

ANNUAL REPORT JAN– DEC 2021

Table of Contents

I. Greece context.....	3
II. Greece context and priorities.....	6
III. JRS Greece projects – Impact 2021.....	11
• Education	11
• Livelihood	25
• Reconciliation	27
• Advocacy.....	29
IV. Staff and Volunteers	31
V. Partnerships and Funders	33

I. Greek Context

Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS Greece) placed in Athens, aims to accompany, serve, and advocate for the barriers forcibly displaced people must constantly face, from access to the territory, to a fair asylum process and dignified reception and integration in Greece and Europe. Greece, officially the Hellenic Republic, is a country located in **Southeast Europe**. Situated on the southern tip of the Balkans, Greece is located at the crossroads of Europe, Asia, and Africa, which makes the country a “hot-spot” for migration movements at European border.

This year, both the number of people arriving in Greece and the number of asylum seekers living on the Greek islands have fallen sharply. Fewer than 4,000 people have reached Greece by sea so far¹, compared to 60,000 in the same period in 2019, the Aegean islands have gone from hosting 27,576 people in August 2020 to 5,264 in August 2021². According to UNHCR latest data³, from January until December 2021, Greece has received 8,803 people, mostly from Afghanistan 26 %, followed by Somalia 15,9 % and Republic Democratic of the Congo 9 %. The rest of the nationalities arriving in Greece are from the State of Palestine 8.6%, Iraq 7.6%, Syria 6,4 %, Pakistan 6.2 %, Cameroon 2,4%, and other countries such as Iran, Algeria or Stateless. From those 19.3 % are women, 51,6% men and 29% children⁴. Due to the governmental plan of decongestion of the Greek islands in 2020, transfers from the islands to mainland are more than increased and after one year of the devastating fire in Moria refugee camp in Lesbos, few things have changed⁵. The conditions for thousands forced displaced people living in Greece have not been improved, in fact Greek government is implementing a strict migration policy⁶ that has an enormous impact on the migrant community.

Some events this year, have placed the attention of the entire international community

¹ <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/mediterranean/location/5179>

² <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Joint%20NGO%20Briefing%20on%20the%20situation%20in%20Greece%2027.10.2021.pdf>

³ <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/mediterranean/location/5179>

⁴ <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/mediterranean/location/5179>

⁵ <https://reliefweb.int/report/greece/one-year-after-moria-fire-few-lessons-learned-greece-expands-barriers-refugees>

⁶ <https://ecre.org/greece-illegal-pushbacks-continue-as-arrivals-drop-under-strict-but-fair-immigration-policy-new-closed-controlled-camps-faces-massive-criticism/>

on the reality of forcibly displaced people arriving in Greece. Reports from multiple sources have recorded serious allegations of authorities conducting pushbacks at Greek borders since March 2020. As UNHCR, the European Commission, the Council of Europe, and others have stressed, these are violations of international law and human rights⁷. With this, the new EU-funded multi-purpose reception and identification center (MPRIC) was inaugurated on the island of Samos, it is the first of five centers to be opened across the Greek islands and is presented as a potential model for future facilities across Europe. **The construction of concrete walls around the camps found in the mainland⁸**, designed to keep refugees out of sight and out of mind, shows asylum seekers and refugees housed in prison-like centres in remote areas, which creates an environment that affects refugees mental health and prevents them from interacting with and integrating into local communities⁹.

Last June, the Greek government had declared **Turkey as a safe country for asylum seekers from specific countries such as from Syria, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Somalia¹⁰**. The biggest concern of the civil society is regarding the pending asylum applications in Greece from people coming from Afghanistan. As 30% of pending applications concern its nationals¹¹, many will be subject to an admissibility procedure based on the Joint Ministerial Decision designating Turkey as a safe country¹². After the Taliban had taken over the control in Afghanistan in August 2021, Afghan asylum seekers in Greece may be returned to Turkey as a safe third country, with the risk of onward deportation to Afghanistan.

In July 2021, the financial assistance to applicants for international protection who were not housed in structures under the responsibility of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum or cooperating with the Ministry of Health was abolished¹³. The management of UNHCR's

⁷<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Joint%20NGO%20Briefing%20on%20the%20situation%20in%20Greece%2027.10.2021.pdf>

⁸ <https://greece.iom.int/sites/greece/files/Invitation%20Letter%20.pdf>

⁹<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Joint%20NGO%20Briefing%20on%20the%20situation%20in%20Greece%2027.10.2021.pdf>

¹⁰ <https://migration.gov.gr/en/asfali-triti-chora-charaktirizei-gia-proti-fora-i-elliniki-nomothesia-tin-toyrkia-afora-aitoyntes-asylo-apo-syria-afganistan-pakistan-mpagklantes-kai-somalia/>

¹¹ <https://rsaegean.org/en/the-greek-asylum-in-the-first-half-of-2021-stats/>

¹² <https://rsaegean.org/en/practical-and-immediate-solidarity-with-the-afghan-refugees/>

¹³ <https://migration.gov.gr/en/katarghsh-oikonomikou-voithimatos-se-aitoyntes-poy-de-stegazontai-se-domes-toy-ypoyrgeioy/>

reception programs – which had offered since 2015 housing and cash assistance to thousands of asylum seekers, with European Union funding – was fully transferred to the Greek government. After this decision, **the Ministry of Migration and Asylum ended the cash allowance for asylum seekers who are not taking part in governmental housing programs, or for non-eligible asylum seekers or people who already got the refugee legal status.** Plus, the eligible families chosen to receive the cash support did not receive any help from September to December 2021, more than three months already. More and more people are unable to survive without any support, families are in a vulnerable position with no regular income, people cannot cover their necessities as many families are survivors of violence, or other specific needs. A lack of adequate support means that those who do receive refugee status or subsidiary protection are at risk of homelessness, remain trapped in the camps or do not have access to education or financial support¹⁴.

During all this year, vulnerable people faced **economic and social impacts** in all the aspects of their life due to **Covid global health emergency**. The needs of the vulnerable groups have been exacerbated as it created new structural challenges¹⁵. JRS Greece needed to adapt to this situation, addressing new needs of vulnerable groups and priorities in our actions to preserve everyone's health. This year we needed to cover basic needs by delivering social protection services, assistance, and basic goods for these unprotected people, and as the number of Covid cases is raising in the country so do the needs of the families and the children. The Greek government has reassured that the coronavirus vaccine will be available free of charge for all in the country. However, it is problematic for undocumented migrants to register for vaccination¹⁶. On October 2021, the Greek government published Law 4839/2021, which includes a provision making it possible for undocumented people and stateless persons in Greece to obtain a provisional social security number (PAMKA) so that they can register for vaccination¹⁷. Still, the inter-ministerial decision needed to implement the law has yet to be agreed, thus these vulnerable groups remain unvaccinated.

