



# Annual Report 2023

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## Lesvos Solidarity



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# 1. Introduction

Once again, 2023 was not an easy year. Despite the challenges we faced throughout the year, we feel relieved to have continued our work and achieved many of our goals.

In 2023, there were 48,721 arrivals of refugees and migrants in Greece. The majority of these arrivals occurred via sea, while 7,160 arrivals were recorded at the land borders with Turkey. Although most people seeking refuge via the maritime route came from war-torn countries such as Syria, Afghanistan, Palestine, Somalia, and Eritrea, Greece, with the assistance of European Union institutions, intensified its dangerous deterrence policies, disregarding human life and dignity and undermining the right to asylum and the rule of law.

Despite Greece being once again condemned by the European Court of Human Rights for violations of the right to life and the explicit prohibition of torture, it continued to implement its non-rescue policy and pushback practices, endangering the lives of thousands. Specifically, in 2023, according to the estimated figures of the UN Refugee Agency, the number of dead refugees and migrants reached 710, almost reaching the number of deaths recorded by the same agency in 2015, a year when arrivals reached 900,000. In 2023, we also witnessed perhaps the largest shipwreck in the Mediterranean, off the coast of Pylos, with an estimated 750 passengers on board and only 104 survivors. The case is being

investigated by the Piraeus maritime court, as a lawsuit has been filed by forty survivors against any responsible party, alleging that Greek authorities failed to intervene promptly and organize a timely rescue operation for the passengers.

In the Human Rights Officer's report for 2023, most of the Office's references to serious human rights violations in the countries where the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) operates were related to Greece. The majority of the reports concerned cases of informal forced returns and pushbacks. Although Frontex's involvement was not proven, the situation in Greece led the Human Rights Officer to request the suspension of Frontex's services in the country. Additionally, according to data from Forensic Architecture and Forensis, recorded pushbacks in Greece from February 28, 2022, to February 28, 2023, doubled compared to the previous year, reaching 1,002 cases with 27,981 men, women, and children affected, six of whom were thrown directly into the sea by coast guards without life jackets or rescue plans.

Deterrence policies include the extension of the Evros fence by 35 kilometers, which is nearly complete, restrictions on access to asylum through ministerial decisions designating Turkey as a safe third country and the list of safe countries of origin, combined with the implementation of fast-track procedures that prohibit the full and fair examination of requests,

administrative detention of applicants without any prospect of return, confinement of people in camps-prisons, and the complete absence of integration policies.

Although Turkey does not accept the readmission of applicants and despite serious concerns about the state of law in Turkey as documented by the European Commission, Greece continues to massively reject asylum applications from individuals originating from the three main nationalities of arrivals by sea with a refugee profile, such as Syria, Afghanistan, and Somalia, as well as Pakistan and Bangladesh. In February 2023, following a cancellation application, the Plenary of the Council of State sent preliminary questions to the Court of Justice of the European Union regarding its influence on the legality of the implementation of the joint ministerial decision, given that Turkey has not accepted readmissions from Greece for over 20 months. The fast-track procedures continue to be applied, posing serious obstacles to the examination of applicants' vulnerability, necessary legal assistance, and overall fair examination of their requests. The cessation of funding for translators, combined with the suspension of asylum application examinations for many months in 2023, exacerbated the problems. In 2023, the Greek government continued its policy of discontinuing food provision to thousands of refugees and rejected asylum seekers trapped in reception and hosting centers, causing a food crisis among these populations.

After the implementation of the decision to close all alternative asylum accommodation structures and the establishment of closed controlled facilities on the islands, vulnerable asylum seekers such as children, lone women, people who have suffered violence or torture, and those with serious illnesses remain in camps unable to ensure even the basic reception conditions. Among the positive developments is the cessation of the use of the controlled structure in Western Lesvos following the identification by civil society actors, including Lesvos Solidarity, of serious deficiencies in reception conditions, as well as the application of the detention of applicants.

In Lesvos, which received the main influx of sea arrivals in 2023, the expected increase in arrivals during the summer months led to overcrowding within the Reception and Identification Center (RIC) of Lesvos, with hundreds of men, women, and children remaining within the facility in conditions of homelessness or overcrowding. Vulnerable applicants were gradually transferred to state facilities inland, primarily to other camps that were unable to provide them with conditions commensurate with their increased needs. Once again, during the summer months, interruptions in water supply were observed, while the winter found applicants without heating. Throughout 2023, multiple epidemics of scabies occurred in the RIC of Lesvos due to poor hygiene conditions and systematic shortages in medical care. Civil society organizations providing psychosocial support services repeatedly sounded the alarm throughout 2023, as they were unable to serve all the people who turned to them for assistance.

