

Better Days - Emergency Response Report

Lesvos, March 2020

Situation

March 2020 has been a totally different month than we expected at the beginning of the year. Following two very difficult months on Lesvos, dominated by violence and turbulence, we were looking forward to continuing our work at Gekko Kids, EcoHub, Socrates and Gekko X. Unfortunately, this was not possible due to the special measures and restriction of movement implemented by the Greek authorities for the prevention of a Coronavirus outbreak.

The Better Days team now works from Athens & Lesvos, with crucial remote support from Switzerland, Canada & the USA. As in the past, we once again deployed all our agility and expertise to respond to emerging needs, understanding that each day will bring different challenges to the previous one. Touched by the understanding and collaboration of our students and community volunteers we shifted our communication to slack/whats-app channels and videocalls. Having said that, poor access to the internet and bad connectivity in Moria camp remain major challenges. The frequent check-ins provide valuable insights into the lives of the lone boys and girls we work with so that we can continue to address the most pressing matters.

Better Days' fierce determination and capacity to adjust and evolve according to the shifts and conditions in Moria is truly unique. Our extended network of trusted partners and long-lasting collaborations rely on us to utilize our expertise to identify means and effective ways of operations to survive this terrible time in history. Although our physical presence in Moria camp is limited to absolute necessity - taking all essential precautions to limit the possibility of contamination – our work in Moria today ensures impact is maximized by supporting maintain the exhausted skeleton teams and our most valuable teams, the medical health providers and the few remaining employees of Moria camp who are fighting to provide much needed medical and emergency aid to some of the most vulnerable populations in the world. Hence, in the light of a Covid-19 outbreak, Better Days continues to focus on vital, quality work on the ground whilst encouraging collaborations and facilitating collective impact.



Plan



Similar to previous emergencies in Moria camp, Better Days strength comes from expertise in site management support, ER procurement and coordination amongst several key players and mobilization of our most trustworthy relationships to encourage collective and coordinated impact. In March, much of our work on Lesvos was focused on organizing the procurement of PPE and critical supplies for medical organizations namely, Health Point Foundation (HPF), Kitrinos, Medical Volunteers International, and BRF. Precautionary hygienic supplies were secured for the sole volunteer nurse standing in Section A. Over 3400 nutrition bars were delivered to Eurorelief for distribution to the unaccompanied minors of the Sections and Rubhall. At least 29 UASC clothing/hygiene packs were distributed for use by HPF in a pressing effort to treat a scabies outbreak caused by the lack of laundry facilities and soap and limited access to water. Our work would not have been possible without the invaluable support of Attika Human Response and effective response of Eurorelief/Help International volunteers continuing work in the Rubhall and Sections with minimal but critical presence in food distribution.

Additionally, in March, to arm local families with essentials to combat Covid-19, the Better Days team distributed vitamin C, energy bars, masks and gloves to single-headed local households, and funded over 500EUR worth of groceries for over 45 struggling families.

Our legal intervention program 'Themida' continues at full speed with 3 positive answers from the Dublin authorities in March alone, which brings the accumulative total to 6 positive answers in 2.5 months. In March our ground time performed 4 x critical DNA tests. In April 7 new DNA tests will be performed in Moria camp as we continue the fight for another 62 ongoing Dublin cases. Most importantly, we are proud to have invested massively in advocacy, most notably in a joint statement with Help Refugees and joint recommendation with Save the Children Europe requesting the immediate relocation of UASC and fast tracking of active reunification cases. Both were submitted to the European Commission as well as the national governments of Germany, Luxembourg and others on the 1st of April. Valuable contributions were made by MSF, HPF, DCI & First Elements.

Dissemination of accurate information and counteracting rumors is probably more vital than ever before. Our students, community volunteers, and beneficiaries receive frequent and up-to-date information by our ground teams on ministerial announcements pertaining to Covid-19 that can impact their livelihood.

In summary, during the month of March, Better Days team on Lesvos:

- Procured essential medical equipment and PPE for medical actors.
- Liaised with the Dublin authorities and EC to push for the reunification and relocation of UASC living in Moria in appalling and life-threatening conditions.
- Collaborated across medical actors ensuring the proper flow of communication, allowing accurate updates on action plans, inventory needs, etc.
- Prepared a 3D-printing production lab in one of our educational facilities, Gecko X. In preliminary discussions to produce medical visors and UV sanitary boxes for medical teams, staff and volunteers working in Moria.
- Held a medical info session on Covid-19 for 6 medical actors working in Moria/Lesvos.
- Purchased 20,000 gloves to be distributed amongst medical actors and the hospital.
- Utilized online platforms and apps to disseminate accurate information in the native language of our students and other beneficiaries (Moria camp community).
- Procured our first shipment of vitamin C which will be distributed in Moria to unaccompanied minors (via food lines) and to vulnerable groups via medical groups, namely Kitrinos and HPF.

- Distributed over 3,400 nutrition bars for distribution in the Minor Sections in Moria
- Started procuring scarce but essential wound care supply inventory for HPF for the continuation of the treatment for hundreds of minors living on the Olive Groves. Scabies incidents have cause severe dermatological issues, sometimes resulting in chronic conditions and requiring constant treatment.
- Supplied groceries and other first aid to local community members who have lost their jobs and are struggling to cope with the expenses.


We are in the business of reclaiming humanity.

Thank you for your support.

Nothing would be possible without your fierce passion and determination.

BETTER DAYS IMPACT IN MARCH

In Numbers

 <p>ATTKA FOR SOLIDARITY</p>	<p>27 kg <u>Washing powder</u></p> <p>For Section A to ensure that the boys could wash their clothes and avoid sickness caused by lack of proper hygiene</p>	<p>480 <u>Multivitamins</u> have been purchased to boost the health of UAMs and local families</p> <p>+</p> <p>Games, toys and footballs donated to the sections to give the boys opportunity to play and relax together</p>	<p>3435 <u>Nutrition bars</u></p> <p>Have been distributed to the UASC of Moria to give extra nutrition that is highly needed in this situation</p>
<p>Daily <u>Clothing packs</u></p> <p>Distribution of clothing/hygiene kits for UASC to meet their basic needs and treat the growing scabies problem</p>	<p>200 <u>Medical gloves</u> Distributed to UASC and local families</p> <p>25 <u>(reusable) masks</u> Distributed to sick children living in the Sections</p>	<p>15,000 <u>Tablets of vitamin C</u></p> <p>Are ordered and ready to be distributed to UASC and vulnerable groups through Kitrinos and HPF in Moria .</p>	<p>COORDINATION</p> <p><u>Coordinated support</u> alongside 15 key players, held a cross-medical seminar for 6 medical actors working in Moria and supported 4 organizations with financial donations</p>

