

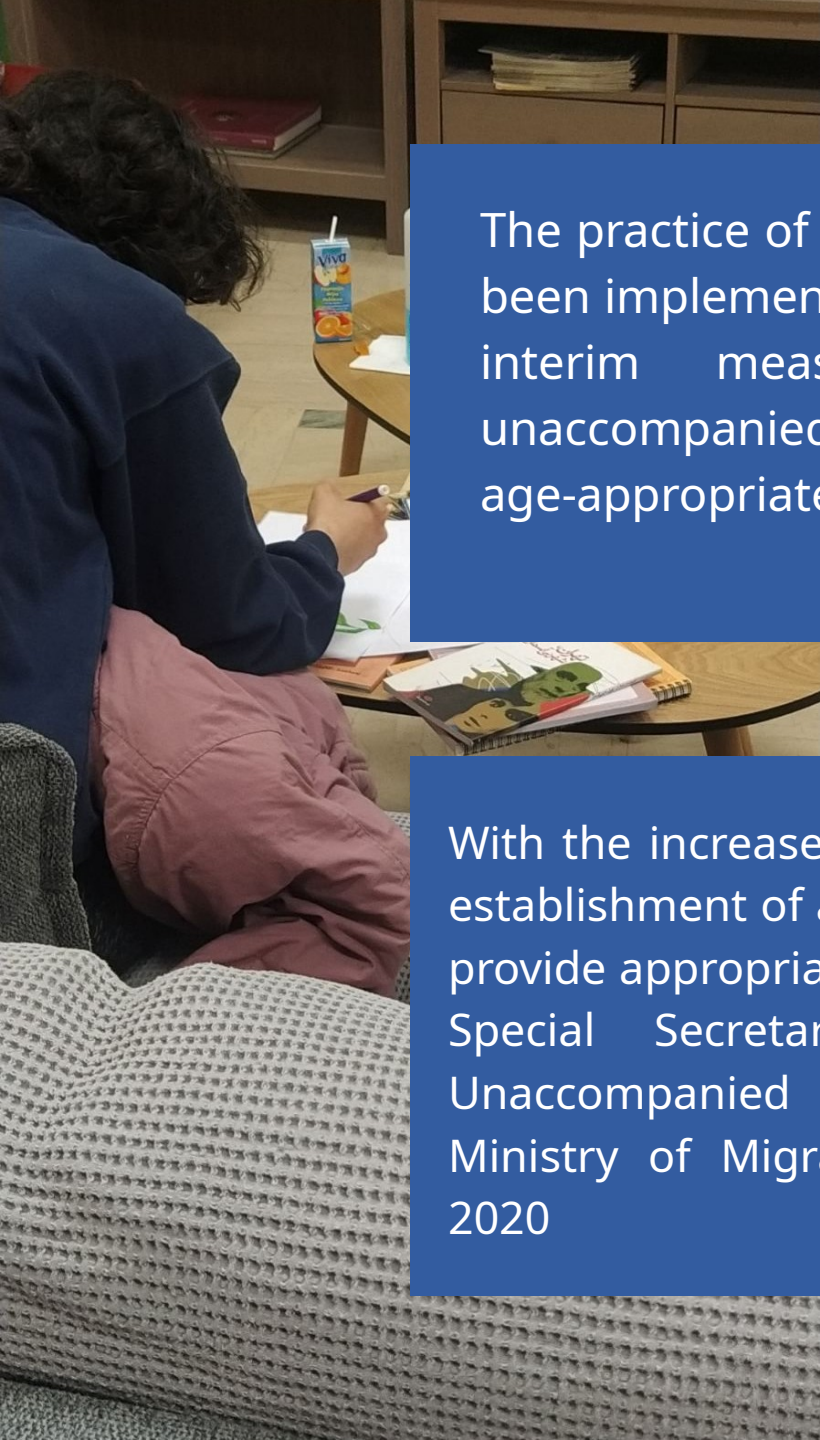
NATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE
MECHANISM - NERM



NERM'S MISSION

To establish a comprehensive safety net and multi-sectoral protection, prioritizing the most vulnerable:
homeless unaccompanied children





The practice of protective police custody had been implemented for years in Greece, as an interim measure of protection for unaccompanied children, due to the lack of age-appropriate care facilities.

