

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

"We cannot all succeed when half of us are held back"

Malala Yousafzai (Pakistani activist, 2014 recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize)



Photo by Orestis Seferoglou, 2018

HumanRights360 - The vision

The idea of creating HumanRights360 was put together by a small group of people, dedicated in defending human rights. Bringing their long-lasting experience together, they took the step to bring a different perspective into the Greek civil society sector and in particular in the field of human rights.

The primary thought as well as all the initiatives were based on the belief that the cornerstone of social integration is the access to basic rights and that, only by protecting the individual, political and social rights of the whole population and by ensuring access to rights and justice, we can achieve social cohesion.

Starting from point zero to build a new “civil society organization” was a cause worth trying for. Putting the vision into words, our mission is to protect and empower rights, with no discrimination but with special focus on the most disadvantaged and vulnerable populations.

The challenge was to engage donors that would believe in our vision to make Human Rights a visible field of civil society in Greece. Given the existing prejudices for newly funded NGO’s, in Greece and elsewhere, we managed to prove our intentions and inspire donors while setting out our activities, to make our vision come true.

Through our focused advocacy and public interventions, we aimed to become a strong part of the worldwide human rights movement that is struggling for a world where fundamental human rights are enjoyed by all people. The constant goal is to put together greater alliances in Greece and internationally to work together and build vibrant and tolerant societies whose governments and societies reject far right rhetoric, extremism, racism and xenophobia, while are accountable to and encourage participation of the people.

Who we are



Founder
Epaminondas Farmakis



Co-Founder
Rania Papadopoulou



Deputy Director & Head of
Advocacy
Eleni Takou

Programmes' Team 2018

During 2018 a total of five staff members were recruited, in addition to the founder members.

A small team of highly competent legal experts, social workers, integration experts with important management experience in national and international civil society and humanitarian sector has put the cornerstone for a promising future work.

Advisory Council

HumanRights360 relies on an intellectual trust of cross-sectoral leaders to think through and shape up our long-term strategy and direction forward.

The advisory council of HumanRights360: Nikos Charalambides, Kirpatrick Day and Joanna Perry. We thank them for their precious advice.

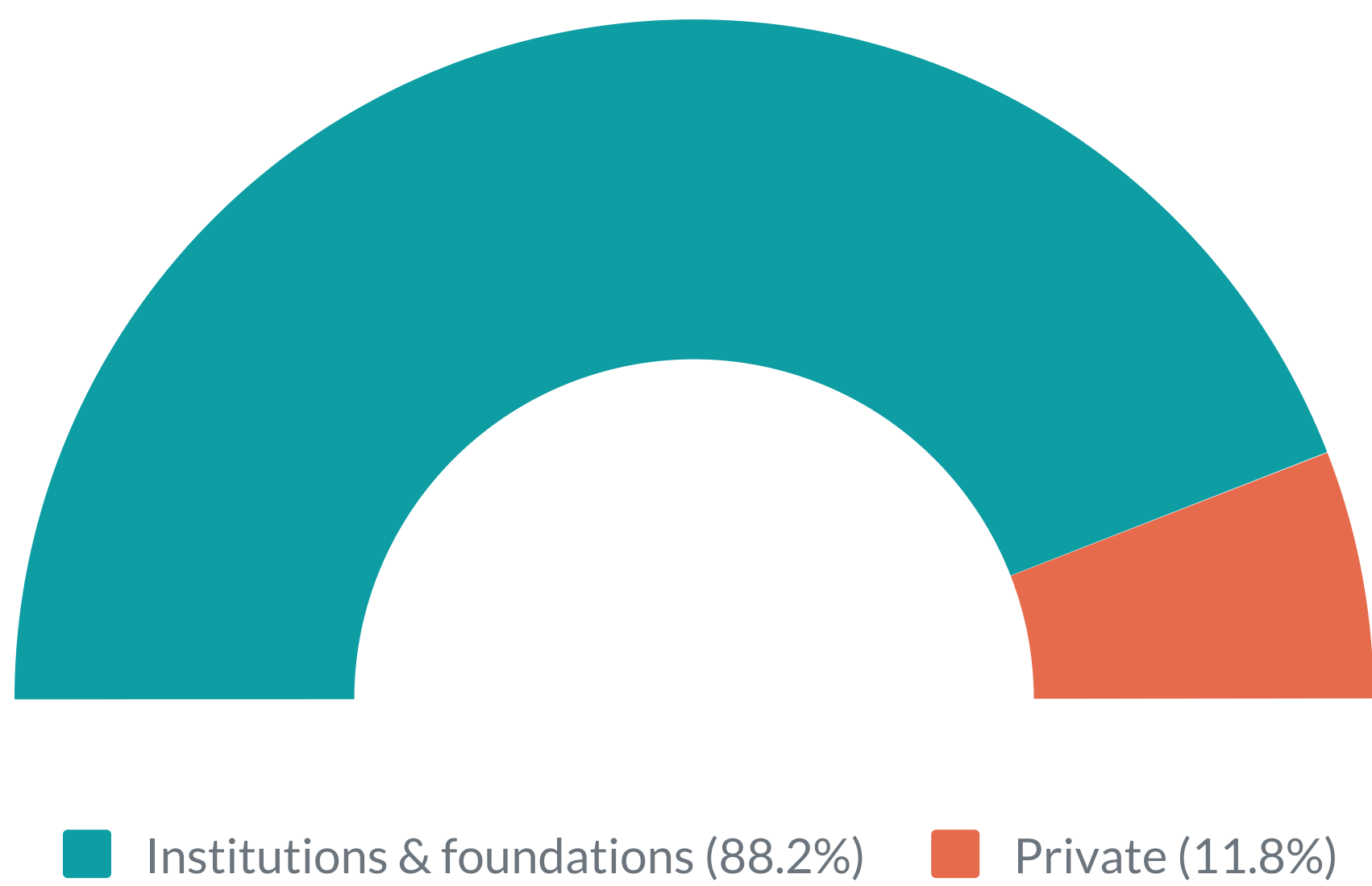
Donors 2018

Thanks to the institutions that trusted their funds to our vision, our annual funding for the 2018 reached the amount of 430.700,68 euros and it came from 7 different sources as the next table indicates.

