



Action for children

along with the children

Annual report 2022



Terre des hommes

Αρωγοί των παιδιών παγκοσμίως.



©Tdh/Tatjana Aebli

Contents

The 2022 annual report of Terre des hommes Hellas is available in Greek and English, at tdh.gr

Terre des hommes Hellas represents Terre des hommes Foundation which was founded in 1960 in Lausanne and since then has been one of the leading child protection organizations internationally.

Read about its work in 2022 around the world in the QR code:



Overview	3
Introductory note	4
Thematic Priorities	
Child Protection	6
Children and young people on the move	8
Access to justice	10
Advocacy	14
Funding	15

Cover photo ©Tdh/Tatjana Aebli
Design: Based on the annual report of Terre des hommes
©Terre des hommes Hellas 2023



© Tdh/Grace Medina

Overview

Terre des hommes Hellas has been active in Greece since 2016, contributing to the improvement of the child protection system and the reformation of social care.

Our thematic priorities



Child Protection and safeguarding



Children and young people on the move



Access to Justice for children and young people

In 2022, Tdh Hellas 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).



*calculation based on the average number of children



"Let's listen to the children for the substantial strengthening of child protection systems in Greece"

This past year has been a significant period for Terre des hommes Hellas. In 2022, we reached our 8th year of presence in Greece as a Tdh movement and the 6th year since the establishment of Tdh Hellas as a national non-profit organisation in Greece. We are celebrating our accomplishments and learning from the challenges we faced as an organisation.

After many years present in open accommodation sites as a child protection actor in mainland Greece, providing holistic case management, legal aid and MHPSS services to refugees and asylum seekers, Tdh Hellas transitioned from working in that field to working in urban spaces regarding migration. This big transition led us into looking further into our vision, future impact and ways of working, moving towards a system strengthening approach to child protection in Greece.

While still maintaining the aim of responding to the immediate needs of our beneficiaries in the context of migration, we implemented cash-based interventions to support over 200 vulnerable refugee and asylum-seeking families with children who were not receiving food assistance. We were also excited for the opportunity to share our expertise and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support methodologies by training professionals working on migration through projects that will be implemented in 2023.

At the same time, we doubled our efforts to support and strengthen the child protection systems in the areas of education and justice. Having seen the gaps in knowledge and systemic and systematic training of education professionals and their lack of confidence in responding to potential child abuse, we responded. In one year, the dedicated Tdh Hellas teams trained over 250 educators in early childhood and primary schools to recognise and respond to signs of child abuse and neglect and to connect with child protection services.

Our position as an expert in the field of Access to Justice for Children was not only solidified but also expanded in 2022. Working with UNICEF and Coram International, we used our expertise and resources to jointly produce a significant piece of research on the child friendliness of the Greek Justice System. And we commenced the second phase of building our work on Restorative justice for children in Greece, an approach which is an aspiration for us and our long-term vision for a justice system that is friendly to children and youth.

Looking towards 2023, myself and the expert teams are ready to take on new opportunities, to listen to the views of children and work with them to substantially strengthen the child protection systems in Greece.



Leda Avgousti

Head of County Office- Greece



Child protection



The transnational project [“Reinforce Educators Empower Children” \(REEC\)](#) was designed and implemented as a targeted intervention to strengthen child protection in Greece and Italy by reinforcing and developing the capacities of early childhood educators and primary school teachers and child protection professionals, detect and respond appropriately to children experiencing or at risk of experiencing adverse childhood experiences.

The project was coordinated by Terre des hommes Hellas in collaboration with the International Rescue Committee Hellas (IRC), and the Municipality of Milan, under the auspices of the Municipality of Athens and lasted 2 years, from 2020 to 2022. The project was financed by the program on Rights, Equality and Citizenship of the European Commission.

REEC aimed to:

- Build the capacity of early childhood educators and primary school teachers, as well as professionals in the field of child welfare with issues related to child protection and child safeguarding policy.
- To strengthen the synergies between the school, family, and social services systems, so that they can respond more effectively to possible incidents of exposure of children to forms of abuse.
- To raise awareness to the professionals who are in contact with children on issues of safeguarding policy and child protection and to reinforce their skills through structured tools, to empower the participation of children in their personal protection.



Educators join the fight against child abuse



As part of the project, an Educators' Advisory Group was established with the aim of providing feedback at all stages of the program. The Committee created a video with the aim of raising awareness on child protection issues as well as on the corresponding role of teachers.

You can watch the video (in Greek) [here](#).



