



Children and Youth on the Move in Greece



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5

regional projects in 2024

571

beneficiaries in 2024

18% child
82% adult

900,000 CHF

multi-annual financial volume for the 5 active projects in 2024

In 2024...

- **18.45%** of Greek resident population between 0-19 years old
- **30,000** refugee children in total
- **1,767** UAM and separated children
- **88,500** refugees, **35,00** asylum seekers, and **3,700** stateless persons
- **40,744** boat arrivals through the Eastern Mediterranean route
- **25,855** people illegally pushed back

Map of CYM intervention



2023 07/16

Context

Country of origin

Greek citizens continue to emigrate mainly due to **environmental degradation, economic austerity, and limited employment opportunities**. Emigration remains stable at around **80,000 people per year**, primarily towards Western Europe.

In addition, **91,000 people were internally displaced in 2023**, mainly due to **wildfires and flooding**, reflecting the increasing impact of **climate change** on livelihoods and mobility. Children and youth from vulnerable communities — including Roma, refugees, and rural populations — are among those most affected by climate-related disasters and socio-economic instability

Refugees and asylum seekers

As of 2024, Greece hosts approximately **88,500 refugees, 35,000 asylum seekers, and 3,700 stateless persons**. Around **25%** of the total refugee population are people displaced by the war in Ukraine.

By the end of 2023, **22,000 Ukrainian refugees** (mostly women and children) were in Greece, and **26,848 individuals had been granted Temporary Protection status**, of whom **26.6% were minors**.

Arrivals along the **Eastern Mediterranean route** surged again, with **17,602 people** arriving in **the first five months of 2024**, indicating a continued increase from 2023. Major countries of origin include **Afghanistan, Syria, Egypt, Eritrea, and Palestine**.

Sea arrivals in 2024 comprised **29% children, 17% women, and 54% men**, while deadly shipwrecks continued to claim the lives of many, including minors. Despite official denials, documented pushbacks and expulsions of asylum seekers — some involving children — persist along the Aegean Sea and land borders.

Refugees and asylum seekers, particularly non-Ukrainians, face severe barriers to accessing the asylum procedure, which remains slow and bureaucratic. Many live in overcrowded or substandard facilities, with limited access to healthcare, education, and employment.

In 2023, **504 unaccompanied minors were detained in pre-removal centres**, despite lacking any viable return plan to Türkiye. Once granted refugee status, individuals **lose access to reception services and often face homelessness and exclusion** due to administrative and socio-economic barriers to integration.

Human trafficking and child exploitation

The number of cases of child sexual exploitation and abuse in Greece rose following the pandemic. Greece is a transit, destination, and origin country for child trafficking for forced begging and sexual exploitation. Children from ethnic minorities face discrimination and vulnerability to human trafficking for sexual and commercial exploitation. There is limited data on Roma children, children with disabilities, and violence against children.

Unaccompanied children and children in state care are particularly vulnerable. In 2024, there are **1500 children in institutional care**, most being under 6 years old, that face risks of homelessness, exploitation, and socio-economic exclusion.

Tdh CYM Projects in Greece

In 2024, the **5 CYM projects** implemented in Greece focused on:

- Strengthening **MHPSS services and awareness-raising**, including among non-professionals, as well as improving the mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of refugee children and their caregivers
- **Challenging social and gender norms**, shifting behaviors of school staff and young people through training and capacity-building in schools, and awareness-raising events and round tables for multi-disciplinary cooperation
- Providing emergency relief to vulnerable refugees residing in the prefecture of Attica and the Municipality of Athens through **cash assistance and basic MHPSS**
- Addressing the needs of the displaced **children, youth and families affected by the Ukrainian war**.

Local partners

Greek Forum for Migrants (GFM), Greek Council for Refugees (GCR), IOM CP teams in accommodation sites, Diotima, the Hellenic Red Cross, JRS Women DC, Caritas Hellas, Khora and Vavel DC.

Alignment with Theory of Change

- Target groups:** Focus on children and youth on the move, and fixed in the migration process
- Information (Pathway 1):** Learning and mainstreamed within and beyond the actors involved
- Protection (Pathway 2):** CYM are better protected and accompanied along migratory routes and in crisis contexts
- (Re)integration (Pathway 3):** CYM are better integrated in their society
- Advocacy (Pathway 4):** Multi-stakeholder coordination is established to strengthen community level safety nets and resilience

Differentiation approach: Protective Accompaniment; Partnership, Localization and Participation

Priority areas of intervention:

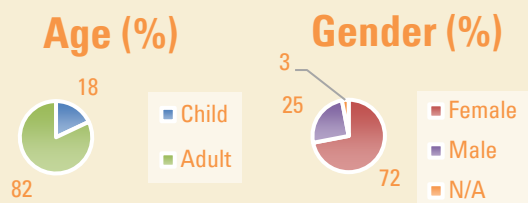
1. Supporting psychosocial wellbeing and building resilience of CYM
2. Strengthening systems and services
3. Enabling CYM and their families as actors in their protection, development, and advocacy

Transversal expertise: Child Protection, WaSH

Institutional priorities: Gender and Diversity

CYM 2023 Key Data in Greece

In 2024
Tdh's CYM activities reached
571 beneficiaries
through
5 projects



participated in **5** national and transnational networks of civil society organization advocating for migrants rights

380 formal and non-formal actors trained
419 hours of training on child protection



Contact

For more information, please contact:
nina.marx@tdh.org – Acting Head CYM Programme
olsi.dudumi@tdh.org – CYM Programme Regional Coordinator

Sources: Tdh, aida, UNHCR, IOM



Siège | Hauptsitz | Sede | Headquarters
Rte des Plaines-du-Loup 55, CH-1018 Lausanne
T +41 58 611 06 11, info@tdh.org
www.tdh.org, CH41 0900 0000 1001 1504 8

www.tdh.org
www.facebook.com/www.tdh.org
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