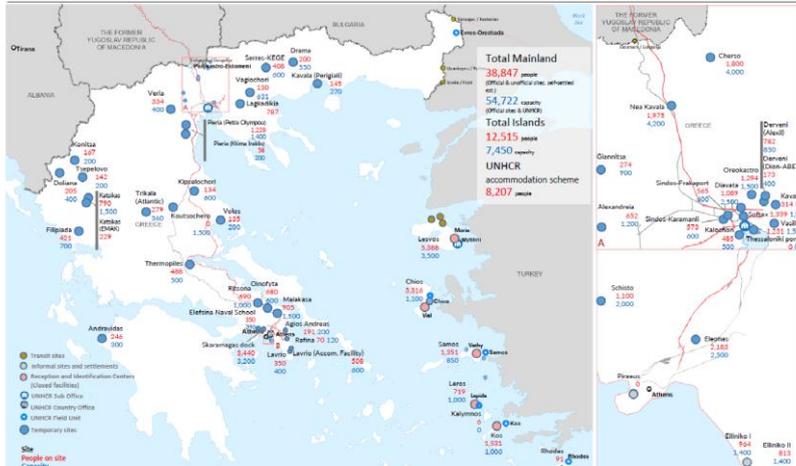


GREECE COMMUNITY-BASED INTERVENTIONS FACTSHEET

July - August 2016

Europe Refugee Emergency
Daily map indicating capacity and occupancy (Governmental figures)
As of 05 September 2016 08:00 a.m. EET



OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

UNHCR undertook discussions with communities in the sites throughout mainland Greece to implement small scale community-based projects, meeting the requests and needs identified by communities. The permanence of refugees in sites not meeting the minimal standards in most of the sectors and with unclear perspective is progressively hampering the relations within the refugee community.

It was noticed that the absence of recreational activities exacerbates anxieties and is a contributing factor to tensions among camp residents. Additionally, both parents and children are eager for children to resume educational activities. Community-based interventions are not aiming at substitution but at complementing formal education. Engagement with women, permitting confidence-building and a deeper understanding of the issues they face in the sites, requires dedicated activities which they can access and where they can participate freely.

It is expected that these small scale projects will contribute to the overall peaceful coexistence in the sites, reduce stress between different communities and also alleviate the impact of the current situation on youths and children.

UNHCR will continue to consult the communities in the different sites to jointly ensure that the interventions respond to the needs identified and prioritized by refugees. The participatory assessments have also the positive effect of improving the communication and exchanges with refugees. Below some example of the activities UNHCR prioritized during the months of July and August throughout mainland Greece, targeting around **5,000 beneficiaries**, through over **30 small scale projects** in **15 different sites**.

THESSALONIKI SUB OFFICE (NORTHERN GREECE)

- **Vagiochori**

School material and supplies. The project targets 20 children in the site, between 3 to 10 years old.

- **Petra Olympus**

Multi-purpose Community Centre and leisure activities.

The project targets all children in the site, 40% of adults for English lessons and 60% of all ages for entertainment activities. Various materials and supplies were procured including one projector and school items (300 notebooks and 900 pens). Tables and chairs and additional school supplies are being procured as part of a comprehensive procurement for all sites.

Sewing classes for women. The project targets refugee women in groups of 20 women. Five sewing machines were procured and transported to the site on 29 August. A local cooperation agreement was established with an association working in the camp (IsraAID) and willing to support with the management of the materials and the workshop lessons.



School supplies distributed for English lessons at Vagiochori © UNHCR/V. Migkos

Renovation of a Centre for Women. UNHCR assisted in the refurbishment of a building in Petra Olympou that will be used as a safe space for women. The centre provides the opportunity for the women to discuss in a safe environment the various problem they face in the site and it is also used for the provision of English classes.

- **Drama**

School supplies were purchased and distributed. The project aims to reach 300 persons. Quotes are being sought for safari tents pending procurement of shaded areas/containers. Installation of community infrastructure will depend on finalization of site layout from the Office of the Alternate Minister of Migration Policy.

- **Kavala**

Welcoming celebration for children moved to new site. UNHCR procured balls, drawing materials, puzzles, etc. and distributed them at the site through the collaboration with the local volunteers in Kavala. Local volunteers also offered juices and sweets to alleviate the stress of being transferred from Chalkero to the new site.

