



Administration
Report
2020



Contents	▪ Introduction	3
	▪ The Board of Administrators	4
	▪ Bangladesh	6
	▪ Yemen	8
	▪ Somalia	10
	▪ Malta	11
	▪ Safe and Legal Routes	13
	▪ Artist-in-Residence Kelly Be	13
	▪ Conclusion	14

Introduction

This Annual Report covers the period 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020.

The concept for MOAS was developed by Christopher and Regina Catrambone in 2013, when they became sensitized to the growing humanitarian crisis in the Mediterranean. Inspired by the words of Pope Francis, who urged entrepreneurs and private citizens to take action following the tragedy off Lampedusa in October 2013, the couple was motivated to intervene and contribute to dispelling what Pope Francis termed the 'globalisation of indifference' by finding a way to mitigate the loss of life at sea

On 24 January 2014, MOAS became the first privately funded Search and Rescue (SAR) organization in the Mediterranean, established with the express purpose of conducting SAR missions to serve migrants in distress at sea.

Since our inception, we are proud to have rescued and assisted over 40,000 people on the world's most dangerous migration routes and continue to advocate and lobby for the creation of safe and legal routes for vulnerable people in desperate need of international protection.

In September 2017, MOAS focused operations in South East Asia, where we began working to provide aid and medical care to forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals (FDMN) in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. By the end of 2018, 90,000 people had received care at our specialist field clinics known as Aid Stations.

During the same year, MOAS established our pilot Flood and Water Safety training course in Cox's Bazar. Following undeniable success, the Flood and Water safety program has continued to grow through 2018 and 2019, reaching more refugees in adjacent camps in addition to the local host population. Since 2018, MOAS has designed and manufactured international-standard rescue equipment to supply the trainees. 2019 also saw MOAS launch its first humanitarian campaign to Yemen. In response to the growing humanitarian crisis caused by protracted war, MOAS coordinated the delivery of vital aid for distribution by our in-country partners. Over 50 tonnes of specialised medical supplies and 120,000 Euros worth of paediatric nutritional aid was delivered in 2019.

In 2020, with the onset of the coronavirus pandemic at the beginning of the year, MOAS launched several COVID-19 humanitarian responses. In Bangladesh, we launched a face mask production initiative in which nearly 900,000 masks were made, whilst in Malta, we established a second mask production initiative and our remote learning project in order to ensure access to protective equipment and educational resources for migrants across the island. MOAS coordinated two more shipments of Ready-to-use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) and 70,000 euros worth of pharmaceutical aid to Yemen. This year, MOAS expanded its reach even further, as we coordinated our first ever shipment of humanitarian aid to Somalia, coordinating the delivery of 25 tonnes of RUTF to the country. Finally, in September of this year, MOAS resumed Flood and Water Safety Training in Bangladesh, which began to incorporate the local fishing community.

Today, MOAS is proud to be an international humanitarian organisation dedicated to providing aid and emergency medical relief to the world's migrant and refugee communities.

The Board of Administrators

During this period the administrators were:

