



1011

people benefited directly from our programmes in 2023

404

children from vulnerable families were provided essential items in 2023

375

professionals were trained in 2023 to identify and respond to child abuse

Context

In Greece, many cases of child abuse have come to light, thus highlighting the importance of proactive and systematic interventions for the prevention and early identification of child abuse and for a more child-friendly justice system.

Greece has taken steps to put in place a legal framework for juvenile justice, but still has much to do if that legal framework is to be fully implemented and children's rights protected. Whereas the laws are in place, there are several challenges in their implementation and a general lack of resources, both financial and human.

In the area of migration, child refugees still face obstacles to accessing formal education. Moreover, access to asylum and to regularisation continued being complex for unaccompanied minors reaching adulthood. Finally, access to food is still a challenge for refugee families.

General overview

Terre des hommes (Tdh) is a key child protection actor in Greece, starting its activity in 2016 to respond to the refugee crisis.

In 2023, Tdh supported families on the move, and continued its innovative work on access to justice and child safeguarding. We developed creative methodologies within a strong mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) framework and enhanced children's voices within project design and implementation through our guidelines on child participation, focus group discussions and the establishment of Child Advisory Boards (CABs).

Our thematic priorities



Access to justice for children and young people: We promote the use of restorative justice in legal cases involving children. We also empower children by educating them about their rights and amplifying their voices so that they become advocates for a child-friendly justice system. In the *i-RESTORE 2.0* project, we build the capacities of national practitioners to make sure quality restorative justice processes are available for all children, victims or offenders. The *i-Access MyRights* project aims to provide child-friendly information to children in the justice system by using AI technology. We also support parents of children in contact with the law, through group psychoeducation sessions in the *JUST-US* project.



Children and young people on the move: We provide mental health and psychosocial support to displaced children and their families within the *STEP IN* and *WELL-U* projects. Through the *DIGNIFY* project, we support vulnerable refugee families with food assistance.



Child protection: In the *CARING* project, we aim to better understand, prevent, and reduce gender-based violence among young people in school settings by engaging parents, teachers and students themselves.

Our impact in 2023

Children and young people on the move

- 665 people, 404 of which were children, benefited from super-market voucher distributions.

Access to justice for children and young people

- The Assessment of the Child Friendliness of the Juvenile Justice System in Greece was published.
- Awareness Raising Circles for Restorative Justice were conducted in schools, and professionals received training on restorative justice.
- In collaboration with children, a chatbot was co-designed to assist child victims as part of the first AI project.
- The pilot project (Just Us) providing psychoeducation to parents of children in contact with the law was completed, empowering parents and fostering a supportive community.

Child protection

- 116 professionals and community members were trained in five training sessions organised in Greece and abroad on three mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) methodologies: Problem Management Plus (PM+), Movement, Games, Sports and Creativity (MGSC), and ReachNow.
- A Community of Practice was established, two focus groups and two roundtable discussions on the MHPSS methodologies (PM+, MGSC, ReachNow) were held.
- 21 secondary school educators and education advisors attended a 3-day Training of Trainers (ToT) on challenging social and gender norms to reduce violence against children in school.

Dignify: Addressing immediate needs of refugee families in Athens

In 2023, Tdh completed the Dignify project, providing much-needed assistance to vulnerable families of recognised refugees, rejected and unregistered asylum seekers that have been cut off food and cash assistance. 287 vulnerable families benefited, comprising 982 individuals, 593 of whom were children.

Outlook

As the Greek child protection system in Greece remains fragmented and gaps in knowledge and capacity continue to exist, Tdh's vision is to build upon our work to strengthen protection and safeguarding systems and to empower children as well as their parents/guardians and professionals who work with them in all aspects of their lives.

In our access to justice work, we aim to stand out and make a difference in the field of child-friendly justice in the country with extensive advocacy and capacity interventions. Finally, we aim at expanding our work in child safeguarding in sports and educational settings with new projects and partnerships.

Advocacy

In 2023, Tdh continued and evolved its advocacy work on the rights of local and migrant children and families. We formed dynamic advocacy coalitions and campaigned for access to schools for migrant/refugee children, the guardianship system for unaccompanied minors, and the protection of child victims of violence.

Main partners and donors

Partners: Association Roditeli Bulgaria, Brave Phone Croatia, Centro Penc, European Forum for Restorative Justice, HALT, HERA Center, Institute of Social Activities and Practices (SAPI), Jesuit Refugee Service Romania, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Lawren.io, Noldus, Restorative Justice Netherlands, Social Activities and Practice Institute, Social Insurance Board, SOS Children's Villages International, SOS Children's Villages Italy, War Child Holland.

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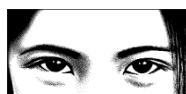
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As the leading Swiss child rights organisation, created in 1960, Terre des hommes stands together with children to uphold their rights, protect their lives and improve their well-being. In 2023, we supported over 5.2 million children and members of their communities in more than 30 countries.



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