While the cornerstone of our funding came 6 different insitutions and foundations (88.2%) other smaller donations by individuals and private sources allowed significant flexibility at the the initiation of our activities with important impact from the first year of operation.

Graph 1: Distribution of funding by type of source

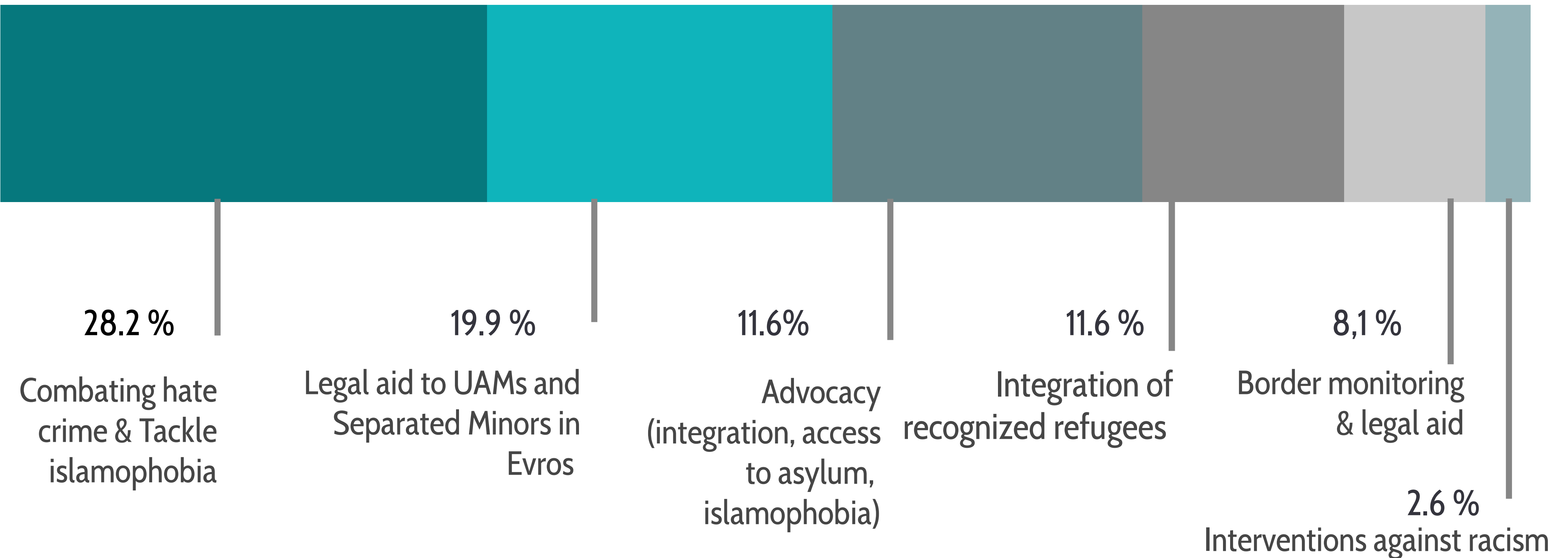
Our donors in 2018



Distribution of funds by intervention area

The areas of our intervention during 2018, the kick-off year of our operation, composed by the categories illustrated below. The distribution of effort suggests that our core activities concentrated on advocacy for human rights, combating hate speech and hate crimes, and supporting the right to asylum and integration of refugees and asylum seekers. It is important to highlight that only a 4.2 % of our funding has been used for administrative costs. This constitutes a long-term target for HumanRights360, for an efficient operation and great impact, maximizing the share of resources allocated in the field.

Graph 1: Distribution of funding by intervention area



Internventions with < 2.5% of the total annual funding, 2018

Design of the awareness raising campaign about the Golden Dawn

Supporting information and access to welfare system & social benefits

Research on the use of Mental health funds use in Greece

Photobook: Call it home

Regional report on irregular migration

Legal aid to UASC & vulnerable persons in Evros

During the last two (2) years and following the closure of the Western Balkan Route & the Implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement in the islands (from which the land border of Evros is exempted), the new arrivals presented an increase at Evros region.

In particular, in April of 2018 the land arrivals surpassed the sea arrivals with 3,600 people arriving from the land borders of Evros compared to 3,000 arriving by the sea. As per the end of December 2018, 18,014 people have entered Greece from Evros land borders while 231 persons, among which 125 Unaccompanied minors and separated children (UASC), were currently hosted at the RIC of Fylakio, from various nationalities (mainly Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq, Syria and Turkey) putting more strain to the already overcrowded closed Reception and Identification Center (RIC) in Evros-Fylakio of Orestiada.

UASC & vulnerable persons, including families with children, pregnant women, elderly people, single parent families with minors, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable people, are seeking for protection and are in need of legal and psychosocial support. At the same period, we have witnessed an increase to the illegal forced returns “push backs” allegations by the newly arrived population.

