



Kavala (*Northern Lights Aid*) 6 December 2021



Homaida Hairi, 36.

I am from Parvan and left two years ago with my husband and four children. I have two girls, aged 12 and 10, and two boys aged seven and five.

We had to escape because we are Hazara, Shi'a Muslims, and the Taliban hates us because of this. They threatened us, and it was no longer safe for my children to be at school or any of us to go outside. We left because I love my husband, I love my children, and I love myself. I didn't want us to be killed.

At home in Parvan, I took care of my children.

We travelled by car from Parvan. We had passports. From Turkey we travelled by boat to Lesvos. It was extremely expensive. But we stayed in Lesvos for one year and then came to Kavala.

Life here in Kavala is better than it was in Lesvos, but it's very hard because we have no money, and we do not get food. It's very hard for us to live.

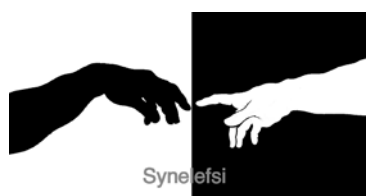
We had our interview decision and we were accepted for asylum. That's very good, but they immediately stopped our money and did not issue us with identification cards for two months. Without that identification, we cannot get a job, cannot open a bank account to be paid if we get a job, and cannot even ask for help to survive while we look for a home and a job.

So, it has been very hard for us. My husband has tried, and he did work 10-12 days per month for money, picking olives. We used all that money to buy food, of course.

And the camp manager tries to help people by allowing them to have some food that is delivered, but it is not good. The food is not enough and it is always of poor quality. Sometimes, however hungry we are, we cannot eat it because it is not fit to eat. Not that it is not what we want, but it is not safe to eat it. Nobody in the camp can eat this food.

So, many times we do not eat. My family is hungry very often. It is very difficult for me to see my children hungry, and it is very difficult for them to go to school, and go to bed hungry.

They go to school. They try hard to learn, they are good children and they like school. But it is so hard for them because they are so hungry, and at school they must try hard





to concentrate. They are too hungry to learn. It upsets them so much and it saddens us as well.

A woman came to us and told us the school would be able at least to give them some food for lunch, but it hasn't happened. They want to do well so much but it is hurting them and making it so much harder.

There are many things we need we cannot get. It's all about money. I don't mind so much for me. I do not like to be hungry but I am an adult. But what I can get I want to spend on food for my children, that is all.

I can't buy anything at all. I can at least come here to get some clothes, as we cannot get any of them either.

And if my children get sick, as they do because they cannot eat properly, then we cannot get medicines for them, or take them to the doctor. We just have to stay home, and at home it's so hard as a mother or father to watch your children suffer illnesses and not be able to help. We are having to try to help by just making herbal teas for them. But this isn't good enough. It doesn't make them well like medicine does. It's not OK.

My husband should take medicine, as he gets sick and suffers bowel problems. My sister in law Bassima gets sick so she can't feel her back and legs sometimes. But we can't afford anything. We have nothing.

I have been learning English for three months. I like it, It's good to learn it and to do something.

I don't know what I want to do. But I know I want to leave the camp. But I don't have money to do that. So I have to stay. But if I stay I won't get any money. There is nothing for us there, but nowhere else we can afford to go.

I want to have a good home. I want my family to get better and not need medicine.

I want to make money for my daughters and sons, to get what they need so they don't have to be upset any more. I want a good life. That's all. It's not very much.

