



# Health care of migrant / refugee children in Greece: Improving vaccination coverage. “PHILOS” Programme, Greece, 2017

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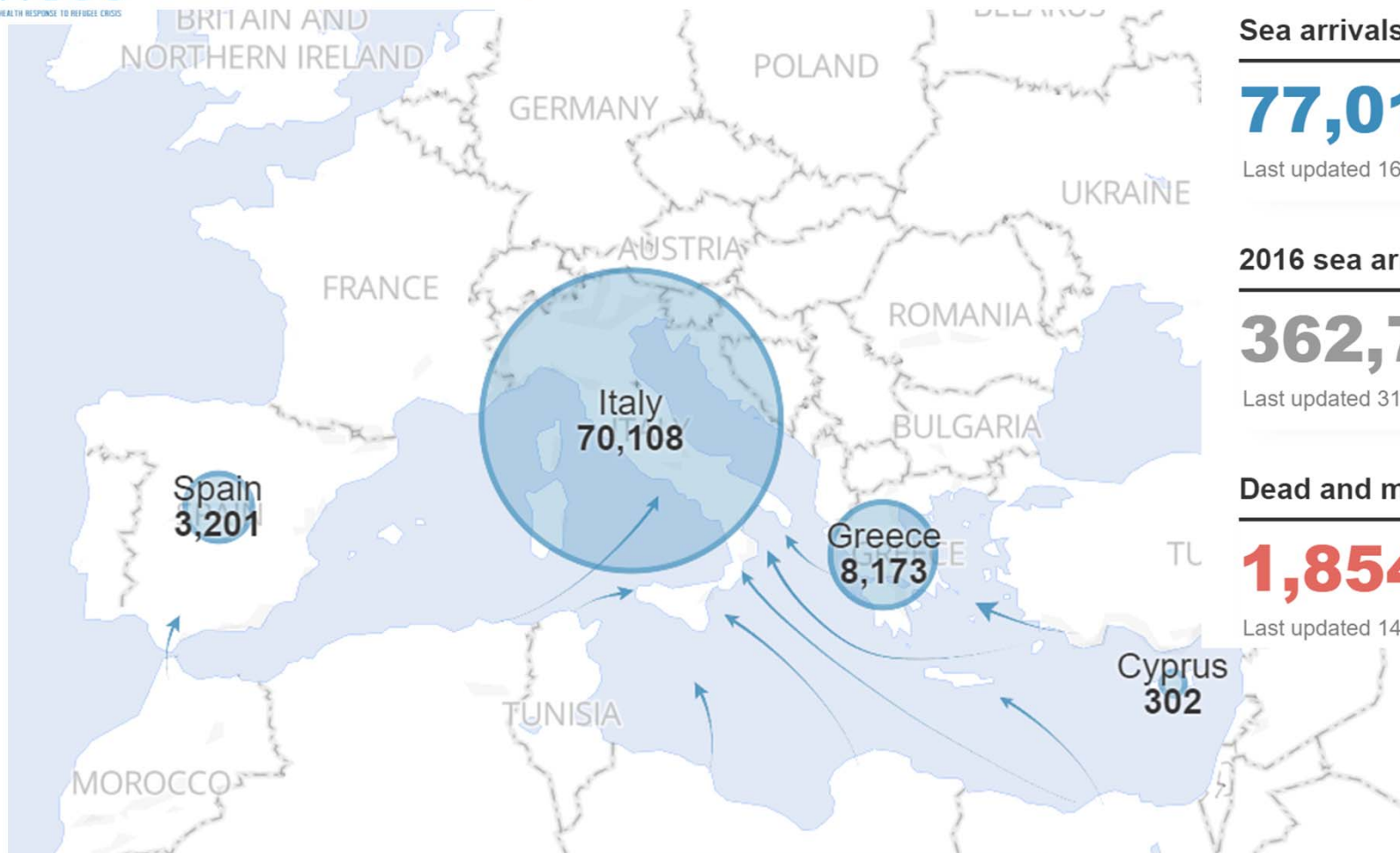
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**–International Society for Social Pediatrics  
& Child Health - 2017 Annual Meeting, 26-30  
September, 2017, Budapest, Hungary.**



