



**Foundation Because We Carry**  
Durgerdammerdijk 99  
1026CD Amsterdam

Chamber of Commerce registration number: 64596559

**REPORT ON THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2019**

Foundation Because We Carry  
Amsterdam

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Amsterdam, 29 October 2020  
Regarding: Annual financial report 2019

Dear Board,

We hereby report on our assignment regarding the Foundation's 2019 annual financial report.

The annual financial statement consists of the balance sheet as at 31 December 2019, the income statement report for 2019 and the notes, as well as any other information that has been included in this report.

### **1.1 Accountant's consolidated report**

We prepared the annual financial statement of Foundation Because We Carry in Amsterdam based on the information you have provided us. The annual financial statement consists of the balance sheet as at 31 December 2019, the income statement report for 2019 and the notes that accompany them. The notes comprise, among other things, an overview of the financial reporting principles that were followed.

This accountant's consolidated report has been prepared according to Dutch Law, taking into account the 440 Standard "consolidated reports" that applies to accountants. Under this standard, we are expected to support you in preparing and presenting the annual financial statement under the provisions of the Dutch general principles on financial reporting. In doing so, we have applied our expertise in the field of accounting and financial reporting.

When preparing the consolidated report, we trust to have been provided with information that is both correct and relevant. We have executed the assignment according to the applicable regulations on the assumption that you have fulfilled this responsibility.

As a final piece of work, by reading the annual financial statement, we have broadly verified that the description of the annual financial statement corresponds to our knowledge of Because We Carry Foundation.

We have not performed any audit or review that enables us to express an opinion or draw a conclusion with regard to the veracity of the annual financial statement.

While executing this assignment we have complied with the applicable relevant ethical regulations that apply to us in the Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (VGBA). You and every other person using this annual financial statement can rest assured that we have performed this assignment professionally, competently and carefully, with integrity and objectivity and that we treat the information you have provided confidentially.

For a further explanation on the nature and scope of the compilation assignment and the VGBA, please refer to [www.nba.nl/uitleg-samenstellingsverklaring](http://www.nba.nl/uitleg-samenstellingsverklaring).

Kind regards,

Peer Accountants Amsterdam B.V. [Ltd]

J.E.J.M. Mooren  
Accountant Administration Consultant



## ANNUAL REPORT 2019

We are Because We Carry. An Amsterdam based Foundation fully focused on Lesbos.

### WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

There is just one category of people. Every one of us wants to be heard and to be seen. Let's try our best to hear each other, see each other and above all appreciate each other.

Change starts with you. It starts with me. It starts with us all.

#FULLOFHOPE

### OUR STORY

In 2015 we went to Lesbos because we saw powerful images of people on the move. We were in our "safe Europe", relatively close, just one plane ticket away from our bed.

We went there. We simply went there with thousands of baby carriers.

We stood in the water, carried children and comforted mothers who were upset. We made thousands of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. We distributed baby wipes and diapers and went back home after a week without sleep, fairly upset.

Home didn't feel like home anymore, therefore we decided to go back again. We created a very nice system: approximately seven people come to the island every week to help us. Together we run a relay, the baton is passed on to a new, strong and fresh team after a week. This is how we took on more, became bigger and made more of a difference.

In 2019 there were six permanent members Of Because We Carry staff on the island. They formed a safe base and were in the loop about all movements and necessities. In 2019 our team in the Netherlands consisted of seven women and one man.

## THIS HOW WE WORK

NietLullenMaarPoetsen [less talk, more action].

No lengthy meetings, budget plans, protocols and long-term goals. Lesbos is in crisis and a crisis can't be planned, nor followed or shaped. Therefore, we always adjust. Our weeks have rhythm and space, and this balance is very important to us. To us rhythm is offering a specific program once or twice a week, no matter what. Even if there is a fire, new arrivals or strikes. The programs will always go on (unless it is unsafe). The space to act is very important to us because a crisis is always moving. Every week we look at what is needed the most and we make the biggest difference possible. Thus, our weeks have rhythm and space.