Detention of UASCs was systematically imposed and may be prolonged for periods ranging from a few days to more than two months, pending their transfer to an accommodation facility. UASC & vulnerable persons were detained in police stations and RIC of Fylakio (“protective custody”) in unacceptable detention conditions.

Having assessed this peculiar situation in Evros, and taking into consideration that the region has been exempted from the implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement, and the reduced presence of NGOs and other actors working on the ground, HumanRights360, decided to implement a project aiming to defend access to rights for all newcomers in the Evros region.

The project

The project, became operational on September 2018, and aimed to address the legal and psychosocial needs of UASCs and vulnerable people, to focusing on issues pertaining their legal status, legal representation, prolonged detention, age assessment procedures, guardianship process, referrals to shelters and to the competent bodies (e.g. social services/other organizations) and to enhance access to educational and recreational activities though referrals to the competent bodies (e.g. social services/other organizations).



Photo by Orestis Seferoglou, 2018

It comprised of two main activities that were frequently functioning in a complimentary manner:

- a) Support UASC & vulnerable persons in the Reception and Identification Centre and the pre-detention center of Fylakio-Orestiada and in Evros region in general, to exercise their legal and social rights and to ensure access to the existing protecting services. The support included addressing the needs of these extremely vulnerable groups which lack of adequate legal support and alternative protection.
- b) Monitor the European land borders of Evros with Turkey in order to document, demonstrate and report upon the situation, the flows, the patterns and the practices which are implemented with focus on the illegal forced removals (push backs). This activity aimed to promote a systematic and adequate monitoring at the land borders of Evros and defend, among others, against the prolonged detention, the inadequate access to protection services, the criminal acts motivated by bias or prejudice towards newly arrivals groups of people and the practice of illegal forced removals.

Supporting UASC and vulnerable persons in Evros

From September to December 2018, Evros team supported 35 cases of UASC and vulnerable people. In total, 24 records of social intakes have been made by our social worker for accessing social services, 22 legal counseling services among which 11 preparation and presentation on applicant's for international protection registration of claim & interview. Another 3 cases supported for psychosocial assessment and 4 cases referred to accommodation centers.

➔ A complaint has been filed to the Greek Ombudsman for the Children against the differentiated practices that have been noticed in first reception procedures, affecting the situation of persons whose age is disputed. In particular, cases for whom age is amended in favor of minors, by the decision of the Asylum Service following the presentation of an original birth certificate, were not re-accepted back in the RIC for protective custody. An appeal against RIC's age assessment decision has been achieved by Evros team. Thus, after the person's registration to the RAO of Fylakio, presenting his original birth certificate, an order from the Prosecutor has been succeeded, who decided to transfer the minor back to the RIC under protective custody, preventing his further transfer to any other pre-removal center among adults.

Identified Challenges

Apart from the challenge of working with a rather culturally diverse population (i.e. more than 10 languages and dialects are spoken in Evros RIC-Fylakio), there are a number of challenges raised resulting from the policy context and the malpractices in the field. These are summarized below:

- ▶ **Age assessment** The age assessment process remained problematic in 2018, as primary process applied mainly through x-ray although this practice should be used as a last resort. Frequently, the criteria used by the RIC in order to refer a minor to the age assessment procedure is the personal and totally arbitrary decision of its employees, who deem a person's age either by face contact or by looking at the person's registration picture. Moreover, delays in the process frequently had adverse impact for the minor (i.e. referral to the Pre-Removal Centre of those deemed as adults by virtue of the first decision, detention with adults, loss of timeframes, i.e. for Dublin III procedures), not to mention that the serious implications resulting especially when the decisions on age assessment between two different authorities (RIC and RAO) differentiate.
- ▶ **Best interest of the child:** Detention of UASCs is systematically imposed for prolonged periods ranging from a few days to more than two months, pending their transfer to an accommodation facility. The latter, in conjunction with the particularity that minors remain under detention "protective custody" for a prolonged period in the "closed" RIC, the referrals to shelters are in huge delay, and the procedures concerning the guardianship are insufficient, has created an unbearable situation challenging the best interest of them. Moreover, the "trend" to release some of UASCs without any assistance and legal status, creates a major gap in the provision of legal and PSS services. Furthermore, in some cases once a minor is accepted by the National Center for Social Solidarity (EKKA) for accommodation, RIC neglects the legal status of the minors i.e. the fact that they have not yet been registered at the RAO so it proceeds to the minors' transfer to the accommodation facility, fact that withdraws the chance to be registered at the closest RAO as minor, before moving to the shelter (registration in RAO in the mainland usually takes more time due to the case load). Subsequently, minors are under the risk of reaching adulthood without having been registered in RAO.
- ▶ **Family reunification and split families;** Documentation on the relationship between the minor and a family member - other than parent- is challenging e.g. application of a grandfather or aunt for the minor's custody; Our intervention to the Public Prosecutor of Minors in such cases concluded in favor of the minor; In particular, in two cases we succeed, following constant intervention to block the transfer of UASCs to the pre removal center of Xanthi for further detention while we accomplished to ensure the Public's Prosecutor of minors order to set them under protection.
- ▶ **Gender based violence;** domestic violence victims, trafficking victims have inadequate protection; many of our consultations resulted to referrals to women counseling centers and/or shelters for SGBV survivors.

▷ **Lack of resources in RIC;** The number of staff and the limited NGOs and stakeholders in the field is not adequate to provide sufficient services which should be focusing on duty of care of every minor in the RIC, giving individualized forms of support, i.e. legal, social, psychological etc. (i.e. on December 2018 3 guardians were placed for 120 minors).

