



One Happy Family News December 2018

«Happy bubble» inside the «happy bubble», our Nest.

Situation on Lesbos

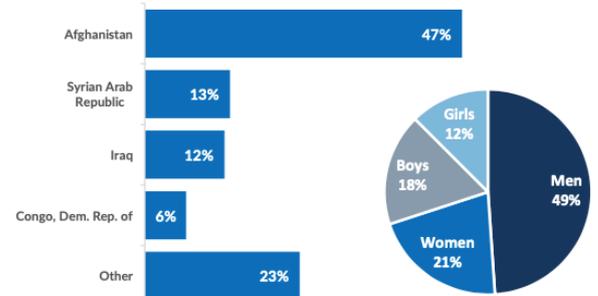
Arrivals on Lesbos have slowed down this month. However, this doesn't mean that the situation is any better on the Island. The month started with many days of heavy rain. Here some recent statistics from November:

- Around 9,000 asylum seekers currently live on Lesbos (number announced on the 16th of November by the Greek Migration Ministry, compare these to the data of the UNHCR below).
- Around 7,000 of them live in and outside of Moria-Camp, which has exceeded more than double its capacity.
- More than 2,000 of these human beings sleep in tents or outside.
- 13 boats arrived on Lesbos during the month of November with 448 human beings. This is a decrease of 25% of boats arrivals, compared to October.
- Around 1,560 people have been transferred to the mainland this month.

Less people reaching the islands doesn't necessarily mean that there are less people starting their journey towards a better future. Over 36'000 people in total during 2018 were stopped from crossing this month by the Turkish Coast Guard. Unfortunately, this month, we've also seen more reports of sunken boats, and ship wrecks.

Lesbos data sourced by the UNHCR

Demographics



Population by Location



Continuity of asylum procedure after transfer to the mainland

It has been confirmed that now, that people who are transferred to the mainland are able to continue their asylum procedure (interviews) there. For several months, these people would have to return to Mytilini to continue their procedure.

News from the Community Centre

Winter schedule

We've adapted our hours to meet the shorter, and colder days on Lesvos. From Monday to Friday, during winter, the OHF opens at 10 am and closes at 5 pm.

OHF closed: Water tank problems

This month we unfortunately had to close the Centre for some days, while the municipality completed some maintenance work with our water tanks. We are hopeful that they are all fixed now, and we don't have to close OHF again for this reason.



Chess Workshop

It's relaxing, you can focus your mind on the game – these might be two reasons why our visitors love to play chess. We were so happy to have the president of Chess without Borders at our Centre. Even after his departure you'll find everywhere people staring at their, often handmade, chess boards – thank you!

Young Caritas Award

One Happy Family was participating at the Young Caritas Award 2018, and we have been selected to the Top 5 based on public votes. On the first of December, the Award show took place, and we got selected by the jury for third place!



Radio Workshop & OneHappyPodcast

This workshop is open for everyone who wants to learn basic journalism, radio and recording skills. It takes place once a week and is organized by our newest partner "Where Borders Meet" – we're happy to have you on board!

<https://www.facebook.com/wherebordersmeet>

Ongoing Photography Workshop

Ahmad, our amazing Social Media supporter and helper, is continuing photography classes after the success of the former course. We are very happy

to continue to have Ahmad at OHF, and for him to share his incredible photography skills with even more people.

Picture of the month



Offering a safe place for small children where creativity and learning can take place. We experienced a moment this month, where a Father and Son worked together to build a clay inside the Nest, our safe space for younger children. It gives us strength to continue the hard work when we see that people can relax and empty their heads for short moments – gaining energy for the tough daily struggles they have to fight every day.

We like to call the Nest our “happy bubble inside the happy bubble” – it’s a real oasis. Thanks to the Pedagogical Institute of Los Angeles, children under the age of seven can enjoy themselves inside this “happy bubble”. With different toys, co-

louring books, a play kitchen and dolls, The Nest provides this safe space, where young ones can have a good time and express themselves. It also gives the parents the chance to sit back and relax for a while or, as mentioned above, engage in a relaxing atmosphere, together with their children.

We need you!

Donating double warmth: safe passage socks

Reclaim safe passage and support our One Happy Family by purchasing OHF-socks for family, friends and yourself. They are trendy and warm, and ethically made by the last man producing socks in Switzerland! You’ll support the OHF during these tough winter months.

Order them now via

<https://ohf-lesvos.org/de/socks/>

First come, first served!

Fundraising

Christmas time is family time! It is important during this special time, to remember the situation on Lesvos, and our friends, visitors and helpers at One Happy Family. Contact us at [fundraising@](mailto:fundraising@ohf-lesvos.org)



ohf-lesvos.org if you want support in organising an event and find information material here:

<https://drive.ohf-lesvos.org/s/pfdT4tB29c3RefC>

We need you and your help!

Miscellaneous

Receipts for donations and tax-free donations

The One Happy Family Association now has its tax exemption status in Switzerland. You can now use your donation receipt for your tax return in Switzerland (Although, we can't assure that you'll get the tax reductions in other countries).

You will receive your donation receipts from 2018, in January/February 2019. But, we need your help! Please contact us at fundraising@ohf-lesvos.org after February 2019, with the subject "Donation Receipts" and send us your address (postal address or email address – the latter is more ecological and faster :-)).

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

#MeetTheFamily: Akis

Akis, is our allrounder at the OHF! Here is a small insight into his daily life at the OHF.

After the morning meeting Akis walks around, checks if everything is working, fixes things, greets the helpers and starts answering their questions. Akis, is constantly making sure that everyone on site, feels safe and is being treated fairly.

It might occur that Akis is then interviewing a new helper, is taking the vans to the gas station, is jumping in between the security and visitors having an argument. But maybe he also is contacting our suppliers for any wood, metal or other construction materials to maintain our buildings and the surroundings. Whenever needed Akis deals as well with our neighbours, the police, the fire department or the municipality – this because he speaks Greek but as well because Akis knows them all by now and knows "how it works" in Greece. It is also

very likely that Akis gets a call, asks then for the car keys and is off with helpers: either to take them to the hospital, the police or the public offices or is assisting them to find a job. These are only some of the tasks Akis is handling daily. If you ever came or come to the OHF you will see the huge number of tasks he is juggling every day.



Thank you so much Akis for your endless smiles, your energy, your dedication for this project – one can see that its imprinted strongly into your heart!

We need your help to support Akis and the other coordination team members. More information here:

<https://ohf-lesvos.org/de/patenschaften/>

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