

ANNUAL REPORT

20

22

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**REGRANTING ACTIVITIES AND
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INTRODUCTION

2022 has been another difficult year full of challenges and exclusions, both for the vulnerable people whose access to their rights we support, and for civil society organizations such as HumanRights360.

We had the bitter opportunity to witness a "two-track" policy in relation to refugees from the Russian invasion of Ukraine, on the one hand, and those from Asia and Africa. We have witnessed systemic, systematic, and long delays in registering asylum requests and obtaining international protection applicant cards. We reacted to the closure of the accommodation structure of Eleonas, promoting the right of the children to complete the school year without disruption, but also for the residents to be able to continue accessing critical services. We have also responded to the absence of a viable and appropriate alternative to the closure of the ESTIA II accommodation program in order not to see vulnerable people crammed into unsuitable structures or abandoned into homelessness and destitution. And we asked for the implementation of integration measures for all people.

But 2022 was also a critical year for those who defend human rights in Greece or work to protect the rights of asylum seekers and immigrants. According to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders, Mary Lawlor who visited Greece in June 2022 to assess the situation in the country and presented her findings to the UN Human Rights Council in March 2023 with a 19-page report, organizations and defenders receive threats and attacks from the authorities, are subjected in smear campaigns, and in abuse of criminal law.

According to the same report, Greece faces strong international criticism for pushbacks and the silencing of groups working to bring these violations to light. The situation, it is also reported, regarding press freedom is no better, with Greek authorities' curbs on media freedom, lack of media pluralism, and a surveillance scandal impacting journalists. To reinforce the above, at the end of the year came out the Reporters Without Borders report for 2022 on the Press Freedom Index in 108 out of 180 countries, according to which Greece is the lowest ranked country in the European Union for press freedom, having fallen 38 places in a year.

INTRODUCTION

Following a global pattern of stigmatization and delegitimization of NGOs, HumanRights360 received repeated blows from some Greek mainstream media outlets and high-ranking government officials immediately after the much-discussed incident at the land border with Turkey (Evros River). The incident occurred in August 2022 when a group of refugees found themselves trapped on an islet between the Greek and Turkish borders of Evros. Four NGOs including HumanRights360 launched a series of advocacy actions aimed at rescuing them, with a positive outcome for the fate of these people.

In November 2022 the attack intensified, with specific media demonizing the acceptance of foreign funding by HumanRights360 and also the personal financial situation of its founders. In response, HumanRights360 issued two announcements, thoroughly analyzing the financial data reported in the allegations, and the transparency and accountability mechanisms it has put in place. Although the preliminary investigation that has been ordered by the prosecutor, does not concern the organization itself, and moreover the results have not yet been released, these events have thrown HumanRights360 into a state of "limbo", with serious administrative and financial consequences and a negative impact on staff's morale.

2. SOCIAL INTEGRATION SERVICE

The social integration service of HumanRights360 aims every day to empower people with a migrant and refugee profile in their process towards their integration into Greek society. We strive to ensure that all individuals enjoy fundamental human rights, have access to the labor market, housing, social welfare, education, vocational training and participate in activities that enhance a sense of citizenship and belonging to the city. We seek to empower individuals, influence the wider systemic context, and enable them to access the goods and rights they are entitled to through various interventions based on the development of individualized inclusion plans (Participant Development Plan).

In 2022 we achieved all this with:

- Administrative support of beneficiaries for the issuance of necessary documents, i.e. Social Security and Tax Registry numbers
- Legal advice on the asylum process and integration issues
- Employability support (drafting CVs, job search/matching, interview preparation)
- Enrollment to education and training (referrals for Greek and English language courses, IT skills development, vocational training programs, secondary and tertiary education)
- Participation in city life events and psychosocial groups/activities.

The unstable and restrictive context faced by our beneficiaries has led our Social Service team to use multi-level approaches with a variety of intervention tools: empowerment, training, advocacy and strategic communication, networking, consultation, legal advice, psychosocial support and referrals. Also, personalized approaches and connection with any available services (educational, professional, employment, social benefits, and allowances). We have created an informal network with other (mainly grassroots) organizations and developed effective and alternative referral pathways with tangible results. In addition, we have launched new types of interventions such as mass mailings to help our beneficiaries stay informed of developments that affect them. We contacted public and private bodies, designed advocacy strategies (which run across all HumanRights360 programs) and developed communication actions. In addition, we participated in networks and working groups, contacted partner organizations, attended, and organized events, wrote reports, brought issues before the Ombudsman. Finally, we increased the potential of our staff with group supervision and attending relevant trainings.

2. SOCIAL INTEGRATION SERVICE

The challenges we faced.

In 2022 we observed that a number of issues continued to negatively impact the safety, protection, and integration of refugees. Changes in asylum legislation, policies and procedures create serious problems for asylum seekers and refugees in accessing health, work, education, and housing, while inadequate integration strategies expose them to homelessness or unsafe housing, poverty, and social exclusion. At the same time, the demonization of NGOs, a byproduct of an anti-immigrant rhetoric endangers our work and questions the values of social cohesion and diversity in general.

Specifically, we faced:

- Systemic obstacles to the registration of new asylum applications on the new electronic platform: From July 2022, new applications are registered and examined only at 2 remote Registration and Identification Centers.
- Inability to issue asylum seeker cards at the Asylum services due to technical reasons. Instead, they issue certificates on the status of the asylum request. Long delays in issuing new documents to newly recognized refugees.
- Non-harmonised practices applied by the public servants, as a result of constant changes in legislation that make it difficult for them to stay informed and compliant as they are not provided with adequate access to interpretation services. Furthermore, many of them are not even willing to help people with an immigrant profile due to racism or xenophobia.
- High (28.4%) unemployment rate for under-29s as of September 2022
- Prevalence of precarious living conditions which is mainly due to a) limited scope of the state integration program (HELIOS) for recognized refugees - 1 in 13 beneficiaries is registered, b) termination of services in the ESTIA scheme to asylum seekers as soon as their refugee status is recognized, forcing them to leave the apartments or their place in the open accommodation structures (camps) 30 days after their positive decision or come to Athens from the islands and face the high rents of the capital, and c) racism and xenophobia. The closure of the structure in Eleonas worsened the situation, leaving a large number of people homeless.

2. SOCIAL INTEGRATION SERVICE

- Difficult access to the asylum process for applicants who are not supported by a lawyer. In many cases, Asylum Offices do not respond to e-mail requests coming directly from applicants, and in any case, there are significant delays. Access to the asylum process is only possible for people who are considered vulnerable under the terms of the applicable legislation. This situation creates a great sense of anxiety and frustration for the people concerned and significantly increases the risk of detention for those who lack papers.
- There is a significant delay regarding the renewals of beneficiaries of international protection.

