

QUARTERLY REPORT

January - March 2023



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1. Project Update

Statistics



325

January

After the Christmas holidays, the Community Centre reopened its doors on 11 January. Due to the high number of transfers from the Aegean islands, January was a very busy month at the Centre, with **325 new participants** registered.

February

In February, approx. 70% of the new participants registered in our Centre were residing in Katsikas *Long-Term Accommodation Sites* (LTAS; i.e. camp). The number of new registrations remained high with **183 new participants**.



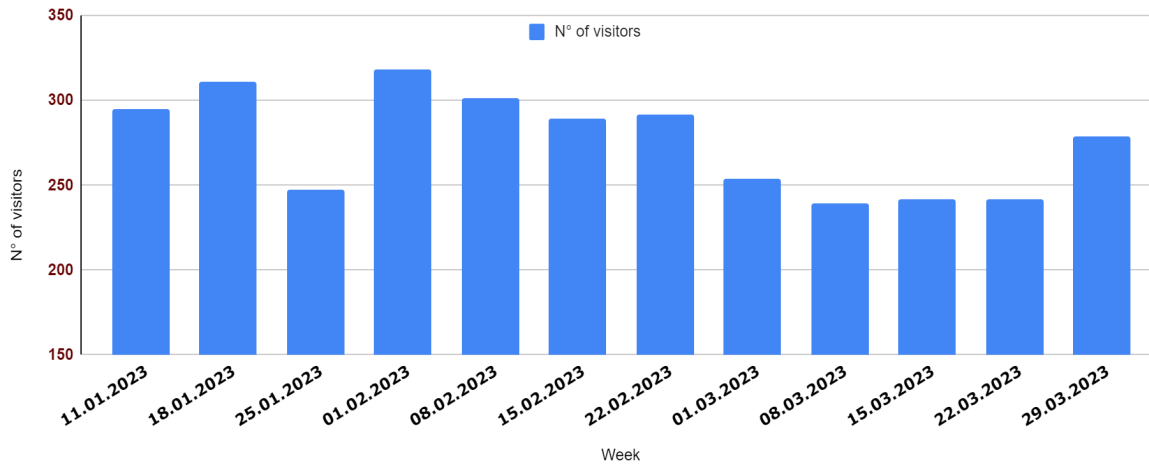
183



80

March

The month of March saw a decrease in the number of new participants registering in the Centre with **80 new registrations**. It is believed that this decrease is due to the lower number of transfers from the Aegean islands, the start of Ramadan, as well as a new policy of the Centre that children can not attend during 'quiet hours' (15:00 -17:30).



The graph above shows the number of visitors in the Centre each week from the 11 January 2023 (opening of the Centre) to the final week of March 2023.

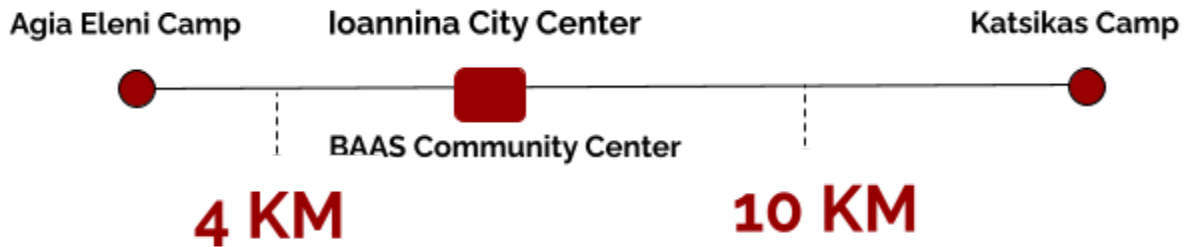
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67

From January to March 2023, the Community Centre welcomed on average 67 participants per day. The busiest days were Wednesdays and Saturdays, with approximately 80 to 100 participants.

The average age of the participants in the Centre was 25 during the first quarter of the year (ranging from 1 month to 68 years old).