Also, it is challenging to keep the boys and the girls connected to the education and

¹⁴ <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Relocation%20from%20Greece%20lessons%20learned%20and%20looking%20ahead.pdf>

¹⁵ <https://www.oecd.org/mena/governance/supporting-vulnerable-groups-during-covid-19/>

¹⁶ <https://www.intersos.gr/en/vaccines-for-all/>

¹⁷ <https://picum.org/covid-19-vaccines-undocumented-migrants-greece/>

protection¹⁸, as the Covid and its impact is expanding. According to UNICEF last Report¹⁹, **children on the move remain one of the most vulnerable groups requiring sustained care and protection in 2022**, the Covid has set back years of progress in advancing children's protection and education. These and other socioeconomic impacts have stretched the country's capacities to sustain and respond to the humanitarian needs of refugees and migrants²⁰.

II. JRS Greece context and priorities

JRS Greece projects work was based on 4 priorities:



The Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), with a mission to **accompany, serve and advocate** for the rights of refugees and others who are forcibly displaced. JRS in Greece (JRS Greece) works for education, **emergency assistance, healthcare, livelihood activities and social services**. The Jesuit Refugee Service in Greece was established to promote the social inclusion and integration forced migrants in 2015.

In 2021, we continued to support people through **accompaniment and education**, from the moment they arrived in Europe towards their integration into a new society.

¹⁸ https://www.unicef.org/coronavirus/covid-19?gclid=CjwKCAiAvriMBhAuEiwA8Cs5lZE1Zc2upcO4YdFaS9jmgDUy1Y5CZ3JVEbLre6y88nRK2CpaVKnF2BoCu7QQAvD_BwE

¹⁹ <https://reliefweb.int/report/greece/humanitarian-action-children-2022-refugee-and-migrant-crisis-europe>

²⁰ <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/refugee-migrant-response-europe>

- During 2021, JRS Greece conducted **five projects**:

JRS Greece Educational Program promoted an education where all children can exercise their free will and have access to equal opportunities in life. The Educational Program with non-formal educational classes and employability workshops helped students to heal and learn how to determinate their own future. Education is a human right, and JRS Greece wants to advocate for it, we strongly believe the only path to integration is through the skills and knowledge that education can bring you.

As part of the Educational Program, **Pedro Arrupe Center** facilitated the integration of refugee and migrant children into the Greek/European society through an after-school mentoring program. The center did hold interactive activities for children who are enrolled in the Greek public schools, who usually face difficulties to adjust, because of the language barrier, and the lack of support of their families.

Magistories, JRS Greece non-formal educational project was established in 2018, to provide access to education to people who are not enrolled in Greek public education. As part of the educational program children, teenagers and adults did learn new skills to participate in the new society.

By providing access to education, beneficiaries learned together and shared their different knowledge and cultures; creative and cultural activities were conducted to allow beneficiaries to exchange experiences. The project focused on language classes – Greek, English, German, or French- for children and adults to help their integration in Europe, most of these students live in shelters, rent apartments, UNHCR/ governmental apartments or rooms rent, or refugee camps in Athens, students have no means to take language classes to help them with their studies, as they don't have people encouraging them to continue with their education.

Women Day Center has the mission to empower asylum seekers or refugees' women in a situation of social vulnerability. The Women Day Center started to work in November 2019 for women and their children for basic hygiene services as showers/laundry and

social accompaniment – to promote their skills and accompanying them in their process towards autonomy and personal valuation-. In 2021, the project enhanced personal, social, and professional abilities through educational and didactic trainings to promote the development of professional skills and explore ways of professional integration in Greece and Europe.

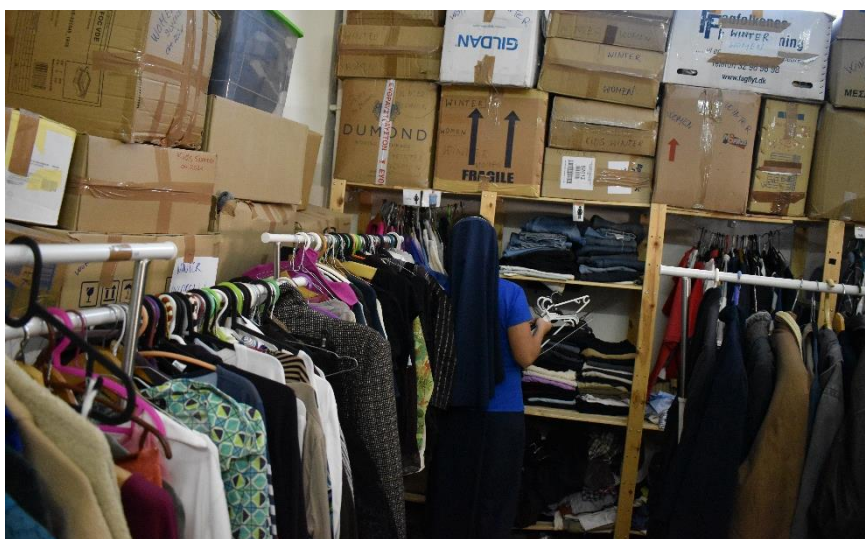
Magazi project, JRS Greece free shop, where people can take clothes, shoes, households' goods, toys, pumpers, and milk. To cover the most basic needs, JRS Greece also managed the **Food-Basket** project, where JRS provided food and NFIs to the most vulnerable families attending our projects.



Pedro Arrupe Center, Primary Class



Magistories Children Painting activities



Volunteer Sister Victoria sorting clothes in Magazi free shop



Movie time activity in the Women Day Center

Our Values

JRS is inspired by the generous love and example of Jesus Christ. As a catholic organization we have the mission to accompany, serve and advocate on behalf of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons, that they may heal, learn, and determine their own future²¹. Our work expresses the commitment of the Society of Jesus to stand with the refugees around the world. We are in 57 countries, serving people in conflict zones and detention centres, on remote borders and in busy cities. We run pastoral care and psychosocial support programs in detention centres and refugee camps and provide humanitarian relief in emergency displacement situations.



Pope Francis received a gift from the children that participate in JRS Greece activities, on his visit to Athens, Greece on December 3rd -4th.

²¹ <https://jrs.net/>



Compassion

Compassion means treating others with equity and respect, and working to alleviate the suffering of others, starting from a base of love, empathy and understanding.

Dignity

Dignity means that all human beings, regardless of their social status, circumstances, or identity, are endowed with human rights, agency, and a unique personal history, that must always be respected and protected.

Hospitality

Hospitality means creating a welcoming and inclusive environment where everyone can be 'at home'. For JRS, hospitality begins upon a person's first arrival.

Participation

Participation is a way of working that involves refugees and migrants in decision making, planning and evaluation as well as in efforts to raise awareness and advocate on their own behalf.

OUR MISSION

Inspired by the generous love and example of Jesus Christ, JRS seeks to accompany, serve, and advocate the cause of refugees and other forcibly displaced people, so that they may heal, learn, and determine their own future.