- Christopher Catrambone
- Regina Egle Liotta Catrambone
- Charlot Bartolo

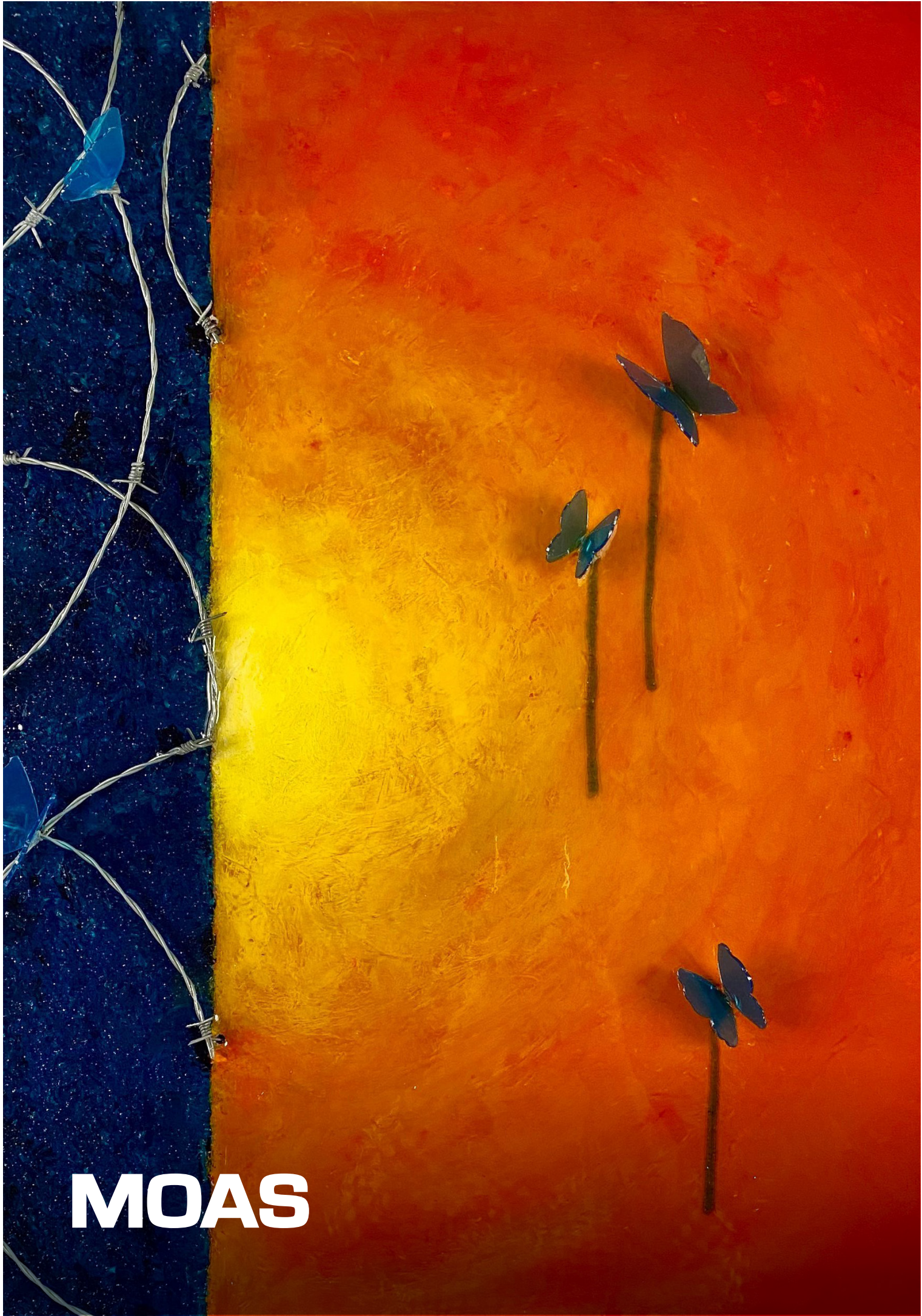
The Migrant Offshore Aid Station Foundation (VO/0939) was established by Christopher and Regina Catrambone on 24 January 2014. On 15 April 2014, MOAS subsequently was enrolled as a voluntary organisation governed by the Voluntary Organisations Act, Chapter 492 of the Laws of Malta (VO/0939). MOAS is also a registered charity in Italy, the UK, Germany and the US.

The purpose of MOAS, as recorded in its statute, is of “mitigating loss of life at sea and to endeavour to reduce human suffering generally through the deployment of maritime, aerial and other operations”.

Day to day running and management of the organisation is carried out by the MOAS Director, Regina Catrambone. Operations are carried out by MOAS’ team of qualified and professional humanitarian service providers and logisticians. A team of skilled professionals in the area of marketing, fundraising, communications and development run administrative and back of house aspects of the organisation.

