



How to make a difference for refugees

Idea Catalogue from REfugee REsponse Seminar CPH 2016

#REfugeeREponse



Messengers of Peace

Introduction

by Andrea Demarmels, Chairman of the Regional Committee WOSM Europe

With a hundred participants from all over Europe, the REfugee REsponse Seminar in late 2015 set the direction for scouts and guides working to help refugees. This catalogue of ideas developed and gathered at the seminar aims to inspire new initiatives and cooperation in local communities across the region.

Scouts and guides across Europe want to take part in their local communities. It is active citizenship in pure form, where we look behind the tragedy and the politics and see the human beings in need of help here and now.

As scouts and guides we are not naïve. We know that we cannot solve the long-term challenges of

the current refugee situation. We chose to take leadership with a pragmatic approach and react to the situation by joining forces with our local communities to make a difference for some of the people affected by the tragedy of war.

The ideas in this catalogue can be used as a starting point to help our local communities help refugees. The ideas are grouped by theme - some are about the basic needs of refugees as they travel through Europe while others focus on making scouting accessible to the many new citizens of our region.



»The seminar has really given a positive look on what the scouts can do and united people from different countries. I was happy to find that we were thinking about actual ways in which scouts can work, responding to the refugee crisis – what we can do. I've gained a lot of self-confidence to work with this issue, a lot of ideas and ways to implement them and also a project plan, that we will work with on a national level.«

LIA PALOVAARE, PARTICIPANT FROM FINLAND

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Find like-minded scouts on Facebook

The participants from the REfugee REsponse Seminar joined forces on Facebook to create a network of scouts and guides working with – or wanting to work with – refugees.

Here, we share ideas and stories. You are very welcome to join – it is an open group called REfugee REsponse Network.

Getting started

– even the smallest effort can make a real difference

Making a difference for refugees does not have to be time consuming, expensive or difficult. Here is a few ideas on how to get started.

What you can do when you meet refugees

- Organize water, food and/or shelter
- Organize the chaos by making signs or directing people in the right direction
- Provide a shower
- Organize a welcome group
- Provide the essentials – diapers, toothbrush and -paste etc.
- Establish a prayer room
- Copy and hand out maps
- Provide a medical check up

Super easy ideas to create joy

- Organize a football match
- Invite the refugees for a walk in the woods to find edible plants
- Invite the refugees to the beach to learn about animals, water and safety
- Make activities together – for example knitting or sewing
- Collect toys to give to the children
- Play with the children to make them enjoy being

children for a while

- Visit the local playgrounds
- Make simple and fun activities for everyone to join

Ideas that take a little more work – but make a big difference

- Reach out to your local communities to organize help for the refugees
- Let the younger scout and guides make drawings for the children on how to live in Europe or in a specific country
- To make the younger scouts and guides understand the refugee situation, make up a story about a boy and a girl from your our town who became refugees because made up war
- Get to know the skills of the refugees – and help them make use of them
- Share your knowledge and experiences with working with the volunteers for other in your community to benefit and be inspired



»There was a very big will and motivation within the scouts to act and to do something for the refugees. Only, we did not have the knowledge on how to do something. This seminar was the answer to that question.«

NENAD JOCVANOVSKI, PARTICIPANT FROM SERBIA

A real-world example:

Organising welcome parties for refugees

In an effort to help build bridges between local citizens and newly arrived refugees or asylum seekers, a number of local Scout and Guide Groups run welcome parties and neighbourhood get-togethers either on their own initiative or as partners in an existing community project.

One such welcoming party took place in Freistadt, Austria.

“When we realised that a growing number of refugee families were given accommodation in and around our city and that their daily routine was anything but varied, we decided to invite our new neighbours to spend an afternoon with us”, explains a local scout leader and continues: “Some fifty children, young people and their families turned up and were met by many members of our local Freistadt Scout and Guide Group. We all spent a wonderful afternoon together, with barbecue, games and other activities. And we listened to the incredible stories about the challenges our guests had encountered on their journeys from their former homes in Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and other countries. The hours went by too quickly and looking back the afternoon had not just provided the refugees a welcome change in their otherwise dull routine but allowed us, the local scouts and guides to understand the situation these children, youngsters, women and men had found themselves in. We have gained a group of new friends!”

Covering the basics

Every person has basic needs and you can help provide for them. Refugees will need food and water but perhaps also help with the local language. Also, internet or phone access is essential to many as it is the only way to get in touch with loved ones.

