

Αθήνα, 29 Αυγούστου 2018

About E.R.C.I.:

Emergency Response Centre International (ERCI) is a Greek not-for profit organization with the main goal of offering humanitarian assistance in humanitarian crisis and natural disasters. ERCI has been an active organization in Mytilene with uninterrupted presence since 2015. In the area of the refugee crisis ERCI has been active in Search and Rescue (SAR) operations, Primary Medical Care in the Moria Camp as well as educational activities for children in the Kara Tepe Camp.

Through its Search & Rescue (SAR) programme, ERCI has significantly contributed by assisting the coast guard and the European Border Agency (FRONTEX) in order help the thousands of refugees and migrants crossing the Aegean using unsafe methods and dangerous methods. ERCI has also participated in joint operations with the Hellenic Coast Guard as well as other EU actors such as FRONTEX whenever it has been requested to. ERCI is also a member of the International Maritime Rescue Federation and has also received numerous awards and recognition including an award from the Propeller Club of Piraeus and a recognition token from the Protector (British FRONTEX). During our operations on Lesbos a shoreline team has been on duty on the South Shoreline of the island.

In “Moria”, the infamous reception and registration centre for Refugees and Migrants in Lesbos, ERCI operates a day clinic offering primary care to hundreds of patients per week that reside in the camp.

In “Kara Tepe” camp, ERCI runs daily kids activities as well as a “Hygiene Programme” (WASH) offering the residents the chance to wash their clothes in washing machines in order to retain the highest possible level of hygiene.

During the last 12 months alone, ERCI has donated over 89.000 items to people in need (including refugees and non-refugees in Lesbos) such as clothing and personal hygiene products.

Besides contributing in responding to the refugee crisis, ERCI also has responded to other emergency situations in Greece: During the most recent fires in the Attica area, ERCI transferred its two rescue boats from Lesbos to Athens in order to contribute to the recovery operations under the umbrella of the Hellenic Coast Guard and other volunteers and organisations. In the past ERCI has

also responded to an earthquake on the island of Lesbos in 2017 as well as in the recovery operation of a body of a 21 year old fisherman on Lesbos upon the request of the coastguard.

All of the operations and programmes of ERCI have only been made possible solely with private donations which are fully declared according to the legal requirements to the national financial authorities and audited yearly by internationally recognised independent auditors.

Basic principle of the organization is to provide support and assistance to national and local authorities in humanitarian crises. ERCI has also been founded and operates with full transparency with the sole purpose of providing humanitarian assistance and has never operated in a way that could create any doubts or shadows about its work.

For more information: www.ercintl.org