OUR VISION

A world where refugees and other forcibly displaced people attain protection, opportunity, and participation. A world where human rights, protection, hospitality, integration, and reconciliation have a place to flourish within a larger vision of inclusive and welcoming societies.

Hope

Hope is the quality of the spirit that provides the necessary energy and direction to keep working towards our aims for an inclusive and welcoming society.

Solidarity

Solidarity is present when JRS respectfully walks alongside and works with people – refugees and migrants from diverse cultures, nationalities, and religions – to find solutions for their needs.

Justice

Justice is achieved when people – regardless of race, religion, gender, age, or ability – enjoy equal opportunities and conditions that ensure access to a dignified way of life. JRS engages in a root cause analysis of injustices that refugees and migrants face to seek positive social and cultural change.

III. JRS Greece projects impact 2021

Education

Pedro Arrupe Center

The Project fostered the social integration of students, including refugees, migrants, and Greek children. The project worked as a school; we divided our activities into academic years following the recommendations applied by the government regarding Covid restrictions in the educational field. From November 2020 to June 2021, we transferred all the educational program to online learning, the teachers and staff did send homework and accompanied the students, by using the social media/online schooling services:

<https://www.facebook.com/pedroarrupegreece>

<https://www.facebook.com/pedro.arrupe.14>

From June 2021, we started with face-to-face outdoors activities. We kept the social distance, use protective masks and antiseptic gel. Also, our teachers started to do individual follow up of the students.

From last September 2021 on, the public schools re-opened again for presential classes, so Pedro Arrupe Center started to receive the students inside the classrooms respecting all the safety measures applied by the Greek government.

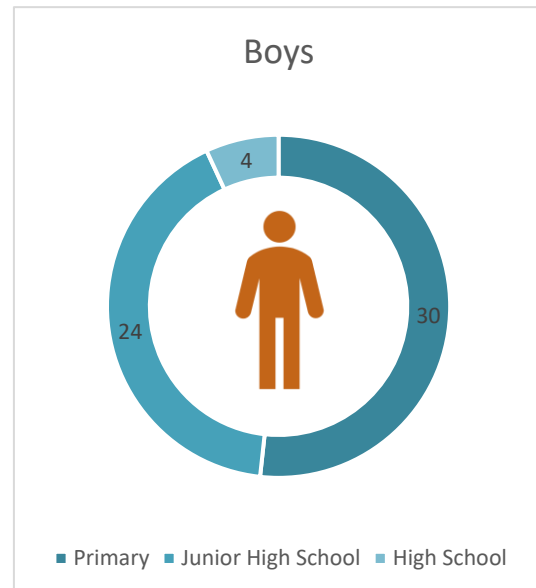
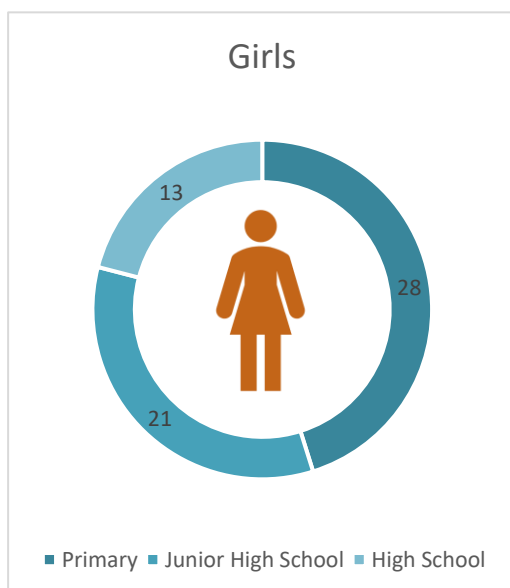
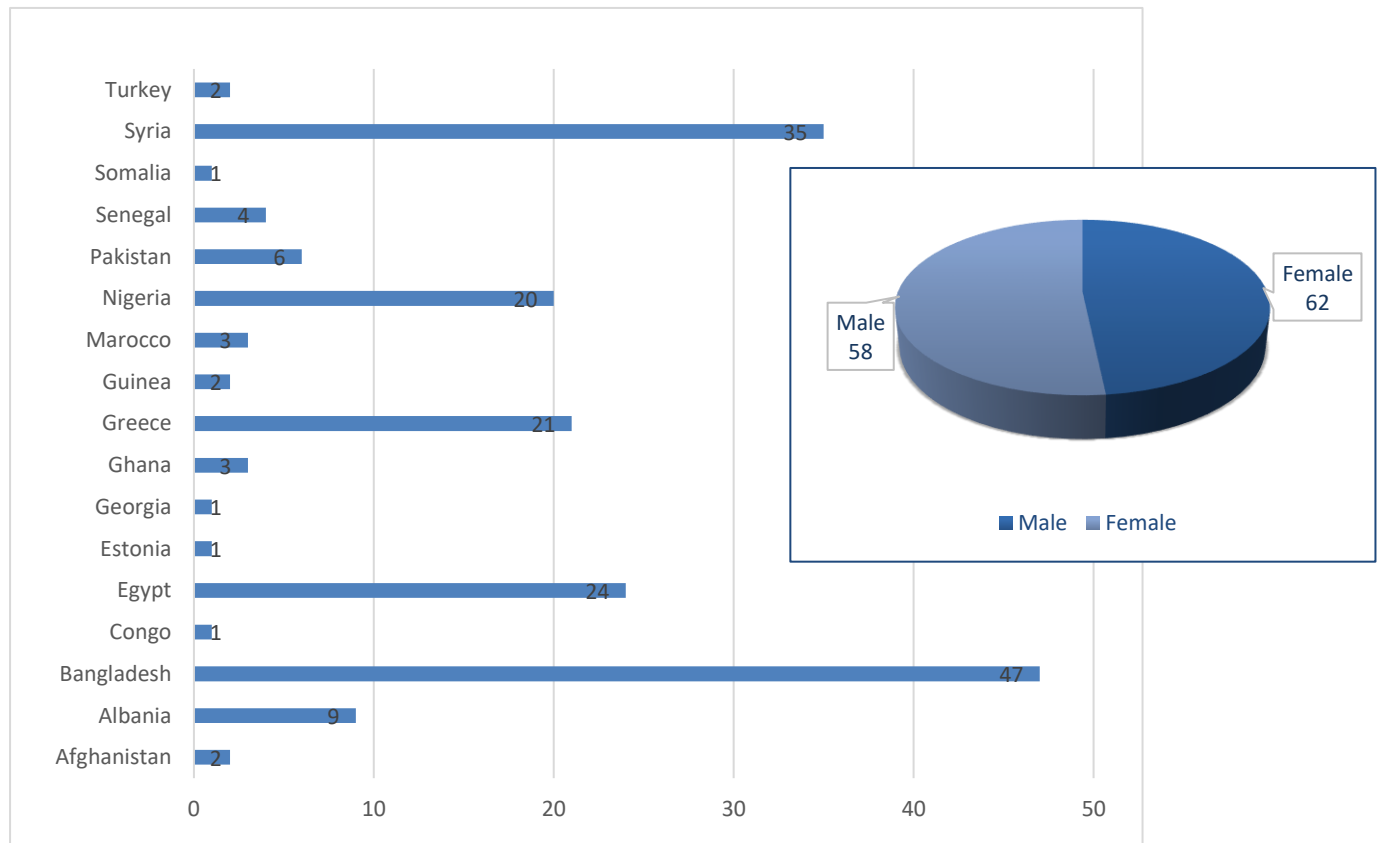
Last academic year, 2020/2021, Pedro Arrupe Center supported 120 children and teenagers, 62 boys and 58 girls in need. For the new school year, starting the middle of September 2021, **we registered 100 students - 48 boys and 52 girls.** All these students are **refugees** inside of the National Greek Education System.

