

# Lighthouse Relief 2018

ANNUAL REPORT



## YOUTH ENGAGEMENT SPACE (YES)



*"I met with a small group of young people and suggested they design a tree with hope as the theme. One teenage boy immediately replied that he had none. He confided in me that he sometimes wished he could die because he had no one in this world. 'Hope is leaving here,' he told me."*

Daphne Morgan - YES founder

The Youth Engagement Space (YES) was founded at the request of a small group of young residents in early 2017, with the aim of restoring a sense of belonging to a forgotten age group and helping them to invest in their futures.

Today, it is the **main social space for youth in Ritsona**. Many friendships have been formed in the YES, and it remains a place where young people can escape the stresses of daily life in a refugee camp to enjoy community spirit, learn and create.

From the very beginning, the space has been **shaped by residents**, who led many of the regular 2018 workshops, such as French and English Language classes.

For the duration of the year, a guitar teacher from Chalkida came to the space once a week to give lessons - a weekly highlight supported by the International Sports and Music Programme.

In August, the YES had a special guest: Ahmed Badr, Iraqi/American social media influencer, writer, entrepreneur, storyteller, advocate for youth, artistic expression and human rights, and himself a refugee. He worked with Lighthouse Relief as an intern, as well heading storytelling workshops and acting as a translator. The 7th edition of the **Ritsona Kingdom Journal** was published on his platform, [Narratio](#). This was one of **four 2018 editions** of the internationally acclaimed magazine

## YOUTH UNMUTED

In Spring 2018, LHR supported the pilot phase of Youth Unmuted, a project that was born out of the YES and its storytelling activities.

The pilot took place from May to August 2018 on the island of Lesbos, Greece, with three partner organizations: Office of Displaced Designers, One Happy Family, and Mosaik Support Center.

During this time, Youth UnMuted reached more than 300 youth, lead the creation of a collaborative community mural, and co-hosted a community showcase, concluding with the release of the 1st edition of the online Youth UnMuted Magazine in June 2018.



## ATTENDANCE



Over the course of 2018, **between 170 and 230 individual youth** visited the YES programme. Of these, around **60 are regular attendees**, and some are also part of our Resident Volunteer Programme.

Several youth have been able to join their families elsewhere in Europe, or were relocated to Athens. Thanks to wealth of new workshops, activities and projects LHR implemented with the youth, average daily attendance soared **from an average of 30-45** at the start of the year **to an average of around 110** active participants in the last quarter.



## RESIDENT VOLUNTEERS



*"I wanted to volunteer because I knew I would be happy with this programme. When I help others I feel happy, especially children. That's why I love being a volunteer!"*

Hamid - CFS Resident Volunteer

In March, the team in Ritsona launched the first phase of our Resident Volunteer programme, giving residents the opportunity to volunteer in Lighthouse's Youth Engagement Space (YES) and Child Friendly Space (CFS). Two rounds of intensive training produced 21 fully trained residents working at the CFS. These participants underwent UNHCR GREECE's Child Protection training as part of the requirements. Eight residents completed the pilot training for the YES and began working in the space, delivering workshops including cooking, guitar and football.

The Resident Volunteer Programme aims to provide capacity-building opportunities to Ritsona's residents by recognising and utilising their broad skills and recruiting them to join the teams delivering our community and social programmes. Residents can volunteer to work within the Youth Engagement Space and Child Friendly Space programmes, in construction teams and in support of Communications.

This initiative is an opportunity for the community to be more involved in the planning and implementation of services; to address the current lack of cultural representation during planning of daily activities in the Child Friendly Space and Youth Engagement Space; and to provide camp residents with a sense of ownership of Lighthouse Relief's spaces.

According to the residents themselves, the project has had a positive impact on their personal lives. One said that the RVP has improved their relationship with their children, and another emphasised that it's "good for the children and good for the volunteer". Lighthouse Relief is extremely proud of its success, and intends to continue to expand and improve the programme.