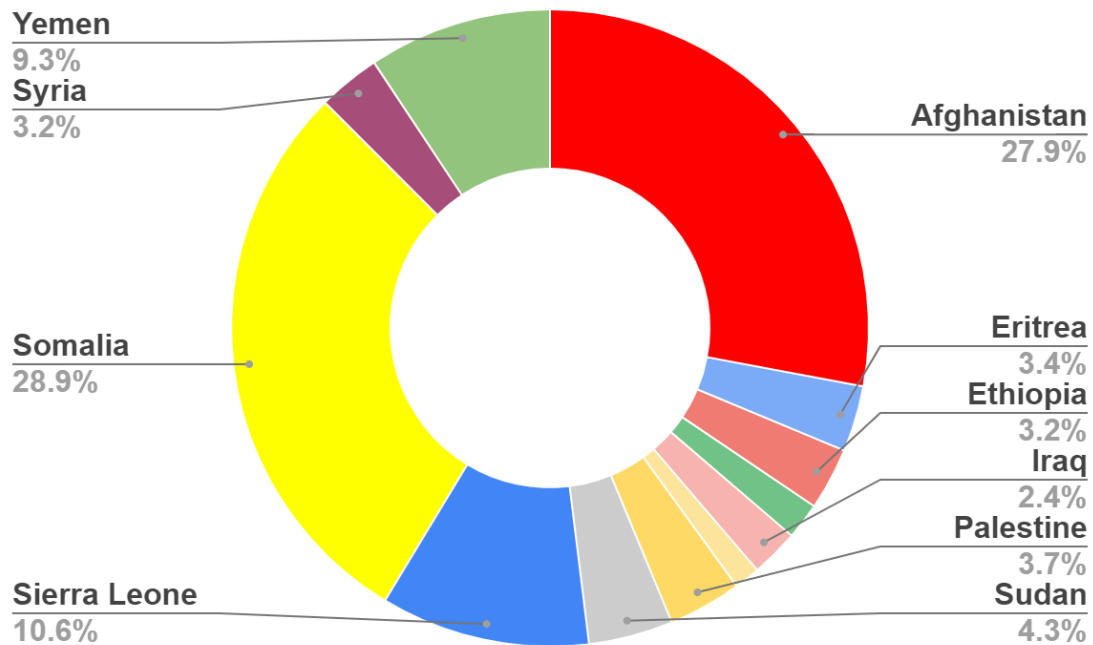
25



The majority of participants reside in Agia Eleni and Katsikas LTASs. They come by bus, cycle or walk (about an hour).

* * *

In the Centre we welcome participants from over **26 different countries**.



The above shows the biggest groups of participants by their official nationality (as judged by the Greek state¹). Other countries of origin include Angola, Burundi, Cameroun, Congo, DRC, Haiti, Ghana, Guinea, Gambia, Greece, India, Iran, Liberia, Mali, Morocco and Niger, as well as stateless individuals.

Services Update

Free Food Shop

The Free Food Shop was officially closed on 18 March. The decision to close the food shop had been taken in 2022 by the association, the reasons for which included difficulties in obtaining consistent funding for the project and the general vision of the Centre as a social space, rather than solely as a distribution point. This was a difficult process and while the need for this service is arguably lower than it was when it was started by Refugee Support Europe in November 2021; at that time thousands of people throughout Greece were being cut from cash assistance programme as its implementation was being handed over from UNHCR to the Greek MoM², its closure leaves a gap in provision of basic needs for those who have received two or more rejections on their asylum case. When a person receives a second rejection on their asylum case they lose many of the rights of an asylum seeker³ - including access to cash assistance, food distributions at LTACs as well as the right to accommodation from the state (in the form of LTACs)⁴.

As there was some food leftover, the team made and distributed approximately 50 packs of dry food to participants in the third week of March. The remaining dry food

¹ Note, the Greek state does not consider Kurdistan as a nationality, therefore within these statistics Kurdish people are being incorrectly identified as Iraqi, Syrian, Iranian or stateless.

² (who eventually outsourced its implementation it to NGO Catholic Relief Service [CRS])

³ For further information on the [asylum procedure](#) in Greece.

⁴ For further information on [reception conditions](#) in Greece

(approximately 60 bags filled with packs of flour, sugar, pasta, beans, rice and tea). Remaining UHT milk is being used in the Coffee & Tea corner of the Centre.

Free Clothes Shop

The Free Clothes Shop gives people an opportunity to browse, take their time and select the clothing that they want. At present, it is the only consistent place where clothes can be obtained free of charge in the area. While in both Katsikas and Agia Eleni LTACs there have been occasional distributions of Non Food Items, including clothing, it has been brought to our attention by participants and partner organisations that these distributions occur quite infrequently and the method of distribution, from their respective points of view, can be rather inconsistent.



How the shop works:

Each participant can attend the store once per month and choose a total of four items. Participants may also shop for direct family members. Each day there are 25 appointments available and the store is open for three to four hours. When people arrive at the centre, they ask for a ticket for the clothing shop at reception. The team member on reception checks if they are still eligible to receive clothing for that particular month and gives them a ticket if they are, or informs them that their next turn will be in the following month if they are not. Once all of the tickets have been given, a 'waiting list' is created by the person on reception, with the understanding that while we do our best to accommodate as many people as possible at the clothing store each day, we cannot guarantee that they will get to go to the store on that particular day. Those on the 'waiting list' will only be able to shop in the clothing store that day, if there is still time free after the ticketed appointments have been completed. A message is also sent to

our partners at Habibi.works when all of the clothing store appointment tickets have been distributed on a given day. This information is shared with their participants, who mainly live in Katsikas (10 km from the Centre), in order to avoid disappointment for anyone planning to travel to the Centre in order to have a clothing store appointment.

Donations:

[Lifting Hands International](#) (LHI), and the collaborative collection and sorting efforts by [Sonnenhaus](#), [Spendendepot Zürich](#) and [REFY](#) delivered more than 200 boxes full of men, women and children clothes, as well as hygiene packs. Their support enabled us to provide many desired items in the Free Clothing Shop. It is planned to continue this cooperation going into the next quarter, with a second delivery from LHI already scheduled.



