



# 2017 Annual Report



## YOUTH ENGAGEMENT SPACE (YES)



Over the course of last winter, Lighthouse Relief staff encouraged young people in Ritsona refugee camp in central Greece to work together to decorate the 'blank canvas' of an ISO-box, adding a splash of colour to camp life. The **'Tree of Hope'** project proved popular, and alerted us to the huge potential and creative talent of these young residents. In a matter of weeks, a pilot programme was born – coordinated by LHR with initial support from I Am You – and was an instant success.

In the months that followed, the YES progressed from an idea to a **pilot programme**, successfully engaging youth from across camp in a variety of creative activities. From the beginning, LHR's primary goal was to restore a sense of belonging and purpose to these young people, encouraging them to invest in their futures. With this in mind, experienced professionals were invited to conduct workshops on a wide range of subjects, from architecture to jewellery design, charcoal portraits, graffiti, guitar and photography.

Since upscaling to a larger home in June, the space serves as a **drop-in centre** where young people can continue to partake in creative workshops, as well as unwind, read a book, watch a movie or socialise. The new YES provides an ideal setting for creative talents to flourish. Participants played a leading role in decorating the new physical space, and have actively availed themselves of the drop-in component, creating their own food and entertainment.

The growing sense of ownership for the project was effectively demonstrated around **International Youth Day** on August 12, when they drew from what they learned in the space to launch two powerful new projects. Both were structured around the theme of redefining what it means to be a refugee – a topic suggested by youth to help challenge stigma and stereotypes they regularly encounter.

International Youth Day also saw the official launch of the Ritsona Kingdom Journal, a youth-led magazine featuring artwork, writing and photography from young participants of the YES. To help amplify this bold initiative, Lighthouse Relief staff created a dedicated digital exhibit of magazine content, which was promoted extensively across our networks and to a wider global audience. The RKJ is now on its 6th edition.

The peer support network that has been created in the space goes well beyond Ritsona itself; many of the youth have now been resettled in Athens or elsewhere in Europe, and new faces appear daily. Those who have left continue to play an active part in our activities, contributing to the magazine and sharing their stories as they move forward with their lives. This ability to successfully incorporate the ebb and flow of participants, maintaining a culture of respect and ownership with each new youth that enters the space, is, more than anything else, proof that Lighthouse has achieved a sustainable model that allows us to stay flexible in a changing landscape.





## WORKSHOPS



MSF support group (6 months), guitar lessons (5 months), English lessons (1 month) yoga (3 months), 4 extensive mural projects (2 contracted by other actor), 5 writing, 5 photography, 1 graffiti, 10 self-care, 3 science, 5 film, 5 stop-motion, 5 sports, 10 journalism, 2 health and safety, 3 coding, 5 dance, 7 jewellery-making and beading, 5 resident artist-led, 20 studio art, 3 clowning, 1 comics, 1 poetry, 1 games day.

## ATTENDANCE



Over the course of the programme, **between 150 and 175 individual youth have attended the space.** Of these, around 100 were regular attendees. At least 50 of these regular attendees have moved on from Ritsona camp, either further into Europe or to Athens. In spite of this, **average daily attendance** rose from 10-15 in spring to **25-40** over the summer and autumn.





## CHILD FRIENDLY SPACE (CFS)



The CFS was the first programme established by Lighthouse Relief in Ritsona refugee camp, opening in the spring of 2016. Over the past 18 months, it has provided children aged 3 to 5 with the opportunity to participate in age-appropriate, structured activities, and socialize with peers in a safe environment. The space aids children and their families in transition to recovery and a more stable environment by supporting their resilience and well-being. Lighthouse Relief recognises the importance of nurturing children's wellbeing and development, with a non-discriminatory approach that encourages child participation, all the time considering the best interests of the child.

Providing the children of Ritsona with an opportunity to creatively dictate the terms of their own play, within a secure environment informs their cognitive development and sense of self. It is in this spirit of **free play**, along with a need for **consistency and organized thematic programming**, that the current daily structure was designed and implemented in the first half of 2017.

