

# MOAS

# MAGAZINE

2021



**Disaster Risk  
Reduction** Fire Fighting  
in Refugee Camps

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**#MOASGala**  
Great Success for the  
First Fundraising Event

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Donations At Hand  
In The **New Moas  
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# MOAS

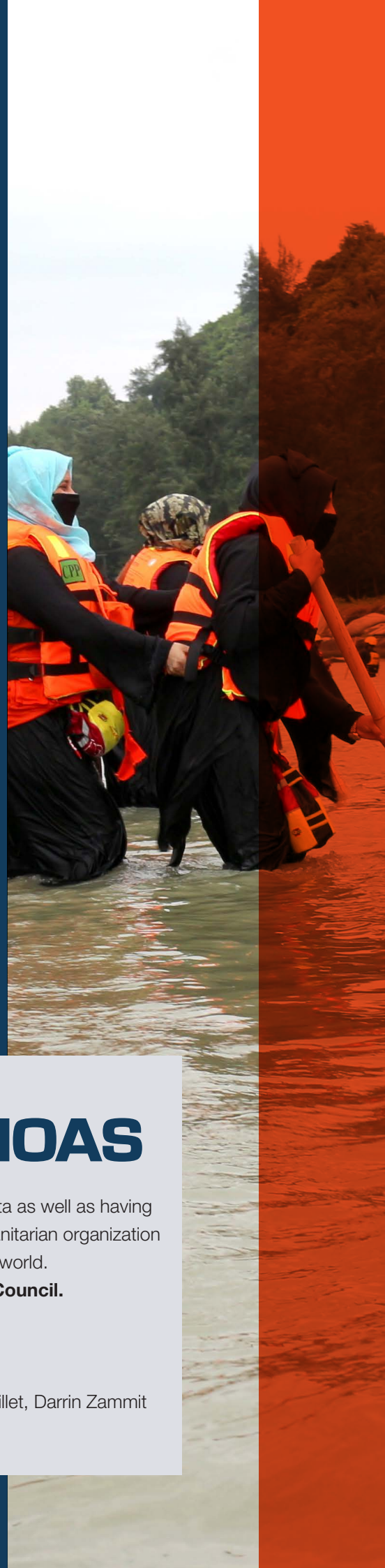
MOAS has been operational since 2014 and is registered in Italy, UK and Malta as well as having legal representation in Germany and the USA. MOAS is an international humanitarian organization created to mitigate human suffering and assist vulnerable communities in the world.

MOAS has **Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council.**

Member of the Malta Refugee Council.

MOAS Co-Founder & Director: Regina Egle Liotta Catrambone

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**In 2021, we saw a violent coup in Myanmar, the beginning of a new Israeli-Palestinian crisis and the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan by the Taliban. The toll of humanitarian crises in Syria, Yemen and Ethiopia continues to worsen as conflicts unfold. A lack of food and drinkable water, limited access to hospitals and widespread violence in these countries have made the lives of millions extremely difficult. Moreover, people forced to leave their countries due to adverse climatic events, and continued reverberations of the Covid-19 pandemic globally, have stretched humanitarian capacities. Despite scientific progress, all states are impacted by the ongoing pandemic but developing countries have had unequal access to vaccines. This clearly worsens the global humanitarian context.**

For MOAS, the past year has been a challenging period, yet we have implemented several projects to support the most vulnerable communities worldwide.

MOAS Flood and Water Safety Training has continued in 2021 and we saw the training of 1,158 refugees and 356 representatives of host community members through our Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) outreach. Our training focused on flood prevention, safety measures, and rescue techniques in the event of floods or water related disasters. Our team has also implemented

an innovative fire project focused on Disaster Risk Reduction, safety and fire response. This is in response to the increasing number of fires in overcrowded refugee camps.

In Yemen and Somalia, thanks to the continuous support of our donors and partners, we have been able to successfully ship and distribute over 130 tons of medicine and therapeutic foods to treat malnutrition. 2021 also saw us establish a brand-new partnership in Syria, that will allow us to provide nutritional aid to Syrian hospitals in the Raqqa region starting in 2022.

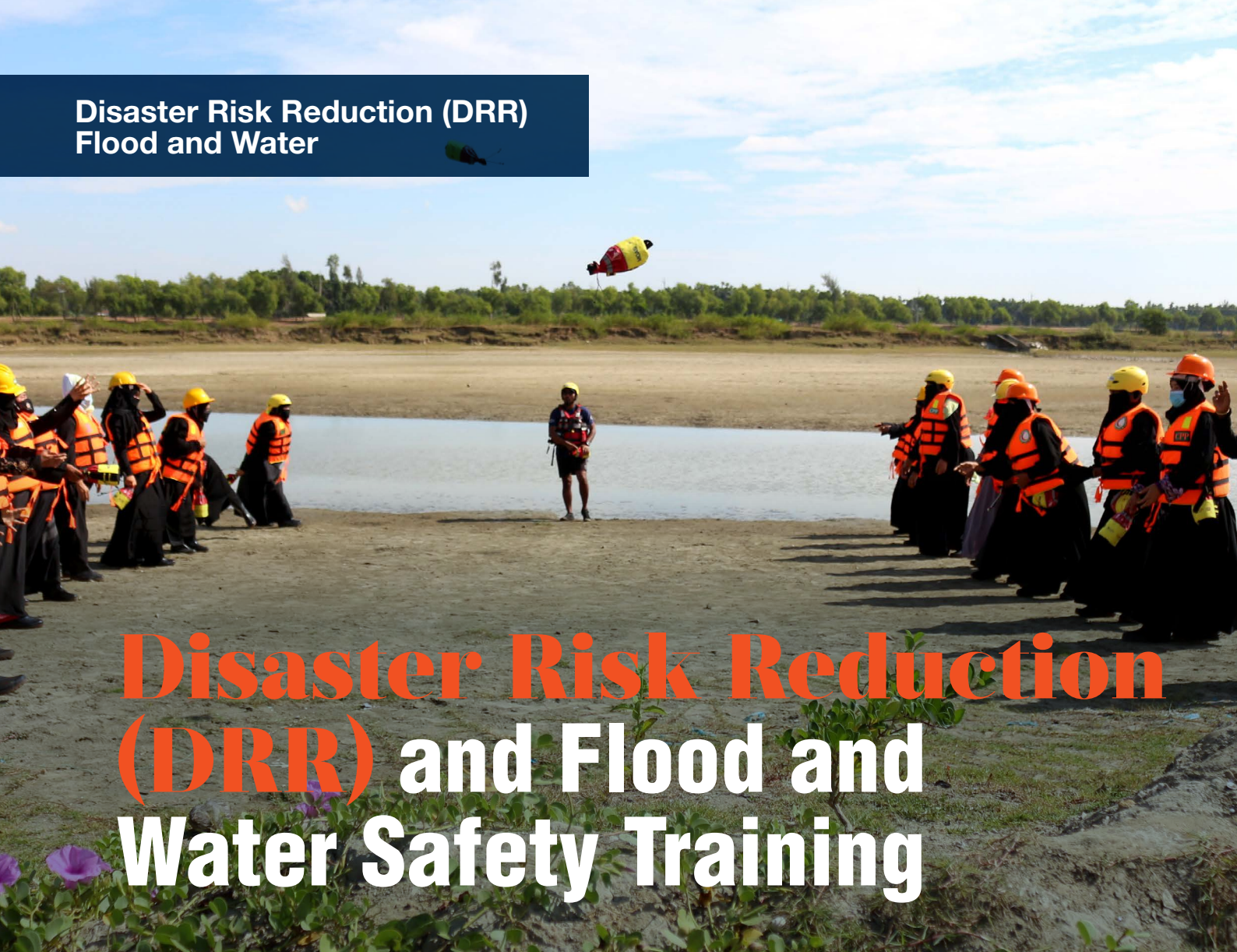
In Malta, we continued to support migrant and refugee communities. Our Remote Learning Project helped young students continue their education while living in the migrant Open Centres. Our Family Hosting project supported the integration of migrants in Malta. This initiative focused on supporting migrants to gain autonomy and independence, while also having a Maltese support network to help them through their educational journey. We also continued to carry out hospital visits to migrants seeking medical support. In the coming months, we will also be opening learning facilities at the Open Centres on the island.

