



## ORAMMA: Operational Refugee and Migrant Maternal Approach

ORAMMA is a 2 year project, funded through the European Union's Health Programme, to develop an approach to maternal healthcare for migrant and refugee women. The project will promote safe motherhood, promote improved access and delivery of maternal healthcare and promote maternal health equity for refugee and migrant women within the EU. The project will develop an approach and tools to address specific maternal healthcare problems faced by migrants and refugee women in Greece, the Netherlands, and the UK.

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**ORAMMA will:**

- Assess the current state of women's health provision for migrants and refugees in project countries.
- Develop perinatal guidelines for migrant refugee women.
- Develop the ORAMMA approach to perinatal healthcare which will feature multi-disciplinary teams of experts, cultural doulas and community capacity building.
- Develop a perinatal personal operational plan for pregnant migrant and refugee women.



### **Migrant mothers matter too: Safe journey to motherhood**

The majority of the refugee pregnant women, their families, and their communities are not empowered to be healthy. They do not always have the capacity to seek appropriate care during pregnancy or when the new baby has arrived. In addition to a lack of empowerment on a number of cultural and social levels, gender constraints may prevent some women from expressing the need for and obtaining care during the perinatal period.

- While more males than females seek asylum in Europe, 55% of those travelling are women and children. Approximately 1 in 10 of all refugees entering Europe is pregnant.
- Migrants and refugees across Europe avoid seeking care, including during pregnancy, due to fear of being arrested, and administrative and legal barriers.
- Almost half of vulnerable pregnant refugees and migrants across Europe have no access to antenatal care.
- Female refugees and migrants to the EU are more likely to have complex health needs including mental health, family and social circumstances, experience of trauma and violence, and underlying health conditions that could affect the outcome of their pregnancy.
- In the UK, asylum seeking women are 7 times more likely to develop complications during pregnancy and childbirth, and 3 times more likely to die than the general population.

ORAMMA will develop a pathway to help multi-disciplinary teams of health workers to provide quality perinatal care to pregnant migrants and refugees entering Greece, the Netherlands, and the UK and travelling to their destination countries.



**So far ORAMMA has:**

- Held the ORAMMA kick off meeting in Luxembourg in January 2017.
- Presented the project at the CARE project information day.
- Undertaken literature reviews and surveys to inform the development of the ORAMMA guidelines and approach.
- Held focus groups to identify barriers to healthcare migrant and refugee women face and best practices to address these issues.
- Delivered the national reports on the situation for pregnant migrants and asylum seekers in Greece, the Netherlands and the UK.

**Next ORAMMA will:**

- Develop the guidelines for perinatal care for migrants and refugee women and the ORAMMA approach to providing perinatal care for migrants and refugee women.
- Develop the Perinatal personal operational plan to guide both the woman and her team of health professionals in providing her care and empowering her to seek care.
- Meet in Athens in early September for the next Project Steering Committee meeting.

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