Over the Easter holidays, in April 2017, the team experienced exceptionally high attendance by older children routinely enrolled in Greek schools. Lighthouse anticipated the need to provide additional programming during the Greek school system's summer break, in order to mitigate the risks of a discontinued routine. Participants were divided into age groups: **Summer Camp** was aimed at children aged between 6 and 9 and **Disco Ritsona** engaged children and youth aged 10 to 14. The project ran from June to September and proved a huge success, bringing attendance of Lighthouse programmes to a record high.

The value of Summer Camps was highlighted in the autumn when, as a result of delays in school enrolment, the CFS continued to experience high attendance, and occasional disruption, from older children who had minimal services to engage with. Although school finally started on 15 November, the timing of the school day has prompted the team to provide parallel recreational activities to engage the older kids outside of the space itself.

In November, the CFS Manager coordinated with the IOM Child Protection Officer to conduct a series of focus groups for parents, gathering useful information and fielding concerns in addressing challenging behaviour, as well as raising awareness as to the rights of parents and their children. Support was also provided to IOM and the Ministry of Education REC in their efforts to promote school enrolment and attendance.

In preparation for winter, the team finished refurbishing 3 ISO-boxes, complete with a chalk-paint walls for the children to draw on, a quiet reading corner with new donated books and a building blocks/Lego wall. The CFS space is now fully equipped with more beautiful, colourful spaces including an After School Club, Three Corners room, a Cosy Corner and a Home Corner.





## ATTENDANCE



In the early months of 2017, the CFS regularly saw average daily attendance figures of between 25 and 35 children. During the summer, this figure more than tripled, with **regular peaks of 100 children per day and 100-150 individual children per week.**

In September, there was a clear decrease in attendance due to many beneficiaries being relocated to accommodation in Athens. The last two months of the year, however, saw numbers rise steeply again as new residents (a more diverse population of Kuwaiti, Palestinian, Iraqi, Congolese, Sudanese and Syrian origin) took advantage of our services, with regular **weekly individual attendance of 80-110 children.** This also reflects the new 'After School' component of programming.





## FEMALE FRIENDLY SPACE (FFS)



The Lighthouse Relief Female Friendly Space (FFS) in Ritsona, which opened its doors in 2016, has built on its successes in 2017. The beginning of the year saw the completion of the fence construction around the space, ensuring the privacy and comfort of women and girls who enter the area. The FFS also saw an upgrade from a tented area to four ISO-boxes: a sewing room, a lounge area, an education/resource centre, and a multi-purpose room.

After conducting a needs assessment, Lighthouse phased out the Infant and Young Child Feeding programme (IYCF). During and after the phase out, the FFS remained a space of comfort for women with infants and young children.

As summer approached, the FFS team initiated an assessment aimed at understanding programming needs during the month of Ramadan, as a result of which the team set up a prayer and relaxation room within the FFS for those looking for a women's area to reflect outside of the home. Eid Al Fitr and Eid Al Adha were celebrated in the FFS with music, sweets and community cooking.

Following Ramadan, the prayer and relaxation room was converted into an education/resource centre filled with books in Arabic and Kurdish to assist with language-learning, as well as story books and puzzles for entertainment.

At the end of summer, the FFS team ran a second needs assessment to gain a better understanding of preferences in activities and programme timing, and the prevalence of anxiety and depression among women in Ritsona. The results of the survey on anxiety and depression, based on the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS), indicated that 68% of residents presented a high score in anxiety, and 50% presented a high score in depression. As a result, Lighthouse partnered with the Hellenic Red Cross to host weekly self-care discussions on topics such as emotions, sleep, body image and stress management.

The results of the needs assessment also highlighted the women's interest in music and language learning. FFS volunteers began leading European language practice several times a week, with French and German among the most popular and consistently taught languages in the space. Around the same time, Lighthouse began providing weekly guitar lessons in collaboration with a local guitar teacher from Chalkida.