The general affairs of MOAS are entrusted to ReSyH Ltd, the foundation’s administrator. The role of the administrator is, inter alia, to meet the objectives and purposes of the foundation in accordance with its statute and applicable law. The administrator serves on a voluntary basis and is not entitled to remuneration except for a reasonable honorarium that does not prejudice the fulfilment of the purposes of MOAS. During the 2020 period, the administrators had two private meetings. The administrator is assisted in the performance of its duties by a Board of Advisers, which is comprised of individuals who are appointed for a three-year period and serve on a voluntary basis. During the period the advisors had two additional meetings which the administrators also attend.





MOAS

MOAS in Bangladesh

Since September 2017 MOAS has been operating in South East Asia, where we initially set up specialist primary health centres to provide aid and medical care to forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals (FDMN) in Bangladesh. The FDMN are a minority Rohingya Muslim population from Rakhine State, Myanmar, who are denied citizenship, rendering them stateless. Since August 2017, targeted violence and human rights abuses have caused thousands of people to flee across the border into Bangladesh. By the end of November 2018, MOAS aid stations had assisted over 90,000 men, women and children. In 2019, MOAS launched our pilot Flood and Water Safety Training course in response to many of the camps in Cox's Bazar being prone to flooding, landslides and tidal surges during the monsoon season and the associated dangers.

In 2020, MOAS continued to support Rohingya refugees and host communities in Cox's Bazar. The year started off with great anticipation of plans to build on the success of our Flood and Water Safety Training in 2019 by expanding the project to incorporate the local fishing community. Unfortunately, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March caused the programme to be suspended. However, this did not stop our desire to assist the communities of the Cox's Bazar region, and MOAS decided to redirect capacity to contributing to the COVID-19 emergency response.

Since September 2017 MOAS has been operating in South East Asia, where we initially set up specialist primary health centres to provide aid and medical care.



Mask Project

One of the key preventative measures to combat the spread of coronavirus is social distancing, yet for the majority of people living in Cox's Bazar and the refugee camps, such a measure is incredibly hard to achieve, due the high density of people living there. As a result of this factor, MOAS established an initiative to make face masks for distribution across the region as a preventative measure to combat the spread of the virus. With support from IOM, we decided to repurpose our pre-existing workshop in the fishing village of Shamlapur; transforming it from a site intended for the manufacture of water safety equipment, into a production hub for the manufacture of reusable, washable cotton face masks.

A further benefit of the initiative is that it also served as a livelihoods project for local host community workers including local tailors, many of whom lost income due to the shutdown. In addition, we purchased all our materials for the production hub from local businesses to further support the host community during these uncertain times. Our original goal was to make 350,000 masks independently and a further 500,000 with other partners, however, thanks to the dedication of our fantastic team, we exceeded this figure and made an incredible total of 883,514.

Flood and Water Safety Training

In addition to the success of the Mask Making Project, in September, we were very excited to resume our Flood and Water Safety Training and instruct new volunteers to act as first responders in the event of water-related emergencies. This year's course facilitated the training of 700 Rohingya refugees and 860 host community members in Ukhia and Teknaf. We were also able to fulfil our plans of enhancing the training to the local fishing community. Through directly engaging with fishermen in the Teknaf Peninsula, an area where fishing is a vital livelihood and food source, MOAS provided a basic maritime safety and rescue course, known as Water Safety and Livelihood Practice, to them. This year's training equipped 800 fishermen with the necessary skills to perform rescues for anyone in distress at sea, be better prepared for emergency situations and work in increased safety.



MOAS in Yemen

Since the end of 2014 Yemen has been experiencing a bloody civil war which has had a devastating impact on the local population. The ongoing conflict has created the world's worst humanitarian crisis, causing over 24 million people to depend on humanitarian assistance. Political tensions make delivering aid to Yemen challenging. The destruction of vital infrastructure across the country has made access to basic facilities such as schools and hospitals all the more challenging. This destruction, along with a lack of access to medical care has resulted in a rise in diseases such as cholera and diphtheria, with over 10,000 suspected cases of cholera being reported every week in five of the most affected governorates in the country. In 2020, the combination of the pandemic along with a resurgence in fighting, decreased humanitarian funding and access, losses of income, hikes in food prices, and increased displacement, further exacerbated the already critical situation.

