



# AQUAPONICS AS “DEUS EX MACHINA” FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN GREECE ( Yūnānī , Unani)

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# “The chronicle of the Greek crisis”

- **2008:** Greece is becoming the epicenter of Europe’s debt crisis
- **2009:** Greece is shut out from borrowing in the financial markets
- **2010:** Greece is heading to bankruptcy
- **2010:** 2 bailouts are issued by the International Monetary Fund, the European Central Bank and the European Commission
- **240 billion** euros

# 240 billion € = Harsh austerity terms

- **Deep budget cuts** → pensions low as 300€ per month, minimum wage 500€, hospitals lack of medicine, schools without heating etc.
- **Steep tax increases** → rise of the value of all the products, either basic or not
- **Strict reforms** → led to privatization of national airports, ports, train stations, companies



Greece's economic problems haven't gone away. The economy has shrunk by a quarter in five years.



# The victims of the crisis

- The unemployment rate in Greece has risen to **26%**
- **30%** of the Greek population lives below the poverty line
- **17 %** of the people are unable to meet their daily food needs
- Up to **15,000** people homeless (NGO FEANTSA)
- Hundreds of thousands rely on **soup kitchens or other facilities**
- Children are collapsing in schools from lack of food
- Parents leave their children in orphanages

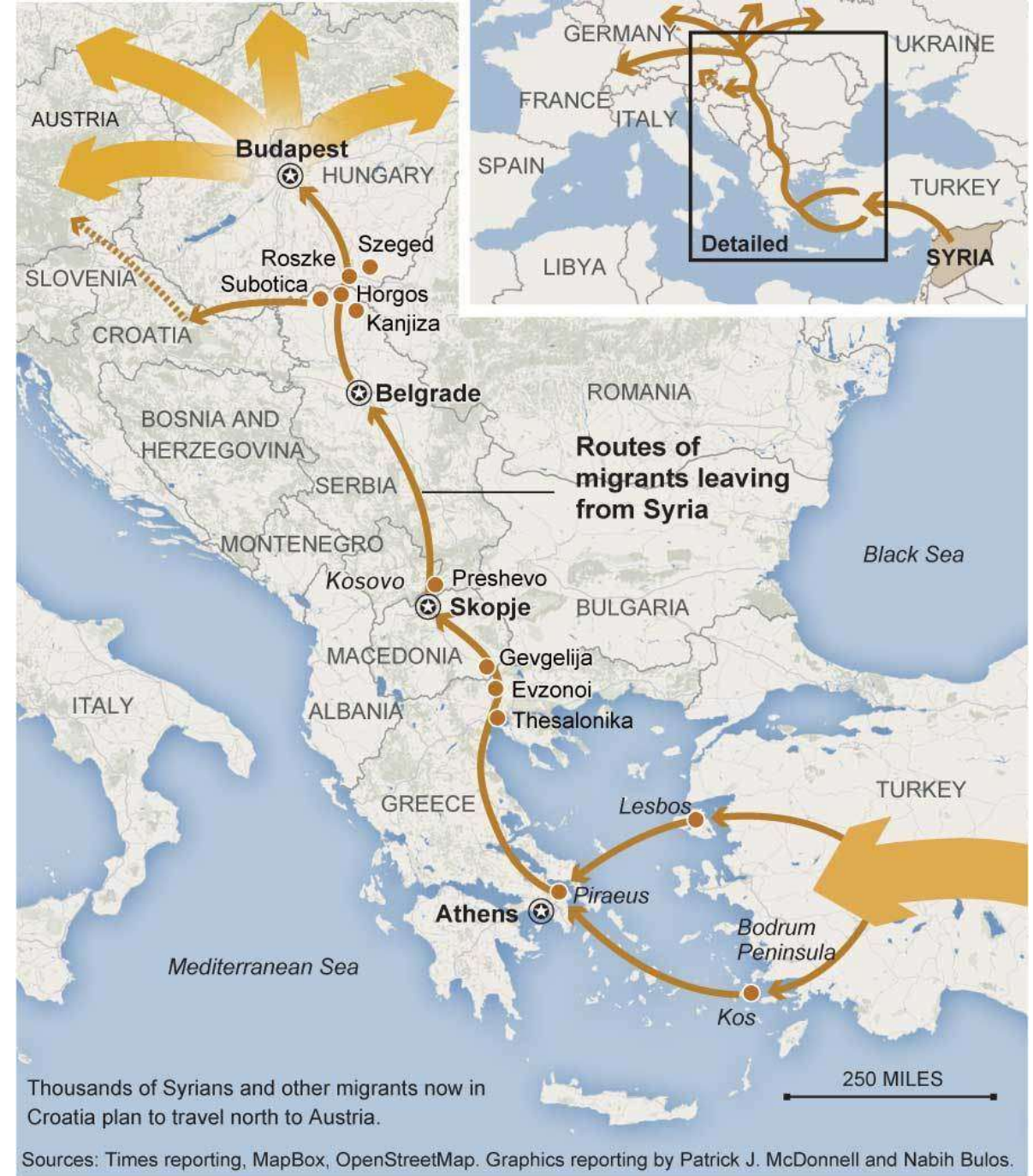


# The victims of a civil war

- Multi-sided armed conflict
- **2011:** Arab Spring protests, with nationwide protests against President Bashar al-Assad's government, whose forces responded with violent crackdowns
- Conflict formed from mass protests to an armed rebellion
- The conflict in Syria continues to be by far the biggest driver of migration
- > 1,000,000 had been counted in Germany's "EASY" system
- Hungary moved into second place for asylum applications
- **2015:** 1,011,700 migrants arrived by sea & 34,900 by land (IOM)



# Syrians' migration route

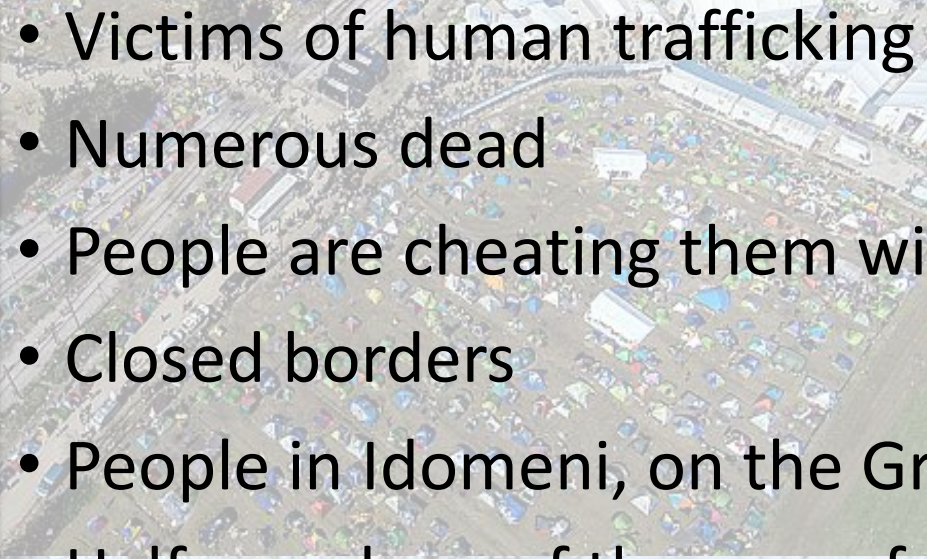
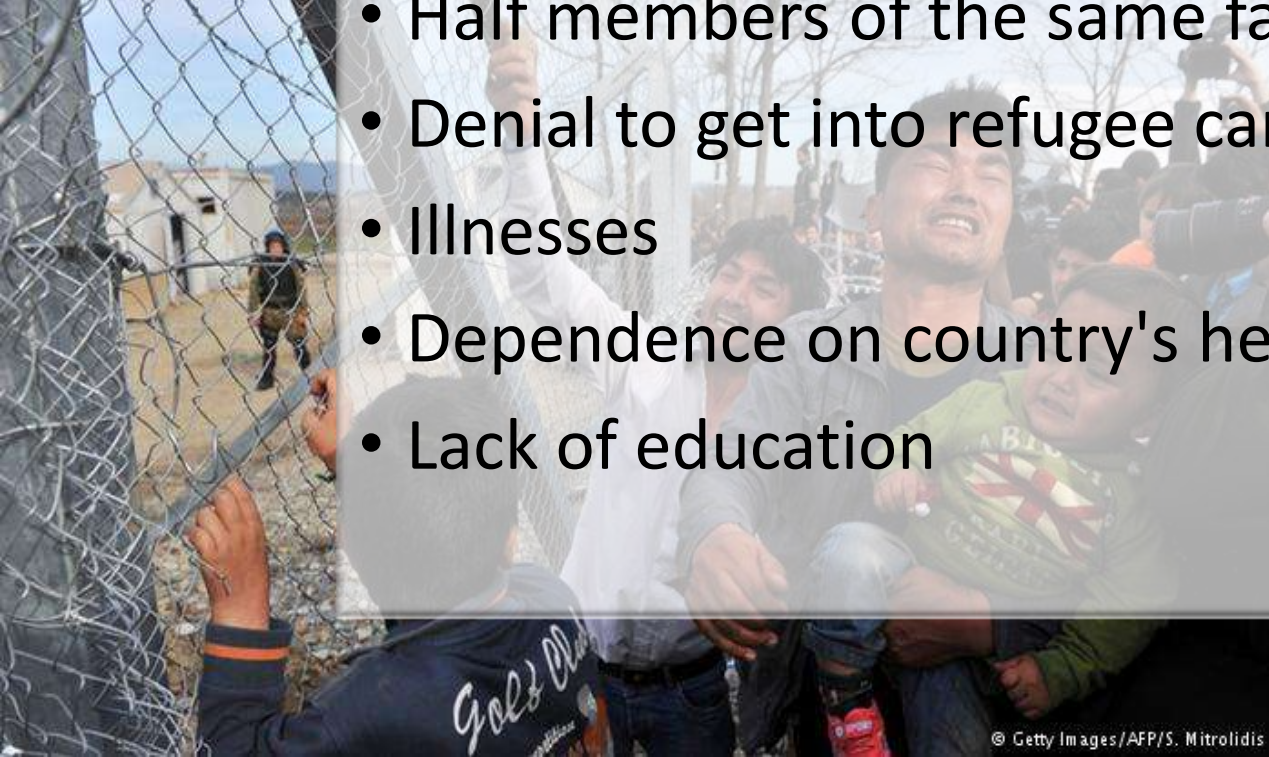