## PHASE OUT

In late November, Lighthouse Relief began the process of seeking a handover partner for the FFS, with the **programme phase-out** set to conclude on 22 December. Diotima, a Greek women's studies and research centre, which has been serving as Ritsona's sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) case management team, agreed to take over LHR's FFS programme.

Diotima intends to run the FFS on a smaller scale, while maintaining several of LHR's core activities, such as sewing and crafts. The organisation also continued its case management mandate in the camp.

The team is hopeful that they will be of great service to the women and girls in Ritsona, and that their presence in the former location of LHR's FFS will allow women and girls in need of assistance easier

## ATTENDANCE



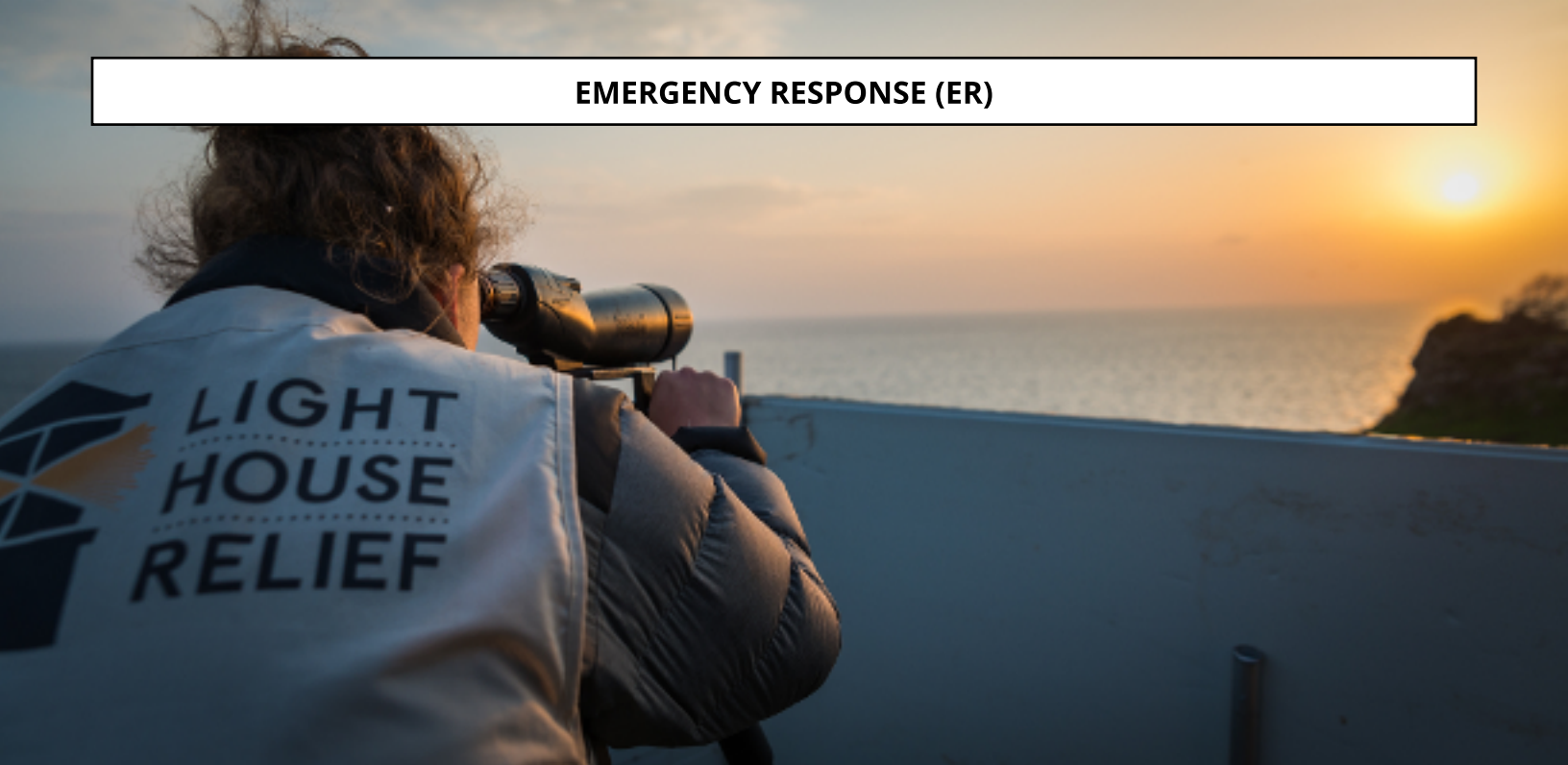
June and July were busy months for the FFS, with 151 and 140 individual beneficiaries served respectively. Attendance took a dip in August and September to 88 and 96. This came as large number of camp residents was transferred to housing in and around Athens in to make room for refugees from the islands.