▷ **Access to international protection;** nationals from countries with 'low recognition' rates (i.e. Pakistan), including families and UASCs, are not registered as asylum seekers, when expressing the asylum willingness, while in the RIC, but only after they are transferred to the Pre-Removal Centre. Legally they are still under active Deportation Orders, so a risk of direct or indirect refoulement may exist (no guarantee against the enforcement of removal). These persons also have no proof of their expressed will to apply for international protection while the limitations on the period of detention for asylum seekers does not start counting but after the full registration of the claim. Without adequate monitoring these cases are not highlighted and addressed; moreover, persons are still released straight from Police detention facilities after initial registration or RIC after RIS procedures (this practice was initially observed in April 2018). People who are released from police remises, including UASCs, are receiving a police note issued by the competent police authorities, without having any registered asylum willingness number included therein, with the exception of Police Notes issued for Turkish nationals. People, including vulnerable persons, are released without any guidance, support or assistance, and are exposed to possible ill treatment or/and abuse.

▷ **Push-backs;** Testimonies that follow substantiate a continuous and uninterrupted use of the illegal practice of push-backs. These testimonies as recorded to the report were also registered to the **Network for the children on move** under the mandate of the Ombudsman for Minors as many of the testimonies concerned minors. These testimonies also reveal an even more alarming array of practices and patterns calling for further investigation; it is particularly alarming that the persons involved in implementing the practice of push-backs speak Greek, as well as other languages, while reportedly wearing either police or military clothing. In short, we observe that the practice of push-backs constitutes a particularly wide-spread practice, often employing violence in the process, leaving the State exposed and posing a threat for the rule of law in the country. In addition, there is an increase of minors-victims of a road accident due to the "new trend" of the smugglers to force minors to drive the smugglers' trucks.

HumanRights360 is till today, among the very few NGOs operating in the area of Evros to protect the rights of minors and vulnerable people, therefore we are delighted to have our finding extended for this operation until December 2019. The project in 2018, was funded by The Ascend Collaborative Initiative.



Monitor the European land borders of Evros

The year of 2018 was stigmatized by the constant violations of human rights at the land borders of Evros resulting to the exposure of these population to possible ill-treatment or/and abuse. In a number of cases, including vulnerable persons, there are allegations of informal forcible removals (push-backs) of foreign nationals from Greece to Turkey at the Evros river border. The persons who alleged that they had been pushed back from Greece to Turkey had again entered Greek territory and had subsequently been apprehended by the Greek police creating a new normality in Evros region. These findings have been documented in the report “The New Normality: Continuous Push-Backs Of Third Country Nationals On The Evros River” published by HumanRights360 in cooperation with Greek Council for Refugees and ARSIS-Association for the Social Support of Youth (see section advocacy & interventions).

The frequency and repeated nature of the testimonies of people in detention centres, under protective custody, and in reception and identification centres, constitutes evidence of the practice of pushbacks being used extensively and not decreasing, regardless of the silence and denial by the responsible public bodies and authorities, and despite reports and complaints denouncements that have come to light in the recent past. The practice of pushbacks is prohibited both by Greek and EU law, as well as by international treaties and agreements signed and ratified by Greece .

Furthermore, in the field of border monitoring, there has been identified increasing refugee-migration flows through Bulgaria which are accompanied by allegations of violent push backs also at Bulgaria borders. A new route through the Balkans has been detected. Third country nationals travelling through the Balkans, usually from Greece and Bulgaria, tried to transit through Bosnia and Herzegovina to other EU member states. In these groups were included people who had travelled north from Greece via Albania and Montenegro, as well as those moving on from Serbia, as entry from Serbia to Hungary via the two ‘transit zones’ to seek asylum. Allegations of push backs for these countries to Greece are recorded also. A close coordination with countries on the Balkan route has been developed in order to monitor the borders in the area with main activity the contribution in the Report on Irregular Migration for South Eastern Europe (see section advocacy and interventions).

HumanRights360 contributed with its experience on these active observations in the field to the 2018 CSO’s Report on Irregular Migration for South-Eastern Europe prepared by MYLA-Macedonian Young Lawyers Association for USAID-US Agency for International Development (see also the advocacy section).

Furthermore, throughout 2018 we have been witnessing an alarming increase of hate crime incidents in Greece and a massive violation of human rights at the European land borders of Evros as, inter alia, the land borders are not under the framework of the EU-Turkey Statement.

Last but not least, being an active member of the Racist Violence Recording Network, HumanRights360 records incidents of hate crimes. In that context, UASCs & vulnerable persons in Evros need to be motivated to exercise their legal and social rights and to ensure access to the protective services.



Ensuring Integration of Recognized Refugees

The project initiated in August 2018 as a pilot with a duration of 8 months thanks to the donation of Karl Kahane Foundation. The project has been implemented in the open accommodation site of Elaionas, a site supervised by the Ministry of Migration Policy. The project's objective was to ensure that recognized refugees are supported towards an independent life & self-reliance through a holistic services' provision coaching on issues related to social integration.

A cross-cutting policy-oriented advocacy component was active throughout the project, so that institutional gaps, deficiencies and malpractices has been addressed. On the top of that, capacity building of public stakeholders, through on-the-job consultations, has been implemented for the multiplication of the project effects. The development of an online manual for the beneficiaries on how to navigate to the Greek welfare system was also in the targets of the project.

All in all, during 2018 (August – December 2018) 47 households and 90 beneficiaries (direct and indirect) has been benefited by the project, through the design and elaboration of personal integration plans with with continuing guidance and support in the effort to access a variety of services, information and institutional processes.