The #SafeAndLegalRoutes advocacy campaign is a fundamental part of MOAS' work, and we continue to advocate for their immediate implementation. In this difficult period, where the effects of the pandemic add to the difficulties faced by migrants, MOAS continues to advocate for such action. The humanitarian crises of the past year will continue to present their challenges in 2022. This year we are committed to providing aid and logistical expertise to support vulnerable communities. Our strength is our community.

*Enjoy the reading!*

Regina





# Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Flood and Water Safety Training

**Climate change and extreme weather events, such as flooding, cause devastation and deaths in refugee camps and areas of crisis worldwide.**

In low lying refugee camps, infrastructure is often vulnerable to rising water levels. In Bangladesh, 17,000 children are already lost to drowning every year, and in refugee camps the risks are compounded. In 2021, the UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/75/273 declared 25th July the World Drowning Prevention Day, this was a global advocacy event to highlight the tragic and profound impact of drowning on families and communities, and to offer preventative life-saving solutions. In response to the high numbers of water-related deaths, MOAS has been working within the framework of Disaster Risk Reduction since 2019, providing technical expertise and support to local partners for the delivery of unique and innovative Flood and Water Safety Training. MOAS' team provides also equipment to both volunteer

responders from the refugee communities and from local host communities. This training creates resilience against water-related risks, but also supports self-development, not only by providing volunteers with skills and equipment but also by improving leadership and teamwork practices. These programs also provide livelihoods to local tailors who make the safety equipment and receive up-skilling as part of the project.

This year, through our incredible global partners, MOAS has facilitated and supported the training of over 1,158 refugees and 356 host community representatives with each person has received a MOAS-designed and locally-made throwbag. Women are extremely important agents for change. They play a significant role in disaster response and recovery stages. However, in refugee camps their roles in organisational decision-making have often been neglected, particularly in disaster risk governance. This has created equity issues among





the most disaster-affected communities, as women offer unique perspectives and guidance when given the space to share their knowledge and skills. MOAS prioritises the inclusion of women in flood and water safety training, so that they can be key agents in disaster recovery, and they can gain transferrable leadership-training.

Drowning is the second leading cause of childhood injury-related deaths worldwide and the most common cause of injury-related deaths among children under 5 years old. Considering the exposure to drowning risks in refugee camps, there is a crucial need to design and implement a drowning

## HOW DOES THE TRAINING WORK?

The training is designed to enhance the safety of community members and help them respond to the risks posed by flooding and disasters.

After a theory lesson in the classroom, volunteers start practical training on land and in water, they learn how to properly prepare for rapid flooding and practice response techniques.

Volunteers are taught how to use a throwbag and bottle ring, and they learn launch techniques on dry land.

Individual volunteers and teams wade through water using a pole, to identify hidden hazards. They also learn wading in line, to cross a river quickly and safely, and how to use a throw bag in the water and rescue a person by pulling the throwbag.

With the safety boat, volunteers learn rescue techniques if someone is found unconscious in the water. Boats can also evacuate families from flooded properties and move essential equipment.

prevention programme specifically suited to the environment and population of the refugee camps. MOAS continues to advocate for expanded Disaster Risk Reduction services, to ensure drowning risk can be reduced. Given the different risks associated with age groups, and the importance of the wider community's awareness and rescue skills, we will continue to provide a holistic approach to Flood and Water Safety training and drowning prevention. Flooding preparedness and water response is a priority for MOAS, to mitigate risk and save lives.



## MOAS Report on Children Drowning in Rohingya Refugee Camps

A Rohingya refugee child dies by drowning almost every month in Bangladesh's over-crowded camps, according to recent findings by MOAS. Our report "Investigating fatal childhood drowning incidents in the Cox's Bazar refugee camps 2021" found that at least 20 children have lost their lives in drowning accidents in the refugee camps in Cox's Bazar over the past two years.

The main factors that impact drowning risk in the camps are high levels of rainfall, daylight hours, lack of supervision for children, and occurrence of collected water at the sites. Fatal drowning incidents among children under 5 usually occur if they are exposed to collected water sites (ponds and puddles) whilst caregivers are occupied with household duties. The age of the victims ranged from 2 to 17 years old. Fourteen (70%) of the victims were male and six (30%) were female. Six (30%) of the fatalities recorded were children under 5 and fourteen (70%) fatalities were school age children (between 5 and 17 years old). Twelve (60%) of these fatalities occurred in ponds, three (15%) in canals, two (10%) in a deep man-made hole that had accumulated rain, and one (5%) each in a lake, reservoir and water bucket.



## Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)



# Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Fire Fighting in Refugee Camps

**Fire risk represents a clear and present danger to refugee and displaced persons, and emergency operations worldwide. Together with monsoon flooding, fires are one of the most dangerous threats to infrastructure and security in refugee camps.**

In Bangladesh, for instance, an analysis report from Cox's Bazar Site Management Sector announced that a total of 172 fire-related events occurred in the camps from May 2018 to February 2021. Seven of these incidences occurred in 2021. These fires have affected tens of thousands of individuals and destroyed infrastructure. Thousands of shelters and core support facilities like health clinics, distribution points, and learning centers have become in-operational. Camp infrastructures are often largely constructed from closely packed, flimsy tarpaulin shelters which makes it extremely easy for fire to spread, particularly during the dry and hot season. Considering the materials used in shelter

construction, any fires breaking out in the camps can behave like wildfire: they can progress rapidly from structure to structure through the densely packed camp. The widespread use of liquid petroleum gas (LPG) for cooking has further compounded this issue.





Often, the remoteness of refugee camps and their cramped layout, with extremely narrow passageways, can make access for Firefighting units extremely time consuming and difficult with large fire engines. Furthermore, while sand buckets can be useful for extinguishing smaller fires, once a blaze gains traction there is little that can be done to control it under the current system.

Given the predictable and inevitable nature of the fire threat and the deadly impact it can have on lives and livelihoods, it is imperative to take action to identify gaps and improve fire response capacity. In 2021, MOAS conducted a pilot programme with support from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), World Food Programme (WFP), and implementing partner Helvetas, to identify effective prototypes for fire preparedness and first response.

Building on this, MOAS technical experts established a new project for Fire Fighting which harnesses innovative solutions to address the life-threatening dangers posed by fires in over-crowded camps. This project aims to facilitate the full implementation of a unique fire response system, that can increase the efficiency and effectiveness of response teams in refugee camps. This would include the large-scale production of mobile, rapidly deployable, and easily operated Mobile Firefighting Units (MFUs) suitable for use within the camps. The second step of the project is the training of Safety Unit Volunteers on the safe and effective operation of MFUs. The training also focuses on fire prevention, response and the maintenance of equipment. The goal is to maximize the interoperability of the prototypes envisaged in



the pilot project and the existing response systems, including capacity strengthening, where appropriate.

