WE ARE NOT HERE JUST TO
ONLY OFFER THE REQUIRED
SERVICES.
WE ARE HERE TO CREATE
A DIRECT AND ACTUAL
CHANGE.
Theophilos Rosenberg was the founder and for several years the President of Médecins du Monde Greece. Associate Professor of Surgery at the School of Medicine of the National Kapodistrian University of Athens, he founded in 2007 the Postgraduate Program “International Medicine – Health Crisis Management” in the framework of strengthening the skills, specialized training and professional development of health professionals in the fields of Development Aid, Humanitarian Action and International Development. He passed away on 19 February 2021.

Theophilos Rosenberg changed our lives, as he changed the lives of literally thousands of people in need in the far corners of the world. A true doctor of the world, of the road and of war, Rosenberg operated on, treated and protected victims of natural and man-made disasters in Greece and abroad.

A skilled negotiator, Rosenberg advocated, persuaded, convinced, and supported, spoke and acted with all his might, even in the most challenging circumstances and international environments, under the banner of protecting human rights and the right to humanitarian aid.

A distinctive leader, he designed, developed and implemented unique programs and interventions combining in the best possible way the vision of social change and action in the field.

An undisputed and flawless fundraiser, Rosenberg supported the Greek and International MdM network, bringing ideas, means, resources, energy and reason to make the vision a reality.

A number of colleagues, active citizens, members and civil society organizations in Greece worked alongside him and learned from him.

Rosenberg was the maestro of all the methods and practices that inspired us creatively when we first started in 1990 and still accompany us to this day. Rosenberg introduced us to the world of humanism and political activism by passing on his love and respect for humanitarian ideals and action.

TRIBUTE

“We [...] exercise our vocation according to what our conscience dictates and regardless of pain, fatigue or any other physical or mental suffering. We [...] living among human beings, who need us and seek our care, [...] we take in their anguish, their insecurity, their pain, but also their hopes [...] we are deeply concerned, seeing the daily alienation of values in the name of money, exploitation, the thirst for power [...] the growing alienation of man from man and his abandonment to mercy.”

He left us a great legacy. The void of his absence can never be filled but among us, there are worthy continuators of his work, who bear his stamp and follow his example. A tough and demanding colleague and supervisor, he was first and foremost tough and demanding of himself.

Those who lived with him and remember him, feel his passage through their lives indelibly. Rosenberg was not a man who went unnoticed. A distinctive personality, a unique and multifaceted talent, his accomplishments extend beyond the realm of civil society to the scientific, medical and political spheres.

We at Doctors of the World – Greece, believed that in a way, Rosenberg would never go away. He stayed on anyway, unchanged as the years went by, something like the forces of myth, like those iconic figures that never deform, reinforcing the theory that circulated among us, as a joke. And suddenly it was gone. We knew he was sick, but we believed that he would come through victorious, as he did with so many other battles in his life. Once again he took us by surprise. This time, he set out on a mission without being able to take us with him.

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As I begin to write this note on the annual report of Doctors of the World – Greece, I realize once again how important results are achieved by a group that acts united and based on common universal values. It is this sense of solidarity that emerges among our employees, among our volunteers and even among our beneficiaries that continues to fill us with energy and the will for change.

Like every year, in 2021, we started together, sadly unaware that we would lose someone along the way. Theophilus, you honored all your qualities and more: a doctor, a professor, an activist, but above all, human. You have supported and inspired all of us, here at Doctors of the World – Greece, who were once found upon your path.

In 2021, a change in policy and approach to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic crystallized from the previous year, when fear in the face of the unprecedented conditions of a global pandemic had prevailed and with it successive curfews and stricter travel and public safety measures.

A different course was followed, with the Greek state opting to avoid travel bans and vaccinate the population as quickly as possible. At the same time, however, the narrative of individual responsibility of the citizen as a vehicle for the protection of public health was cultivated, while the role of the state in ensuring social care and protection took a back seat. As a result, many – the most vulnerable in society – have been left unarmed in the face of a danger that is indiscriminate and that harms anyone.

In 2021, in addition to the pandemic, major social phenomena shook public opinion. Unprecedented incidents of gender and domestic violence came to light, the living conditions of asylum seekers and refugees continued to be harsh and create stressful situations for vulnerable people such as mothers and children, intensifying climate change created unexpected environmental crises, while energy poverty widened to include middle-income households.

Doctors of the World – Greece always stand by the side of the most vulnerable, all the while assessing and weighing up the needs for support of those people and families who are at risk of poverty and social exclusion.

In brief, we collectively and inclusively continued:

- To offer health services in our Polyclinics in Athens, Thessaloniki, but also in Kavala, Folegandros, Halki and elsewhere.
- The health care of refugees at the reception points.
- The immediate care and emergency housing in the Homeless Shelter for all those living on the streets.
- Protecting women asylum seekers from the risk of gender-based violence, racism and marginalization, offering a safe place for them and their children to stay and a fair chance in the asylum application process.
- Prioritize the Mother and Child in all our actions.
- To fight for the achievement of Universal Health Coverage, as also set out in the UN’s 2030 Sustainable Development Goals agenda.
- Acting urgently in urgent emergencies, such as the devastating fires in North Evia in the summer of 2021 and the earthquake that hit Elassona.

Furthermore, with the election of the new Board of Directors, we committed ourselves to the creation and implementation of a multi-year Strategic Plan (2022 – 2025). As thematic axes of the actions of Médecins du Monde in the coming years, the following were set:

- Vulnerable Populations and Environment
- Refugees and Migrants
- Health and Maternal and Child Protection
- Capacity Building – Integration and Inclusion
- Integration and inclusion, inclusion and integration, including integration and inclusion.

