

MOAS

MAGAZINE

2023



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UKRAINE
SAVING LIVES
ON THE FRONTLINE
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MOAS

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MOAS has been operational since 2014 and is registered in Malta, USA, UK, Germany and Italy.

MOAS is an international humanitarian organization created to mitigate human suffering and assist vulnerable communities in the world.

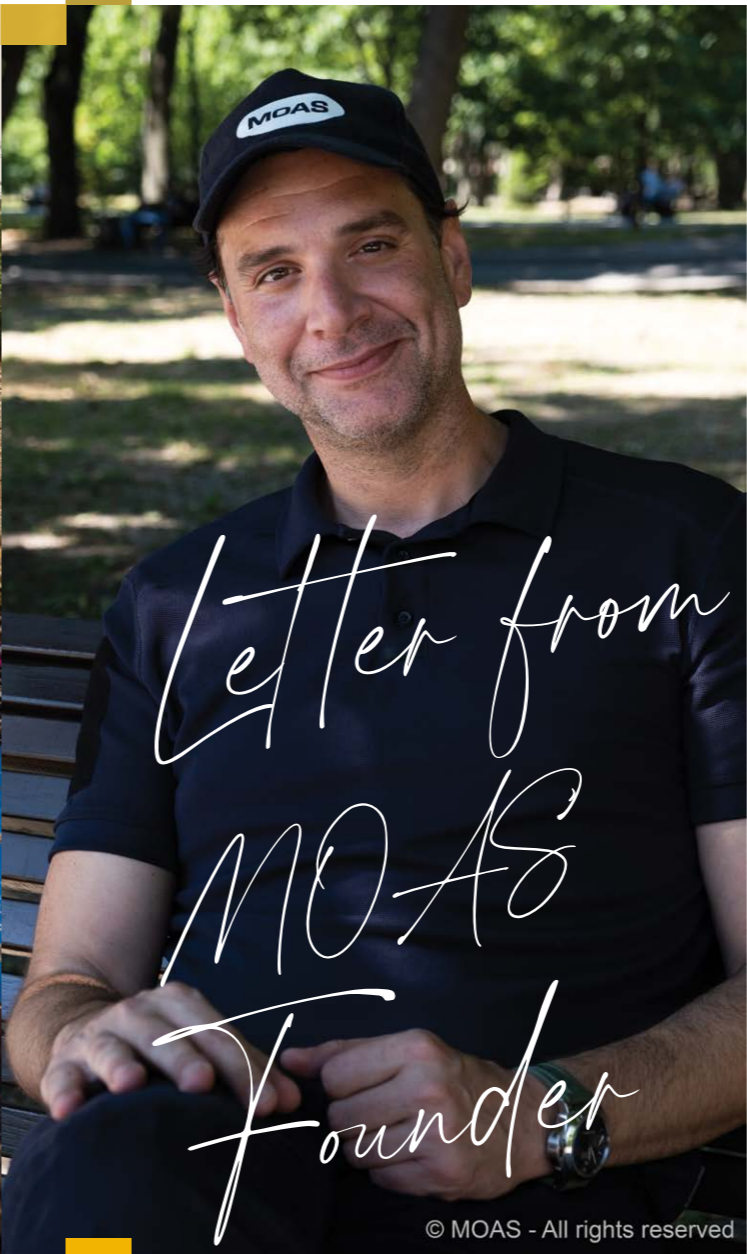
MOAS has **Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.**

Member of the Malta Refugee Council.

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The past twelve months have been ones of particular pressure and industry for MOAS and its global team of professional humanitarians. The expansion of existing programs and addition of new activities have kept everyone busy, both in the field and at our HQ.

The year has been one of highs and lows; our operations have delivered impactful and meaningful outcomes, with tens of thousands of lives saved and changes by our work, but this also means that the needs of the communities we serve have also been increasing, as global crises continue to push the most vulnerable into danger and destitution. It continues to be our mission to respond to needs with innovative and effective programming in response to emergent political and environmental disasters, while fulfilling our commitment to those already benefiting from our activities.

The Ukraine mission has expanded in these past months, with the fleet growing from 26 emergency vehicles to an incredible 51. With 150 emergency response staff now working on the front lines in our trauma

response and critical care evacuation programs, MOAS' patient numbers have increased almost 700% in line with our extended capacity, increased efficacy and expanding needs. MOAS has now treated almost 60,000 patients in Ukraine- including an incredible 70% of 'red' patients from the front lines.

Our continued commitment to the delivery of aid supplies, including Ready to Use Therapeutic Foods and pharmaceuticals, saw over 80 tons of life-saving treatments delivered to isolated communities in Yemen and Somalia. These activities help alleviate the devastating impact of pediatric malnutrition, building resilience in families and communities already battling food insecurity, poverty, displacement, climate crises and violence. It is an essential component of future-building and post-disaster rebuilding that the younger generations are protected and nurtured to prepare them for the long road ahead.

Exploiting our specialized technical expertise and unique organizational history ensures that MOAS' activities remain as efficient, effective and high-impact as possible. The Emergency Response Preparedness and Disaster Risk Reduction programs are a perfect example of this. Through it we provide technical expertise and training to CCCM (refugee camp coordination and management), UN agencies and local government entities on protecting communities from the impacts of natural disasters. This year our team of highly skilled experts provided training to over 3,000 individuals in the field, designed multiple response plans and conducted widespread risk mapping. As an entrepreneur I am always looking for opportunities to multiply impact and ensure that we invest our wealth of experience and technical knowledge into every activity we run.

Finally, 2023 also saw us launch a new response to an escalation of the crisis in Sudan. With a portfolio of projects requiring that we access and implement in logistically challenging and security poor areas, we knew that our intervention in Sudan would be highly valuable to partners and beneficiaries alike. Emergency deployments of aid and support services were coordinated by our amazing logistics team, and to date we have coordinated the delivery and distribution of 52 tons of therapeutic foods and 72 basic and 19 supplementary modules of Interagency Emergency Health Kits through Port Sudan.

I am incredibly proud of the work MOAS has done this year, thanks to its field teams, supporters and project partners. It is my sincerest hope that we continue to respond as and where needed for as long as we have the capacity to do so.

2024 will be our 10-year anniversary, marking a decade of innovation, intervention and life-saving. Leading the organization through this landmark anniversary will be a privilege for me, and I look forward to celebrating our achievements at every opportunity, starting with the launch of our latest book 'Sirens of Hope' in January. However, although we will take time to look back and learn from the lessons of the past, we also cannot take our attention away from the growing needs in crisis communities around the world, and we must never stop pushing ourselves to develop programs and secure support that allows us to deliver relief at every turn. MOAS is an innovator, a disruptor and a standard setter- and the anniversary is not the time to rest on our laurels, but rather a platform from which to push toward new horizons.

Christopher HR



MOAS Mission

BUILDING RESILIENCE & BRINGING HOPE

As the world continues to be shaken by conflicts both new and old, the fighting in Ukraine shows no sign of ending. The instability has now spread throughout the country, with the public healthcare system and infrastructure on the brink of catastrophe. What was initially a crisis confined to those territories has now spread to Europe and beyond, directly and indirectly affecting people and communities worldwide.

Latest updates

Attacks spare nothing, with hospitals, schools and orphanages, energy infrastructure and businesses all being targeted by heavy assaults. In addition, residential areas, shelters, and other critical infrastructure are also not exempt from continuous fire, which causes death and devastation.

The figures provided are not mere numbers but reflect the intensity of a crisis that is mainly affecting a civilian population. To date, 14.6 million people are in need of medical assistance and 11.1 million require food and nutritional supplies, another 11 million are living without water and sanitation, while 4.4 million people are in need of economic support. In total, more than 21.8 million Ukrainian people are currently in need of humanitarian assistance, and the numbers will likely double as winter approaches.

As of October 2023, more than 6 million Ukrainian refugees worldwide have been registered, of which

nearly 5 million are internally displaced people in Ukraine. Poland is hosting the largest number of refugees, nearly 60% of the total.

Older individuals and those with disabilities are especially at risk and might not have the capacity and opportunity to escape from areas of heightened danger. Moreover, women and children, making up around 90% of those displaced by the crisis, face the peril of experiencing gender-based violence and being subjected to sexual exploitation and abuse.

