

Quarterly Report

October - December 2023



be
aware
and
share.

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Table of Contents

1. Project Update	3
Statistics	3
Services Update	7
Free Clothing Shop	7
Donations	7
Distributions	10
Special Events & Activities at the Centre	15
Plans for Fourth Quarter Vs Outcomes	18
Plans for First Quarter of 2024	19
Quarterly Financial Statement	20
2. Context Update	21
Transfers	21
LTASs Populations	21
Transport from Filippiada LTAS	22
Context News	22
New arrivals	22
EU Migration Pact	23
Epirus Region	23
Deaths on Europe's borders since Pylos shipwreck	24
3. Team Update	24
Coordination Team	24
Volunteer Team	25
4. Partnerships	27
5. Outlook	30



1. Project Update

Statistics



October

In October we registered one of the highest number of new participants at the Centre. 303 new people recently transferred to Agia Eleni, Katsikas and Filippada camps came to the Centre.

November

284 new participants were registered at the Community Centre in November. 132 of them are currently residing in Katsikas camp, located 10 km from the Centre.



December

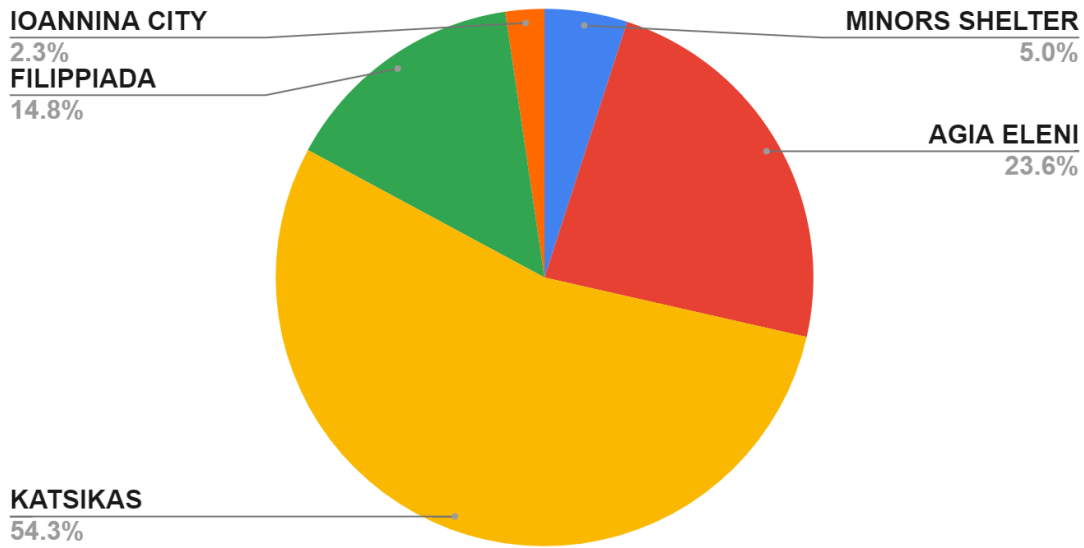
In December, we registered a lower number of new participants, partly due to the fact that the Centre was closed for the Christmas break and the free shuttle bus from Filippiada camp was not running.





The graph above shows the number of visitors in the Centre each week from October to December. The number of participants visiting the Centre increased significantly in this last quarter. This is due to an increase in the number of people arriving to Aegean islands, who are then transferred to the different camps of the region. In October, the highest number of participants coming to the Centre in one week was recorded (507).

Participants who visit the Centre reside in either one of the three camps of the region (Katsikas, Agia Eleni and Filippiada), the unaccompanied minors' shelters in the area, or in the city of Ioannina. The graph below shows a breakdown of the last three months.