In the last months of 2017, the FFS was again buzzing with women and girls.





## EMERGENCY RESPONSE (ER)



In November 2016, Lighthouse Relief took over the **Korakas** spotting position from MSF. Since then, Lighthouse has sent volunteers every night for 10-hour spotting shifts using a thermal night vision camera. The spotting team also assisted in landings on the shore near the lighthouse. In 2017, the Korakas team **spotted 37 boats** and assisted in an equal number of landings.

In light of the sub-optimal performance of the night vision equipment from September, Lighthouse organised for it to be serviced pro-bono by Norwegian army technicians in early December. Since the device returned from the service, it has been restored to its usual high standards of performance.

In April 2017, in cooperation with Refugee Rescue, Lighthouse set up a daytime spotting operation near the village of **Lepetimnos**. It comprises two 5-hour shifts in which volunteers, one from each organisation, survey the north shore.

*On 24 April, spotters at Lepetimnos overheard a NATO Warship radio call reporting a body floating in the water. They immediately informed the SAR boats, who found several bodies, but also saved one pregnant woman from the sea. One other person was rescued by Hellenic coastguard. In total, 14 bodies were recovered.*

In July, a decision was made to decommission the **Stage 1 camp** run by Lighthouse. Much of the equipment, such as generators and tents, was redirected to Ritsona, Moria and Stage 2. Some of material, mainly wood, was also donated to the local community. The ISO-Box, along with some basic equipment, was brought to a so-called UNHCR “storage site”, which is on standby as a transit camp if the number of arrivals increases dramatically.

In the UNHCR transit facility Stage 2, Lighthouse is responsible for the distribution of non-food items, including blankets, dry clothing and toiletries. The sorting of donations and restocking of our distribution tent is an essential part of our day-to-day work, allowing us to be as quick and efficient as possible in serving new arrivals.



## FIGURES



Over the course of the year, Lighthouse Relief experienced a progressive **increase in arrivals**. September saw the highest number of arrivals in one month since the EU-Turkey statement was issued in March 2016.

**11,570** people landed on Lesvos in 2017, accounting for 42% of total arrivals in Greece (UNHCR)



## ECO RELIEF



In August, the **ECO Relief** project was successfully phased out, since there was no longer an immediate need for beach cleaning.

In 1.5 years, the project has had an immense impact, clearing the beaches on the north and north-eastern shores of Lesvos of dinghies, life jackets and other waste. It has also proved to be vital in fostering good relations with local communities.

LHR will continue to monitor the situation and hold small beach cleaning excursions when and where needed.





## FILIPPIADA CAMP

The Filippiada **Female Friendly Space** was based on Oxfam's Women and Girls Safe Spaces, where girls and women aged 12+ could go to feel safe, empowered and have access to information, informal education, recreational activities, workshops and support services.