## CHILD FRIENDLY SPACE (CFS)



*"[The children] develop and gain confidence over time, finding a strong voice. It is really amazing to see. Establishing connections with those around them, finding autonomy in their choices during our programming, engaging in the way that they as an individual would like to - is beautiful."*

Keelin - CFS Manager

The end of 2017 saw a significant change in the camp's demographics, requiring renewed outreach efforts on the part of the CFS team, which bore fruits in the early months of the following year. Over the course of 2018, attendance numbers in the CFS remained high and relatively stable, allowing the team to shape a truly sustainable programme, both for 3 to 5-year-olds and for the after school contingent

An important pilot project for 2018 was the weekly Parents Group, which is open to both mothers and fathers and includes arts and crafts, meditation and gardening. It allows the staff and volunteers to build positive relationships with parents over time, and it is a space where they can provide feedback or share any concerns they have regarding our programmes in Ritsona.

As the children of Ritsona returned to school in autumn, Lighthouse Relief provided extra assistance in adapting to their new routine. Our programmes offered school supplies, after-school Greek language classes and well as a packed lunch filled with locally sourced food for after school activities.





## ATTENDANCE



In the early months of 2018, the CFS regularly saw average daily attendance figures of between 30 and 85 children, almost double the figures for the previous year. During the summer, this number remained relatively stable, with **an average of 40-50 children per day and up to 110 individual children per week.**

Unlike previous years, attendance remained high, even rising slightly, in autumn, with average daily attendance ranging between 35 and 70 children per day.



