



Q&A: Europe's largest refugee camp Moria and surrounding Olive Groves destroyed by fire

What is Movement On The Ground's role in Moria camp?

Movement On The Ground (MOTG) operates in Moria camp and the surrounding Olive Groves. This land is rented by MOTG from local Greek farmers and is home to 3,000 people (of the current total population of Moria being 13,000 people). MOTG operates the Olive Grove campUs with support and at the request of camp management and the Greek government. The 3,000 people are residents in our campUs, actively involved in improving the living conditions for the broader refugee and Greek community. An integral part of our work is actively involving and enabling the camp residents to take control of their living conditions and work with us to improve them.

In fact, MOTG had a team of 150 resident volunteers and 20 MOTG coordinators, working hard to establish a dignified campUs. This campUs was built on levelled grounds, pallets and steady tents, and included washing facilities, fire points, offices, food lines, a Wi-Fi network, education facilities and community areas. The Olive Grove was an example of our Camp to CampUs philosophy.

What is the Camp to CampUs philosophy?

At the core of its mission is the "Camp to campUs" philosophy, a belief that all refugee camps should be more inclusive and self-sufficient enabling refugee populations to feel safe, empowered and connected to their host community.

How much damage was done?

This morning it can be confirmed that most of Moria camp and the surrounding areas have been destroyed by the fire. The area in which we first started our work in the Olive Groves has partially been destroyed including tents/structures, washing facilities, fires points, educational facilities, offices, food lines, educational and training facilities, Wi-Fi network and community areas. Luckily, all 170 MOTG team members, both coordinators and resident volunteers, are safe and unharmed. So far, no statement about casualties has been released by officials.

How did the fire start?

Years of frustration, neglect, lack of resources and failing EU policy has led to an expected outburst of complete unrest which ignited fires that then spread across the whole camp due to strong winds.

How can MOTG be helped during this crisis?

Movement On The Ground will be there for both the refugee population and local residents on Lesbos during this time. We will provide crisis support to camp management and other

field actors. Considering the urgency of this emergency situation, we are now heavily relying on support and donations to rebuild the community.

Please help and donate at www.movementontheground.com/donation.

You can also start your own fundraiser at www.movement-on-the-ground.kentaa.com or at <https://bit.ly/3hfx1E1>

Finally, you can spread this message and our appeal on social media.

This is all the information we have been able to accurately source from the current situation. We expect further updates to follow in the coming days.

For more information visit <http://movementontheground.com>

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