The space created and facilitated workshops, hosted community meetings, mentored, responded to community requests, built positive and professional links to the community, provided health information sessions and supported the referrals of vulnerable cases to responsible actors. The field team collaborated with actors to respond to PSS needs and assisted in identifying and develop residents' skills and interests to excel its preventative work.

The Filippiada **Mother and Baby Area (MBA)** was a holistic programme offering a comprehensive package of services to breastfeeding mothers, pregnant and lactating women, infants and young children. This included counseling with registered partners, infant and young child feeding practices, nutrition and health advice and complimentary feeding.


MBA guidelines were based on the WHO, Save the Children and UNHCR. The programme provided a breastfeeding area and artificial feeding space where mothers could come to rest and learn about best practices.

Programme preparation was implemented and ready for the re-opening of Katsikas Camp which closed in December 2016 and re-opened in September 2017, after the exit of Lighthouse from Epirus.

Programmes in Epirus were **phased out in June 2017**.

The total expenses for Epirus programming in 2017 amounted to **€35,030**.

**Figures**



FFS: 30 individual girls/ women per week

MBA: 16 individual women per week (+ infants)



## COMMUNICATIONS

Over the course of 2017, Lighthouse Relief has built a **strong communications team** – Head of Communications and Partnerships, Communications Officer and Reporting Officer – committed to documenting the situation on Lesvos and in mainland Greece where our programmes operate, to keep the public informed of key developments impacting refugees and challenges to their rights.

April 2017 saw the introduction of a new, organisation-wide **reporting strategy**, aimed at centralising and streamlining the way we collect and internally share qualitative information. This takes the form of weekly situational reports submitted by programme staff, which feed into an internal update compiled by the Reporting Officer, as well as real time information on external factors and events that could impact LHR's work.

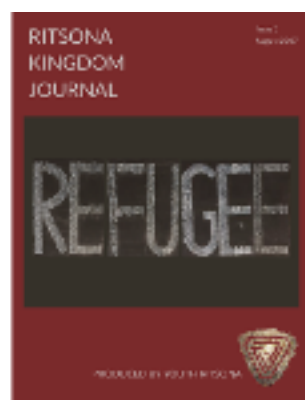
Galvanised by its new internal structure, the team has expanded its programmatic focus to incorporate **advocacy**. Faced with mounting evidence of illegal push-backs and violence on the Aegean border, as well as chronic overcrowding in camps, we are working to leverage our position and experience to draw attention to the forgotten reality of Europe's borders.

This focus has taken the form of a series of campaigns over the summer and autumn months.

In August, the launch of the first three editions of the youth-led [Ritsona Kingdom Journal](#) garnered significant press coverage (featuring on [Devox](#), [Mashable](#) and the [Huffington Post](#), among others) and a notable mention in a [speech to the United Nations](#) by one of our partners. A fifth edition is on its way.

We are acutely aware of the wealth of stories and experiences that each of our beneficiaries is willing to share on a daily basis and do what we can to amplify their voices and address common misperceptions. A recent example is [Waiting in Ritsona](#), a photo and story series on the emotional toll of waiting for relocation and family reunification in Greece.

This includes building and consolidating networks of partner organisations working together to hold national and European authorities to account, and finding new ways to share the unique and varied experiences of the people we work with. This can mean [documenting and reporting rights violations](#), promoting a better understanding of how and why people become refugees, or using the power of media and storytelling to amplify the powerful voices of our beneficiaries.







## AMBASSADORS PROGRAMME

Our ambassadors programme is currently only available in BETA mode for select Lighthouse Relief champions and supporters.

ENTER NOW - PASSWORD: BFOJLHRS

September saw the launch of the pilot [Ambassador Programme](#), a small group of Lighthouse champions who can support our efforts to advance a dignified humanitarian response in Greece through fundraising, recruitment, social engagement and advocacy.

In the first months of 2018, we will expand the programme to a wider selection of past volunteers and staff, creating a tightly-knit global network that can both inform and promote our efforts.