The food distribution continued by arranging appointments for giving the food-basket. Moreover, ready meals were delivered to vulnerable students in disposable food containers. **Last scholar year 2020/2021, Pedro Arrupe helped 31 families by providing them with dry food and preparing 18 hot meals/day for students in need. Now, during the current year 2021/2022, we are helping 10 vulnerable families with dry food every month as we are preparing hot meals for 16 students every day.**

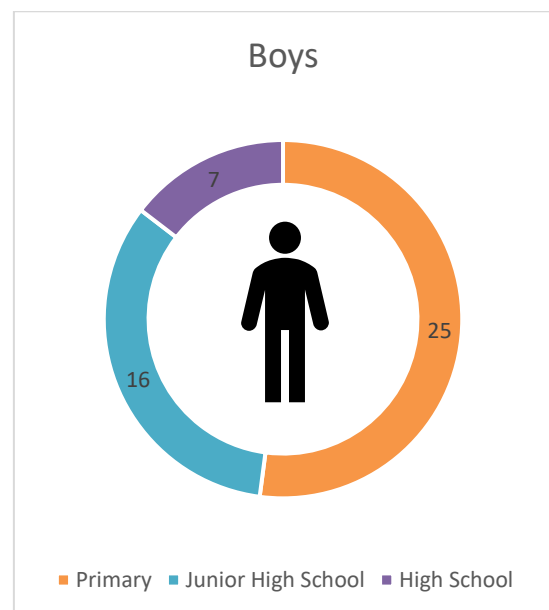
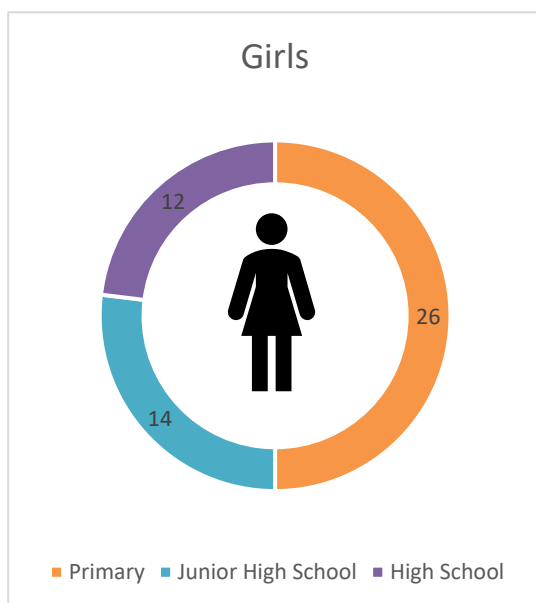
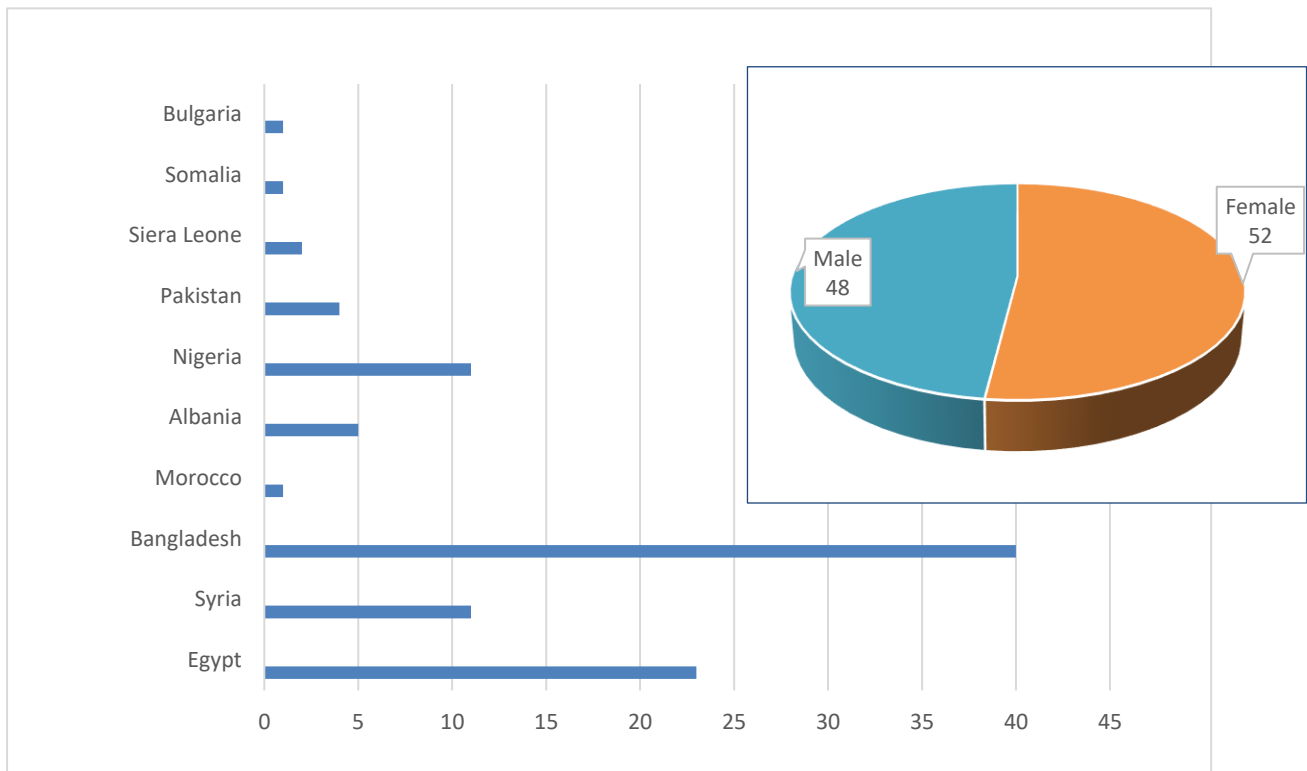
On the graphics bellow you will find the statistics for the student's registration of the

earlier scholar year 2020/2021 and the data from the current scholar year 2021/2022