Results

- We organized **several interview days for our beneficiaries** with employers in the catering and hospitality sector during which many beneficiaries were interviewed and received a job offer letter in 2022. In total, 65 of our beneficiaries found legal work within the year. In addition, we have signed a memorandum of cooperation with human resource companies to promote new recruitment.
- We organized the **first Expertations workshop** with the participation of beneficiaries of our service, including students, giving them the opportunity to learn about various work topics from experts, such as, what it is like to work in a five-star hotel, what are the rules and what behaviors are acceptable etc.
- The **In:tech:gration project** was presented at the Erasmus + Project event: "Ensuring continuity in education for refugees". It is a programming training program in collaboration with the ECHO100Plus and Common Ground organizations that completed its pilot phase in 2022. Of the 12 participants, 7 completed the course (2 left for another country, 3 dropped out).
- Our **360 Greek City app** was released on the Google Play platform. It aims to provide information on continuing education, how to search for a job and secure documents, respond to emergency situations, search for, and manage a home and improve social life. The application was presented to IOM Helios staff and their support was sought to spread its use to asylum seekers residing in the camps.

2. SOCIAL INTEGRATION SERVICE

- Together with four other organizations, the Coordination Center of the Municipality of Athens for Migration Issues (ACCMR) and IOM Greece (HELIOS Project) and funded by the Ministry of Migration and Asylum we co-organized the **"Welcome" Career Week** focusing on the Hospitality Sector, checking alternative professional opportunities in the tourism sector, but also informing about labor rights in Greece.
- In view of the closure of the camp in Eleonas, we carried out about 40 ad hoc actions for mainly French-speaking residents of the camp supporting their inclusion with referrals to public organizations and other NGOs, renewal of OAED cards and CV updates.
- We assisted five beneficiaries of our Social Service to receive a full scholarship and a seed grant for their distance enrollment at an American University.

The Social Integration Service in numbers

Within 2022:

- **65** people found legal work
- More than **80** legal counseling sessions were held
- More than **700** employability sessions were held
- **185** people were supported in issuing necessary documents
- **67** unemployment cards were secured for our beneficiaries



Photo credits: Fanis Logothetis

2022

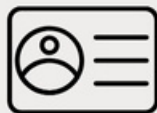


SOCIAL INTEGRATION SERVICE



171

Number of households
supported for the
issuance of Social
employment
documents



67

Unemployment
cards issued



24

Registrations for
VAT number



11

Visits to
public
services



10

Social Security
Number entries



19

Enrollment in
Greek
courses



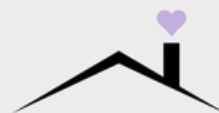
16

Enrollment in
computer
courses



34

Enrollment in
vocational
training
courses



27

Number of
households
supported to
obtain documents
(bank account, MMM card,
Conversion of PAAUPA to
AMKA, etc.)



128

Drafted job
applications
(resume and
cover letter)



65

Beneficiaries
found work



721

Counseling
sessions

2022



SOCIAL INTEGRATION SERVICE



80

Legal counseling sessions



50

Meetings with public Authorities



16

Employers who attended sessions



38

Official letters and meetings with authorities



19

Participants to psychosocial sessions



68

Psychosocial sessions



7

Group empowerment and support sessions



4

Referrals to civic events



1

Staff training

3. STREET LAWYERING: PROVIDING LEGAL COUNSELING TO THE HOMELESS

For a third year in a row, HumanRights360's team of lawyers continued offering legal advice with street work to people in precarious housing conditions and to the homeless, as well as through advocacy actions. In collaboration with a team from STEPS organization, and with funding from Stavros Niarchos Foundation, HR360 lawyers carried out daily street work locating the beneficiaries in downtown Athens, in squares and streets of the city. The team of lawyers, now experienced in street work, reaches out to the population with the aim of solving chronic legal pending cases, immediate and often urgent judicial needs, and to settle possible deficiencies that are an obstacle to the smooth integration of the population into social life. Bringing the law office to the street in practice, using street intervention as a tool, a radical and innovative method of intervention, lawyers provide legal advice and help solve practical everyday issues, while quite often they have to intervene in order to defend the rights and demands of these population groups that are being violated. For 2022 our lawyers participated on a consistent basis - three times a week- in the relevant trips and supported more than 30 people per month.

In addition to the street intervention, the group also offers appointments in fixed meeting points. The fixed meeting points for 2022 were both the offices of the partner organizations and the day centers where people of concern gather every day to serve their basic needs.

The population supported by the program is the homeless population of Athens. It is an umbrella term that includes a wide range of people living in precarious housing conditions and belonging to groups considered vulnerable. They are people who do not have financial resources, who live and work on the street, who are housed or live under the threat of eviction. Also, these are sex workers or victims of human trafficking; people suffering from mental illnesses or physical disabilities; unaccompanied minors with a migrant or refugee profile; the elderly; users of psychoactive substances; undocumented people; people who are in treatment process in closed or open treatment programs et al. Our program makes no discrimination of gender, origin, age or any other against them.

3. STREET LAWYERING: PROVIDING LEGAL COUNSELING TO THE HOMELESS

As workers and citizens in a country that in recent years has seen its population impoverish at a rapid rate, we deal with housing issues with great respect and consistency. Already in the post-Covid19 era, to the auctions of main residence, the high unemployment rate and the complete absence of welfare on the part of the state regarding housing policies, in 2022 the energy crisis and inflation came to be added as a result of global turmoil caused by the Ukrainian crisis : Factors that exacerbated the phenomenon of homelessness in Greece and made the need for similar interventions by civil society organizations imperative. The parallel lack of concern regarding the housing of people who are in the asylum application process made the situation even more difficult in 2022 and significantly increased the number of the city's homeless population, of which, however, for another year we had no official record.

Recognizing the above issues as key, in 2022 HumanRights360 actively participated in the Greek Network for the Right to Housing as well as in the European Organization for Homelessness, FEANTSA.

In 2022 the Street Lawyering project again supported criminal cases, administrative and civil matters and a number of immigration and asylum cases. As in all the recent years, the criminal cases that were supported were many and considerably more than the rest. Among other equally important reasons, it should be emphasized that the access of the poor population to the courts is limited if not prohibited. Unfortunately, without the assistance of organizations like HumanRights360, poor people are deprived of basic and critical information concerning their lives and very often their freedom, while their basic right to defend themselves is being violated. In 2022, when the courts opened again after their closure due to the pandemic, there were severe barriers in accessing the courts as well as relating in getting information.

The number of administrative cases we supported was also high, and we had to support people in requesting or renewing social allowances (KEA, KEPA, etc.) or in issuing identity cards and lost documents. As in previous years, we also handled child custody cases as well as inheritance, property, and other civil matters.

3. STREET LAWYERING: PROVIDING LEGAL COUNSELING TO THE HOMELESS

Very frequent and also of key importance for the safety of the population was our contribution to the issuance of legal documents for refugees and migrants, the assistance during the asylum application process at all stages, the filing of requests for residence permits and of course the filing of appeals and requests for medical treatment.

