



## 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

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

In 2022, 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**



**Transversal child protection**



**Children and young people on the move**

We promote the restorative justice approach for child victims and offenders, an approach that focuses on the needs and rights of the victim, the motivations of the offender and the role of the local community.

With the *i-RESTORE 2.0* project, we support professionals working with child victims and offenders, through training on child-friendly restorative justice. Through the project *i-Access My Rights* we ensure that the rights of child victims are realised, by using digital and AI tools. We empower children by educating them about their rights and amplifying their voices so that they can also become advocates for a child-friendly justice system. We also support parents of children in contact with the law, through parent groups, in the *JUST-US* project.

In the migration field, we provide psychosocial support to displaced families and children within the *STEP IN* and *WELL-U* projects. Finally, we provide food assistance to vulnerable refugee families through the *DIGNIFY* project.

## Results in 2022

### Children and young people on the move

- 867 people, 529 of which were children, benefited from super-market voucher distributions

### Access to justice for children and young people

- We co-organised the International Conference: "FOCUS on My Needs: Working together for children in criminal proceedings"

### Child protection

- 441 education and child protection professionals were trained in the context of "Reinforce Educators - Empower Children" (REEC) project.
- 5615 children indirectly benefitted from the REEC project.
- We organised a roundtable meeting on child protection and safeguarding in early childhood and primary education, engaging all the relevant stakeholders and decision-makers.

### Dignify: Addressing immediate needs of refugee families in Athens

In 2022, Tdh provided much-needed assistance to vulnerable families of recognised refugees, rejected and unregistered asylum seekers that have been cut off food and cash assistance.

150 families living in the wider area of Attica, and in open accommodation sites in Elaionas, Schisto, Malakasa, Oinofyta, Ritsona and Thermopyles, received monthly cash-based assistance in the form of supermarket vouchers. Over a total of 108,000 EUR was directly transferred to recipients in the form of 15,000 vouchers while the dedicated team conducted over 700 distributions.

As we are committed to a holistic approach in our interventions, we provided mental health and psychosocial support to the Dignify beneficiaries, with assessments, support groups for stress management and 80 referrals.

### 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 2022, 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:** European Forum of Restorative Justice (EFRJ), Restorative Justice Netherlands, Child Circle, Save the Children, SOS Children's Villages, International Rescue Committee (IRC) Hellas, Municipality of Milan, Municipality of Athens.

**Donors:** European Union, UNICEF, Swiss Solidarity, Stavros Niarchos Foundation, International Organisation for Migration (IOM), UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, Alta Mane Foundation, Direct Relief.



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### Contact

For more information please contact:  
[grc.office@tdh.org](mailto:grc.office@tdh.org), T +30 210 751 0007





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As the leading Swiss organisation for children's aid, created in 1960, the Terre des hommes foundation is committed to protecting children's lives and their rights, and improving their well-being. We aim to do so through innovative programmes focused on health, migration and access to justice, specially designed to have both short- and long-term impacts.



Siege | Hauptsitz | Sede | Headquarters  
Avenue de Montchoisi 15, CH-1006 Lausanne  
T +41 58 611 06 11, [info@tdh.org](mailto:info@tdh.org)  
[www.tdh.org](http://www.tdh.org), CH41 0900 0000 1001 1504 8

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