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986

people benefited directly from our programmes in 2024

343

children benefited from our projects, receiving protection, education, and psychosocial support

643

professionals trained in various child protection areas, enhancing their capacity to support children

Context

In Greece, many cases of child abuse have come to light, underscoring the importance of proactive and systematic interventions for prevention, early identification, and a more child-friendly justice system. At the same time, there is an increasing need to improve children's mental health and well-being, as services remain limited, and challenges continue to grow.

Greece has taken steps to establish a legal framework for juvenile justice, but challenges remain in implementation due to limited resources. While laws are in place, gaps in enforcement and funding persist.

In the area of migration, child refugees still face obstacles in accessing formal education. Additionally, access to asylum and regularisation remains complex for unaccompanied minors reaching adulthood, and food insecurity continues to affect refugee families.

General overview

Terre des hommes (Tdh) is a key child protection actor in Greece, having started its work in 2016 in response to the refugee crisis and establishing a local office in 2018.

In 2024, Tdh supported children 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 restorative justice for children and advocate for child-friendly, rights-based legal processes. Our work strengthens professionals' capacities, educates children about their rights, and empowers them to advocate for a justice system that protects them. Using AI, we develop innovative, child-friendly tools to improve access to justice. We also support parents of children in contact with the law by offering psychoeducation sessions.



Children and young people on the move: We strengthen the mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) system for displaced children and their families by building the capacity of professionals and promoting community-based interventions. Our approach focuses on trauma-informed care, social inclusion, and resilience-building activities tailored to the needs of children and youth.



Child protection: We work to prevent and reduce gender-based violence among young people in schools by engaging parents, teachers, and students in awareness-raising and capacity-building initiatives. Through participatory approaches, we strengthen safeguarding mechanisms and promote safer environments for children.

Our impact in 2024

Children and young people on the move

- 51 professionals working with refugee community were trained on peer-to-peer support and community-based methodologies, like Problem Management Plus (PM+), Movement, Games, Sports and Creativity (MGSC), and ReachNow methodologies through the **Step In** and **Well-U** projects.

Access to justice for children and young people

- In the **i-Access MyRights** project, a child-friendly chatbot was co-designed with children to improve access to justice for child victims.
- 112 children and 17 adults participated in Awareness Raising Circles on restorative justice, while 22 children developed an interactive quiz to educate their peers as part of the **i-Restore 2.0** project.
- A Short Guide for Parents/Guardians of Children in Contact with the Justice System was published as part of the **Just Us** project, supporting families.

Child protection

- Around 150 people attended a webinar which aimed to equip participants with practical tools and techniques to take an active role in preventing and addressing gender-based violence (GBV) in school settings.
- 105 secondary education students attended youth leaders trainings and organised child-led initiatives with the goal to challenge social norms and reduce SGBV.
- 135 school professionals attended trainings to increase their capacity and to promote positive practices related to gender-equality in schools.

Oleksandra*, a Ukrainian refugee residing in Greece, who participated in our PM+ and MGSC trainings as part of the Well-U project, shared:

“What I appreciated most was the opportunity to apply the tools we were learning right away. We could identify our challenges, seek advice, and gain more confidence moving forward.”

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 2024, Tdh strengthened its advocacy efforts for the rights of local and migrant children. We addressed school violence, the implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, and the resumption of cash assistance for asylum seekers. Additionally, we advocated for stronger safeguards for unaccompanied children and the adoption of the International Human Rights Treaty (OPIC), while also carrying out interventions to enhance child protection mechanisms.

Main partners and donors

Partners: Adventure Therapy, Association Roditeli Bulgaria, Brave Phone Croatia, Centro Penc, European Forum for Restorative Justice, HALT, HERA Center, Jesuit Refugee Service Romania, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, KMOP, Lawren.io, Noldus, Restorative Justice Netherland, Social Activities and Practice Institute (SAPI), Social Insurance Board, SOS Children’s Villages International, SOS Children’s Villages Italy, Terre des hommes Hungary, Terre des hommes Romania, War Child Holland.

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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 2024, we supported over 5.8 million children and members of their communities in 27 countries.



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