Our steady and consistent presence on the street quickly highlighted the critical need to cooperate with legally approved treatment programs as well as to create a network of cooperation with organizations and agencies for the immediate and comprehensive support of individuals. In 2022 we worked closely with mutual referrals with other existing initiatives. At the same time, we collaborated with municipal and private shelters for the homeless, with other civil society organizations and with our own social integration service, putting into practice our concept of a holistic approach.

"Other" includes: civil cases, medical appointments, referrals for shelter, referrals for medical treatment.

	Beneficiaries	New beneficiaries	Requests	Penal cases	Admin/civic cases	Migration Law	Other
January	39	16	53	14	18	12	07
February	50	22	68	26	10	12	20
March	45	22	58	14	17	18	07
April	49	14	53	18	18	10	07
May	53	17	68	26	12	21	09
June	48	21	65	38	08	12	07
July & August	46	30	56	19	08	12	17
September	34	10	48	24	05	14	05
October	37	10	42	25	08	05	04
November	52	18	66	29	17	09	11
December	17	04	24	11	03	06	04
Total	470	184	601	244	124	131	98

4. COMMUNITY BASED ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION

As at the end of 2021 the pilot phase of the project "Community Based Alternatives to Detention" was officially completed, during the implementation of which we had identified that in recent years the population of migrants and refugees has been faced with ever-increasing challenges in obtaining a stable legal status while living for extended periods of time in precarious conditions with an imminent risk of being placed in administrative detention for long periods of time, we applied for further funding from EPIM and launched in the first months of 2022 a new edition of the program with personalized case management approach by providing holistic support both in the area of legal aid and in the area of psychosocial or support for survival.

The challenges we faced.

The government's hostile approach to human rights organizations (see Introduction), and the people they serve, was witnessed in the detention facilities (e.g. Amygdaleza) as well, where the site manager imposed suffocating visiting hours on lawyers, forcing the Bar Association of Athens to intervene. Similar dissuasive attitudes were observed in the local asylum offices (RAOs), where, when the file of a refugee was requested for an appeal or subsequent application, unjustified paperwork was required.

Another negative development in the field of detention related to the model of the Closed Controlled Access Centers of the Islands (CCACI) which was inaugurated on the islands of Samos, Leros and Kos in 2021, and in 2022 began to be implemented on the mainland as well. At the Closed Center at the Gerakini camp in Malakasa unregistered refugees who have managed to make an appointment online to register their asylum claim are obliged to present themselves and face the possibility of being detained pending the completion of the process.

In 2022 we also witnessed:

- Indiscriminate detention of newly arrived asylum seekers even though their will to submit an asylum request has been registered through the dedicated platform
- Indiscriminate issuance of detention and return decisions even for nationalities whose return is impossible
- Refusal to consider alternatives to detention measures
- Lack of information for detainees in a language they understand about the reasons for their detention or about the decision for their return.

4. COMMUNITY BASED ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION

- Systematic transfers of detainees (even persons for whom the registration of their subsequent application, or their interview was already scheduled) from the Pre-Removal Detention Center in Amygdaleza to those in Paranesti, Xanthi and Drama.
- Failure to inform detainees of the possibility to apply for asylum while in detention
- Prolonged detention and encouragement of many of them to participate in the IOM Voluntary Return Program

Results of our interventions

- We have handled more than 40 cases
- We conducted more than 65 legal counseling sessions



Photo credits: Fanis Logothetis

5. BRIDGES TO THE FUTURE: SUPPORTING THE TRANSITION OF UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN TO ADULTHOOD

Under normal circumstances and under the lens of a normal life, the coming of age for most people involves the transition to a next stage, that of asserting the personal life plan that each of us has developed. However, this process is very different for hundreds of unaccompanied refugee minors who, just before reaching the age of 18, are called upon to face new challenges for their survival and to prove that they need support in an environment that – most of the time at least – is far from supportive. The organization Velos Youth and HR360 in September 2022 launched a new EPIM-funded partnership, which aims to support unaccompanied young people with a migrant profile who have just transitioned to adulthood to overcome the gaps in the protection and integration system and to rebuild their lives integrated into Greek society.

The Bridges to the Future project focuses on teenagers and young adults and aims to improve the overall protection system with more sustainable and holistic approaches so that 18 is seen more as a bridge to the future than a step into the void. The project uses the results and methodologies developed during the partners' previous collaboration that started in 2019. In the present synergy, the partners having built relationships of trust with young adults, further try to establish a peer-to-peer network and plan specific advocacy actions that are up to date with the needs faced by young adults. In addition, the partners ensure that the voices of young people themselves are heard and included for the greatest possible impact with specific actions. The activities of the program include, among others: strategic litigation and advocacy on the regulatory framework with the aim of institutionalizing residence permits for children coming of age. Also, advocacy actions for the access of unaccompanied children coming of age to formal education and reducing the phenomenon of early school dropouts.

6. PISTE: IMPROVING CIVIC AND INTEGRATION POLICIES OF EUROPEAN CITIES

With the PISTE project, HumanRights360 and its partners in Italy, Germany and Belgium aim to improve the quality of integration policies in the civic and social life of small and medium-sized cities by promoting the participation of immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers in the design, implementation and evaluation of measures concerning them. The activities envisaged are supporting evidence-based policymaking, sharing and evaluating policy measures, starting with partner and target municipalities and scaling up to the European level. Also, the promotion of civic and political participation through co-design workshops involving actors from small and medium-sized town authorities and civil society.

Finally, piloting refined and revised local measures and disseminating/promoting project results through multilingual digital resources and gathering experiences and tools for innovative policies in European small and medium-sized towns. PISTE has a duration of two years and will be completed at the beginning of 2024. Our partners in the project are the University of Urbino, the University of Antwerp, the University of Applied Sciences of Erfurt, and the municipalities of Bebra, Fermignano, Ninove and Voios.

PISTE is funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund of the European Union. More about the project [here](#).



Photo credits: Nikoletta Arvanitoudi

7.CUP: REINTEGRATION AFTER PRISON

HumanRights360, in its effort to identify and serve the needs of the most vulnerable and marginalized social groups, started the implementation of the "Convicts Upskilling Pathways (CUP)" project in November 2019. It was completed at the end of 2022 after achieving to improve the reintegration process for people coming out of prison. It was an international collaboration implemented in 4 EU countries, including Italy, Greece, Cyprus, and the Netherlands. On the Greek side, HumanRights360 and Epanodos were the two partners that participated. Ex-convicts in Greece are undoubtedly a group with a high rate of vulnerability, for several reasons. Overcrowding in detention facilities, limited visiting hours, limited access to education, inadequate health care and stigma are just some of the reasons that have a negative impact - directly or indirectly - on these people's efforts to reintegrate effectively.

The project aimed to design and pilot training modules for the upgrading of female and male prisoners in 6 European prisons, while providing the necessary tools to assess the impact on the social reintegration of prisoners. The project managed to achieve all its main objectives sufficiently and appropriately, contributing significantly to the development of the identified priorities. Likewise, the project's strategies and actions responded to a careful analysis of the needs of the direct and indirect beneficiaries, as well as the specific contexts of the individual partners, so that it was even further possible to adapt and strengthen them to the emergency needs of the Covid19 pandemic. Finally, its design and implementation brought high European added value.