In the Reception and Identification Center (RIC) of Lesvos, as well as in other government structures, apart from asylum seekers and rejected asylum seekers, holders of international protection are also forced to reside. Due to the absence of integration policies, they are compelled to stay in these facilities, awaiting the issuance of travel documents to leave the country. Overall, out of the 169,407 recognized refugees in the country until December 2023, only 69,494 refugees are estimated by the UN Refugee Agency to be residing in Greece. In 2023, the only integration program across the country, managed by the International Organization for Migration, suspended all services due to funding cuts, leaving thousands of recognized refugees without any assistance in finding employment, housing, or connecting with organizations that provide Greek language learning services, among others.

In addition to the crisis conditions caused by ongoing deterrence policies, many of the organizations that were active on the island in previous years have left or discontinued their programs, leaving significant gaps in covering critical needs and in actively advocating for the rights of refugees and migrants. The hostile environment towards civil society organizations, the lack of funding, and the enormous insecurity and instability in reception and asylum policies further burdened our efforts to care for the people who sought our help.

Lesvos Solidarity, with absolute respect for human rights, continued its journey with several ups and downs, but always with the fundamental principles of practical solidarity and the promotion of an inclusive society without exclusions as its guiding light.

In addition to the people who entrusted us unconditionally, many European organizations stood by us and supported our actions tangibly. Without them, nothing would have become a reality. New collaborators with experience and confidence in the organization's vision joined our team with the aim of improving our services.

With the same courage, strength, and confidence that our people embody, we want to move forward into the new year. Open to new challenges and goals, we will take Lesvos Solidarity one step further. Because we believe in our people and the values we have supported for so many years.

## 2. Advocacy

In 2023, Lesvos Solidarity launched a comprehensive advocacy strategy aimed at exposing and mitigating the most detrimental aspects of migration deterrence policies as they unfold on Lesvos. Throughout the year, we focused on documenting and, by amplifying the voices of those we serve, demonstrated the clear impact of a reception-detention system on their dignity, safety, and well-being. To this end, we forged alliances with other organizations, thus enhancing our ability to create a positive impact for mobile populations. As part of these efforts, along with 25 other civil society organizations, we co-signed a public statement addressing the inhumane and degrading conditions in reception centers on the islands. We also issued numerous public announcements, together with 41 organizations, urging Greek and European authorities to ensure the provision of food and water and to protect the human dignity of all residents within the CCAC on Lesvos.

We supported the struggle of Refugee Education Coordinators for the integration of refugees into public education. Additionally, we participated in initiatives promoting solidarity and social economy projects on the island. Throughout the year, we held a series of bilateral and multilateral meetings and briefings with stakeholders at local, national, and regional levels. A comprehensive analysis of Greece's Voluntary National Report 2022 on sustainable development was conducted, opening up new avenues for future advocacy initiatives.

We strengthened our capacity to document incidents of racist violence through a series of educational seminars held on Lesvos by the Racist Violence Recording Network, and participated in the Walk Against Discrimination organized by the Greek Forum of Migrants. Following the deadly shipwreck off the coast of Pylos, an open discussion-intervention was organized on the deterrence policies in Mytilene. In this context, Lesvos Solidarity co-signed, along with 21 other organizations, a joint statement emphasizing the absence of independent and effective mechanisms for investigating violations of refugees' and migrants' human rights, as well as the lack of guarantees from the Greek state for conducting impartial investigations.

Lesvos Solidarity also participated in protest events related to the attempt to cover up the responsibilities of the competent authorities for the humanitarian tragedy at Tempi. Finally, Lesvos Solidarity took part in other parallel events, such as the consultation on the criminalization of humanitarian assistance organized by the National Commission for Human Rights.



### 3. Housing and Psychosocial Support

Responding to the void left by the policy of closing all alternative, open structures of decent living and the need for secure housing, especially for our extremely vulnerable fellow human beings, Lesvos Solidarity provided two fully furnished and equipped apartments in the city center.



During 2023, 32 of our vulnerable fellow human beings found dignified shelter in Lesvos Solidarity's housing program. Among them, 10 lone women were accommodated, along with 19 single-parent and nuclear families with young children.