We have already explored in this blog the global ripple and consequences of the war in Ukraine, resulting in increased food prices and fuel while disrupting the general, consolidated, global supply chain, specifically for those countries already in dire need of humanitarian support.

MOAS response in Ukraine

Since the beginning of the conflict, MOAS has been providing emergency first responder services on the frontline, ensuring prompt medical assistance and aid to the most affected communities impacted by the escalation of violence.

MOAS' mission in Ukraine comprises 50 ambulances, individually equipped with the required specifications and capabilities to best respond to the specific needs of each context. The vehicles are equipped with medical and pharmaceutical supplies and state-of-the-art equipment, enabling our teams to deliver basic and advanced life support and essential treatments and additional extensive medical procedures as required. Thanks to our highly skilled teams of 150 doctors and paramedics, MOAS this year has already succeeded in treating roughly 40.000 people on the front line and over 25.000 in communities cut off from medical infrastructure (in 2022 over 5.000 people, and so far in 2023 over 16.000).

The Power of Giving

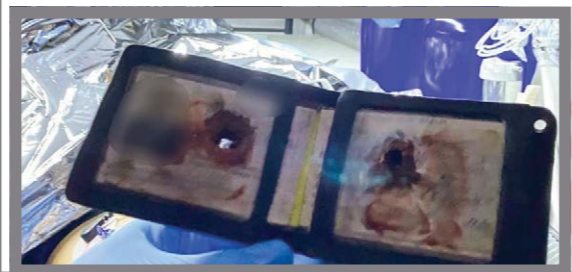
Contributing to MOAS means keeping our life-saving missions running and reaching more affected communities. Only with your support, we can continue our life-saving work in Ukraine. By donating to MOAS, you can help us provide the essential medical care desperately needed by the population and make a real difference to those who need it the most.



MOAS Mission Ukraine



After shelling in the Eastern regions, specialists of the MOAS medical team were on the spot and joined the rescue operations, evacuating two seriously injured people. Every day, the war tests the physical and emotional resources of the affected people, but responsibility and determination combined with professionalism allow the MOAS team to hold the medical front and save as many people as possible. Thanks to our fleet of 50 ambulances and our dedicated team of doctors, nurses and drivers, MOAS is able to move quickly and provide life-saving assistance where is needed the most.



The patient's condition was critical, with life-threatening injuries caused by debris and bullets, impacting vital organs and limbs. The sight of his blood-stained, stitched ID card served as a poignant reminder of the sheer urgency of our life-saving endeavours.

MOAS doctors initiated crucial surgical procedures and established a vital connection to a ventilator. The support of the MOAS evacuation team ensured a seamless transfer, guaranteeing the injured's safe passage to the nearest multidisciplinary hospital.

At MOAS, our commitment to the cause of saving lives and offering hope to those who need it most remains resolute. Together, we continue to make a difference in the face of adversity.

Stories from the frontline

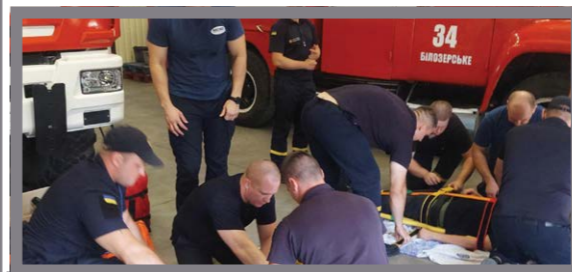


TESTIMONIAL FROM THE FIELD

Ivan, a doctor working within the #MOASMissionUkraine, describes his work:

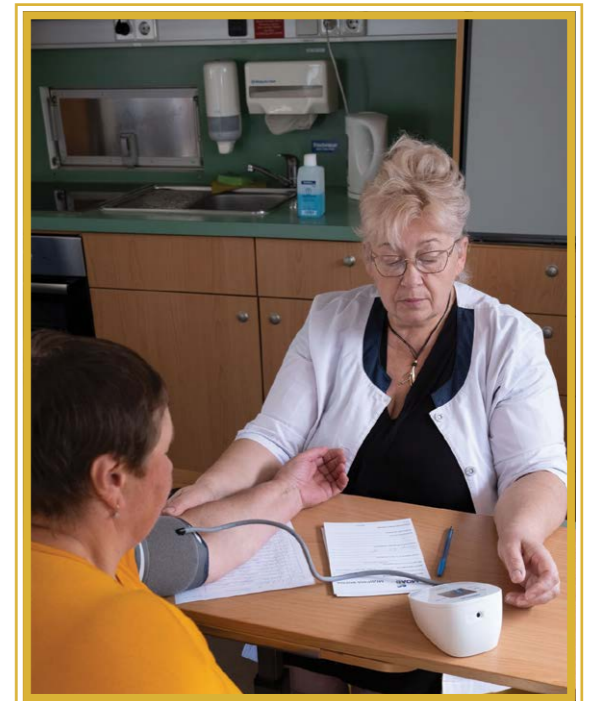
"As a doctor operating on the front line in Ukraine, I have been providing medical assistance to those in need, including treating injuries and saving as many lives as possible. It is challenging and demanding work, but I am deeply committed to this mission and proud to have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of so many people."

"Our goal is not only to provide immediate relief to those in need but also to help build a stronger, more resilient healthcare system that can continue to serve the people of Ukraine long after the conflict has ended. I will continue to work tirelessly with MOAS to save lives and improve the health and well-being of the people of Ukraine."



Training and capacity building plays an important role in the #MOASMissionUkraine. In pursuit of this commitment, a comprehensive training session was conducted at a local fire station, focusing on equipping firefighters with vital First Aid techniques tailored for high-pressure conflict situations.

Throughout this intensive program, the dedicated team of firefighters not only acquired fresh knowledge but also honed their life-saving abilities – skills of paramount importance when facing dire circumstances and fostering self-reliance. This training curriculum was meticulously crafted and delivered by the #MOAS doctors, who have been saving lives since the inception of the conflict.



#MoasMissionUkraine

Bringing help to vulnerable population

Besides the ambulances that operate in the front lines, MOAS, through the Mobile Medical Unit, provides Primary Health services to support local communities. The vehicle is seconded to MOAS by the Ronald McDonald House Charity (Latvia) for the duration of the mission in the country and is run in partnership with MHP Gromadi and the Oksana Dmytrieva Charitable Foundation.



SUDAN

MOAS #Missionofhope

A Protracted Crisis & the Humanitarian Aid Delivery Mission

Sudan, a country ravaged by conflict and political unrest, is grappling with a deepening humanitarian crisis. Ongoing armed clashes have resulted in devastating consequences, leaving millions of people in desperate need of assistance and despite efforts to establish ceasefire agreements, the violence persists, exacerbating an already dire humanitarian situation.

What is happening?

In April 2023, violent clashes broke out between two factions, the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), loyal to Sudan's de-facto ruler General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) led by Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo. The armed conflict is set against a backdrop of years of political instability, inter-communal tensions, and a prolonged economic crisis which left 15 million of the population facing acute food insecurity and in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.

This has given rise to an increasingly severe humanitarian crisis. Large parts of the population go hungry as food scarcity is rising, which is leading to increased malnutrition rates, and millions of Sudanese cannot obtain desperately needed medical treatment. Around 25 million people – roughly half the population – now need humanitarian assistance after more than 4 million have been displaced by the fighting. However, aid distribution in Sudan is difficult.

Humanitarian needs increased

Sudan has long grappled with internal displacement, and even before the recent conflict, the country was already hosting 3.7 million internally displaced people and 1.1 million refugees and asylum seekers – one of the largest refugee populations on the continent. The escalation of

violence is now leading to a widespread surge in forced displacement, exacerbating the ongoing displacement crisis.

Since mid-April, over 1.6 million people have been internally displaced, while an additional 482 707 have fled Sudan or returned to their countries of origin. The displacement of such large numbers not only disrupts the lives of these individuals but also strains resources and infrastructure in the host communities.

The ongoing violence has not only resulted in loss of life and mass displacement but has also caused significant damage to critical infrastructure, severely hampering the delivery of essential healthcare services. Power shortages, limited medical supplies, and damaged infrastructure, particularly in and around the capital Khartoum, have left tens of millions without access to clean water and proper medical care.

