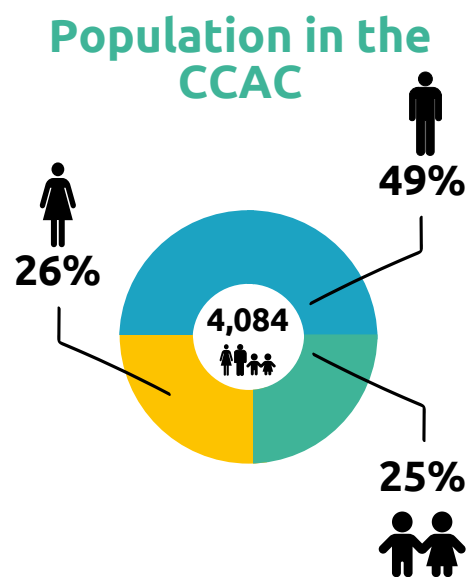
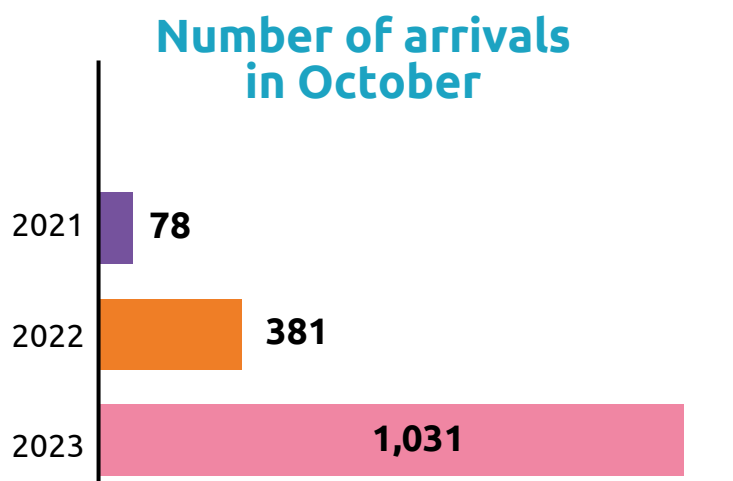




October 2023

MONTHLY REPORT



Lesvos Updates

In October, the number of arrivals decreased compared to the month before - **1,031** people arrived on Lesvos seeking safety -, but still grew dramatically compared to the same month in the 2 years before. People did not stop embarking on this journey: they are being forcibly and violently stopped on their way to Europe. **Pushbacks* are on the rise.** Over the past month, **5,115** people (including children and vulnerable people) were reportedly pushed back in the Aegean sea or upon arrival on one of the Aegean islands and, therefore, denied their right to apply for international protection in Europe. This horrible practice has been recently denounced in a report published by MSF that includes numerous testimonies of **border violence** experienced by their patients on Samos and Lesvos, with detrimental consequences on their physical and psychological well being, as well as life-threatening risks.

In the meantime, the **living conditions of the CCAC** (Closed and Controlled Access Camp) on Lesvos, which now hosts **4,084 residents** and some **hundreds of unregistered people**, are dramatic. The housing units and tents are overcrowded with **worsening hygiene, safety and health conditions** and limited access to healthcare. While the temperatures are dropping, many housing units still have **reduced access to electricity**, not allowing people to use electrical heaters or cookers. While the cases of scabies are spreading quickly, the only medical actor previously treating it stopped.

In such times of crisis, a place like **Paréa** is more needed than ever. In the past month, our average daily number of visitors, especially children, grew drastically and so did their needs. **We are and will be here to fill in a growing gap in basic needs and give some sense of community, dignity and normalcy to people on the move.**

*"a collection of coercive and often violent practices employed by states to either refuse entry to people seeking international protection, or forcibly remove them from the state's territory" - MSF report



The word 'paréa' in Greek means “company, circle of friends”: **everyone is welcome in Paréa!** Located within walking distance from the CCAC (*Closed and Controlled Access Camp*) on Lesbos, our community center **Paréa Lesbos** offers a safe space where people on the move, locals and internationals can meet and spend time in a peaceful and welcoming environment.