In total, we received 55 housing referrals, corresponding to a total of 110 individuals. Among these, 32 were lone women, 8 were women with at least 1 child, and there were 15 families. The total number of minors was 39.

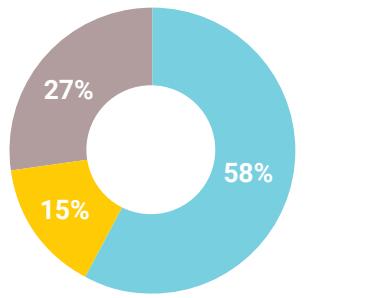
In addition to providing dignified and autonomous housing to our guests, monthly food vouchers were issued to maintain their food autonomy, totaling 1800 vouchers. Furthermore, responding to the lack of resources and provisions for the transportation of applicants, Lesvos Solidarity provided bus tickets so that beneficiaries could visit the hospital, the state structure, and other agencies on the island. The total number of tickets provided to our beneficiaries amounted to 9084. This number includes tickets provided to individuals residing in the CCAC of Lesvos, to whom Lesvos Solidarity provided psychosocial support and who participated in the educational program.

With the needs of applicants for psychosocial support remaining high, Lesvos Solidarity contributed to partially filling this significant gap by providing an experienced interdisciplinary team consisting of a social worker, psychologist, and interpreter. The efforts of the psychosocial team were continuously supported by volunteers who worked at the Mytilene hospital. Our team served 55 individuals from the CCAC, while during this period, 231 psychosocial sessions were conducted.

Lesvos Solidarity's goal for the new year is to expand the existing semi-autonomous living program by incorporating another shelter into its capacity, with a total capacity of 24 individuals.

## Referrals

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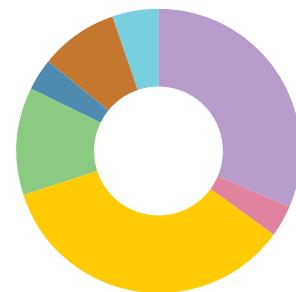


- Women
- Women with at least one child
- Families

The main reasons for referrals to our organization were:

## Reasons for referrals

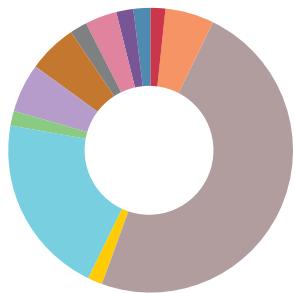
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- Medical 32%
- Pregnancy 4%
- Safety 35%
- Minor children 12%
- Violence 4%
- Psychological 9%
- Shipwreck survivors 5%

## Referrals

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Haiti 2%	Sierra Leone 6%
Eritrea 6%	Congo 6%
Afghanistan 52%	Kameroon 2%
Mali 2%	Guinea 4%
Somalia 22%	Pakistan 2%
Yemen 2%	Iraq 2%

## A) Renovation of an old mansion



Recognizing the need to provide special housing conditions for vulnerable asylum seekers in Lesvos, Lesvos Solidarity seeks to expand the temporary housing program for vulnerable asylum seekers by renovating an old mansion. By the end of 2023, the renovation will continue for another month to complete minor details. Our team consisted of a project manager and 4 workers, all of whom were refugees. This way, the organization provided professional training, education, and experience to the refugee population. At the same time, our suppliers were sourced from the local community. By early 2024, the building will be furnished and equipped to accommodate 24 vulnerable individuals.

## B) Medical Coverage

The medical team of the organization served 58 individuals from the CCAC and from the Lesvos Solidarity housing program, providing medical examinations, while offering medical counseling to over 70 individuals. Of the 58 individuals, 23 were men, 22 were women, and 13 were minors.

## C) Connection with the Job Market

Remaining committed to our goals for the active inclusion of refugees and migrants, we continued our educational initiatives, including Greek language learning, basic computer skills, and other foreign languages useful for connecting this population with the job market. In this context, our team conducted group workshops for vocational training. A total of 51 individuals participated, either accommodated in the apartments of Lesvos Solidarity or residing in the CCAC. Of the 51 participants, 42 were men and 9 were women. The majority of our students were from Afghanistan, Syria, and Somalia. Two Greek nationals also participated in the workshops. The ages of the participants ranged from 18 to 36 years old.