MOAS hopes the solutions it identifies for improvements and addressing gaps in fire-fighting methods and training can contribute to building effective fire-fighting infrastructure in displacement camp settings worldwide, and save lives.

## HOW DOES THE FIRE SAFETY TRAINING WORK?

MOAS will be deploying easily transportable Mobile Firefighting Units, whilst MOAS' technical experts train volunteers in fire response.

The Mobile Fire Units are three-wheeler vehicles equipped with a water pump system.

During the exercises, volunteers learn how to stop the fire from spreading and extinguish it.

They also learn techniques to use the equipment efficiently, which reduces their exposure to the fire and enhances the overall response.

The Mobile Fire Units will be distributed to help build capacity for the response teams in the refugee camps.





#MISSIONOFHOPE



YEMEN

MOAS' #MissionOfHope





Following six years of conflict, Yemen remains the world's worst humanitarian crisis. There are over **21 million people** in need of humanitarian assistance. In 2021, the already dramatic humanitarian situation has been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic, heavy rains and flooding, and escalating violence between the warring parties. The combination of these factors has resulted in extremely high levels of food insecurity and acute malnutrition in the overall Yemeni population, especially in children.

## What is Plumpy'Nut®?

Peanut-based Plumpy'Nut® is based on a formulation of F-100 milk and complies with the World Health Organization's definition of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF). The RUTF is provided by Edesia, who partner with MOAS on this life-saving initiative. The product treats Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) in children 6 months or older. The treatment, which has an average duration of 6-10 weeks, is based on a simple fortified peanut butter recipe, and is a powerful tool to save children's lives. Peanut allergies are nearly non-existent in the majority world, so there's little risk of an allergic reaction. Invented by a French pediatrician, Plumpy'Nut® can last without refrigeration for up to 2 years and is very easy to use, since it doesn't need water to be consumed. Medical staff can provide parents with a two-week supply that can easily be administered to the children at home, with no need for hospitalisation.



## Food Crisis in Yemen

Over 16.2 million people were hungry last year in Yemen (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Phase 3 or higher). 5 million people faced emergency conditions and nearly 50,000 were experiencing catastrophic conditions. Up to 2.25 million children aged 0 to 5 years old and more than 1 million pregnant women suffered from acute malnutrition in 2021. Additionally, over 15.4 million people required support to access their basic water and sanitation needs, of whom 8.7 million were already in acute need. These are not just statistics, but human beings facing terrible conditions, they needed humanitarian assistance to survive.

Since 2018, MOAS has been working tirelessly to deliver humanitarian aid to Yemen. Throughout 2021, MOAS has been able to deliver three containers of nutritional supplements containing @PlumpyNut and @PlumpySup. These Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF), based on a simple fortified peanut butter recipe, are provided by our partner Edesia. The 130 tons of nutritional supplements we provided have been distributed by our in-country partner, Adra Yemen, to children on the brink of starvation. In addition, this year MOAS has shipped an additional container of supportive pharmaceuticals provided by our partner Medeor.

The 92-gram, 500-kilocalorie supplement nourishes the body and provides each child with life-saving nutrition. 4,275 children enrolled in the Yemen outpatient therapeutic program, they received these supplements to combat malnutrition, and they continue to recover and gain weight thanks to Plumpy'Nut®. 11-month-old Amlak, 9-month-old Khaled and 10-month-old Rahima are just some of the children whose lives have been saved by this unique treatment.

# SOMALIA

## – MOAS

As a result of continued armed conflict and political tensions, flooding, droughts, climate shocks, and a recent desert locust infestation, the humanitarian situation in Somalia remains extremely fragile, with devastating effects on the population. In 2021, 5.9 million people across Somalia needed humanitarian support.

Since early 2020, MOAS has been working in partnership with the International Medical Corps (IMC) Somalia and Edesia to provide integrated interventions for nutritional aid.



### Testimonial from **Jamila**

Jamila is a 22 years mother of five from Somalia's South West State. Since the outbreak of the pandemic, Jamila's husband lost his job and she saw her salary reduced: this meant that her young family could only afford one or two meals a day, rather than the three meals they were previously able to source.

As she was suffering from moderate acute malnutrition, Jamila received assistance from the IMC staff in-country and received a total of 90 sachets of Plumpy'Sup®. After three months' treatment, Jamila fully recovered.





## Testimonial from Hawo and Nurta

Hawo is a 29 years-old Somali woman who, after having lost her job, was no longer able to provide her family three daily meals. Her youngest child, Nurta, fell sick, she 'was unwell and was losing weight'; she was suffering from moderate acute malnutrition and diarrhea. The IMC staff provided the family with Plumpy'Sup® and, after two months, she fully recovered.

**Naomi Mwikali, Nutrition  
Coordinator of International  
Medical Corps' Somalia:**

*"International Medical Corps is grateful to Edesia and MOAS for the support that makes it possible for our teams to provide nutrition and healthcare services in Somalia, and we look forward to your continued support of our mission".*

# FOOD INSECURITY IN SOMALIA

## Insights From International Medical Corps Somalia

Interview with Naomi Mwikali,  
Nutrition Coordinator of  
International Medical Corps'  
Somalia mission.

### **What are the main causes of food insecurity in Somalia?**

Naomi Mwikali: Somalia is a country where complex humanitarian situations have existed for decades, but the leading cause of food insecurity at present is rising food prices due to a combination of COVID-19, droughts, floods, locust invasions and disease. There are particular challenges relating to women and children. For example, in Somalia, just 21% of children below six months are exclusively breastfed, and only 11% of children are able to access a minimally acceptable diet. Accessing clean water is another concern. For mothers, the stresses of forced displacement, family and other tensions can contribute to mental health problems. This can exacerbate food insecurity in the home because if the primary caretaker is not able to provide food, there will be a general reduction in food intake for the whole family.

### **What do deliveries of food and therapy foods, such as those provided by MOAS and International Medical Corps, mean for communities in crisis today?**

NM: Funding is always an issue, and funding gaps mean that we cannot always meet the needs of the communities we serve. The donation of supplies means a lot—Edesia and MOAS donations help us support children when they are moderately malnourished, meaning fewer children will go on to suffer from severe malnutrition, and even fewer will die. Transportation costs are very high in Somalia as we are forced to use air transport because of security issues. Therefore, when MOAS sends us supplies, it ensures we can respond to many emergencies without the added burden of transportation costs. It is for this reason that MOAS' assistance is truly essential in our work.

# GREAT SUCCESS FOR THE 1ST FUNDRAISING #MOASGala Event



MOAS / All rights reserved

**The unique night of  
entertainment and fashion  
raised funds to help  
vulnerable communities in  
Malta and around the world.**

On the evening of Friday 12th November, at the Phoenicia Grand Ballroom in Floriana, the Migrant Offshore Aid Station (MOAS) hosted its first Fundraising #MOASGala to celebrate 7 tireless years of implementing humanitarian projects around the world and building global solidarity. The exclusive fashion night-out, coordinated by Maria Luisa Catrambone, was co-hosted by Dr. Joanna Delia, the fashion designer Luke Azzopardi, and the singer-



songwriter Alexandra Alden, whose contribution to the success of the event was invaluable.

The #MOASGala was a nexus of fashion, art and fine food, where guests had the chance to meet and build a unified community to help those who are most marginalised in society. The success of the evening was cemented by the contributions of the gala guests, who have already played an essential role in supporting MOAS missions in Malta and around the world.