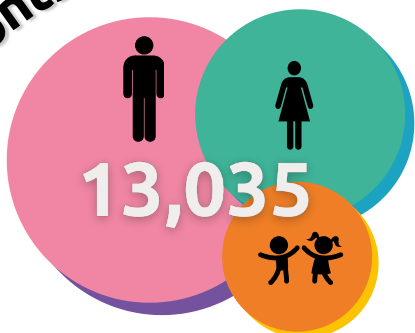
Paréa is run by **Europe Cares** responsible for the safety, major facility costs, maintenance and development of the center. It is also a **home** to another **9 civil society organizations**: **Boat Refugee Foundation, Circus Lesbos, Leave No One Behind, Makerspace Lesbos, Refocus Media Labs, Refugee Assistance Doro Blancke, Sporos Regeneration Institute, Terra Psy, Yoga and Sport with Refugees.** In a time of high political uncertainty and constant withdrawal of support and international attention from Lesbos, our network of partner organizations joined forces to offer people on the move a **wide range of services** including food and NFI distributions, legal and psychosocial support, education and social care activities. But first and foremost, we offer **a sense of community and belonging.**

We are **one community in solidarity.** *Will you join us?*



October in numbers

Monthly visits



Average daily visitors

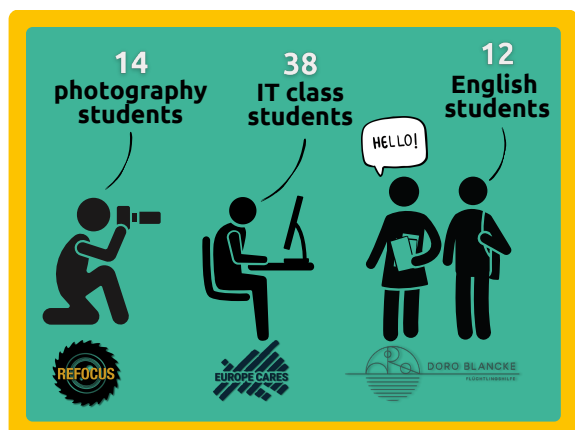
Partners present in Paréa



People working in Paréa



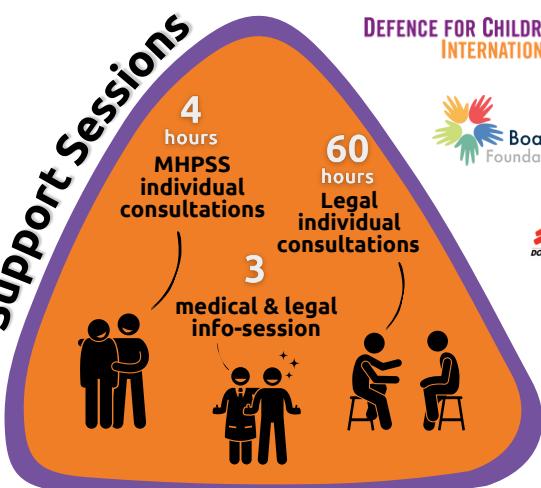
Education



Basic needs



Support Sessions

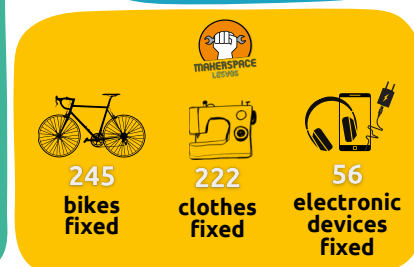
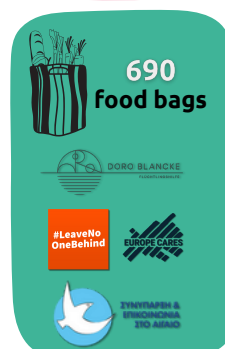


DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL

Boat Refugee Foundation

MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS

FENIX HUMANITARIAN LEGAL AID



Highlight of the month



-Art Exhibition "Collage Yourself"-
20th October 2023

*"It feels good to leave the camp and meet new people, **people that welcome us** in this beautiful space and that are willing to **talk and have nice and real conversations.**"*

On the 20th of October, we hosted in our garden the **art exhibition** "Collage Yourself", displaying the artwork created by our visitors during a **3-month workshop run by our volunteer Sofia**. The visitors could proudly admire the result of their artwork and show it to their beloved, while tasting some freshly baked cakes and homemade tea.

Faces of Paréa



-Abbas and Elias-
Afghanistan, 28 and 24 years old



In the Spotlight

Meet our partner...

RA DORO BLANCKE

Refugee Assistance Doro Blancke provides **food packages** to people living in the camp who are not eligible to receive food because of their status, as well as to about 200 people living outside the camp. They also offer **English classes, legal advice, a cooking project** together with Makerspace as well as **support to vulnerable people & other NGOs**.



Welcome to our space... THE QUIET CORNER

The Quiet Corner is a **comfortable** and **cozy room** where our female visitors can rest, lay down or even nap for a few hours. Due to safety concerns and background noises, women often struggle to sleep in their crowded housing unit in the camp. Here they can **feel safe, relax and disconnect**.





Would you like to join our community?
Contact us at contact@europecares.org



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