The rising costs of food, fuel, and other essential goods further exacerbate the already alarming levels of food insecurity, which is projected to affect an estimated 19 million people in the next three to six months, and the suspension of nutrition services in conflict-affected areas also endangers the lives of hundreds of thousands of malnourished children.

A vicious cycle: the challenges for humanitarian assistance in Sudan

Sudan faces numerous obstacles to distributing aid, making it one of today's most challenging humanitarian crises. Bureaucratic obstacles have created a cumbersome process for aid workers, such as hurdles in obtaining visas, importing supplies, and moving aid within the country. This is making it hard for many aid agencies to operate in conflict-affected areas.

The absence of secure humanitarian corridors presents another difficulty. Often, aid groups are now required to use armed escorts, even in conflict-free areas. This policy not only endangers relief workers but raises concerns about aid diversion and the loss of humanitarian impartiality, as the escorts must be part of the army. The problem of aid impartiality is worsened by the fact that the RSF and the army have both entrenched themselves in Sudan's economy, running hundreds of companies. It is tough for aid agencies to navigate who they can collaborate with without indirectly supporting either party.

Additional challenges loom large, with limited access to clean water and inadequate waste management in conflict-ridden areas increasing the risk of water-borne and vector-borne diseases.

The fragile healthcare system, widespread displacement, and damaged infrastructure heighten the threat of disease outbreaks, and the vicious cycle of protracted humanitarian crises, recurrent conflicts, mass displacements, disease outbreaks, and the lack of basic services and goods will have devastating and long-lasting effects on Sudan and its population.

MOAS' Sudan Humanitarian Aid Delivery Project

To address this dire situation in the country, in 2023 MOAS launched the Sudan Humanitarian Aid Delivery Project, to procure and ship therapeutic food and vital medical supplies tailored to the specific needs of affected communities in the country. Particularly, we aim to provide a formulated nutritional supplement to combat malnutrition in children. The first shipment of therapeutic food reached Port Sudan at the end of 2023 and is now being distributed by our local partner, Adra Sudan.

A second shipment of medicines and vital supplies will soon reach UNHCR, our other in-country partner soon, to help facing the critical health situation.

By alleviating the far-reaching repercussions of this catastrophic conflict and addressing critical medical and nutritional needs, MOAS strives to provide essential assistance to the vulnerable populations in Sudan.

We need your support to be able to deliver this life-saving assistance to the most vulnerable communities in Sudan. Together, we can substantially impact the lives of thousands of people affected by this humanitarian crisis.



MOAS #Missionofhope

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Yemen remains one of the world's largest humanitarian crises, with an estimated 21.6 million people needing humanitarian assistance or protection in 2023 (72% of the total population). The lack of access to food and hygiene supplies implies a population at high risk of malnutrition, as Yemen's rising global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates – now estimated at 20%—surpass emergency thresholds for serious public health concern. As conflict drives malnutrition and economic decline, the risk of death for children under the age of 5 has increased; and while overall malnutrition grew by 10% in 2020, Severe Acute Malnutrition rates rose by 15.5%, placing 98,000 children under the age of 5 at high risk of death.

The prolonged conflict has severely impacted the country's economy, leading to macroeconomic instability, depreciation of the Yemeni rial (YER), and decreased household purchasing power. Moreover, Yemen's heavy reliance on imported food and goods makes it highly vulnerable to fluctuations in global prices. The crisis in Ukraine has further exacerbated global food insecurity, contributing to increased food prices in Yemeni markets.

Food Shortage, Famine, and Malnutrition

According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), approximately 23.4 million people in Yemen require humanitarian assistance, with 17 million facing severe food insecurity. The World Food Programme (WFP) estimates that 2.3 million children under the age of five are acutely malnourished, with 400,000 at risk of dying from severe acute malnutrition. The food shortage has also led to the risk of famine, with the UN warning that 6 million people are at risk of starvation. In conclusion, the humanitarian situation in Yemen remains dire, with the ongoing conflict, access restrictions, and funding shortfalls severely impacting the ability of aid organisations to provide assistance to those in need. The food shortage, risk of famine, and widespread malnutrition are particularly alarming, and urgent action is needed to address these issues and prevent further suffering and save lives.

MOAS #MissionOfHope in Yemen

To respond to this tragic humanitarian emergency, since 2019, MOAS has been providing specialist malnutrition



What nutritional supplements were distributed?

Plumpy'Sup® is a ready-to-use supplementary food (RUSF) which is given alongside normal foods as part of a treatment regime for Moderate Acute Malnutrition for children 6 months and older. Plumpy'Sup is commonly part of targeted feeding supplementation programs and is frequently used in emergency situations. It's important to remember that RUSF is not meant to replace a child's diet but to supplement it with necessary micro- and macro-nutrients for recovery. Once the children recover, they can go back to a normal daily diet.

Plumpy'Doz® is a ready-to-use food in paste form with a peanut taste and is used for the prevention of Acute Malnutrition. It is a lipid-based nutrient supplement that provides nutrients, vitamins, and minerals. It's usually part of a blanket supplementary treatment program for children at risk of acute malnutrition during times of food insecurity for children 6 months and older.

Enov'Nutributter is a lipid-based nutrient supplement that contains a special formulation of minerals and nutrients for the promotion of growth and prevention of stunting for children from 6-24 months of age.

treatments to vulnerable children in Yemen, with the ongoing support of our partners, Edesia Nutrition and our in-country partner ADRA Yemen.

Early this year, our refrigerated shipment of 26 tonnes of nutritional supplements reached the country and was distributed to families in need in three governorates situated in Internationally Recognized Government (IRG) territories. The shipment included nutritional supplies to children under the age of 5 and pregnant and lactating women (PLWs) with varying forms of malnutrition.

The undernourished children were identified, referred to healthcare facilities, and enrolled in the therapeutic program, where they were provided with RUTF (Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food) and RUSF (Ready-to-Use Supplementary Food) to treat their malnutrition.

Thanks to this delivery, it was possible to help young children like Bashir or Anas. They were admitted to in-patient care services, with many families having to travel long distances to reach the centers for treatment. When the parents were asked about their hopes and dreams for their child's future, they unanimously hoped that their

children could be a healthy weight, as they all bore witness to their child's deteriorating health due to malnutrition.

Bashir was 7 months old when he was admitted to the hospital to receive malnutrition treatment delivered by MOAS to Adra. His weight had been dropping and he was sick due to insufficient nutrition. After receiving the course of treatment, his weight improved from severe acute malnutrition and started to eat RUSF to gain more weight.

These children deserve to live full and healthy lives, while the global community needs to respond to the growing humanitarian crisis and help build food supplies in-country, we also need to continue providing malnutrition treatment for children like Bashir, who have already been impacted by food insecurity.

Final thoughts

MOAS will continue to work and collaborate with our partners to provide life-saving nutritional supplies and aid to the most vulnerable communities in need of humanitarian assistance. To save lives and avert a further worsening of the situation, MOAS needs your support to keep on with the nutrition deliveries for children suffering from malnutrition. You can make a difference and help us to continue this life-saving mission.



MOAS #Missionofhope

Overview of the region

The Horn of Africa is experiencing the worst drought in 70 years; this is the sixth failed rainy season, and even when it did rain, it caused significant damage: the soil is so parched that it is incapable of draining water, so when it started raining, it turned into a torrent, causing tens of deaths. This extreme weather event has an impact on the environment, people, agriculture, and livestock. Indeed, according to UNHCR, the number of displaced people in the Horn of Africa region has been steadily increasing since 2019. In 2022, the number of displaced people was estimated to be 11.71 million.

This is a long-term humanitarian catastrophe; in fact, we should consider the collateral effects, such as increased conflict for resources, massive migrations within and outside the African continent, school dropout, increased gender-based violence, and the region's economic and social collapse of the entire region.

Once again, the water and food crises have had a greater impact on women, as gender-based violence

has increased in the most affected areas. Furthermore, women may not get enough water for the sensitive postpartum period, which causes hygiene issues and increases the risk of mortality in both newborns and mothers. In addition, in such a difficult situation, girls are sometimes offered marriage in return for food or water.

The situation in Somalia

Somalia is currently facing one of the worst humanitarian crises in recent history that have left millions of people at risk of starvation. An unprecedented drought crisis follows five historic consecutive failed rainy seasons and has caused food shortages and malnutrition in several regions of the country. 6.5 million people are currently facing acute food insecurity, and 1.4 million people are displaced in search of essential resources like water, food, and pasture.