Underwear is a highly requested item at the clothing store. In March, we received a private donation to purchase underwear for the Clothes shop. We were able to buy over 300 brand new pairs of underwear for women and men. Each adult visiting the shop during the month of March could take one. It is hoped that in the future we will be able to provide new underwear in our clothes shop once more.

Creative Atelier

The Creative Atelier is a very popular space in the Community Centre. It is equipped with 5 sewing machines and with all of the necessary sewing materials, as well as extra items such as buttons and zippers in order for participants to fix any of their clothes or to create their own designs.



In February and March, our team ordered fabric from Athens to distribute to the participants. Participants were able to register for three metres pieces of the fabric of their choice to do a project within the atelier. 45 participants were given fabric, and most of them made *baatis* (long sleeping dresses).



Some participants also wanted to learn how to use the sewing machine. Our team was able to provide ad-hoc training sessions.

Coffee Corner

The main area of the Centre allows many participants to relax, talk and play games with friends, other participants and team members over a cup of tea, coffee or milk, and biscuits. Participants can come to rest on one of the many couches, access the WiFi of the Centre or charge their phones.

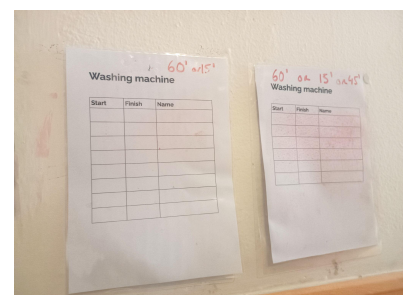
Speakers are also available in the main hall. After the 'quiet hours' participants play the music of their choice. At the request of some participants, we have also been able to play some football matches on the projector on several occasions.

Laundry Service

The Centre offers a laundry service for participants; equipped with two washing machines as well as a dryer, this service affords participants, who are often lacking the means to maintain dignified hygiene, the chance to wash and dry their clothes.

How it works:

Similarly to the clothing store, participants ask to sign up for using the washing machine at reception. Each day this is



done on a first come first served basis. There is a time tracking sheet (the wash cycle programmes used take exactly one hour or exactly 30 minutes, depending on the participants preference/ needs), which is gradually filled up during the day. Each person can do a maximum of three washes per day, however unlike the clothing store there is no monthly limit to the number of washes an individual can do per month.

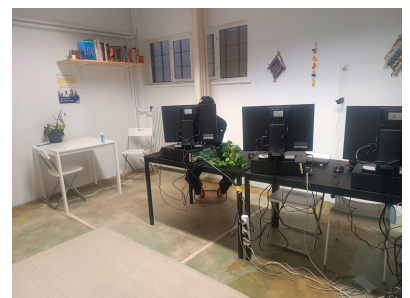
For drying clothing, there is a drying machine as well as two drying racks. To use the drying machine participants also ask at reception. Participants can hang their clothing on the drying racks without asking or signing up to use.

To ensure fairness and that the correct wash/ drying cycles are being used a team member is assigned each day to start the machines, remind people when it is their turn or when their wash or dry cycle is finished and also report and resolve any technical issues with any of the machines.

There are only a few washing machines working properly in the LTASs and people often have to queue for hours in order to access them. The washing machines at the Centre are on everyday from the minute we open until we close, with an average of 50 washings per week. In the next quarter, we are expecting one additional washing machine as well as a new dryer in order to respond to this need.

Computer Lab

Since January, our computer lab, equipped with 6 computers, has been very busy. IT classes have been taking place from mid-February to the end of March, twice a week. The space is open for participants to access self-learning resources, emails, general browsing, playing games as well as to access the online platform of the asylum service.



Education

In February, classes resumed in the Community Centre. Our team of volunteers held English, Greek, German and IT classes. In order to prepare, a teaching session with one of the previous volunteer teachers, Weibke, took place in early February. English and German classes took place twice a week, and Greek and IT classes once a week. In



addition, a local man teaches Greek on a voluntary basis on Wednesdays and Fridays. There are an average of three to four students.

Overall, participants were very interested in the new classes offered. One challenge has been continuing the classes following a drop in the number of volunteers.

In March, we also received a delivery from Engage, a project which formerly operated a Language Centre on Chios island, of education material in different languages, textbooks, lesson plans and whiteboards. We also received many books which have enabled us to set up a little library in the Community Centre. The library has adult fiction and non-fiction as well as children's picture books; the majority of which are in English. Participants have also the possibility to borrow books and return them after two weeks.



Printing Service

As there are no copying services in the LTASs, and printing shops can be expensive, participants are welcome to print and scan any documents free of charge upon requests in the Centre. The Community Centre has one printer/scanner which is mainly used to photocopy and scan important documents from the asylum service (i.e. asylum

decisions, appeals, interview transcripts and other legal documents). We have noticed an increase in the number of requests to photocopy and scan documents in the Center, while in January and February, it was only used a few times, in March. at least one visitor per day asked for this service.