## NOW IT GETS A BIT SPIRITUAL

We are all equal, we all have the same needs. If we dare to stand next to each other, vulnerable, in the arena of life, if we support and help each other then everything is possible. Our forces will then multiply, our heart will soften, our brain will be flexible.

We have to help each other, especially when life is a little bit difficult.

People on the move have seen, felt, smelled and heard so many things. Their bodies have sustained so much and recorded so much to process. Only when you are feeling a little bit human again can the seed that is called 'starting over' get the opportunity to sprout.

Therefore, our mission in 2019 was to make the life of these 21,000 people who were on the move on the islands, in the camps of Moria and Kara Tepe, a little bit more tolerable.

## THIS IS HOW WE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN 2019

2019 was the year that we made headway in Moria. That year we spent 292,392.52 euros on help in Moria. In 2018 we spent only 100,067.06 euros. An unbelievably high rise. The number of residents grew enormously. This year we really got our foot through the door and were able to make a difference with our programs and distributions.

## MORIA

A large number of people arrived in Moria this year. We went from 6,500 residents to the alarming number of 21,000. People who had arrived with nothing, who didn't even have something to lie on. We acted immediately. We gathered yoga mats in the Netherlands and bought 7,000 sleeping bags on Lesbos. Also, we gave everyone in the area a clean mattress.

Because it was so cold, we decided to buy hot water bottles and were supported with donations from the Netherlands. We also started a campaign called "a warm nest for the smaller ones": we bought hundreds of strollers.

This year an unbelievable number of winter jackets were needed. Together we gathered 21,000 jackets. However, we weren't prepared for the high number of small men in Moria. Even though we gathered many jackets, we had to buy a lot extra ones – we bought everything on the island – especially men's jackets size S.

We distributed many needs, the whole year round, just because we were going along with what was needed at the moment. We are hands-on and we go where the crisis takes us. Even after the big fire, we made it possible for the people to get what they needed. We received many donations of nice products from companies, we held a fundraiser and bought things ourselves. If we see that something is needed, we make sure that we get it. The end.

Another aspect of our power is bringing beauty and a smile, especially in these difficult circumstances in which these people on the move found themselves in. Due to the growing number of residents, next to area C with women travelling alone, a D and even an E area appeared. These were sad places, separated by barbed wire, where also small children were forced to live. The camp management didn't allow the barbed wire to be removed, so we decorated the fence. We further embellished area C, and we painted all houses green and old pink instead of grey and dark. We believe that beauty is a necessity. It softens the eyes and thus the soul.

Besides the greyness which had to be contested, trash became an increasingly growing issue. We organized cleaning actions. Team Clean we call it on Moria. We also started renting a local garbage company. This quickly got out of hand as there was so much garbage.

## PROGRAMS

The weekly programs are BWC's core, our base, the routine within the commotion. We offer them to all residents. We wanted to offer an additional sport opportunity in Moria; therefore, we set up a runners' club.

It was very nice to have a barber present in Moria, especially for men travelling alone. On Kara Tepe we have had a barber for some time and this year for the first time there was even a possibility to follow a training to become a barber. A real training, with a real certificate. An opportunity to blossom again, to work on your future. Feeling useful is very important for your personal growth and self-esteem.

In 2019 we organized a big yoga festival for the children of Moria and Kara Tepe. That was a really big event. We called it Full of Hope and that was exactly what it brought – to the children and to us: hope. Many volunteers flew in for this, an entertainment team of 40 people. We acted out ten animals for the children, they imitated it and made flyers for every animal, with positive affirmations. The bunny: I feel safe. The lion: I feel strong. This makes so much difference in a sweet child's heart.

We spent days making a grass cover that covered the big square in Moria completely. Together with the banana trees that we brought in and hundreds of meters of pennants, it transformed Moria into a magic place. It was incredibly moving, touching and inspiring to see thousands of children dancing in the heat to Joep Beving's 'The Gift'. It was the most beautiful thing we have ever done. It was a dream moment.



## KARA TEPE

### A new kitchen

This year it was about time to breathe new life into the most important moment of the day in Kara Tepe, the breakfast. In May we had a big fruit distribution in order to give more vitamins to these vulnerable people. The space where we were serving breakfast needed to be replaced.

