



SOCIAL WELFARE DIVISION

RITSONA ACCOMMODATION CENTER FOR MIGRANTS & REFUGEES



PSS and CEA team activities in Ritsona camp

The Hellenic Red Cross has been active from the very first moment of the refugee crisis in Ritsona camp, providing psychosocial support and humanitarian aid services. In particular, since July 2021, the Social Welfare Division of the Hellenic Red Cross, within the context of the Emergency Appeal for Migration, has been developing Psychosocial Support (PSS) and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) services..



PSS & CEA team, consisting of two (2) social workers, one (1) CEA officer and three (3) cultural mediators/interpreters, provide individual and group counseling sessions, activities focusing on the enhancement of linkage with local aid services and information on available community resources, as well as activities with the aim to raise local community awareness on refugee issues. In addition, it develops feedback mechanisms and evaluates the result of the activities offered to target population, aiming to empower the relationship of trust between the Hellenic Red Cross, target population and the society.



Social Service in Ritsona camp supported the vaccination process against Covid-19, for vulnerable groups and minors over 12 years of age initially, and at a later stage those being over 5 years of age, in collaboration with the pediatric clinic of the HRC Mobile Health Team. The procedure included meetings to inform and schedule an appointment for the first and second dose of vaccine but also for the issuance of the vaccination certificate. The team also contributed to the process of issuing the Individual Student Card, undertaken by the HRC Mobile Health Team, which was necessary for the enrolment and active participation of children in activities implemented within the context of the school environment.

IMPLEMENTATION OF CREATIVE ACTIVITIES WORKSHOPS

Within the context of the development of creative activities for the host community, a series of group workshops were implemented and continue to be developed, which were designed based on the preferences of the target population, following a relevant evaluation survey. Those workshops include: learning chess, photography, drama game, sports activities, English learning activities through painting for preschoolers.

"Sports activities workshop"

Sixteen (16) women of Somali origin, aged 18-30, participate in two groups doing fitness exercises either indoors or outdoors, each based on their preferences and needs. The aim of the workshop is to engage women with an activity, that provides them with a recreational and creative sense of occupation, while enhancing at the same time their health condition and fitness, developing as well their communication skills.



"Drama game"

Drama game workshop for the occupational activity of minors, aged 5 to 11, in order to encourage and enhance children's self-expression through acting and improvisation techniques (e.g. pantomime).

"Learning chess"

Workshop for the first contact and acquaintance with chess, which is a board game being and at the same time an intellectual sport activity. The action aims at the development of communication and cognitive skills, analytical and creative thinking, problem-solving ability, as well as to encourage the analysis of the action-reaction-consistency relationship. Men 17 to 25 years old participate in the workshop.



"Learning English through painting for preschool children"

English language learning workshop for preschool children through painting. The aim of the activity, in which 28 children, aged 5 years (Farsi and French speaking) participate, is the contact, the acquaintance and the acquisition of basic skills in the use of the English language in a pleasant and fun way through the possibility for artistic expression and creation that provides the art of painting. In particular, the activity aims at the development of communication skills and the improvement of the social and linguistic abilities of the participants with the aim of understanding the basic concepts when being in contact for the first time with a foreign language.



"Photography Group"

Workshop focusing on the introduction to the theory and basic techniques of photography, aimed at adults of all nationalities within the community. It aims basically at learning and acquiring basic skills in photography and the central axis of the action is the development and mobilization of the individual skills of the participants.



The host community embraced with interest all the activities implemented within the camp, initiated by the Hellenic Red Cross team. The impact of HRC activities to target population is proven by the large participation of children, women and adolescents in the workshops.

Everyday life moments from Ritsona Refugee Camp

This was the title of the photo exhibition organized by the Hellenic Red Cross, which included photo material taken by host population of Ritsona camp. It was hosted in the "Aristotelis" hall of the Municipal Organization of Sports, Culture and Environment of the Municipality of Chalkida on **6 & 7 April 2022**.



The event was greeted by the **President of the Hellenic Red Cross, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos**, who obviously excitedly congratulated the creators of the photo material, children residing in Ritsona camp, who participate in the photography workshops and urged them to continue fighting to make their dreams come true. The inauguration was honored by the presence of the **Mayor of Chalkida, Mrs. Elena Vaka**, the **President of the Hellenic Red Cross Branch Office in Chalkida, Mr. Ioannis Deligiannis**, members of the Board of Directors of the local Branch, representatives of NGOs active in Ritsona site, guests as well as many residents of the camp and Chalkida city.

The project is implemented with the support of the **International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies** within the context of the **Emergency Appeal for Migration**