Our collaboration with the local community significantly contributed to the integration of 5 participants into the job market. Lesvos Solidarity hired 2 refugees to assist in its operations. Overall, 14 refugees worked for our organization throughout the year. We conducted 12 monthly



seminars on topics such as health, safe living, navigating the city safely, and familiarization with local public services.

## D) Food Distribution

At Lesvos Solidarity, we believe that the ability for people to cook their own meals at will is among the critical self-reliance factors for maintaining their autonomy and human dignity. Additionally, we continue to stand by recognized refugees or asylum seekers whose applications have been rejected at the second level and who lack food due to the interruption of material reception conditions. At the same time, the organization stands by the local community by providing food boxes to the most vulnerable residents of the island. Unfortunately, given the absence of state care, Lesvos Solidarity is unable to cover all of our fellow humans who are affected by the implemented deprivation policies, and we assist in relieving some of the most vulnerable among them. The interdisciplinary team of the organization collects referrals received from other organizations we collaborate with, from local community services, and from individuals who come to our offices on their own. The distributed food is packaged by the organization's team, meeting international packaging standards. Distribution takes place outside the Lesvos Reception and Identification Center (RIC) and at a specific location in the city center on a weekly basis.



The food box distributed is designed taking into account the dietary habits of the populations residing in the Reception and Identification Center (RIC). The box includes: 1 kg potatoes, 1 kg onions, 1 kg tomatoes, 2 seasonal vegetables: 200g each, 1 kg fruits (apples or oranges and one seasonal fruit), 250g rice, 250g cheese, 400g tomato paste, 2 kg flour, 500g salt, 1 kg sugar, 6 eggs, and tea bags, according to the family size. Recently, we added bottled water, as the provision of drinking water in the RIC per person remains inadequate.

The organization's food distribution program served one hundred thirty-two individuals in 2023. Of these, 36 were men, 34 were women, and 62 were children. In total, 5200 food boxes were distributed. Additional boxes were given during holidays or surplus days, meaning that many families received more than one box at times.

## 4. Mosaik Support Center

The Mosaik Support Center continued successfully for another year to meet the needs of individuals interested in informal education. Throughout the year, our center remained open to welcome both local and refugee populations.

The classes held throughout the year included Greek, English, German, Arabic, and computer lessons. These classes were provided free of charge, as one of the organization's main goals is to offer education without restrictions. Our classes were also available online upon arrangement with the responsible instructor and were open to anyone wishing to participate regardless of their educational level. The instructor assigned students to the appropriate level based on their proficiency. Our students mainly come from the local community, the refugee population, and include individuals working or volunteering for other organizations on the island. In addition to educational lessons at Mosaik, our students can participate in recycling workshops held within the same building by the organization. They can also receive psychosocial support from our interdisciplinary team, as well as medical assistance if desired. Furthermore, they can join the food program or housing program of the organization, provided they meet the criteria.



### A) Education

In 2023, we had 820 student registrations in our educational department. We had 2988 student attendances in English classes, 718 in Arabic, 276 in computer classes, 924 in Greek, and 997 in German.

### Students at the lessons



## B) Educational Programs and Seminars

Lesvos Solidarity implements and promotes a model of social economy aimed at the inclusion and harmonious coexistence of locals, refugees, and migrants, collaborating closely with all relevant authorities in Lesvos. In this context, Lesvos Solidarity carries out two programs co-financed by the European Union: the Erasmus+ KA2 project "Virtual Lifelong Learning Centers E2.0C: An opportunity to promote inclusion through educational action and social participation - 2022-1-ES01-KA220-ADU-000089775" and the Erasmus+ 2022, Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices, Strategic Partnerships for youth, Development of Innovation "2022-2-ES02-KA220-YOU-000092515," which are implemented by the educational staff. In these specific programs, we interact with organizations from the rest of Europe, expressing the difficulties we face daily and gaining ideas to improve our services.



Since the needs of the refugee population are constantly changing, our team participated in 16 seminars to better address and inform about the cases. 24 members of our staff participated. In addition to attending seminars, our team also organizes internal educational workshops aimed at informing refugees about recycling and providing vocational training. Seven workshops were held during the year, mainly attended by employees from Safe Passage.

## 5. Safe Passage Workshop

One challenge we faced in 2023 was the shortage of first recyclable materials necessary for creating our products, due to systematic pushbacks at the maritime borders of the northern Aegean and arrivals in remote areas. We established a network with civil society organizations and individuals who inform us about the locations where these waste materials are abandoned. Our organization had to collect these materials many times in remote and isolated areas that are difficult to reach by car.