Beneficiaries Profile

The vast majority of the project's direct beneficiaries were recognized refugees (64% or 30 individuals) however, 16 asylum seekers close to the granting of refugee status also received support by the project. As regards, nationalities, one third consisted by Afghan nationals (34%), followed by 27% of nationals from sub-Saharan countries (Mali, Sudan, Yemen, DRC, Somalia, Cameroon), Syrian nationals where the 15% of the beneficiaries and another 10% where from Iran. Only 4.5% where from Pakistan or other nationality. What is most important, in our project 1 disabled person and an elderly was registered, requesting for support on their integration process, i.e. finding and maintaining a job.

Project activities and performance

The activities performed for the project had a starting point the information of the population residing in the site for the outreach of potential beneficiaries. A door to door approach has been implemented with 293 such outreach actions being implemented by the end of 2018.

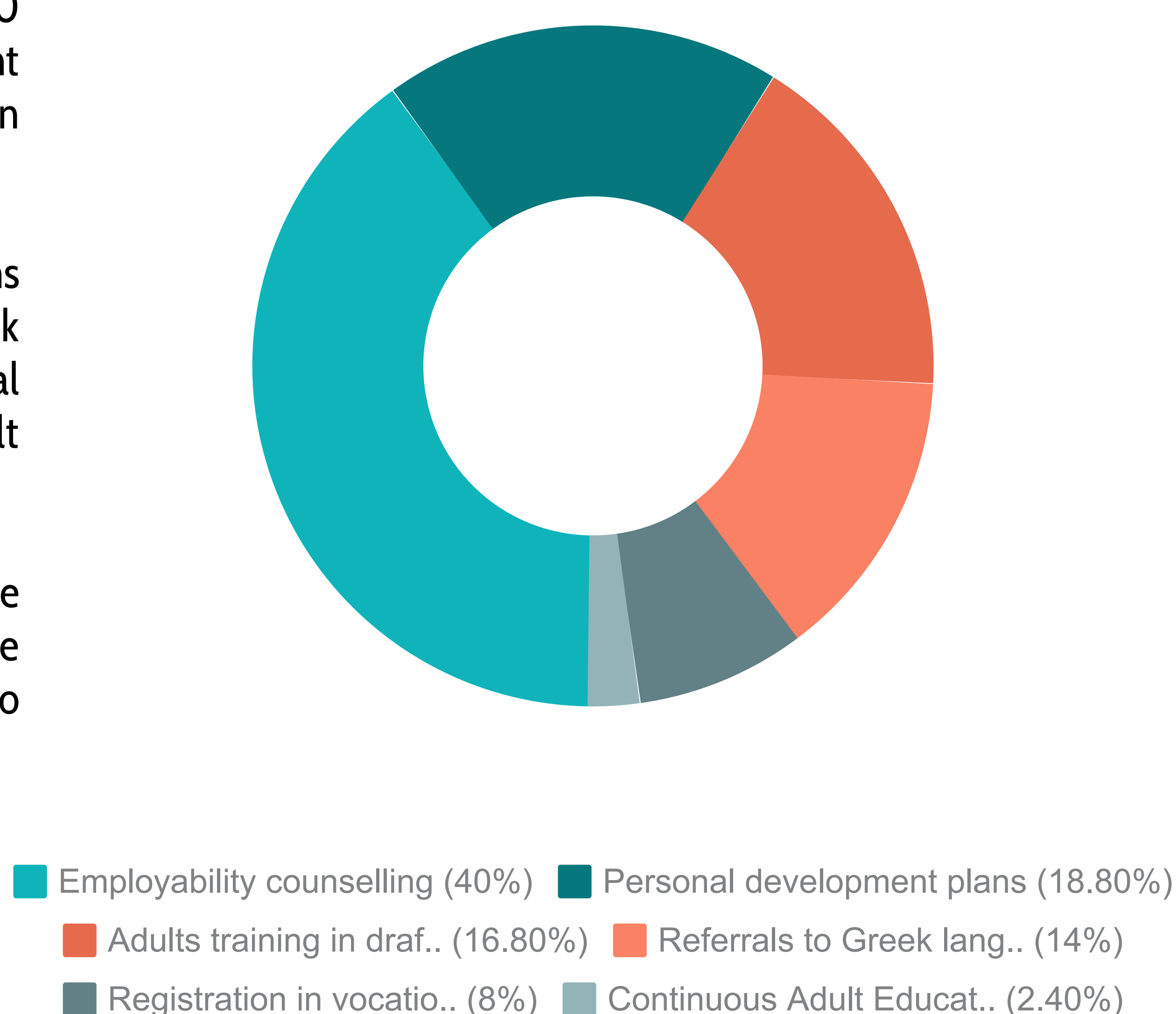
That resulted on the implementation of 100 employability counseling sessions, the development of 42 personal plans, and the individual trainings on drafting a CV for 35 direct beneficiaries.

Our support in accessing employability skills programs can be summarized into 35 referrals to Greek language courses, 20 registrations in vocational training courses and 6 registrations in continue adult education courses.

One of our beneficiaries succeed to receive the European Qualifications Passport for Refugees while during the first five months of the pilot project, two recognized refugees succeeded in finding a job.

