



LIGHTING FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN GREECE

Lighting, sanitation and the risk of gender-based violence

Case study 4: Greece, Epirus

What type of lighting was installed, when, where and why?

Since January 2015, more than one million women and men fleeing war, persecution, natural disasters and poverty have entered or passed through Greece in search of safety and a better life in Europe. Oxfam started its operations in Greece in October 2015, providing protection support, support to site management and WASH services in three sites – Filippiada, Doliana and Konitsa. Lighting conditions and access to sanitation facilities vary considerably from site to site, depending on the infrastructure: in Konitsa and Doliana, migrants and refugees are housed in old and repurposed buildings, while in Filippiada, they are housed in containers in areas that were originally set up as tent sites.

Filippiada and Doliana are remote, open sites with poor access to local markets and services. The immediate rural surroundings exacerbate the perception that refugees and migrants have of being isolated and vulnerable. Since this feeling of isolation can elevate residents' perception of risk, demands for different types of lighting, both inside and around the site, have been ongoing.

In all three sites floodlights have been installed outside and around the sites. Inside containers there is fluorescent lighting, and in the repurposed buildings there are LED fluorescent lights.

Oxfam replaced more than half the floodlights in Filippiada and installed additional ones, doubling the site's lighting sources. Oxfam also distributed handheld solar lights that can be hung up, and installed additional lighting around sanitation facilities and behind the warehouse, acting on feedback from the affected population.

In Doliana, Oxfam installed additional lighting in rooms and common spaces, and lighting is currently being improved around the kitchen containers following feedback from the residents. Further improvement is planned for lighting in outside spaces. In Konitsa, increased lighting is planned for the outside common area and around the kitchens, following feedback that there was not enough light.

Did the distribution/installation of lighting affect perceptions of safety, particularly in relation to GBV?

Based on informal conversations with community members and regular interaction with the community, the protection team has learned that feelings of safety have improved as the community's expectations regarding lighting have been met. A number of mechanisms are now in place to ensure that Oxfam and the site management team can quickly address issues that arise: migrants and refugees can provide

feedback (i) to a community engagement team, (ii) to Oxfam's protection team, (iii) via a WhatsApp phone line, or (iv) through an anonymous feedback box.

Any other observations related to WASH, GBV or lighting

As a result of this programme, Oxfam's Greece team would recommend that lighting should be integrated into WASH infrastructure projects from the start, based on an initial assessment of lighting needs. Furthermore, the team appreciated the importance of conducting regular risk assessments, preferably with men and women from the community. Having a proper understanding of the protection issues related to lighting requires site visits at different times of the day, and this was a recommendation for the team, as was involving the community in decision making to ensure that outcomes and decisions around lighting are understood and respected by camp residents.



Oxfam staff holding a discussion with camp residents, Filippiada camp.
Photo: Dodi Shoshan.

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For further information on the issues raised in this paper please email rachel.hastie@oxfam.org

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Elrha's Humanitarian Innovation Fund

The project this paper is part of is supported by Elrha's Humanitarian Innovation Fund programme, a grant making facility supporting organisations and individuals to identify, nurture and share innovative and scalable solutions to the most pressing challenges facing effective humanitarian assistance. The HIF is funded by aid from the UK Government.

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