Networking and sharing experiences at REEC

- Formation of a Community Advisory Group (Educators Advisory Group)
- Exchange visits between the counterpart groups of the Municipality of Milan and the Municipality of Athens with the aim of exchanging experiences and good practices in the field of Early Childhood and Primary Education, regarding Child Protection issues.
- A National Roundtable took place on 5 October 2022 in Athens. The objective was to present the results of the “Reinforce Educators Empower Children” (REEC) project as well as the methodologies we have developed in the project to enhance the capacity of educators, primary teachers and child protection professionals for the detection, prevention, and protection from violence, finally to promote policy changes in relation to education and child protection. The event offered an opportunity to connect a wide range of stakeholders from national and local authorities, and NGOs sector to learn about the challenges that both the educators and social services face at local level such as in the context of Athens.
- A Final Roundtable took place on 6 December 2022 at the European Parliament in Brussels. The main objective of the Final Roundtable was to present the results of the “Reinforce Educators Empower Children” (REEC) project as well as the methodologies we have developed in the project to enhance the capacity of educators, primary teachers and child protection professionals for the detection, prevention, and protection from violence, finally to promote policy changes in relation to education and child protection. The event offered an opportunity to connect a wide range of stakeholders from national and local authorities, NGOs sector and EU institutions to learn about the challenges that both the educators and social services face at local level such as in the context of Athens (Greece) and Milan (Italy).



Children and young people on the move

©Tdh/Ramin Mazur



2022 HIGHLIGHT

Responding to the phenomena of increasing hunger affecting refugees and asylum seekers, in 2022 Tdh Hellas supported vulnerable families of recognized refugees, rejected and unregistered asylum seekers, to whom financial assistance had been suspended. Through [DIGNIFY: Emergency Support for Families on the Move](#), this support took place with the distribution of supermarket vouchers that provided the beneficiaries with essential items - food, personal hygiene items, etc., with the exception of electronics, alcohol and cigarettes/tobacco.

The distributions took place in the center of Athens, in close collaboration with the Greek Forum of Migrants. Families living in the wider area of Attica and in open camps in Eleonas, Schisto, Malakasa, Oinophyta and Ritsona were served there.

As we are committed to a holistic approach to our interventions, we have provided psychosocial support to Dignify beneficiaries, with stress management support groups and 80 referrals to appropriate services.



Amara* is a young mother of a three-year-old girl, pregnant with her second child. She came to Greece four years ago alone seeking asylum, as the violent persecution in the country seriously threatened her life. In Greece she managed to get refugee recognition, but this meant that she was no longer entitled to asylum seeker protection services within the official accommodation camps.

This is how she found herself from one moment to the next without shelter and food, with a complete inability to find work, given that the bureaucracy and the absence of systemic integration procedures in our country prevent most refugees from the labor market.

After locating her through a referral process, we welcomed her to the DIGNIFY program's special area in the center of Athens, where we assessed her psychosocial condition and needs and provided her with supermarket vouchers, with which she will be able for a while to secure their livelihood.

Results of the Dignify project in 2022

2022 HIGHLIGHT



61%

of the beneficiaries
were children



949

monthly distributions of
supermarket coupons



DIGNIFY
Emergency Support
for Families on the Move



174.500€

were given directly to
the beneficiaries



746

vulnerable people



DIGNIFY: Emergency Support for Families on the Move is co-funded by Swiss Solidarity



©Tdh/Grace Medina

Access to Justice



In 2022, the [*i-RESTORE 2.0 : Accessible Quality Restorative Justice Processes for Children in Contact with the Law*](#) project was launched, building on the [*i-RESTORE project*](#) (2019-2021), which focused on promoting the use of restorative justice in cases involving child victims of crime and strengthening the capacities of justice professionals. As a result of this project, i-RESTORE 2.0 was drafted to go a step further and create accessible quality restorative justice processes for children in contact with the law.

Objectives

- Build the capacities of national practitioners to address issues related to the rights of child victims and children suspected and/or accused of crime when involved in restorative justice processes
- Increase knowledge and exchange of learning among EU justice actors about access of child victims and children suspected and/or accused to high quality restorative justice processes.
- Empower child victims and children suspected and/or accused of crime to be agents to play a meaningful role when involved in restorative justice processes.
- Raise awareness among multidisciplinary actors and the community about accessibility and its obstacles, to high-quality restorative justice processes for child victims and children suspected and/or accused of crime.

i-RESTORE 2.0 is led by Terre des hommes Romania in partnership with Terre des hommes Regional Hub in Hungary, Terre des hommes Greece, European Forum for Restorative Justice (Belgium), Restorative Justice Netherlands, HALT (Netherlands), and Social Insurance Board (Estonia). It is co-funded by the European Union.