Since 2019, MOAS has been working with our partners at ADRA to deliver nutritional aid and medical supplies to the port of Aden. ADRA have since coordinated the distribution of these deliveries across local governorates.

Since the end of 2014 Yemen has been experiencing a bloody civil war which has had a devastating impact on the local population.



In 2020, we delivered over 50 tonnes of Ready-to-use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) Plumpy'Nut™, as well as a shipment of 70,000 euros worth of pharmaceutical aid to the port of Aden. The nutritional supplies were provided by our partner Edesia, a US-based nutrition company. The preventative nutrient supplements provided by Edesia were Nutriset's Plumpy'Nut™ which are specifically created for children six months or older who are at risk of developing acute malnutrition and provide all the essential nutrients required to prevent malnutrition in children whose diets are severely lacking – helping children to recover at home, rather than at difficult to access clinics. The treatment usually lasts between twelve to sixteen weeks, with one Plumpy'Nut™ sachet being distributed each day for every child. All of our aid deliveries are coordinated and distributed through the established health cluster and nutrition pipeline by our in-country partners, ADRA Yemen, who are taking care of distribution in the country.



MOAS in Somalia

In 2020, we expanded our reach even further, as we coordinated our first ever shipment of humanitarian aid to Somalia. The humanitarian crisis in Somalia is one of the most prolonged and complex in the world. For nearly three decades, pervasive conflict combined with intensifying natural hazards, including recurrent droughts, have led to critical food insecurity, poverty and displacement throughout the country. These continual disasters have resulted in widespread malnutrition, as well as the creation of over 2.6 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in their search for food, safety and humanitarian assistance. Food insecurity is rampant across Somalia, as there are approximately 4.5 million people at risk of acute food shortages, particularly among rural communities and displaced populations. The combination of the persistent insecurity caused by the conflict, prolonged climate-related disasters, and displacement has significantly restricted the ability of Somalis to support themselves economically. This has consequently led to extensive reliance on external assistance for survival, as more than 5.2 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance

2020 brought many further challenges which threatened to exacerbate the already fragile situation. In 2020, Somalia experienced the country's worst locust outbreak in 25 years, which posed "a major threat to Somalia's fragile food security situation", flooding that has displaced over 650,000 Somalis from their homes, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic. In response to the considerable need for humanitarian aid, in 2020, MOAS made the decision to expand our operations to contribute to this crisis.

Once again partnering with Edesia Nutrition, we successfully shipped 25 tonnes of the Ready-to-use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) Plumpy'Nut™ to the port of Mogadishu, Somalia. This delivery was coordinated and distributed through the established health nutrition pipeline by our in-country partners, International Medical Corps (IMC) Somalia, who are undertaking the distribution in the country. Considering that one in seven children under the age of five in Somalia are acutely malnourished, shipments such as this are vital to combating infant malnutrition and mortality in the country.



MOAS in Malta

Malta Masks Project

In Malta, the need for action to combat coronavirus-related challenges was also evident. The country is host to many asylum seekers and refugees, of which the majority reside in closed detention centres or in semi-accessible ‘open centres’ on the island. MOAS has worked with the Maltese government to help support the needs of these centres for many years, and in a measure akin to the project in Bangladesh, we established a mask production initiative. This operation was initiated as a result of fears that a rapid spread of the virus could occur within the centres, due to the overcrowded living conditions within them. In addition to providing preventative measures to the community, this project has also acted as a community solidarity initiative, with hundreds of volunteer seamstresses offering their skills and time.

We rallied together local tailors, seamstresses and any other willing volunteers to make homemade, reusable face masks. Our brilliant volunteers made an incredible 6,610 masks, which were then distributed to vulnerable groups all over the island. Then in August, in response to the endurance of the pandemic, we decided to initiate a second round of the project. Once again, the people of Malta demonstrated their community-spirit by getting back to their sewing machines and making a further 2,500 masks. The response to both rounds of the project was fantastic, and through the hard work, generosity and solidarity imparted to us by our volunteers, as well as several supporting local businesses, over 9,000 masks were made by more than 140 volunteers.