Food activities

- Invite the refugees to share a meal with you
- Gather and distribute food and water
- Provide a decent meal for refugees waiting for trains or otherwise on the move

Pass the language barriers

- Help the refugees learn your local language
- Offer to translate documents, videos, flyers etc.
- Use drawings to explain everyday life
- Teach local cultures and language

Providing internet and power

- Provide Wi-Fi
- Provide a computer with internet access
- Set up a charging station for mobile devices



»We have thousands of people coming to Greece and I know that they keep going though almost every country in Europe. So I think everyone is affected - first as citizen, and secondly as scouts and guides. I am bringing home with me hope. There are so many people interested and caring and doing work back home. I am bringing back hope, that we can do many more things and that we can support the refugees.«

MARIANA FRAKOU, PARTICIPANT FROM GREECE

Become the go-to-people in your local community

Everyone in your local community is to some degree affected by the refugee situation. As Scouts and Guides you can take the lead and help organize the local initiatives. Here are some ideas to get started.

Ready, set, coordinate!

- Speak with other organizations and find a way to coordinate help
- Make a Facebook group or some other way to make the local efforts visible and shareable
- Work with other organizations or local authorities to organize activities - for example for the summer holidays

In the local community

- Contact local schools with refugee children and offer to help with activities
- Become the link between the asylum centre and the local organizations
- Offer to arrange activities for the refugee children and invite others to join
- Organize a training for volunteers about intercultural communication



»When I was invited to this I had never thought of the scouts being engaged in the refugee crisis. But now I see it. The seminar has broadened my horizon to the fact that there scouts and guides who can and want to give us a tremendous help.«

DANI YACOB, REFUGEE FROM SYRIA, NON-SCOUT AND FACILITATOR AT THE SEMINAR



A real-world example:

Collecting, sorting and distributing clothes

Scout and guide groups are regularly involved in running awareness campaigns in their local communities and launching appeals to donate clothing and other needed items. These activities are either run by the groups themselves or as part of a local refugee support coalition.

This example is from Dortmund, Germany where the local scouts and guides have put their organizing skills into good use. When it became evident that the many refugee families would continue their travel to different parts of Germany, including Dortmund. Two local scout and guide groups from Dortmund decided to offer their time, experience and skills: They joined volunteers from other local civil society organisations at the main local welcome centre for refugees arriving in the city of Dortmund.

The principal task for the volunteers is helping with the checking and sorting of donated cloths and other goods while others set up the distribution chain. Yet other scouts and guides joined the organising team of the centre responsible for making sure that enough volunteers are available at all times and that they are allocated tasks according to their skills.

Scout and guide related activities

Scouts and guides have both the compassion and the tools to help refugees. Here are ideas on how to put your scouting and/or guiding into play.

- Create an introduction to scouts and guides for the refugees
- Make a buddy system pairing scout teens with refugee teens to exchange experiences and encourage them to keep in touch if they end up in different countries
- Make scout activities at the local asylum centres
- Find out whether there are scouts or guides among the refugees and invite them to join your group
- Invite the refugee children to join our scout and guide groups
- Teach the scouts and guides about the refugee situation and encourage them to help other children
- Educate the new citizens to become scout or guide leaders so they can contribute in their new communities
- Let the oldest scouts and guides assist with homework
- Translate scout and guide skills into job valuable competences
- Make activities for the refugee families - for example a weekend in tents or a bonfire dinner
- Educate the leaders about intercultural issues
- Conduct information meetings for refugee parents about scouting and guiding
- Ask parents to volunteer – and explain to them what scouting/guiding is about
- All scouts and guides in the local groups can be a contact person for a refugee and meet with them once a week to teach them the culture and make new friends



»I believe that we can do something as scouts in Europe to stabilize an unstable situation. Through the personal stories that have been told, I have gained a better understanding of the situation. Also, I now have a network of other people who I think I will be«

ALMA SKJOLD KNUDSEN, PARTICIPANT FROM DENMARK

A real-world example:

Children want to be children

Being on the run with your family makes little room for being a child. Many scout and guide groups choose to engage the refugee children i play when they meet them in their journey through Europe. In Thy, Denmark a scout group has made an effort to make playing and meeting new friends easy for the children at the local asylum centres.

“Children just want to be children, and we want them to have the opportunity to just have fun with other children”, says the group leader.

The scouts in Thy have applied the local municipality for funds to buy uniforms and other scout equipment to lend to the children from the refugee centres. The children are invited to join the group for free for the months they stay at the centres with their families.

“They are with us for the duration of their stay and we hope that they will find new scout or guide groups once the family is granted asylum and they move to their new permanent community”, the group leader explains.

Partnerships and fundraising

Scouts and guides have both the compassion and the tools to help refugees. But sometimes making a real difference takes more effort and resources than we as scouts can manage on our own.

