First Reception Center
Medical, Social, Psychological support

Identification of Vulnerable Persons with Special Needs

ΙΑΤΡΙΚΗ ΠΑΡΕΜΒΑΣΗ - MEDICAL INTERVENTION
Kalliopi Chaziri - Sociologist
Medical Intervention (Med.In) is a Greek, non-profit, medical humanitarian organization, working in Greece and abroad since 2004.

Activities abroad included programs for tuberculosis treatment support in Caucasus in Azerbaijan and emergency medicine training programs in Balkans.

Activities in Greece include:
- Program IRIDA in our Child Protection Centre “Nikolaos Kamaratos”,
- Social and medical support in detention centres for immigrants.
Med.In is working in several detention centers of immigrants since 2004, implementing programs of social, psychological support and medical care, in cooperation with the Greek Ministry of Health, Ministry of Public Order. Most of these programs were funded by the European Refugee Fund.

Teams, consisted of doctors, psychologists, and social workers, offer their services everyday in special organized places inside detention centers in Attica region, operating as a medical clinic.

In 2013 we initiated similar programs in Samos Screening Center and from March 2013, in First Reception Center in Fylakion- Orestiada.
First Reception Center - Fylakion

Medical, Psychological, Social Services
First Reception Center
Medical Service:

Organisation of Medical post:
- Emergency medical equipment
- Standard medical equipment
- Emergency medicines
- Pharmaceutical supplies - provision of medical treatment
- Registration - Database
Medical post
1. Initial medical examination of all new entrants. – Triage
2. Medical history and physical examination of patients - Health Card
3. Identification of acute problems, administration of medication.
4. Referral of serious cases in public hospitals for further testing and exams.
5. Identification of chronic conditions (e.g., diabetes, TB) and cooperation with relevant health bodies.
6. Identification of vulnerable cases – referral to social and psychological service
7. Health advisory - instructions preventive medicine.
Health Card

690 Health Cards issued in Fylakion First Reception Centre since April 2013
Psychological Service

- Individual interview. Investigation of present situation.
- Psychological monitoring of vulnerable cases in close collaboration with social service.
- Collaboration with psychiatrist in psychiatric cases, hospital referrals.
- Specialized interventions in emergency “crisis” situations.
- Targeted psychological support activities for specific cases.
- Specialized approach to reported torture victims or victims of trafficking.
- Psychological evaluation for the identification of minors in cases of serious doubt.
- Identification of persons with history of drug abuse and possible withdrawal symptoms.
Identification of Vulnerable Persons with Special Needs

680 Psychological evaluation – initial interviews in Fylakion First Reception Centre since April 2013
• Individual interview. Social history
• Vulnerability investigation especially for unaccompanied minors, torture victims, «trafficking» victims, families, in collaboration with psychologist and physician
• Recording specific requests (for international protection, repatriation, housing, protection) and referral to appropriate services
• Referral to responsible authority (National Centre for Social Solidarity - NCSS) for vulnerable cases protection and housing.
• Providing social support primarily to vulnerable cases, and other cases where appropriate
• Identification and provision of basic needs such as clothing, shoes, stationery, toys etc.
• Organization of creative activities when possible.
Identification of Vulnerable Persons with Special Needs

680 Social – initial interviews, 70 referrals to NCSS in Fylakion First Reception Centre since April 2013
Statistics

Vulnerability

- 31% Vulnerable
- 69% Not Vulnerable

Identification of Vulnerable Persons with Special Needs

ΙΑΤΡΙΚΗ ΠΑΡΕΜΒΑΣΗ – MEDICAL INTERVENTION
Statistics

Cases of Vulnerability

- Unaccompanied minors: 30%
- Pregnant women: 2%
- Uniparental families: 9%
- Families with minors: 37%
- Elderly: 5%
- Families with elderly: 4%
- Torture victims: 13%
- Families with elderly: 4%
- Unaccompanied minors: 30%
Vulnerability

**Vulnerable:**

- Exposed to the possibility of being attacked or harmed, either physically or emotionally.
- In need of special care, support, or protection because of age, disability, or risk of abuse or neglect.
Vulnerability

- Methods of Identification
  - Initial Medical screening
  - Social history
  - Psychological screening
  - Frequently visiting in the hostel area (initial reception center)
  - Support from Public Health facilities (hospitals, mental health centres)
Vulnerability

• Necessary conditions for evaluation
  – Experience (Diversity: gender, culture, sexual orientation, etc)
  – Build trust – Therapeutic Relationship
  – Safe environment
  – Knowledge for the situation of each country
  – Basic knowledge of the law
  – Easy access to all services
  – Fast procedures & qualified shelters
# Vulnerability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who?</th>
<th>How to identify?</th>
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<tr>
<td>Unaccompanied minors</td>
<td>Medical evaluation, bone age, denture</td>
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<td>Pregnant women</td>
<td>Referral to Public Hospital</td>
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<td>Uniparental families</td>
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<td>Families with minors</td>
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<td>Victims of human trafficking</td>
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<td>Torture victims</td>
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<tr>
<td>People with serious health problems</td>
<td>Rapid tests, referral to Public Hospital</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Vulnerability

• Support
  – Individually and in groups

• Follow-up
  – Regular sessions and examinations for longtime period (if possible)

• Actions
  – Referral to Public Health Services
  – Minors – medical examination
  – Definition of age in seriously questionable cases
  – Referral to NCSS (National Center for Social Solidarity)
Vulnerability - Special Needs

Categories

• Unaccompanied minors
  - Stable social & psychological support
  - Fast procedures
  - Qualified shelter
  - Weekly activities and training
Vulnerability - Special Needs

Categories
- Trafficking
  - Medical examinations (Rapid tests, etc)
  - Stable social & psychological support
  - Fast procedures
  - Legal aid
  - Qualified shelter for protection
  - Immediate transfer
  - Weekly activities and training
  - Longtime support and job rehabilitation
Vulnerability - Special Needs

- Torture victims
  - Stable social & psychological support
  - Medical examination (rapid test, PTSD)
  - Legal Aid
  - Referral for recognition as a torture victim
  - Qualified shelter
  - Longtime support
Vulnerability - Special Needs

- Handicapped
  - stable social & psychological support
  - Qualified shelter
  - Longtime support
Vulnerability - Special Needs

• People with serious health problems (HIV, Tuberculosis, Hypatities, etc)
  – Frequently medical examination & treatment
  – Social & psychological support
  – Qualified shelter
  – Weekly activities & training

• Families with minors
  – Shelters for families
Implementation Challenges

• Lack of resources – financial challenges
• Number of new arrivals exceeds reception capacities, in personnel, accommodation, support services
• Translation difficulties – different language groups
• Difficulties of Public Health System to accommodate additional needs
Implementation Challenges

• Difficulties in identification of vulnerable cases – different or vague definitions

• Various immigration approaches in European countries - conflicting information challenges trust especially when Greece its not the final destination

• Cooperation between different services is an interesting challenge
Thank you