The impact of this crisis is devastating, especially for children. Countless families are struggling to provide their kids with basic necessities, and almost 2 million children under 5 face acute malnutrition. Without any immediate treatment, they are at risk of suffering permanent physical and mental damage.

The Horn of Africa is one of the world's most vulnerable areas, with Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda among the most important nations of origin and reception for displaced people and asylum seekers. The equilibrium in this area is particularly unstable due to long-running conflicts, the presence of violent organizations, poor governance, and a lack of public services. Furthermore, climate change has exacerbated the situation over the past decade.

Naimo's mother words

Najmo's successful recovery is a testament to the impact of MOAS' work in Somalia, and Najmo's mother expressed her joy and gratitude, and she prays that her daughter continues to grow stronger and healthy each day. "When my daughter suffered from severe wasting, I was afraid for her, but now she is doing much better. I am happy, especially when I see her playing with other children. I am thankful for the support given to my daughter during her recovery. Now she has gained her strength, and I pray that she continues to grow healthy each day," she shared.

MOAS IMPACT Naimo Story

This is where MOAS and its partners Edesia Nutrition and International Medical Corps (IMC) have stepped in to provide much-needed relief to affected communities. Since 2020, MOAS has been working to combat malnutrition in Somalia through the provision of life-saving therapeutic food and last year alone, MOAS succeeded in delivering 40 tonnes of therapeutic food which is crucial in combatting malnutrition in children and is desperately needed in the region.

One of the success stories of MOAS' work in Somalia is the story of Najmo, a 12-month-old girl living in Makudo's Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camp near the IMC-supported Sefdheer Health Center. Najmo and her family were forced to leave their home last year and move to the Makudo IDP Camp after the current drought affected her family's livelihood. During a routine community health visit to the Camp, Najmo was found to be likely suffering from acute malnutrition by community health worker.

She was then referred to the IMC-supported Sefdheer Mobile Team Center for further assessment and treatment, where she was diagnosed with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) without medical complications and admitted to the outpatient therapeutic program (OTP).

Successful recovery

Over the course of eight weeks, Najmo received close monitoring and weekly supplies of ready-to-use therapeutic food at the Sefdheer Health Center. Gradually, she began showing signs of improvement, and she was discharged from the program after meeting the required criteria for SAM. This meant that she was now ready to begin her treatment for moderate acute malnutrition (NAM), and she was then transferred to the Targeted Supplementary Feeding Program (TSFP).

Combatting malnutrition and disease outbreaks

With a fifth consecutive failed rainy season forecast, the situation in Somalia is predicted to deteriorate even further, and the need for urgent action has never been greater. Children's malnutrition is on the rise, with 1.8 million children under the age of five at risk of acute malnutrition, accounting for 54.5% of the country's total kid population. Malnutrition raises the risk of consequences such as pneumonia, acute diarrhoea, respiratory tract infections, anaemia, skin diseases, and measles.

The work of MOAS and its partners in Somalia is making a real difference. However, much more must be done to alleviate the suffering of affected communities and address this catastrophic food crisis. Providing life-saving therapeutic food and other essential supplies such as safe drinking water and proper sanitation is crucial in combatting malnutrition and disease outbreaks. MOAS and its partners remain committed to continuing their work in Somalia, but they need the support to continue to make a lasting impact.



INTEGRATION THROUGH EDUCATION

MOAS Malta

In Malta, MOAS has established a notable reputation for supporting and assisting asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants. Through several initiatives, from education to hospital visits, MOAS fosters their integration into local communities and promotes their independence. Our mission is to support beneficiaries and continue to assist them in their educational path, so they can improve their autonomy skills and have easier access to local resources.

The importance of learning the English language for integration

As part of our initiatives on the island, MOAS provides “English for Beginners” courses to migrants and refugees in collaboration with Osanna Pia Home run by Salesians of Don Bosco, aimed to build confidence in reading, listening to and speaking English, which will help them to build connections and to access better opportunities.

With this regard, we would like to share with you the interview with, Steve Flinders, our English teacher who, once retired, decided to donate his time and knowledge to teach migrants and refugees basic English.

For how long have you been teaching English?

I’ve been teaching English on and off for more than fifty years. For twenty of these up to 2014 when I retired from full-time work, I did mainly other kinds of training combined with running a business but have been doing more language training and teaching again since coming to Malta.

What prompted you to volunteer?

I’ve always done voluntary work when I could although for most of my working life, professional and family commitments made this difficult. Now that I’m semi-retired, I can give some of my free time to voluntary work again.

What is the most challenging aspect of teaching refugees?

[...] I think it’s challenging to be sensitive to the different cultural backgrounds of the people one teaches – for example, I have never been to sub-Saharan Africa so have no direct experience

of life there; and it’s also challenging to deal sensitively with people who may have very difficult personal circumstances and who may have had very traumatic experiences in their own countries and/or on their way here, which, again, I have no personal experience of.

And the most rewarding?

It’s rewarding to build relationships with and get to know people from different places that I know so little about; and to see their English improving – when that happens, that is, since it doesn’t always!

What did you learn from this experience and the people you met?

The general experience of teaching refugees? I know more about the countries of sub-Saharan Africa and a bit more about what impels people from this region to leave their homes and try to reach Europe. I’m also probably more aware of events in

Ukraine than I would be if I were not in regular contact with people from there. I’m much more aware of the impact of climate change in sub-Saharan Africa and of the conflicts there, and of movements of people within and out of the region. I’ve also learnt about the resilience of the human spirit from the Ukrainians and the young African men who have undertaken these journeys.

What would you say to young people to encourage them to volunteer. Do you have a message you’d like to share?

I think anyone doing this kind of work is going to learn about themselves as well as about some fellow human beings about whom they might not know much about. Volunteering is a powerful antidote to the systematic demonisation of migrants to Malta and elsewhere. It’s a constant reminder of

our common humanity, sometimes frustrating, often lots of fun, sometimes rather moving. So, my message would be: go for it. Helping people communicate in the world’s leading international language will help their students develop as individuals, find jobs, and take educational opportunities; will – we hope – spread mutual understanding; and will be as rewarding for the teacher as for the students.

Final Thoughts

Integration and inclusion are the pillars of a proper migration policy, which includes appropriate tools to facilitate the reception and support of migrant communities. With this regard, MOAS is fully dedicated to this commitment, and we believe in the importance of leaving no one behind. Thanks to our partners and your contributions, we can keep supporting migrant communities on the island, and provide basic- but essential services, crucial for building a life according to their own virtues and needs and not settle for less.



Summer Heatwave MOAS donated hydration supplies to migrants

PROJECTS IN MALTA

Besides the English courses, **MOAS runs several projects in Malta**, intended to support migrant families and individuals, focused on continuing their education and boosting inclusion and integration.

In 2023 MOAS concluded the **“Integration Through Education and Information”** project, funded through the Voluntary Organizations Project Scheme (VOPS), with two initiatives. In February, we organised the screening of “Fishers of Men”, a documentary about the history and the MOAS SAR missions from 2014 to 2017 in the Mediterranean and Aegean Sea.

We also visited the **Playmobil Castle -fun center** with a group of migrant children residing in Hal Far refugee camps. During the activity, the kids had the chance to explore and take part in several activities aimed at developing their skills and having fun!

In 2023, we made significant progress in the provision of **Information and Learning Centre** in the refugee camps at Hal Far. The learning centre is equipped with educational resources such as computers, books and other learning tools and the centre’s residents will have access to educational

opportunities, training and vocational activities, CV writing workshops, job support and much more. The centre will be inaugurated in early 2024, and we can’t wait for the opening ceremony!

The Family Hosting Project is a one-of-a-kind initiative intended to offer accommodation and integration support to migrants and refugees who wish to continue their secondary education. Recently, the Sponsorship initiative has expanded the project, which includes social support, guidance, and family interactions within the community. Furthermore, with **Hospital Visits** we ensure that migrants -evacuated from SAR vessels - who are receiving health treatments feel supported and have proper access to services.

The **Remote Learning Initiative**, started in 2020, provides tablets and modems to migrant families and students to help children and full-time adult learners keep up with their studies.