Remote Learning Project

In addition to the need for measures to combat the spread of the virus, ensuring access to education during this uncertain time was also a major concern. With the onset of the COVID-19 outbreak and enforcement of lockdown in Malta, several families living within the three open centres run by AWAS were experiencing difficulties in accessing remote learning resources on behalf of their children, due to a lack of access to electronic devices or an adequate internet connection. In response to this, we established our Malta Remote Learning Project with the aim to give these children access to remote education services through the purchase of technology for educational use. In total, we bought 40 tablets and modems with internet connections for families with school age children living in the centres.

Item distribution

We distributed tracksuits, shoes, blankets, hygiene kits, towels, t-shirts and more to AWAS for distribution in the reception centres. Many of these items were stock from our Mediterranean mission and some was purchased expressly to donate to AWAS when increasing new arrivals put unexpected pressure on their resources. In addition to this high calorie biscuits, soups and winter coats were donated to a local foodbank frequented by both migrant families and local vulnerable communities. This distribution program was a demonstration of support and solidarity between MOAS and other migrant-focused agencies on the island.

Mater Dei Hospital Visits

We also continued our project in the local hospital in Malta. This intervention is aimed at those who have been medically evacuated from rescue vessels and those who are sent straight to hospital following local disembarkations. We have been assisting by providing essential supplies, visiting regularly and acting as liaisons with other services.

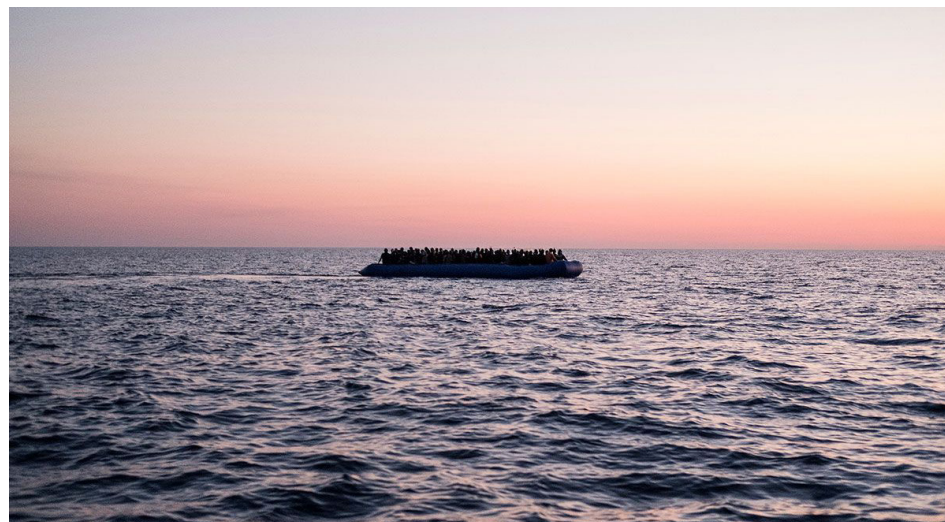
Christmas Donation

This year for Christmas, MOAS made a donation to the unaccompanied minors residing in the DIL and HTV centres in Malta that host young refugees and asylum-seekers under the age of 18, the majority of which are teenagers that arrived in Malta alone, without their parents, relatives or siblings. Thanks to coordination with AWAS and support from Betclic Group, MOAS delivered 150 books, 3 game consoles with controllers and videogames, 2 TVs, 10+ puzzles and several board games that will be used in the common areas of the centres, to help socialize, learn and have some fun, especially during challenging times like these. The donation also included 150 toiletry kits (shower gel, shampoo, towel, hand-wash antibacterial, toothbrush and toothpaste) as a gift for each individual hosted in the centres.