# Europe-Mediterranean 2017



**Mediterranean Situation**

## Sea arrivals in 2017

**77,018**

Last updated 16 Jun 2017

## 2016 sea arrivals

**362,753**

Last updated 31 Dec 2016

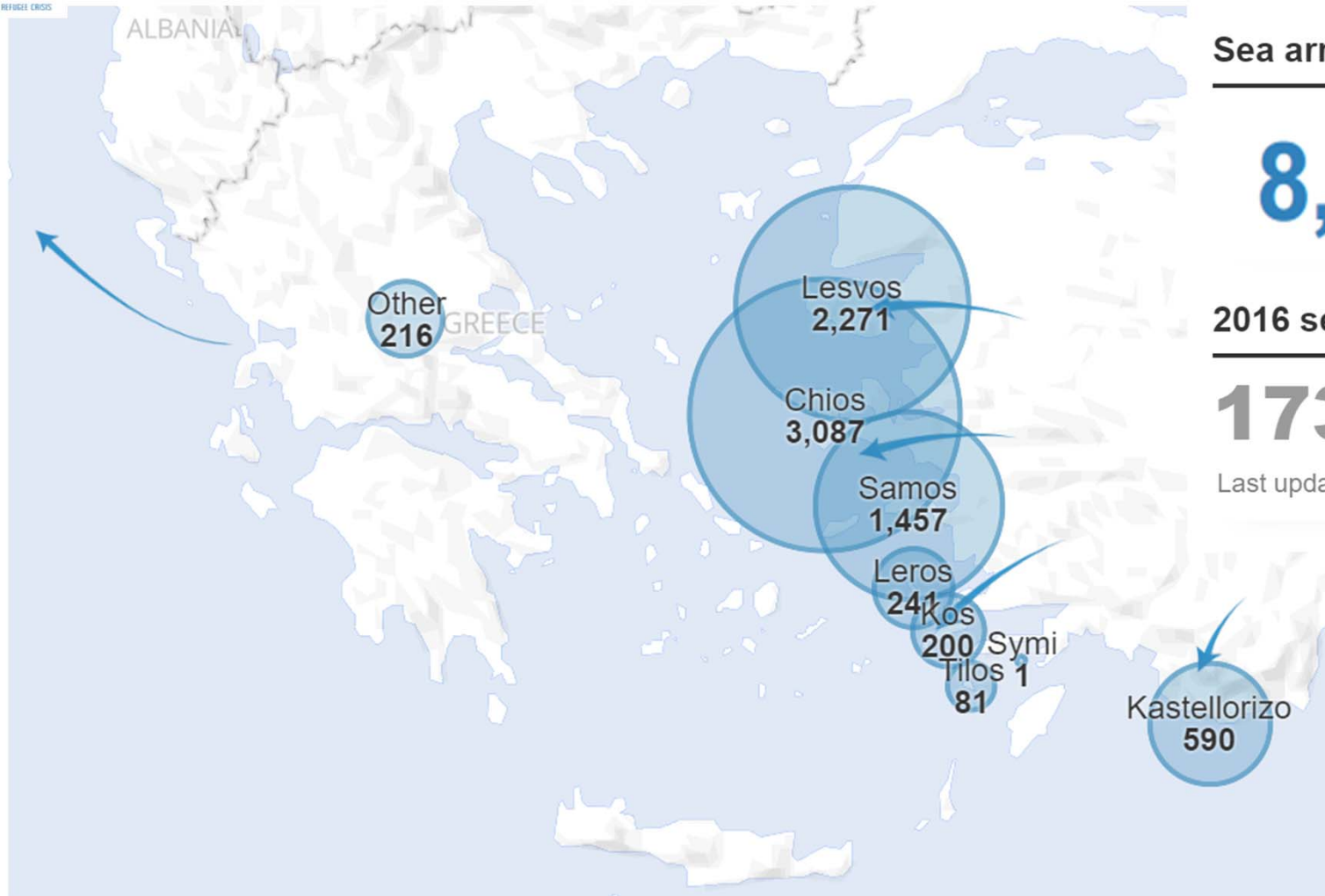
Source -

## Dead and missing in 2017 (estimate)

**1,854**

Last updated 14 Jun 2017

# Greece 2017-coming from the sea



Sea arrivals in 2017

**8,384**

2016 sea arrivals

**173,450**

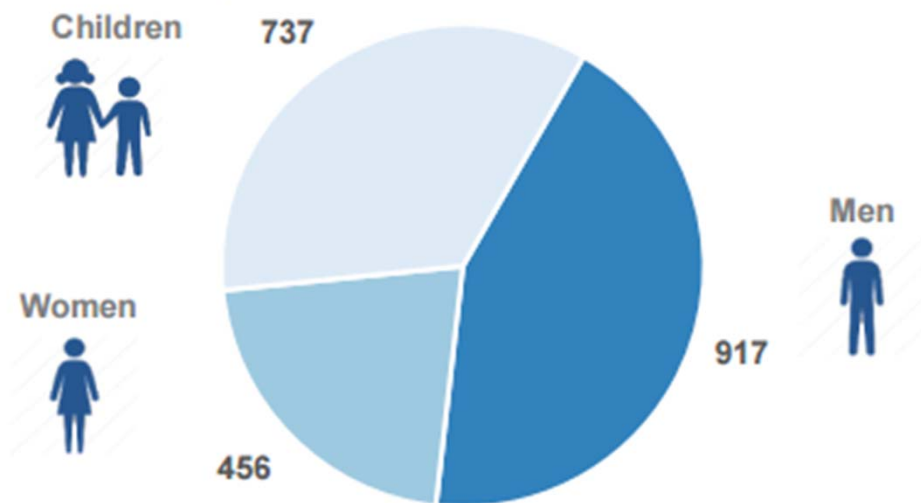
Last updated 31 Dec 2016

# Greece -> then to mainland -> then...



# Greece – Age & gender data 2017

Age and Gender (May 2017)



Source: Hellenic Police.



## Mapping of Unaccompanied Children (UAC)

more data on: [data.unhcr.org/mediterranean](http://data.unhcr.org/mediterranean)

**Overview:** This document presents the number of Unaccompanied Children that are supported by UNHCR Accommodation Programme. Data from Emergency Social Aid (EKKA) report and UNHCR Accommodation database.

### Key Figures:



**62,018**

# of Persons of Concern (POCs) in Greece as of 30 April 2017

Source: [Government](#)



**36.5%**

of the total number of POCs who arrived in Greece are children

Source: [Partial data from Police](#)

### Estimation of UAC/Gender Breakdown:



**2,000**

Estimated number of UAC currently in Greece

Source: [EKKA Data](#)

Gender (Boys/Girls) breakdown of UACs placed in shelter accommodation from 1 Jan 2016 to 04 April 2017

Source: [EKKA Data](#)