- **Nea Kavala**

Women Community Centre. Material support was provided to a group of volunteers in the site through a local cooperation agreement, for the construction of the community centre and classrooms that will benefit refugee women, children, students and teachers. These structures will be used to conduct activities such as language classes, yoga lessons, relaxation classes, tailoring workshops and jewellery making. The Centre is serving as a safe environment in which women can comfortably speak out about a range of potential issues affecting them. Moreover, through the help of volunteers, refugee women groups have been established that make individual visits to the tents to provide support to other women who might not have presented themselves in the women safe space.

Event organized for end of Ramadan. To celebrate Eid, UNHCR and partners, in close collaboration with the site managers, organized a music festival in Nea Kavala, Alexandria and Diavata, which brought together unaccompanied minors, Syrian and Afghan refugee musicians, Greek musicians, and the Municipality's Philharmonic band. In Cherso site, refugees also spent the holiday by reciting poems, playing various cultural instruments and songs.

- **Diavata**

Fashion/clothes making. This project will benefit around 30 female refugees. Five sewing machines were procured and will be transported to the site during the month of September, as soon as a shipping container to secure the items is installed.

Dance lessons. Classes for up to 40 kids and adult refugees will be organized in the site from mid-September.

Music project. A team of 10 Afghan refugees will be provided with musical instruments with the other communities in the site. Musical instrument and various supplies planned for procurement at the end of August.



Refurbished Women Centre at Petra Olympou site © UNHCR/D. Awkar



UNHCR colleagues welcoming children to the new site in Kavala © UNHCR/K. Kontas



Women Community Centre being finalized by the refugee community in Nea Kavala © UNHCR/E. Xenokrati



Nea Kavala music festival for Eid with Philharmonic Orchestra of the Municipality of Thessaloniki © UNHCR/G. Repanas

English classes. Self-organized English classes by refugee teachers will be supported through the procurement of simple materials to equip the classrooms.

Hairdressing. Refugee women who were working as hairdressers in their countries of origin have requested to be supported with these activities in order also to teach these skills to other women. The equipment needed is currently being purchased.

“Patoo” project. Refugees having skills in creating traditional patoo rugs and shawls will be supported with materials. 40 women are expected to benefit from this project which could then also be exposed at the Thessaloniki Traditional Art Festival.



Sound check at Diavata site for the concert organized to celebrate the end of the holy month of Ramadan © UNHCR/E. Ioannidou

- **Vasilika/Redestos**

Local bread making. Eight “sajs” (an equipment for baking) were purchased and will be available on the site early September for the refugees to produce their own food.

Installation of electric stoves. Stoves were purchased to allow refugees to have a place to cook their own meals and mitigate the non-satisfaction with the content of catering currently providing food. Slabs will also be installed to improve the location of the stoves and facilitate access for refugees.

Communal Gym. Refugees who were previously working as gym instructors in Syria had built sport equipment with recycled materials. To support this initiative, gym equipment were purchased and will be installed. Moreover, Refugee Housing Units (RHU) were modified to serve as a gym where refugees can participate in different kind of sports. Materials will be guarded by community watchmen and free courses will be given by the refugees who used to be gym instructors.



Modified Refugee Housing Units serving as a gym in Vasilika/Redestos site © UNHCR/M. Naim

Recreational activities for teenagers. There is bi-annual running event organized in the city of Thessaloniki. This year, teenage and adult refugees have been granted free access to participate in the running event that is to take place in October this year. In order to help the refugees prepare for this event, 25 teenagers from Vasilika/Redestos have been granted access to the National Stadium in Thessaloniki where they can exercise in preparation for the event. UNHCR will be providing transportation for these refugees starting from the week of the 29 August to the national stadium. Efforts are also underway in order to identify and include teenagers from the other sites so that they can participate in the running event.

- **Derveni**

English classes. Refugee teachers will be supported with basic materials and stationery.

Shades and benches for multipurpose communal areas. The process for the provision of 70 shades and 124 benches has been finalized. The benches will be distributed to sites within this month. With the areas, refugees will enjoy improved waiting spaces for protection counselling and seating areas outside the tented space. The construction of 70 shades will provide additional shaded spaces for refugees to undertake various recreational activities, and group discussions.