Thus, in an organised and team-based manner, we strive for the best possible outcome for our fellow human beings in need. We continue to remain committed to people, without any discrimination, wherever they are.
The pandemic continued to put great pressure on the health system, with a high level of new hospitalisations and deaths. Despite efforts to provide the best possible vaccination coverage, people without adequate access to health care, such as asylum seekers, undocumented refugees and homeless people without ID cards were once again overlooked by institutional procedures, leaving them unprotected against such a risk.

In addition, in the area of migration and asylum, key issues of protection of populations moving from third countries to the EU were raised. Efforts continued to consolidate the perception that seeking International Protection and access to asylum for Third Country Nationals in the European Union is a matter of security of the EU’s external borders in the Mediterranean and not a fundamental issue of respect for Human Rights and the functioning of the EU Member States’ Rule of Law. At the EU’s external borders in the Mediterranean, dozens of incidents of deterrence of people seeking access to European territories have been recorded. However, the need for safe passages for people following the path of forced migration remains great. Particularly at a time when global inequalities have intensified while escalating wars, persecution of authoritarian regimes and natural disasters are pushing hundreds of millions of people into forced migration to Western countries.

In addition to the stakes of ensuring human rights, society has also been faced with serious environmental issues, facing major natural disasters. According to the European Emergency Management Agency Copernicus, 428 forest fires were recorded by the Fire Service in the summer of 2021, with those in North Evia being the highlight of these incidents. The fires in these areas were followed in the autumn months by equally severe floods, which affected hundreds of households. In addition, earthquake tremors hit several areas of Greece hard, such as Elassona, Arkalochori in Crete and Thessaly. In these cases too, evacuations were massive and property and homes were severely damaged.

Given the above circumstances, Médecins du Monde believes that Civil Society must have the immediate capacity to intervene therapeutically in emergency situations, mobilising resources and people directly from the population, without the complexity that other procedures often display. Thus, by providing the necessary bridge between the ordinary citizen and the state apparatus, the role of civil society is decisive in terms of the formulation and implementation of inclusive, effective and efficient public policies.

Therefore, more cooperation, pluralism and stronger partnerships between the state and civil society are needed, aiming at effective and sustainable multi-level cooperation. All the conditions that have been created in the country during this year following environmental, economic and social issues are putting strong pressures on the whole population, with a greater impact on those who remain marginalised.

Doctors of the World continues to serve its constitutional principles by working together with vulnerable communities, guarding the vision of actual social change.
The social structures of Doctors of the World – Greece Open Polyclinics have been operating for more than 25 years based on the voluntary contribution of health professionals with the main objective of bridging Public Health with primary health care services as well as facilitating and linking vulnerable social groups that do not have the required access to the National Health System. The Open Polyclinics of Doctors of the World – Greece operates in central and accessible locations in Athens and Thessaloniki.

Doctors of the World – Greece Open Polyclinics continued their uninterrupted operation throughout the year, regardless of the partial or general mobility restriction measures, aiming at consistently providing healthcare to socially vulnerable citizens. The programme has been adapted to the legal framework of respecting distances and avoiding confusion among patients, establishing patient visits by appointment, while ensuring the daily presence of a pediatrician, a social worker, a psychologist and their respective interpreters.

Throughout 2021, MdM-GR assisted a total of 2,581 people at the Athens Polyclinic and 5,932 visits were made to the various specialties. In the Polyclinic of Thessaloniki, MdM-GR team helped 2,450 people and 5,591 visits were made to the clinics. At the same time, the medical staff launched regular information and/or training sessions for the rest of the personnel and the volunteers of the MdM-GR. Moreover, the visitors of the clinics received appropriate information and personal protective equipment (PPE) in the context of COVID-19 prevention and control.

Furthermore, among the health prevention activities of MdM-GR, the collaboration with the NGO “Positive Voice” has been officially established in the framework of the Open Polyclinics in Athens and Thessaloniki, where Check-Points operate so that those interested can undergo rapid diagnostic tests and receive appropriate counseling and awareness-raising regarding HIV.

The Social Dental Clinic program comes to fill an important gap by providing not only the necessary dental care to vulnerable children and adults but also systematic information and education aimed at adopting behavioral patterns and habits that lead to the improvement of oral health. The beneficiaries of the program also include Unaccompanied Minors and children living in child protection facilities or in precarious and temporary accommodation.

The activities of the Social Dental Clinic of Doctors of the World – Greece include:
- Dental check-up, care and treatment of patients visiting the MdM-GR Dental Clinic in Athens
- Dental check-up and basic treatment of patients through the MdM-GR Mobile Unit
- Information campaigns on oral health, dental prevention and oral care.

The activities that were implemented were based on the specialized experience of MdM-GR through the dental clinic that has been operating within the Athens Open Polyclinic since 2014, as well as through the mobile dental unit.

Throughout the year, 910 unique persons received specialized dental care and 2,031 visits were made to the Social Dental Clinic for a total of 2,100 dental procedures.
Doctors of the World – Greece has made the protection and care of women and children a priority of its thematic actions. In 2021, child care and sexual and reproductive health services were provided through the “Mother & Child” program to ensure quality access to health care and prevention for socially vulnerable pregnant women, new mothers and newborns.

During the year, the Pediatric Department in Athens consistently received patients from various structures, such as local shelters for unaccompanied children or reception centers in Athens (e.g. Elaionas), as these populations faced increased difficulty in accessing the local public hospital in recent months due to the increased Covid-19 measures and the lack of interpretation services in public health structures.

Through targeted outreach activities in the wider Athens city center, staff and volunteers of MdM-Greece covered areas where homeless refugees and migrants were occasionally found and visited them on a weekly basis, giving priority to the female population. The outreach team consisted of a paediatrician, midwife, social worker and interpreter. The majority of the women at risk were found to reside in areas such as: Victoria Square, the park of Pedion tou Areos, FIK Park, Kolatsou Square as well as in various neighborhoods of Kypseli.