Access to Justice

©Tdh/Grace Medina



In 2022, the project [FOCUS on my needs: Working together for children in criminal proceedings](#) was completed.

The aim of the program was to empower Greek professionals who carry out individual assessments of children involved in criminal proceedings, through the development of Standards and tools. We also empowered the children themselves to support child-centred justice.

The Focus project was coordinated by the Terre des hommes Regional Office in Hungary and implemented in collaboration with Terre des hommes Hellas, Child Circle, the Child Rights Center (CRC) in Serbia, Defense for Children Netherlands, the Institute of Social Activities and of Practice (SAPI) in Bulgaria, and Terre des hommes in Romania. The project was co-financed by the Rights, Equality, Citizenship Program 2014-2020 of the European Union.

Within 2022, 3 Children's Advisory Board (CAB) sessions and a child-led awareness campaign took place. CAB members discussed the FOCUS Standards and were encouraged to provide feedback on the Standards in a short video.

The CAB sessions focused on the following topics: 1) the concept of unaccompanied minors, the legal framework and the concept of best interests' assessment, 2) the issue of women's rights and 3) the FOCUS standards. The CAB members provided feedback on the Standards in a short video entitled "FOCUSing on children's needs". You can watch the video (with English subtitles) [here](#).



Educational platform for professionals working with children

To build capacity and offer pragmatic support, FOCUS produced a dedicated learning platform for professionals working with children in criminal proceedings. It is available in six languages (English, Bulgarian, Dutch, Greek, Romanian and Serbian). The platform offers an e-learning course on multidisciplinary needs assessments, and all the tools and resources to implement and systematize the use of multidisciplinary individual assessments, starting with the FOCUS Standards.

Visit the platform [here](#)

Final Conference



The final project conference took place in March online with more than 180 participants. It is noteworthy that the CAB members from Greece participated actively in the conference and discussed about the individual needs assessment and how we can achieve a child-friendly justice. Theoni Koufonikolakou, Deputy Ombudswoman for Children's Rights and the Chair of the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC), enthusiastically supported the FOCUS standards in her closing remarks:

*"We must move our focus from the punitive approach to a child-centered one, and to collectively understand that **there are no dangerous children, only children in danger**. Listening to their voices will allow us to build a bridge of communication based on honesty and respect.*

Theoni Koufonikolakou, Deputy Ombudswoman for Children's Rights

For a child-friendly justice system

In 2022, a survey was conducted to assess the child-friendliness of the Greek justice system, in collaboration with UNICEF, the Ministry of Justice and Coram International.

The aim of the report was to analyze the strengths and gaps in the existing justice sector compared to international and European standards and to make recommendations for reforms to ensure that children in Greece are better served and protected by the judiciary system and have access to fair, transparent, and child-sensitive mechanisms through which they can enforce and protect their rights. In particular, the recommendations cover elements concerning the full implementation of international and European standards for all children who come into contact with the Greek justice system as victims, witnesses, and alleged offenders or where administrative or judicial intervention is required regarding their care, custody, or protection.

Terre des hommes Hellas carried out the literature review and edited the final report and the 2 summary reports, based on comments also received by UNICEF, the Reference Group, the Ministry of Justice and the Deputy Ombudswoman for the Rights of the Child.

You can read the report [here](#).



Networks & Partnerships

In March 2022, introductory meetings with the Centre for European Constitutional Law and the DAISy (Dynamic, Ambient, Intelligent, Sociotechnical Systems) group of the Hellenic Open University took place.

In April 2022, the Access to Justice Coordinator was invited to participate in a Medical Law Working Group, aiming to create SOPs for girls with mental health issues in conflict with the law.

On the 21st of June 2022, the A2J Coordinator participated as a speaker in Greek Council for Refugee's event in the context of project CADRE - Children's Alternatives to Detention protecting their Rights in Europe.

In December 2022, Tdh Hellas was invited from DCI Hellas to participate in an event titled "Breakfast with a cause" to discuss regarding the upcoming visit of a member of the CRC Committee in Greece and agree on further steps to advocate for children's rights.

Advocacy

In the context of the holistic philosophy that permeates our programmes, Terre des hommes Hellas collaborates with third parties (the State and Civil Society) in order to adapt the legislative framework to ensure respect for the rights of children and young people. Thus, Tdh Hellas is a founding and active member of the Advocacy Working Group and Child Rights Advocacy Network. It offers technical support for rights advocacy and communication advice and often coordinates relevant initiatives.

