

CALL TO ACTION TO ADVANCE WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN THE GREECE RESPONSE

2017

In 2016, Oxfam and UNFPA synthesized the assessments related to gender equality, gender-based violence and women's rights conducted in Greece since the EU-Turkey Statement came into effect on March 18th and presented the key findings and recommendations in a briefing paper on the situation of refugee and migrant women in Greece.¹ The briefing paper was launched in November 2016 at a Roundtable on Women's Rights during which a commitment was made to translate the recommendations of the paper into a Call to Action to Advance Women's Rights in the Greece Response in 2017.

The Call to Action intends to transform the way in which women's rights and gender equality are considered and addressed in the Greece refugee and migrant response through the collective action of the undersigned agencies.

We, the undersigned, commit to this Call to Action, to mobilize around, advocate for, and implement the below priority recommendations in all spheres of influence and within our own operations. The commitment to act and to hold ourselves accountable for action is what binds us together under this Call to Action.

Call to Action

1) Improve gender-based violence prevention and response as a life-saving intervention.

- Develop and implement practical shelter, WASH, and site planning measures to mitigate the risk of gender-based violence in all sites, in line with international standards including the IASC Guidelines for Integrating Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action and The Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere Handbook).

¹ Assessments included: "Rapid Protection / SGBV Assessment" by the International Medical Corps (IMC) and Diotima," June 2016; "EU Turkey Agreement Failing Refugee Women and Girls" by the Women's Refugee Commission, August 2016; and "Gender Analysis: the Situation of Refugees and Migrants in Greece" by Oxfam, August 2016.

- Ensure the integration of GBV prevention and response measures in the identification, planning, and allocation of urban sites.
- Increase financial and human resources to ensure GBV case management services are available in all sites, and that refugees and migrants have access to adequate health, legal, psychosocial, security and safe shelter services either on site or by referral.
- Ensure access to clinical management of rape services for all field sites by supporting health providers with requisite medicines, commodities, and training to deliver survivor-centered care.
- Increase the presence of gender-balanced security forces who have been trained and sensitized on GBV issues to increase safety within the sites. Monitor security threats.

2) Increase access to sexual and reproductive health services.

- Increase financial and human resources necessary to ensure the delivery of sexual and reproductive health services in all sites. Strengthen the capacity of the public health system to address the sexual and reproductive health needs of refugees and migrants, including ensuring that female gynecologists and doctors are available to provide services both on site and in public hospitals.
- Ensure female cultural mediators and interpreters are available to provide accompaniment and interpretation for refugees and migrants seeking health services at facilities within and off sites.
- Provide a range of options of contraception to meet demand. Make free condoms available in all sites, in areas where they can be accessed privately by women and men.
- During food distributions, ensure the availability of shelter and seating for pregnant and breastfeeding women if there is a long wait, or establish priority queues if necessary.
- Provide supplementary feeding for pregnant and lactating women or additional high nutrient density food items either in-kind or through vouchers.
- Provide safe and appropriate complementary foods for children 6-23 months (vouchers/in-kind), accompanied by practical guidance and demonstration on their preparation.

3) Promote women's participation and empowerment.

- Provide childcare and organized activities for children during implementation of programs and activities to enable full and meaningful participation by women with care responsibilities.
- Expand women's empowerment activities to enable women to gain the skills and capacity necessary to access the workforce.
- Establish more women's safe spaces and centers to foster social support and cohesion among women.
- Ensure close monitoring of cash programs to ensure women have equal access to, and control over, cash to increase women's voice and decision making at household and community levels. Adapt the programs accordingly.
- Support the establishment and functioning of community structures, such as councils or committees, to identify community concerns, engage in advocacy, and implement community led initiatives. Ensure women's participation in community committees and / or women-only committees. Ensure that women's and men's committees have equal capacity to influence policies and programming.
- Expedite family reunification cases and ensure legal processes and protection mechanisms are gender-sensitive and respect family ties.