With this particular activity, Doctors of the World – Greece managed to take care of vulnerable women and children by normalizing the difficulties of motherhood. Alongside medical care, the organization provided infant equipment and specialized support in family planning.
The Covid-19 pandemic has forced people to adapt to new social imperatives, creating isolation, fear and feelings of insecurity, covering the lives of millions of people around the world with a mask of difficult emotions, prompting many experts to speak of the loss of mental balance of an entire generation. In Greece, after a decade of economic crisis and recession, as well as an unprecedented refugee wave in the period 2015-2021, the psychosocial impact on vulnerable social groups is enormous.

Through this programme, Doctors of the World - Greece continued to provide basic mental health and psychosocial support services complementary to the health and social care services of the Open Polyclinics, to provide appropriate psychological assistance and psychosocial support services to vulnerable social groups. The Mental Health Team complemented the services of the Athens Open Polyclinic by offering mental health services to patients. Mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS) were offered both in face-to-face individualized sessions and remotely to people with difficulties or mobility problems.

The MwM-Greece team’s method is based on synthetic psychotherapy, which combines elements from different psychotherapeutic approaches on an individualized level, always maintaining a person-centered approach for each supported individual. Sessions are individualized to the unique needs of each beneficiary and are not compared to any other member of the group. In addition, the team acts on the basis of inclusion of the beneficiaries, with willingness to seek their input and record their suggestions and plan for working with each professional.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

- Psychological support
- Psychiatric care and psychotherapy sessions
- Diagnosis
- Social support/counselling
- Personalized service provision following individual needs assessment
- Referral for integration into the national health system and community centres
- Clinical follow-up
- Treatment and medication where necessary

**LOOKING BACK**

S. comes from Afghanistan. At the age of 12 she started attending school. She was very happy about this opportunity, but it did not last long. The reason why S. was forced to leave school was the demand of one of her three brothers to push her into marriage with a man who was considerably older. The husband of one of the three sons, who was married to a woman who was older than him, was one of the first to be married. Her conjoined brother is a member of the Taliban movement and his behavior has been inciting her fear ever since.

When S. expressed her wish not to marry this man, this proved fatal as she was physically attacked by members of her family, who tried to forcibly dissuade her. After this tragic event, she decided to leave her country with the help of a distant cousin for whom she had feelings: initially, they fled to a village far from where they lived. There they lived for a time, thanks to the help of the friends of her distant cousin, who during this time became her husband and together they had a daughter.

The Taliban managed to locate them and carried out violent behavior toward the husband, with S. being an aggressiveness. As she said, “they stopped beating him when they thought he was dead.” This assault caused serious health consequences which have deprived him of his ability to work in certain jobs. She feels responsible for this assault and is still plagued by intense guilt to this day. After this traumatic event, they decided to leave their country completely and to seek refuge in a safer place.

For the last 3 years S., her husband and their daughter have been in Greece, where they have been trying to make a new beginning, away from the problems of the past.

The current situation in Afghanistan has brought back memories from her past. The news she follows about the developments in her country cause her negative feelings and anxiety. In her mind, she is constantly thinking about the young girls who, like her, will be deprived of access to education, will be forced into early marriage with partners they cannot choose and live under a regime of violence and oppression.

At the same time she experiences conflicting feelings of shame and relief as she knows that her family in this setting is safe because of her brother who is a member of the Taliban. However, the scarring on her forehead from the beating she suffered when she expressed her opposition to forced marriage is a constant reminder that girls in Afghanistan cannot decide for themselves and are not allowed to disagree with what their family imposes on them. Finally, she is encouraged by the fact that her daughter is growing up away from such an environment and tries to protect her in every possible way, while at the same time her husband tries to help her to break free from her family, from the guilt of the past and to create a sense of security through his supportive behavior.

When it was time to leave the office she said, visibly moved, “I feel like seeing myself uprooted for a second time from my birthplace. To experience again the anxiety of whether I will exist in the next hour, or the next day. No woman, no man should ever have to live through such a disaster.”
As part of the effort to provide vaccination coverage to vulnerable groups excluded from the first doses of the general vaccination against Covid-19, a campaign was conducted by the Doctors of the World- Greece field teams for the proper and timely information and awareness-raising of vulnerable populations who lack access to accurate information on the necessity and benefits of vaccination. Specifically, following visits by doctors and social workers to the refugee centres of Lesbos, as well as to refugee shelters in Thessaloniki and Athens, vulnerable people were approached to provide them with accurate information on the possibilities of vaccination and screening against Covid-19 by distributing leaflets and personal protection items.

At the same time, throughout the year, rapid tests were regularly carried out on a daily basis in the Open Polyclinics of Doctors of the World- Greece to enhance prevention. In total, more than 3,200 Covid-19 rapid tests were carried out by the teams of the Polyclinics of Athens and Thessaloniki and 1,100 rapid tests at the Homeless Shelter to protect all the guests of the facility. In particular, the Doctors of the World- Greece team in Thessaloniki, in collaboration with the Municipality of Thessaloniki, carried out specialized streetwork interventions for the rapid testing of homeless people and the immediate provision of personal protection equipment (PPE).

The organisation was also activated at the end of 2021 to take over vaccination coverage for vulnerable groups such as asylum seekers, unrecognised refugees and the undocumented homeless, through the Vaccines for All programme which was officially launched early next year. At the same time, the actions will be awareness and information actions on the value of the vaccine and vaccine culture continued regularly by the professionals in the Open Polyclinics and at the Doctors of the World- Greece accommodation centers.
The programme is one of the longest-running public health activities of Doctors of the World- Greece. It aims to reduce harm and provide primary medical care and psychosocial counselling to addicted people in the centre of Athens, alongside the organisation’s broader strategic effort to combat discrimination and the exclusion of marginalised groups from access to safe, acceptable, appropriate and quality health services. Through the programme, the project seeks to promote voluntary testing in the community, early diagnosis, referral, testing and treatment of HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections through peer outreach and support.