We collaborated with the Chamber of Commerce of Lesvos, the University of the Aegean (Department of Environment), local and national Social Economy initiatives, exploring the possibilities of expanding our activities in waste, clothing, and fabric recycling on a larger scale, as well as waste from the sea and beaches.

We collaborated with Platannenblatt, which promotes olive oil from Lesvos to Germany, and our team designed 2 new bag designs for transporting the olive oil.

During a major advocacy trip to Brussels, Luxembourg, Berlin, and Duisburg in May 2023, regarding violence at the borders and the reception conditions of third-country nationals entering Greece without proper documentation, we promoted our products and received numerous requests and orders for German festivals.

In June, we participated in the largest Ecumenical Church Youth Festival in Nuremberg, Germany, which hosts more than 20,000 young participants. For these events, we created 1,000 new keychain cases featuring our logo.

We also presented our products along with our solidarity work in various cities across the USA, creating new sales opportunities for Safe Passage products.

We presented our products at the Petrified Forest Museum in Sigri and established a new collaboration.

Our products participated in the Designing Peace exhibition in New York from October 2023.



We participated in an event on social economy organized by local authorities of the island, where we spoke about our initiatives, the expansion, and the consolidation of the economic sustainability of Safe Passage's production workshops.

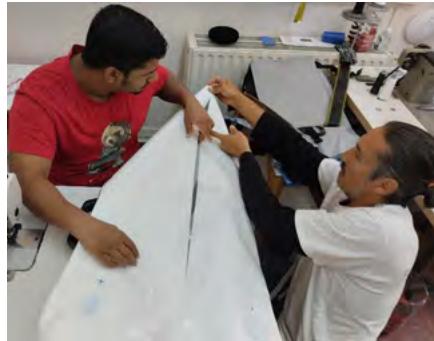


During the summer of 2023, Lesvos Solidarity contributed to the organization and participated in the three-day events of the 1st Mental Health Promotion Festival "Telestirio Eleleu" of Vostaneio Hospital under the auspices of the 2nd Regional Health Authority.

Simultaneously, we managed to assist unskilled, vulnerable refugees without employment prospects. The series of workshops offered provided many refugees with skills that can aid in their professional development by connecting their vocational training with the learning of optimal environmental practices. Participation in the sewing workshops reached 20 refugees. Lesol organized 5 workshops. Each workshop involved 4–6 individuals who received 20 hours of instruction combined with hands-on practice on sewing machines. Through the program, we created a welcoming space that fostered the exchange of knowledge and skills. Most importantly, education created a therapeutic safe space through learning, creativity, and social interaction. We organized more than 40 awareness-raising events. All discussions, open events from the events, and workshops encouraged active participation. Participants received information and creative tools for better communication and implementation of waste reduction ideas.



Finally, we achieved our goal of providing sustainable solutions to environmental issues mainly related to the consumption and disposal of textile products. The organization managed to create a sustainable example of reducing the use of plastic bags. The reduction of plastic bags also reduced the cost of food distribution for Lesol, allowing us to provide more food. The introduction of reusable fabric bags and the reduction of plastic consumption serve as a positive example for the refugee community. Many refugees and humanitarian workers, through this environmentally friendly practice, reconsidered their habits of using plastic bags and shared these practices within their community. Some of the refugees who participated in the workshops were introduced for the first time to ideas for waste reduction.



The connection of Safe Passage with the struggle for environmentally sustainable solutions, inclusion, access to employment, protection of human rights, and anti-racist work gives us the opportunity to work in a more holistic and effective way, creating new possibilities and opportunities for our work.

Lesvos Solidarity created 9 job positions for 2023 in the workshop. Also, we were assisted by a volunteer for a short period of time.