With the increased arrival of asylum seekers, the establishment of a child protection system able to provide appropriate care was necessary. Thus, the Special Secretariat for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors was established at the Ministry of Migration and Asylum in February 2020

BACKGROUND & CONTEXT



THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NERM

Field research was carried out by Panteion University with the support of UNHCR and it aimed to provide recommendations for the care of unaccompanied children who were homeless or were living in precarious conditions in urban areas in Greece. Based on the above findings and the abolition of the protective custody practice for unaccompanied children, the National Emergency Response Mechanism was established and launched in April 2021.



INTRODUCTION



The National Emergency Response Mechanism (NERM) was established to address child protection as well as reception conditions issues for unaccompanied children arriving in Greece:

- ✓ **Institutional level**
establish a comprehensive child-friendly reception system and address the poor reception conditions and the lack of age-appropriate care facilities
- ✓ **Social level**
address the fact that unaccompanied children surviving outside the formal protection system who are homeless or in precarious conditions with limited access to information are at great risk of falling victim to trafficking or other types of exploitation
- ✓ **Organizational level**
address the lack of a national integrated action plan and the absence of a centralized mechanism that would coordinate actions between stakeholders engaged in the protection of unaccompanied children

NERM'S ACTION PLAN



tracing

accommodation



monitoring

coordination

KEY COMPONENTS



MOBILE UNITS
&
INFO DESKS



TRACING LINE



EMERGENCY
ACCOMMODATION FACILITIES

TRACING LINE



24/7 OPERATION

active with specially trained caseworkers



RECEIVES REFERRALS FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN

from Police and public authorities, actors in the field (NGOs & refugee communities), citizens and children themselves



COORDINATES ACTIONS

provides guidance to involved actors & case management



MOBILE UNITS & INFO DESKS

operated by NGOs "NCR" and "ARSIS"



TRACING CHILDREN
by conducting street-work activities



IDENTIFY RISK INDICATORS
MHPSS and BIA



BEST INTEREST ASSESSMENT
psychosocial and legal support



IDENTIFICATION
escort children to designated Police Station for 1st reception procedure



ACCOMMODATION
escort children to Emergency Accommodation Facility



EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION FACILITIES

operated by IOM



01

immediate
placement

safe and child friendly
facilities

02

155 places

welcoming children
24/7

03

case
management

multidisciplinary team
of experts

04

preparation for
long-term
accommodation

personalized
assessment and referral



” PUBLIC AWARENESS ”

