



“SAVE YOUR LIFE, WEAR YOUR MASK...”

PROTECTING KOS REFUGEES
FROM COVID-19

Brief

Crowdfunding



GREEK ISLANDS' HUMANITARIAN CRISIS 2015-2020

Since 2015 the humanitarian crisis on the Aegean Islands has been worsening, with the number of refugee landings in Lesbo, Chios, Samos and Kos rising every day. The Greek government hasn't managed the asylum claims effectively leading to a situation that is on the verge of collapse."



HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY IN AEGEAN ISLANDS - 2020

The background of the top section is a photograph showing the silhouettes of several people on a beach. They are standing and talking, with the sun setting in the background, creating a warm, golden glow. The people are dark against the lighter sky and water.

The Aegean Islands host refugees in 5 hotspots. The total hosting capacity is 5,400 people but considering the informal settlements, the actual figure is likely to be ten times higher. The fast-spreading COVID-19 pandemic has produced a major risk to the health and safety of all, especially the most vulnerable people.

In order to prevent the spread of the virus which has already been detected in Lesbos island, the Greek government has decided to lockdown refugee camps. Experts and associations have instead called for the evacuation of people living in the camps, since the overcrowded and unstable sanitary conditions are a powerful factor in the spread of the virus.

Parwana Amiri, a 16 years afghan girl living in the Ritsona refugees' camp, interviewed by Al Jazeera, said “Refugees have to be able to know how to protect themselves from the virus”, and that all the people she knew were very concerned about covid-19. “As youngsters we have an important role in our family” she said, and they should encourage other young people to talk to their families, explaining the better way to wash hands to prevent virus transmission.

“Virus crosses borders and treats everyone in the same way” she said “While you stay at home we have to stay in the camps where no health safety is granted”.

FONDAZIONE INTERCAMMINI INITIATIVE

While waiting for the European Parliament to answer many of the raised questions, the situation of refugees on the Greek Islands, already critical, needs an urgent solution to prevent the pandemic turning into a human tragedy.

Since 2015, Fondazione InterCammini (www.intercammini.org) has been implementing intercultural activities and supporting the protection of migrants and refugees' rights. The foundation decided to start a fundraising activity to protect Kos refugees from Covid-19 pandemic. The information directly coming from cultural mediators currently working on the ground shows that among the 4,000 people hosted in the Kos refugee camp, there are lots of children and pregnant women.

Two important Greek organisations have joined the initiative and are going to support it at local level: newspaper Avgi, established in 1952 in Athens and published at national and local level (www.avgi.gr) and association Solidarity Peiraia which takes care of greek people who are in vulnerable conditions and of refugees hosted in Greece (www.solidaritypeiraias.gr/en).

You can donate, through bank transfer addressed to “Fondazione InterCammini” bank account IBAN: IT20C 01005 03200 000000015033, reference: “progetto save your life wear your mask”



OBJECTIVE

Raising funds to buy face masks, disposable gloves and hand sanitizers for refugees and workers of Kos camp.

Necessary supply for (basic) prevention campaign :

- **30.000** face masks
- **1.000** packages of disposable gloves (or hand sanitizers)



REFERENCES AND INFORMATION ON KOS' CURRENT SITUATION

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PEOPLE

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