



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
Ministry of Migration & Asylum

The Minister

Thursday, November 19, 2020

Our ref (conf): 102

Judith Sunderland,
Deputy Director (Acting)
Europe and Central Asia
Human Rights Watch
cossee@hrw.org

Dear Ms Sunderland,

Thank you for your letter dated October 30th.

I would like to assure you that the Greek Government responded immediately, after the fire in Moria's camp to ensure firstly the safety of everyone affected (staff, residents, and asylum seekers). We also acted immediately to ensure the uninterrupted continuation of services, including food supplies (contractor, Greek Army and NGOs), health services (EODY & NGOs) and mainstream protection (UNHCR and NGOs).

Regarding the medical provision, under the coordination of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum and EODY, by day three, WHO and Norwegian Emergency Team were on the field with 28 members of staff to provide medical care. On the same time two emergency mobile medical units, one from Hellenic Red Cross and one from MdM, were also present on the field to cover first aid provision inside the accommodation area of the new Lesbos RIC.

The new RIC in Lesbos currently hosts 7,500 people since we have already managed to transfer more than 2,000 people from the island to the mainland (UAMs and PoCs). You can find a breakdown of the number in the tables below.

Total	7,517
Women	1,668
<i>Pregnant</i>	<i>118</i>
Men	3,297
Children	2,552

Children per gender & age disaggregation				
Female		Male		Total
Age group	1,172	Age group	1,380	2,552
0-2	253	0-2	221	474
0	89	0	75	
1	86	1	75	
2	78	2	71	
3-5	245	3-5	278	523
3	89	3	94	
4	86	4	78	
5	70	5	106	
6-17	674	6-17	881	1,555
6	83	6	99	
7	67	7	93	
8	73	8	84	
9	67	9	78	
10	60	10	79	
11	53	11	64	
12	43	12	59	
13	65	13	65	
14	48	14	62	
15	37	15	66	
16	47	16	67	
17	31	17	65	

As an extra measure, all pregnant women (118) above the 5th month of pregnancy will be taken to mainland due to covid – to give birth in a hospital assigned for covid19 positive cases.

The area operated as a firing range field from 1926 until the day we took it, after the Moria fire. They used it only for the firing range of small arms

(straight trajectory), commonly only bullets, and not for other types of ammunition. This ammunition, according to the Greek Army, contains no lead. Moreover, the shooting field is only 1/10 of the current site while all the camp was covered by new levels of soil. The type of soil (clay) is emitting low quantity of dust due to its composition.

Before the entrance of the beneficiaries, a special team from the Army performed a testing of all the land of the temporary camp for effective ammunition and reported no findings. The testing was repeated 20 days after the entrance of the beneficiaries, with the same results.

Although we are assured that there is no lead contamination, we agreed with the EU Task force to undergo a new soil testing together with EU specialists which will include soil sampling (timeline: one month).

Regarding water supplies, from day one beneficiaries had the opportunity to use 180m³ of clean potable water and 4.5 lt of bottled drinking water that was provided along food distribution.

Despite the fact that we face the day-by-day challenges, we keep on with devotion to our plan and aim to make this temporary camp a model of provision of services in the context of an emergency. We are now proceeding with considerable works to improve antiflooding provisions, sanitation, wash, electrical capacity as well as to prepare the Camp for the winter.

Yours sincerely,

Notis Mitarachi