English class for children in Derveni site, run by the community © UNHCR/Y. Tsiaras

IONNINA FIELD OFFICE (WESTERN GREECE)

- **Katsikas**

Opening of a tea shop. The three community managers of the Tea Shop are preparing and serving tea and coffee to more than 100 refugees twice a day. People from all ethnicity groups, come every morning and afternoon to enjoy the space, interact and have discussions under the shade.



Tea Shop Opening in Katsikas © UNHCR/M. Buono

“ Since the Tea Shop opened, I realized a positive impact in my daily life and to my psychology. My day is now more active and full and I see people being happier and enjoying their time. We are all socializing and discussing over various topics while having fun in a space we created. We are reinforcing the sense of community by serving all people and this is very important for our lives here.”

Manager of the Teashop (name withheld)

Having a place where intercultural communication is taking place can have a positive effect on the community. People interact and enjoy cultural activities they used to have back in their home countries. Through social activities and interaction in a proper space, people can express their thoughts and emotions and lower the occurrence of stress and anxiety.

A **community barber** for men and beauty salon for women, and a **football team** with 20 adolescents are also in the planning stages.

- **Faneromeni**

A **football team** has been supported with the necessary equipment. The team consists of men between 16 to 45 years olds.

The creation of the football team provides physical work out, contributes to stress management and strengthens the community identity of the people of Faneromeni. It enables the refugees to regain of self-confidence and dignity, as well as the development of sportsmanship and fairness among the players. It also could provide pride for the whole community in supporting their team during matches against other teams. The provision of equipment and the visual appearance of the team also deepens the relationship and trust between UNHCR, the team and the community overall. Last but not least it also holds

“We are really happy with the support. Now we can do something else, instead sitting inside the rooms, even our children are coming to see us”

Asylum seeker (name withheld)



Community Football Team in Faneromeni © UNHCR/A. M. Garcia Avendano

the potential to encourage children to partake in future sport activities.

Sewing and crafting club is in the planning stages.

- **Filipiada**

A **community barber** shop is in operation with 150 men as potential customers. Currently, a **community library, sewing and crafting club, a football club, beauty salon for women and fitness and boxing club for men** are in the planning stages.

LARISSA FIELD OFFICE (CENTRAL GREECE)

- **Kipselochori**



Transportation support was given as a form of a bicycle and helmet for each 25 family, which facilitated their movement to purchase necessary items. The site is about 3 km away from Kipselochori village.

Informal education for children and youth. A tent, mattresses and UNHCR children school bags were given to 60 children and youth. The Army’s approval is pending to set up the tent, while the community is on standby to commence the project.

- **Volos**

Informal education for children and youth. A tent, mattresses and UNHCR children school bags were given to 50 children and youth. The project will commence in September.

Kindergarten. A tent, mattresses and UNHCR children school bags were given to 60 children and youth for the project. The Army’s approval is pending to set up the tent, while the community is on standby to commence the project.

A Kipselochori refugee boy with complete transportation support - a bicycle and a helmet © UNHCR/Z. Hakim

- **Thermopiles**

Enhance Hygiene - Cleaning Campaign. Cleaning tools and materials were brought to benefit 480 refugees. The materials will be delivered and the campaign will commence during the month of September.

Informal education for children and youth. Bags and stationaries have been distributed for 130 children and youth. The project will commence during the month of September.

ATTICA FIELD OFFICE (ATTICA)

- **Elefsina**

Community based school. UNHCR and refugees have been working together to assembly tables and chairs provided by UNHCR for the community based school in Elefsina site. The community-school will serve children and adults with Greek and English classes.



Refugees in Elefsina work to construct the community-based school © UNHCR/I. Tsampardoukas



Refugee Housing Units used for the community-based school in Elefsina © UNHCR/I. Tsampardoukas

- **Schisto**

Women and men tearoom. The women and men refugee committees at the site decided to focus on the construction of two separate tearoom areas for women and men to have tea and discuss issues of interest for the community. The spaces are made of six Refugee Housing Units (RHUs) adjusted according to the needs of the refugees, with an open area for the men and a closed are for women, in order for the latter to maintain their privacy.



A young beneficiary receives a school bag distributed as part of the informal education project for children and youth © UNHCR/ Z. Hakim

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Links: [Arrival figures website](#) - [Refugee stories](#) - [Facebook](#) – [Twitter](#)