



ITALY – Strengthening capacities and coordination of the reception system to prevent and respond with a gender approach to sexual and gender-based violence in Italy – Phase I

2017 - Sexual and reproductive health and rights / SGBV / Training

WHERE

Italy- Catania and Palermo

PARTNER

UNHCR Italy (UN Refugee Agency)

BACKGROUND

According to the Italian Ministry of the Interior, between January and June 2017, 73,094 migrants, mostly African, reached the Italian coasts. This population is predominantly male and with a significant percentage of Nigerian women (almost 40%). In the migration process, women are particularly vulnerable to different forms of physical and psychological trauma (exposure to conflict, torture, rape or other forms of sexual and gender-based violence) , both in refugee camps and on their way to Europe. Reception systems, however, are not always coordinated to meet the needs of violence survivors. Professionals and officials of the reception system who take care of the survivors are inadequately trained, often do not know the consequences of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and, regarding female genital mutilation (FGM), they may be frequently unaware of its existence and fail to detect this form of violence. Furthermore, sometimes they are not able to deal with problems faced by migrants / asylum seekers / refugees (People of Concern - PoC) with a holistic, integrated, gender and culturally sensitive approach, while the recent European directives on asylum stress the importance of integrating a gender approach in the reception system and in the asylum procedures.

GOALS

General objective : to contribute to the protection and support to SGBV survivors among refugees, migrants and asylum seekers (People of concern – PoC)

Specific objective : to promote access to the existing reception/support services in Sicily for PoC who have undergone SGBV, through:

- strengthening the capacity of reception systems' professionals and operators

(Personnel in the psycho-social, health, legal, juridical, cultural mediation field) to take care of victims of SGBV, including FGM, with an integrated, intercultural and gender-sensitive approach

- facilitating the establishment of an effective referral system
- increasing migrants, asylum seekers and refugees' awareness on health consequences of SGBV and available reception services in Catania and Palermo.

BENEFICIAIRES

- Relevant professionals and operators working in the reception systems in Catania and Palermo
- PoC survivors of sexual and gender-based violence

AIDOS ACTIVITIES

AIDOS will carry out:

- **training and awareness raising activities** for reception systems' professionals on: identify cases of SGBV; assess the specific needs of those who have experienced it; strengthen the multi-sectoral services network; improve the referral system in Palermo and Catania.
- **Information activities** through information materials addressed to:
 - professionals in contact with the PoC (**fact sheet** containing information on the basic principles to follow in the reception activity; an *operational and training tool* on SGBV)
 - PoC (poster including messages on SGBV, available services and how to access them; **flyer in six languages** mapping health, psychological and legal support services in [Catania](#) and [Palermo](#)).

EXPECTED RESULTS

For service personnel

- Awareness activities on SGBV for an improved knowledge on provision of care for PoC
- Establishment of a referral system in Catania and Palermo

For PoC

- Improved awareness on their rights and available SGBV services
- improved access to adequate services.

WHEN

01/08/2017 - 31/12/2017

COST OF THE PROJECT

89,110 euros

WHO IS FINANCING

UNHCR Italy