113

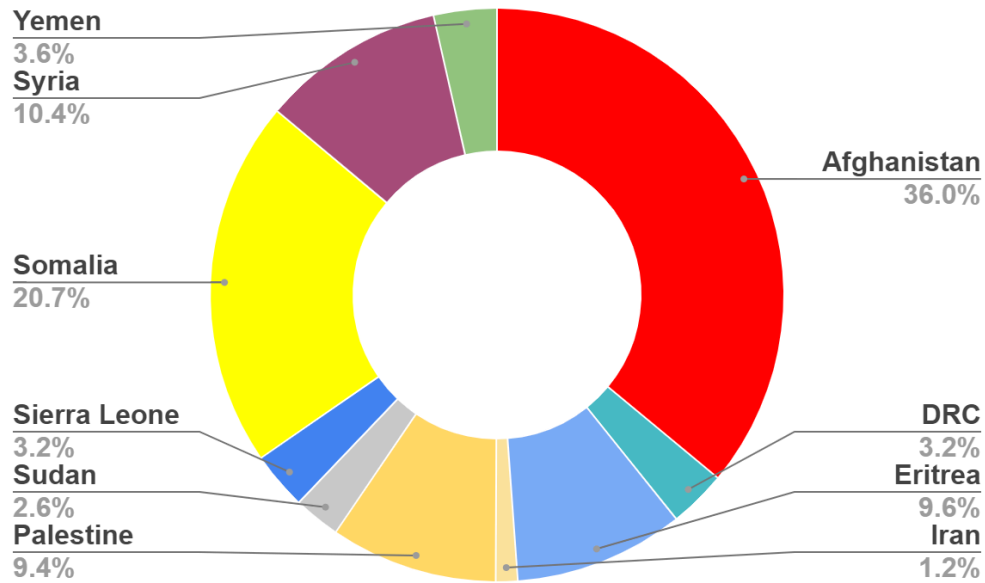
From October to December, the Community Centre welcomed on average 113 participants daily. The highest number of participants recorded in one day was 175 people. Wednesdays and Saturdays remain the busiest days in the Centre.

The average age of the participants in the Centre was 24 years old. From October to December, we registered a number of unaccompanied minors (UAMs) living in the shelters in the city and in the nearby town of Perama.

24



In the Centre we welcome new participants from over **21 different countries**.



The above shows the biggest groups of participants registered this quarter by their official nationality (as judged by the Greek state¹). Other countries of origin include Djibouti (3), Ethiopia (2), Ghana (1), Guinea (2), Gambia (2), Greece (2), Mali (1), South Sudan (5), Uganda (1), Stateless (5).

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.

Services Update

Free Clothing Shop



October



November



December

There was, again, a significant increase in the number of participants visiting the Free Clothes Shop in this quarter. In the 3rd quarter an average of just over 670 people visited the shop each month; in this quarter that average jumped to just over 860 people each month. 956 people shopped in October which is the highest number of people recorded at the Centre since opening.

With the increase in the number of people using this service we are reaching out far and wide to secure more winter clothing donations.

Donations



We rely on a number of different sources for donations, particularly for our Free Shop, as well as for our diaper distribution. Supporting as many people as we do every month requires constant restocking of the most needed items - jackets, shoes and warm clothes. The Free Shop would simply not be able to function without all of the wonderful partners and donors.



IHA

This quarter we received two large donations from IHA. In early October they supplied us with seven pallets of clothing, diapers, dry food and some hygiene products. In mid-December they supported us with a van load of clothing, dry food, diapers and adult diapers.

We also received a smaller donation from them in mid-November. As we attended the North Greece Coordination² meeting (held in Thessaloniki), we collected 200 bars of soap, 4 boxes of adult diapers, 3 boxes of men's clothes.

Attika Human Support Warehouse

In mid-December Attika Warehouse sent us eight pallets of clothes, diapers and hygiene products, the delivery of which was organised by our mutual partners, Network Anthropia. This is another example of a lovely collaboration between different groups in support of our work.



² This is a collective of small/ grassroots organisations that operate in Northern Greece. We meet online or in-person every 6-8 weeks to connect, support and share ideas with one another.