MONITORING CHILDREN IN PRECARIOUS LIVING CONDITIONS

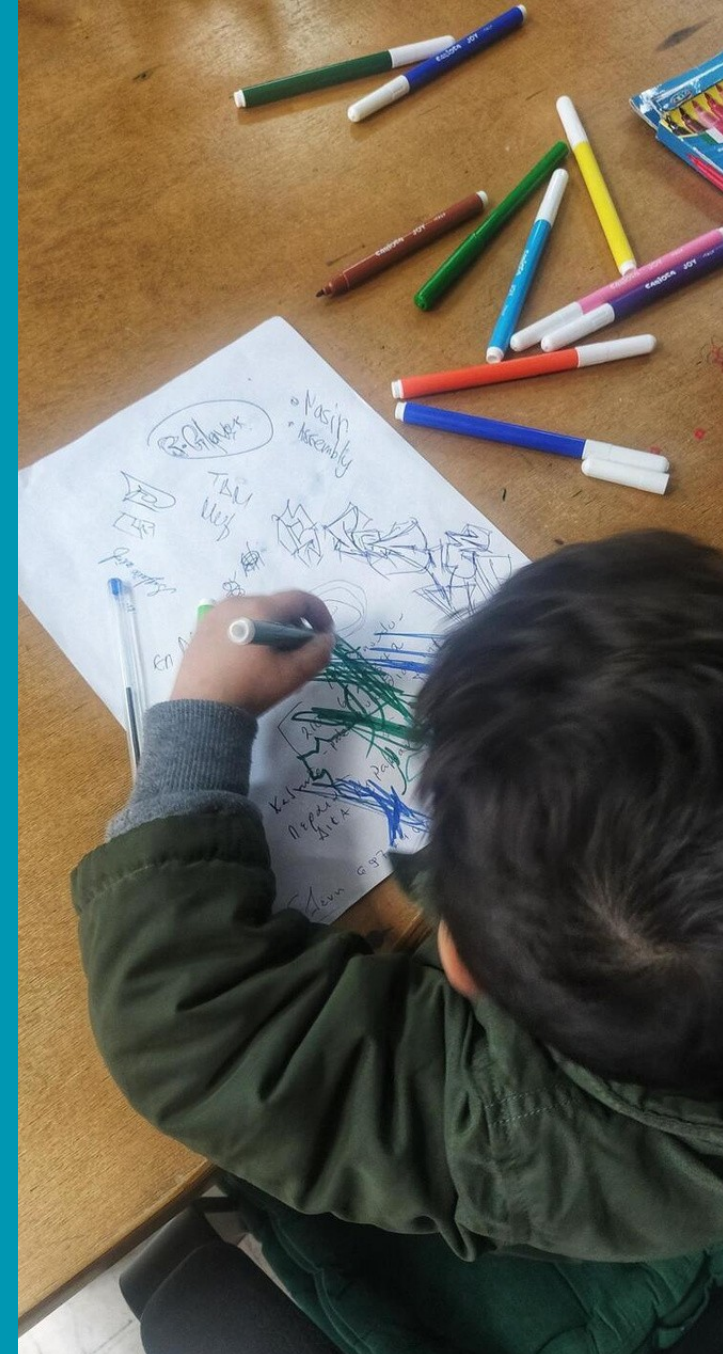


NERM has developed an innovative program to reduce the number of unaccompanied and separated children living in precarious conditions

children who have been previously assessed by child protection actors and later became untraceable

children who have denied being placed in accommodation facilities as they used to stay with adult relatives and/or co-nationals and

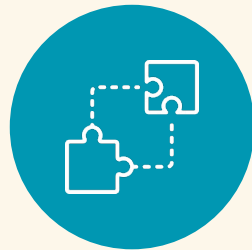
children who even though placed in an accommodation facility, irregularly abandoned the place



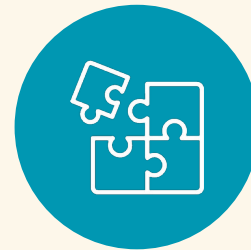
THE UKRAINIAN CRISIS RESPONSE EXAMPLE



registration of
every child at the
boarder



best interest
assessment on the
spot



follow up and needs
assessment



COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION



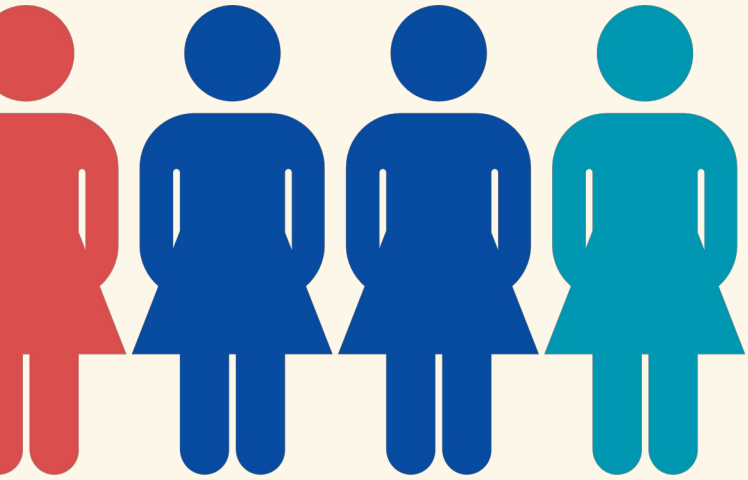
Children residing in precarious conditions with adult relatives are referred by NERM to Social Services of the Municipalities based on residence for further follow-up and assessment

✓ 58 children in precarious conditions have been referred to competent Municipalities

Separated children coming from Ukraine who wish to remain for an extended period in Greece are referred by NERM to the Social Services of the Municipalities based on their residence to conduct a social report and assign temporary custody

✓ 286 children from Ukraine have been referred to the competent Municipality





11,639
communications

597

Ukrainian children
received support

5,158
children
accommodated

344

children are
monitored



AFGHANISTAN



PAKISTAN



EGYPT



OTHERS



ACHIEVEMENTS

1

NERM was presented at the World Refugee Forum in December 2023, highlighted as a best practice in the field of child protection.

2

NERM won the second European Crime Prevention Award as preventive mechanism against Human Trafficking at EUCPN Conference

3

NERM is shared as a best practice with other European and International Authorities for its broad adoption

EXPAND BEYOND
UNACCOMPANIED
CHILDREN
OFFERING ALSO
support to vulnerable
AND HOMELESS OR at
RISK persons

EXTENDING THE USE
OF THE TRACING LINE
FOR VULNERABLE
AND HOMELESS OR
AT RISK PERSONS

NERM'S NEXT STEPS

Thank you

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www.migration.gov.gr



HELLENIC REPUBLIC

Ministry of Migration & Asylum

General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons &
Institutional Protection