The streetwork team of Doctors of the World- Greece, throughout the year, was active in targeted areas of interest in Athens and Piraeus, where there is an increased population of marginalized people such as users.

The harm reduction principle focuses on protecting the “Right to Health” of people who are users, both in relation to preventing the transmission of HIV and other infectious diseases and in relation to linking these people to health services and treatment structures.

**HARM REDUCTION**

**STREETS OF ATHENS AND STREETS OF THESSALONIKI**

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**510**

**2,200**

**41**

**BENEFICIARIES**

**CONTACTS**

**VISITS**
Despite the restrictions that continued for most of 2021, due to the risk from Covid-19, which was reduced but not eliminated, Doctors of the World- Greece, serving the need to include even the most remote communities and regions of Greece, continued their actions in the outlying Aegean islands.

Observing the return of the island’s pace of life in the second half of 2021, the Doctors of the World- Greece field team continued to carry out rapid and PCR coronavirus detection tests, while regular blood draws and examinations continued just as vigorously, as it was deemed necessary to thoroughly monitor the health status of the chronically ill.

The operation of the Doctors of the World- Greece clinic continued on a daily basis for the whole of 2021, remaining staffed with specialized doctors and fully equipped, ensuring access to primary health care for the permanent residents of the island. The cases supported by Doctors of the World- Greece included conducting blood and biochemical tests, electrocardiograms and ultrasounds, as well as transporting patients to emergencies. Health services on the island of Folegandros and nearby islands (Halki) are provided under the supervision of the Health District.

The Folegandros Clinic is staffed with qualified and experienced medical and nursing personnel, while at the same time it is fully equipped to provide the possibility of conducting blood and biochemical tests, electrocardiograms and ultrasound.

The project goal is to ensure access to health services both for the residents of Folegandros and the residents of three neighboring islands, Sikinos, Herakleia and Koufonisia, through monthly visits to these islands.

Doctors of the World – Greece, through this programme, stay once again close to those in need, providing prevention and treatment services, without discrimination, to the inhabitants of remote islands, who lack access to health services.
The Nightshelter of the MdM – Greece is addressed to that part of the population that lives in inappropriate conditions and is vulnerable to severe health and safety risks. Throughout the year, 60 homeless persons can directly receive the services of the structure, which, apart from housing, covers basic material needs, personal hygiene needs as well as psychosocial support and integration. The capacity of the facility is 55 persons.

As part of the response to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and following their presence in the field for several years, Doctors of the World - Greece organized special field units (streetwork) for homeless citizens living in urban areas. The latter do not have the necessary personal protection measures and face significant accessibility barriers to health services, public information and basic food and hygiene items.

The planning of the action was carried out in such a way as to cover the needs of homeless people in Athens and Piraeus as well as neighboring municipalities such as the Municipality of Kallithea and the Municipality of Moschato-Tavros. The mapping of the places where mass homeless people lived during the reference period included 14 main living places, with the highest concentration of the population in public transport stations, in central squares near commercial streets and in the Port of Piraeus.

The number of beneficiaries of the action for 2021 was 425 homeless people, of which 23% were women and 77% were men. The average age of the beneficiaries was between 40 and 60 years old, while approximately the number of Greek homeless people and migrant citizens of the European Union and third country citizens was the same. Of these persons, 31 belonged to 5 multi-member homeless families with minor children identified in the Port of Piraeus.

In particular, the field teams have carried out more than 140 on-site interventions in Athens and Piraeus, with an average of 3 excursions per week and about 750 hours of total presence on the street. Furthermore, a total of 2,725 kits with essentials were distributed, and 180 sleeping bags were also delivered.

It is worth noting that the street work teams of Doctors of the World – Greece were selected by institutional bodies as the most suitable for field observation and needs assessment. In this way, senior representatives of the competent Ministry of Labour, including the Deputy Minister of Labour and the Secretary General for Social Solidarity and Poverty Alleviation, as well as the President of the Hellenic Republic, Katerina Sakellaropoulou, participated in more than 5 actions, seeing the phenomenon up close and recognizing the need for immediate measures and the need for a new strategy.

The need for immediate action and the need for a new strategy for the reintegration of homeless people.

The President of the Hellenic Republic, Katerina Sakellaropoulou, together with Doctors of the World, organized a street work action at the port of Piraeus, in order to offer substantial help to the vulnerable fellow human beings.

I got a job and decided to leave. I looked for an elderly couple and after they passed away, I was homeless once again. Then I felt that I had lost all hope, I thought about ending my life as I was no longer making sense; the people closest to me were not supporting me and I was tired of living in these poor conditions.

Around that time, I got a call from the MdM-GR social worker. She gave me hope and motivation to reactivate and get moving again. She enrolled me in the City’s program to receive food on a daily basis. MdM-GR gave me my life meaning again. Now I’ll be able to receive the state’s financial aid at the end of each month, and food stamps, and I’m going to live more humanely. In addition, I will be able to save up money to find a place to stay. Thank you for everything you have done for me.

I was born and raised in Crete. I had a very difficult childhood. I had 4 brothers, two boys and two girls. My father was an alcoholic, he abused us and my mother and I, as the older of the boys, had to take care of my brothers. When my father became ill, we came to Athens. I worked as a marble-mason. When I got married, my wife and I moved to K. I lived there for about five years until I lost my job in 2002. Because I couldn’t stand not working, I came back to Athens, I returned to my old job and my goal was to help my family financially.