The CUP was funded by the Erasmus + program of the European Union.

More about the program, and materials available [here](#).

8. EVROS: LEGAL AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT FOR UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN

During 2022 asylum seeker arrivals almost doubled compared to 2021 and totaled 18.778, up from 9.157. Specifically, 6.022 applicants crossed the land borders of Evros seeking international protection, while the Greek islands were the preferred passage to Europe, with 12.758 sea arrivals. Most of the people who crossed the Evros border were citizens from Syria and Turkey.

2022 was characterized by:

- The continuous violations of human rights at the Evros land border, resulting in the exposure of migrants and refugees to possible mistreatment and/or abuse.
- The implementation of KYA 42799/2021 – Official Gazette 2425/B. /7-6-2021, issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, according to which Turkey has been designated as a safe third country for asylum seekers from Syria, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Somalia.
- The absence of a permanent Guardianship program within the RIC, causing significant issues in the representation of unaccompanied minors, especially the younger ones (under 15 years old), which bring back serious gaps in the RIC and the Asylum Service.
- The suffocating time frames for the completion of the asylum procedures of the beneficiaries, and
- The hostile attitude from the Greek government towards Civil Society bodies active in the refugee sector and the negative narrative from pro-government Mass Media.

In 2022, the HumanRights360 team in Evros consisted of two lawyers and a social worker. HumanRights360 remained present at Orestiada RIC on a daily round-robin basis and worked in the best interest of unaccompanied minors and the most vulnerable beneficiaries.

In this context, during 2022, the HumanRights360 team provided legal and psychosocial support to a total of 137 beneficiaries, during their stay in the Orestiada Fylakion RIC and PRO.KE.KA as well as in the wider area of Evros. Most of the beneficiaries we helped were men (130 out of 137), 21 of them were under 15 years old, 28 of them were vulnerable adults and the rest were unaccompanied children between 16-18 years old, mainly from Afghanistan, Syria and Turkey.

8. EVROS: LEGAL AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT FOR UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN

Providing Legal Advice & Legal Representation

- We offered multiple legal consulting services on asylum issues as well as preparation for asylum interviews, at the RIC and the Independent Asylum Unit of Fylakionin accordance with the new Decree Law 42799/2021 – Gazette 2425/B/7-6-2021 and Decree Law 9889/2020 – Official Gazette 3390/B/13-8-2020.
- We supported and submitted 37 family reunification cases, with immediate success in one case of a minor from Turkey, which was approved by the Dublin Switzerland Unit within days. Many other cases to which we contributed were also accepted by various European countries and further processed by the facility where the minors were transferred or by competent bodies to which they were referred.
- We supported 2 stateless minors who were accompanied by a relative. In full consultation with the Dublin Unit, our team arranged for their escort to take temporary care of the 2 children and then submitted separate family reunification requests for the children. HumanRights360 covered the costs of moving the escort and the 4 minors to a facility on mainland Greece. Requests for family reunification were granted and the family was safely transported to Switzerland.

Provision of Psychosocial Support & Access to Protection Services

- We carried out continuous interventions at the Special Secretariat for Unaccompanied Minors (Ministry of Migration and Asylum) in order to prioritize beneficiaries in the process of finding a place in a suitable shelter, away from the precarious conditions of the RIC. The very young average age of the minors, their psychological exhaustion, as well as their negative emotional situation, and severe psychosomatic symptoms were the main risk factors.
- We referred an unaccompanied minor with panic attacks and suicidal tendencies to a psychologist and psychiatrist to receive appropriate treatment and immediate prioritization to find a place in a suitable shelter.
- We accompanied a hearing-impaired minor to a private doctor, covering the related costs, so that they could get confirmation of their problem and receive a vulnerability certificate, as the public hospital did not have the proper equipment to perform the process.

8. EVROS: LEGAL AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT FOR UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN

Empowerment and Provision of Holistic Support in All Sectors

The HumanRights360 team participated in various empowerment activities during 2022: In March, they participated in an event inside the RIC on the occasion of International Women's Day. The event "Women in the workplace - Stereotypes and Innovations", which was organized by UNHCR in collaboration with HR360, ARSIS and the BRINKS Security company. A lawyer of the group made a presentation on the current working framework in Greece. In June, on the occasion of Refugee Week 2022 and with the support of UNHCR, an event took place with the women of the RIC, entitled "Healing". The women shared their personal stories, the difficulties they encountered in their migration journey and their dreams for the future, while at the end they shared souvenir gifts. We provided medicines and medical products to vulnerable beneficiaries according to the needs and to the official instructions and requests from the National Public Health Authority (EODY) which were covered both by own resources and with collaboration with the NGO GIVMED.



7

Women



130

Men



132

Applicants for
international
protection



5

Non-applicants
for international
protection



109

Records of social
intake & social
services



91

Referrals to
accommodation
centres



327

Psychological
sessions



18

Psychological
assessments for
custody cases
assigned to relatives



173

**Legal advisory
services for
asylum
procedures**

**At the RIC and RAO of
Fylakio:**

Collection of identification or medical documents, translations of documents, referrals of cases, contact with family members in Europe or in the country of origin, collection of documents for family reunification, transmission of a file for cases of temporary assignment of care.



198

**Preparations/presentations in
applications for international protection,
support for the registration of the
applicationb and preparation & presence
at the interview**



37

Family reunification cases

9. BORDER VIOLENCE MONITORING

2022 was a landmark year for our project for monitoring violence at the Evros land border. For another year our research and related activities focused on the militarization of borders, the national and European legislative framework, the policy of preventing new arrivals and secondary movement into Europe. Mainly, however, in the systemic and continuous violation of the principle of non-refoulement, deterrence and group deportations.

Specifically, HumanRights360 carried out the following:

- In February, with the support of ECCHR – European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights, HumanRights360 and Forensic Architecture, a refugee woman called Parvin A[i]. filed a complaint against Greece before the UN Human Rights Commission calling the country on multiple violations of the International Convention on Individual and Civil Rights. Severely beaten, secretly detained and under force to leave Greece, Parvin A.'s digital evidence revealed Greece's covert and systematic practice of pushbacks. More [here](#).
- In March, we expressed our satisfaction together with the Greek Council for Refugees for the happy ending of the adventure of 30 Syrian refugees who were trapped for 6 days on an islet of the river Evros. The refugees, including two pregnant women and seven minor children, found themselves without access to the bare necessities for their survival, without water, food, medical aid, exposed to cold weather conditions for 6 days and nights. Regarding the case, we had addressed the competent authorities repeatedly and with all possible means. With the support of the Greek Council for Refugees, we achieved the issuance of interim measures by the European Court of Human Rights, with which the Greek authorities were invited to take up the issue. More [here](#).
- In April, we co-signed a joint press release with 24 other organizations calling for the National Transparency Authority's investigation into pushbacks to be published in compliance with the transparency principle. The Authority failed to provide necessary information that could potentially provide an answer on the issue of pushbacks in Greece, as required by the independent authorities.

