



# One Happy Family News

## February 2018

### Situation on Lesbos

The residual population staying on sites on the island estimated by the UNHCR is of around 7'000 persons at the moment. This clearly shows that the camps are still overcrowded.

#### Moria

People still live in inhuman conditions inside Moria, but several NGOs have made important improvements in the camp. For example, Help Refugees together with Watershed and The Timber Project were able to install floors for the tents and wash-facilities. There also is a better clothes distribution in place for Moria now, with support from teams working outside the camp.

There is an increase of Syrian single men withdrawing their asylum claim. They are willing to return to Turkey, because of the current living conditions in Moria and the significant delays on administrative procedures.

#### Organisations

Several organisations faced some difficulties this month and had to close their facilities for different time periods (for example: DocMobile was temporary closed in order to attend some legal matters, MSF closed for security reasons – the building not being safe, also Bashira and Little Happy Family were closed temporarily). The island needs all of these organisations, so we hope that all of them will be able to continue their good work soon.

#### Asylum procedures

The Lesbos Regional Asylum Office informed of yet another change to the asylum procedures. All vulnerable asylum-seekers will now again get interview appointments in Lesbos and receive asylum cards with geographic restrictions.

### Quote

*“Happy people do good things!”*

### Picture of the month



We had a happiness coaching lead by one of the volunteers. Since then we write inspirational quotes or positive sentences on the backside of our drachmas (see picture). This way we hope to provide all our visitors with a smile.

We also have now a board (see cover picture) where people can write down what happiness means to them in four languages. It was filled within three hours.

## Interesting Links

- Berner Zeitung: Etwas Normalität auf Lesbos (german): <http://bit.ly/2GmidCp>
- Berner Zeitung: Lichtblick in Europas blindem Fleck (german): <http://bit.ly/2Bzvqnl>
- Bericht von SRF Rundschau über Moria (german): <http://bit.ly/2DIImBOh>
- A rare look at life inside Lesbos' Moria refugee camp: <http://bit.ly/2EiAS14>

## News from the Community Center

### Updates about the activities at OHF

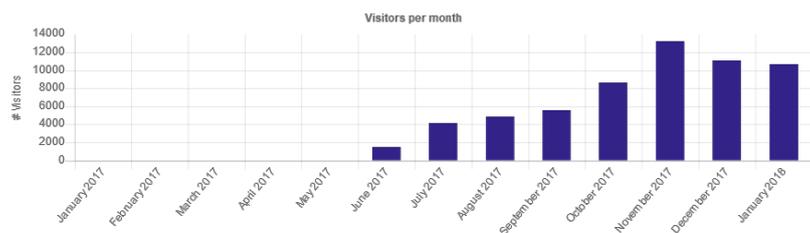
Besides the more than 20 established projects, the following new awesome activities are offered:

- Breakdance (3 times per week)
- Yoga every day in a new yoga tent (the old boutique tent has been transformed)
- Running classes
- Sports for children (mainly mini tennis)
- A new beach-volleyball field
- A computer-station with workshops where people can also print, scan and copy their documents

### Visitors at OHF

We got a new reporting system in our web-based management application which we use for our drachma system ("the bank"). This allows us to get a good overview of our visitors, which helps us to be even better prepared for the future.

In 2017 we had a total of 49,110 visitors since the implementation of our banking system. In 2018, we have already had 10'665 visitors. It's nice to see that so many people like to come regularly to OHF, but it's also a constant effort for our amazing team.



## One Happy Family



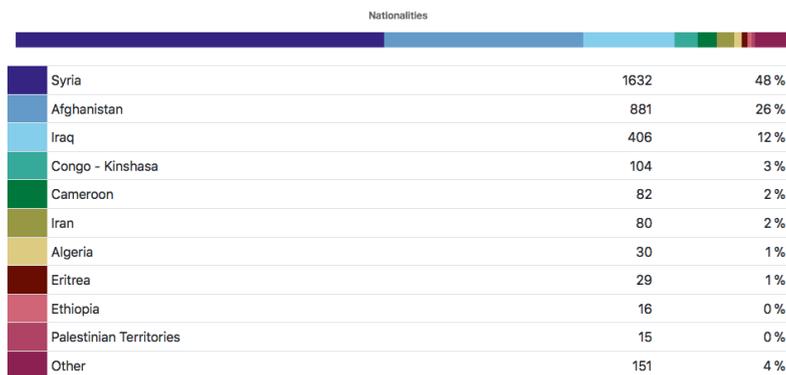
Mina, who is 19 years old and from Afghanistan, smiles as she walks towards me. Then she quickly corrects my writing: "I'm going to be Greek soon" she says, "write that I am Greek now." When she shows me her and her husband's blue stamps for the Greek ID card on their documents I understand and smile too. Finally good news.

