



Emergency response training for refugees in Schisto

The first phase of a unique project of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, during which important findings were recorded, was completed in Schisto. The fourth consecutive training exercise in forest fires and emergency situations was implemented with the participation of 31 recognized

refugees in total from Malakasa Site who took part in the Greek language courses and field exercises. Through this particular project, Europe meets Africa and Asia, since the recognized refugees come from countries such as Syria, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Somalia, Congo, Cameroon and Sierra Leone.

Important statistics:

- 16 field exercises
- 256 hours of training
- 160 hours of Greek language courses
- 102 beneficiaries in basic training courses
- 50 trainers - beneficiaries

The action was attended by the Deputy Minister of Migration and Asylum,

Mrs. Sofia Voultepsi, the Chief of IOM Mission in Greece, Mr. Gianluca Rocco, IOM Chief of Staff, Mr. Eugenio Ambrosi. The action is implemented in the framework of National Recovery and Resilience Greece 2.0 with the funding of the European Union - NextGenerationEU.



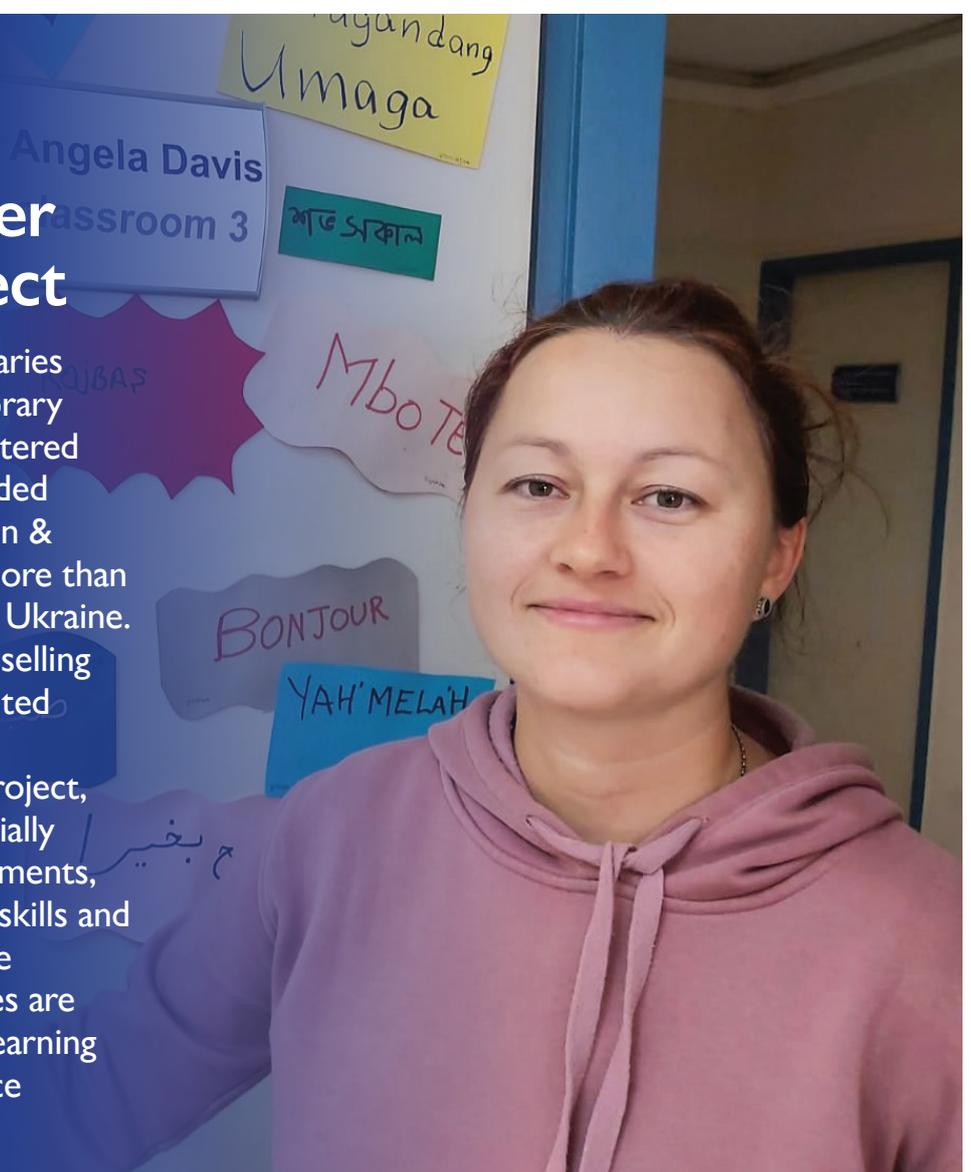
The 1st Relocation flight from Cyprus takes place in December