<p><b>SPREAD THE WORD</b></p> <p>Use the public's curiosity with a content-rich infographic to raise awareness, educate and inspire. It's a great way to share your story and build a community of supporters. You can also use it to promote your events and campaigns.</p> <p><b>SPREAD THE WORD</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Infographic</b> - A visual representation of data or information.</li> <li>• <b>Infographic</b> - A visual representation of data or information.</li> <li>• <b>Infographic</b> - A visual representation of data or information.</li> </ul> 	<p><b>FUNRAISE</b></p> <p>Use your network to raise funds for our work. You can do this through crowdfunding, charity events, or by asking for donations. We'll provide you with all the tools and support you need to get started.</p> <p><b>FUNRAISE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Infographic</b> - A visual representation of data or information.</li> <li>• <b>Infographic</b> - A visual representation of data or information.</li> <li>• <b>Infographic</b> - A visual representation of data or information.</li> </ul> 	<p><b>SHARE</b></p> <p>Use your social media skills to share our story with a wider audience. You can do this by posting photos, videos, and articles. We'll provide you with all the tools and support you need to get started.</p> <p><b>SHARE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Infographic</b> - A visual representation of data or information.</li> <li>• <b>Infographic</b> - A visual representation of data or information.</li> <li>• <b>Infographic</b> - A visual representation of data or information.</li> </ul> 	<p><b>RECRUIT</b></p> <p>Use your network to recruit new volunteers and supporters. You can do this by reaching out to friends, family, and colleagues. We'll provide you with all the tools and support you need to get started.</p> <p><b>RECRUIT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Infographic</b> - A visual representation of data or information.</li> <li>• <b>Infographic</b> - A visual representation of data or information.</li> <li>• <b>Infographic</b> - A visual representation of data or information.</li> </ul> 
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# a children's guide to children's rights

with photos and stories from Ritsona refugee camp in Greece



## Amplifying the voices of our beneficiaries



To mark World Children's Day, we published "**A Children's Guide to Children's Rights**", a child-friendly guide to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It is a perfect entry point for parents and educators to begin talking with their children about the European refugee situation and human rights more broadly.

In time for the Christmas holidays, we published a hard copy on [Amazon](#) and a [digital version](#) on our website, with proceeds supporting our work.



## LIGHTHOUSE RELIEF SWEDEN



In 2017, Lighthouse Relief Sweden participated in various talks, cultural events, and had given lectures to Swedish companies with a view to increase fundraising opportunities, partnerships and to highlighting the importance of supporting refugees in Greece.

Centigo, a Swedish company, supported Lighthouse with free access to their conference rooms. Meetings with the board and local activists occurred on a regular basis.

March 2017 saw Lighthouse Relief's first annual workshop, connecting the management teams across Sweden and Greece to share experiences, values, best practice and organizational ethos.

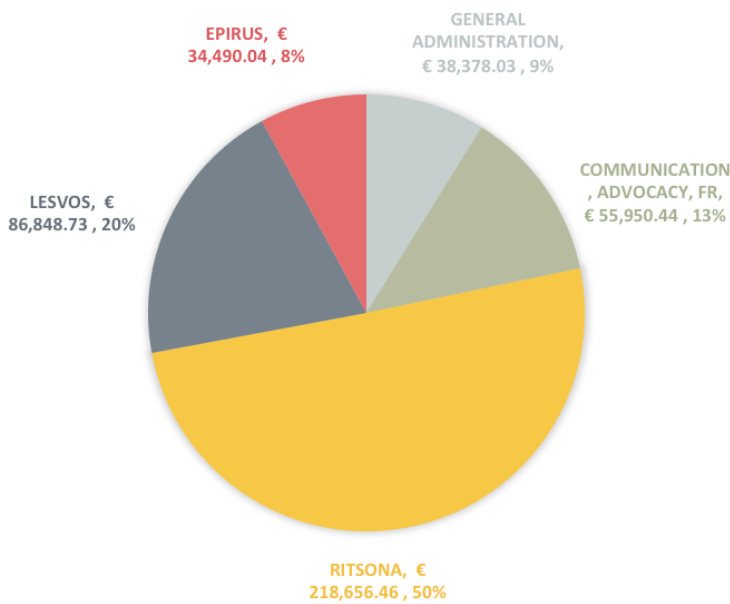
Throughout, the main focus was on supporting the running of Lighthouse Relief in Greece, including visiting operations on a regular basis.