**8%**



**92%**

# Unaccompanied children, Greece, 2016-17

## UACs accommodation current & planned/prepared facilities:

Total # of current & planned/prepared places for UAC **1,564** \*EKKA/UNHCR Data

Total # of all current places **1,382** \*EKKA & UNHCR

Total # of planned places **182** \*EKKA Data

Total # of UAC registered on the waiting list of EKKA **952** \*EKKA Data



**17**

**Mainland: # of accommodation facilities for UACs**

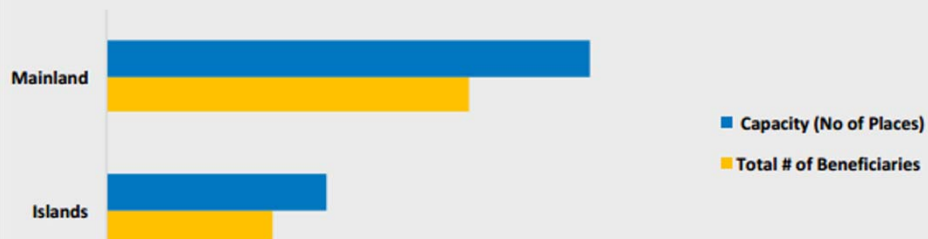
Source: UNHCR Accommodation Unit



**10**

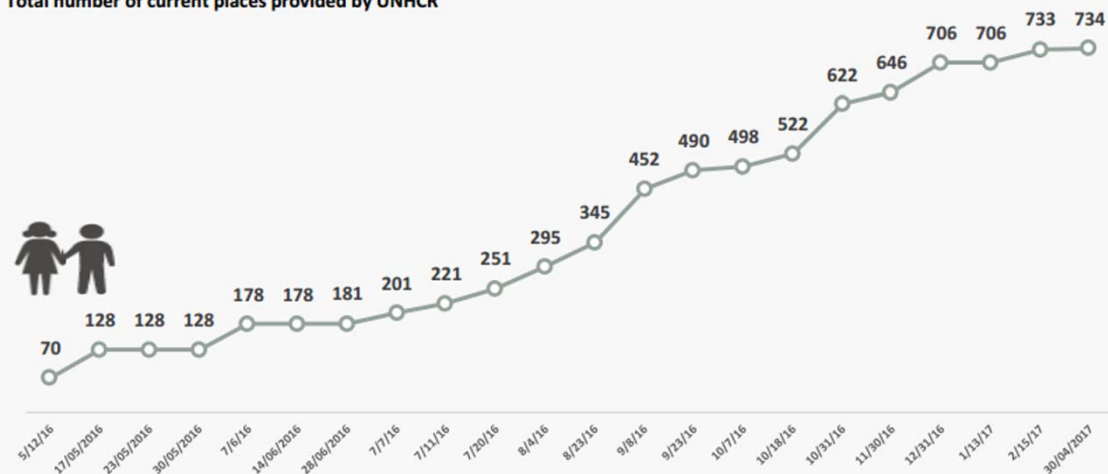
**Islands: # of accommodation facilities for UACs**

Source: UNHCR Accommodation Unit



## Progress from 12 May 2016 to April 2017:

Total number of current places provided by UNHCR





# Emergency relocation mechanism, May 30<sup>th</sup> 2017

**20,224 Total persons**

**13,766**

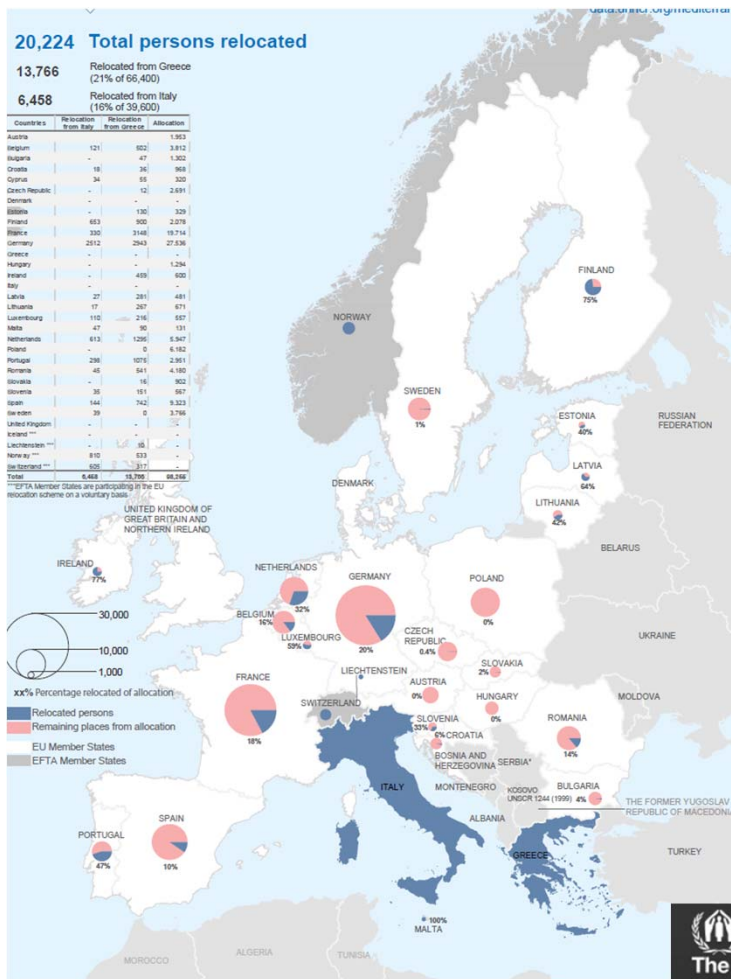
Relocated from Greece  
(21% of 66,400)