Due to the fact that there were problems in my relationship with my wife, we decided to separate. I have a very good relationship with her mainly because of my daughter. I love my daughter very much and I support her and I will continue to do so. She is aware of my situation at this time and I don’t want her to know. When I lost my job and my home, Doctors of the World - Greece came into my life. They helped me with my medical coverage since I was uninsured and provided me with a place at the Homeless Shelter where I stayed for two and a half years.
The Mobile Medical Units of the Doctors of the World - Greece have been operating for a number of years in complementarity to the Open Polyclinics. The Mobile Medical Units, staffed with experienced health professionals, provide specialized care in pediatric, cardiological, gynecological and general preventive check-ups. In addition, they offer preventive dental, pediatric dental and ophthalmological health services to vulnerable populations. In particular, children living in remote areas of Greece and inaccessible semi-urban areas are benefited, who often do not have adequate access to health care.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

- Early diagnosis and health prevention in the general population
- Provision of integrated and quality health services to residents of remote areas
- Raising awareness and health education in the school community
- Linking and referral to the public health system
- Emergency pharmaceutical coverage
- Prevention and control of Covid-19 transmission

With the equipped Medical Mobile Unit, MdM-Greece travels to remote areas of Greece and carries out medical checks on the inhabitants of these areas.

Residents of remote and rural areas, both in the remote and remote areas, both on the mainland and in island countries - especially during the winter months - have reduced access to health care facilities (hospitals and health centres) because of the long distances they have to travel or because of unfavourable weather conditions which preclude their movement. At the same time, the National Health System is beset by pathologies and difficulties which have therefore created gaps in the universal coverage of the population’s needs. Part of these weaknesses are due to the country’s financial crisis, with a consequent reduction in the number of healthcare providers and income, increased unemployment and a reduction in the number of people’s health expenditure.

Doctors of the World Greece, through their daily experience and the collection of statistical data*, have observed a dramatic increase in the demand for basic and primary health care services both in urban centres and in rural areas.

Doctors of the World – Greece has been active through its volunteer medical team in the region of Kavala. The main activities were the donation of personal protection items and medicines, as well as carrying out information sessions to children on health issues. During the year, retirement homes in the area, the “Pnoi” association, the Special High School of Kavala, the Municipality’s KDAP for disabled people, the Foundation for Chronic Diseases in Eleftheroupoli and the Special Workshop for Vocational Training were supported with PPEs and in some cases, with pharmaceutical and paramedical material.

There were also important visits to schools in Kavala by medical staff and volunteer doctors, during which the pupils of the Special Primary School and the 24th Primary School of Kavala were informed about issues of prevention and oral hygiene, while they received toothbrushes, toothpastes and toys. The same informative activity took place in the framework of a visit to the refugee shelter “Asimakopoulos” in cooperation with Solidarity Now, as well as at the ADAP MECA AGIA MARINA. Among the informative activities, there was the possibility of administering vaccines on the spot to children who did not have an AMKA number.

Believing that prevention is the best treatment, the team of volunteers of the MdM office in Kavala, regularly visits school units and structures, aiming to raise awareness and information on health issues and practical support by offering medical care and necessities.

*Data collected from the Open Polyclinics of MdM Greece, in Athens and Thessaloniki, the actions with the Mobile Medical Units and the MdM Greece’s recent Survey on the accessibility of the country’s population to health care.
Doctors of the World – Greece, in cooperation with the Civil Protection and the Region, were immediately activated in the earthquake-affected areas, offering assistance at multiple levels. A team consisting of nine experienced members of the organization, coming from different specialties (medical and nursing staff, social workers and psychologists) were next to the residents of the wider region, supporting them in the management of such a crisis.

The field team provided medical assistance as well as psychological support, especially to people who were faced with the loss of their home. Essentials were collected and distributed, with priority given to residents whose homes were deemed uninhabitable by the authorities. Tents, mattresses, sleeping bags, blankets, medical and para-medical supplies were among the items given directly to those residents of the area who could not return to their homes. Disasters of this magnitude test societies and always disproportionally affect our most vulnerable fellow citizens.

The team visited the surrounding earthquake-affected areas from the epicenter of the devastating earthquake, such as Damasi, Massochori, Vlachogianni, Amouri, Pretori, Magoula and Domenico, going from house to house, examining residents and recording the needs for further assistance.

As part of the assistance for earthquake-affected residents in Elassona, Doctors of the World provided a bed and wheelchair for a young child on the autism spectrum who was living locked up in his room, and also arranged for the installation of a container in the yard of his house. Part of the support to the family was also to provide them with proper information about the rights of people with disabilities.
WHEREVER PEOPLE ARE

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT TO DOCTORS OF THE WORLD – GREECE

OFFER FINANCIAL SUPPORT
With your financial support, you help Doctors of the World - Greece to continue to take care of our fellow human beings in need.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER
Volunteering promotes active civil participation in defending human rights, while empowering social change.

Siret | Romanian-Ukrainian border to support displaced people from Ukraine
From August 2021 to March 2022, Doctors of the World- Greece carried out 38 missions with mobile units consisting of health and psychosocial support professionals, while a field coordinator worked daily to better facilitate cooperation between MdM-GR Greece headquarters, local services and the community of South Evia.

As other actors were gradually involved in the provision of health services, to avoid overlaps, MdM-GR made appropriate arrangements to provide material support to poor families and households affected by the fires as well as to new university students for the academic year 2021-2022 and their families.

By April 2022, MdM-GR registered and supported a total of 200 fire-affected households, including 22 first-year university students and 73 family members, 69 elderly persons and persons with chronic diseases, 50 school-aged children and 37 farm workers by providing health services, MHPSS, and also secured financial assistance through the supply of SuperMarket vouchers. The total number of primary schools in the district is 17 and the number of kindergartens is 15. The total number of children in the district is estimated to be 873 and the total number of first-year university students is 71.

The 5 missions that took place in December 2021 were staffed by specialised doctors, focusing on prevention and health promotion. Regarding the local school community, Doctors of the World – Greece provided personal protective equipment and antiseptics, as well as information leaflets on prevention against Covid-19.
The Medical Mobile Unit of Doctors of the World - Greece, managed to reach through difficulties, the entrance of the village, having driven through burnt forests and fallen electric poles and cables.