All the funds raised from the gala will support MOAS' global humanitarian projects which focus on resilience building and supporting communities in crisis in Malta, Bangladesh, Yemen, Somalia, Syria and more. In addition to Alexandra Alden's musical performance, the event also included a raffle and guests were able to take home exclusive mementoes from the evening. These include an exquisite piece of art by Austin Camilleri, a Maltese contemporary artist working in installation, painting, sculptures and drawing. Meanwhile, gallerist Christine Xuereb Seidu exhibited a selection of paintings by the Ethiopian artist Dawir Adnew.




**Regina  
Catrambone,**  
MOAS co-founder and  
director, **says:**

“We are incredibly grateful for the success of this fantastic event to help us fund our vital support to children, women and men in need of humanitarian support. On behalf of my family, I wish to thank the co-hosts, sponsors, and guests who made this gala such a success. After two challenging years caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, it is now time to rise and unite in supporting the most fragile and vulnerable move toward a better and more hopeful future. We have a responsibility to take care of each other. The business world should cooperate with the humanitarian sector. The individual should act as part of the collective. “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together” – says an African proverb, and I hope that after this event we can start a journey together toward the goal of helping the people in need of assistance that we meet along the way. Let’s build a more inclusive and supportive humanitarian community together”.

The event was sponsored by: **The Phoenicia Malta, People & Skin, Luke Azzopardi Studio, Alistair Floral Design, Alexandra Alden & Band, Olympus Music, CamilleriParisMode.**





On 18th December 2021, we celebrated the World Day of Migrants proclaimed by the General Assembly of the United Nations with Resolution 55/93. The day reflects the approval of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their families, which occurred 18th December 1990.

# Protection of the Rights of **ALL MIGRANT WORKERS**

*By Regina Catrambone*



In 1972, 28 workers from Mali, Africa, were killed when their transport truck crashed in the Mont Blanc Tunnel. The workers had been crammed inside the truck attempting to reach France, no-one survived the crash. While this tragedy was nearly 50 years ago, we are still today bearing witness to such tragedies as people attempt to reach safety, which is made extremely difficult by a lack of safe and legal pathways.

At the time, the incident generated widespread media coverage and the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) adopted a resolution calling on the Commission on Human Rights to tackle the problems faced by migrant workers. It was not until 1990 that the Convention for the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families was reached, and it didn't come into force until 2003 following Guatemala's ratification. The Convention today has only 56 signatories out of 195 countries in the world, and these are largely countries of origin in terms of migration flows.

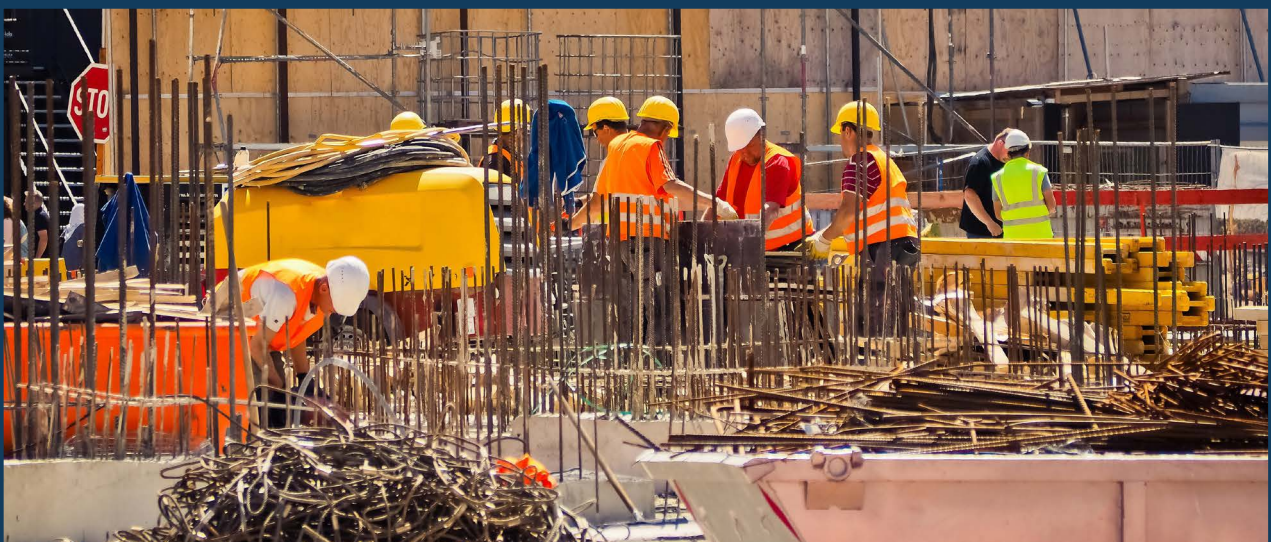
Unfortunately, many countries have not yet signed it. This is a very serious shortcoming as the convention aims to ensure migrant workers are treated equally, with the same working conditions as the citizens of the acceding State. This is a minimum level of protection combining respect for fundamental human rights and the rights of migrant workers.

The Convention is also devoted to combating the trafficking of illegal workers, including the

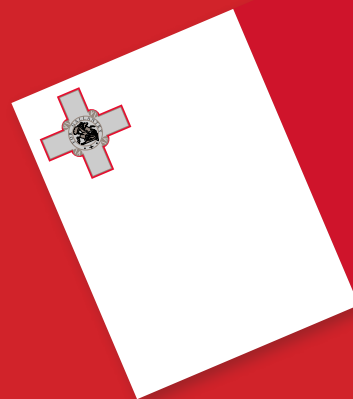
falsification of documents that facilitates irregular migration, by introducing sanctions to combat traffickers and employers who illegally employ migrant workers.

Almost all European and Western States, including the UK and Malta, have not signed the convention. The exploitation of migrant workers and illegal hiring in these countries is rife and growing across many industries. Due to structural inequalities, strict controls on the labor market and a lack of protection for those exploited in the industries, many workers are forced to suffer undignified treatment and grueling shifts for wages below the minimum threshold. Men and women are subjected to pseudo-slavery regimes, physically and psychologically harassed by their employers, without the possibility of having the right to access amnesty.

Yet, the labor contribution of migrants is indispensable and will become increasingly so in the coming years. We should ensure that such contributions to our society are met with a guarantee of protected rights and inclusive attitudes towards migrants. It is necessary that all Western States adopt the principles and guarantees introduced by the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, recognizing the equal treatment of every worker and the importance of this cultural exchange.



# MOAS projects in Malta



**In Malta, MOAS has been committed to supporting the migrant and refugee communities present on the island by providing assistance and support based on individual needs. We run several different projects ranging from education and personal development initiatives, sport and wellbeing to English language classes.**

One of the major projects on the island is the provision of **Information and Learning Centres** in the migrant centres at Hal Far. This project sees MOAS establishing multifunctional learning spaces at the Open Centres. The curation of these centres has been guided by beneficiary needs. MOAS conducted interviews with migrants and NGOs to establish the key services that would be beneficial at the centres. These will be fully operational in 2022, our hope is for these learning centers to be equipped with educational resources such as computers, books and other learning tools and the center's residents will have access to educational opportunities, training and vocational activities, CV writing workshops, job support and more.

MOAS has delivered a **Remote Learning Initiative** in Malta. This project provides tablets and modems to migrant families to help children and full-time adult learners keep up with their studies. In 2021, MOAS has managed a portfolio of these remote learning packs and we hope to deliver more in the coming year.







On the island, MOAS has provided an **‘English for Beginners’** course to residents at some of the transitional housing centers: this course is adapted according to the needs of the asylum seeker beneficiaries and the aim is to build confidence listening to and speaking English. The lessons, which focus primarily on conversational English, both boost the participants capacity to integrate into the local community and better access community resources. English language acquisition can be vital for participants to access better employment and build connections in the community. Ultimately, English classes play a vital role in the holistic well-being of refugees and the societies who welcome them.



