



out of scope

MSF [redacted] informed of challenges faced by their sector, particularly operating with logistic and export restrictions. MSF acknowledged receipt of funding from COM. Initial challenges in IT included medical teams gaining entry into the country. MSF produced two reports on long-term care facilities, identifying structural lack of resources, health security and protection. Pillars of support include preparedness & contingency plans (e.g.; pre-established purchase channels for PPE), regulatory frameworks to protect elder people, psychosocial support and collecting, systemizing and publishing data. Specifically for migrants and refugees, MSF has continuously advocated against allegedly discriminatory / disproportionate mass quarantine in Greece, the absolute lack of health response and the forced closure of the MSF COVID clinic, and in the central Mediterranean area the closure of ports for NGOs vessels as well as the off-shore quarantine of migrants. Migrants and refugees must be included in national and global response plans to COVID-19 and social recovery plans. There is also a need to improve inclusion and collaboration with NGOs and other social networks.

Chair underlined that as part of the 'European Health Union', audits of national preparedness have been proposed and participants were encouraged to liaise with their contacts in the EP and nationally to support this proposal.

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Chair closed the meeting, proposing a continued dialogue between the COM and civil society actors, focusing on vulnerable groups during the course of the current pandemic. This should involve international organisations with the aim to identify existing gaps and how these could be addressed over the next months. Infection control interventions, specific to vulnerable people need to be strengthened and maintained, and vulnerable groups remain a challenge for upcoming vaccination programmes. Conclusions of the proposed dialogue could be discussed with Member states authorities via the HSC or other fora.

A flash report will be posted on the Health Policy Platform.

END.

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