Indicatively, Tdh Hellas, along with 2 other organizations (Hellenic Council for Refugees, Save the Children International), compiled a [report](#) assessing the situation regarding refugee children's access to formal education. For this report, they reviewed official statistics and data to measure the government's performance in comparison to the previous school year. They also held 13 focused group discussions with a total of 53 children from 12 different countries, in refugee structures. Discussions were also held with parents, humanitarian professionals, and agencies such as UNICEF and the Ombudsman.



Η προστασία των παιδιών από την κακοποίηση δεν θέλει μαγικά, θέλει δράση

14 Οκτ 2022

As an organization with many years of international experience in child protection issues, Tdh Hellas responded immediately to the continuous revelations of child abuse incidents, with a statement that underlined the immediate need to cover systemic deficits in child protection. The Statement can be found (in Greek) [here](#).

Furthermore, in 2022, Tdh Hellas participated in the following initiatives:

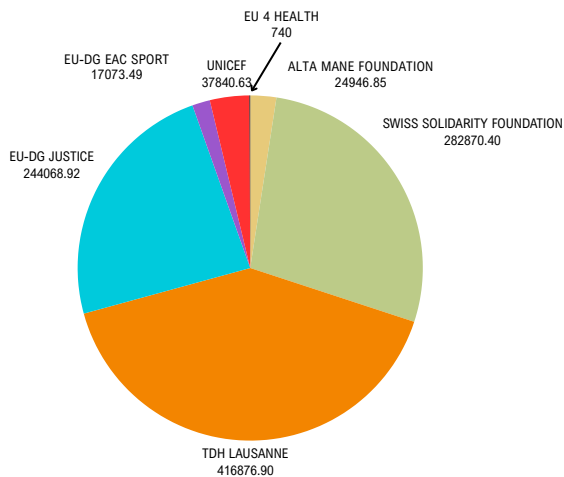
- Consultation: Tdh Hellas submitted comments on the draft law on Guardianship, on the Standard Rules for the Operation and Licensing of Long-Term Care arrangements for Unaccompanied Minors, as well as on the operating framework of the Supported Independent Living apartments (SIL).
- In March 2022 Tdh Hellas participated in 1) a joint campaign of organizations on the 6th anniversary of the EU-Turkey Joint Declaration, 2) an open letter to the EU Commissioner, Ylva Johansson on access to the asylum procedure and 3) a letter entitled Closing of Eleonas: not to deprive children of school and refugees of shelter.
- In May 2022, Tdh Hellas participated in a joint announcement regarding the strengthening of deinstitutionalization and the holistic reform of child protection for the benefit of children.
- In July 2022, Tdh Hellas co-organized the event "Children without documents, children at risk. Until when?" in the framework of the Child Rights Advocacy Network.
- In August 2022, Tdh Hellas supported a joint letter of 37 organizations about LGBTI+ refugees.
- In October 2022, Tdh Hellas supported a joint Civil Society letter regarding the designation of Turkey as a "safe third country".



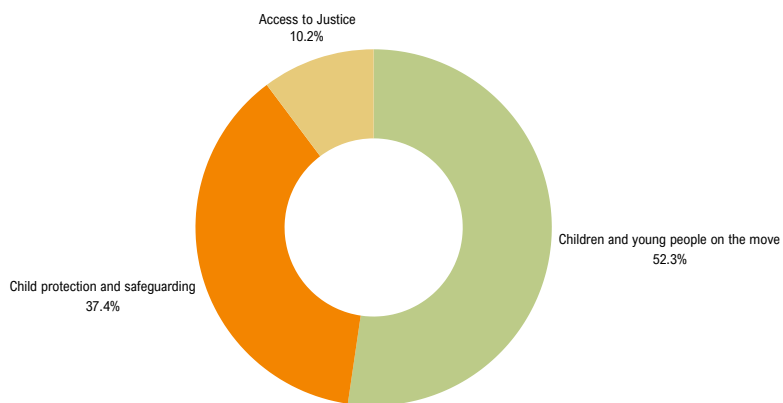
©TdH/Anastasia Voyk

Funding

2022 resource allocation per donor, in €



2022 resource allocation by thematic priority



We thank our donors for their trust and support in 2022





**Every child has a right to a
childhood
It's that simple**

Terre des hommes Hellas
28 Meteoron, 11631, Athens
T 210 7510007
E-mail: grc.office@tdh.org

 www.tdh.gr & www.childhub.org
 www.facebook.com/tdh.greece
 www.twitter.com/tdh.greece
 www.linkedin.com/terre-des-hommes-hellas



Terre des hommes

Αρωγοί των παιδιών παγκοσμίως.