Useful info: The project is refunded until May 2020

Graph 2: Core project Activities, 2018



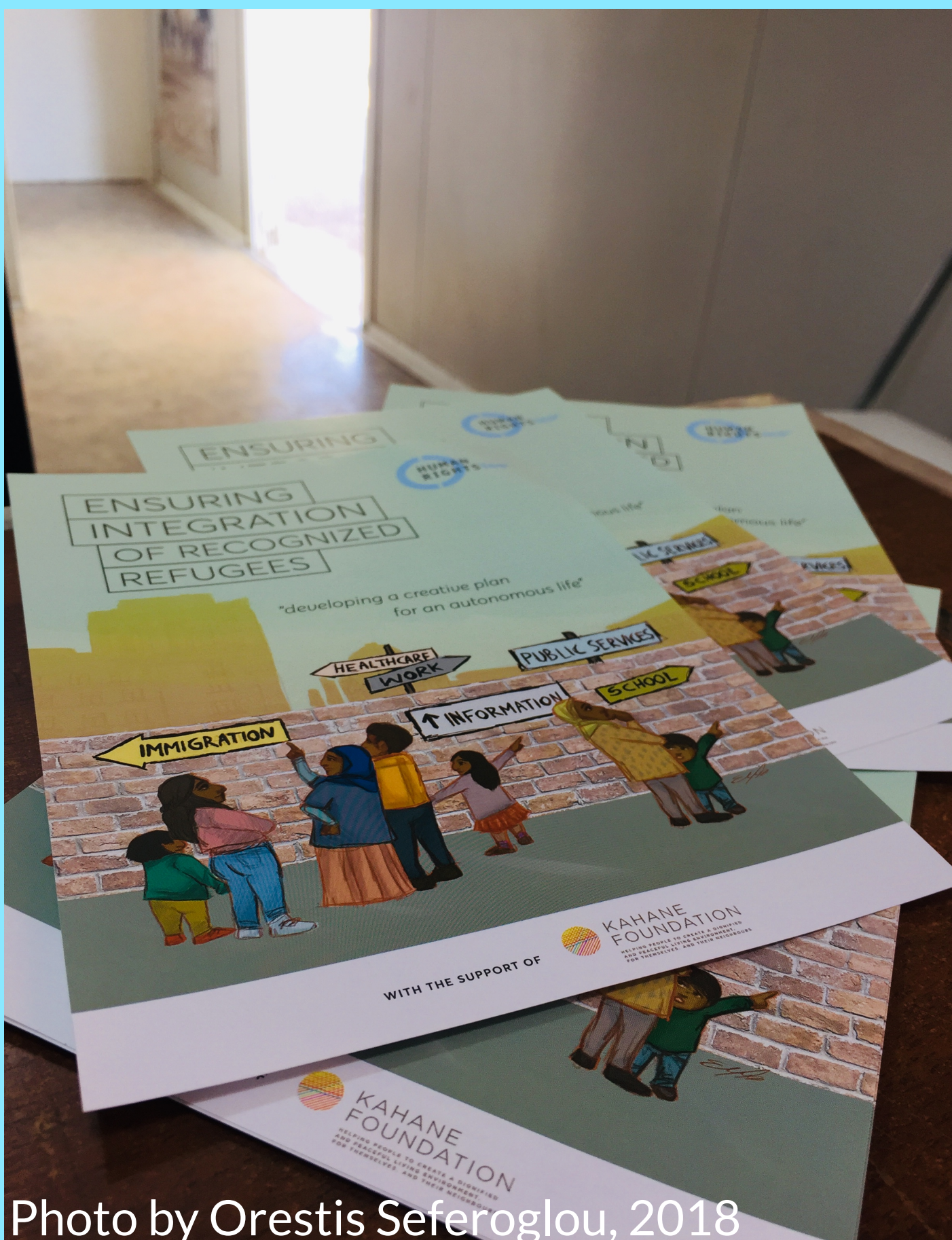


Photo by Orestis Seferoglou, 2018

Primarily accountable to our beneficiaries

"My hope has been restored, I realized that I could work again. HumanRights360 helped me to right resume and teach me basic IT skills to acquire the European Refugee Skills Passport. Today, I am working for a telecommunications company in the Facebook department, a job is appropriate for me. The fact that I work again makes me feel optimistic and I feel like a normal person again. I have my job and my income; I make new acquaintances and I have many Greek friends who treat me as equal because we are all the same: Workers and friends we are fighting for a better future"

- Mohamed, 39 years old

Lessons learnt

- ▶ Legal counselling in various legal issues, such as family reunification, access to labor market residence permits etc., has been recognized as an important service in need by our beneficiaries. The legal expert of HumanRights360 provided legal counselling to 26 of our beneficiaries by the end of 2018 to respond on these needs. This experience has been successfully incorporated in future project designs.
- ▶ Lack of language learning resources can also limit access to the labor market. For this reason, we are exploring and broadening the network of possible language courses along with planning registration procedures within organisations' schedules.
- ▶ Only 6 of the project beneficiaries were female, indicating that gender focused project designs are fundamental to ensure equity in access in integration services.
- ▶ Administrative challenges, related to issuing of numbers (such as the Tax Allowance number) or creating a bank account, have hindered integration procedures, as our beneficiaries could not move forward towards entering the labor market. For this reason, an advocacy and communication strategy was created from the employees of the project, in addition to the ad hoc support to beneficiaries in accessing respective services.



Photo by Orestis Seferoglou, 2018

Achievements



Following the complaint to the Ombudsman against directives of the Independent Authority for Public Revenue, that constitutes discrimination against alien taxpayers, a working group, including HumanRights360, Greek Ombudsman and Asylum Service, has been created in order to collaboratively address the issue that existed till July 2019.

Combating hate crime & tackle islamophobia

Recording and combating hate crimes is a primary goal of HumanRights360

Throughout 2018, we have been witnessing an alarming increase of hate crime incidents in Greece. This is linked both to the reversion of the generalized welcoming sentiment towards refugees and migrants that was prevalent in Greece throughout 2015-2016, and to the fact that the Greek neo-Nazi party trial is in a turning point, triggering new developments.