The Safe Passage Workshop maintains an online store:  
<https://lesvossolidarityshop.org/>

## Production

2023	TOTAL CUTTING	TOTAL SEWING
Wallet	1560	1496
Small pencil case	401	381
Pencil case	500	407
Notebook medium	90	86
Vanity bag	310	297
Necessaire	401	346
Mini shoulder bag	356	344
Hip bag	795	778
Backpack dinghy	115	112
Postie	85	80
Backpack wanderer	74	60
Bowl small	0	436
Bowl big	0	54
Coasters (pack)	0	84
Keyholders	0	623
Special keychain	2000	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5283</b>	<b>5584</b>

## Sales

2023	TOTAL
Wallet	1396
Small pencil case	615
Pencil case	457
Notebook medium	100
Vanity bag	356
Necessaire	425
Mini shoulder bag	309
Hip bag	716
Backpack dinghy	120
Postie	106
Backpack wanderer	72
Bowl small	382
Bowl big	69
Coasters (pack)	72
Keyholders	450
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5645</b>

## Materials used

in kg	TOTAL
Lifejacket	9.5
Dinghy	9750.4
Tent	90.56
Used clothes	15.2

## 6. Screen Printing

The screen printing workshop was upgraded with the provision of a new 4-color silk printing equipment. We trained more staff in the technique of screen printing to print our labels and to make bags for their shopping. In February, two members of Lesvos Solidarity traveled to Athens to attend the three-day screen printing seminar at the "Luples" workshop. There, we learned the principles of screen printing at a theoretical level, made our own films, observed the preparation technique of the plate, how to present our design to the photographer, printed our own designs, and learned how to clean our plates with a special substance.



Returning to Lesvos, we documented our technical needs. For the complete screen printing process, we require a dark room in the basement for the screens, empty screens for emulsion coating, special emulsion for creating the screens, gels and liquid retarders for our inks, emulsion remover for reclaiming screens, transportation bags, and white t-shirts for display purposes.

Six free screen printing seminars were offered at the Silk Print workshop of Lesvos Solidarity. One of these was for a class of 5th-grade students who responded to the invitation extended by Lesvos Solidarity to four schools in Mytilene. Together with the children, who recognized all the plants, we loaded the film into the photo box and placed it in the dark-room. Their interest remained constant throughout the presentation. In the first part, the children asked questions about Andy Warhol and the May '68 events as we discussed the history of screen printing, following a relevant PowerPoint presentation. As we progressed to more technical topics such as mesh count, their teacher asked them questions about mathematics and physics, simultaneously providing various examples. However, it was time for printing, and the children chose and prepared the colors we would use.



For the remaining 5 seminars, we use the slogan “People Carrying Their Home,” a design based on a collaborative program that started within the PIKPA framework as part of the campaign to save the structure. This program includes other artistic expressions such as knitting with recycled fabric scraps and mosaic murals throughout the island.

Meanwhile, the Silk Screen Workshop, which is gradually being set up and equipped, attracts the interest of Mo-saik’s visitors (students from universities across Europe doing their internships, journalists, activists, and volunteers) who learn about the art of silk screening and its secrets. In the same context, the 3rd Silk Screen Workshop of the Lesvos Solidarity workshop with adults took place, involving refugees, locals, volunteers, and tourists. There is already lively interest in the workshop, from local island artists who volunteered to donate their paintings.



## 7. Humade Crafts Workshop

The Humade Workshop offers classes in the backyard of Mosaik, 5 hours per day, 3 days a week (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday). Schools visited the workshop to see our work and create with us. In addition to thematic workshops (Christmas crafts, carnival masks, toys, candles, mosaics, etc.), people always come to Humade to learn whatever they want according to their needs. Every Friday and Monday, we conducted online workshops during COVID and visited schools and villages on weekends for community programs. We conducted recycling workshops with refugees, vulnerable groups, the local population, and also at the KETHEA therapeutic center, we conducted a series of upcycling workshops for the rehabilitation group. Additionally, we conducted recycling workshops in kindergartens, high schools, universities, libraries, public squares, solidarity and environmental cooperatives, families, individuals with special needs, educators, and volunteers.



These workshops are scheduled on a weekly basis and are held every month. Participants are encouraged to attend at least once a week for a two-hour session, and they acquire new skills after four months of participation. Participants come from diverse backgrounds, including children, unmarried women, people with disabilities, and the LGBTQ+ community, among others.

The Humade Crafts workshop, after meeting with the president of the Natural History Museum in Sigri, prepared a series of magnets representing animals that lived in Lesvos, including a type of alligator and a mixture of elephant and dinosaurs. The magnets are made from unused materials that Safe Passage does not use. Additionally, we held an upcycling workshop at the Museum on August 23 with 30 children, where we made paper constructions from shoe boxes. Furthermore, we organized a two-day workshop at the Archaeological Museum of Mytilene as part of the celebration of the International Museum Day, with over 54 participants. The children created mosaics similar to those exhibited in the museum, depicting images from the plant and animal kingdoms.