REFY

From the [Sonnenhaus](#) warehouse³, in Switzerland, our partners REFY delivered us almost 80 boxes of winter clothing for the Free Shop and two sewing machines for the creative atelier in December.



Network Anthropia

In November, Network Anthropia delivered five strollers and 25 boxes of much needed winter items (mainly winter jackets!) from the Sonnenhaus warehouse in Switzerland.



³ In which BAAS co-operates, supports with rent costs as well as sourcing and sorting donations

Local & ad-hoc donations

This quarter, as the word of the Centre has spread, more and more local people have been dropping clothing, toys and hygiene donations to the Centre. We helped to spread the word by putting up more posters explaining what we do, where we are and what we require. There are also many people informing their friends and colleagues that the Centre is a reliable place to give good quality used clothing and toys.

"Friends of Refugees Ioannina" (Φίλοι των προσφύγων στα Ιωάννινα)

Led by a local man called Stergios, the collective 'Friends of Refugees Ioannina', have been very helpful for the Centre and have continued to collect and donate numerous items for our Free Clothes Shop and Centre. In addition they also spread the word about our organisation and our work among the local community. Lots of strollers.

Distributions

Menstrual pads

Each month we support 200 women with menstrual pads, with thanks to support from [Pads4Refugees](#). Women visiting the Centre can collect one pack of pads each month.



Diapers

With thanks to [Carry the Future](#), as well as additional support from both IHA and Attika Warehouse, we have been able to support on average 68 babies per week with diapers. Each week, each family can collect one full pack of diapers.

Creative Atelier

This quarter we received some new sewing machines for the Creative Atelier. The space has been as busy as ever, with many people fixing and making clothing over cups of tea and lots of chatter! It is a very collaborative area where people have the freedom to use the machines as and when they need to.

This quarter we put an emphasis on offering more fabric from the (few) clothes donated that do not meet our Free Shop's criteria (i.e. torn, has holes, missing buttons, 'bobbly'.) This additional fabric has been helpful for patch-work and also for practising using the machines. While we do not currently have the capacity to run classes, many participants learn the basic operations of the machines from other participants in the space.



Coffee Corner

A very popular area with free tea, coffee, sugar, milk, and biscuits. The kettle is consistently on and makes up part of the daily background noise of the bustling Centre. It is a part of the Centre that we feel truly helps to build community in the space, gives people a little bit of comfort and offers a nice social opportunity in our main area.



Laundry Service

The number of washes per day increased in this quarter, with an average of 14 washes per day. Most days the machines were on constantly through our opening hours. Often participants inform us of the lack of the washing facilities/ broken washing machines in Katsikas camp, together with long queues and unsuitable operating hours, hence they travel up to 10 km there and back, simply to wash their clothes and bedding. More people living in Agia Eleni began to access this service as well, since the increase in the number of people living there put additional pressure on the relatively well functioning laundry system (in comparison to other camps!).

Computer Lab

The computer lab is open to all participants to use for their own purposes. In the last three months, people have used them to apply for jobs, do coursework, write CVs, play games, watch television series and listen to music.

The PlayStation 4 continues to be very popular among participants.

Education

Nikos teaches English classes twice a week. There are six regular students who attend the class.

Nikos has also been conducting Greek language classes, which we continue to run on a more ad-hoc basis. In general there is a higher demand for learning English.

"Teaching at BAAS is an intense experience of bonding with people. Learning in times of transit can be emotionally provoking and demanding but this is exactly what participating in the classes generates: feelings of connectedness and sharing of languages and experiences."

- Nikos

Sulaiman, who is a computer technician, restarted basic computer classes at the beginning of November. The classes run twice per week, with an average of three to four students. So far they have been covering the basic components of the computer, how to create an email account and general functions like searching for information online.



Printing Service



The printer & scanner offers a valuable service for participants to print, copy as well as scan their documents, which can be crucial for their asylum cases. It is sometimes an underrated part of the Centre, going about its business, relatively quietly.

