



# Aider-Help&Hope

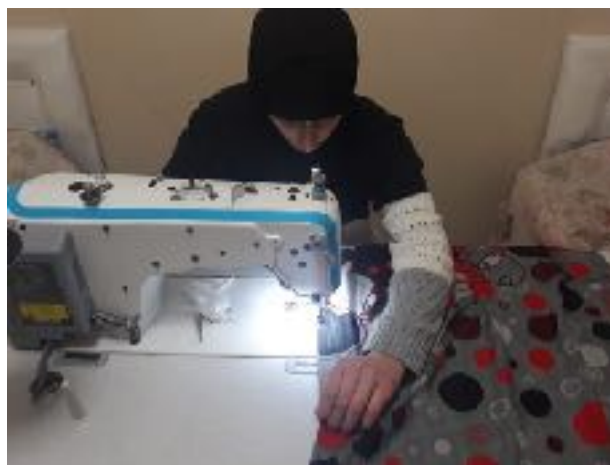
The feeling of helplessness at the beginning of the lockdown, due to the impossibility to plan fundraising events and the difficulty to know how to help in Greece, soon gave way to an intense activity.

Emilie, who had been growing plants to sell for us (as she has done every year) managed to sell many by finding a safe way to distribute.

The team that helps on Leros island sent out an urgent request for diapers (nappies) as the government's monthly allowance of the refugees in the camp had been stopped (they were in lockdown so couldn't go shopping!). We responded immediately and the Greek company we deal with sent a complete pallet over to island.

We also realised that face masks were going to be needed by the refugees in Greece. A small but fantastic team of volunteers set to work sewing and the production of attractive, washable face masks is continuing. It soon became apparent that it was more economical to sell them here and purchase for the refugees in Greece. We have ordered from the small Greek company that provides us with other products and 1000 are in the process of being shipped to Leros Island. We are hoping to supply more so that everyone in the camp has a mask, absolutely necessary to go shopping. Many thanks to all who have bought our masks and there are more available, so please let us know if you would like to purchase one or more.

We have had some wonderful generous responses of our volunteers and donors to this crisis. We thank everyone hugely and in particular the foundation Irène who support us every year but have sent us a huge 4000€ extra to give aid in Greece, the Anglian church of Cahors who sent 250€ and our longterm friends of « Mains Tendues 82 » association in the east of the département created and run by the wonderful Val Johnson who has just sent the message that they are donating 1000€!



**Other news:** The syrian family with three small children, that we were hoping to receive in Lauzerte very sadly had their visas refused from Turkey. The father, Essam, is handicapped with shrapnel in his legs and has difficulty finding work. He mentioned a project they have to start a small business to make clothes, so we decided to help them and send funds to buy a solid machine to start this project. Meysa, set to work immediately by making masks as the coronavirus had just arrived in Turkey!

And some very good news: our friends from Afghanistan, Tamim, Zarena and their two children, that we first met in Greece first in February 2016 have finally been relocated to Germany and are very happy and expecting a third child, having very sensibly waited to be settled! Tamim is training to be a bus driver!

## **Upcoming fundraising events to note!**

### **On hold!**

We need more propositions of fund-raising events that will be possible once we are free to move again! Thank you, and meanwhile stay safe!

**Of course any direct donations to our bank account would be wonderful!  
Direct bank transfer, PayPal, credit card or chèque all possible!**