Last summer Malta has been severely impacted by the heatwave that was sweeping across southern Europe. The people on the island have experienced sweltering heat with temperatures soaring over 40°C for days at a time, which has contributed towards several power cuts and water shortages across certain parts of the island, further exacerbating the impact on residents.

Vulnerable communities have suffered the consequences, especially the migrants residing in reception centres. In response to this emergency, MOAS stepped in to support those in the migrant community who are struggling to cope with these conditions. We delivered urgently needed hydration supplies through the provision of water and electrolytes.

In July 2023, MOAS delivered 1,400 litres (700 bottles) of drinking water and 700 doses of re-hydration mineral salts to the residents of the Peace Lab, to help them better cope with the extreme heat. The donation has been made possible through our amazing donors invaluable support, in collaboration with Farsons Direct and JV Pharma.

MOAS continues to support vulnerable communities in Malta and worldwide and to pursue our mission of alleviating human suffering.

Huge support for the MOAS Ukraine Fundraising Dinner

Gracy's Arts & Supper Club hosted an unforgettable evening of music, networking, and giving back to raise funds for the MOAS mission in Ukraine



MOAS #Joiningforces to save lives

On the evening of **Thursday 16th March**, Gracy's Arts & Supper Club in Valletta, hosted the 2nd Annual MOAS Humanitarian Relief Dinner to raise funds in support of the MOAS mission in Ukraine. The charity evening was a hub for fine dining, entertainment, and music where visitors could network and create a humanitarian nexus to aid the Ukrainian population in need.

The fundraising dinner kicked off with general mingling and welcome drinks served at Gracy's bar. During the welcome aperitif, guests were entertained by the musical musings of Ukrainians singer **Yulia Tsarova's**, pianist **Rimma Kostiuk** and violinist **Yaryna Pavlyk**. Following an all-inclusive banquet where attendees were wined and dined, a **charity auction** was held featuring several packages, including hotel stays, spa days and treatments, holidays abroad, unique dining experiences, concert tickets and boat charters.

Additional auction items included paintings by **Clemens Hasenschwandtner** and a painting of the fundraising event itself sketched on the night by the **Japanese artist Miyuki Sugihara**. Following a minute of silence in memory of all those who lost their lives in this war, later in the evening, diners enjoyed the performance delivered by none other than Malta's own famous band **Red Electric**.

The evening's proceeds were donated to **#MoasMissionUkraine**, which has been providing life-saving emergency medical care to the Ukrainian population impacted by the violence. Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine, MOAS has been running a comprehensive, national, front-line point of injury and trauma care, with the support of up to **100 tactical medics** operating a fleet of about **30 ambulances** and MMUs. So far, MOAS has treated over **10,000 front-line patients**, over **20,000 people** in communities cut off from health

infrastructure, and thousands have been triaged. Additional training has been delivered to **10,000 healthcare providers** and locals on cutting-edge medical techniques and technologies, to improve the overall health and well-being of the population.

Christopher Catrambone, MOAS founder and Head of the Ukraine mission, stated: "The impact of our work goes beyond just treating physical injuries and illnesses. We have also brought hope and a sense of humanity to a population that has been deeply affected by the conflict. We have seen first-hand the difference that our work is making in the lives of individuals and communities and its impact on their ability to rebuild and recover. It is a humbling and profoundly moving experience to be a part of this work, and I am grateful for the support of our donors and partners, without whom this work would not be possible".

The auction was sponsored by: **The Phoenicia Malta, People & Skin, Teatru Manoel, Azimut Yachts, Iniala Harbor House, Dinner in the Sky, Royal Malta Golf Club, Greatt&NNG Promotions, Aulis London&Hong Kong Roganic, Rogan&Co, Air Malta.**

A special thanks go to Noni Hasenschwandtner who graciously donated the works being auctioned by her late husband Austrian Born Artist Clemens and the Japanese artist Miyuki Sugihara, which drew a watercolour draw of the event

The beverage were kindly provided by **Ferrari, Royal Belgian Caviar, Alf Mizzi & Sons LTD, Philippe Martinet Fine Wines.**

Great success for the MOAS Humanitarian Relief Dinner

MOAS #Joiningforces to save lives

Hosted at the stunning Palazzo Parisio an unforgettable gala event with amazing hosts to support the MOAS' missions around the world

On the evening of **Saturday 14th October**, MOAS hosted its **Annual Fundraising Event** at the beautiful **Palazzo Parisio**, to raise funds in support of its humanitarian missions around the world. The charity evening was an opportunity for fine dining, entertainment, and music, where guests could mingle and express solidarity with vulnerable communities worldwide.

The fundraising dinner commenced with welcome drinks and aperitifs on the terrace overlooking the lavish Italian Garden of the palace, cheered by the musical talent of violinist **Yaryna Pavlyk**. The evening featured an all-inclusive 3-course banquet, introduced by Advisory Board Member **Joe Ghio**, emphasising how 9 years after its foundation, the organization keeps working hard to provide as much help as possible wherever it is needed most.

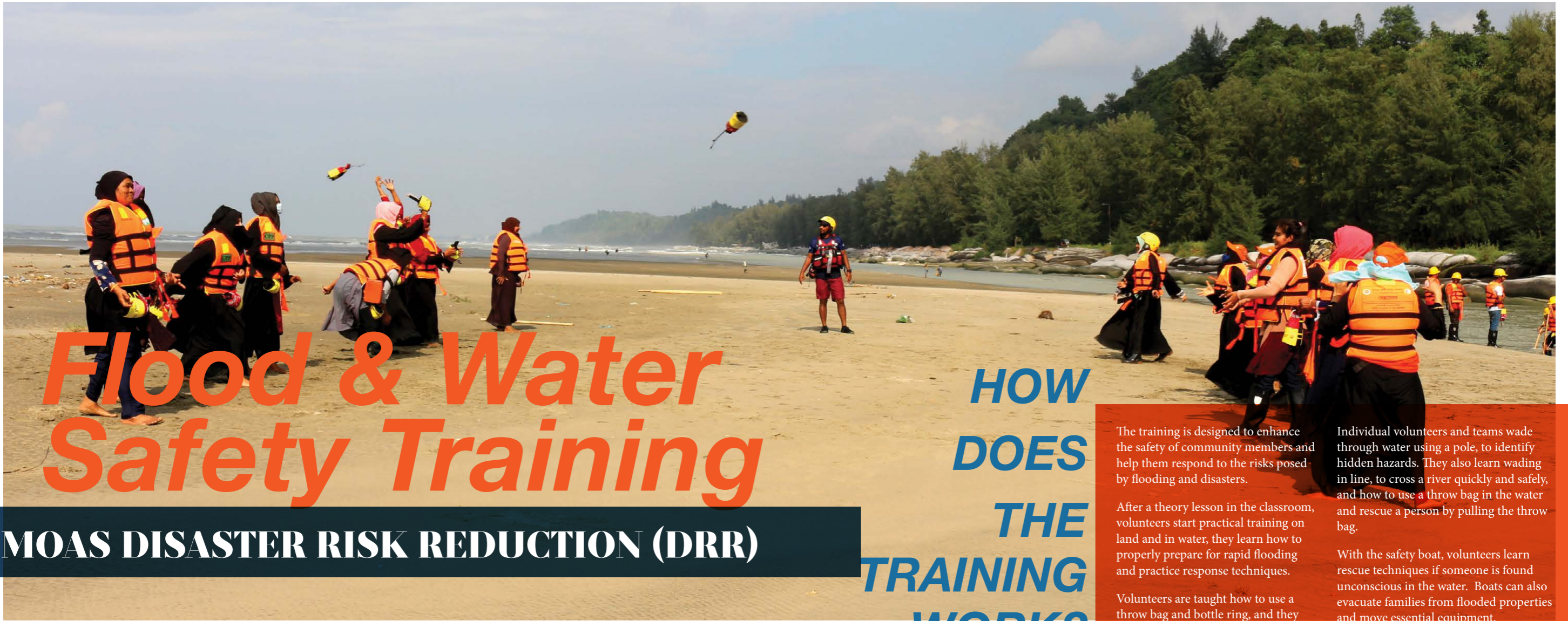
Peter Hinchcliff, trustee of MOAS UK, addressed the audience with a keynote speech promoting a

message of unity: "At MOAS we firmly believe in the power of collective action and global solidarity, working together across borders and collaborating with different entities to contribute our specialist skills and efforts to achieve the greatest impact possible. Our overarching goal is to facilitate an inclusive, welcoming, and equitable world for all."