With tears in our eyes, we said goodbye to our old, nostalgic food truck in which we worked so hard for four years. Since we could start all over again, we made sure that the new kitchen was top-notch and well equipped. We bought a new container and, in the Netherlands, even a professional kitchen and a professional catering cooler, as ten banana boxes go through it every day. For the food that doesn't need to be refrigerated we built a very practical and sturdy storage. Furthermore, we equipped the kitchen with e.g., an oven, so that during small events we could prepare nice things ourselves.

We also went big on the Ramadan: in our beautiful brand new kitchen we prepared a nutritious and festive meal for 1,300 people for a month. People ate this meal together, before dawn, so we served it late in the evening. Because it is a month full of hope for the Muslims, we went all out: it is a month to contemplate and to reassess, to define where you stand in the remaining year. To make a celebration out of Ramadan is a lot of work and, practically speaking, we didn't do it alone: we received a lot of help from our resident volunteers and from volunteers from other NGOs. But financially speaking, we are the ones carrying the weight.

Besides our breakfast, we aimed to enable the people in Kara Tepe to prepare a meal themselves in our community kitchens. It was frustrating for us to see them out of work for a long time and we thought that it was about time to figure out a solution. With all the communities, we built ourselves good quality stoves from good materials in a special cooperation. A very beautiful process, where every community got a stove according to their wishes and design. Afghans prefer a round stove, Syrians a square one so that they can prepare their traditional dishes their own way. This made the stoves a little bit more expensive, but it was very fulfilling to be able to do justice to everyone's culture.

We gave to the children in Kara Tepe their own special plates. We initiated a training program in the yurt, especially for men. The welcome packages were a big expense. For anyone that arrived we put together a package with essentials: plates, cutlery, a thermos can, a first aid kit and soap.

## I CARRY

Collecting jackets in 2019 was a huge operation, and so we decided that we needed a bigger space for that. With great difficulty we found some land and when the jacket distribution was over, we really wanted to use it for a very special project.

It has been a dream to do more for pregnant women for sometime now, therefore the idea of I Carry had quickly materialized. We found a container, painted it pink and everything went very quickly afterwards.

Before we knew it, we had a very nice program with workshops full of gentle care about being pregnant, giving birth and feeding. Every two weeks we had two women with a health care background that gave women on the move advice during their last weeks of pregnancy.

Visiting at the hospital after birth and distributing a Carrybag are both important components of I Carry. We fill these Carrybags with items for the new mother and her baby. Supplies such as maternity pads, creams, pacifiers and diapers are bought locally. In the Netherlands we collect soft pajamas for the mother and clothing packages for the children.

In 2019 we also collected a lot of baby carriers and distributed them to women that had just given birth.

Caring only for the pregnant women and the women that had just given birth in Moria and Kara Tepe wasn't enough. We decided to go to Samos as well and to hand out baby carriers, strollers, clothes and essential stuff for babies to the women on the move.

It was a grateful trip.

## BIG RESPONSIBILITY

BWC is growing rapidly with more people coming to help every year. We have become a big movement and that includes responsibilities. We take on those responsibilities. Our programs and our support to fulfill the needs are rather big. In 2019, we spent on average of 65,000 euros per month. Because of all our responsibilities, including the daily distribution of 1,300 breakfasts, we have built up a reserve. Compared to 2018, it has been adjusted to approximately 300,000 euros. This is our new "zero". In the summer of 2018, we went under the 250,000 euros threshold because during the summer we had fewer donations but many needs because of the extreme heat. At the end of that year, we received more donations once again. Many people want to support us at the end of the year, so we generally receive more donations on average. By now we know that our expenses are high in January and it is those differences that make us feel okay about keeping something in reserve.

## THE 2019 BALANCE SHEET IN A NUTSHELL

The top amounts in the balance sheet under Liabilities are the two reserves: the Allocation reserve and the Continuity reserve, that will end in 2019 with six months money set aside in order to be able to do what is necessary.