Academic year 2020-2021



Academic year 2021-2022



Educational activities in the Pedro Arrupe Center for 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 (until December)

Service and Activity	Impact 2020/2021	Impact 2021/2022
Homework and Study accompaniment	120 students had accompaniment in their homework and studies	100 students have accompaniment in their homework and studies
Ecology	8 students participated in Ecology activities	30 students participated in Ecology activity
Solar System	15 students attended this class	Not started yet
English class	30 students had English class	30 students have English class
Theatre	7 students had theatre class	6 students attended the Theater class
Movie class	Posponed due to Covid-19 measures	10 students enjoyed the movie class
Arts and Craft	33 students had Art and Craft activities	30 students had Art and Craft activities
Highway/Traffic Code class	8 students participated in this class	30 students participated in Highway Code class
Cooking Master Chef class	8 students participated in this activity	10 students participated in this activity
Editing newspaper	10 students participate on editing	10 students participated on editing
Book (for diversity) Reading and Commentary class	10 students participate in Book Reading and Commentary class	10 students participated in the Book Reading and Commentary class.
Robotic Technology	9 students participated in Robotic activity	30 students participated in the class
Gardening activity	7 students participated in this activity	Not started yet
Human Rights	9 students participated in the class	Not started yet
Poetry - Literature - Countries history	New activity for 2021/2022	25 students had Poetry, Literature and Country History

Lunch service for students that just had one meal a day	18 students had a lunch every weekday	16 students had a lunch every weekday
Dry Food for vulnerable families	31 families had a dry food every month	10 families had dry food every month

Pedro Arrupe outdoor activities in June 2021



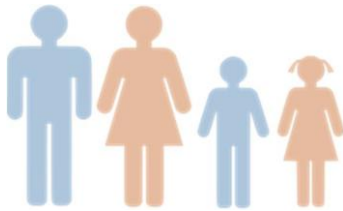
Pedro Arrupe Primary Classes 2021



Magistories

The project is a safe space where people can express themselves freely in a creative and pedagogical environment. The project contributed to the protection and psychosocial relief of the students. Through Magistories program, the children, teenagers, and adults learned new skills, further it was an important meeting place between cultures and ethnicities, as well it promoted the interactions among the different nationalities.

JRS Greece's project focused on language classes – Greek, English, German, or French- for children and adults and helped their integration in Europe, improving their employability. Also, we offered computer classes to complete our students' professional skills.

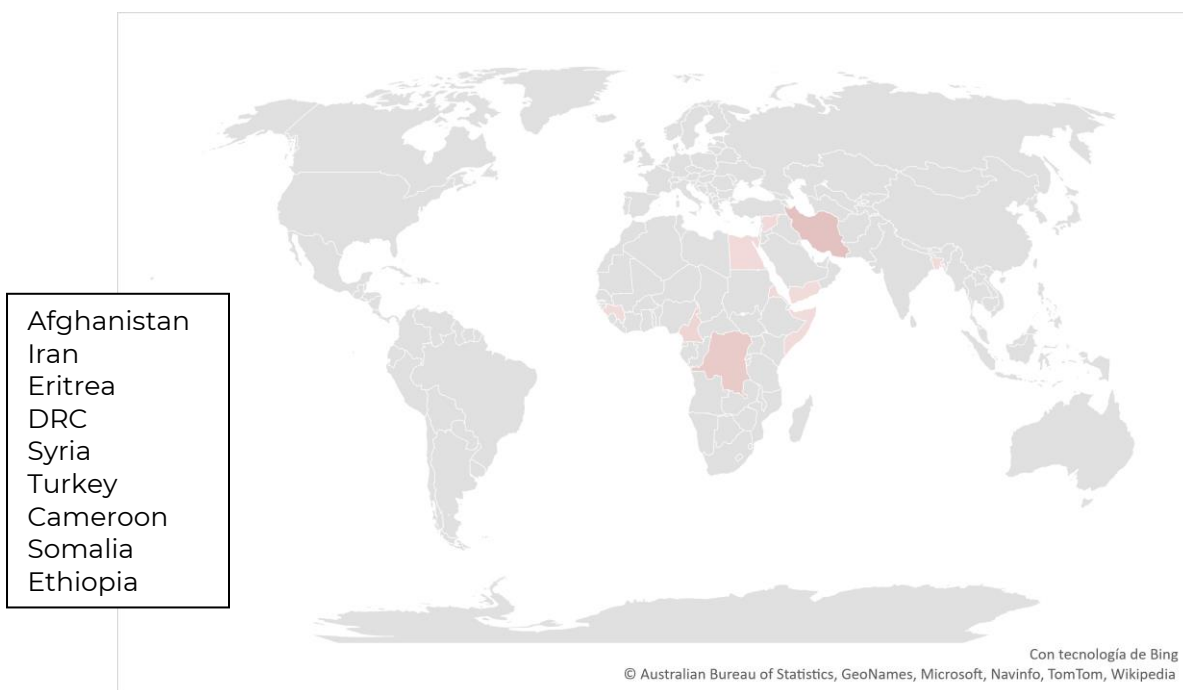


We registered 235 people for the activities in 2021-2022: 154 adult beneficiaries and 81 children.

Of those, 46 are men and 108 are women, 40 are boys and 41 are girls.



Magistories German Class, October 2021



Months of July and August 2021, Magistories held a **Summer Camp for children**. The camp offered creative and educational activities, as well as games for children from 6-12 years old.



Magistories Summer Camp Painting activities



Classes at Magistories – 2021

During the semester December 2020 to February 2021, and the semester from March 2021 to June 2021, facing the second national lockdown in Greece, we set up distance training due to the Covid measures applied by the government. We continued with online classes for teenagers and adults, as we gave booklets with home exercises to the little children to study during this period:

<https://www.facebook.com/MagistoriesJRSGR>

In July 2021 and August 2021, Magistories welcomed children for outdoor activities in the summer camp as the Covid restriction measures were lighter. We started the new academic year with presential lessons in September 2021.

	Activities	Impact (Number of beneficiaries)
December 2020 to February 2021 by distance learning	English 1	10
	English 2	8
	English Basics	9
	French 1	3
	Greek 1	13
	Greek 2	5
	German	4
	CV workshop	1
March to June 2021 by distance learning	English 1	8
	English 2	8
	English Basics	17
	French 1	3
	French 2	4
	Greek 1	3
	Greek basic	6
	Greek 2	3
September to December 2021 – Presential	Computer	2
	English 1	6
	English Basics	10
	Greek 1	3
	Greek basic	6
	English 2	11
	German basic	6
	English for teens	6

"I can say that what I like the most about the Magistories is the courses, the lessons are particularly good for me. I like "tout le monde" here. I can't choose one class because I like all of them. I think English class is really helping me. I improved a lot, at the beginning I didn't know how to speak English, now I can communicate with people. Magistories makes me feel comfortable, happy and cheerful."