[i] Name is changed for protection reasons

9. BORDER VIOLENCE MONITORING

Although this Authority does not meet the conditions for an independent review of complaints about pushbacks, we requested the publication of this research report in its entirety, in order to be able to evaluate the methodology and its corresponding findings, to ensure accountability of the involved bodies but also to maintain the trust of the citizens towards the authorities. More [here](#).

- HumanRights360 and the Greek Council for Refugees representing 94 refugees from Syria, who were trapped on an islet in Evros, appealed on Wednesday 24.05.2022 to the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) requesting that they were provided with emergency humanitarian and medical assistance and that they were subjected to the necessary reception procedures. In the evening of the same day, the European Court of Justice granted the interim measures asking the Greek government that the 94 refugees are not removed against their will from the country, and that they have access to food, water, and medical care. In the same decision, the ECtHR requested information from the Greek government on whether the refugees were given the opportunity to submit an asylum request, as well as access to legal assistance. This case came after a series of other decisions of the ECtHR with a similar content and after another filing of an appeal by HumanRights360 and the Greek Council for Refugees for the 30 Syrians, for whom a decision on interim measures had been issued in March 2022 (see above). With a statement, we called on the Greek government to immediately comply with the decision of the European Court of Justice, rescuing the 94 Syrian refugees from the islet of Evros, as their situation was particularly vulnerable and their health, in immediate danger.
- In June, lawyers of the organizations Greek Council for Refugees and HumanRights360 alerted the Authorities about the situation of 52 refugees who were stranded on an islet of Evros, among them families with young children and people with multiple health problems. From the first day we emphasized the immediate need to rescue the people and submit them to the formal reception and asylum procedures without response. On Wednesday 01.06.2022 the European Court of Human Rights issued a new decision on interim measures forcing the Greek authorities to rescue the refugees and to carry out all legal procedures.

9. BORDER VIOLENCE MONITORING

It should be noted that among the refugees found on the island there were also some for whom a decision of interim measures had been issued on 25.05.2022 despite which they were forcibly sent back according to what they had reported to Turkey. Despite the notification of this decision to the competent authorities, the people were still on the islet of Evros in a miserable condition, without supplies of water and food and terrified of their fate. We called on the Greek State to comply with the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights and to proceed with the rescue of the refugees and all legal procedures. More [here](#).

- In the same month, in a statement we expressed our absolute satisfaction with the letter sent by the members of the Committee on Civil Liberties of the European Parliament to the European Commission, expressing their concern about "the continuous reports of dozens of people seeking international protection who are pushbacked from Greece to Turkey through the land border in the wider area of the Evros River. More [here](#).
- Also in June, together with five civil society organizations, members of the Monitoring Mechanism for Informal Incidents of Forced Returns established by the National Commission for Human Rights (HCHR) following systematic complaints of pushbacks, we reported systemic violations of the rule of law and of the EU acquis from the Greek authorities, with a memorandum that we submitted to the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) of the European Parliament. We pointed out, in particular, the continuation of the practice of illegal deportations of people seeking international protection from Greek territory, the violation of court decisions and the discrediting of European and international bodies responsible for the supervision and safeguarding of human rights. More [here](#).
- On July 26, together with the Greek Council for Refugees, we submitted a petition to the Supreme Court of Justice as a last resort to rescue the 50 Syrian refugees stranded on the islet of the river Evros, despite the decision of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) to provide them with help and not to be removed from Greece. More [here](#).

9. BORDER VIOLENCE MONITORING

- In August, with the mobilization of several organizations active in the region, such as the Border Violence Monitoring Network, and the National Commission for Human Rights, we succeeded in rescuing 38 Syrians and Palestinians refugees in Evros. It was a first victory against the policy of pushbacks, which dominates in Greece but also in other parts of Europe.
- In September, regarding the case of rescuing the 38 refugees who were stranded on an islet in Evros, and following pressure, we made an announcement stating emphatically that our organization does not wish to create a border issue between Greece and Turkey, nor does it question the borders between the two countries. Our purpose and concern in this case too was exclusively the protection of human life and dignity always within the framework of national and international law, as well as the statutory procedures. The reactions that followed caused a severe disruption within HumanRights360 and eventually led to the shutdown of our Border Violence Monitor program.



Photo credits: Dimitris Tosidis

10. FIGHTING HATE CRIMES

Either as a member of the Racist Violence Recording Network, or through our own actions, for another year we recorded and reported incidents of racist violence and intolerance in Greece, published policy summaries and memos, and collaborated with competent bodies.

In particular, HumanRights360 in 2022 carried out the following:

- In January 2022 we submitted a supplementary memorandum of written explanations on behalf of a victim of racist attack and the recording of an act of discrimination against a homeless person.
- We collaborated with the Social Change Initiative and published a Policy Brief entitled "Golden Dawn: Lessons from Greece in Tackling Extremism", with the aim of drawing conclusions and lessons from the Golden Dawn trial in Greece through the lens of some of its advocates civil action at trial. We participated in a press conference entitled "Extreme right-wing extremism in Greece: lessons from the past, challenges for the future" where the relevant report was presented.
- In 2019, our initiative "X-Them Out -The Black Map of Racist Violence" aimed at raising public awareness around the issue of organized racist violence connected to the Golden Dawn case file. Following that publication and campaign, in 2022 in collaboration with Rosa Luxemburg Foundation in Greece we used the proceeds from the album sales to cover part of the legal expenses for the defense of the Golden Dawn victims.
- In February, we participated in the EStAR Diagnostic Workshop organized by ODIHR as a member of the RVRN. We submitted a supplementary report to the Ombudsman for the violation of right to access formal education for 200 refugee children living in the Ritsona camp. Finally, through a video we narrated the chronicle of the murder of Nikos Sampanis as well as the events that followed.

More on the video of the murder of Sampanis:

On the evening of October 22, 2021, Nikos Sambanis, an 18-year-old Roma from Aspropyrgos and father of 2 children, was shot dead by policemen during a pursuit. The Greek Police immediately leaked that during the pursuit 7 police officers were injured, while the lawyers of the family of Nikos Sampanis denounced irregularities and lies in order to fabricate an "easy-to-digest" story.

The case highlighted a series of other attacks against the rule of law in Greece. At HumanRights360 we give priority to dealing with rights violations, as a condition for preserving the sense of legality and civic peace.

10. FIGHTING HATE CRIMES

To this end, in collaboration with the legal representation of the Sampanis family, we retold his story in [a short video](#) depicting the events as they appear to have actually taken place based on the evidence.

In the video it became clear that the incident unfortunately has to do with what has been internationally known as "bad policing":

- racist reflexes during police work (racial/ethnic profiling),
- arbitrary police behaviour defying orders from the operational center,
- excessive use of violence,
- institutional cover-up after the fact.

