

BLUE BERET

UNFICYP supports transportation of donations for Syrian refugees

Nicosia, 20 October 2015 – The United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) today provided support to a local humanitarian initiative to provide clothing to Syrian refugees in Greece.

UNFICYP provided volunteers and vehicles to transport 600 boxes of clothing from Nicosia to Limassol, from where they will be shipped to Greece to support refugees fleeing the Syrian conflict.

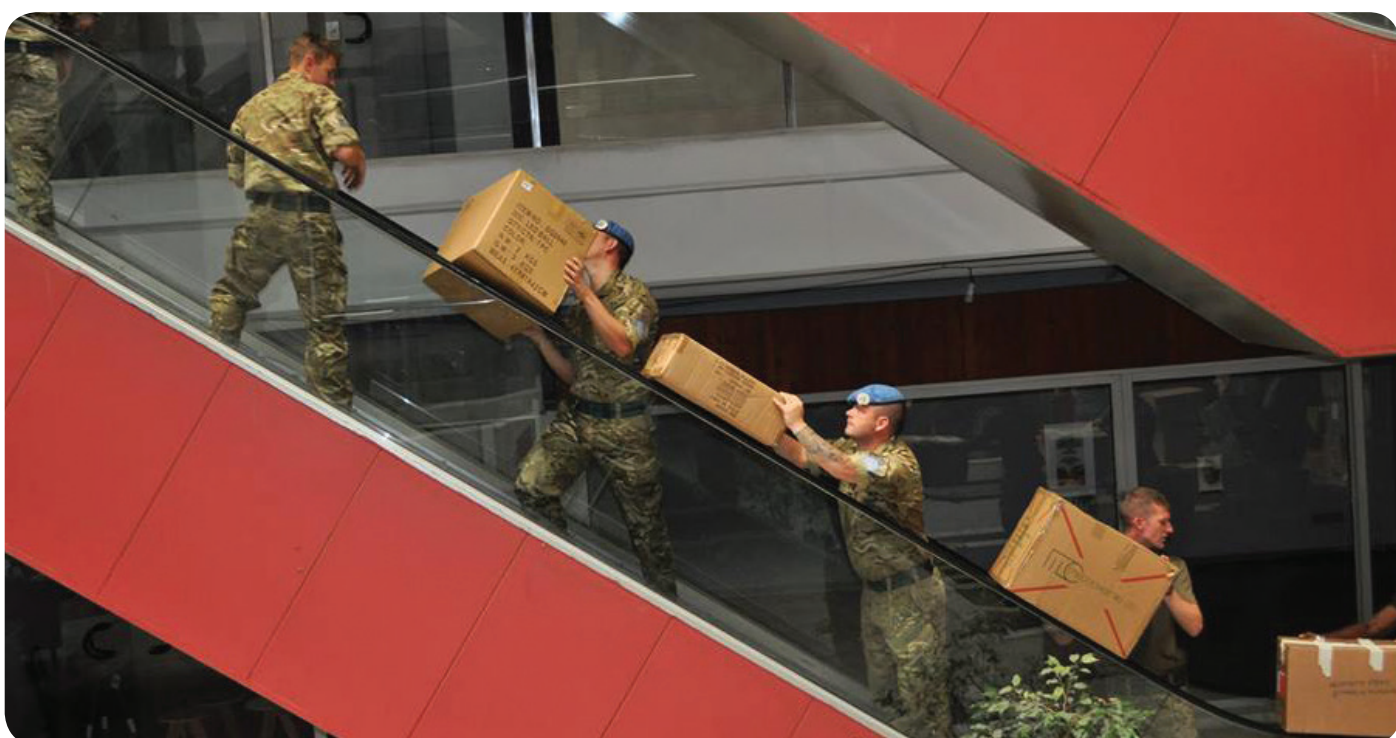
“Homegrown charity drives are vital to building a sense of community between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots; when called upon, UNFICYP was honoured to put our resources towards such an important and meaningful cause,” said UNFICYP Spokesperson Aleem Siddique.

The initiative, named ‘Cypriots Helping Syrian refugees’, was largely conducted through Facebook, growing from an idea by a

few Cypriots to a movement of more than 1,200 members with teams and collection points for clothing in Larnaca, Limassol, Paphos and Nicosia. In total, it collected double the target of one 20ft container.

“The Facebook page was created to support the Syrian refugees; while many of us didn’t have money, we had time and things that could be better used by people who need them more, so we used the page to say ‘collect what you can,’” said Rosie Charalambous, one of the organisers of the drive. “We brought to people’s attention that we can all help in some small way.”

Ms. Charalambous expressed the gratitude of the group to UNFICYP for their support. “The support has been immense from locals, and we are particularly grateful to the UN for their volunteers and for the transport they are providing to help move the items.”



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