Congolese woman, asylum seeker

"I am come to Magistories courses because I wanted to learn the Greek language, to be able to live in Greece. I really like learning English. I have English classes in Magistories. I would love to find a job; I think English classes are useful for me to find a job here. I like English the most and I love a lot my teachers here; their classes are very clear and very helpful. I think Magistories is quite good for learning languages."

Afghani woman, asylum seeker

COVID-19: JRS Greece Response

Greece faced a national lockdown from November 2020 until May 2021; during these first months of the year JRS Greece non-formal educational program was conducted online. We established distance learning training by using social media and platforms that supports this type of educating, such as ZOOM, Skype, Viber, WhatsApp, Youtube or Facebook. **Pedro Arrupe Center** and **Magistories**, are ready at any time the state deems it necessary to transfer to online training. The teachers have made a textbook for the days when the lessons will not be done with physical presence, while for our young students who can't attend online lessons, exercise booklets were given. Thanks to our donors, **JRS could provide free internet to the most vulnerable students and families, so that** everybody had access to online classes. Since June, we started with outdoor activities for our students in the yards of Pedro Arrupe Center and Magistories building, checking the temperature of the people at the entrance, using antiseptic liquid for hands and surface, and using protective mask was mandatory. In September 2021, when the physical presence was allowed, we welcomed our students inside the classrooms; all the students need to present their **vaccination certificate**, or they need to show a **negative Rapid or PCR Covid test within the 48 hours before the class**. The food distribution continued, by arranging appointment for giving the food baskets and hot meals continued to be given to the most vulnerable students. Since the outbreak of the pandemic, JRS Greece always followed all the required measurements to protect our students and staff. One of them was to decrease the number of the students who can be registered in the educational program to keep the social distancing inside our premises.

Activities with children in Victoria Square

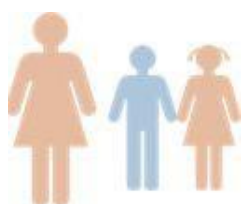


The JRS **Women Day Center** is a place for refugees or asylum-seeking women and their children, especially those who are most vulnerable. The Day Centre provided them a family environment, safety, and wellbeing and accompanied them in their process towards autonomy and personal valuation. At the Women's Day Centre, every woman and child can develop skills for the construction and implementation of a consistent project of life, with a focus on social integration.

Until the beginning of December 2021, Women Day Center had **1843 beneficiaries** (women and children) for the **shower** services and **396 women** for the use of the **washing machines**. For the social accompaniment **302 people** were assisted by our social worker, we had 80 beneficiaries (men and women) in Charissis' building, 133 beneficiaries (women) inside the Women Day Center and 89 telephone interventions (men and women). Most of them are asylum seekers, recognized refugees or undocumented people. In 2021, the Women Day Center registered **196 new women**, and **149 new children** for the basic services and the workshops.

As it is shown below, most of the registered women come from **Afghanistan** (70%), **Democratic Republic of Congo** (14%) **Cameroon** (6%), **Iran** (4%) and **Syria** (2%), followed by countries such as Turkey, Iraq, Pakistan, Angola, Ghana, Ethiopia, Eritrea, India, Indonesia, Togo, Somalia, Uganda, and Morocco.

In 2021, 2410 beneficiaries have been registered to the Women Day Center services and activities.



Nationalities of beneficiaries



Most of the women who come regularly to the Women Day Center are **asylum seekers** or they already got the **refugee legal status**, there are still some of them who remain undocumented.

The majority of the women are **married**, followed by **single women** and **single mothers**, we welcome just a few numbers of widow women or divorced women.

The Women Day Center started with a schedule of activities for women and a place where their children can play during the time that women are in the activities. As it will be presented in the Livelihood priority, the Woman Day Center is not just an Educational Project, but it also promoted autonomy and personal valuation.



Women Day Center, Beauty Time.



Women Day Center, Scrunchies Making Workshop.

Services and activities	No. of Beneficiaries
Living Room	31
Welcome Hour	10
Shower Services	1843
Washing Machine Service	396
Soap Making Workshop	26
Beauty Time	7
Scrunchies Making Workshop	37
Art and Crafts	10
Movie Time	20

During 2021, Women Day Center collaborated with other organizations to provide the women coming to the center with medical and hygiene services and useful information. This year we collaborated with:

Medical International Volunteers (MVI), organization which provided medical care to displaced people. Medical volunteers meet health and medical needs of refugees, offering primary healthcare, primary minor surgery, health education or emergency response to squats and house calls to patients.

<https://medical-volunteers.org/>

Cheering's Growth Clinic, NGO dedicated to improving maternal child health and promoting preventive health in refugee populations. They provided direct support, in refugee-specific situations where we weigh and measure babies and toddlers and offered counseling on breastfeeding and nutrition.

<https://cheering.eu/grow-clinics/>

From November 2021, we started collaborating with **AMURTEL Greece**, who informed our beneficiaries – especially single mothers- about nutrition, health, and babies' care.

<https://greece.amurtel.org/>

Apart from this, our social worker is in touch with other organizations in Athens, who are working for women and children rights, to help the people to find the exact service they need and JRS Greece cannot provide, for instance legal or psychological/psychiatric assistance.

We came from Afghanistan last month, after the Taliban took the power of Kabul, we were working for the public administration in Afghanistan, for the government so we could escape legally to Greece. We have a paper from the Ministry that said they welcome us because of Afghanistan situation. Now we are staying in a hotel in Athens, and we don't have washing machines, it is very small, that's why we come to the Women Day Center, also we would love to join some activities for women, and some courses.

Sosan Azimi and Dibaabhar, two asylum seeker women from Afghanistan.

I was living in Malakasa before. In the camp we didn't have anything for hitching, it was really complicated to get hitching items. I am happy in the WDC because I can use the showers, as well as using the washing machine. Before the Corona virus situation, I used to come to the Center for the Handicraft workshop and the Beauty Time, I liked it very much. I want to feel involved".

Parwane Haidari, woman from Afghanistan, asylum seeker.

COVID-19: JRS Greece response

Women Day Center was opened during the lockdown for the basic services, working only with appointments, also wearing mask was mandatory, while the antiseptic liquid was free to use in all common spaces. Appointments for social accompaniment were given by our Social Worker and by using Skype, WhatsApp or Viber helped the people who couldn't come to our facilities because of the restrictions. For showers and laundry services in Women Day Center, the appointments were given in the same way as mentioned before and were taking place as usual even during the lockdown.

In December 2021, the provision of hygiene services as well as social support to women and their children continued. The use of the shower service was done without an appointment when there were free spots, and women had the opportunity to come and register for the Women Day Center services and activities.

The women had to arrange appointments for the use of washing machines and social accompaniment. Also, all women had to show their **vaccination certificate**, or they had to show a **negative Rapid or PCR Covid negative twice a week to enroll in the activities**. The food distribution continued, by arranging appointments for giving the monthly food baskets to the families in need.

