

Message from Fr Luke

I wanted to write to thank you for your ongoing support for the refugees on Rhodes and Kos.

Since the closure of the reception centre for refugees in Rhodes, the old slaughterhouse, there are still 25 refugees from Rhodes locked up in Kos.

The rest were transferred to Athens and literally released onto the streets.

Those who could and can, are making their way back to Rhodes.

We have, several, now who are completely dependent on our Franciscan mission.

There is no state aid.

A family with a young boy and a baby girl, and several young men.

We have housed most of them. The family is in a rented apartment, we pay the rent and the utilities and all other basic needs.

The young men are sleeping four to a room in hotels that have agreed to take them (the hotel owners are willing to

house them as they are desperate for we have so few tourists).

We pay for this accommodation at around 360

Euros a month.

We then need to supply their food and all other necessities.

Many need medical and dental treatment and we have found doctors and dentists

Present Population of refugees on the Islands

Men 239
Women 305

Boys 328
Girls 553

Sea Arrivals 2020 1,012
Sea Arrivals 2021 1,633

who are willing to see them
50-60 Euros each visit.

It is a financial demand that
we try to meet each month.

So far, thanks to the
generosity of you all
supporting the fundraising
work of Theresa and Roy, we
are able to meet most of the
demands, however, if the
numbers continue to grow
now the sea is less dangerous
we will struggle.

**You probably don't see
much on the news about the
ongoing refugee situation.**

Every day people continue to
flee conflict, persecution, and
poverty.

Arrivals 31st May-8th June
2021 Rhodes Kos

Thank you so much for your support, we are very grateful.

Fr. Luke ofm

*Population data –UNHCR
estimates based on enrolment
Arrivals/Departures –Greek
Police, Greek Coast Guard
10,500 refugees and asylum
seekers reside on the islands
of Rhodes, Kos and Leros.*

7,900 reside in the permanent
and temporary Reception and
Identification Centres
(RICs).

The majority of the
population on the Aegean
islands are from Afghanistan
(48%), Syria (14%) Somalia
(9%) and Palestine (6%).

Women account for 20% of
the population and children,
nearly 7 out of 10 are
younger than 12 years old.
Approximately 8% of the
children are unaccompanied
or separated.

You can contribute to [helping the refugees here](#).