Within Mosaik, 78 workshops were conducted with 464 participants, including 42 refugees. In the workshops held at schools, 596 students participated, and we made 18 visits. We visited 29 villages in Lesvos, where 440 residents actively participated in our workshops.



We collaborated with the SOS Children's Villages, where 35 children participated. Additionally, we partnered with "Kypseli" (an organization supporting children and adults with special educational needs and disabilities), where 2 workshops were held with 40 participants. The workshop also organized online seminars on making masks or Easter crafts from unused materials.

We participated in Refugee Week with various activities, including a mosaic workshop. We used tiles from pieces of a refugee boat collected by Safe Passage to create a large mosaic of an African symbol representing

faith and hope. The mosaic will be donated to the Mytilene General Hospital, Vostaneio, to decorate the empty halls of the pathology clinic. We also donated a handmade painting to the hospital. The colorful therapeutic symbol, created with the help of both refugees and the local population, was made from discarded materials and mainly markers, representing birth, youth, adulthood, and death.

Furthermore, we took part in the 1st Mental Health Festival with various activities. We made bracelets for festival participants, made from boat remnants and shaped like snakes, symbolizing healing. On the first day, we all became children and painted on the walls of the psychiatric clinic. On the second day, we made colorful flags from petals, some of which decorated the music night at Charamida, while the rest remained in the hospital area.



In the fall, we participated for the first time in the Lesvos Euphoria International Festival. At the Tumba Farm, both young and old came to create an artwork with therapeutic properties made only from natural materials.

Our workshop traveled to Spain where it participated in various festivals and conducted workshops with over 153 participants. Additionally, we participated in a project in Valencia alongside five other organizations, with a total of 17 participants focusing on art. Moreover, our workshop journeyed to Basel, Switzerland, to convey the message of Lesvos Solidarity. The “People carrying their home” project, a participatory moving installation with strong symbolism addressing refugee issues and the violent uprooting of people from their homeland, was presented there as part of the workshops at the Vernissage exhibition.



## 8. Donations

Responding to the call of the Lesvos Labor Center, we delivered 100 blankets to their offices to address the needs arising from the devastating earthquake between Turkey and Syria.

From the first moment of the major disaster in the Thessalian plain, Lesvos Solidarity sent 500 blankets, 15 boxes of masks (6000), and 150 antiseptics. Additionally, vouchers worth 1000 euros from a well-known supermarket chain were provided to the affected individuals.

Two hundred blankets were donated to the Mytilene Hospital, Vostaneio. Responding to the needs of the local community, Lesvos Solidarity donated a brand new refrigerator to the pediatric clinic of Mytilene Hospital.



## 9. Local community



Lesvos Solidarity actively supports the local community. Eleven families received a food package, which included supplies for a total of twenty individuals.

The interdisciplinary team of the organization visited 29 villages to assess the needs of the elderly. In total, 800 medical consultations were provided, 5 individuals were urgently trans-

ferred to Athens, 17 specialized examinations were conducted at private clinics, and 207 medication prescriptions were covered for people who couldn't afford them on their own. Additionally, 400 individuals received social support, 71 hygiene kits were distributed to vulnerable families, assistance was provided to 650 individuals with medical and financial issues, and 406 individuals benefited from food packages.

We also collaborated with the Social Care Center of Lesvos, providing lessons to 4 vulnerable students on the island. Additionally, we conducted workshops at the Kypseli organization and at the SOS Children's Villages.



## 10. NAN

NAN started as a social initiative, a social restaurant whose priority, beyond delicious food, was the integration into the job market of vulnerable groups and refugees. In just five years (2018–2023), it managed to become a reference point for locals, visitors, refugees, and vulnerable populations alike.

In 2023, the Conscious Nutrition Workshop and Plato's Café supported NAN's longstanding effort with a two-day vegan festival. They organized thematic culinary events and trained our staff aiming to enhance their skills according to the needs and demands of the time. Discussions were held on the ecological footprint of our diet and how this goal can be achieved.



NAN was forced to close its doors due to the economic crisis and the decisions that had to be made for necessary procedures to find the necessary financial resources



to fund the changes. The financial issue has been resolved, and Lesvos Solidarity is ready to reopen it.

