

TOGETHER FOR HEALTH

Section A and B medical intervention to tackle
Scabies outbreaks

SITUATION

What is Scabies?

It is a parasitic infestation. The microscopic mite burrows into the skin and lays eggs, eventually triggering a host immune response that leads to intense itching and rash, if there is no medical treatment with risk of bacterial infection can lead to skin sores and more serious consequences as septicaemia, heart disease and chronic kidney disease.

Source: World Health Organisation website https://www.who.int/neglected_diseases/diseases/scabies-and-other-ectoparasites/en/.

What has been done?

In the past, there have been many attempts to individually treat infected minors residing in Moria camp but there were always new outbreaks.

Health Point Foundation (HPF) recently outlined outlines the necessity of a coordinated effort and. A large-scale exercise was designed and coordinated by Better Days aiming in the collective treatment of all the unaccompanied minors (UAMs) living in Section A & B.

The extensive amount of resources, capacity and effort required to implement this exercise required the support of multiple actors and RIC. Over 1297 clothing packs were put together and new and clean items were distributed to 340 children.

What needs to be done?

The scabies treatment requires daily washing of clothing, bedding, thorough cleaning of the living area of the patients and disinfection of all remaining items.

340

UAM treated

1297

Clothing packs distributed

People involved
in each exercise

25

€12.787

Total cost (4420 SA, 7367 SB)

9

different
organisations
collaborated



ACTION PLAN

Each exercise needs a 4-day application of Benzyl lotion and repetition of a 2-day treatment after 10 days. Washing all clothes, bedding -- including blankets and pillows -- on high temperature is necessary. To do that we collaborated with a local laundry service. Clean clothing was given to the children of the Sections on every day of Benzyl treatment. Pest control and disinfection of all rooms and communal areas was performed by a local supplier. The participation of the children was mandatory.



KEY STEPS

Each intervention includes:

1. Health promotion and application of treatment.
2. Daily collection and washing of dirty clothing: bed-sheets, towels, pillowcases, blankets, sleeping bags and clothes.
3. Daily distribution of clean items.
4. Daily distribution of new clothes (shorts, t-shirt, underwear, socks, towel)

New entries in the sections are placed separately until they receive a full scabies treatment.



Better Days coordinated the collaboration between actors. Everyone's role was key to the success of the exercise. We worked extremely hard and together we achieved what was considered impossible.

ACTORS INVOLVED

HPF - Health promotion, distribution of Benzyl lotion, volunteer support, medical check-ups and post-monitoring.

Attika Human Support - NFI supplies, clothing packs, volunteer support, delivery.

Movement on the Ground - Donated socks.

Drop in the Ocean - Donated shorts.

Dirty Girls - Logistics, recycling of dirty blankets, sheets, pillowcases and towels in collaboration with a local laundry service.

Lava Project - Washing clothes, volunteer support

Eurorelief - Volunteer support, donation of underwear

Help International - Volunteer support, coordination with Lava Project

RIC - partial provision of NFIs, ground coordination, staff support and washing on site.

340 minors have been successfully treated after receiving this treatment.

FUTURE PLANS

- Continuity of the exercise with treatment for new entries/arrivals in the Sections.
- BD is funding the procurement of a new scabies medicine (Scabal pill) which is expected to cure and protect children from scabies.
- Monitoring of results in both sections.
- Medical interventions and scabies treatment for UAMs living in the Rubhall and the Olive Groves.

By the end of June, there were 0 new incidents of infections amongst the treated population