# FINANCES



## TOTAL SPENDING 2017



In 2017, Lighthouse Relief total spending amounted to **€431,773\***

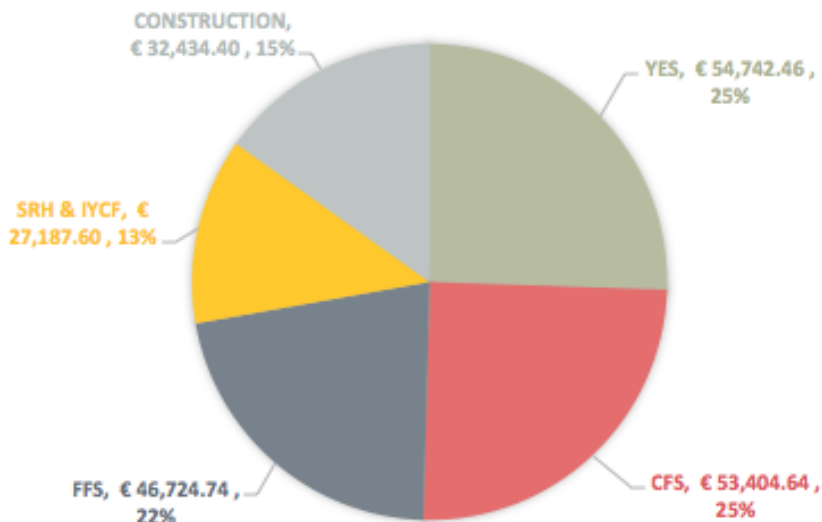
*\*based on unaudited, consolidated data of LHR Hellas and LHR Sweden; based on internal reporting systems which may cause variance in the final audited data of both entities*

In 2017, Lighthouse Relief was active in Ritsona, Katsikas and Filippiada camps on the mainland and on North Eastern Lesvos

- Child Protection in Emergencies (CPIE) – Ritsona
- Female Friendly Spaces – Ritsona, Katsikas, Filippiada
- Gender Based Violence (GBV) – Ritsona
- Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) – Ritsona, Katsikas, Filippiada
- Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) – Ritsona
- Construction Programme – Ritsona
- Emergency Response & Camp Management – Lesvos
- ECO Relief Environmental clean-up & ECO Relief Upcycling – Lesvos