MOAS has continued to provide support to migrants with complex health needs on the island. We organised **Hospital Visits** to migrants receiving treatment, to ensure they felt supported and had access to services; we also provided them with care-packages to support them through recovery. We have helped co-ordinate at home care for individuals who need additional support once they return home after treatment.

The MOAS’ **Family Hosting Project** was a new initiative in 2021. The aim of this pilot project was for MOAS to match migrants with Maltese families, so that they had access to holistic support while continuing their education. This is a unique process of integration that focuses on cultural exchange and building connections through participation. Our projects focus on supporting beneficiaries to gain autonomy and continue their education and make concrete plans for their future. We want participants to be able to actively contribute in society and use the skills and connections they develop through our projects, to facilitate their growth and self-sufficiency within a new social setting.





# Family Hosting,

a pilot project of  
integration and  
solidarity in Malta

**In 2021, MOAS launched the Family Hosting Project, an innovative initiative where families residing in Malta could welcome migrants into their homes.**

The pilot project was initiated by MOAS to overcome the difficulties encountered by refugees and asylum seekers in Malta, in finding accommodation and accessing support. We aim to facilitate long-term integration and inclusion, and support the development and independence of migrants within the local community. Government reception centres have limited capacity with a maximum stay of one year. After this time, former residents often face a difficult





and restricted rental market, with little financial support or assistance for integration. This, coupled with growing xenophobia, represents a particularly challenging obstacle for those who wish to study in Malta as they will likely not have access to adequate financial or housing support.

Several Maltese families have expressed a desire to offer their support to refugees through private sponsorship and housing solutions. The Family Hosting Project was born precisely to connect these realities: MOAS provides assistance and mentoring to interested families and to participants in the family reception project. In devising this initiative, MOAS drew inspiration from similar projects that have been launched in Italy and the United Kingdom, such as the Italian Caritas “Refugee in my home”.

The project recently ended its pilot phase: a young family with two children residing in Valletta had been hosting Samuel, a 21-year-old asylum seeker from South Sudan, for a year. Samuel lived at home as a full-fledged member of the family, receiving room and board, and in this way, he had the opportunity to engage in his study and fulfil his dream of becoming a doctor. In exchange for hospitality, Samuel helped the family with daily tasks and collaborated as a volunteer with MOAS for projects on the island. MOAS conducted regular monitoring meetings with both the host family and Samuel, to provide support, guidance and mediation as needed, and to evaluate how the project was progressing.

**Regina Catrambone, co-founder and director of MOAS, says:**

*“With this project, MOAS wants to facilitate long-term integration and inclusion and support the development and independence of migrants within the local community. Welcoming a refugee person at home is the right way towards a more open and inclusive society, a way to overcome prejudices and mistrust. Finding a host family for migrants is an important step on the path towards autonomy, because it helps them feel part of a community and invest in a long-term life project. An enrichment always arises from the encounter between two often distant worlds, both from a human and cultural point of view “.*

”

**A comment from Joanna and Henry, the hosting family, about their experience in the MOAS Family Hosting Project.**

***How did participation in this project impact your family?***

Sam is a young man with big dreams and a lot of exposure to unfair forces in this world. He was a great big brother to our children, Leila and Peppi, playing football for hours a day, learning Maltese together with them. To live with a person that has gone through so much... and learn of the extraordinary overwhelming intensity of his journey to Malta. A person who has had to flee his home, live in a camp for internally displaced people, and to have made that journey, lasting one year and seven months, as a teenager all to look for a safe place to study, is eye opening, humbling, and exposes our privilege and how desensitized we have become as a society. We became more deeply aware of how wonderfully hospitable our neighbours, friends and family are, and of how kind and warm hearted most people are even though a small amount of people spew hatred on social media intended to hurt and scare people innocently seeking a better life, never bothering to understand what desperation led to them risking everything in search of a better future.

***What are your fondest memories of this experience together?***

Many long conversations where we learnt more about South Sudanese history and culture will remain ingrained in my memory forever. Sudan has more pyramids than Egypt, and phenomenal architecture and an interesting history. It's turbulent recent history with a fight for independence that left up to a third of its population dead, as well as the tribal warfare that ensued which even saw Sam's father killed and resulted in the displacement of so many people is a tragic reminder of why so many persons flee. While living with us, Sam discovered many new things. We discussed books, and new culinary discoveries, but possibly the best memories will be his hours of playing football with Peppi!

***What have you gained from this experience?***

I think the local community in Malta needs to understand and admit that we all need to work together. And that communication and compassion are key to a healthy society. Seeing how comments on social media were used to hurt Sam was painful. I wish we could do more to curb hate speech as individuals. And I wish the authorities would process asylum applications within stipulated time frames as dictated by human rights charters. As this is a constant source of anxiety for many.

# DONATIONS AT HAND IN THE NEW MOAS APP

**MOAS launches the MOAS.eu app so that users can find out more about our initiatives around the world and make a donation to support marginalised communities.**

MOAS is proud to announce the release of its brand-new app MOAS.eu. The ultimate way to discover MOAS' missions around the world and make a donation to support the most vulnerable communities in areas of crisis.

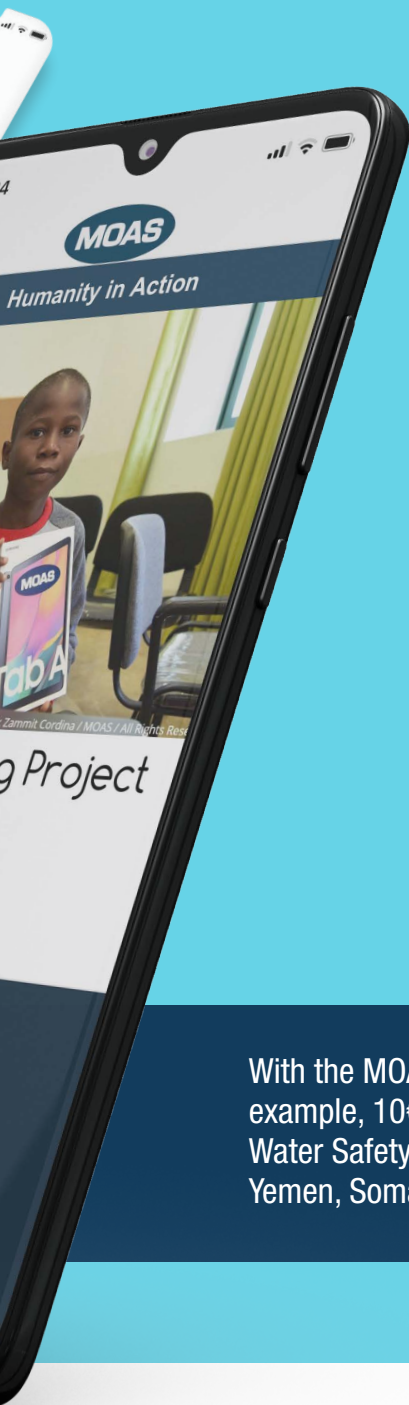
Both simple and intuitive, the app features a Project section dedicated to giving users all the most up-to-date information about what we do and the people we support. The MOAS "donate" button allows users to provide immediate support and actively contribute to bringing vital aid to families, children and displaced people in need.

The Advocacy section is ideal to join the global campaign for #SeAndLegalRoutes and sign the petition for the implementation of safe and legal means of migration, so that vulnerable people do not have to risk their lives in search of safety.

The MOAS app user interface is very friendly and easy to navigate. It provides users with the opportunity to read MOAS' latest news and stay up to date with MOAS initiatives with just a simple tap. Through the Community section, it is possible to share comments, photos, ideas and join a group of supporters that want to make a difference.







## THE USER CAN:

- Learn about MOAS' projects around the world and find information about each one
- Access the MOAS blog and articles about migration, humanitarian trends and development initiatives
- Access the Photo section and share their experiences in the Community section
- Make a donation to support a project. The mobile app allows donors to choose the project that ignites their hearts to support.
- Access and explore our social media channels and become a follower
- Read and sign the appeal for the implementation of #SafeAndLegalRoutes of migration

With the MOAS app, giving is as simple as tapping a button on the mobile phone. As an example, 10€ will buy a life-saving throw-bag, a vital piece of equipment for the Flood and Water Safety Training. 37€ provides a malnutrition treatment for one undernourished child in Yemen, Somalia or Syria. But any donation counts, no matter how small or big.



Available on the App Store and  
Google Play

**Maria Luisa Catrambone, MOAS  
Spokesperson and creator of the app, states:**

*"We at MOAS believe that technology can help good causes. Through the MOAS.eu app our supporters can donate quickly, easily and securely and become part of the MOAS community. The app is designed to have all the information relating to MOAS activities at your fingertips, in a simple and clear way. It is therefore also a way to maintain a constant link with our supporters and people interested in contributing to the humanitarian causes we deal with".*

”

# DURING COVID-19, MOAS DELIVERED REUSABLE, SUSTAINABLE FACEMASKS FOR THE

## #MOASMASKSMALTA PROJECT

**The MOAS face mask project distributed nearly 10,000 masks to help migrants and other vulnerable people in Malta during the Covid-19 pandemic.**

Since the beginning of the pandemic, 10,000 masks have been delivered through the MOAS face-mask project. 6,610 masks were distributed in 2020, while more than 2,500 were delivered in 2021.

The MOAS initiative was supported by local businesses, humanitarian organisations and local volunteers, including fashion designer Luke Azzopardi, who generously created a mask-making video tutorial for the volunteer team. The Maltese taxi company, eCabs, also distributed the materials and helped collect home-made masks from the volunteers' houses during lockdown.

Praising the extraordinary response to the project, and thanking the 140 volunteers who have generously donated their time, talent and support, **Regina Catrambone, MOAS co-founder and director, said:**

*"This project goes beyond providing protective masks. It also sends a strong message of solidarity to vulnerable people, refugees and asylum seekers in Malta. The support received from the Maltese community demonstrates that even in these challenging times, people here recognize the importance of providing support and help for all who face extreme difficulties".*

”







MOAS

Every  
life  
matters.  
DONATE NOW MOAS.EU

Masks are an indispensable and protective measure required to slow down and prevent the spread of COVID-19 among migrants in reception centers and other people in need in Malta. The latest batch - of which over 1600 are designed for adults and 282 for children - was delivered by MOAS to AWAS - the government agency responsible for the well-being of asylum seekers on Malta. All masks were environmentally friendly. They were made of washable and reusable cotton and used a triple layer of fabric for greater protective effectiveness.



**Regina Catrambone, MOAS co-founder and director, stated:**

*“Since 2020, MOAS has been contributing to the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic with several projects in Malta. We are very grateful to all the donors and the volunteers that contributed their efforts to the making of about 10,000 reusable masks so far. MOAS acts for the greater benefit of the Maltese people and of the communities most in need, including migrants, and is committed to offer support in any possible way. In difficult times like these, showing solidarity is paramount, because staying unified and helping each other is the only way we can beat this virus.”*

”

**SUPPORTING  
MOAS THROUGH  
SOCIAL MEDIA**

Our social media channels have become an essential tool to tell our story, present our initiatives, engage with our audience and – hopefully – inspire people.

The most simple way to fundraise is on social media. Supporters can simply add donation stickers to the Instagram stories as a quick and easy way to get friends involved in our campaigns. It is also possible to donate via our Facebook platform on the donate button or start a fundraiser, to celebrate their birthdays or a special event. It would be great to create a community of fundraisers across these platforms, to work towards a common goal in reaching the most vulnerable communities in the world.



# COVID-19

## MOAS donated masks and hand sanitisers to vulnerable communities in Malta

**As the COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact life in Malta and new restrictions were put in place, MOAS continued its tireless work to support the most vulnerable people on the island.**

MOAS delivered more than 400 face masks and 1000 bottles of hand sanitizer gel to several organisations that assist communities in need in Malta, including Peace Lab, Osanna Pia and Emigrants Commission, who have since expressed their gratitude for this useful donation in such difficult times.

This was made possible thanks to the support of The BioArte Ltd, which donated the hand sanitiser, and of our donors that continued to show their support towards our initiatives.



## HOW CAN NGOS AND CHARITIES BENEFIT FROM DIGITAL MARKETING?

As we know, fundraising plays a vital role for non-profits. However, besides the traditional ways to fundraise, online digital marketing offers new, exciting opportunities to raise money or awareness for good causes.

Nowadays, in a time when advertising rules the world, there are endless resources available to help non-profit charitable organisations globalise and streamline their messaging. NGOs like MOAS are working day in, day out for good causes worldwide, and they have so many stories to be shared. When people come across our work, they get inspired, and these people often also choose to join or support NGOs' missions. Digital resources have become even more relevant during the last year, as COVID-19-related restrictions have severely limited live events and opportunities to meet our donors and the people who support us.

## HOW DOES MOAS UTILISE DIGITAL MARKETING?

At MOAS, we use several digital marketing tools to keep our audience informed about our initiatives, missions, and to receive support. First of all, on the MOAS website, we provide information on our history, latest missions, and a 'make a donation' section so people can easily get involved in our projects. The weekly articles and newsletters feature high quality content including interviews, podcasts, and discussions about the latest trends in the humanitarian sector. On the website, you can also watch our documentary and sign our appeal for #SafeAndLegalRoutes.

We also organise online events and panels to discuss the most recent developments in the migration phenomenon, and we feature the latest news from our field staff, providing technical expertise for the delivery of water safety and fire response training to refugees and host community volunteers. Last but not least, our YouTube channel features videos from MOAS' past and current activities and is a good source to find out how we are committed to providing aid and support worldwide to communities in areas of crisis.

## DOMINIC SCHWAB, PPC MARKETING MANAGER OF THE GERMAN DIGITAL AGENCY XPOSE360, OUTLINED THE BENEFITS OF HARNESSING DIGITAL MARKETING TO NGOS LIKE MOAS.

*How can digital marketing support NGOs and charities? What are the pros of this approach?*

Digital marketing is an essential tool for spreading an organisation's message and making its existence and mission known. Through an intelligent strategy, new interested persons can be inspired or existing interested persons can be made aware of important aid projects again. With the help of online marketing, the right messages are delivered to the right audience. This way, interactions with the organisation, such as donations or page visits, can be significantly increased.

*What are the most important digital marketing tools for NGOs?*

To generate as much traffic as possible for your own website and in order to increase the reach of the mission and interaction with the organisation, search engine optimisation (SEO), search engine advertising (SEA), and paid advertisements (PPC) are the main options.

Through Google, non-profit organisations have the opportunity to create free advertisements in the Google search network. To do so,

organisations must qualify for a Google Ad Grant account. When a non-profit organisation qualifies, it receives \$10,000 per month in free Google Ads advertising media budget.





# Women, children and migration

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Violence against refugees  
and stateless women and  
girls is deteriorating

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*By Regina Catrambone*





**Violence against refugees, displaced people and stateless women and girls is an entrenched phenomenon that has continued to worsen in recent years.**

According to data provided by UNHCR, 1 in 5 migrant women have been subjected to sexual violence, not to mention all the other women who have suffered torture and inhumane treatment.

If being a woman exposes you to the threat of gendered violence in all parts of the world, living in certain volatile contexts or experiencing forced displacement can worsen the conditions women and girls are exposed to.

My thoughts go to Afghanistan, where hundreds of women are kidnapped and killed in acts of unprecedented violence. Many female activists engaged in the protection and promotion of human rights can be extremely vulnerable to such risks.

The number of undernourished children in Afghanistan continues to grow day by day, at least 3.5 million children suffer from severe malnutrition, a number destined to increase dramatically in the coming months. In total desperation, some parents are forced to sell one of their children to allow other members of the family to survive.



The situation for displaced and migrant women and children is desperate in Europe as well. In the stretch of sea that separates France from the United Kingdom, at least 30 people lost their lives as a boat was sinking, including five women and a young girl in 2021.

These are scenes that we cannot continue to witness without concrete action.

Many women and children find themselves stranded on the border between Poland and Belarus. Last year, in the rugged forest where he had been with his parents for almost 2 months, a 1-year-old Syrian child lost his life. The cold and the absence of food and water for weeks were fatal for both children and adults who did not make it over the border.

While Belarus is a key political actor in the evolving crisis, what is even more unacceptable is the non-

compliance of Poland and of EU institutions to the human rights treaties. They breach them through illegal pushbacks of people with the right to international protection at the borders of the European Union. In addition to not guaranteeing basic living conditions and banning access to NGOs and associations, Poland continues to use force and violence against migrant people by arresting those who cross the barrier, separating some families and using water cannons, stun grenades and tear gas to disperse the thousands of migrants.

The Belarus route to Europe is not new. People fleeing Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Yemen, Congo and Cameroon have arrived on direct charter flights from Baghdad to Minsk. Once the flights were suspended in 2020 due to pressure from the EU, the arrivals continued through alternative flights from Dubai, Damascus and Amman or through entry from Ukraine and Turkey.



When Polish officials closed the crossing with Belarus, hundreds of migrants were stranded, victims of an inhuman and silent war triggered by Minsk and exploited by Warsaw. The Polish authorities then announced the construction of a border wall that will be completed by the middle of 2022.

**“Stop sacrificing migrant lives to political dispute,”** this was the heartfelt appeal launched by the United Nations. But, in the meantime, the European Parliament and the vice president of the European Commission, Margaritis Schinas, have explained that no plans are in place to accept and examine migrants’ requests for protection in the area.

There have been attempts to instigate dialogue between the parties, the most recent happening in November 2021 between Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi (on behalf of the EU) and Russian President Vladimir Putin, in which they both asked the Belarusian government to halt this intolerable situation.



Children, women and men continue to suffer and die along the borders of Europe, on land and at sea, and at all the borders of the world. Indifference seems to be the only answer that politics and civil society are able to give.

My heartfelt appeal is addressed to all supranational, national and local authorities so that the rights of migrants and, in particular, the rights of displaced women and girls, can be guaranteed because it is not acceptable that they are forced to suffer all the indifference and inhumanity of the world.

However, Belarus continues to use the migration issue to destabilise the EU and the Russian president blames the EU that would have interrupted the dialogue on readmissions between Minsk and Brussels.

Meanwhile, the number of walls and fences is constantly growing, and governments are cultivating the illusion of national security at the expense of the most vulnerable.



# EUPA ESC VOLUNTEERS AT MOAS:

## Bethan and Cecilia

### Testimonials

Though the EUPA ESC volunteer programme, this year MOAS has welcomed two volunteers to the team. Cecilia and Bethan have travelled from Italy and the UK to live in Malta for one year, contributing to our ongoing humanitarian projects. Volunteering is such a unique way to experience the world, you can immerse yourself in different contexts and best apply your skills to support very important work.

### Cecilia

I have always felt attracted to the humanitarian field and, after an extensive experience volunteering for an Italian NGO working with people in need, I wanted to get more involved in the world of non-governmental organisations and humanitarian work in general. MOAS has offered me this incredible opportunity and I couldn't be prouder to be part of this organisation, which is committed to delivering emergency relief globally.

My key takeaway from this experience is the importance of teamwork: having a clear goal in mind is fundamental, but a team with different competencies committed to concretizing such objective is extremely important as well. For how different our individual backgrounds could be, every single member has added value to the team and the work done, and has taught the other members of the team new competencies. This volunteering experience has been unique as the MOAS team based in Malta has always included me and Beth in their daily work so that we could contribute to each project, from conception to final implementation. This has been a key element learning process, as we gained relevant first-hand experience in several different departments and fields.

I am also glad I had the opportunity to experience this with Beth, a wonderful and thoughtful soul who has become more than a simple colleague. The memories we have of navigating this adventure together will remain in my heart and I am sure our friendship will last forever. To all those people who want to work or to gain experience in the humanitarian sector, I highly recommend an internship with MOAS: in a year's time you will not only gain professional experience, but also learn a lot about yourself and expand your capacities.





Beth

I chose to volunteer with MOAS because I have been extremely interested in humanitarian processes, advocacy, and migration policies for many years. MOAS was the first NGO to implement SAR missions in the Mediterranean and has long established its legacy as a leading advocate for Safe and Legal Routes and refugee protection. I was so thrilled when I was given the opportunity to intern in both the fundraising and communications department of the organisation as I have been able to learn how the organisation functions as a whole, and see first-hand the collaboration and creativity needed to work effectively as an organisational unit. This experience is unique as I have both worked with beneficiaries, including the delivery of English lessons with migrants living on the island, while also contributing to projects at HQ. By experiencing MOAS in its entirety, I have been able to see how beneficiary needs drive organisational strategy – which has been an invaluable experience.

A definite highlight for me, has been working with beneficiaries to make sure they have the support they need and to help them feel welcomed here in Malta, which has been a privilege. I have also been extremely lucky to do this volunteer placement with Cecilia, who has made this experience even more unique and amazing. I have gained a best friend, and our shared memories of this time will be something I take with me for the rest of my life. To anyone looking to expand their experience in the humanitarian field, and experience a completely new culture, I cannot recommend this enough. I have learnt so much and I only hope I can take those lessons forward and continue to contribute to this field in the long-term.



# MOAS

## EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS & MOAS VOLUNTEERS

**MOAS is always grateful for the dedication of those who volunteer their time to support our mission, whether it be in the office or in the field and, with a busy year ahead, we look forward to welcoming more volunteers in the coming year. In particular, we want to highlight our ESC programme.**

This year MOAS hosted another group of European Solidarity Corps (ESC) volunteers for a twelve-month placement at our central office in Valletta, Malta. The EVS experience is a unique and valuable opportunity for young adults between 18 and 30 years-old looking to gain international experience working for a cause they are passionate about.

For the volunteers MOAS welcomed in 2021, the year was an opportunity to gain professional experience working for an International NGO whilst experiencing a new country and culture here in Malta. Working in MOAS' small team based in Malta's capital city, the volunteers have been able to gain a real insight into the day-to-day operations of a humanitarian organisation, to develop new skillsets and to learn directly from our team of professionals working hard to deliver aid and assistance to vulnerable communities worldwide.





# MOAS DONATES SWEETS TO CHEER UP UNACCOMPANIED MINORS IN MALTA

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MOAS is always active in providing assistance and support to Malta's most vulnerable communities, especially during this pandemic, in which isolation and uncertainty have infiltrated so many aspects of our lives.

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We all know that showing support and a gesture of solidarity can make a difference, especially in difficult times. The unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents hosted in Maltese reception centres represent one of the groups that MOAS aims to bring comfort, hope and a smile to through its interventions. We know how difficult it must be for these boys and girls under the age of 18 to be alone in a foreign country, without their parents or family at

their side, and without an assigned guardian, how the Covid-19 restrictions have exacerbated feelings of loneliness, isolation and uncertainty.

Building on the Christmas initiative 2020, MOAS distributed Smarties houses to the unaccompanied minors and residents at Hal Far centre and the Disruption Peace Lab guests in 2021. In total, 204 units were donated.



**Regina Catrambone,  
MOAS co-founder and director, said:**


*“Through this initiative, we want, once again, to express solidarity and donate a sweet moment of joy and lightheartedness to these adolescents and those who find themselves far from their loved ones. A small gesture of great moral value, through which MOAS reiterates the importance of not giving in to discouragement, even in the darkest moments, of not succumbing to selfishness and of continuing to find time and talent to help others in every possible way. Hope must be kept alive, and these young people really need to feel supported, cared for and not feel alone on the path to a better future. “*



# *Sweet* Christmas **DONATED PANETTONI TO MIGRANTS IN MALTA**








MOAS is always active in providing help and support to Malta's vulnerable communities, especially during the festive season, in which isolation and uncertainty can affect the people already experiencing a tough time of their lives, away from friends and family.

In 2021, for Christmas, MOAS donated panettoni to the families and unaccompanied minors residing in the Awas-run Open Centres in Malta to send a message of hope and solidarity during this particular time of the year.

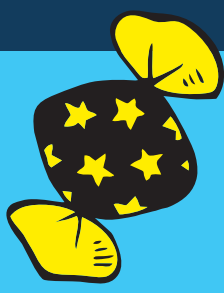


We all know that showing support and a gesture of kindness in challenging moments mean a lot. The migrant families, unaccompanied minors and adults hosted in Maltese reception centres represent one of the groups that MOAS aims to bring comfort, hope and a smile to.

MOAS delivered 200 panettoni, typical Italian Christmas sweets, to give a gesture of closeness and hope during these challenging times when Covid-19 restrictions have exacerbated feelings of loneliness, isolation, and uncertainty. This has been made possible thanks to the invaluable support of our donors that continue to show their appreciation towards our initiatives.



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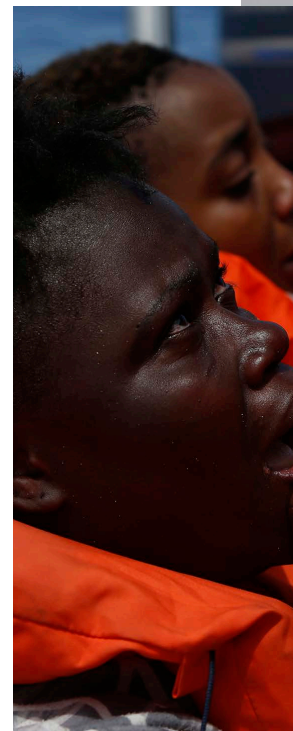


**Regina Catrambone,**  
MOAS co-founder and  
director , stated:

“With this donation, we would like to spread a message of hope and love. We wish to make a joyful Christmas and donate a sweet moment of light-heartedness to those who find themselves far from their loved ones to let them know that they are not alone. MOAS is grateful to all our donors for their support, especially in these difficult pandemic times: it is paramount to show solidarity toward the most vulnerable people. A little gesture through which MOAS reiterates that hope must be kept alive, and these people need to feel supported, cared for and not feel alone on the path to a better future”.



# Campaign for Safe and Legal Routes



In 2021, we saw a significant increase in migrant drowning incidents in the Mediterranean. Pushbacks, border securitisation and reduction of Search and Rescue (SAR) missions have all contributed to increasing the number of victims. Every legal visa, community sponsorship, and family reunification mechanism provided is a safe alternative for those seeking sanctuary.

**People shouldn't have to endure dangerous routes.  
#SafeAndLegalRoutes must be prioritised.**

When we are inundated with constant updates on the numbers of lives lost at sea, such news can instill a sense of apathy among us. We must continue to advocate for alternative pathways of migration and to raise awareness on the importance and need for safe and legal routes so that people don't have to risk their lives to reach safety. MOAS has continued to actively campaign for #SafeAndLegalRoutes, and we have used our platforms to raise awareness for the alternative legal mechanisms that can be expanded to offer a safe alternative from irregular and dangerous migration routes.

We have interviewed key advocates in the field, including campaigner Lord Alf Dubs, to learn about effective mechanisms of integration and resettlement strategies that can be expanded and unified in the EU and UK. By speaking with such influential figures, we were able to counter prominent narratives that criminalise asylum seekers and migrants, and offer unique guidance on how to best get involved in Safe and Legal Routes campaigns worldwide.

**#NobodyDeservesToDieAtSea**





We continue our call to  
the general public to get  
involved in our advocacy  
campaign in 2022.







## BANGLADESH

**1,158 refugees and 356 host community representatives trained in Flood and Water Safety/Cyclone preparedness** trained with our partners in-country.

MOAS team supported the development of a Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) project for Fire Safety and Response in refugee camps.



## YEMEN

**3 containers** of nutritional aid delivered

**€135,000** worth of medical supplies delivered

# MO AROU WO

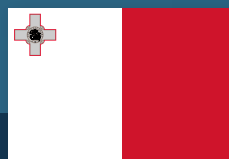




## SOMALIA

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**1 container** of  
nutritional aid delivered



## MALTA

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Remote Learning Project for migrant students: **Tablets and modems with Internet connection** delivered to migrant families with children living in reception centres. Monitoring of the tech packs distributed in 2020.

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Nearly **10.000 reusable maks** made and distributed to vulnerable groups

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One successful year for the **Family Hosting Project**

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**Hospital visits** and post discharge assistance to migrants in need or who have been medically evacuated to Malta's hospital from SAR vessels.

OAS  
ND THE  
ORLD

# Your Donation **Saves Lives**



If you would like support our humanitarian efforts, you can donate online at [moas.eu/donate](https://moas.eu/donate) or via bank transfer.

# MOAS

## EU

Beneficiary Name: **Migrant Offshore Aid Station**  
Bank Name: **Lombard Bank Malta plc**  
IBAN: MT15LBMA05000000000001180113787  
SWIFT Code: LBMAMTMT

## GERMANY

Kontoinhaber: **M.O.A.S.**  
Bank: **Hamburger Sparkasse**  
IBAN: DE48 2005 0550 1002 2118 01  
Kontonr. 1002 2118 01 BIC: HASPDEHHXXX

## ITALIA

Beneficiario: **MIGRANT OFFSHORE AID STATION ITALIA** Onlus  
Banca: **BNL S.p.A.**  
IBAN: IT02P0100503337000000003138  
SWIFT Code: BNLIITRRXXX

## USA

Beneficiary Name: **Global Impact – MOAS Fund**  
Bank Name: **Bank of America**  
Account Number: 166009049  
SWIFT Code: CINAUS6L

## UK

Beneficiary Name: **Migrant Offshore Aid Station (MOAS) UK**  
Bank Name: **Lloyds Bank**  
Account Number: 39002760  
Sort Code: 30-90-89  
IBAN: GB33LOYD30908939002760