Socials

From January to mid-March, "socials" took place from 17:00 to 19:00 in the Centre. Two members of the team would prepare a different activity everyday. Some of the most popular activities in the last months included: bracelet-making, bingo, musical chairs, dancing sessions, as well as movie night with popcorn! Countless hours of Uno were also played! During this time, colouring pens, paint, paper, and some crafty material were also freely available to be used by anyone in the Centre. Each activity was attended by between 10 to 40 participants, of all ages and gender every evening.



On International Women's day, 8 March, we organised a special activity for the occasion. A big mural celebrating Women's day was painted by participants and hung on the wall in the main hall of the Centre. We made a pop-up beauty salon complete with nail polish and henna with the women, who were able to show their beautiful skills.

Since the beginning of Ramadan mid-March, no Socials have been organised, as participants are quite tired while fasting and prefer resting. Board games and other crafty and creative activities have still been available during the day. .

Kids Space

From the beginning of January, many families and children under 15 years old visited the Centre on a daily basis. Unfortunately, due to the noise levels during the Greek quiet hours and the shortage of volunteers to be able to lead children's activities during the day, it was decided that children under 15 years old could only be allowed in the Centre after 17:30 as of the 22 February. It was a decision that was not taken lightly, but given the residential location of the Centre and the risk of authorities being called if a neighbour complained, it was felt that it was a necessary one. Naturally, the team was saddened by this decision, however, many adult participants reported enjoying a more quiet space to relax during the day and noise levels in the Centre dropped significantly. The Kids room during the day was repurposed as a free space for participants to rest, and was often utilised as a prayer room.

Upstairs Relaxation & Recreational Space

The upstairs floor of the Centre has also been popular among participants. A second praying room was set up in order to give people access to a private space where they can practise their religious rituals.

On the upper floor, some mattresses, chairs and blankets are also available for participants to rest in a more private space.

Plans for First Quarter Vs Outcomes

→ **Transparent and orderly closure of the free food shop:**

Due to a lack of funding, this quarter the free food shop project had to be closed. This had been a long running project, started by Refugee Support Europe in the Centre in 2021 as a response to growing needs of people on the move in Ioannina.

This quarter we worked to ensure that all of the participants of the project would be well informed of its closure and be given adequate notice (at least three weeks) of the free food shop's closure. We also used all of the funding that was left in order to keep the shop open for as many weeks as possible, without compromising the service (i.e. the amount and range of food for each participant). ✓

Outcome: *The free food shop was closed on 18 March. Participants were given four weeks of advanced notice of its closure via the broadcast lists on WhatsApp, translated signs in the shop and also informed on the nearest date, which they came to the shop by the team member working there. All of the funding available (€ 5166.24 for 2023) was spent to ensure the store could remain open for as long as possible.*

→ **Restart informal language and IT classes** ✓

Outcome: *After Christmas break until the beginning of February, the team in Ioannina was unfortunately not big enough to deliver the different classes that took place until December 2022. At the beginning of February, with a larger team, Greek, English, German as well as IT classes resumed and delivered in the Centre.*

→ **Local Outreach - connect with local groups and organisations** ✓

Progress: In the first 3 months of 2023, we have been able to connect with different groups and organisations that are active in Ioannina. A number of groups including the [Scouts of Ioannina](#) (Πρόσκοποι Ιωαννίνων), [Odysseus](#) (Οδυσσεβάχ) organisation and the local initiative [Friends of Refugees](#) (Φίλοι των προσφύγων στα Ιωάννινα), came for a tour of the Community Centre in order to find out more about our activities and see how we may be able to work together in the future. For example, it is proposed that during the summertime some of the Scouts will volunteer part-time, Odysseus & Friends of Refugees will support and continue to support with the provision of clothing and other NFIs collected locally as well as potentially jointly organising and supporting events in our respective spaces.

→ **Continue to support and to build a community feeling; involving people in the centre** ✓

Progress: People feel comfortable in the centre, know of and interact with the different areas and services. People are aware of the rules, partly thanks to the consistency of their application by team members. Many people who live in different LTACs meet up at the Centre as a 'midway point'. A lot of participants help with cleaning and tidying up of the space before closing.
Feedback from volunteer team has been

Plans for Second Quarter

→ **Recruit up to three Community Volunteers to our team**

Rational:

Part of BAAS' 2023 strategy has been to incorporate more members of the communities that we work with into our team's structure. With some budget available, we aim to finalise a proposal for and start to recruit up to three community volunteers to be part of our team working in the Centre this quarter.

→ **Ensure there is capacity to support up to 700 people from our Free Clothing Shop per month.**

Rational:

The Free Clothing Shop is there for people who want or need clothing. While it is an important service in the Centre, it is not the only focus of our work as a community centre. We do not target a specific number of people to attend the shop each month. What we do is ensure that we have more than enough capacity for everyone who wants to have a clothing appointment each month, which we work out based upon how many people have been using the service each of the previous months and from our observations and feedback that participants who wanted to go to the free clothing shop each month, have been able to do so.⁵

The Free Clothing shop is open for 16 hours per week four days per week, and has the capacity to deliver at least 100 appointments per week, or 400 every four weeks. Each appointment is given for an individual or family unit⁶, which translates to a minimum capacity of supporting over 700 people.