Most residents stayed overnight in the square. They were all battered and bruised, upset, anxious, without the basic necessities. In the background, Mrs. M, a woman of 92 years old, sat in silence. The square was crowded with people, and Mrs. M was the oldest of them all! I approached her to ask her how she felt and what she needed. «I'm fine.» she said, despite her discomfort. «I lived to see this too!» I began to examine her. «We've learned from our problems, she told me. But the man, my daughter, has great strength in him. Let's start over,» she said, and winked at me...
The Open Accommodation Center started its operation in January 2021, located near a Metro station and within walking distance from the headquarters and the MdM-Greece’s Open Polyclinic in Athens.

In terms of including beneficiaries to the facility, priority is given based on vulnerability criteria, such as mothers with infant children, or women at risk of physical or psychological violence. For boys from single-parent families, accommodation is possible if they are under 14 years of age, while there is no age restriction for female beneficiaries. Nationality, religion and self-identification of gender identity are not criteria for exclusion from the facility.

The programme aims to help ensure legal protection, support and care for the most vulnerable asylum seekers. The facility has a total capacity of 44 places and operates as an intermediate accommodation and daytime living facility for vulnerable women asylum seekers and their children.

Integrated health services (provision of primary health care through the open polyclinic of Athens), psychosocial support, legal counselling, interpretation, language training, empowerment, creative employment and remedial teaching are provided for our beneficiaries, while in cooperation with the Athens Primary Nursery and local schools, children are enrolled in the educational system.

In order to facilitate the living conditions of the beneficiaries and the substantial and qualitative social integration of this vulnerable group of people, a variety of cultural, educational and recreational activities are normally carried out. To mention just a few of them: participation in theater and film festivals, visits to museums in Athens, as well as conducting skill development courses for children.

Throughout 2021, 134 unique individuals (including adult women and their children) were accommodated and supported, while 71 beneficiaries were supported towards independent living, successfully securing stable housing and suitable living conditions.

The hosted women and children have the opportunity to attend educational programmes and creative activities to make the most of their stay at the Open Accommodation Center.
IMPROVING THE RECEPTION CONDITIONS OF THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS

Doctors of the World – Greece, with a continuous presence on the island of Lesbos since 2011 (long before the refugee crisis that erupted in 2015), and having established a flexible modus operandi for both asylum seekers and the local community, has set as a key priority of its presence and activities on the island shielding the vulnerable refugee population against COVID-19 by promoting the vaccination culture and continuing the COVID-19 awareness activities. A Pediatric Department was responsible for informing and preparing children and parents on protection and hygiene rules for children attending public schools. At the same time, through the collaboration with the NPHO, the medical assistance offered by MdM-Greece also serves as an early warning and prevention mechanism against an increase in Covid-19 cases within the camp in Mavrovouni.

With a flexible Medical Mobile Unit consisting of a pediatrician, a gynaecologist, a midwife and administrative staff, Doctors of the World – Greece have remained close to the asylum seekers who remain on Lesbos, either inside or outside the reception centre, providing children and mothers with sexual and reproductive health services and information, paediatric health care and appropriate linkage with the National Health System. Couples with children, new mothers, pregnant women and survivors of gender-based violence approach the MdM-Greece medical team searching for information and services.

Next to the refugees who remain on the island of Lesbos, in Kara Tepe and then in Mavrovouni, Doctors of the World – Greece offer their support, based on 4 program axes:

1. PRIMARY HEALTHCARE: Following the organization’s institutionalized protocols, the medical team of Doctors of the World – Greece conducts diagnoses, immediate treatment of symptoms, care and needs assessment of chronically ill refugees, while facilitating referrals of cases to the island’s health center.

2. CHILD HEALTH CARE: The paediatric department of the field team cares for children who have suffered severe physical hardship and who have not been vaccinated appropriately for their age, while referrals are made to the Mytilene Health Centre for emergencies.

3. SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH: The gynaecological section of the field team offers Sexual and Reproductive Health services to single women, mothers and pregnant women, conducts group and individual consultations on issues concerning women during pregnancy and family planning.

4. MENTAL HEALTH CARE: The team’s Psychologist provides counseling, undertakes mental health needs assessments and helps to reduce distress and improve the psychological well-being of refugees, while remaining vigilant in identifying issues of gender-based violence and abusive behaviours to enable rapid response to such incidents.

In total, Doctors of the World – Greece has provided personalized health services to more than 8,601 people who were unable to travel or visit a medical service due to movement restrictions.

Finally, throughout the pandemic, during both the peak and recession periods, MdM-Greece supported and continues to support foundations and other organizations, donating medical supplies and essentials, as well as vulnerable people from the local community who have been isolated due to the pandemic, further complicating their daily lives.

27-YEAR-OLD K. SOUGHT REFUGE TO LESVOS FROM AFGHANISTAN in February 2019 with her husband. Leaving their country behind was not an easy decision, but they both knew they needed to find a better place to raise their three young children. After arriving in Turkey, they had to cross the sea in a small boat, packed with other refugees trying to reach Lesbos. For them it was a frightening experience, as it was the first time they had been in a boat, falling on harsh weather conditions. They had heard about the dangers of this journey, but now they could not turn back.

Finally, after arriving on Lesbos, they settled in the Moria RIC. K. remembers the first time she approached Doctors of the World - Greece, when she needed a paediatrician for two of her three children due to serious health issues. Our team examined the children and arranged for them to be taken to the hospital to receive the necessary help. Since then, whenever there is a need for any medical issue, K. turns to our team. «For quite some time now I have been seeing a gynaecologist and a psychologist. I really needed it, especially after all that we went through leaving Afghanistan. To me it’s a very important help. They are always there for us, trying to help us in any way they can, trying to make us feel safe again,” says K.
The outbreak of the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic has highlighted, among other things, the issue of loneliness of the elderly. Elderly people had to stay and continue to stay away from their loved ones, on the one hand due to the restrictive measures and on the other hand fearing for their own health. People living completely alone, without relatives and therefore without a supportive network, found themselves in an even more difficult situation.

