/Europe action plan – 2

- Expert advice on public health operations – disease surveillance, **early warning and response** system (jointly with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control), **chronic diseases** and **psychosocial support**.
- Health information, **community mobilization**, targeting public health messages to migrants
- **Communication** support and media relations
- Liaison and sharing information with **WHO/EMRO** and **WHO headquarters**

WHO/Europe action plan – 3

→ Coordination with:

- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNICEF, International Organization for Migration
- European Commission

→ Intercountry coordination

- Sharing country experiences
- Harmonizing best practices in public health interventions

Country-specific action plan

→ Italy:

- Syndromic disease surveillance
- Water and sanitation
- Environmental management plan for camp settings
- Tuberculosis treatment strategy
- Psychosocial support services

→ Malta:

- International support to address health workforce gaps (such as nurses)
- Syndromic disease surveillance
- Tuberculosis treatment strategy
- Psychosocial support services

→ Greece

- Strengthening existing disease surveillance
- Tuberculosis treatment strategy
- Advocacy to improve overcrowding in detention centres
- Psychosocial support services

Thank you



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