Our aim is to ensure the continuity of it and to offer the best we can to those in need, as well as to the wider community. Our goals are:

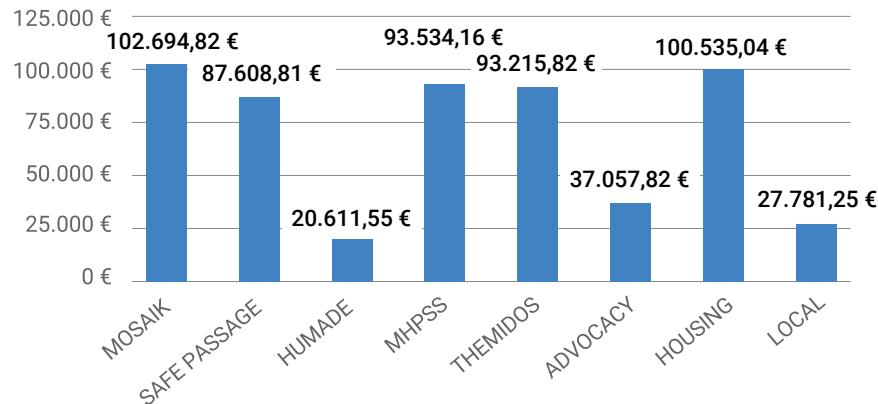
- » Meeting the needs of vulnerable populations. Having firsthand knowledge of the situation prevailing in the overcrowded detention center in Mavrovouni in recent months, as well as before – we decided to enhance the food distribution program by creating personalized nutritional plans for vulnerable populations: families, pregnant women, the elderly, and patients with non-communicable diseases. In collaboration with medical services within the detention center, as well as organizations operating on the island and dealing with vulnerable cases, we will identify priority individuals and ensure they receive a healthy and balanced set of meals daily. Meals will be prepared at NAN, following the dietary needs of the individuals.
- » Vocational training: As before, vocational training for refugees and other vulnerable individuals who wish to become culinary professionals remains a key objective of our organization.

# 11. Financial data

The following charts provide an estimate\* of our total revenue and expenses for 2023.

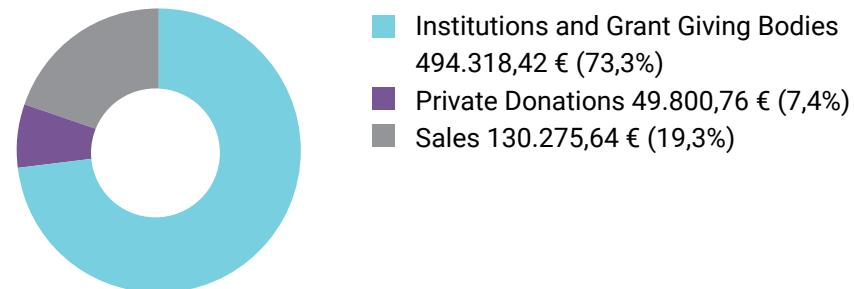
We received over 740 donations from 143 different donors, which enabled our projects and contributed to employing 37 individuals, including 14 refugees and 23 Greeks. Overall, salaries (both in the field and in administration) accounted for over 46% of our expenses.

## Expenses by project

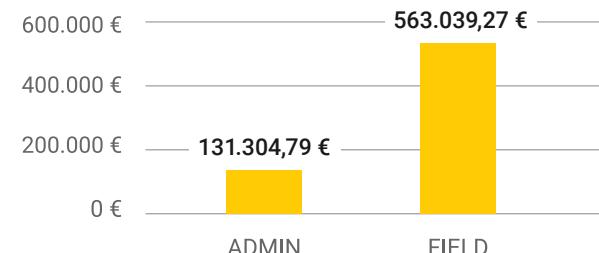


\* All figures are estimates and do not constitute an official financial statement.

## Income



## Share of expenses field/admin



# Imprint

## Lesvos Solidarity

*Current Address:*

Sapfous 9, Mytilene

*Future Address:*

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Mytilene  
81100, Lesvos, Greece  
(+30) 22510 62000

[info@lesvossolidarity.org](mailto:info@lesvossolidarity.org)

[www.lesvossolidarity.org/en](http://www.lesvossolidarity.org/en)

*Social media:*

[www.facebook.com/PikpaLesvos/?locale=el\\_GR](https://www.facebook.com/PikpaLesvos/?locale=el_GR)

<https://lesvossolidarityshop.org/collections/safepassagebags>

[www.facebook.com/LesvosSolidarityMosaik/](https://www.facebook.com/LesvosSolidarityMosaik/)