Mina is happy for the first time since a very long time. Finally she can leave her past behind her, she says. Waiting for her decision in Moria was a hard time. Especially as a young woman, she faced many difficulties. That's why she is very thankful for the opportunity to work in the One Happy Family's kids space.

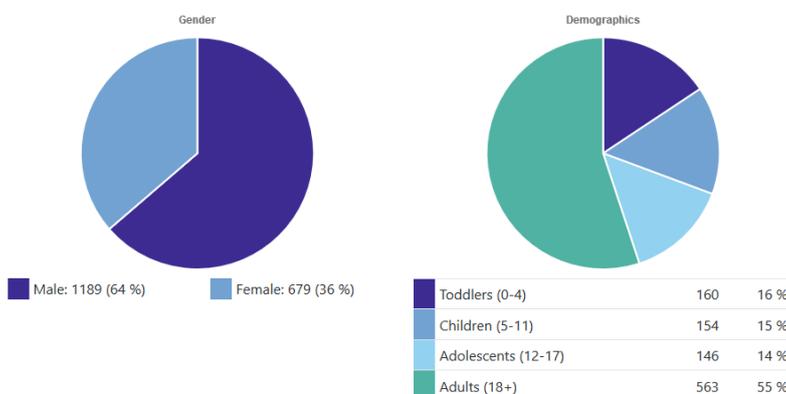
Spending time here has helped her to recover from the stresses and strains of Moria through the activities offered in the center (playing volleyball is by far her favorite) and her work. Everyday she discovers how talented the children in the kids space are. Playing with them allows her to get to know their sorrows, and this playing provides them with a calm space to forget for a while.

Story continues on next page

Another interesting statistic is the overview of the different countries of origin of our visitors.



Recently, we also started collecting gender and date of birth of the people:



Mina says that maybe in ten years she will want to have her own kids; her husband, next to her, smiles.

While working at OHF Mina has improved her English a lot. By being in touch with volunteers, she has got to understand more about Europe and the European culture. She is ready to live in Greece now, she says. Mina is not worried about her future anymore. Her only wish is an end to the violence against women and children, and that all young women will have the freedom to choose their preferred husband. The biggest wish for herself though is to see her family in Afghanistan again! Hopefully one day it will become a reality.

Julia, volunteer at OHF, spoke with Mina

## We need you!

### Share the News

Share our news about Lesbos and the Community Center. Since the media don't talk often about the current situation we need YOU even more!

We prepared Information-material which you can download for personal presentations, lectures, articles, media releases etc.:

Deutsch: <http://bit.ly/2gJiVhj>  
 Englisch: <http://bit.ly/2xw34JY>

### Godparent-System for longterms

The OHF wouldn't be sustainable without people staying for longer periods and supporting the OHF with their knowledge and energy for the coordination. With as little as 23 Euro or CHF 30 per month you can become a godfather/godmother and help us to keep the OHF running. You find more information and registration by clicking the following link: <https://ohf-lesvos.org/en/sponsorships/> or via mail to [patenschaften@ohf-lesvos.org](mailto:patenschaften@ohf-lesvos.org). Thank you!

### “OHF Support” Group in WhatsApp

Join us using the following link: <http://bit.ly/2gM3a9m>

## Receipts for donations and tax-free donations

The One Happy Family association received its tax exemption status in Switzerland. These are good news because it means that you will be able to use the donation receipt for your tax return.

We will send you the donations receipts for 2018 at the end of the year. Donations from 2017 can also be deduced backdated. If you wish for a receipt for your donation from 2017 please contact us at [fundraising@ohf-lesvos.org](mailto:fundraising@ohf-lesvos.org) with the subject “Donation receipt” and send us your address (postal address).

We will do our best to send you all your donation receipts as soon as possible. Please note that the daily routine on Lesbos has priority and that the whole team in Switzerland is unfortunately not able to invest all of their time, since they are all working.