⁵ With the exception of those living in Filippiada LTAC which is 60km from our Centre; due to the fact it is difficult for people living there to come to Ioannina even once per month

⁶ On average one unit = 1.84 people therefore 400 appointments can support over 700 people.

Further, we look to ensure that our stock levels and quality are sufficient for supporting participants. To do this we work with partner NGOs and CSOs utilising our Centre 'needs list' to supply us with donated clothing items, as well as purchasing new items such as underwear and socks, to fulfil the seasonal needs of those coming to the free clothing shop.

→ Team stabilisation

Rational:

With there being a general shortage of volunteers, as experienced by BAAS as well as many other grassroots organisations operating in Greece, the Balkans and France, this quarter we seek, in conjunction with the recruitment team, to recruit more volunteers, both locally and abroad. This would enable us to conduct more consistent activities (such as classes) in the Centre, and to potentially be open for participants for additional days/ hours.

In addition, BAAS is in the process of hiring a Fundraising Manager, who will be based in Ioannina.

Quarterly Financial Statement

	YEARLY BUDGET 2023	MONTHLY BUDGET 2023	EXPENDITURES QUARTER 1 2023
Total Running Costs Community Centre	46.380,00 €	3.865€	11.684,23 €
Centre Costs	27.600,00 €	2.300€	6.566,11 €
Services	16.200,00 €	1.350€	4.210,12 €
Transport	2.580,00 €	215€	908,00 €
Total Running Costs Team	43.224,00 €	3.602€	9.948,00 €
Coordination Costs	25.920,00 €	2.160€	*6.042,00 €
Living costs	17.304,00 €	1.442€	3.906,00 €
Total One time Costs	12.360,00 €	X	**3.131,68 €
Total	101.964,00 €	7.467€	24.763,91 €

* Coordination costs were higher than budgeted as in the month of February the coordination handover took place and therefore doubled the number of coordinators being paid.

** One time costs included acquiring a new team apartment in Ioannina and buying furniture.

2. Context Update

Transfers

In the first quarter (1 January to 30 March) of 2023, the number of people living in the three LTASs in the Epirus region, namely Katsikas, Filippiada and Agia Eleni, increased. Since June 2022 there has been a significant rise in the number of people who have been able to arrive to the Aegean islands and claim asylum; to levels not witnessed since March 2020⁷. Almost all of the people living in the respective LTASs were transferred there from one of the Closed Controlled Access Centres (CCACs) or Reception & Identification Centres (RICs) on the North Aegean islands.

The number of people who were transferred to the mainland from the Aegean islands are as follows⁸:

Transfers from Aegean islands to the mainland 2022 Vs 2023				
<i>Year</i>	<i>January</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>March</i>	Total
<i>2022</i>	199	362	311	872
<i>2023</i>	788	698	454	1 940

These figures are reflected in the number of new participants of our Community Centre (see statistics on page 3).

Camp populations

The majority of our visitors are coming from the LTASs Agia Eleni and Katsikas. Although it is difficult to find updated information on the different LTAS' demographics, see the table below for some approximate figures and information.

⁷ Figures from [Aegean Boat Report](#)

⁸ Figures from [Aegean Boat Report](#)

Location	Population ⁹	Capacity ¹⁰	Distance from the Centre	Type of accommodation
Katsikas LTAS	1000 (according to partner NGO Habibi.works)	1152	10 km	Iso-boxes (containers)
Agia Eleni LTAS	150 (according to participants who were living there).	462	4 km	Buildings, with most of the basic amenities (toilets and showers) in communal spaces.
Filippiada LTAS	500 (according to participants who were living there).	737	60 km	Iso-boxes (containers)

Transport from Filippiada LTAS & Additional Opening Hours

There is a free bus that comes to Ioannina, between one to five times per week. It is organised by *Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund* (ASB) and has 20 spaces. The main purpose of this bus service is for people who live in the *Filippiada LTAS* to be able to attend appointments at the asylum service or at Ioannina hospital. Any remaining seats on the bus are given to individuals who are on a waiting list - which is managed by ASB. Each individual not attending a specific appointment can come to Ioannina on this bus service a maximum of once per month.

The bus does not have a set schedule and operates on the basis of which days residents of Filippiada have asylum or hospital appointments. Usually it runs between one to three times a week, but has run up to five times per week in the past.

⁹ Figures estimates from end of March 2023

¹⁰ All figures from [IOM](#) (March 2022)

The Centre is open on Friday mornings, exclusively for residents of Filippiada LTAS. While, due to the distance and bus schedule, the number of people coming to the Centre at this time is low (in general fewer than 20 people), we believe that it is worthwhile to continue opening - particularly regarding the provision of NFIs, as well as providing a safer and welcoming space for a few hours. With more team members, it may be possible to open the Centre on additional mornings during the weekdays in order to welcome more residents of Filippiada.