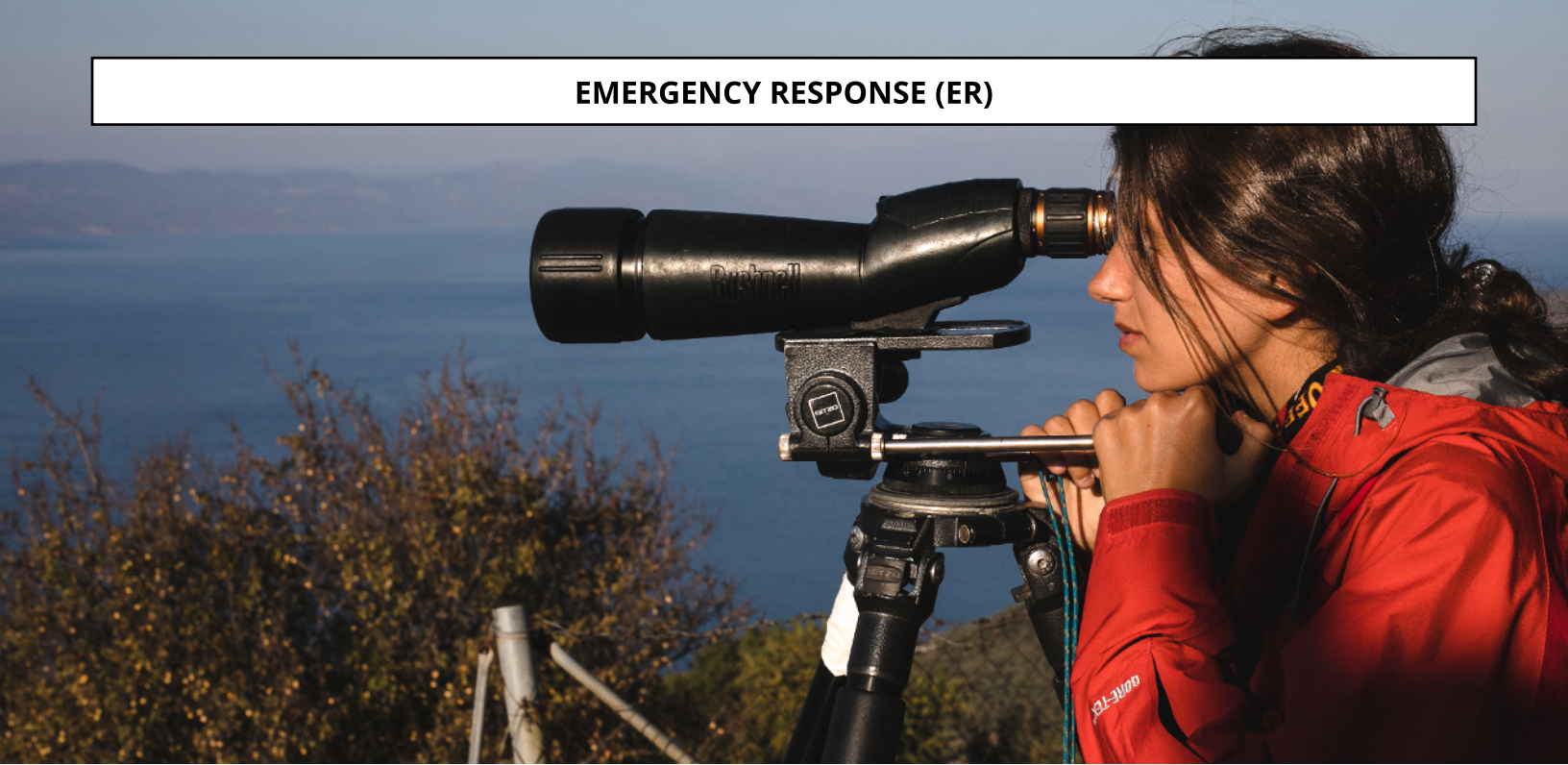
## SPORTS PROGRAMME



Sports programming helps children and youth build team spirit, self-confidence, and personal skills.

The LHR football pilot project, funded by the SOL foundation, commenced in mid September 2018, and lasted for 3 months, with the last training session taking place in December. A local, UEFA-certified coach ran 4 weekly football sessions for young residents aged 6-17.

Alongside these more formal sessions, LHR started offering volunteer-led tennis lessons and facilitating volleyball tournaments on an informal basis.



2018 was a busy year for the Lesvos team, who witnessed a 60% increase in arrivals to the north shore compared to 2017.

As of Spring 2018, **Lighthouse Relief is the last organisation with dedicated spotting and landing teams on the north shore of Lesvos.** Through the blistering summer heat into harsh winter conditions, our volunteers and staff stood by their promise to represent a stable presence in the area and provide a warm welcome to those arriving in Europe. In autumn, the team was able to purchase a vehicle which proved to be vital given to the high number of landings.

Despite the empty pledges of European authorities, people continue to die at Europe's doorstep. Arrival numbers may have gone down, but **the crossing was proportionally deadlier in 2018 than in previous years:** 174 people lost their lives, almost triple the number from 2017. The fact that we are still witnessing heartbreaking scenes like these at Europe's border has strengthened our resolve and reinforced our understanding of why our presence is still needed .

### FIGURES



In 2018, our volunteers assisted almost **7,000 people** in Stage 2 transit camp and attended **146 landings**. 3,000 of total arrivals were children. The busiest month was **August**, when our team welcomed **853 new arrivals**.

The majority of sea arrivals to Greece in 2018 landed on Lesvos (15,034 people). 46% of these were from Afghanistan, the most represented population.



*"One thing is certain to me: this is not going to end any time soon. These people are not going back for the obvious reason that there's no place to go back to."*

Farshad, Emergency Response Coordinator



## ECO PROJECT



In 2018, LHR built community ties and made strides towards preserving the island's shoreline with the revival of the ECO Project as a summer programme.

Through the tireless efforts of our ECO warriors and our fruitful collaboration with the Mo Chara boat crew, the ECO Project successfully removed more than 42 dinghies, 692 lifejackets, 574 bags of rubbish and countless pieces of debris from the north shore of Lesvos.

This resulted in improved walking and landing trails, which ensure that the local community and tourists can enjoy the island's natural beauty and that our emergency response teams can access remote areas more safely and efficiently.



## COMMUNICATIONS



2018 was a challenging year for NGOs working in the Mediterranean region: as institutions consistently failed to provide adequate assistance to thousands fleeing war, hunger and persecution, NGOs trying to fill this void found themselves under intense scrutiny and, often, criminalised for their humanitarian work.

Over the course of the year, the LHR communications team built on its strengths, running successful social media campaigns (30 days of LHR) and building lasting partnerships. Throughout our work, we continue to support people as they tell their own stories and challenge the narratives that are imposed on them. The quantitative and qualitative testimonies that we collect, as some of the remaining independent actors on the ground, help us to raise awareness and to bear witness on rights issues in these forgotten regions.

LHR campaigns on the Global Giving platform resonated around the world, raising over \$50,000 for our operations and enhancing awareness of the challenges involved. Our new partnership with the European Outdoor Conservation Association to revive the Lesvos ECO programme is set to continue well beyond the end of the year.

Meanwhile, media outlets continued to find inspiration in our programmes, with features including Huck Magazine, The Cut and The National.