Islamophobia is on the rise, attacks against LGBT communities are multiplying and the targeting of human rights defenders has become an alarming pattern. Within this context, new formulations and modus operandi of organized racist groups appear, such as targeting refugee shelters and homes of refugees or targeting lawyers and human rights defenders that are directly linked with the Golden Dawn trial, as well as the appearance of new organized racist groups that substitute for the ones we had seen in the past and are now dismantled because of the Golden Dawn trial.

At the same time, “traditional” forms of hate crimes that target specific communities are on the rise, an alarming phenomenon for which members of the civil society –including those of HumanRights360- have filed a complaint before the Prosecutor of the High Court.

Furthermore, an alarming increase of incidents of racist violence has been appeared not only at the mainland but also at the land borders of Evros region, targeting TCNs, including unaccompanied and separated minors. These incidents which deteriorate the already overstretched situation at the area have been recorded to the Network of Racist violence to which member is HumanRights360.

During 2018 we worked towards officially recording hate crimes in the Racist Incident reporting Network on which we are active members since its inception, while also acting with clarity and efficiency against the alarming observed increase of hate crimes in Greece. In this context, HumanRights360 we have recorded and supported 5 people who have been survived a racist violence incidence. In one case the victim decided to proceed with the lawsuit.

In light of the above and taking into consideration the increased incidents of hate crime on the land border of Evros and the mainland, HR360 recognized the need for provision of support and legal services for victims of hate crime through the continuation and further development of the programme and stands ready to provide a concrete and comprehensive proposal to prevent and respond to hate crime in Greece.



To that end, in October 2018 we were delighted to be awarded with the grant for the project "Different people, same country: Combating hate crime and Tackle islamophobia" funded by the Social Change Initiative.




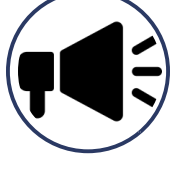
With the core of the project activities being implemented at the rise of 2019 the objective of the project is to comprehensively attempt to move the dominant narrative about migrants and refugees to a more positive tone.

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Advocacy and Interventions

Advocacy comprises the core of our strategy

During the first months of our operation, we managed to raise advocacy messages and arguments in the public dialog in three main areas: Integration, hate speech and hate crime and access to asylum. Indicatively:

-  Through the project “Ensuring Integration of Recognized Refugees” our team filed a complaint to the Ombudsman against directives of the Independent Authority for Public Revenue. A working group, including HumanRights360, Greek Ombudsman & Asylum Service, has been created in order to collaboratively address the issue that exists till today.
-  Early in 2018, 14 asylum seekers began a hunger strike with the demand of being transferred to Germany. Their demand was based on the already accepted family reunification claim that was being delayed because of diplomatic arrangements between the Greek and German government. HumanRights360 made an intervention on the issue, analyzing that the implementation of existing rules and legislation should not be put in peril.
-  HumanRights360 contributed on the 2018 CSO’s Report on Irregular Migration for South-Eastern Europe: The increased arrivals at the Evros land border which is not under the EU-Turkey Statement implementation, have further added to the arbitrary and concerning practices of informal forcible removals (push-backs) of foreign nationals from Greece to Turkey at the Evros river border; In particular, during 2018, the arrivals from the land borders of Evros were significant increased (by 63%) compared to 2017 promoting the Evros land borders to a significant entry-point for mixed migration flows. Despite the low visibility in terms of policy and media, Evros land borders gradually became the major point of entry for irregular migrants setting more pressure to the inadequate reception conditions in the closed Reception and Identification Center (RIC) of Fylakio Orestiada/Evros. The report was prepared prepared by MYLA-Macedonian Young Lawyers Association for USAID-US Agency for International Development.
-  Being present in EVROS area on daily basis, HumanRights360 contributed to the report “The New Normality: Continuous push – backs of third country nationals on the Evros River” with Greek Council for Refugees and ARSIS-Association for the Social Support of Youth and HumanRights360. The report contained 39 testimonies of people who attempted to enter Greece from the Evros border with Turkey, in order to draw the attention of the responsible authorities and public bodies to the frequent practice of push-backs that take place in violation of national, EU law and international law. All testimonies highlighted a continuous and uninterrupted use of the illegal practice of push-backs. They also reveal an even more alarming array of practices and patterns calling for further investigation; it is particularly alarming that the persons involved in implementing the practice of push-backs speak Greek, as well as other languages, while reportedly wearing either police or military clothing.

Moreover, HumanRights360 strategically joins forces with other CSOs in order to perform meaningful advocacy with regards to the protection of refugees and migrants. Indicatively, within 2018, HumanRights360 has joined the following common advocacy initiatives:

-  Given the situation of the ongoing reforms of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) and related national-level developments, HumanRights360, along with 18 more civil society organizations came together to call on the European Commission to seize this historic opportunity to promote an orderly and efficient system which strengthens the EU’s and Member States’ ability to meet obligations under international human rights law.
-  On April 2018, the Greek government’s move overturning a binding court ruling ordering it to end its abusive policy of trapping asylum seekers on Greece’s islands raises rule of law concerns, 21 human rights and humanitarian organizations said today. Parliament members should oppose such changes and press the government to respect the ruling.
-  HumanRights360 along with another 12 NGO’s directed an Open Letter to EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Manager, regarding asking the EU Commission to act the maximum in order to stop the further loss of lives in Mediterranean Sea.