Fine dining was accompanied by the jazz sounds of the **The Warren Galea jazz trio**, while dj **Federico Peltretti** lit up the evening inspiring dancing late into the night.

The event was sponsored by: **Palazzo Parisio, NM Arrigo, People and Skin, Floreal and Cantele wines.**





Flood & Water Safety Training

#MOAS DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (DRR)

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 throw bag 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 throw bag.

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.

Climate change and extreme weather hazards cause flooding, devastation, and deaths worldwide in refugee camps and areas of crisis. 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 life-saving preventative 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 to deliver unique and innovative Flood and Water Safety Training. MOAS' team

also provides equipment to volunteer responders from refugee and local host communities. This training creates resilience against water-related risks, but also supports capacity building, 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.

In 2022, with our incredible global partners, MOAS has facilitated and supported the training of over 1375 refugees and 28 host community representatives. Each participant has received a MOAS-designed and locally-made throwbag.

The role of women

Women are essential 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 affected communities from disasters, 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 five years old. Considering the exposure to drowning risks in refugee camps, there is a crucial need to design and implement a drowning 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 that 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.



Fire Safety & Response

#MOAS DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (DRR)

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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 infrastructures 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. 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 primarily constructed from closely packed, flimsy tarpaulin shelters, making it extremely easy for the 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 highly narrow passageways, can make access for Firefighting units extremely time-consuming and challenging with large fire engines. Furthermore, while sand buckets can be helpful in extinguishing smaller fires, once a blaze gains traction, little can be done to control it under the current system.

The response of MOAS

Given the predictable and inevitable nature of the fire threat and its deadly impact on lives and livelihoods, it



HOW DOES THE PROJECT WORK?

MOAS deployed easily transportable Mobile Firefighting Units, whilst MOAS' technical experts trained Rohingya Safety Unit volunteers in fire response.

The Mobile Fire Units are backpacks filled with water and 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, reducing their fire exposure and enhancing the overall response. The Mobile Fire Units were distributed to help build capacity for the response teams in the refugee camps.

is imperative to take action to identify gaps and improve fire response capacity. To respond to the increase in the frequency and severity of fire outbreaks in crowded refugee camps, our team supported developing a one-of-a-kind Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) project for Fire Safety and Response. The project focuses on three elements; risk mapping, training in first response and the prototyping and manufacture of firefighting equipment. The risk mapping model allows our technical experts to advise camp management and other stakeholders on areas of particular risk and develop response strategies according to each context, while the training also provides first-response skills and strategy implementation techniques to community-based volunteers. Finally, the team has prototyped several camp-context-specific pieces of equipment, including fire-fighting tuk-tuks and backpacks, and are producing and procuring/distributing across several projects. With support from international

donors and INGO partners, our team has trained 2662 volunteers and helped to produce 45 tuk-tuk firefighting units and procure & distributing 341 wheely pumps, 110 carry pumps, while 533 water tanks were placed in the camps. This fire safety programming will continue into the 2023 period with more exciting developments to come. The training also focuses on fire prevention, response and the maintenance of equipment. The goal is to maximise the interoperability of the prototypes envisaged in the pilot 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.



MOAS #Easterofhope

A SWEET EASTER SURPRISE

MOAS DONATES CHOCOLATE EGGS TO ASYLUM SEEKERS IN MALTA

This year, once again, the world is celebrating a different Easter from others. The festivity is marked not only by the suffering of the Ukrainian population but also by the terrible earthquake in Turkey and Syria, as well as the increased influx of migration, which has resulted in hundreds of lives being lost at sea in the past few months: children, women and men who have risked everything to flee conflict and persecution, in search of safety.

As Easter approaches, MOAS remains committed to its mission of bringing help and assistance to the most vulnerable people in any possible way. In addition to our ongoing operations in Ukraine, Yemen, Somalia, and

Bangladesh, we also assist asylum seekers residing in Malta who find themselves away from their loved ones and are experiencing difficult times.

MOAS donated 115 chocolate Easter eggs with surprise to families, unaccompanied minors and adults residing in reception centres in coordination with AWAS - the Agency for the Welfare of the Asylum Seekers - Peace Lab and Osanna Pia Home.

The donation has been made possible thanks to the donors' invaluable support, the courier company Fastdrop, and a fantastic team of volunteers who helped in the distribution.



3RD OCTOBER 2013

#NOT TO BE FORGOTTEN

3rd October 2023 marked the 10th anniversary of the tragic shipwreck in Lampedusa where 368 migrants lost their lives. This date later became the European Day of Memory and Welcome, in remembrance of the victims of shipwrecks more widely, but also as a warning not to close our eyes to the deaths that continue to occur daily.

Globally, around 110 million people have no alternative but to leave their homeland to escape war, persecution, violence, human rights violations, extreme poverty and the damage caused by climate change that has rendered many areas uninhabitable.

Most of these, around 62 million people, are internally displaced persons; others, some 25 million people, are refugees who have crossed national borders in search of safety, often to neighbouring countries, which themselves face problems of poverty and political instability.

The Mediterranean Sea plays a pivotal role in this global picture. The first nine months of 2023 have been significant in terms of migratory movements. Little seems to have changed as compared to 10 years ago, with the exception of the inhumane number of people who have lost their lives at sea, which increases day by

day. National and international institutions have done nothing to ensure that people fleeing from violence and extreme poverty experienced in their countries of origin can access safe and legal channels of migration. And so, even today, people are forced to rely on human traffickers, putting their lives at risk.

The situation in the Mediterranean reflects the migration policies adopted by Europe and the problems affecting the African continent. The story of every migrant who attempts to cross this sea bears the marks of what is happening in their country of origin; from the conflict tearing Sudan to that in Congo, from the fighting in Niger to that in Somalia, from the violence in Burkina Faso and Mali and so on. In other territories, however, the local population is forced to cope with political instability, militarisation and the presence of armed terrorist organisations and their threats, violence and kidnappings, which are becoming increasingly widespread in the sub-Saharan region. In these contexts, the poverty rate is extremely high. In addition, there are droughts, extreme climatic phenomena and the exploitation of territories for natural resources.

The arrival of increasing numbers of boys and girls on European shores (**11,650 unaccompanied minors** landed in Lampedusa,

including some as young as three years old) also reflects what vulnerable individuals are forced to endure. In conflict-affected areas in Africa, there are too many stories of killings, mutilations, and sexual violence. The phenomenon of child soldiers is also widespread. In West and Central Africa alone, as of 2016, there were more than **21,000 minors engaging as combatants in violent conflicts**.

Many of them are also exploited in the mining of gold and precious stones, coltan, cobalt and the minerals that power the batteries of smartphones, PCs and cars. These industries expose those in contact with toxic and dangerous substances to deteriorations in their health and wellbeing

Regarding the symbolic images of children who have lost their lives in the Mediterranean Sea that have gone round the world – among them, we all remember the one of the little Syrian boy Alan Kurdi – the unanimously expressed emotion and subsequent outpouring of words have not turned into transformative deeds or actions. Today, minors continue to die at sea, sometimes alone, sometimes together with their mother or father, and nothing seems to have changed since that 3rd October 2013 when everyone repeated “never again”.

That episode also represents the moment when Christopher Catrambone decided not to stand by and watch but wanted to get involved to save the lives of those attempting the crossing. Thus, MOAS – Migrant Offshore Aid Station, was born, which from 2014 to 2017 saved more than 40,000 migrants, between the Mediterranean and the Aegean Sea.

Today we are no longer at sea, but we continue to reinforce the importance of establishing an EU-wide SAR mission and a common and fair EU policy based on solidarity. It is also necessary to adopt safe and legal migration routes that can prevent people who are forced to flee ending up in the hands of traffickers and suffering the terrible violence during the journey, inside Libyan centres and the risk of the Mediterranean routes.

Final thoughts

The implementation and proliferation of #SafeAndLegalRoutes is a valid solution which could save countless lives in the infamous sea that divides Africa from Europe – and beyond. Until this happens, every year we will continue to craft repetitive rhetoric, commemorating something that continues to repeat itself every day in the indifference and immobility of migration policies.