Despite the state's repeated proclamations of introducing community policing models that would restore a sense of security to neighborhoods, what we have unfortunately seen in incidents like the murder of Nikos Sampanis is the exact opposite: a neighborhood gassed with 36 bullets for a car that wasn't even registered as stolen, by police officers who - while defying orders from the center - enjoy full political cover and are not even suspended.

On the evening of October 22, 2021, 18-year-old Nikos Sampanis was sentenced to death and his sentence was not decided in court. The chronicle of his murder and those that followed raises many questions about the rule of law in Greece. And it inevitably boils down to a basic question:

"After all, would you want your family to sleep in an area with such policing, in an area where they could be gassed with 36 bullets?"



11. ADVOCACY

HumanRights360 uses advocacy as a key tool to ensure the essential access of all people to rights and the achievement of social cohesion. Having at the core of its strategy evidence-based advocacy during the implementation of its programs, all field actions are accompanied by targeted advocacy activity with the aim of achieving change for all - at a more systemic level - as well as policy analysis and research in its areas of expertise. In this way, it manages to highlight human rights violations and press for substantial changes. In 2022, HumanRights360 remained committed to creating the right strategies in advocacy work. In the wake of the August and November 2022 incidents, HumanRights360 has begun to adapt its advocacy strategy to continue to work in networks and alliances and provide input from its projects while taking all necessary steps to mitigate risks and ensure that its messages are not misinterpreted or manipulated. In 2022 the organization focused efforts on targeted advocacy for social inclusion and access to asylum, strategic litigation, and lobbying for improvements in policy and legislation.

Specifically, it took the following actions:

- A legal expert of HumanRights360 participated in the hearing organized by the National Commission for Human Rights on February 9 to receive comments from key stakeholders and NGOs on the main gaps and challenges in the asylum process. During this hearing, we presented all the issues and difficulties related to the actual access of asylum seekers to the labor market and highlighted the issue of complete lack of access to the asylum process for many people who are not even offered alternatives.
- We submitted data to the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) annual asylum report 2022 for the previous year 2021, highlighting the main problems in the asylum process.
- We submitted comments to the open consultation on the "National Strategy for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors", announced by the Ministry of Migration and Asylum. The commentary focused on the limited and incorrect implementation, by the competent authorities, of the Joint Ministerial Decision - KYA 9889/2020 for the identification of minors from third countries or stateless persons who enter the country without legal papers, pointing out serious problems that arise and lead to a false age assessment but also to the violation of the best interest of minor asylum seekers. More [here](#).

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- With the kind support of our colleagues at the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM), we intervened in the Universal Periodic Review process of the UN Human Rights Council, regarding the human rights situation in Greece.
- In an open letter to the European Commissioner for Home Affairs, Ms. Ylva Johansson, HumanRights360 and 26 other civil society organizations active in the fields of asylum and migration in Greece, we expressed our concerns about Greece's systematic non-compliance with the Asylum Procedures Directive, regarding the Safe Third Country concept.
- Following human rights violations through pushbacks, we hosted an online event aiming at exposing stories of impunity, secrecy and denial. At this press conference, the recorded statements of Parvin A., a refugee woman who experienced multiple violent pushbacks, were released, and discussed. More [here](#).
- With our support, several beneficiaries of our Social Integration Service participated in the episode "Refugee Stories – from uprooting to a new homeland" of "Mega Stories" (Mega TV documentary series). Parwana, Mobina, Adam and two Afghan MPs spoke about their experiences.
- Regarding refugee children's access to education, an HumanRights360 executive presented cases of children living in the Ritsona camp on a 989 AlphaRadio radio show. These cases were similar to the now well-known case of Saidou Kamara, a young person whose request to stay in Greece after reaching adulthood, while initially rejected, was later accepted after interventions to the Appeals Authority.
- The lawyer of our Street Lawyering project published an article in Vice Greece, about providing access and support to unaccompanied minors and young adults. "We rarely meet children on the street, but if we do, we multiply our forces in all possible ways, sometimes even in the impossible ones. That's how it happened with Hassan..."
- Together with the Child Rights Advocacy Network (CRAN), of which HumanRights360 is a regular member, we identified and highlighted the systemic lack of a protection system that guarantees the non-discriminatory protection of all unaccompanied children. Therefore, in July we organized an online conference on the legal protection of unaccompanied children, in the presence of the Deputy

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Minister of Migration and Asylum Ms. Sophia Voultepsi. The deputy minister pledged that within September 2022, actions would be taken to regulate the issue. In November we co-signed a joint press release recalling the commitments.

- HumanRights360 joined the Social Change Initiative for a study visit, entitled "The Rise of Othering: An exploration of Hate and Intolerance", in which activists from around the world met in Athens to explore effective actions to combat hate in our societies, and exchange thoughts and strategies for countering extremism.
- The legal team of the social integration service provided information to the investigative questions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands regarding the status and social rights of beneficiaries of international protection in Greece.
- We participated in the Govwatch project coordinated by VouliWatch, to create a collective map on the state of the rule of law in Greece.
- The deputy director of HumanRights360 and head of the advocacy department was invited by Brown University in America to take part in the discussion: "Working on the Ground: Advocacy and Documentation of Human Rights Violations in Greece and the Mediterranean" jointly with professors at the same University.
- Jointly with 29 organizations, HumanRights360 co-signed a letter of support to delay the closure of Camp Eleonas so that children could complete their school year without disruption. The letter in Greek can be found [here](#).
- HumanRights360 received the Badge for Equality "Share" from the Research Center for Gender Equality (KETHI). 18 companies have received the badge so far, while HumanRights360 is the only NGO to participate in this initiative.
- HumanRights360 co-signed the Joint Statement "Agreeing on the Instrumentalisation Regulation will be the Final Blow to a common European Asylum System (CEAS) in Europe". In that we argued that Member States interested in improving the CEAS should focus on agreeing reforms that support asylum systems to work effectively, protect rights, increase compliance and contribute to trust between Member States in this conflictual policy area. More [here](#).

11. ADVOCACY

- As part of the International Conference of Occupational Therapists #WFOT22, our Social Inclusion team presented the online educational resources supported by HumanRights360, including the VR documentary 'Night Becomes Day'.
- Our experience in the field of refugee rights was included in a useful guide of the European Network of Occupational Therapy in Higher Education (ENOTHE) aimed mainly (but not exclusively) to university staff and students. The guide is accessible [here](#).
- In August 2021, during the Taliban invasion of Afghanistan, HumanRights360 was part of an evacuation exercise that managed to create a humanitarian corridor for several Afghan women and their families, rescuing people from the Taliban takeover. This was made possible through a broad alliance with authorities, organizations and donors. One year later, HumanRights360 on the occasion of Refugee Week 2022 created a video series entitled: "Conversation with Afghan Women", with the support of the Open Society Foundation.
- In collaboration with the dean's office of the School of Political Sciences of Pantion University, we organized a debate in June where four refugees from Afghanistan, took part. The women spoke about the situation in their country and the reasons that forced their uprooting.