Organising activities for refugees is new for most scout and guide associations. Partnerships can be a way to get people with specific knowledge and experience involved in your projects. Cooperating with other organisations can also make it a lot easier to take action with a long-term perspective and grant legitimacy to your work. Therefore, we encourage exploring partnership opportunities in the local communities.

Examples could be cooperating with the local municipalities or administrations. Get in touch with them and find out how you can work together. Many municipalities across Europe are happy to involve volunteers and organisations in their work. Other examples could be other NGOs with similar interests – like the Red Cross. In many local communities NGOs have already initiated projects and initiatives to help the refugees – so, find out how you can help each other.

Fundraising

There are many public and private funds relevant to explore in terms of fundraising for your activities. Here, we present a few options that you can consider.

The Eric Frank Trust

www.ericfranktrust.org

One option could be the Eric Frank Trust supporting scouting principles worldwide. Eric Frank and his brother came to the UK as legitimate Jewish

refugees just before the Second World War and found through Scouting a welcome which led to his lifelong support for the movement and his establishment of the trust. Therefore, the Eric Frank Trust has identified a preliminary fund of \$10,000 for initiatives arising from the REfugee REsponse Seminar CPH 2016.

Providing humanitarian aid is outside of the remit of the Eric Frank Trust and can only consider applications dealing with children who are legally seeking or have been granted refugee status or other legal entitlement to remain in the country. When beginning a fundraising process be prepared to describe the following:

- The intended target group: Age, characteristics and needs
- The intended learning and other outcomes in measurable details
- Plans and a timetable for implementation
- Methods to be used
- An analysis of the human and financial resources required
- Monitoring and evaluation procedures

Messengers of Peace

www.scout.org/messengersofpeace

Initiated by the World Organization of the Scout Movement in 2011, the Messengers of Peace programme is a global initiative to inspire scouts around the world to work towards peace. The

programme supports any scout project that brings a positive change in a community – health, environment, social circumstances, safety or addresses conflict. If financial support is needed, the programme also has a fund to support projects and make them even bigger.

To get more information on the funding opportunities, please contact your Regional Scout Office and read the fund guidelines.

Asocio

www.facebook.com/asociodenmark

Asocio is a project by the five Danish scout organisations. Asocio aims to give children and young people all over the world a better opportunity to develop their full potential regardless of background.

Asocio is working closely with WOSM and WAGGGS to implement strategic development work. If you want to hear more about the project, do not hesitate to contact the Steering Committee for further information at asocio@asocio.dk.

Good advice for fundraising

1. Many foundations only accept applications once or twice a year. Remember to send your application on time and pay attention to their deadlines
2. Write good applications and explain, what effect your project will bring. Be specific and make your ambitions measurable
3. Write targeted and individual applications. Foundations have different purposes, so make sure that your projects meet their purpose and regulations
4. Get in touch! Often a close dialogue with the foundation can help to make your applications even better. Contact them before applying and make sure, that you fulfil all formal requirements or ask for their advice to make your project even better



A real-world example:

A new scout scarf for Ahmed

The Island of Kos in Greece receives many refugees. Two groups of Scouts from Ελληνικός Προσκοπισμός joined volunteers from other civil society organisations engaged in refugee support activities on the island.

For a couple of hours families could forget their hardship and boredom and the children could do what other children would do on a sunny afternoon - have fun and play games!

One of the children was Ahmed, a young scout from Syria, where he and his family had to leave everything behind when they fled the atrocities of war.

After a day of games and fun, all children went back to the refugee centre tired but with smiles and laughter.

And Ahmed proudly wore his new scout scarf, which he received from his Greek friends.

More real life stories from all over Europe

WOSM Europe continuously gathers stories from scouts and guides already making a difference to refugees. You can read the stories and find inspiration at www.scout.org/node/106426

A long term perspective on integration

Scouts and guides have both the compassion and the tools to help refugees. Here are ideas on how to put your scouting and guiding into play.

For those of you living in countries where refugees choose to seek asylum and settle, a range of opportunities for supporting integration arise.

Scouting and guiding is known for being great at making room for everyone - and letting everyone make the most of their competencies. And naturally, we as scouts and guides have an interest in

inviting our new neighbours into the organisation.

Here is an opportunity to grow as a group - both in size and in experience. And to support refugees as they build their new lives in their new communities. We hope that many of you will make the most of this and share your knowledge and friendship.



Keep up the good work and keep this in mind

- Embrace new people and new cultures
- A little effort goes a long way - no need to set up large events, complicated program etc.
- Focus on what you do best
- See the refugees as resources and partners
- Do not hesitate

Thank you!

We would like to thank Asocio, WOSM, Messengers of Peace, Eric Frank Trust, The Danish Youth Council, Spejderne and all of the seminar participants for making this catalogue possible.

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Messengers of Peace