Following the previous year, and during 2021, the action was based on home assistance with door-to-door visits, remote counselling and psychosocial support and the Online Companionship program.

The MdM-Greece team consists of a social worker, a doctor, a psychologist and a nurse who made door-to-door visits for free pharmaceutical help for the elderly through the execution of electronic prescriptions in collaboration and following appropriate referral from the social services of Municipalities, but also from remote communication with the beneficiaries for psychosocial support sessions.

The health and psychosocial support professionals of Doctors of the World - Greece were available on a daily basis for remote counselling and support with systematic use of the new means of telecommunication, which had been introduced to the elderly during the previous year.

Online Companionship is a social innovation program, which aims to reduce as much as possible the feeling of loneliness experienced by a large part of the elderly part of the Greek population. For this reason, the only criterion for the inclusion of someone in the specific program is aloneness and not the financial situation.

Through the application of the Online Companionship, a group of seniors on a weekly basis throughout 2021 were able to participate in presentations on maintaining their good health, doing special physical therapy exercises in the comfort of their home, and carry out group discussions on issues related to old age. In addition to the group video chat, each senior could also engage in individual counselling sessions with the doctor and the psychologist. The application, among other things, also provides the option of listening to audiobooks.

Throughout the implementation of the program in the second half of 2021, 706 elderly people benefited from psychosocial support and medical care services, while 356 home visits and 849 online psychosocial support sessions were carried out. Through the Online Companionship app, an additional 393 medical sessions were successfully carried out, while within the framework of the program, MdM-Greece covered the costs for the execution of 388 medical prescriptions and a total of 1,508 pharmaceuticals were delivered to the beneficiaries.
Upon the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs’ approval, Doctors of the World – Greece implement informative educational programmes during the school year, on an annual basis, addressed to the student community of Primary and Secondary Education units throughout the country, covering the following themes:

- Personal Hygiene and Infection Prevention
- First aid
- Volunteering and Active Involvement
- Promoting Gender Equality and Preventing Gender Discrimination
- Promoting respect for Diversity, Human Rights and Prevention of Social Discrimination
- Racism, Xenophobia and Racial Discrimination

The presentations are carried out remotely (online) but also in-person, following the request of each school respectively and taking all the necessary protection measures. The program looks forward to the development and consolidation of a culture of mutual respect and active civic participation among the student community, seeking to equally reach remote areas of Greece where there are students with limited opportunities to participate in non-formal education activities.

- **REQUESTS FROM SCHOOL UNITS:** 1,460
- **PRESENTATIONS CARRIED OUT:** 50
- **STUDENTS ATTENDED THE EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS:** 42
The research carried out through the project “Opening access to health and medicine for all” in the framework of the Active Citizens Fund program, implemented by Doctors of the World - Greece, partnered with GIVMED and The Press Project, enabled the identification and analysis of a series of reasons that constitute barriers to healthcare in our country, especially for the most vulnerable and marginalized social groups. In the final report of the project, a series of policy recommendations on the axes of universal access to health care, social pharmacies and pandemic response were reflected in the project’s final report and communicated to decision-makers of public bodies and institutions.

Among other things, the COVID-19 pandemic revealed both the lack of cooperation and solidarity between countries, an institutional factor that leaves public health unprotected in the face of emergencies, but also other factors outside the institutional framework that undermine universal access to medicines and health services. The main challenges relate to the real cost of health services and medicines in Greece, the difficulty of access to health facilities for different population groups, the uneven distribution of health personnel across the country, the understanding of the functioning of the system and its characteristics for third country nationals, inpatient costs, private expenditure – which is prohibitive for the poorest households – and of course informal payments.

Public funding for research should be granted on the basis of agreements containing clear commitments, conditions and full transparency, and not be a “blank cheque” to pharmaceutical companies. The result of these policies in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic: the justified questioning of the pharmaceutical industry and its intentions turned into unjustified questioning of vaccines, reinforcing the anti-vaccine movement, conspiracy theories and ultimately the real risks to public health.

Upon the project’s completion, Doctors of the World – Greece will continue to fight for access to medicines for all, and for the establishment of a universal health insurance system.

Read the full Survey on Medical and Pharmaceutical Care: https://mdmgreece.gr/iatrofarmakeftiki-perithalpsi/
Among the key priorities of the MdM-Greece’s activities remains the empowerment of the Roma community, through raising awareness to the population about their fundamental rights, as well as on how the National Health System works (with a priority to Sexual and Reproductive Health), regarding issues of empowerment and social cohesion.

Through targeted interventions in the Roma community, vaccinations were promoted and implemented, in particular to children and minors, while the structures of the Open Polyclinics, both in Athens and Thessaloniki provide medical and psycho-social services to members of the Roma community. At the same time, the needs and conditions of the Roma community are constantly being mapped. On this basis the Doctors of the World – Greece are working on their possibilities to involve Roma communities in integration and empowerment programmes, with the ultimate goal of ensuring access to equal treatment and human rights.
The Report of the International Health Observatory is a collaborative study of various national branches of Doctors of the World-Greece, on people excluded from public health services in Europe. The Report contains data and testimonies collected by Doctors of the World-Greece programs in 7 European countries (Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Luxembourg, Sweden and the United Kingdom) between January 2019 and December 2020. Essentially, it is a continuation of a project carried out by the European Network to Combat Vulnerability in Health and the Doctors of the World-Greece Report in 2019 and created in collaboration with University College London (UCL).

The 2021 Report “Unheard, Unseen, Untreated: Health inequalities in Europe today” is an effort to raise awareness of health inequalities, especially at a time when, due to Covid-19, these inequalities have come to the surface even more intensely than in the past. This report aims to record the conditions and health status of people who are omitted from national health statistics and reports.