Livelihood

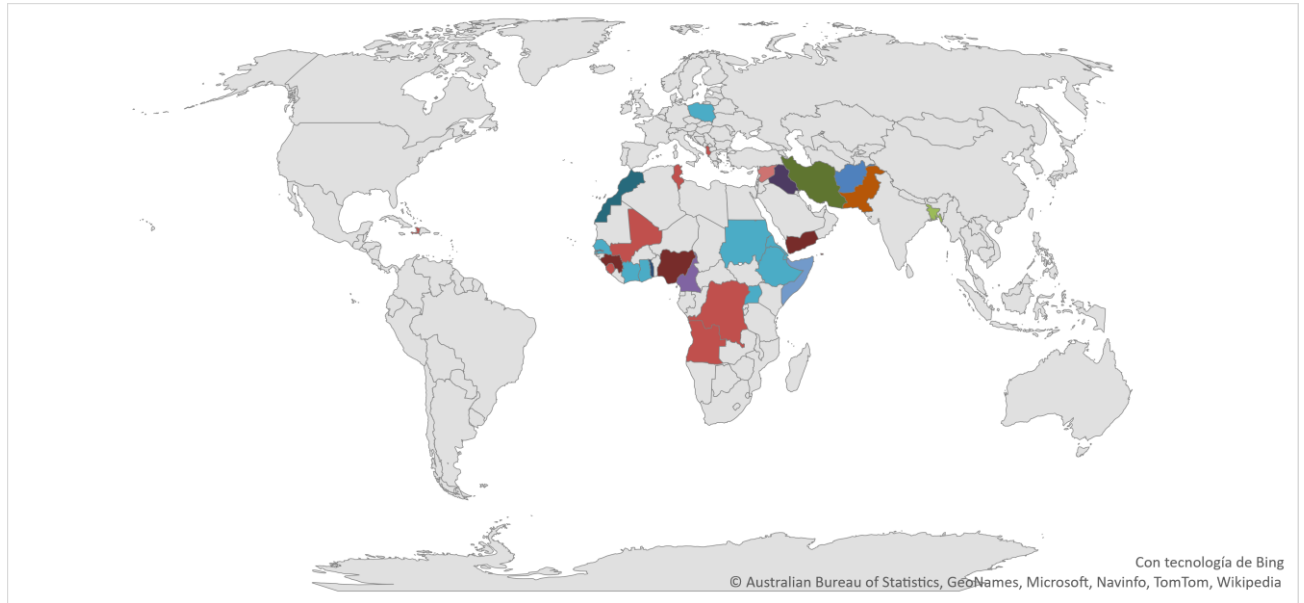
JRS Greece supported people from the moment of their first arrival in Athens and accompanied them along a path towards self-sufficiency and full participation in their new society.

Most of the people that arrived in Athens, do not have covered their basic needs. Some asylum seekers and refugees come to JRS with or without personal belongings. And, if the most necessities are not attained, people cannot fulfil their personal development. Thus, **Magazi**, the most direct livelihood project, is a basic goods store where migrants, refugees and vulnerable Greek people can obtain clothes, household goods, hygiene items, pumpers, milk, and toys for children, all free of charge.

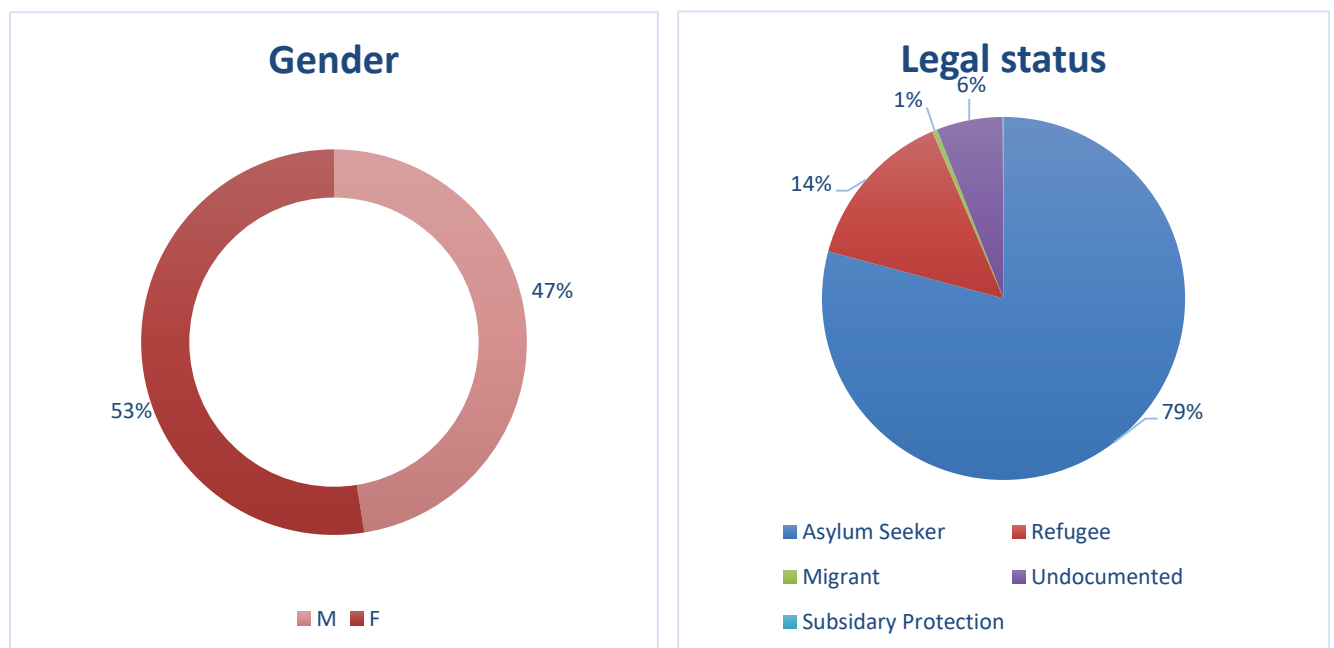
This year 2021, we served more than **1572 families** in need, a total number of **4743 people** were served. For the following year, we already arranged more than **80 appointments** for vulnerable families in January 2022.



Afghan woman, Magazi September 2021



The table above shows that the majority of the families come from **Afghanistan** (729) and **Republic Democratic of Congo** (296). Followed by **Turkey** (175), **Somalia** (83), **Iran** (56), **Syria** (34) and **Cameroun** (15). We also have beneficiaries from **Bangladesh** (26), **Pakistan** (13), **Iraq** (11) or **Palestine** (3) and African countries such as **Gambia, Togo, Guinea, Uganda, Eritrea, Ghana, Senegal, Angola, Mali, Sudan, or Sierra Leone**.



53% **women** and 47% **men have been** served in Magazi. Regarding their legal status: **79% were asylum seekers, 14% refugees, 6% undocumented, and 1% migrants** or beneficiaries with **subsidiary protection**.