Socials



As usual the Centre has been lively throughout the past three months. We received a PlayStation 4 as well as a table football. Both have been very popular in the Centre.

In the last three months, socials have included dance sessions. We have two loudspeakers available in the Community Centre, and participants are free to connect and put on the music of their choice. Musical chairs games as well as 'ninja' have also been popular among children and young adults.



Many bracelets were made in the last three months by children and adults. We purchased a collection of beads available at all times. Colouring pens, paint, paper, and some crafty material were also freely available to be used by anyone in the Centre.



The PlayStation 4 is on from opening until close, with FIFA 21 being the most popular game.

For our table football, a volunteer at Habibi.works, who is a carpenter, made two wooden table football balls for us. Table Football continues to bring cheers, joys and fun in the Centre.

Kids Space

As we witnessed an increase in the number of children attending the Centre, we moved the kids room in August to a bigger room, which gave us more capacity to do more expansive and creative activities in a safer & brighter space with the children.

These activities ranged from painting rocks, dancing, stretching, building forts with the foam flooring, bracelet making many more crafty and fun activities. Using the large boxes from donations we created a little kids castle (see photo below). We also did an activity where we made and painted a 'racing car' out of a large cardboard box for the young children to play in.





Garden

The garden is open outside of 'quiet hours', i.e. from 17:30 - 20:00, each day. As the days became colder the garden has not been used as frequently, however when we do have warmer days many of the children are lining up to go outside after quiet hours to play badminton, ping-pong and to run around together.

Special Events & Activities at the Centre

Dancing with Maya

First week of November. [Maya](#), a dancer from France, got in contact with us about doing some dance workshops in the Centre. We thought, what a marvellous idea, especially after the success of the hip-hop workshops in the summer by another volunteer. Maya split her time between BAAS and Habibi & Sport,



doing both dance and yoga workshops!

Maya's partner Greg, a social worker, came to join as well for the week. He volunteered in the Centre, fixed one of our guitars and gave some ad-hoc lessons in the main space in the Centre.



Clowns Without borders

In October, we had the visit of [Clowns Without Borders](#) at the Community Centre. It was a wonderful time with both children and adults having a lot of fun together. Many people continued to ask when the clowns will return for another show! Every year on their annual tour around Greece. In just one day they went to Habibi.works, Second Tree and our Centre to entertain adults and children for a few hours.

Mothers & Midwives Beyond Borders (MAM)

In the last weeks of November [MAM](#) came to visit us again in Ioannina for 2 weeks! They held workshops about the female body in order to raise awareness on topics such as the menstrual cycle, puberty or STIs. Interpretation in different languages was available for participants.



FEMALE BODY AWARENESS WORKSHOP



Where and what?

- | | |
|---|--|
| Wednesday 22 November
15:30-17:30
Female Anatomy | Friday 1 December
15:30-17:30
Sexually Transmitted Infections
and Urinary Tract Infections |
| Saturday 25 November
15:30-17:30
Menstrual Cycle | Saturday 2 December
15:30-17:30
Puberty, Pregnancy |
| Wednesday 29 November
15:30-17:30
Contraception | |

Welcome to all!

BOOK
YOUR PRIVATE
CONSULTATION
WITH US ON
FRIDAY AND
SATURDAY
MORNING

Legal clinic

On 7 & 8 December, two legal aid NGOs, Equal Legal Aid (ELA) and Mobile Info Team (MIT), returned to conduct legal aid clinics for participants at our Community Centre. Both teams had private spaces within the Centre to have 20 to 40 minute appointments with participants who could ask questions regarding their asylum cases.



Interpretation was available in Farsi, Somali, French, Arabic, and Amharic this time.

MIT had about 6 appointments and ELA about 8 appointments during the afternoon.



The two organisations also work remotely and are able to follow up on the participant's cases via WhatsApp after their visit to the Centre. This is an invaluable service, for people to be able to get clear information and potentially support for their individual case. The asylum system can be very confusing, levelled with inconsistencies, errors and a multitude of complications.

Plans for Fourth Quarter Vs Outcomes

→ Plan 1: More consistency with language classes

Outcome:

Since October, we are able to have a regular classes schedule thanks to our long-term language teacher Nikos, and our IT teacher Sulaiman. English and IT classes are taking place on Thursdays and Fridays for 2 hours.

→ Plan 2: Ensure there is capacity to support up to 900 people from our Free Clothing Shop per month.

Outcome:

As the different camps in the Epirus region are reaching full capacity, there was a significant increase of participants in need of clothes and visiting our Free Shop. In order to respond to the need, we reached out to warehouses and organised more deliveries to have enough items available in our shop to support 900 people per month. With the help of local groups, we also pushed and received more local donations directly at the Centre. In October we managed to support more than 900 from our Free Clothing Shop

Plans for First Quarter of 2024

→ **Have more community volunteers on the team**

Rational: Community involvement is at the heart of the Centre. We are looking to expand our Community Volunteer team, offering flexible volunteering hours and tasks

→ **Have a feedback/questionnaire among participants about the services offered at Community Centre**

Rational: To ensure that participants have a fair say in how the Centre operates and for us to gain an even wider understanding of what people would like for the space. Further, this exercise in the past also helped us to answer common questions.

→ **More students/locals joining for some hours to support at the Centre**

Rational: We have put a lot of effort into attracting local volunteers to come to the project. Local volunteers are important for the project to integrate into Ioannina, for technical/ local knowledge and to also engage different groups of people who might benefit from coming to the Centre themselves.

Quarterly Financial Statement

	YEARLY BUDGET 2023	MONTHLY BUDGET 2023	EXPENDITURES QUARTER 4 2023
Total Running Costs Community Centre	45.360,00 €	3.630€	11367,01€
Centre Costs	27.600,00 €	2.300€	5.795,67 €
Services	14.940,00 €	1.095€	4716,74 €
Transport	2.820,00 €	235€	854,60 €
Total Running Costs Team	38.904,00 €	3.242€	8676,71 €
Coordination Costs	21.600,00 €	1.800€	5.400,00 €
Living costs	17.304,00 €	1.442€	3276,71 €
Total Miscellaneous	5.340€	445,00 €	200,47€
Total One time Costs	12.360,00 €	X	2596,38 €
Total	101.964,00 €	7.317€	22.840,57€

The budget was reviewed. The total amount allocated remains the same but split in different/additional budget lines to reflect more accordingly to our services for the rest of the year.

2. Context Update

Transfers

Transfers to the mainland from the Aegean islands^{4 5}:

October	November	December	3 month Total
5 813	4 339	4 123	14 275

The number of people transferred to the mainland from the Aegean islands more than doubled this quarter. As of the end of December all of the camps on the Aegean islands, aside from Mavrouni on Lesbos, are over capacity. At the start of this quarter there were With the number of people arriving to the Aegean islands in the last quarter counting over 15 000, the balance means that camps on both the islands and on the mainland are constantly full or even over capacity.

LTASs Populations

Location	Population ⁶	Capacity ⁷	Distance from the Centre	Type of accommodation
Katsikas LTAS	Approx 1000	1152 + 72	10 km	Iso-boxes (containers) + Rubhall
Agia Eleni LTAS	Approx 450 (according to participants)	462	4 km	Buildings, with most of the basic amenities (toilets and showers) in communal spaces.
Filippiada LTAS	Approx 400 according to participants	737	60 km	Iso-boxes (containers)

⁴ [Ministry of Migration & Asylum Statistics](#), October & November

⁵ [Aegean Boat Report Statistics](#) December

⁶ Figures estimates from end of September 2023

⁷ All figures from [IOM](#) (March 2022)

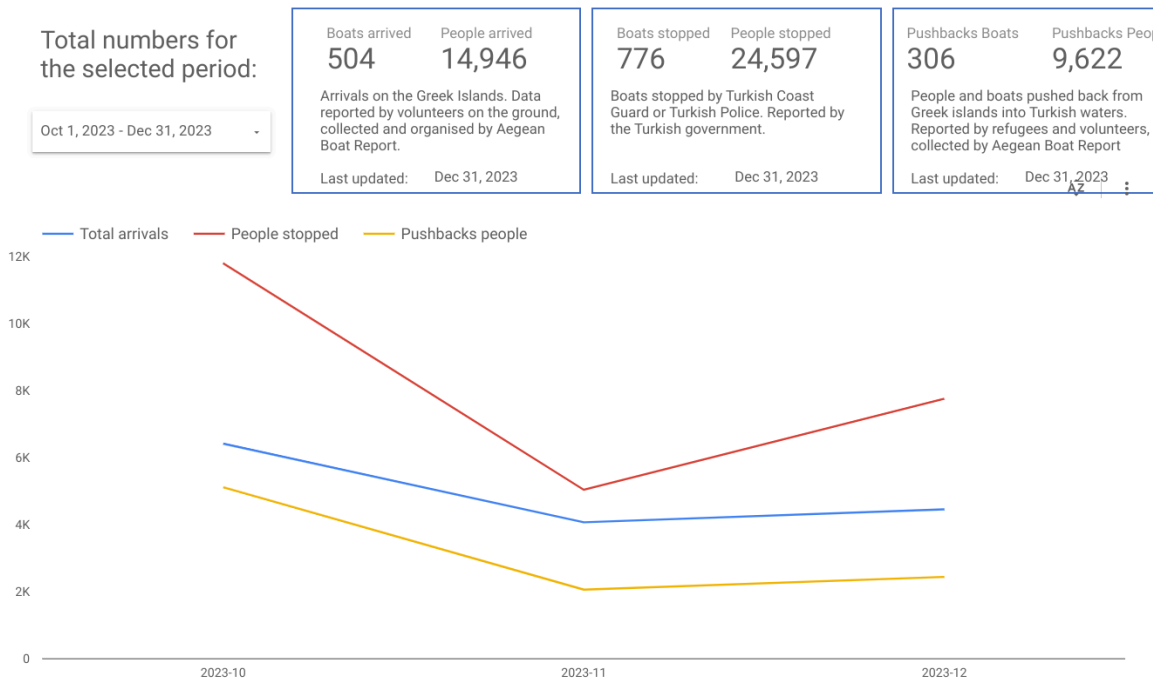
Transport from Filippiada LTAS

The MMA were providing a fixed scheduled bus service to Ioannina on Tuesday and Friday mornings, for people to attend asylum and hospital appointments, for most of this quarter. We were informed in late November that the bus service was to be paused for a few weeks. People had to purchase their own ticket, costing about 13.20€ per person for a round trip to Ioannina. We hope that in 2024 the bus service will resume.

Most Friday mornings are very busy in the Centre with between 20 and 40 people coming to relax, go to the Free Clothing Shop, collect diapers and for the children to play together in the safer space.

Context News

New arrivals



EU Migration Pact

Many of the main details of the EU migration pact were agreed upon in December. Below are some links with defining some of the key pieces of informations in relation to the pact :

- [BVMN New Pact Outcome](#)
- [EU migrant deal: What to know - InfoMigrants.](#)

Border Violence Monitoring Network (BVMN) also hosted a webinar, outlining and discussing potential effects of the new pact on Migration coming into force in 2024. The webinar can be watched [here](#) on YouTube. We highly recommend watching this video to gain a full understanding of the potential negative impacts that may result from this Pact.

Epirus Region

In Katsikas they have started to construct a rubhall that will be able to accommodate over 70 people. These giant tents are not fit for purpose and should not be used to house asylum seekers.



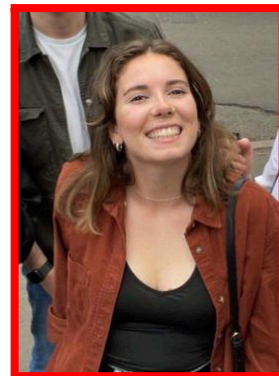
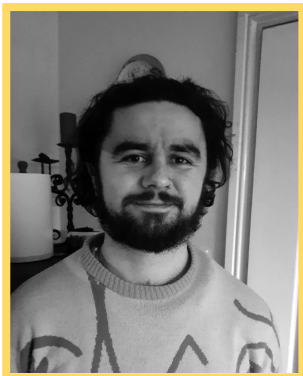
Picture of Rubhall installed in Idomeni in 2015. The same is near finished construction in Katsikas
Source: [IOM](#)

Deaths on Europe's borders since Pylos shipwreck

The devastating shipwreck off the coast of Greece which claimed the lives of at least 594 people (according to IOM, some estimates claim it was over 750 people), in June shocked the world. There was rolling coverage of the horrific incident, across the globe. Less than six months on, [at least 845 people](#)⁸ have died or 'gone missing' trying to seek safety in Europe on the Mediterranean and [Greece's land border with Tukiye](#). One death is one too many. The fact is, people are dying almost every single day, their deaths go unreported by mainstream sources. Deaths have just become part of the norm for seeking safety in Europe. The lack of safe routes and mainstream media attention to these horrors means that they continue.

3. Team Update

Coordination Team



Ben Anderson & Maya Kerbellec

Project Co-Coordinators

Jordan Gardener

Project & Fundraising Coordinator

⁸ **824 dead/missing since 15 June (after Pylos) on med.
21 since 15 June Turkiye-Greece border (mostly in August fire)**

With an increasing workload for project coordinators as the number of participants visiting the Centre daily almost doubled, the decision was made to switch the fundraising coordinator position to project and fundraising coordinator (50%-50%).

In addition, another project and fundraising coordinator will be recruited early 2023 to increase project management and fundraising capacities.

Volunteer Team

Community Volunteers

Mid-october, we had to say goodbye to our community volunteer as he moved to another country. Aseel was the first community volunteer recruited in our team in Ioannina last July. His energy and his support will be missed in the Centre.

Having community volunteers in our team is important for a wide variety of reasons, including interpretation, general support, and outreaching, particularly as new people arrive to Katsikas and Agia Eleni, Sulaiman and Aseel have helped inform and even bring people directly to the Centre, to avail of our services.

Local Volunteers

In this last quarter of 2023, we were lucky to have more students from the University of Ioannina coming to support our team in the Centre regularly. Kyriaki, Maria, Lena, Vaggelis and Panagiota came a day each week to play with children, help in the Clothes shop and with general cleaning tasks around the Centre.



Our long-term local volunteer and social worker Alexandra left our team in the beginning of November as she was actively searching for a new job. Her skills and positivity will be greatly missed in the team.

Local volunteers help the project in a number of ways including reaching out to local contacts, informing family and friends where they can donate clothes and help connect the project to the local community.

Visiting Volunteers

From October on, two more international volunteers joined the team until the holidays. Emily from the UK arrived on October 25th, followed by Leah from New Zealand on November 11th.



4. Partnerships

Carry The Future - Diapers

Be Aware and Share started cooperating with Carry The Future in 2022. After communicating the numbers of pieces and sizes needed, Carry the Future redirects the order to the local company - Oikon Diapers in Ioannina, who directly delivers to us. Early September, the funds for 2023 ran out and Carry The Future agreed to extend the funds to cover the last 3 months of the year.



Equal Legal Aid & Mobile Info Team

MIT and ELA are both based in Thessaloniki and provide legal support and information for people on the move both in person and via WhatsApp. They run a Facebook page where they update people on the move with any changes in asylum/ residency law, or its interpretation, which may affect people on the move, as well as providing general information, such as how to apply for asylum, residency, citizenship etc.

Both organisations visit Ioannina approximately every 3 months to hold legal clinics. Our team also redirects participants in the Centre to both organisations by reaching to the Whatsapp hotlines.

Pads 4 Refugees

Pads4refugees is a US based NGO which collects donations to fund organisations like BAAS to provide "feminine hygiene products in humanitarian environments."

IHA

IHA runs a large warehouse in Thessaloniki which supports numerous grassroots NGOs and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Northern Greece with donated items, including clothing, dry food and hygiene items.

They also run a community centre outside of Lagadikia camp, which is approximately 30 minutes from Thessaloniki.

Last, recently IHA have also been one of the main drivers in organising the North Greece Coordination meetings, which occur every six weeks. In these meetings coordination teams from between ten to twenty different organisations get together to share information, discuss project and general challenges together, network and ultimately find areas in which to cooperate and support one another.

Attika Human Support Warehouse



From their warehouse just outside of Athens, [Attika Human Support](#) supports numerous organisations on the mainland and Aegean islands with donated items, similar to IHA. We have been fortunate to be able to receive their support. Attika has been supporting us with diapers, clothing and hygiene items.

BachFlower Remedies with Tina

Bachflower remedy sessions, conducted by Tina, a Greek psychotherapist and volunteer are held with interested participants as well as team members. Tina also regularly gives information sessions about Bachflower remedies, what they are and how they work.



Sessions are conducted online since mid-October, as Tina will have moved to another part of Greece.

Network Anthropia

Our partners Network Anthropia have supported the Community Centre in so many different ways, from connecting BAAS with people & organisations locally, nationally and even internationally, to driving donations all the way from Attika warehouse to donating items. Network Anthropia used to run activities in Lavrio, where there was an established camp for Kurdish refugees and asylum seekers which was recently disbanded and evacuated by the Greek government.

Youth Centre of Epirus

The [Youth Centre of Epirus](#) is a housing and informal education project for UAMs, here in Ioannina. We started a collaboration with them this quarter. Their premises are in Perama, a few kilometres outside of Ioannina. They collected and donated clothing for our Free Shop. Further during this quarter they would bring five or six UAMs to the centre one to two times per week, so that they can avail of the Free Clothes Shop and also discover the other services in the centre and connect with other participants! This is an important collaboration, as while UAMs receive more protection from the state, namely; there is a strong effort to house UAMS in protective shelters away from camps, where this is not possible, there is effort is made to host UAMs in protected so-called 'safe-zones' within camps, they are provided with informal (as well as formal) education, food and basic hygiene needs are supposed to be met and they have a supposed to have a social worker assigned to their case. From the state they only receive approximately €1 per day to support themselves. In this way their freedom is restricted and they can be somewhat isolated from society/ their community.

5. Outlook

Perspectives for the first quarter of 2024

Project & Team Outlook:

- ★ Re-opening of the Community Centre after the holidays on 4 January.
- ★ Coordination Recruitment: we will start the year with a stronger project coordination team, with the creation of two new positions of project and fundraising coordinators (50%-50%).

Risks Outlook:

★ **Volunteer Recruitment**

Without a stable volunteer team, our services can be reduced, shut or otherwise compromised. Fewer volunteers can also lead to the coordination team spending more time on pressing day to day tasks in the Centre, rather than attending to more long-term/strategic development of the project.

To mitigate this risk the recruitment team is posting advertisements widely, and we are investing resources in local & community outreach.

★ **Neighbours and noise complaints**

As the Centre is located in an urban setting, we take great care to reduce noise levels, especially during 'quiet hours' in the afternoon. While we cannot eradicate this risk, we do our best to reach out to neighbours to inform them of our services and the efforts we make to reduce the level of noise with over 100 people attending the Centre daily.

Change of format from quarterly reports to monthly reports. Next report available on February 5th.