Changes in Site Management Support of LTACs

ASB are reducing their on-site staff numbers and are handing over their responsibilities to the *Greek Ministry of Migration (MoM)*. This is occurring nation-wide; the INGOs (*IOM, Danish Refugee Council, ASB* etc.) who are/ were Site Management Support (SMS) at different LTASs are handing over their duties to the Greek *MoM*¹¹.

Closure of ESTIA II Programme

With the closure of the *Emergency Support to Integration and Accommodation (ESTIA II)*¹² programme at the end of 2022, there are now very few families and individuals living in the city of Ioannina, many people have been moved back to the LTASs of the region, or left Greece.

New residency laws

The Greek government passed a new migration code, regarding residency permits. This will come into effect on 1 January 2024¹³. There are two main changes which could affect some of the people who BAAS works with, namely:

- ***Change for undocumented adults***

Until now, people who can prove that they have lived in Greece for seven years or more could apply for a special residency permit. The new regulation stipulates

¹¹ Source: <https://www.hellenicparliament.gr/UserFiles/67715b2c-ec81-4f0c-ad6a-476a34d732bd/12249704.pdf>

¹² For further information visit [here](#)

¹³ Sources: infomigrants.net & [Mobile Info Team](#)

that in order to apply for this permit any time spent in the asylum process is not counted. In essence, one would have to live 'without documents' for seven consecutive years in Greece and be able to prove this fact. The timeline of this new regulation coincides with the beginning of the border closures in 2016 and a growing number of undocumented people who have received rejections on their asylum claim, but will have been in Greece for seven years.

- ***Change for unaccompanied minors***

The new law also provides a possibility for those who entered Greece's territory as an unaccompanied minor (UAM) who received a rejection on their asylum claim to apply for a 10 year residency permit. In order to apply the person will have to have proof that they entered as a UAM and will have successfully completed at least three degrees (years) of formal education in Greece before reaching the age of 23.

Ramadan

This year Ramadan, which is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar whereby people of the Muslim faith fast from dawn until sunset, began at the end of the first quarter on 22 March and ended on 21 April. Many of the participants of the centre were fasting during daylight hours. While fasting, people generally have less energy and are more likely to rest at home, when not doing very necessary tasks during the daylight such as working, attending school or other appointments.

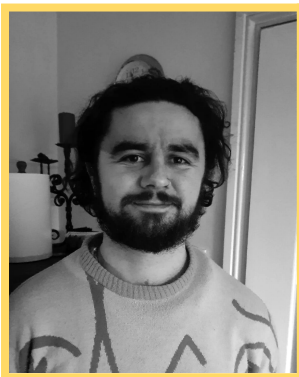
The following is a brief list of the changes that occurred or were made largely as a result of the majority of our participants adhering to Ramadan from 22 March:

- A change in opening hours, from 14:00 - 19:00 to 15:00 - 21:00.
- An overall drop in attendance and duration of stay at the Centre.
- People coming to the centre specifically to use the basic services (clothing store and washing machines) and not staying at the Centre for as long as usual.

- Social activities were largely not held due to generally lower energy and lack of time between breaking of fast (approx 20:00) and closing hours (21:00).
- Before the breaking of the fast, the Coffee Corner was not used as frequently during the day.
- Two separate praying areas for men and women were created, complete with Quarans.
- Participation in classes at the centre also fell.

3. Team Update

Coordination Team



Ben Anderson & Maya Kerbellec

Project Co-coordinators



Change of coordination team

The coordination team in Ioannina changed during the first quarter of the year. Marco Müller and Patricia Kern who have set up the Community Centre and ran it since July 2022 left on 7 March 2023. They handed over their project coordination roles to two new coordinators, Maya Kerbellec and Ben Anderson, who arrived on 26 January and 11 February respectively. Both Maya and Ben have previously worked in different grassroots NGOs supporting people on the move on the mainland of Greece as well as on the Aegean islands. A month-long handover took place in order to ensure an efficient and smooth transition between the two coordination teams. Patricia and Marco organised a completed handover document with all relevant information regarding the project. During the process there was a schedule of meetings where in-depth details of each aspect of the project in Ioannina were shared, the structure of and collaboration with the remote-board of BAAS was explained, and all administrative tasks required of coordinators were passed on. Maya and Ben were introduced to partners in Ioannina, and took part in each different aspect of the project. For Patricia and Marco's final week, Maya and Ben took on the role of co-coordinators, running the centre together with four volunteers and with support and guidance from Patricia and Marco. We thank Patricia

and Marco for their outstanding contribution to the Centre, all the way from set-up to handover. We are excited that both are continuing with BAAS as active members of the board, with Patricia taking on the role of Vice-President and Marco joining the Fundraising Working Group.

