



One Happy Family News

March 2018

Situation on Lesbos

Until the 20th of February 322 people arrived on the island of Lesbos. Lesbos is still the part of the country where half of the total arrivals in Greece are registered. The number of arrivals in these three weeks of February is higher than the total arrivals of February 2017. In January 2018 the number of arrivals was almost the double of the arrivals in January 2017. This shows that the deterrence strategy that the Greek government seems to follow is not resulting in what they want it to be. People are still trying to seek safety, even if the conditions in Moria are horrible. At the moment there still are 4,922 registered people living in Moria. 1,188 people live in Kara Tepe and 944 in improved accommodation. The official number of people stuck on the island thus is 7,054.

Transfers

People are still not being transferred in high numbers to the mainland, as promised many times. In the period from the 14th of February til the 20th of February 98 people have been transferred, of whom 35 people departed individually. In the same time span 135 people arrived on the island. This seems to be explained by what Ioannis Mouzalas, Greek Migration Minister, said: transferring people to the mainland would create new incentives for people to come. Thus the Greek authorities do not want to reduce the number of people stuck on the island.

Moria

The living conditions in Moria are, with 4,922 people residing there, still terrible. As said last month, the hygienic aspects improved, but compared to the number of people, it's still not at the basics that every human being should be able to get.

More living containers are now inside Moria. But there are still 450 people living in summer tents and 320 people living outside the official camp, in the Olive Grove.

Quote

“Home for everyone, we are all the same.”

One Working Group: Helpers, Volunteers and Partners

Picture of the Month



These are the results of one part of the workshop. The task was to discuss in small groups what is going well at OHF. Then one of the points was written on a piece of paper.

Imprint

Content: Jael Tobler
Layout: Nicolas Perrenoud

News from the Community Center

OHF is running well: it's amazing how naturally the different projects work every day. Our helpers (our volunteers living in the camps) put their whole energy into the Community Center and are still motivated to learn English in the evening. There are 61 helpers from all different backgrounds at the moment, with many more asking to be part of the team every day.

We hope to be able to keep this place up and running, for this we still need the ongoing support of all of you!

Workshops

"I'm afraid that we won't make it without him."

It was the first time that our coordination team found space for such open sentences. In a workshop guided by Maya Rimer (www.mayarimer.com) the team explored the fears that come with Fabian leaving the group as main coordination, but also the resources of every single team member. After two intense workshop days we can say: "Yes, we will make it." A thousand thanks to Maya for offering such deep insight into the capabilities of our coordination team.

The same can be said for the whole team. All of the voices of the people involved in OHF have to be heard. After the workshop with the coordination team, there was a workshop on our Community Center and its future for the whole team and the partners of OHF (see as well the picture of the month section). The realisation of different ideas brought up that during the sessions has already started. It was an amazing day!

Coordination Team

As said, a change is happening in the coordination team. Fabian left Lesvos to continue his studies in Switzerland. The rest of the coordination team will take on the coordination of the different areas as a team. They decided for this first phase as a team so that their work is on one level and without hierarchy. This is not because of ideological reasons but because they don't just want to "put someone on the top." The team is working together and from this it will, in a natural process, become more and more clear who will take on the main coordination of the project.

Video of the Month



We have a beautiful new video made by two of our volunteers. You can watch it here: <http://bit.ly/2Fi9hQw>

Picture of the Month



Creative, resourceful, kind, fair, hard working, funny, big hearted, beautiful hugger, nice dancer, ironic, crazy, clever, calm, chaotic, deliberate, sensitive, full of power, spontaneous, caring, helpful, fancy, important, powerful, brave, eager, zealous, faithful.

Thank you Fabian for bringing all those aspects of your personality into our heart-project. You will be missed, but we keep rowing!

Fabian on special experiences he's lived at OHF:

"There are many moments that will always accompany me. One special experience was when Noor, the son of one of our former chefs at the kitchen, picked flowers every morning in summer and brought them to our volunteers. It was always such a good start of the day.

Other special experiences are the feedbacks we get as OHF. For example, from refugees who say that since weeks or months they haven't laughed and now at OHF they can experience this again.

It's also beautiful to see how people develop when they can work with us at OHF: how they find other jobs, how they can continue their journey and in general how they regain some self-confidence."