



July 2025

MONTHLY REPORT



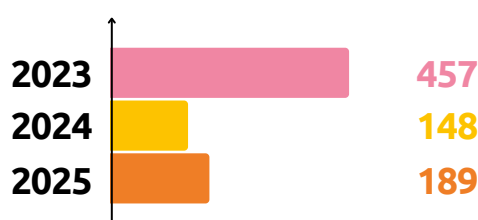
The word 'paréa' in Greek means "company, circle of friends": **everyone is welcome in Paréa!** Located within walking distance from the CCAC (*Closed and Controlled Access Camp*) on Lesvos, our community center **Paréa Lesvos** offers a safe space where people on the move, locals and internationals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

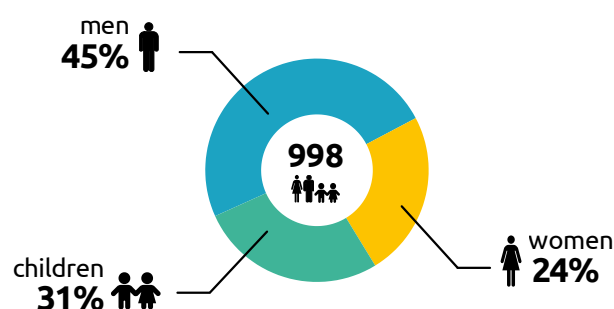
We are **one community in solidarity**. *Will you join us?*



Number of arrivals July (first half)*



Population in the CCAC



Lesvos Updates

Between June 16 and July 20, Lesvos saw 443 new arrivals and 20 departures, according to UNHCR. This brings the total number of people who have reached the island in 2025 to 2,044. As of 24th of July, **998 people were living in the Lesvos Closed Controlled Access Center (CCAC)**, 150 in other facilities, and 219 were self-accommodated—each navigating a system that is meant to offer safety but often falls short of meeting basic needs**.

In the Aegean Sea, Aegean Boat Report documented **33 pushback incidents in July alone, affecting 793 people, including children, women, and men*****. Each of these incidents represents **a person denied the chance to seek protection, a fundamental human right under international law**.

This month also saw worrying policy developments. The **suspension of asylum applications for people arriving in Crete** for three months has raised serious concerns among humanitarian actors, as such measures lack any legal basis in international or European law. In Lesvos, asylum applications are still being processed, but no cases have been rejected on the grounds that Türkiye is a “safe country.” This is because returns to Türkiye are currently suspended. Even so, **many asylum seekers still face an uncertain future, as the process is slow and the outcome unclear**.

Inside the CCAC, the temporary drop in population below 1,000 has slightly eased pressure on some services, but **overcrowding persists in certain units**. Living conditions remain challenging, with **urgent needs for pest control, proper food storage, and more functional WASH facilities—particularly for residents with disabilities**. Access to healthcare is strained by persistent **staffing shortages, growing mental health needs, and the imminent closure of the camp pharmacy** at the end of August, which will further limit access to essential medicines.

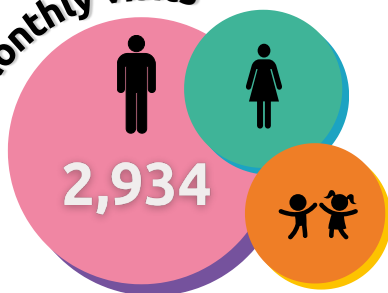
There are also signs of hope. **14 recognized refugees have secured jobs in the tourism and hospitality sector** with the support of RIS (Reception and Identification Service), and **two new refugee education coordinators have joined the CCAC, aiming to strengthen access to education**. These steps remind us that, when the authorities are willing to collaborate, opportunities for integration can and should be expanded.

*UNHCR last official Aegean weekly snapshot was published on the 13th of July / **UNHCR / ***Aegean Boat Report



July in numbers

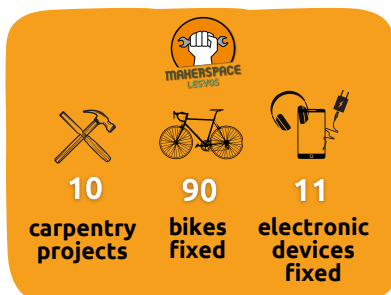
Monthly visits



Average daily visitors



Basic Needs



Social Activities



Support Sessions





Highlight of the month

This month we were visited by the **Orquesta de Cámara Solidaria**, an orchestra from Northern Spain which, as part of their solidarity initiative, VINCULOS, travel around the world performing free concerts for different communities. This month we were lucky enough to have them join us in Paréa, where **47 musicians** performed an incredible and engaging concert for our visitors.

As the orchestra was setting up, our visitors in Paréa all gathered in anticipation and once the music started everyone was instantly captivated. In this concert the audience were not only spectators, but they were also **invited to join in with the orchestra**. Some visitors were given the opportunity to try being the conductor, and for several songs our visitors were asked to clap or shout along to the rhythm, making it feel as if we were **all creating the music together**.

The atmosphere was amazing, full of laughter and joy. Which was enhanced by the refreshing **ice creams** and **juice** being served from the cafe.



Faces of Paréa

“Parea is a place where I meet new people, get to know them, and make friends with different nationalities than mine. I like participating in activities at Parea Club, and I can see children being happier here rather than at the camp. Parea is a place of joy!”



Khalid Khawajah

Syria



In the Spotlight

Meet our partner

Defence for Children International



Defence for Children International is a worldwide movement for **children's rights** with National Sections and Associated Members active across four continents. Each of DCI's National Sections works on those child rights issues that are the most relevant to their respective national contexts.

In Greece, DCI offers **personalised legal support** for asylum seekers to ensure that each person has a **fair opportunity** to present their claim and access the protection they are entitled to under international and national law. DCI provides support to **People on the Move in Paréa**, supporting families, youth and children through their asylum process – informing them of the legal process and their rights, and helping them prepare for their interviews and appeals.

Refugee Assistance Doro Blancke, another of our Partners, helps **fund their crucial work** in Paréa.

Welcome to our space
Paréa Club

It's a hot Greek summer day. The cicadas are singing, and somewhere in the distance, drums are calling. You follow the rhythm and step into Paréa Club - suddenly **surrounded by music, laughter, and energy**.

A spontaneous jam session is underway. Guitars, drums, and dancing fill the space. Adults are playing chess, kids are deep into a game of Jenga, and someone suggests a basketball match. It feels too hot - but **you can't resist the fun**.

After the match, you cool off in the breezy main hall, the cold extension of our Paréa Social Club in summer. You sit at a table, dive into colorful beads and threads, and **let your creativity flow**.

Paréa Club is more than a space - it's a summer state of mind. **Music, play, rest, and connection, all in one vibrant place.**





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



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