**Alan Kurdi (2 September 2015)**





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- Victims of human trafficking
  - Numerous dead
  - People are cheating them with fake promises
  - Closed borders
  - People in Idomeni, on the Greek-Macedonian border
  - Half members of the same family are blocked in Greece
  - Denial to get into refugee camps
  - Illnesses
  - Dependence on country's help
  - Lack of education
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Misery brings violence







Do we want to give them that kind of life?









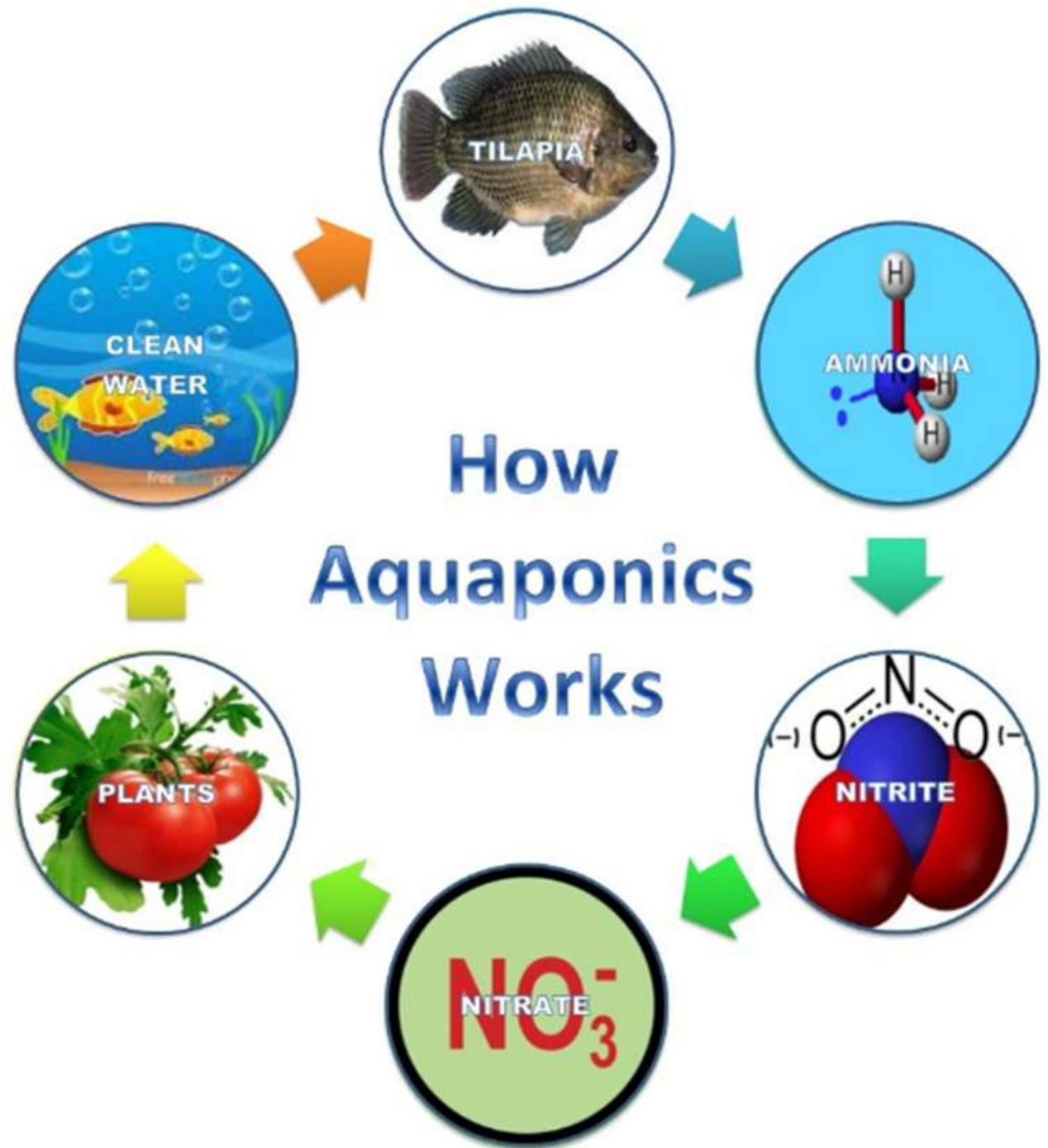
# Secret gardens planted by Syrian refugees in Jordan

“The non-profit organization **Save the Children** is teaching some of the camp’s 800,000 refugees how to garden. The group is giving the Syrian refugees who have fled their homes during the civil war in Syria to Jordan, lessons on landscaping and gardening.”



My proposal is ...

# AQUAPONICS





# Advantages

- Reduced labour & easy handling
- Water efficient
- Provides income from two separate products (fish and plants)
- Aquaculture waste products are used
- A lot of current research and improvements going on
- Everyone can get involved (women, children, men)
- People could get trained and use the knowledge in the future
- Syrians are educated and English speakers (they can add their special knowledge on the project/ easily to be trained)



# Other Possibilities

- Can be used underground and indoors
- Artificial lighting
- No need of fertile soil
- Growing upwards
- Refugees are blocked in urban areas (lack of space)
- Higher percentage of homeless in Athens (indoor aquaponics could benefit them)





# AwF

- **Aquaculture Learning Centres** in collaboration with Greek universities.
- **Training** for aquaponics systems construction and maintenance.
- Emergency shelters, monasteries, churches, schools or universities **could supply space**.
- **COST Action FA1305**, is an effort to promote aquaponics research and development in the EU (COST Action FA1305 and could create a collaboration with AwF)
- Students of schools and universities could participate in the programme → the importance of **volunteerism and philanthropism**.
- **Monasteries** could share their knowledge and learn skills that could relieve the hunger.





Vatican took two refugee families as Pope calls for 'every religion' to help.