New Apartment

BAAS began renting a new apartment in February in the centre of Ioannina, a few minutes away from the Community Centre in order to accommodate the two new coordinators, the newly created position of Fundraising Coordinator who would be based in Ioannina, as well as a proposed larger team of volunteers for the coming year. Previously a separate studio apartment had been rented for one team member in the city due to lack of space in the first volunteer apartment.

Volunteer Team

The Centre reopened its doors on 11 January, with a team of three visiting volunteers and one local volunteer. The team gained another visiting volunteer in the month of February. Having five volunteers, in addition to the two project coordinators, working on the project, allowed us to have all the areas of the Centre opened and supervised every day. A weekly schedule is made every Tuesday in order to organise the week and ensure that tasks are shared fairly. It also ensures that volunteers can experience the different shifts in the Centre each week. In March 2023, two visiting volunteers left Ioannina after spending three months on the project.

The team atmosphere during this first quarter of 2023 was very good, supportive and hardworking.

JOIN OUR TEAM IN IOANNINA (GREECE)
minimum 23 years old

BAAS - Be Aware and share is running a community center in the city center of Ioannina. The center is a meeting place for refugees from the nearby camps but also for the local population.

You are interested in helping our team to run our activities? You can teach Greek, German or English, work in the creative ateliers, cook or help in our clothes shop, **JOIN US!**

What we are looking for...

- Creative and enthusiastic individuals!
- Good command of English and other languages.
- Commitment of a few hours a week.

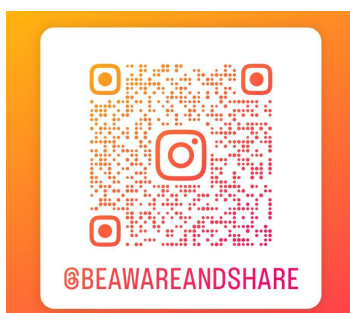
be aware and share. Write to us about yourself and send us your CV to recruitment@beawareandshare.ch Or contact us on WhatsApp: +30 697 661 2498

Challenges to Recruitment

In recent months it has become more challenging to recruit visiting volunteers, due to a number of wide-ranging factors, including but not limited to, more people supporting people on the move in their home nations since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, students (who make up a larger proportion of our volunteer team) taking exams in the spring and early summer time, as well as the generally diminishing media attention of the context in Greece compared with 2015/2016.

In response to this general shortage, the team in both Ioannina and Switzerland made additional outreach efforts in the form of 'volunteer calls' being more widely advertised on Instagram and Facebook, as well as on several platforms including Worldpackers, v4r.info, reliefweb.net, various university forums and refugee solidarity pages online and also by putting up posters in the University of Ioannina and at various points throughout Ioannina.

Social Media Presence



Since the beginning of 2023, our team has also tried to increase its presence on social media, mainly on Facebook and Instagram, by posting more regularly about our different activities in Ioannina, updates on our team as well as feedback from our volunteers.

4. Partnerships

Carry The Future - Diapers

The need for diapers among the visitors of the Centre has always been high and keeps on increasing. Diapers are very expensive and are not distributed in the camps, and only by a few organisations. Be Aware and Share started cooperating with Carry The Future in 2022, and the grant agreement was renewed for 2023. After communicating the numbers of pieces and sizes needed, Carry



the Futures redirects the order to the local company - Oikon Diapers in Ioannina, who directly delivers to us.



As the number of participants in the Centre increased, and the number of children aged between 0 and 3 as well, the demand for diapers significantly increased during the first quarter of 2023. Our team has been able to distribute one pack of diapers to approximately 50 babies on a weekly basis.

Equal Legal Aid & Mobile Info Team

After a first session in December 2022, two legal aid organisations based in Thessaloniki, Equal Legal Aid (ELA) and Mobile Info Team (MIT), visited our Community Centre for a second time on 3 March, to hold a legal clinic.

Both teams had a private space in our Centre to have 20 to 30 minute appointments with participants of the Centre who had any legal question regarding their asylum case.



As there are no free legal aid organisations active in the region of Ioannina, the participants' demand for appointments with ELA or MIT was high. In total, 21 personal appointments took place in the Centre on the 3rd of March, as well as a more general info session on the asylum procedure for 5 participants. Interpretation was available in Farsi, Arabic, French, Greek and Somali.

ELA and MIT are also working remotely and are able to follow up on the participant's cases from Thessaloniki after their visit to the Centre. Their visit to Ioannina was organised in cooperation with our partners Habibi.works, where ELA & MIT had spent the morning and early afternoon.

We are looking forward to their next legal clinic in our Community Centre in the next quarter.

I Support The Girls

As half of the participants of the Centre are women, the need for sanitary pads has been expressed frequently. A fundraiser by I Support The Girls (ISG) took place in the first quarter of the year in order to distribute sanitary pads. The money collected enabled us to buy 200 sanitary pads to be distributed over the course of a month to women who visit the centre. The distribution was prepared in March and will take place in the second reporting cycle. One pack every month will be available to about 200 women visiting the Centre. This distribution will thereafter continue, as we have received a grant from a new partnership with Pads 4 Refugees.

