



Volunteer Vacancy: Interpreter

Opening Date: 01/11/2023

Better Days is looking for a Volunteer Interpreter.

Location: Athens, Greece

Volunteer Status: Remote interpretation or a shift schedule may be required.

Starting Date: Immediately

Duration: Minimum of 3 months

About Better Days

Better Days was founded in January 2016 in response to the influx of refugees in Lesvos, Greece. Our first project was the Olive Grove, an unofficial camp adjacent to Moria camp that supported the needs of thousands of people passing through Lesvos. During its first six months of operation, Better Days and its partners provided aid (medical, food, shelter, and non-food items) to approximately 70,000 people. Since the Olive Grove, Better Days has implemented more than ten projects providing services, including legal aid, recreational activities, non-formal education, and counselling support.

Today, we focus on providing an integrated approach to education through educational and psychosocial support services for displaced young people to enhance their opportunities for personal development, academic growth, and independence. Our new Gekko educational centre in Athens, which we launched this past June, will offer access to quality personalized education and psychosocial support services for displaced young adults (15-24 years old) in a safe, trauma-informed, and dignified learning space.

Chronology of projects:

- The Olive Grove, 2015-2016: Moria Camp emergency response, sheltering, food & NFI distribution, medical aid.
- Community Support Program, 2015-Ongoing: Financial support for students.
- Elpida Home, 2016-2017: Recreational programming for adults and minors, info point, food and NFI distribution.
- Medical & Legal Intervention Project, Moria Camp, Lesvos, 2016-2017: Medical aid and legal info for vulnerable asylum-seeking adults.
- Gekko Kids, Lesvos 2017-2022: Non-formal educational programs.
- EcoHub, Lesvos, 2017-2020: Sustainable ecological garden with vocational training and ecological literacy for children and adults.
- TAPUAT, Lesvos 2017-2019: Non-formal educational programming, activities for minors, child protection, trauma support.
- Gekko X, Lesvos 2019-2020: STEAM curriculum, exhibitions, blended learning, e-learning.



- Central Triage Pharmacy, Moria Camp, Lesvos 2020: Medicine provision, Covid-19 response.
- Socrates, Lesvos 2019-2020: Sports and development, SEL pedagogy, football sessions, trauma support.
- Gekko, Athens 2023-Ongoing: Non-formal educational programs.

About Gekko

Gekko was conceived by Better Days on Lesvos in May 2017 to challenge existing models of education in emergencies by integrating high-quality education with mental health and psychosocial support services in a dignified, trauma-aware environment. Gekko operations in Lesvos reached optimal capacity in 2019-20 with 915 registered students and 452 psychosocial support sessions. Due to interconnected factors, including COVID-19, the fire that destroyed Moria camp, and the implementation of closed, securitized camps on the islands, we expanded our projects to mainland Greece.

Displaced young people in Athens are in need of services that lie at the heart of Gekko: trauma-aware psychosocial support integrated with high-quality, individualised education. Thus, Gekko in Athens was born. Our summer pilot program (50 students) launched in July 2023 and the full-scale project (120 students) in fall 2023. Gekko offers a safe learning environment for 15-24 year-olds who are experiencing displacement, and serves as a space where they can offload their troubles and fight for their dreams. We aim to reduce the barriers students face and pave the path to quality education and accreditation.

Working with Better Days

Better Days is a small and dynamic organisation looking to collaborate with people who are passionate about humanitarian work, understand its risks and complexities, and are interested in investing in their role long-term. We are a quality-driven organisation determined to provide grassroots, holistic and effective solutions to support the integration and de-victimization of displaced communities in Europe, focusing on refugee education and empowerment of youth.

Our colleagues come from all over the world, and our official Communication language is English. The ideal candidate will be inducted for two weeks and trained during the probation period. At the end of a third month's contract, the candidate is expected to participate in Better Days' Volunteers Survey and Self-Assessment which is part of their volunteer evaluation.



Main Responsibilities

- Raise awareness and promotion of BD services among participants.
- Support the provision of quality services facilitating communication between participants and BD staff by creating trusting relationships with both parties.
- Translate discussions/meetings upon request.
- Translate documents from/to project language upon request.
- Ensure confidentiality of all translations as directed by the Project.
- Support and cooperate with all BD departments when needed to facilitate effective communication.
- Maintain respect towards participants, collaborators, authorities, and BD staff participating in discussions at all times.

Requirements

- Languages: Arabic / Farsi / Urdu / French / Somali / Ukrainian.
- English and/or Greek is mandatory. Other languages (Dari, Pashto) are an asset.
- Secondary Education is essential.
- Previous volunteer experience is desirable (with BD or other NGOs).

How to Apply

To apply, send an email to volunteer@betterdays.ngo and include the following:

- CV and a motivation letter in English. Candidates who attach their CVs in any other language will not be considered.
- Availability dates.
- Let us know if you would like to be considered for other volunteer opportunities.

Due to excessive workload, only successful candidates who meet the minimum criteria will be contacted.

Applications closing date: (30/11/2023) or until the position is filled.

Better Days retains applicants' information and submitted documentation for 6 months. After this period, all data are deleted. For further information on how we handle personal data, please refer to the Better Days Privacy Policy, available at our website, or contact compliance@betterdays.ngo for further inquiries or requests.