48 asylum seekers, including families with children, arrived safely to Germany, under European Voluntary Solidarity Mechanism. IOM Greece worked together with IOM Cyprus and partners for the support of migrants in need. The project is implemented with the funding of the European Commission and in close collaboration with the EU Agency for Asylum and the Ministry of Interior in Cyprus.

Read more: <https://bit.ly/3jhelLR>

Supporting Ukrainian nationals under HELIOS project

More than 42,000 beneficiaries of international and temporary protection have been registered in the HELIOS project funded by the Ministry of Migration & Asylum. Amongst them, more than 4,600 people coming from Ukraine. In addition, 9,956 job counselling sessions have been conducted by IOM specialized staff. In the framework of the project, the beneficiaries are financially supported in renting apartments, learn Greek, develop new skills and supported in administrative procedures. These activities are hosted in 19 Integration Learning Centers in mainland Greece and Crete.



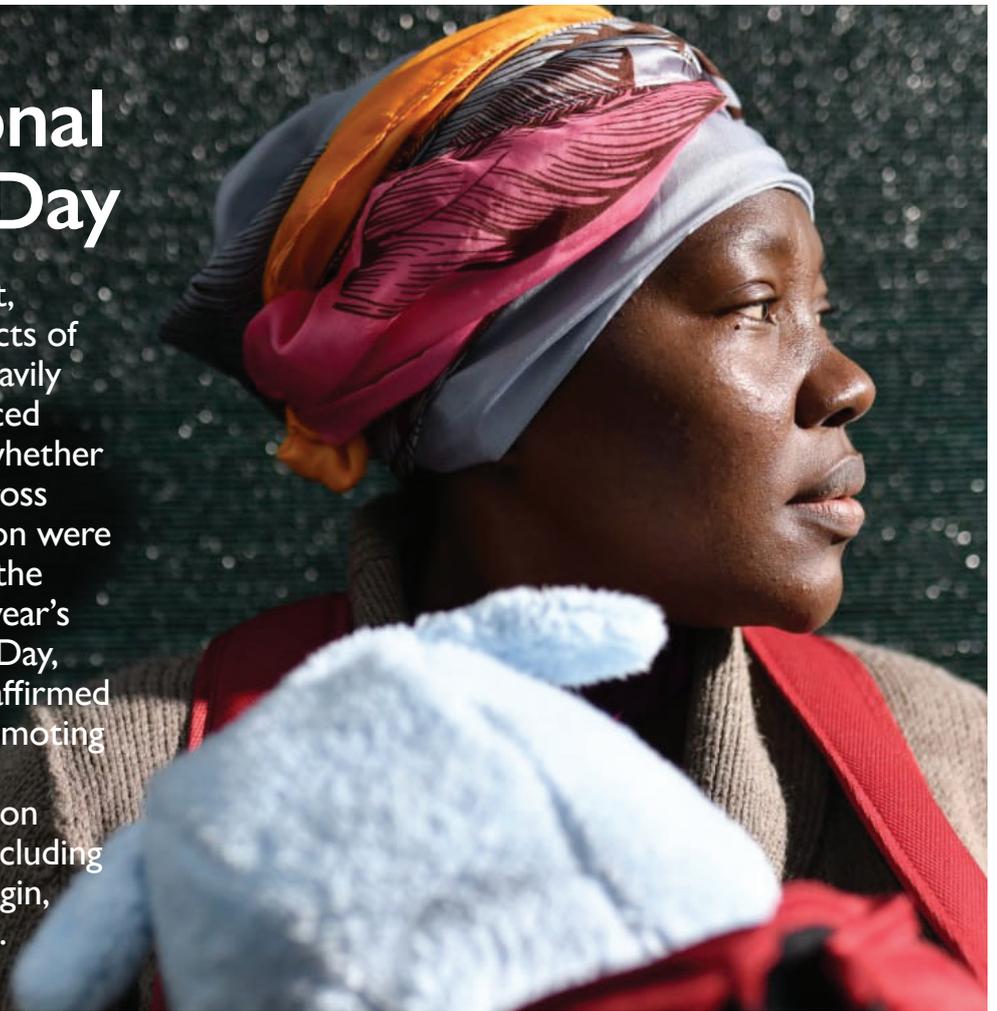
Over 9,100 migrants assisted with voluntary return