Pads 4 Refugees

From May onwards we will distribute sanitary pads with capacity to support up to 200 women each month thanks to this new partnership. Pads 4 Refugees are a US based organisation which supports projects to provide hygiene products for women and girls on the move, in humanitarian environments.

Midwives and Mothers Beyond Borders (MAM)



On the 30 and 31 March, we had a visit from MAM at the Centre. They are currently leading a project called ARTEMIDE. It is an itinerant project to ensure the reproductive and sexual health of women living in refugee camps in Europe: in Greece, Cyprus and on the Balkan route. The objectives are to conduct sexual and reproductive health promotion sessions for women of all ages, support the health literacy of the women living in the camps as well as to offer obstetric reproductive health support through one-on-one meetings. For two days, a room was set up as a women's safe space in order for them to give their interactive presentations and discussions on different topics with the women visiting the Centre. They also distributed some hot water bottles, which were warmly received. Their visit was a great success with a lot of enthusiastic engagement among female participants!

REFY, Sonnenhaus and Spenden Depot Zürich

On March 6th, 146 boxes arrived directly from Switzerland to our Community Centre. Winter jackets, trousers, shirts, and shoes for women, men and children. It is the second delivery received from this collaboration from Switzerland since the Centre opened its doors. We thank them for their support and for the quality of the clothes and how professional their sorting is.



Lifting Hands International

Lifting Hands International (LHI) supported our clothes shop by delivering 50 boxes in early February from their warehouse located in Serres. The delivery was mostly winter clothes for women, men and children. We were also happy to receive 90 personal kits with toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, and hand towels to distribute to participants as well as 70 packs of sanitary pads.

Cooperation with LHI will continue and we will expect another clothes delivery before summer.

Bach Flower with Tina

Every Friday afternoon, Tina, a local woman who has been supporting people on the move in various capacities for many years, is offering her services in our Community Centre. She is offering Bach Flower remedies sessions for any participants. Bach flower remedies are based on the "soul" of each plant or otherwise known as its electromagnetic vibration. They are harmless and can be used by anyone without side-effects.

Network Anthropia3

In the first days of March, we had a visit from Renata from Network Anthropia, a close partner of BAAS. Network Anthropia has been supporting our project very actively, delivering different items according to our needs in the Centre as well as sharing helpful contacts and information. The new coordination team had the opportunity to meet with Renata in Ioannina. We are looking forward to continuing this excellent collaboration into the future. .



Indigo Volunteers / The Pandora Project

In collaboration with The Pandora Project, Indigo Volunteers have created a training on Psychological First Aid. One of our volunteers attended this session, which was delivered remotely on 8 March by the psychologist from The Pandora Project who specialises in psychological intervention in catastrophes. The session provides the participants with tools and models that can be used within teams and on an individual basis to promote their emotional and psychological safety during times of crisis and incident.

5. Outlook

Perspectives for the next quarter of 2023

Project & Team Outlook:

★ New space

The Food Shop closing in March affords an opportunity to repurpose a large room in the Community Centre. In the next quarter, we will set-up this room into a new multi-functional social space, involving input from the community we work with.

★ Garden opening

As the summertime approaches, it will also be time for our team to prepare the garden of the Community Centre and open it for the participants. In the next month, our team will do some weeding, planting and setting up the outside lounge. We aim to have some herbs and vegetables which we can harvest and share with our participants.



★ Kids activities

In the next quarter, we are hoping to restart kids activities in the Centre after 17:30. With local and visiting incoming volunteers who have experience of working with children and plenty of potential activities ready to go; we look forward to this opportunity to resume an important function of the centre.

★ Community volunteers

In March 2023, the project team submitted a proposal to the entire association of BAAS regarding recruiting Community Volunteers to work in the Community Centre. After discussing, editing and voting on the proposal, the project will now be finalised and recruitment of 2 to 3 Community volunteers will begin in the next quarter.

★ **New Team members**

A new team of visiting & local volunteers will begin volunteering with BAAS in Ioannina to work at the Community Centre, each volunteer bringing new skills, new ideas and energy for activities to be run at the Centre. We are also in the process of recruiting a fundraising coordinator, who will start working in Ioannina in May 2023.

Risks Outlook:

1. Project funding:

Our project relies on private donations to operate and also can help us plan our operation to suit the needs and desires of our participants. Should any significant unforeseen costs arise, this could seriously affect our ability to run the project and could result in project closure.

2. Low volunteer numbers:

If there are not enough volunteers the consistency of the services we provide can be compromised and the Centre could even become temporarily shut.

3. Noise complaints from neighbours:

As our Centre is in a heavily residential area, we have put in place precautions to reduce noise levels, including reaching out to our neighbours with flyers and information regarding our work, not having children (under 15 years old) in the centre and also only staying on the ground floor during quiet hours (15:00 - 17:30) - even when there can be up to 90 people in the space at any one time.

The next quarterly report will be available from 16 July 2023.