Fundraising Without Donating

#MOAS Support

Why volunteering is important – featuring testimonials from MOAS /EUPA

Volunteering plays a vital role in communities around the world, offering a range of benefits and holding a significant place in our society. Giving one's time, skills, and resources to help others or support various causes not only furthers the supported cause and enriches the lives of those who receive assistance but also brings numerous advantages to the volunteers themselves.

The importance of volunteer work

The importance of volunteering lies largely in its capacity to drive positive change and foster community. Volunteers play a crucial role in supporting non-profit organisations and community initiatives, which often need more resources to function effectively with their assistance. Volunteering also fosters a sense of unity and solidarity within communities as individuals come together to work toward common goals.

Further, volunteering can improve public services and alleviate the burden on government agencies, thereby enhancing the efficiency and reach of critical community programs. Additionally, volunteering promotes a culture of empathy and altruism, encouraging individuals to actively participate in creating positive changes for a better society.

Personal benefits

There are also numerous personal benefits for individuals who choose to donate their time and skills. Engaging in volunteer work can provide a sense of fulfilment and purpose, as it allows individuals to make a tangible difference. It can lead to developing new skills, expanding one's network, and boosting self-esteem. Additionally, volunteering often offers opportunities for personal growth and self-discovery as volunteers gain a deeper understanding of diverse community perspectives and challenges. These experiences can foster empathy, improve mental well-being, and create a sense of accomplishment, making volunteering a rewarding and enriching endeavour for those participating.

Your Turn

If you want to join us as a volunteer, keep an eye out for opportunities on our website and social media channels. If you want to support MOAS and our mission in other ways, please consider signing our petition for safe and legal routes or giving a donation.

Final thoughts

In conclusion, volunteering serves as a cornerstone of social betterment. Beyond collective advantages, volunteers also reap personal benefits, including a sense of fulfilment and skill development. As both a catalyst for positive change and a source of individual growth, volunteering remains a vital and enriching activity that plays a pivotal role in enhancing both community and personal well-being.

MOAS EUPA Volunteers Testimonials

MOAS works with the European Solidarity Corps so volunteers can help out and learn at the MOAS office in Malta. Here are testimonials of two volunteers who are currently enjoying this experience.

Svenja says: "My time as a volunteer at MOAS HQ in Malta is turning out to be a very enriching and valuable experience for me on multiple fronts. The team here has been extremely welcoming, taking deliberate steps to integrate us volunteers into the daily operations and patiently guiding us through their processes and procedures. I am able to gain a better understanding of the intricacies of humanitarian work, giving me a solid foundation for my future aspirations. MOAS' dedication to having a real and tangible impact on the lives of vulnerable people is evident and witnessing this commitment to delivering vital support to those in need has been impressive. Exploring the process, from the inception of an idea for a humanitarian mission to

the steps involved in its execution, has deepened my awareness of the challenges and nuances of humanitarian aid delivery. MOAS is a reputable organization with a genuine mission. I'm happy to contribute my efforts here, and I'm thankful for the opportunity to be part of a dedicated and compassionate mission and team."

Caterina says: "I have always been keen to work in the humanitarian field and specifically to be committed to delivering emergency relief globally, which is also MOAS' mission. The MOAS' team based in Malta has given me a unique opportunity to deepen my interest and knowledge in the humanitarian process, advocacy and migration policies and being able to learn how the organisation works. I have been involved in many different projects, and this is the added value of this organisation: the level of engagement and kindness of the people who make up this organisation, as well as the expertise of its partners and the generosity and support of donors. I hope to have given back to MOAS what MOAS has taught me."

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 2023, 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.

FIRST AFRICA CLIMATE SUMMIT AND THE IMPORTANCE OF FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE



#ENVIRONMENT

In September 2023, 20 African Heads of State and Government met in Nairobi, Kenya to discuss the climate change challenges Africa faces, as well as suitable solutions to them. This was the first ever Africa Climate Summit, and its theme was 'Driving green growth and climate finance solutions for Africa and the World'. Discussions predominantly revolved around the mobilization of financing to help the continent adapt to extreme weather, conserve its natural resources, and develop renewable energy. (Reuters)

Climate Change Impacts

Climate change poses significant risks to the entire global community and people all over the world are already experiencing its devastating effects. Global temperatures are rising and there are more and more extreme weather events. However, these impacts are not distributed equally across the global community. Africa is disproportionately affected by the rise in temperatures despite its per capita emissions being significantly lower than the global average. In fact, the African population is responsible for only about 2 to 3 percent of all



Educational Campaign

carbon emissions worldwide. But the continent has to face intense challenges caused by climate change, like drought, desertification, and cyclones. This increases food scarcity and health risks in affected areas, causing people to suffer from hunger and disease. Further, climate change influences the factors that put and keep people in poverty (UN), all of which leads to the rise of displacement and migration.

Due to the crippling debt that African countries have on their backs, the Governments' abilities to respond to the crisis and to be a part of the development of green solutions are very limited. (ACS). Despite suffering from some of the worst impacts of climate change, Africa receives just 3 percent of the global funding for climate mitigation and adaptation which is about 12 percent of the nearly \$300 billion in annual financing it would need to cope, according to researchers.

The Nairobi Declaration

The summit culminated in the release of the Nairobi declaration which defines the shared position of the countries, their demands, and commitments. Due to the financial issues mentioned above, the declaration is heavy on demands that the major polluters provide more resources to developing countries and allow them to borrow at more affordable rates. The declaration asks for systemic changes, rather than for one-off investments.

This is supposed to be done by implementing a global carbon tax regime. A carbon tax is a price that is set by governments that emitters must pay for each ton of greenhouse gas they emit. The idea is that the money

made from the implementation from the tax can then flow toward green development and climate change adaptation in Africa. The fair distribution of funds should be ensured by a global governance body, independent of national interests (ACS). The tax would also be an incentive for major polluters to find ways to cut their emissions, resulting in lowered levels of carbon emissions. To date, 27 countries have implemented a carbon tax, but the idea of a global carbon tax regime has not gained traction so far.

MOAS Climate Change Educational Campaign

In 2022 MOAS launched an ongoing Climate Change educational campaign, which focuses on the consequences of climate change on the migration phenomenon and on engaging with the key issues that climate migrants face, including a lack of international protection mechanisms and no long-term collaborative plan to ensure peoples livelihoods are protected. We want to voice how we can come together and educate ourselves, our peers, our friends, and our families, so that we may build spaces to discuss solutions not just in technical scientific circles, but in our communities too.

Final thoughts

We must take immediate action to lower global emissions and support green development worldwide. The African summit was an important step towards holding big polluters responsible and unifying many voices in their demands for support in climate action. Now we must ensure that action follows these discussions. We at MOAS are continuing and expanding our climate campaign to help you understand climate change, its impacts, and consequences, and how it will interplay with migration for years to come.



RAISING SPIRITS WITH SWEETS AND SOLIDARITY

MOAS Christmas of Solidarity

For Christmas, MOAS Donated 285 Panettones to Families, Children And Residents of Migrant Centres in Malta

As we approach the festive season, following a year marked by global challenges and conflicts that have displaced countless families, MOAS remains committed to its mission to support the most vulnerable communities worldwide. In the spirit of Christmas and in line with our humanitarian values, we are pleased to announce that **MOAS has donated 285 panettones** to families, children, and residents of the migrant centres in Malta.

The impact of armed conflicts in various parts of the world, which have resulted in unprecedented levels of human migration, has created an atmosphere of uncertainty and isolation.

Recognising the challenges faced by migrant communities in Malta, especially during the holidays, MOAS aimed to use this opportunity to spread a positive message of peace and solidarity.

For Christmas, MOAS donated 285 “panettone” (a traditional seasonal sweet made in Italy) to everyone, including all families and children residing in the **AWAS-**

run migrant centres, as well as residents of the housing facilities **Osanna Pia Home run by the Salesian of Don Bosco**, and Peace Lab founded by father **Dionysius Mintoff**, recently awarded with the **Lysistrata Prize** for his peace-building initiatives.

Our heartfelt thanks go to the MOAS donors and supporters, as well as the partners—**Lidl, PCutajar Foundation, and Fastdrop**—for their invaluable contributions. With the collaborative effort of a team of volunteers, we successfully distributed these sweet gifts to bring comfort and smiles to those who need it most.

