



June 2025

MONTHLY REPORT



The word 'paréa' in Greek means "company, circle of friends": **everyone is welcome in Paréa!** Located within walking distance from the CCAC (*Closed and Controlled Access Camp*) on Lesvos, our community center **Paréa Lesvos** offers a safe space where people on the move, locals and internationals can meet and spend time in a peaceful and welcoming environment.

Paréa is run by **Europe Cares** responsible for the safety, major facility costs, maintenance and development of the center. It is also a **home** to another **10 civil society organisations**: **Artists Giving Back, Collective Aid, Leave No One Behind, Makerspace Lesvos, Refocus Media Labs, Refugee Relief Doro Blancke, TerraPsy, Yoga and Sport with Refugees** and **Welcome Office Lesvos**. In a time of high political uncertainty and constant withdrawal of support and international attention from Lesvos, our network of partner organisations joined forces to offer people on the move a **wide range of services** including food and NFI distributions, legal and psychosocial support, education and social care activities. But first and foremost, we offer **a sense of community and belonging**.

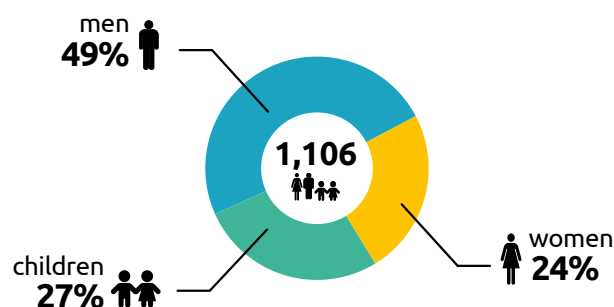
We are **one community in solidarity**. *Will you join us?*



Number of arrivals
in June



Population in the
CCAC



Lesvos Updates

Between June 2 and 29, Lesvos recorded **258 new arrivals** and **23 departures**, according to UNHCR. As a result, the number of people residing in the Lesvos CCAC rose to **1,106**. During this period, **19 pushback incidents** were reported in the Aegean Sea, involving **535 people, including children, women, and men**—each one representing a missed opportunity to uphold the right to seek asylum in Europe.

This summer, **Crete** has seen a **sharp rise in Mediterranean arrivals**—according to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), more than 6,500 migrants landed on Crete between January and mid-June 2025, comfortably surpassing last year's total of 5,100. At the same time, **far-right locals have protested against these arrivals, confronting migrants and staging demonstrations near port facilities**. Adding to the very dangerous response from locals, the **Greek government has sent three navy vessels to the Libyan coast to help prevent migrants from reaching its territory**.

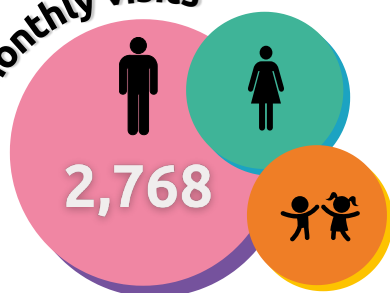
Most people on the move in Lesvos live in the Closed Controlled Access Center (CCAC). A new facility is almost finished in Vastria, **a heavily forested area with poor accessibility and a high wildfire risk**. This month, more than **600 people had to be evacuated from the Chios CCAC due to a nearby fire**. The comparison is alarming: if a fire breaks out in Vastria, **evacuation might not be possible in time, putting thousands of lives at serious risk**.

A positive development is that in one month, **277 people accessed Lesvos' Integration Office**—seeking jobs, health documents, or family reunification help. Most were men from Syria and Sudan. 43 job interviews were arranged, and **19 led to actual employment**. New partnerships with job centers and training providers are starting to open **more opportunities for better inclusion**.



June in numbers

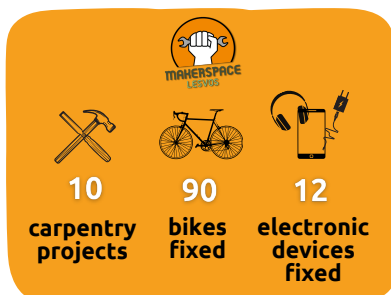
Monthly visits



Average daily visitors



Basic Needs



Social Activities



Support Sessions





Highlight of the month

On **Friday the 20th June**, to celebrate **World Refugee Day**, we came together with our visitors and partners to organise a party, and **a day of celebration in Paréa!**

We spent the week preparing the centre with our visitors, **creating decorations** in Women Space and Paréa Club, collecting songs from our visitors for a **party playlist** composed of songs from all over the world, and spreading the word!

On Friday the 20th, with the support of our partners, we **welcomed 247 visitors to Paréa** to celebrate World Refugee Day. The day's activities included face painting, sports tournaments, clowns, ice creams, a delicious lunch from a local Syrian restaurant, and **lots and lots of dancing!** It was a beautiful day of celebration and the centre was alive with music, laughter and excitement.

Faces of Paréa

“ I thank Paréa for also creating a friendly atmosphere for us - so that we can all be happy together here.

Sincerely, John ”



- John -
from Afghanistan



In the Spotlight

Meet our partner Artists Giving Back



Artists Giving Back provides **healing** through the vehicle of **art** to people on the move. It is their mission to **return dignity, build community** and **instil hope** through art programs and exhibitions.

In Paréa Lesvos, thanks to **healing through art** sessions with various artistic approaches and mediums, our visitors have the opportunity to **express** and **visualise** their **thoughts, dreams** and **emotions**.

In June, Artists Giving Back ran 3 weeks of sessions in Paréa, with **45 people** visiting **each day**! A **mix** of **men, women** and **children** participated in the activities that brought a sense of **calm** and **peace** to Paréa.

This month, our garden has gone through an **incredible transformation**, thanks to our **new Garden Manager, Mohammed**! We have new piping to keep our plants hydrated and some much needed shade!

We have also **renovated beds** and are currently growing **tomatoes, basil, aubergines, watermelon** and **zucchini**s amongst many others.

The **garden is a very popular lunch spot** and generally a nice quiet space where people enjoy the mellow buzzing of insects and the soft whisper of the wing through the beautiful olive trees.

Welcome to our space The Garden





#LeaveNo
OneBehind

DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN
INTERNATIONAL



lean on
us



Would you like to join our community?
Contact us at contact@europecares.org



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Europe Cares e.V.
Niddastraße 101,
60329 Frankfurt
www.europecares.org

Comments or feedback:
contact@europecares.org