Safe and Legal Routes

2020 saw unparalleled restrictions on border controls which made it even more difficult for people fleeing poverty, persecution and conflict to access safety and protection.

Throughout the year, we continued campaigning for the implementation and expansion of safe and legal routes, calling for alternative pathways of migration in order to prevent migrants and refugees being mistreated and pushed to undertake perilous, irregular journeys.

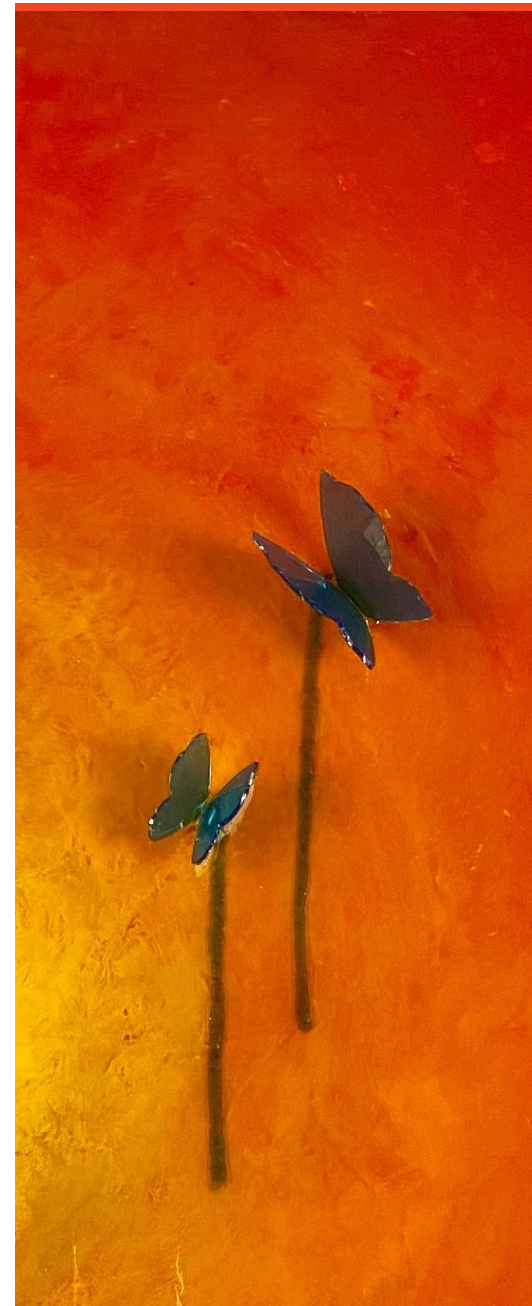


Artist-in-Residence Kelly Be

In conjunction with our mission to advocate the need for safe and legal alternative pathways for those forced to take dangerous journeys in search of safety, during the second half of 2020, we have been working with our first ever artist-in-residence, Kelly Be. Kelly created 12 unique pieces of artwork, collectively known as Kaleidoscope of Solidarity, which were inspired by our Safe and Legal Routes campaign and designed to advocate, educate and raise awareness. The pieces were made available for purchase on 1st December, Giving Tuesday 2020, with all proceeds from their sale going towards our missions to help vulnerable communities around the world.

Conclusion

MOAS is dedicated to continuing its operations in all areas. Throughout the next year, MOAS will continue to work to provide vital humanitarian services and aid to vulnerable communities across the world. It is MOAS' intention to continue the aid delivery project to Yemen and Somalia. We are dedicated to continuing our flood and water safety programming in Bangladesh, with a possible expansion to incorporate further groups that are vulnerable to drowning into our training. In Malta, we are aiming to expand our education-focused initiatives and integration projects in the open centres and wider migrant community. We will continue to advocate for alternative pathways of migration in order to prevent migrants and refugees being mistreated and pushed to undertake perilous, irregular journeys.





MOAS

(Migrant Offshore Aid Station)

54 Melita Street,
Valletta, VLT 1122,
Malta

MOAS is a charity registered in the
USA, Malta (VO 0930) and Germany