Photo credits: Marios Lolos

12. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

For the third consecutive year, in 2022 HumanRights360 organized the Green Ideas Greece competition, in collaboration with HIGGS. The competition aims to support innovative green and/or social ideas by enabling teams to develop ideas using local resources and networks. At the same time, it aims to contribute to the creation of a sustainable cooperation between the Balkan countries. The concept STOP THE BURN, by the Sporos Regeneration Institute, won one of three \$10,000 prizes.

The Green Ideas Greece competition is co-organized by HR360, HIGGS and inCOMMON with the support of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund & Pocantico Center, the John S. Latsis Public Benefit Foundation, the Heinrich Böll Stiftung Greece and Erasmus+. The Balkan Green Ideas competition is organized by the Balkan Green Foundation with the support of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund & Pocantico Center and Erasmus+.



Photo credits: www.balkangreenideas.org

13. EEA GRANTS

On 1 January 1994, the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA Agreement) entered into force. The Agreement brought together the 28 EU Member States and the EEA EFTA States — Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway — in a single market, referred to as the "internal market". In connection with this, the EEA and Norway Grants were established. The objective of the Grants is to reduce social and economic disparities in the EEA, strengthen bilateral relations between the donor and beneficiary countries, and put the beneficiary countries in a better position to make use of the internal market. On 31 October 2017, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway signed a new cooperation agreement with Greece on new programs under the EEA Grants 2014-2021.

SOL CROWE, in collaboration with HumanRights360, acts as the Fund Operator for two (2) of the nine (9) Programmes which are being implemented under the current funding period: "Local Development and Poverty Reduction", with a total budget of € 6.5 million and "Asylum and Migration" (Addressing urgent needs for the reception and screening of asylum seekers and the accommodation of vulnerable groups), with a total budget of €16.5 million. HumanRights360, in collaboration with SOL CROWE, was selected on 19 February 2019 by the Financial Mechanism Office to act as the Fund Operator for the Programmes "Local Development and Poverty Reduction" and "Asylum and Migration".

Undertaking such a role is very important for our organization because, on the one hand, it enables us to use our many years of expertise in the field and develop collaborations with public entities and civil society organizations (international and non-international). On the other hand, it creates a valuable experience in the re-granting management scheme, which is a key pillar of the organization.

The design and implementation of the Projects' monitoring mechanism to achieve the objectives of the EEA Grants, the establishment of online systems as a means of submitting applications and project promoter reports, lodging complaints and forwarding inquiries, and the provision of transparent procedures for the selection of projects, the funding cycle and their successful implementation, and providing appropriate guidance and support to organizations in submitting proposals and subsequent project monitoring and reporting, are an essential legacy for our organization.

13. EEA GRANTS

Among the results of the excellent management of the programs is the efficient implementation of nine (9) projects up to date (December 2022):

- Five (5) projects related to the accommodation and services provided to Unaccompanied Minors asylum seekers and vulnerable women asylum seekers, with total funding of €7,6 M.
- One (1) project related to the capacity development for dignified reception and protection of the rights of migrants and asylum seekers, with total funding of €3.5 M (ongoing).
- One (1) project related to the quality assurance of asylum procedures and free legal aid to vulnerable asylum seekers, with total funding of €3 M (the project was completed in 2020).
- One (1) project related to the inclusion of refugee children in greek schools, with a total funding of €1.5 M (ongoing).
- One (1) project related to the increase of opportunities for social inclusion for the vulnerable population, with total funding of €2 M (ongoing).
- One (1) project related to the reintegration of the unemployed into the labour market and the empowerment of businesses in Athens, with total funding of €2,5 M (ongoing).

In 2022, the initiatives of Bilateral Cooperation of the Programmes, amounting to €175.000, are expected to start. The strengthening of bilateral relations between NGOs in Greece and organizations from donor countries, intending to promote collaborations and the exchange of knowledge and good practices, is one of the central objectives of the EEA Grants for the period 2014-2021.

Programme I “Local Development and Poverty Reduction”

“Schools for all”: Inclusion of refugee children in Greek Schools
Project Promoter: The European Wergeland Center (EWC)

- Participation of **78 schools**
- Participation of **45 trainers** across Greece
- Training of **185 professionals** – coordinators
- Training of **867 teachers** and **54 school directors**
- Implementation of **7 Regional Academies** in Greece
- Implementation of **2 national conferences** “Inclusion through education – European perspectives” and **4 webinars** were organized to strengthen the school network.

13. EEA GRANTS

"Athens Solidarity Center"

Project Promoter: SolidarityNow

Comprehensive services to **8.779 beneficiaries**

Social service: Unlimited access to social benefits

1.821 beneficiaries (target 1.700 people)

Employability Service:

1059 beneficiaries

32% of the beneficiaries found a job (target 25%)

Legal service:

1.211 legal representations

65% of the asylum and family reunifications' applications were successfully completed

Service of psychosocial support:

254 beneficiaries

2.796 sessions

Accountant service:

476 tax numbers have been issued

1.744 tax declarations

"Skills on Demand Increased opportunities for the integration of unemployed residents in the labor market"

Project Promoter: Athens Development and Destination Management Agency (ADDMA – Athens Municipality)

The project will establish a system to promote the employment of vulnerable unemployed residents of the Municipality of Athens. The main objectives are the certification of the development of skills and the empowerment of the beneficiaries to (re) enter the labour market, as well as the promotion and fulfilment of the needs of the labour market at a local level. The project started in September 2021. During its implementation, it is expected to benefit 1.000 vulnerable people and 500 businesses which will participate in establishing a network of local companies with defined skills needs.

13. EEA GRANTS

Programme II: "Asylum and Migration"

Five (5) projects for the accommodation and the provision of services for UAMs and vulnerable women asylum seekers.

Project Promoters: ARSIS, International Rescue Committee Hellas, Médecins du Monde Greece (Mdm), METAdrasi, SMAN

403 UAMs benefited from the EEA Grants up to December 2022, from which:

289 asylum seekers and **114** recognized refugees

273 vulnerable persons (pregnant women or mothers with their children) where hosted in the centers operated by ARSIS and Mdm from which:

218 asylum seekers and **55** recognized refugees

"Capacity Building in Greece": Capacity development for dignified reception and protection of the rights of migrants and asylum seekers in Greece.

Project Promoter: NORCAP/NRC

- Presence in **33 regional offices** of the Reception and Identification Service across Greece
- **26 experts** of various specialties in collaboration with RIS and the National Center for Social Solidarity
- **15 experts** in RIS and the Ministry of Asylum and Migration
- **28 trainings** in RIS staff – **187 trainees**
- Operation of the National Reporting Mechanism (NRM) – **843 reports**
- **53 trainings for frontline professionals**
- **989 frontline professionals** have been trained on Human Trafficking issues as well as the tools and role of the National Reporting Mechanism.

"Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration of Migrants in situations of vulnerability"

Project Promoter: IOM Greece

From September till December 2022, **131 beneficiaries** departed to their countries of origin (target for the whole project 200). Amongst them, 86 women and 45 men. The group ages of the beneficiaries were as following:

Children (0-17): 27 | Young adults (18-29): 26

Adults (30-64): 56 | Older people (65+): 22

14. REGRANTING ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

HumanRights360, constantly intensifies its efforts to support our most vulnerable fellow human beings and also to help against the discrimination to which they are subject; to this end, it manages important donations to Civil Society bodies, always with the long-term goal of ensure equal access to human rights for all people.

The organizations supported in 2022 are:

CODE ON THE ROAD

"Empowering Women and Girls through Business Entrepreneurship and Software Education"

Code on the Road (COR) is committed to building an equitable and productive society through the implementation of innovative, interdisciplinary educational programs that promote labor market integration, entrepreneurship and education for immigrant and local women in the Mediterranean region and Europe . In 2022, COR received a donation to support actions such as two workshops in February and March entitled "We Speak in Code" which were about introduction to code. Also in March and June, an educational program of 6 weeks at a time on the topic of entrepreneurship, with participation from Greece, the Philippines, America, Libya, Iran and Afghanistan. Trainees in May attended a two-day Masterclass where they had the opportunity to submit and receive feedback on their own business ideas. In the same year, in October, COR participated in the UN meeting in Libya entitled "Emerging trends of violent extremism and the future of its prevention in Libya", during which 8 national ministries met with more than 65 civil society organizations and experts on violent extremism from around the world. The donation to COR amounted to €72.000.

REFUGEE LEGAL SUPPORT

"Legal Support for Afghans in Athens"

Refugee Legal Support is a group of asylum lawyers and activists that provide free legal support to those seeking asylum or reunification with family members in Europe.

The donation from HumanRights360 aimed to provide vital legal support to people in Greece who fled Afghanistan. The project included triage, valid information on legal matters, signposting services, and legal case management by lawyers. The RLS legal team provided asylum interview preparation, support with family reunification applications in other EU countries (under Dublin III), support to access key documentation and procedures, support to access key services. The project took on 20 cases for immediate representation (asylum or job interview preparation in Dublin)

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while 20 individuals/families received general legal advice and information about their settlement or family reunification options. Also, 20 people were referred for further support and finally more than 50 people/families gained access to the fundamental right to legal representation and access to justice. The donation amounted to €10.000.

GIVMED

"Program to cover emergencies in medicines and health products for Afghan women and their families"

GIVMED is a non-profit organization that ensures the access of socially vulnerable groups to the medicines and health products they need. The initial goal of the program was to cover emergencies in medicines and health products for Afghan women and their families in Greece. After the needs were mapped and assessed, in agreement with HumanRights360, the project's goal was expanded to cover medicines and health products for other socially vulnerable groups and nationalities. GIVMED identified, secured and coordinated donations from pharmaceutical and healthcare companies as well as non-profit organizations in its network. In addition, it coordinated the purchase of medicines and health products when needed items could not be found otherwise. To achieve this, GIVMED used, maintained, and improved its 'MEDforNGOs' software to efficiently coordinate drug donations, track product needs and surpluses and maintain analytics on donations made. Aiming at better understanding the obstacles, the GIVMED team participated in a hybrid event organized by HumanRights360 at Pantion University to raise awareness about the situation in Afghanistan in June 2022. During the program, 2.448 boxes of medicines and health products were donated, with a total value of €23.010, of which €17.750 were covered by the HumanRights360 donation. Also, donations were made to the 5 non-profit organizations that serve socially vulnerable groups: Emergency Lighthouse Relief (ELR), Greek Forum of Migrants (GFM), Ilion Social Pharmacy, CMA and Synyparksis. Donations made to Synyparksis, CMA, ELR and GFM were particularly targeted at people from Afghanistan.

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LIGHTHOUSE RELIEF

"Ensuring access to social services and filling the gaps in the basic needs of Afghans"

Lighthouse Relief is a non-profit organization registered in Greece and Sweden with the aim of filling gaps in humanitarian protection for asylum seekers. With the refinancing grant received from HumanRights360, LHR mapped and created a network of 100 organizations, with specific custom sub-lists based on the specialized service they provide. This mapping has generally enabled organizations to network more quickly and refer their beneficiaries effectively to the services they need. Then through personalized intervention and holistic case management, it significantly improved the situation of many Afghans. LHR worked together with partners to find emergency solutions, for issues ranging from medical emergencies to providing emergency escorts. It made hundreds of referrals and distributed 95 boxes of medicine to 20 men, 35 women and 43 children from Afghanistan in partnership with GIMED. With the same organization, it distributed 921 packages of health products to a total of 364 families, specifically to 540 mothers and 1120 children of Afghan origin. It held regular meetings with beneficiaries with the aim of empowering and encouraging them to integrate socially. It operated a hot line, manned by its cross-cultural mediators, where supported families could call daily for advice and information. It held weekly meetings and a monthly meeting facilitated by a social worker and a intercultural mediator, booked over 150 appointments, 12 of which were in hospital, and in total, it distributed food and hygiene items to 3.900 citizens of Afghan origin. The donation to LHR amounted to €20.000.

GREEK COUNCIL FOR REFUGEES

"Providing psychological support services to children and parents"

The donation strengthened the psychological services offered at the Intercultural Center "Pyxida". The aim of regranteeing to GCR was, initially, to identify mental health needs and then to provide psychological support (individual/group) to minor refugees or asylum seekers and their parents. Interventions were made after assessment and planning of specific treatments (play therapy / behavioral therapy for stress, anxiety disorders, PTSD / psychoeducation). After that, psychosocial support was offered to the registered children who attended the Non-Formal Educational Program, which was implemented with the support and funding of UNICEF Greece.

14. REGRANTING ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

The psychosocial rehabilitation of parents and children was carried out in collaboration with the Social and Educational Services of the Pyxida Intercultural Center and the central Social Service of GCR. Counseling of parents, support and identification of special needs (parenting skills, psychoeducation, mental health issues, experience of abuse or violence, coping, loss) were offered. The project activities included referrals to services, mediation, cooperation with children's institutions. The donation covered expenses worth of €28.302.41.

NOMADES ARTCORE

"Let the Children Talk"

The donation allowed for the organization of Let the Children Talk, a modular and multi-prism event where different fields, such as art, research and science merged to reflect the refugee issue through the eyes of children. The goal was to inform, move and motivate visitors about a topic that sadly never stops being relevant. The collaboration of the photographer Marios Lolos with the visual interventions of Maria Karathanou was completely successful and mixing realism with symbolism was warmly received by the audience. The event which included puppetry, music, drama workshops, school visits and informative sessions as well as the involvement of refugee children themselves, managed to attract almost 2.000 people over three weeks. It was made possible with a donation of €7.000 from Humanrights360 and €4.954 from the Municipality of Agios Dimitrios, which also provided the venue for the event in the area of Asirmatos.



Photo credits: Marios Lolos



Photo credits: Ian Troullinos

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