# PROGRAMME SPENDING



## RITSONA

In 2017,

Ritsona programme expenses amounted to **50%** of total spending

SRH, IYCF & the Construction project were phased out in April

FFS was phased out in December and handed over to women's research centre

Diotima



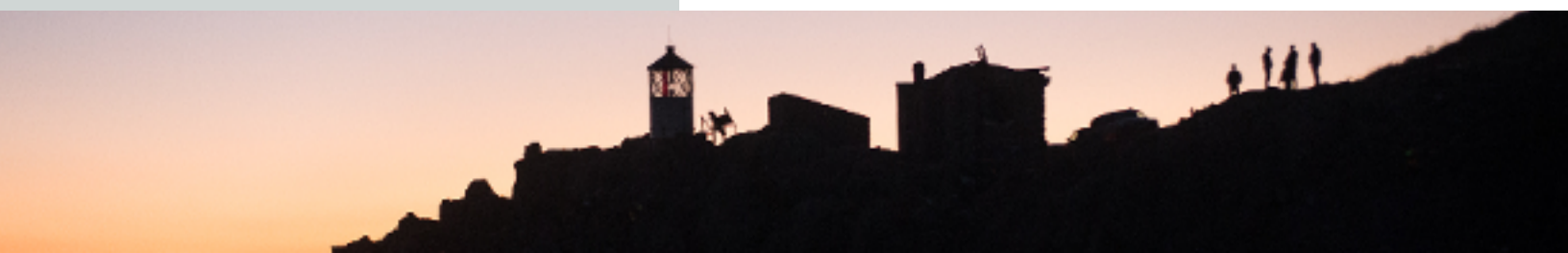
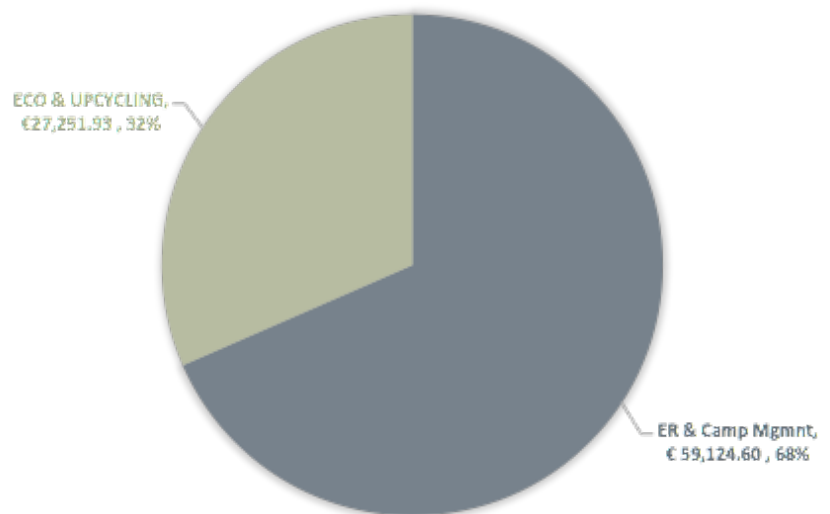
## LESVOS

In 2017,

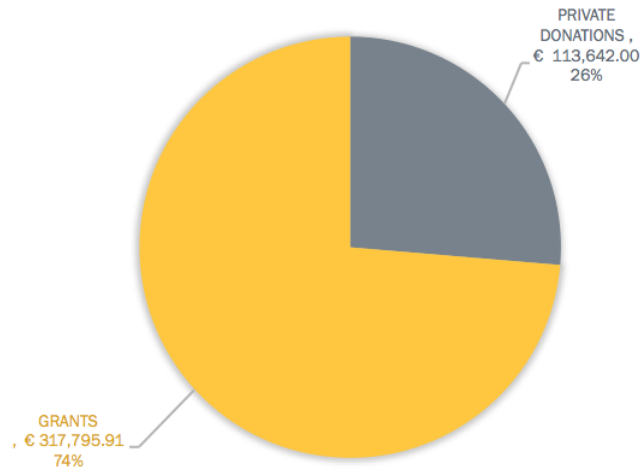
Lesvos programme expenses amounted to **20%** of total spending

The ECO & Upcycling programmes were phased out in August 2017.

ER & Camp Management includes Korakas spotting activities



# SOURCES OF FUNDING



Grantors	Amount	Percentage
Help Refugees	€ 120,350.56	38%
LDS GR & SW	€ 83,097.00	26%
Global Fund	€ 43,998.78	14%
Oxfam	€ 22,359.33	7%
Anglican Church	€ 18,607.77	6%
Lions Norway	€ 10,809.28	3%
Tori Thomas	€ 7,053.08	2%
Latter Day Saints	€ 3,788.59	1%
Irish Volunteers	€ 3,415.22	1%
Mandala Trust	€ 2,561.11	1%
ESAA	€ 1,101.79	0%
Refugee Relief Sweden	€ 653.40	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€ 317,795.91</b>	





**Contact us**

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