In their majority, the people who visited Doctors of the World-Greece programs in the various countries, and who are the sample of this Report, lived below the poverty line. The beneficiaries reported barriers to accessing health services including income, lack of understanding of how the national health system works, language and bureaucracy. People from these groups also often present unresolved mental and physical health problems, while the percentage of people suffering from some chronic illness is not negligible.

By publicizing and promoting the findings of this Report, Medecins du Monde seeks to improve the accessibility of institutional health care systems, and strengthen the methods used to identify health barriers for the most vulnerable people by including them in data collection and the application of a scientific approach based on fundamental human rights.

78.2% of the people examined reported that they did not have health coverage (9,081/12,767), and only 9.2% of non-EU/EEA migrants (799/8,696) and 10.3% of migrants from EU/EEA (178/1,730) reported full coverage.

Of beneficiaries were living in precarious housing (7,227/14,693), while one in five or 18.9% had no shelter or were living in temporary accommodation (2,837/14,993). A higher proportion, 35.1% of EU/EEA migrants were living without accommodation (776/2,211), compared to 19.5 percent of non-EU/EEA migrants (1,901/9,737) or 19.6% of nationals (89/453).

3.1% of people visited MDM programmes were nationals (503/18,062).

Access the complete Report from the International Observatory: https://mdmgreece.gr/ekthesi-diethnous-paratiritiriou-2021
In the light of cooperation and a shared vision for the defense of the common values and goals for a fairer and more equitable, more humane society, Doctors of the World – Greece normally participate in national and international networks, in view of being kept updated and exchange experiences and know-how.

At European level, MdM-Greece has been an active member of FEANTSA (European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless) and VOICE (Voluntary Organisations in Cooperation in Emergencies) networks for more than a decade. MdM-Greece also participates in the European Alliance for Responsible Research and Development and Affordable Medicines, as well as taking part in the consultations of EASO (European Union Agency for Asylum), FRA (European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights) and EPHA (European Public Health Alliance). As a member of the International Network of MdM, they also participate in the European Network for the Reduction of Vulnerabilities in Health.

At the national level, MdM-Greece is a member of and actively participate in the following working groups and networks:
- The National Network for the Right to Housing and Residence in Greece
- Network of Coordination of Athens City Council for Migrants and Refugees (ACCMR)
- National Drug Platform
- Network for Recording Incidents of Racist Violence
- Working Group on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support for Refugees in Greece (MHPSS Working Group)
- Advocacy Working Group
- Climate Alliance
- Working Group on the Legal Framework for Volunteering in Greece
REPORT

20,960
Beneficiaries

46,872
Medical Assessments

753
Volunteers

120
Employees

14
Intervention Locations
Throughout Greece

5
Thematic Fields of Activities
• Environment and Vulnerable Populations
• Refugees and Migrants
• Maternal and Child Health and Protection
• Capacity Building - Integration and Inclusion
• Immediate Response to Emergency Situations

FINANCIAL DATA 2021

The Financial Report of Médecins du Monde for the year 2021 with financial data concerning the sources of income as well as the basic distribution of the Organization’s expenses. The complete and detailed presentation of the financial data of Médecins du Monde is posted on the official website of the organization, www.mdmgreece.gr

Income 2021

- Institutional Funds
  1,517,603,89€  48.63%
- Foundations & Private Funds
  977,963,71€  19.51%
- Individuals
  608,955,71€  31.33%
- Other
  16,057,34€  0.53%
Total
  3,120,580,65€

Outcome 2021

- Project Expenditure
  88.73%
- Administrative Expenditure
  11.27%
Doctors of the World – Greece is a member of the International Network of Doctors of the World which consists of 17 delegations (Argentina, Belgium, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the United States of America) and is active around the world.
THANK YOU!

Donations – financial or in kind – from companies, foundations, institutions or individuals are a key element of Doctors of the World, as the main source of resources for the implementation of our work, since they provide us with the necessary means and strength to continue with targeted actions towards society and our fellow human beings.

Through our supporters, we are allowed to strengthen our physical presence in every corner of the country, next to the most vulnerable, next to those in need.

EVERY DONATION IS APPRECIAT-ED. THANK YOU VERY MUCH TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE SUPPORT-ED US THIS PAST YEAR.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COLLABORATION

MUNICIPALITY OF ATHENS | MUNICIPALITY OF THESEASION | MUNICIPALITY OF AMPLEOKI - MENEMENIS | MUNICIPALITY OF EVROZIS | MUNICIPALITY OF NEAPOLI - SKEIN | MUNICIPALITY OF KATERIN | MUNICIPALITY OF PIRAEUS | SECRETARY GENERAL FOR SOCIAL SOLIDARITY AND FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY | POSITIVE VOICE | HIGGS | NKUA - MSC IN MEDIA & REFUGEE/MIGRATION FLOWS | NKUA - MSC IN HEALTH | INTERSOS HELLS | CENTER FOR EUROPEAN CONSTITUTIONAL LAW | WE NEED BOOKS | NETWORK FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS | SOLOMON | KMPD – SOCIAL ACTION & INNOVATION CENTER | SYMPHONY | CITIZENS IN POWER | CYPRIUS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY | HELLENIC OLYMPIC COMMITTEE | MOVEMENT ON THE GROUND | ELDRIMBO | READAB | UNESCO ZAKINTHOS | KETHI | GERMAN SPORT UNIVERSITY | DSHS | ERCISAUR SURF CLUBE | KLUB ZA OSNAŽIVANJE MLADIH 018 / KOM 018 | NATIONAL AND KAPODISTRIAN UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS – NKUA (SCHOOL OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT SCIENCE)

DONORS & FUND OPERATORS

The elected Board of Directors of Médecins du Monde has a two-year term of office. It meets on a monthly basis as part of the democratic governance of the organisation and the systematic monitoring of the implementation of the strategic planning objectives of the organisation.

The members of the Board of Directors were elected at the General Assembly of 4 July 2021.

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Doctors of the World would also like to thank all the staff and volunteers for their valuable contribution.