**6,458**

Relocated from Italy  
(16% of 39,600)

**1,210**

Returns EU-Turkey statement <sup>3</sup>



## Actual situation

- > 62,000 refugees at the moment in Greece
- Low vaccination coverage of children entering EU/EEA
- Gradual move of the population from camps to houses / hostels
- September 2017
  - >22,000 hosted at UNHCR and other NGOs' shelters
  - >15,000 hosted at Northeastern Aegean
  - >13,500 persons hosted at 30 camps
  - >3,500 at detention centers
  - >8,000 in the community (estimation)



# Greece 2017 – Health provision for refugees / migrants

- Direct NHS access for vulnerable migrants/refugees
- All regardless of ethnicity/legal status accepted within NHS 1ry health care structures, hospital ERs
- All entitled to free healthcare services in 2ry NHS health structures regardless of legal status



## Greece 2017 - Profile of a site HEALTH structure till mid 2017

- Primary care in hosting area
  - National & International NGOs
  - Army, HCDCP, local 1ry care centers

**–Now moving to NHS through AMIF-Philos-HCDCP**



## Challenges in HC at facilities

- **Coordination** in order to ensure
  - Continuity of health care provision ,referrals , Street medicine
  - Resource sustainability , Common SOPs for all provides
  - New emergencies ( VoT's , Trafficking , abuse , Mental health , suicides.....)
  - Presence of inter-cultural mediators ( **focal persons in NHS** )
  - Syndromic surveillance -> **14 syndromes w PH significance**

## No serious PH threat so far

- **Outbreaks of**

- Gastroenteritis (short duration, low severity)
- Scabies
- Acute jaundice -> Hepatitis A -> 85% < 15 yrs old
- Rash w fever -> chickenpox – almost all < 15 yrs old
- < 1% of reports -> Tbc cases -> isolated/individual events



## Program PHILOS and vaccination coverage

- Increasing childhood vaccination coverage one of the program's priorities
- National Immunisation Advisory Committee set as priorities;
  - MMR (Measles, Mumps, and Rubella),
  - PCV (Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine)
  - HEXA (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, hepatitis B, Haemophilus influenzae type b)

## • PRIORITY VACCINES



"Co-funded by Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund of the European Union"



ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΥΓΕΙΑΣ





## Method – 3 basic pillars

- Vaccination needs assessment
  - Enhancement of vaccination coverage through catch-up mass vaccination
  - Organising routine vaccination of children through the national health care system
- ←
- Aim: all children to follow the National Immunisation Program – high vaccination coverage

## Needs assessment

- Vaccination was performed by NGOs working at camps since the beginning of the crisis ( **idomeni 2016 MSF** )
- Needs assessment by PHILOS showed:
  - **different vaccination coverage among camps**
  - **low vaccination coverage at some camps due to population mobility**
- Increasing population living outside camps
- Priorities
  - Intensification of vaccination at camps
  - Interventions for population outside camps
  - **Focus at points of entry - vaccination of all children upon arrival**



## Actions taken since mid of August

- PHILOS took over co-ordination of vaccinations at camps
- At mainland mass vaccination was performed
  - **by PHILOS at 7** **by NGOs at the rest 23 camps**
- since PHILOS program was **expanded to the islands** intervention of mass vaccination (**Lesvos, Chios, Kos, Leros, Samos**)
- With the co-operation of health regions vaccination of **population living outside camps was organised**