Two IOM AVRR charter flights departed from Athens to Lahore and Tbilisi supporting 86 Pakistani and 155 Georgian nationals respectively to return to their home countries, amongst them vulnerable individuals and families. Since the beginning of the current IOM AVRR projects in September 2019, more than 9,100 migrants have safely returned to their home country. The implementation of assisted voluntary returns including reintegration measures and operation of Open Center in the Prefecture of Attica for applicants of voluntary return (AVRR/OCAVRR) is funded 75% by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund of the European Union (AMIF) and 25% by National Funds. IOM Greece is also implementing the project “Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration of Migrants in situations of vulnerability” under the programme “Asylum and Migration” Migration (Addressing urgent needs for the reception and screening of asylum seekers and for the accommodation of vulnerable groups) of the EEA Grants by IOM.

IOM does not support voluntary returns to the Syrian Arab Republic, Afghanistan and Ukraine at this stage.

International Migrants Day

In recent years, conflict, insecurity, and the effects of climate change have heavily contributed to the forced movement of people whether within countries or across borders. Over 59 million were internally displaced by the end of 2021. On this year's International Migrants Day, and every day, IOM reaffirmed its commitment to promoting humane and orderly management of migration for the benefit of all, including the communities of origin, transit, and destination.



Mosaic for Afghan Women

IOM Greece is proud to be part of the #MosaicforAfghanWomen. A group of women from Afghanistan temporarily residing in Thiva accommodation facility participated in the global artistic initiative, Mosaic for Afghan Women | "Hanging by a thread" project, under the auspices of UNESCO. The artists were inspired from the traditional clothing of Afghanistan and created a colorful mosaic! The piece of art is hosted at the Solidarity Center of SolidarityNow in Athens. IOM operates in the facility of Thiva under the Harmonizing Protection Practices in Greece (HARP) program, with the support of the European Commission - DG Home.





Playing for inclusion

Unaccompanied children from IOM shelters had a blast during their volleyball game with the children from Mantoulidis school & General High school of Intercultural Education of Eastern Thessaloniki. The kids became part of a wider team, reflecting solidarity and social fellowship. The initiative was organized with the support of YMCA Thessaloniki. IOM Shelters operate in the context of the Sectoral Development Program (SDP) of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum.



Providing accommodation to 346 UMC

During the reporting period 346 unaccompanied children were accommodated at IOM emergency accommodation facilities which operate under the National Emergency Response Mechanism. Since the beginning of the project in December 2021 and up to December 2022, a total of 2,014 children have been accommodated and received specialized protection services by IOM staff, while educators present at the facilities developed creational activities to support the learning process.

The IOM emergency accommodation facilities operating under the National Emergency Response Mechanism for unaccompanied minors, are coordinated by the SSPUAM with funding from the Ministry of Migration & Asylum through a donation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark.