

Annex to “Seven calls for change to alleviate the European refugee crisis” Best practices of four SAM.I. members

The member organisations of SAMARITAN INTERNATIONAL are involved in support and aid for refugees, internally displaced persons and asylum seekers. Their activities cover several stages of aid.

Associazione Nazionale Pubbliche Assistenze (ANPAS, Italy)

First medical and logistical aid in Italy

ANPAS unites 880 Italian volunteer organisations with 90.000 volunteers. Hundreds of them are providing medical and logistical assistance, including the distribution of meals and clothes, in the regions of Sicily, Apulia and Sardinia. The crucial work is conducted entirely for free and the local ANPAS organisations are straining their own



resources to deliver the much needed aid.

ANPAS volunteers are on the frontlines of the refugee crisis, at the ports of Trapani, Pozzallo, Catani, Palermo, Bari, Brindisi and Taranto. In Sicily, the volunteers have been activated for rescue operations by the regional Civil Protection Department. They are specifically trained for these operations and many of them are multilingual. In Puglia, they work as part of the 118 Emergency Medical Service.



Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund Deutschland (ASB, Germany)



Immediate Relief in third countries

ASB's First Assistance Samaritan Team (FAST) conducted several medical aid operations in refugee camps in Northern Iraq in 2012. At the moment, they continue to build-up and structure the local basic medical services and conduct workshops on hygiene in the adverse circumstances of the refugee camps, to help prevent the spread of diseases. Support for refugees in this region also continues with the ongoing distribution of aid materials.

Long-term integration / Immigrant-friendly culture

Many local branches of ASB run refugee facilities with hundreds of refugees each in a number of German cities. Volunteers accompany refugees to public authorities to help them with the bureaucracy of their residence permit or enrolling their children in local schools. ASB refugee care institutions also offer spare time activities for children to have their lives return to a sense of normalcy. There are also free language courses taught by professionals as well as volunteers, to lay the foundation of integration and participation in society.



Other efforts to foster an immigrant-friendly culture include the “Welcome Office” of ASB Sömmerda in Thuringia. It serves as a focal point for refugees in need of support as well as for the recruitment of new volunteers. Further initiatives of bringing refugees and resident citizens together are planned for cities expecting new refugees. In Falkensee in Brandenburg, where about 300 new refugees are expected this summer, the local ASB branch is active in the “Welcome to Falkensee” initiative, which will include sponsorships for young refugees.

Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund Österreichs (ASBÖ, Austria)



Age appropriate refugee aid

About 300 landed refugees in Austria find shelter in the seven accommodation facilities of ASBÖ. Two of their facilities in Vienna and the Burgenland region are tailored particularly to the needs of youths and children, who have come to Austria as unaccompanied minors. Qualified multi-professional teams (including social workers, psychologists and social pedagogues) are helping the young people to integrate and build a future for themselves. This approach has already yielded many success stories.

With the stream of refugees continuously growing, ASBÖ is prepared to take over the responsibility for additional facilities. However, appropriate facilities are currently lacking.

Food distribution and medical supply in third countries

ASBÖ is also involved in aid for refugee camps in the Middle East in collaboration with other NGOs. With funds from “Nachbar in Not” (foundation of Austria’s eight biggest aid organisations and Austrian public broadcasting network ORF), they have provided food vouchers to be spent at local grocers for 1700 people in a refugee camp in Lebanon in 2014. A total of 1891 families (or 11.073 people) living in Berseve refugee camp in Iraq benefited from deliveries of various aid materials in the winter of 2014-2015. They have also supported refugee camps in the Western Sahara region with training courses for care-giving relatives and care personnel as well as with medical supplies. Follow-ups for all of these projects are currently being planned.

Spilka Samaritanian Ukraini / Спілки Самаритян України (SSU, Ukraine)

Support for Internally Displaced Persons in Ukraine

According to the UN, more than 450,000 people have fled their homes in Eastern Ukraine and Crimea. Together with their German partners from ASB, the Samaritan organisation of Ukraine (SSU) has been helping internally displaced persons (IDPs) to get through the winter of 2014-2015 by providing winter clothing to 1,000 IDPs and basic food and hygiene products to a total of 3,000 persons. Since hardly any of the refugee accommodations were winter-proof, appropriate housing was provided to another 500 IDPs. A special focus of IDP help lies on helping vulnerable groups, such as women with children, unaccompanied minors, elderly people, people with disabilities or people with chronic diseases.

