

# THE OLIVE GROVE

BETTER DAYS FOR MORIA

#RECLAIMING HUMANITY





## THE OLIVE GROVE CAMP

In November 2015 we saw hundreds of boats arriving on the shores of Lesbos, and thousands of people denied their fundamental rights and without access to basic needs. United by a fierce determination to bring humanity and compassion into the delivery of humanitarian aid we built the Olive Grove, one of the largest independently run refugee camps on Lesbos.

*“We came together because it was simply the right thing to do...in a world full of darkness, we are showing that humanity can prevail. Our biggest mission is not only to nurture bodies but also to nurture souls. Better Days is fueled by the incredible power of open hearts and minds.”*

Elena Moustaka & Anrika Velychko, Better Days Co-Founders

# OVERVIEW & IMPACT

Over 200,000 people passed through the Moria registration centre between November 2015 and April 2016. Due to this influx and lack of capacity many people were stuck outside the centre without shelter, food and water, medical care, sanitary facilities, or information. Using private funding The Olive Grove provided the essential services many in Moria were not receiving.

Lodged  
500-2000  
people  
per night

Served  
over 500,000  
meals

Served over  
700,000  
cups of chai

Case  
management  
to thousands

Clothing, shoes,  
hygiene products  
and other items to  
hundreds of  
thousands

# NFI AND FOOD DISTRIBUTION

*We worked with crowd management experts to develop systems for queuing and crowd control that facilitated the orderly and equitable distribution of food and non-food items (NFIs).*

Our fully functioning, **24-hour distribution centre** provided clothes and hygiene items to thousands in transit. No matter the hour we ensured that everyone was warm, dry, and appropriately clothed for the season.



We provided:

- **Infant sanitary kits, carriers, & accessories**
- **Hygiene kits for men and women**
- **All basic clothing items**
- **Bags for families**
- **Winter clothes**

We provided NFIs to those inside Moria registration centre who could not access our services by supporting Moria's internal distribution system.

**Three meals a day** were supplied by catering companies. Supplemental meals were cooked fresh on site and ensured that **new arrivals would be greeted with hot food**, regardless of the time of day.



# INFRASTRUCTURE:

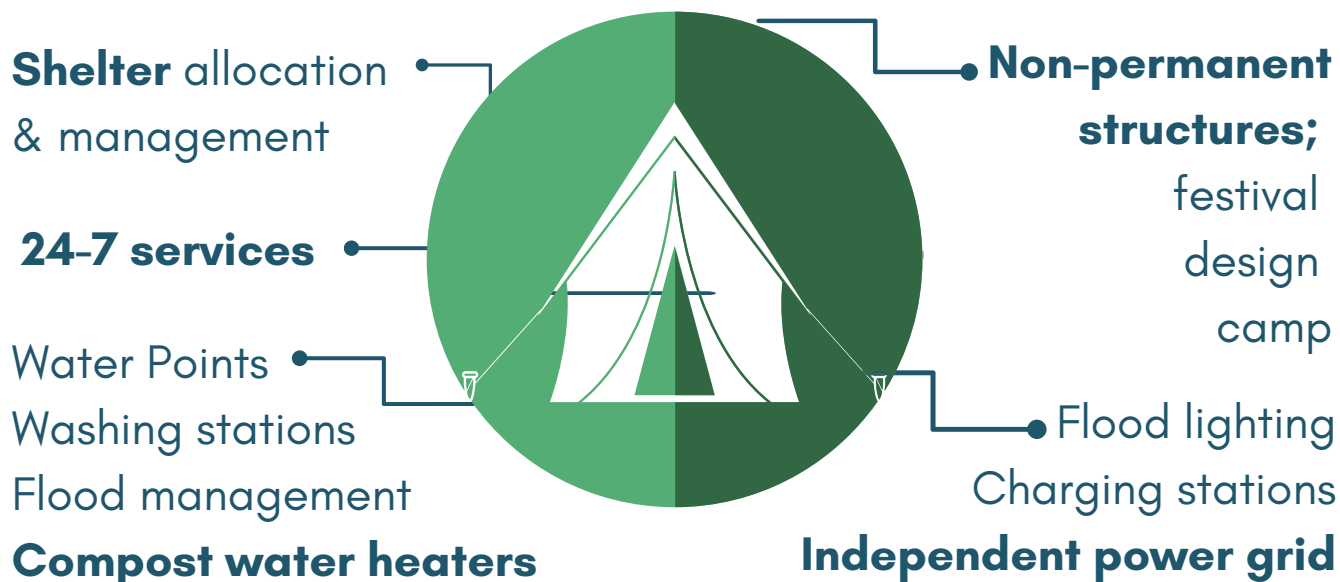
Before we arrived over 3,000 people lived in unhygienic conditions in the Olive Grove (4000m<sup>2</sup>)



Our infrastructure provided basic needs while preserving beneficiaries' dignity and safety.



# INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES FOR 500-2,000 PEOPLE PER DAY



*We maintained the space to ensure a clean and relaxed atmosphere where asylum seekers could rest on their journey and receive the support they needed.*

# MEDICAL

**A 24-hour medical center, run by Health Point Foundation, provided basic medical care, outreach, and dentistry.**

A team of qualified interpreters assisted the medical staff to ensure clear communication between doctors and patients. Complex cases were referred to the local hospital.



# ACTIVITIES

*A local family ran the children’s play area as a safe space for children and their parents to relax in a secure environment.*



In the play park area **children could create their own games in a safe environment**, and volunteers organized activities ranging from painting to singing to sports.

# VOLUNTEERS

The **thousands of volunteers** who brought their unique skills and talents made up the heart of the operation of the Olive Grove. Each volunteer registered and received training. **The collective intelligence and contributions of our volunteer community are unquantifiable.**

Volunteers assisted in:

- Food distribution**
- Camp maintenance**
- NFI distribution**
- Interpreting**
- Information coordination**
- Shift coordination**



Many of our volunteers took the training, skills, and expertise they acquired on the Olive Grove and went on to create amazing projects and pursue advocacy work.

THE OLIVE GROVE HOSTED **VOLUNTEERS FROM OVER 50 COUNTRIES**

## **Asylum seekers made up a key part of the volunteer team.**

They helped in all areas and aided communication between volunteers and the community of residents. Their feedback helped us respond effectively to the needs that residents vocalized and create a more harmonious environment.



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



The Olive Grove operated as an umbrella and welcomed partnerships with incredible NGOs and groups such as **The Bristol Skipchen, The Lemon Tea Project, Lesvos Winterproof, Because We Carry, Swiss Cross, Attica Open Warehouse, Mercy Corps, MSF and Health Point Foundation.** From the bottom of our hearts, thank you to our sponsors, supporters, partners, and to the thousands of volunteers that brought the Olive Grove to life.