COVID-19: JRS Greece response

JRS Greece free shop continued to work with appointments but it was not allowed to be tried the clothes or other items. Due to the Covid contingency measures been applied by the Greek authorities, it was mandatory to give appointments sparsely to keep the social distance and avoid the gatherings. Also, the use of the mask and antiseptic gel keeps being mandatory.

- Reconciliation

JRS Greece understands reconciliation as an individual process to accept one's own life story – this includes the story of one's country, the problems that were the cause to leave the countries of origin, all the trip until the arrival to Greece and the situation and difficulties that are encountered in Greece. In a first step, reconciliation is a process of accepting one's own story and that Europe is not the dream and the hopefulness that was believed before the arrival. In JRS Greece this first step is achieved through welcoming and hospitality services as well as through the construction of a relationship based on trust between the JRS team and the refugees. At the same time, JRS Greece works in the construction of communities where everyone is accepted and has an active participation, independently of the nationality, religion, or gender. As part of Europe, JRS Greece also defends the same vision of JRS Europe that sees one path to reconciliation as the acceptance that migration is a historical constant in Europe and sees migration as an act of human freedom which changes both host societies and migrants themselves.

COVID-19: JRS Greece response

JRS Greece "Tea-Time" project was the most affected project since 2020, according to the Covid measures applied by the Greek government and the spike of the cases in Greece, the risk of contagious is very high at big gatherings. To protect our beneficiaries and staff, we replaced it with a new project the **Foodbaskets**.

Food basket had started in June 2020. Throughout 2021 JRS continued to provide vulnerable and unprotected families with food and NFIs.

The Food-Basket project registered **84 families** - who received rice, chickpeas, frozen green beans, oil, bread, jam, milk, sugar, flour, eggs, chicken, onions, and garlic. By December 2021, **the number of families that were receiving the Food-Basket each month was at 35 families.** The social worker follows up the beneficiaries' needs, by arranging appointments and with the help of the interpreter. Departing from the social history of the families, she identifies vulnerabilities. Because of the sanitary situation the distribution of the food-baskets was taking place with appointments; sorting of the food in boxes was done by our volunteers – taking all the required health measures.



Advocacy

JRS Greece works directly with other NGOs to get better protection outcomes for asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants at a European level. In this context, we are part of several Advocacy groups with different organizations working for migration on the field as the Athens Coordination group, Advocacy Protection Group, Advocacy Education Group, Athens Founders Leaders or NGO Registration Group among others.

JRS includes in its agenda some activities and publications to get the attention and influence the public policies and laws. We advocate for those who doesn't have voice, by publishing facts in our social media, as messaging government officials at the national and European level to raise awareness about the reality in Greece.

JRS Greece worked together with the other JRS Countries in Europe region to analyze relevant issues and policies as they arise, to identify problems, and to formulate common positions and recommendations for effective change.



An integral part of the work of JRS is to advocate, both domestically and internationally for rights of refugees to share their voices and receive a better level of services towards establishing a dignified life. To achieve those goals, the Advocacy and Communications Officer of JRS Greece

- Participated in working groups on topics such as Protection, Legal, Advocacy, Education, Distribution, Accommodation, as well as in meetings chaired by UNHCR, the Municipality of Athens, Founders NGOs in Athens, and by other NGOs.

This collaboration allowed JRS Greece to be informed of the progress, obstacles, and new challenges in response to the national migratory situation.

- Informed the JRS team, JRS Europe and the public in general about important reports, articles, and policy briefings on issues related to the project.



- Managed the JRS Greece social media, updating Facebook content weekly: <https://www.facebook.com/jrsgreece/>
- Followed the Greek and European Parliament's work on migration and asylum.
- Co-signed JRS Europe as well as other NGOs statements. In 2021 JRS Greece co-signed several joint statements about the conditions of the Reception and Identification Centers (RICs), the distribution of food, access to public education, access to public health and Covid vaccination, recommendations to the national government and the European Commission among others.

IV. Staff and Volunteers

In 2021, the JRS Greece staff consisted of **13 employees**:

- 1 Country Director
- 1 Project Manager and Advocacy and Communications Officer
- 1 Financial and Administration Officer
- 1 Coordinator of the Woman Day Center and Social Worker
- 1 Translator and cultural mediator
- 1 Coordinator of Pedro Arrupe Center and teacher
- 4 Teachers
- 1 Doorman
- 2 Cleaning ladies

Since 2017, a community of **Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit** are part of JRS Greece team. In 2021 the Sisters Community had 5 Sisters, that joined JRS Greece in different works:

- 1 Magistories Coordinator

4 Sisters worked as English teachers and were involved in all JRS Greece activities, as well as in the accompaniment of the international volunteers.

In addition to their dedicated engagement to JRS Greece projects, the community of Sisters are a strong support to both staff and volunteers as they lead a weekly liturgy and provide a space of prayer and a community team weekly meal (that was one of the most important spaces for JRS staff and volunteers to create a community and search for friendly support). The care and engagement of the sisters towards refugees and staff is a beautiful sign of the solidarity of the religious life towards refugees and displaced people. Since the beginning of JRS Greece, the **Volunteers** are a priceless part of the JRS team and mission.

Their presence is very important because of the energy and motivation that they bring to the team. Since the beginning, JRS Greece received International Volunteers, that came with the desire to live on mission and support and be near to refugees and migrants, and Jesuits who are in their formation time. Also, during 2021 we had some Greek volunteers helping in the Pedro Arrupe Center, especially with Greek language.

International Volunteers	8
Jesuits on formation	2
Sisters on visit that gave a time do make volunteer work at JRS Greece	5
Expatriate people that live in Athens in 2021	15
Greek volunteers	2

Volunteers and Sisters outside the WDC, September 2021



V. Partnerships and Funders

For JRS, collaborating with other organizations is necessary for the work in the field. In 2021, JRS had different types of partnerships, such as partnerships with NGOs, with International Volunteer Services, with UN Agencies or educational institutions.

Partnerships with International Volunteer Services

INIGO Foundation

L'Oeuvre D'Orient Foundation

Mission Beyond Borders (from the Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit)

Comillas Pontifical University

Partnerships for specific JRS projects

Medical Volunteers International (MVI)

CHEERing: Centre for Health Equity, Education & ResearchInt. Greece

AMURTEL Greece



Magistories computer class, volunteer INIGO Foundation

Partnerships where JRS Greece volunteers participated weekly in their activities

Caritas Greece

Sisters Missionaries of Charity

JRS Greece is financially supported by private organizations, companies, foundations, and individual donors who believe in and support JRS Greece's mission. With this help, JRS Greece continues to work with and for the wellbeing of all refugees.

In 2021, JRS Greece would like to thank all its supporters who are part of the JRS mission

Association Saint François Xavier (Jésuite French Province)

Collège Saint-Louis de Gonzague

Fondation Montcheuil

Foundation Ginette

Missionsprokur

Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit

LDS

LINSI

Bernardine Sisters

Thank you for your continuous support