## Results, camps on the mainland

- Catch up vaccination changed vaccination coverage significantly:

Vaccine	Before intervention	After intervention
MMR	At least one dose: 53%	At least one dose: 91%
PCV	At least one dose: 24%	At least one dose: 42%
HEXA	At least one dose: 25%	At least one dose: 42%

*–Note: Interventions on islands and for the population outside camps are ongoing*

## Discussion

- Vaccination campaigns increased vaccination coverage of children population living at camps
- Action taken since mid of August was extremely important also due to the current measles outbreak on a European and national level – no reported measles cases at this population yet
- For the first time interventions also aim at population outside camps
- **ROMA** population included in the action plan ( **children on the move** )

# Greece update in actions

- **MoH, HCDCP, gradually take NGO role in camps**
- **PHILOS mobile units participate in surveillance**
- **“critical care” protocols/training ready**
- **SGBV protocol in place, training/assistance by NGOs**
- **National insurance number issue resolved for access to healthcare / meds**
- **Next vaccination campaign planned – 2<sup>nd</sup> phase started**



# Conclusions - Greece situation 2017

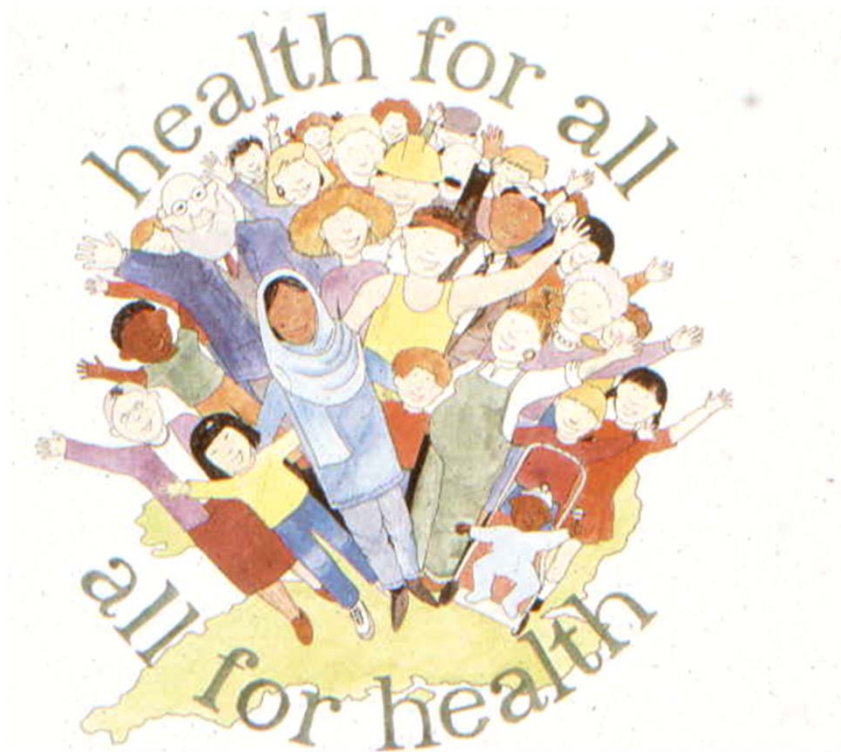
- **various challenges in Health structure, screening, SGBV, PSMHS**
  - Opportunity for dialogue, improvement of health policies
  - NGOs/International assistance of paramount importance
  - Harmonization of screening necessary across Europe
- **Syndromic surveillance** assisted in informing PH action
- Evaluation of actions, new actions ongoing w EU support – AMIF-PHILOS



# Conclusions - Greece situation 2017

- **Need to strengthen**
  - **Health systems' capacity & emergency preparedness**
  - Surveillance & response / screening for Infx Diseases
  - **Other issues, SGBV, Psychosocial & Mental Health Support**
  - **Continue support** to first arrival European countries **through funding**

## Health but Education as well!!!



### 2500 Refugee and Migrant Children Now Attending Greek Schools







Thank you!

**–International Society for Social  
Pediatrics & Child Health - 2017 Annual  
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