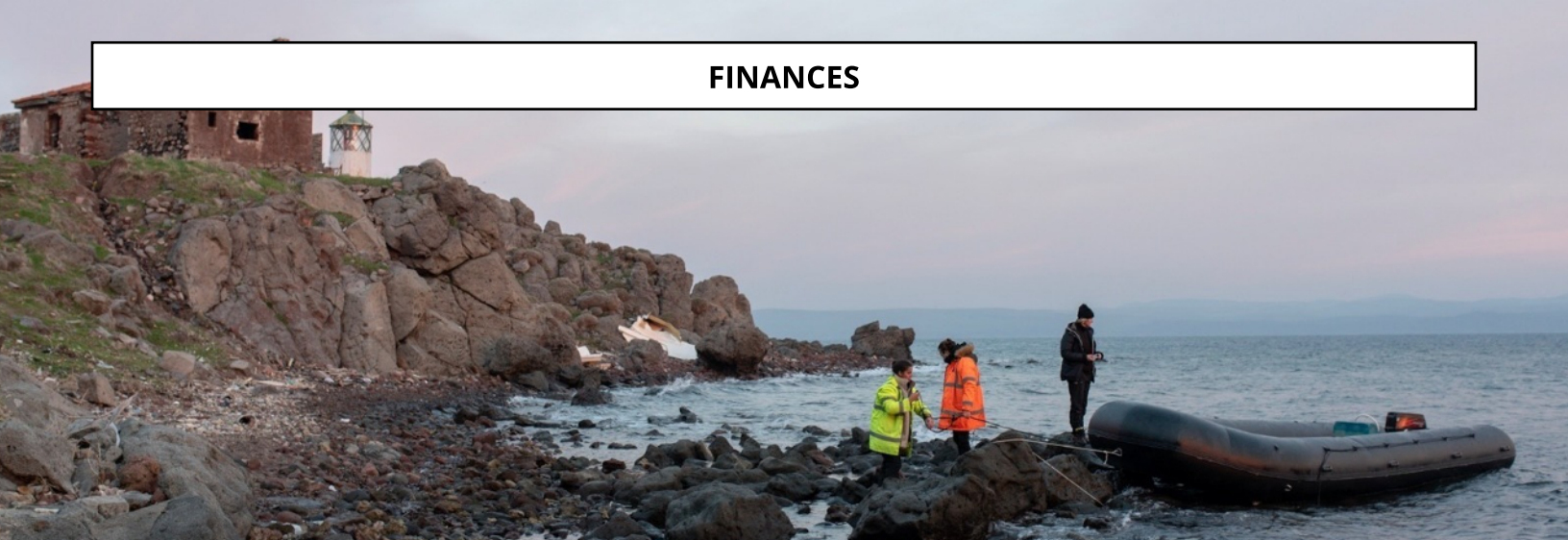
### Storytelling Without Borders

*"In this video, the refugees want to come into a European country. The police of Turkey want to attack the refugees — they come in front of the refugee boat and crash into them. Most of the refugees fell into the water. Maybe five people or ten people died. I was in the water too, but I had a life jacket" - Satar, 16 years old, Afghanistan."*

Early in 2018, Lighthouse Relief was selected to participate in a three-month initiative in partnership with Storytelling Without Borders. The project guided young refugees in using film and stop-motion animation to communicate across borders and language barriers.

Following the launch in the Ritsona YES, the project travelled to various different spaces on the mainland and in Lesvos, providing a safe environment for participants to explore their experiences and building a wide creative network.

## FINANCES



### TOTAL SPENDING IN 2018

Lighthouse Relief Total Spending in 2018: €179,919.80

Total Spending in Ritsona: €90,508.56 (Total YES: €53,991.41, Total CFS: €36,517.15)

Total Spending in Lesvos: €52,373.94

Total Spending Communications: €19,635.07

Total Spending Administration: €17,402.23

### TOTAL INCOME IN 2018

Private Donations\*: €122,493.44

Institutional Donors (below): €20,217.85

\*Private donations are derived from direct donations, GlobalGiving's crowdfunding platform, PayPal donations through our website, Stripe donations through our website & cash donations

### OUR PARTNERS IN 2018

Donor	Amount	Percentage of Income
SOL Foundation	9,779.85	6.85
European Outdoor Conservation Association	9,000.00	6.31
Asociación Amigos de Ritsona	1,438.00	1.01



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