Research



Research and production of a Photo book “Call it Home”

In HumanRights360, we believe that the level of protection of children in a society is an indicator of its democracy and culture. That is why we continuously advocate and struggle to empower and expand the mechanisms of protection for the promotion and safeguarding of human rights.

Together with the photojournalist Orestis Seferoglou aimed with this publication to present the situation on the main islands of reception, stressing the unjust and unjustified lack of integration policies and the absence of any contact between the local and refugee children. We deeply believe that “Call it Home” publication depicts these two parallel worlds and hope at some point they meet and are joined into one.

Dominant Counter-Narratives to Islamophobia – Greece

HumanRights360 participated to the research “Dominant Counter-Narratives to Islamophobia – Greece” that was conducted by University of Leeds within the context of Counter-Islamophobia Kit. It was the first step on a very interesting and controversial field.

EU Funds for Migrants’ Mental Health

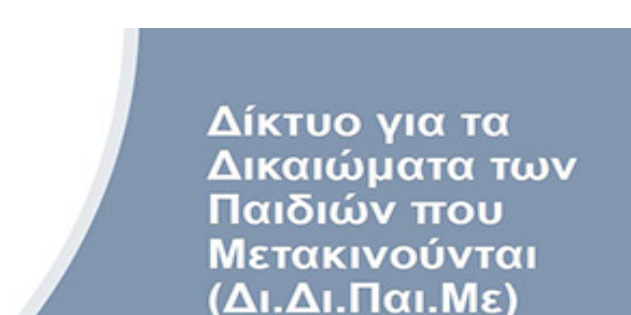
In early 2018, HumanRights360 contributed in the report, “EU funds for migrants’ mental health: Reaching people in need, when they need it?”. It was an effort to create a snapshot of the current situation regarding the uses of European funding in the area of migrants’ mental health. The main goal of the study was to provide an overview of how the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund is organized and governed at European and national level, and it represents a first step towards monitoring how the available allocations have been used in concrete terms, specifically by looking at projects funded to support migrants’ mental health activities. The report focused in Greece and Italy and was conducted by European Public Health Alliance – EPHA. HumanRights360 provided the Greek input.

Networking

HumanRights360 pays great attention to the alliances and the networking with other organizations, NGO’s, as well as local and regional stakeholders. In the effort, to make human rights accessible for all people, we believe that we have to be as much and as widespread as possible. For these reasons we are member in several networks, such as the Racist Violence Recording Network, something that enables us to join forces with other key factors and act adequately to make our vision to build vibrant and tolerant societies come true. Last but not least, HumanRights360 is registered in NGO Registry, Cultural Registry, Transparency Registry.

Networks we participate in:

- Racist Violence Recording Network
- Forced Migration Unit – University of Nottingham
- ACCMR
- International Detention Coalition
- Representative Council for Research and Documentation (ASET) of Generation 2.0 for Rights, Equality & Diversity
- Network for the Rights of Children on the Move of the Greek Ombudsman
- Golden Dawn Watch
- European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)



Participation in Conferences and Events

- ||> Solidarity and Greek Crisis” organised by the European Project SOLIDUS, at the Dept. of Social and Educational Policy of the University of Peloponnese. The panel “Doubling the Crises -solidarity and policy responses to the refugee crisis”. Our intervention focused on the complementarity of roles between governmental and non-governmental actors and the crisis in EU policies of solidarity. “There is no dilemma between open and closed borders; this question is just used as a pretext. There is a dilemma of whether we will continue the process of externalization of migration management or whether we will uphold the rule of law and the EU acquis”.
- ||> Regional Conference “Good practices in refugees’ protection and the management of mixed Migration flows”, co-organized by UNHCR Tunis and the Arab Institute for Human Rights. HR360 contributed at the panel “Complementarity of roles between governmental and non-governmental actors”.
- ||> Presentation of “No Direction Home” Photo – Album held in Berlin, by Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, highlighting the inhuman situations refugees are obliged to live in.
- ||> On March 2018, the Director of HumanRights360, we participated in a very interesting discussion at the premises of the Jewish Community of Athens on the development of migration and refugee protection.
- ||> Workshop for young diplomats from the Black Sea Economic Cooperation member states organized by the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Turkey (KAS) in Istanbul, Turkey, highlighting the causes of Black Sea migration into Greece and EU and the failed policies of externalization of borders; horrible reception conditions; strict border controls; illegal pushbacks and migration detention; and the death of high numbers of refugees including children exercising their right to asylum.

The way forward

Early 2019 found HumanRights360 in the strive of extending its strategy by putting in the ground targeted actions and high impact activities. Milestones of our operation during the first half of the year 2019 were the continuation and adjustment of the existing projects in Evros and Athens, as well as the core implementation of the activities under the project “Different people, same country: Combating hate crime and Tackle islamophobia” funded by the Social Change Initiative.

In particular, the campaigns X them out! A Black Map of Athens (<https://valtousx.gr/en/>) was designed to pinpoint and highlight the unseen criminality related to racist attacks in the public space and the campaign #OrdinaryWorkingPeople, focused on promoting what unites us rather on what divides.

Last but not least, during the second half of 2018, the experience and competence of HumanRights360’ core staff members in re-granting has been brought together. Building on the unique experience and competence of its founders in launching efficiently open calls; project contracts; and management and operational set up of funds, and in particular EEA Grants programme design and management, in partnership with SOLCrowe, we were selected as the FO of the EEA Norway Grants programmes in Greece 2019-2024, “Local Development and Poverty Reduction” and “Asylum and Migration” (total grant amount 23 million euros).



Photo by Orestis
Seferoglou, 2018

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