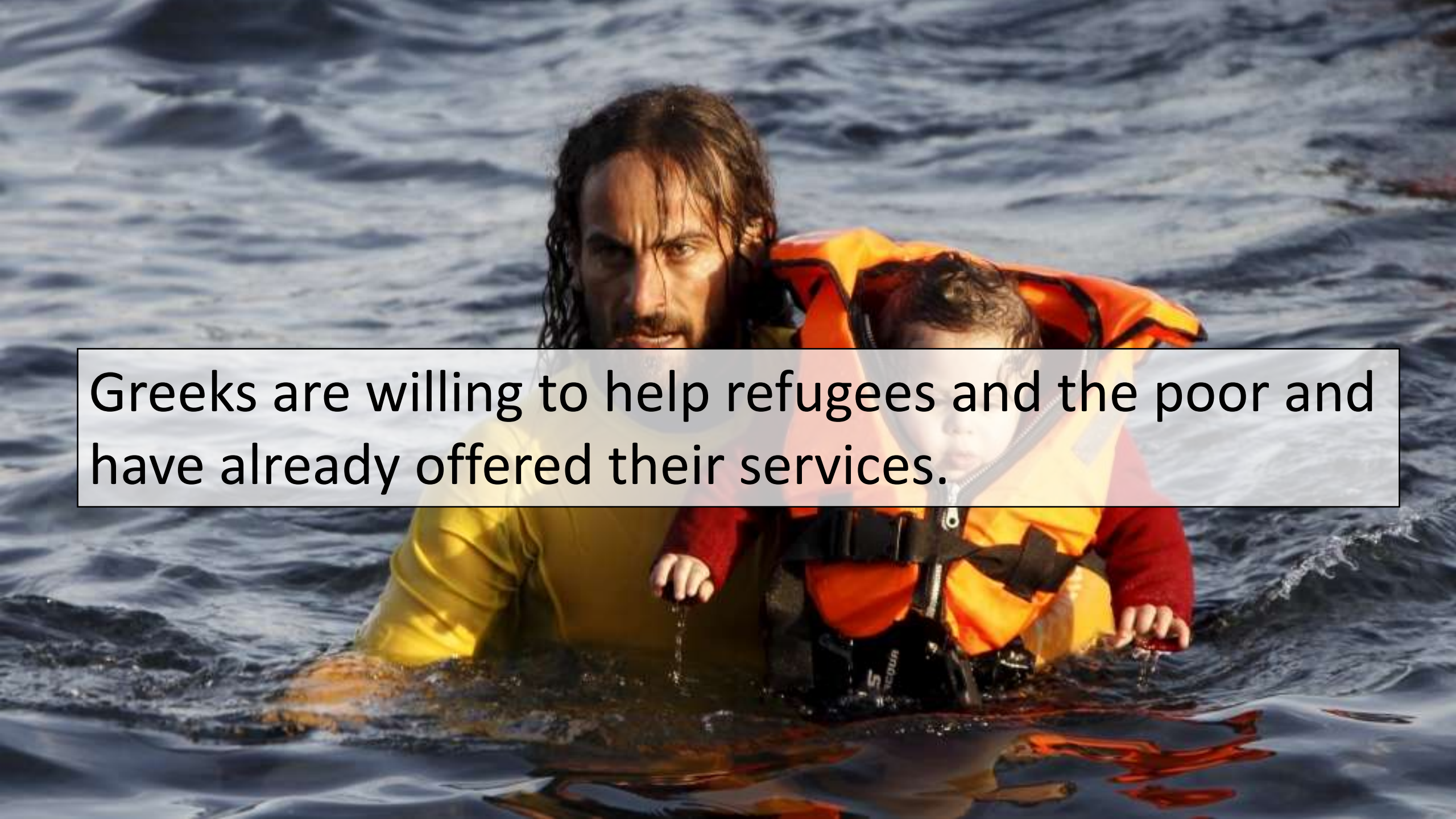




**United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**  
goodwill ambassador Angelina Jolie said :

*“I look forward to meeting authorities, partners and volunteers working on the ground to improve conditions and ensure the vulnerable are protected”*





Greeks are willing to help refugees and the poor and have already offered their services.





Nestlé



PEPSI



vodafone



Coca-Cola



Microsoft  
Windows

SAMSUNG



adidas





# Acknowledgements

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# Terima kasih