

Holistic care of children in refugee camp of Schisto.



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Network for Children's rights

- Schisto camp is an open accommodation center, vast fenced, for asylum seekers coming from Afghanistan. It is far from the urban hub with difficult access to city center.
- Is one of the “Temporary Reception and Accommodation Settlements” and therefor was not designed for long-term accommodation but due to the closure of the borders until today it works as a permanent center of refugee hospitality.
- It’s capacity is 2000 persons, according to the UNHCR data.



Network for Children's Rights



- The Network for Children's Rights is a non-profit organization founded in 2004 with the aim of drawing awareness to and intervening in problems relating to the rights of the child.
- Since its founding Network has successfully promoted children's rights, encouraged their socialization through educational, cultural and psychosocial activities and has supported them taking legal action where necessary.
- Since 2016 Network is working in Schisto camp on a daily basis.

Needs assessment

- Official reports have pointed out **substantial inadequacies, deficiencies** and even **large gaps in the protection, security, dignity and quality of living conditions** of asylum seekers.
- Their rights to information and inclusion in decision-making for urgent vital issues were also completely ignored.
- **Shortage of interpreters** put at risk the correct provision of health services to the refugees.
- The rights of the largest vulnerable group namely children to **life, health, security, education, proper food, recreation** were heavily flouted.
- The **best interest of children** was not given priority.

Interventions

- In order to support the Rights of the refugee children living in the Camp of Shisto, the Network for children's rights, since April 2016, with the cooperation of "Save the Children" and support and funding by UNHCR and ECHO implemented on daily basis the following programs

a. Child Protection Unit (CPU)

It consists of two social workers, one psychologist and one lawyer and provides:

- Psychosocial and legal aid for children and their parents, through individual or group meetings
- Information about referral procedures and the available services
- Legal advices concerning asylum and reunification
- Registration of children in schools,
- deals with cases of child abuse and neglect,
- Information for children's safeguarding policy,
- Communication and company to doctors and hospitals.

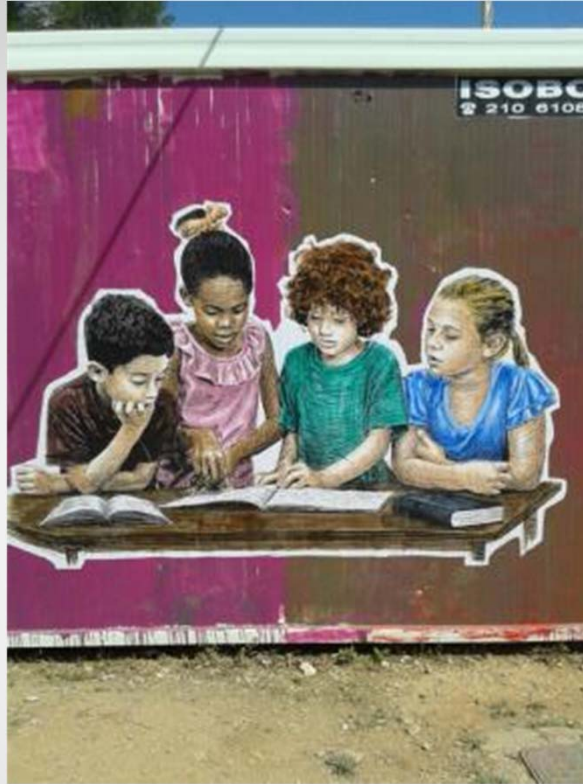
Always there is close collaboration with interpreters and cultural mediators

b. Mother – Baby Area (MBA)

In a especially decorated container pregnant women, women in puerperium, mothers of babies up to 2nd year of age under the supervision of midwife and breastfeeding advisors learn how to offer care to their babies and breastfeed in warm, supportive female environment. There is also provision of plenty and quality food (fruits and vegetables).



c. Child Friendly Space (CFS)



Children 3 – 6 years with the help of animators and teachers have creative occupation and learn basics of the Greek language.



d. Points of contact

Since there is no prospect at all of a state education for 15-17 years old adolescents and they are limited to informal teaching and training, the Network of Children's Rights organized many activities for them in order to **enhance the resilience, support them to regain faith to themselves and provide life meaning in their daily life**



Program targets

- Enhancement of dialogue inside the community and preparation of communication with outside world
- Information of adolescents about the social and cultural European and Greek way of life
- Their socialization and free expression through participation in meetings, talks and visits of a social, cultural and artistic nature with participation of Greeks
- The start of integration processes through communication and acquaintance with their Greek peers and mutual interest groups

Activities of adolescents

- Edition of the newspaper “MIGRATORY BIRDS”



Activities of adolescents

- Daily sports activities
- Photography lessons
- Weekly outing programs to museums, theaters, cinemas, parks etc.
- Web-radio
- Tablets
- Cinema club
- Meeting with professionals (doctors, lawyers, students, journalists etc.
- Girls make films

- Art lessons



- Dance lessons



Limitations

- The provision of life meaning in daily life of adolescents is difficult when they know that they are going to move to another place
- Lack of planning and sustainability of the actions due to continuous movement of refugees
- All the interventions take place in an emergency situation, so it is difficult to plan a complete and total intervention
- Lack of access to formal education

Good Practices

- The living conditions in the temporary accommodation facilities have improved in 2017. The tents replaced with suitable constructions and there is decrease of population staying here from 1900 to 690 refugees.







Good Practices

- The movement of mainly vulnerable groups to other forms of housing, apartments, hotels, buildings within urban fabric as well as hospitality by families. This form of accommodation fosters social integration and encouragement of everyone's participation in social cultural and economic activities – for the duration of accommodation, whether it is short or long.

Good Practices

- The establishment of adolescents Network in a square of central Athens with the aim to be a space of meeting, association, development of skills and expression. There weekly take place creative groups, educational programs, programs of educational support and cultural activities that are coordinated by teachers educators and artists