Underneath those amounts are some debts, e.g., invoices from 2018 that got paid in 2019 and unforeseen expenses regarding 2018 that were received in 2019. At the end of 2019 we had almost 446,252 euros in the bank. This is a normal line when looking at revenue, expenses and the reserve of the 2018 balance sheet.

Then there is our Income. The largest part of BWC's contributors are also volunteers during a week-mission on Lesbos.

We ask every volunteer that joins us on a week-mission to contribute to the breakfast expenses and the basic expenses of our activities in Kara Tepe and Moria. As it can be seen on our balance sheet, rounded up 40% of the donations are derived from volunteers and the donations team. Rounded up 60% comes from social media campaigns and other ways of support. In 2018 the ratio was 50/50.

We spent this money mostly for needs in the field, such as strollers, pitchers, baby milk, sleeping bags and food parcels. And for our projects – Spent on objectives, we call it. In 2019, we spent 947,376 euros on our objectives (including the projects' realization costs). This is about 182,000 euros more than in 2018; this is because we helped more people in Moria.

Right, back to the donations that are spent on the objective. It can be seen that about 500,000 [euros] was spent on programs in Kara Tepe, especially breakfast. This is more than 10,000 euros per week.

Also, almost 300,000 [euro] was spent on programs in Moria. This is 200,000 [euros] more than last year.

Then follows a series of expenses mentioned under Rest. We are a group of Dutch women that travel to and from the island. Some of them receive a salary, others a volunteer allowance.

We are housing the weekly teams. To put it briefly, we rent cars and houses there and we reimburse the plane tickets of the permanent team. This is directly linked to the realization of the objective; otherwise, it wouldn't be possible to do what is needed. What we do is listed here under expenses.

Following the aforementioned, there is a boring piece called Costs management and organization, meaning what is needed in the Netherlands to properly support BWC on Lesbos. Expenses such as salaries, social securities, administration and advisory costs can be found there. This is our office work. It's not doing something actively done on Lesbos but supportive work as to keep the foundation going. These costs amount to approximately 3,2% of our income.

Acquisition costs are expenses with regard to receiving donations. What do we do day in and day out in order to have an income? We write stories, social media posts, we talk to everybody through SMS, WhatsApp, Instagram, e-mail and so forth.

In regard to 2018, the acquisition costs have remained practically the same: 73,599 euros. These costs amount to 6% of our income.

We are almost there, Triodos bank expenses aside. Actually, we are very happy with this bank. The bank's mission complements our own.

We strive to spend as many donations as possible on our objective. That goes reasonably well. Our overhead percentage, the costs for Recruitment and Management, is 9.2% in regard to the total Income. In the future we want to spend 100% on our objective and support expenses such as personnel and office rent by larger parties and people who want to help us with that specifically. It makes perfect sense that there are people working for us, who get paid to support their children and put food on the table, however within a foundation we think that it feels strange. So, we want to grow into that! All help is welcome.

Our assets have grown by 160,000 euros, which means helping more people in the future in a more effective, sustainable and loving manner. On that note I would like to close this management report on 2019, but certainly not before setting a goal for 2020. Our goal is to grow with our team and to help more people on Moria. We will organize large fundraising campaigns in the Netherlands and we promise to work very hard in any case to make Lesbos a better place. Our dream remains that we are no longer needed on Lesbos, because all people would have been accommodated, spread across Europe, in real houses, with real chances.

#### WITH THANKS TO OUR GREEK PARTNERS

We thank all our cooperating Greek partners who were vital to fulfill our mission.:

In name amongst others:

Topalis Fruits who delivered more than 425 bananas

Svoronos brothers who delivered hundreds of jars of honey and bags of sugar

Kosmos rental cars who were indispensable for our transportation on the island

Stravoula breads baked for us almost 400.000 breads.

Leontis – mr. Dimitris with their tons of onions and tomatoes.

And not to forget Vournazos Dimosthenis with more than a hundred thousand liters of yoghurt.

We also like to mention our special support to Mytilini Hospital with medical supplies and other needs. With thanks to the pleasant cooperation with director Georges Kampouris.

Because We Carry

[signature]

Steffi de Pous