Christopher Catrambone, MOAS Founder, expressed: “This donation is a gesture of hope and solidarity. In these challenging times, showcasing kindness towards the most vulnerable is crucial. Through this small act, MOAS emphasises the importance of civil society outreach and community support. Every act of generosity, no matter how small, contributes to fostering a better tomorrow”.



Key event in 2023 from the world

Since the very beginning of this year, natural hazards and conflicts have severely rocked countries and impacted the lives of millions of people. To begin with, the devastating earthquake in Turkey and Syria on February 6th provoked tens of thousands of casualties; many people lost their lives or were injured. It especially impacted northwest Syria, worsening an already dire situation, with more than 4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. Other earthquakes hit Morocco and Afghanistan, respectively on 8th September and 7th October, killing and injuring thousands of people and causing widespread destruction in both countries. Unfortunately, the list of dramatic events does not stop here. The war in Ukraine has been ongoing uninterruptedly since February 2022; the conflict that erupted in Sudan has caused over 6 million displaced people and created the worst child displacement crisis in the world, as explored in our previous blog.

Updates from MOAS missions 2023

Regarding our ongoing missions, we have some excellent news that we have been sharing with you all throughout the year.

Sudan Humanitarian Delivery Mission Given MOAS' commitment to addressing emerging global crises promptly and effectively, we have started a new mission in Sudan, aimed to assist the communities most severely impacted by the armed conflict. 52 tons of therapeutic food have already been delivered, and our next step involves coordinating a shipment of vital medical supplies. Without the support of our partners **Edesia Nutrition, Adra, UNHCR and Action Medeor**, and our donors' contributions, this project would not have been possible. We are all united to fight malnutrition and the loss of innocent human lives. The fundraising campaign to support the project is ongoing; please visit the dedicated page on our website for further information.



#2023 What a year it's been

In 2023, the world witnessed a complex and dynamic landscape, marked by both challenges and progress. Ongoing global issues, conflicts and displacement influenced humanitarian efforts. Here is a recap of key humanitarian developments in 2023 and MOAS' updates.

The shipwreck of Cutro (Italy), on February 26, resulting in the tragic loss of nearly 100 migrants, including children, women, and men seeking safety and the opportunity for a better life, deeply unsettled the entire civil society. Unfortunately, as is often the case, governments and institutions failed to provide a satisfactory response and take meaningful actions.

The fight against climate change is now a race against time, and while the international community is trying to find other ways to save the few remaining resources, natural hazards such as flooding and fires – as the ones in Somalia and Libya – are still devastating villages and natural reserves, destroying communities but also biodiversity, plants and animals.

MOAS medical mission in Ukraine, aimed to bring emergency medical aid to the people affected by the conflict and cut off from healthcare services, due to the escalation of the fighting. Thanks to our donors and partners – as well as the successful MOAS Humanitarian Relief Dinner aimed to raise funds for our project in Ukraine – we were able to increase the number of ambulances on the frontline from 27 to 50. Our skilled teams of 150 doctors, nurses and paramedics working tirelessly has saved more than 30,000 lives on the frontline so far, and over 21,000 in communities cut off from medical infrastructure (in 2022 over 5,000 people, and so far in 2023 over 16,000). If you are keen to get further details on the mission, read our previous blog.

In response to the heatwave that severely impacted **Malta** in the past summer with temperatures approaching 50 degrees, we donated 1,400 litres (700 bottles) of drinking water and 700 doses of re-hydration mineral salts to migrants residing in reception centres, particularly affected by this emergency. If you missed the news, read our press release. MOAS in Malta continues to be committed to assisting the most vulnerable migrant communities in any possible way, and to promote integration and inclusion whenever possible.

The annual fundraising event by MOAS was a great success! Held at the stunning **Palazzo Parisio**, this charitable occasion takes place yearly to raise funds for our global life-saving missions. The event offered a delightful evening, allowing attendees to enjoy themselves while contributing to a meaningful cause and standing in solidarity with vulnerable communities. All net proceeds gathered from the event were directly and entirely donated to MOAS' missions. Again, we extend our deepest gratitude to our amazing partners, sponsors, and donors, without which our work would not be possible. Find out more about the event in our press release.

Our mission to combat malnutrition started in 2019 and is still ongoing. Indeed, MOAS has built a reputation for providing therapeutic food in the fight against malnutrition in Yemen and Somalia, countries crippled by great political instability exacerbated by high rates of food insecurity, famine, drought and malnutrition, putting millions of lives at risk. Specifically,



Somalia, after several failed rainy seasons, has recently experienced devastating floods, resulting in more than 50 fatalities and over 700,000 people displaced.

This year we continued our mission and successfully distributed over 80 tons of ready-to-use therapeutic foods to children on the brink of starvation, with the ongoing support of partners Edesia, Action Medeor, ADRA and IMC Somalia.

MOAS remains committed to Resilience-building and Disaster Risk Reduction for vulnerable communities, such as refugees, worldwide. Hence, through local partners, we provide consultancy services, technical advice and specific equipment designed to respond to the issues posed by water and fire in refugee camps worldwide.

MOAS provides technical advice to volunteers in refugee camps and nearby host communities. During the training volunteers can face emergency situations with proper preparation response. As of the end of 2023, we have provided more than 3,000 volunteers with training and technical advice on fire and water safety. All this is done with the support of international organisations on the ground and in collaboration with our local partners.

We also provide training to include household-level fire prevention to minimise the risk of fire outbreaks. Volunteers learn notions on safe cooking, including household safety measures from fire. Moreover, as part of our operational expansions, the MOAS team trained teachers on raising awareness among children of host communities and Rohingya refugees regarding fire prevention and preparation.

Thanks to these exercises and the equipment we provide, refugees and host community volunteers are prepared to minimise the impacts of fire and water hazards when they occur. MOAS is dedicated to continuing and expanding these DRR activities to improve the safety and resilience of vulnerable people worldwide.

Climate Change Campaign – Since last year MOAS started an educational and advocacy campaign addressing the increasing challenges climate migrants face. Through a global campaign promoted on our social media platforms, our aim is to educate people on the realities of climate refugees and highlight the need for policy changes.

Safe & Legal Routes Campaign – In 2023, MOAS continued to advocate for the implementation of #SafeAndLegalRoutes of migration. Throughout the year, we are focusing on raising awareness of the importance of allowing people escaping from war, famines, human rights violations, and natural hazards to reach safe countries in a safe way because **nobody deserves to die at sea**.

Through the explanation of legal definitions and the narratives of asylum and the obstacles they face, we further analyse the main factors driving migration –namely, economic, political, social, and environmental factors- so that our audience can better understand why people decide to leave their countries and risk their lives to reach safety.

Final thoughts

Our significant accomplishments stem from the extensive support we've extended to those we serve and from those who are supporting us. We are committed to fostering a world where every individual is treated with dignity and respect, utilising our logistical expertise to address evolving crises and offer sustained social assistance promptly.

As we anticipate the year 2024, our commitment remains unwavering – we will persist in leveraging our logistical proficiency to respond to emerging challenges swiftly.



BANGLADESH

3,000 volunteers trained in water safety and fire response, in refugee camps and host communities



SUDAN

52 tonnes of therapeutic food shipped



YEMEN

26 tonnes of therapeutic food shipped



UKRAINE

51 ambulances on the ground

150 doctors, nurses and paramedics

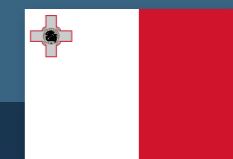
40,000 patients treated on the front line

28,000 people helped in civil communities



SOMALIA

40 tonnes of nutritional aid delivered



MALTA

1,400 litres (700 bottles) of drinking water and **700 doses** of rehydraton mineral salts donated to migrants

Provision of **Information and Learning Centres** in the refugee camps of Hal Far

English for Beginners course delivered to residents of transitional housing centres

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

Promoting the **Family Hosting & Sponsorship Project** to connect migrants with families and boost integration

Remote Learning Initiative for migrant students: tablets and modems with internet connection delivered to families living in reception centres

MOAS

AROUND THE WORLD



MOAS

#MissionOfHope

SOMALIA

SUPPORT US WWW.MOAS.EU

Relief for communities
in crisis

Nutrition Program



**Saves
Lives**

Your Donation

If you would like support our humanitarian efforts, you can donate online at 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

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