



ACTION FOR
EDUCATION

Impact Report

Greece
2018 - 2019



About

Action for Education (AFE) was established in 2018 by a group of long-term volunteers working on the Greek island of Chios. Having taken over the management of the education projects started by Be Aware and Share in 2016, AFE remains committed to supporting marginalised communities in Greece.

Over the past 18 months, we have maintained and grown the reach of our work, establishing ourselves as a respected entity within the Greek non-profit and grassroots sectors.

Whilst thousands of asylum seekers continue to live in makeshift camps on the islands, and those on the mainland continue to face huge barriers to continued learning and integration, we will not stop working to meet basic needs and run our critical safe spaces that foster empowerment and build community.

At present, Action for Education works with a team of over 50 volunteers across our centres in Greece, hosting welcoming and community-orientated spaces for up to 1,000 beneficiaries a month. As we grow and learn for the future, we invite you to share in an unfolding story and act with us for education.

Find out more: www.actionforeducation.co.uk

WELLBEING

IMPACT GOAL 1

Asylum seekers have greater wellbeing

175 meals

served on average every day over 2 years, totalling **72,130**

€0.30

per meal & €70 per day saved by students eating in our centres.

100+

sanitary items distributed every women's day: 16,224 in total.

12 showers

taken by students each day, totalling **7,580** in two years

*156 visits**

daily and **97,639** total visits to AFE's education centres (*average across 2 years)

500 visits

daily to centres since of March 2019

Statistical range: Jan 2018 - Dec 2019



Within a context of great deprivation, the primary impact of our work remains supporting the wellbeing of asylum seekers. This guiding principle has prompted ambitious growth from two centres in early 2018 to six centres across Chios, Samos and Athens by 2019.

By offering daily meals, nutritious snacks, hygiene items and open-access wifi, we've created systems that support and improve individuals' wellbeing, leading to greater motivation to learn, confidence to discover and resilience in the face of hardship. Having created hundreds of individual development plans for participants, we've witnessed participants opening up to new opportunities, exploring their identity, meeting new friends and pursuing every more learning opportunities in and out of our programmes.

But offering meals also means our participants save money every day on purchasing supplementary food ingredients. Boosting spending power allows asylum seekers to invest more in their own needs, further improving their welfare.

We've also worked with the likes of IOM, METAdrasi, ARSIS and UNHCR to build effective and fast-acting referral pathways that ensure vulnerable youth access our services immediately. Maintaining long-term teams in our operational locations has strengthened these partnerships and guaranteed sensitivity to evolving wellbeing needs within volatile working conditions.

Case study

by Hamza - student, Youth Centre and High School, Chios, 2018.

"AFE offered me a great environment, full of happiness and education. When I first went to AFE's school I knew just 10% English. But day by day my English improved thanks to teachers who were like friends, talking to me and engaging in conversation. After I left Chios and went to Athens, within two weeks I got a job at a Call Centre where I've now been working for more than a year. I got this because AFE taught me how to make a CV and improved my English. AFE made me feel that I am important. They helped me at a hard time in accepting myself, and supported me with almost everything."

EDUCATION IMPACT GOAL 2

Asylum seekers have greater capacity to engage in present and future opportunities

5 courses

in vocational training successfully delivered.

>80

work experience opportunities taken up

30+

nationalities brought together in shared learning spaces

8 hours

of childcare available daily to infants, totalling **5,184 hours**.

Statistical range: Jan 2018 - Dec 2019
20 classes

given daily by language teachers, totalling **12,624 hours** in 2 years!

8 daily

youth workshops delivered, totalling **4,763** over 2 years.

Our teams of educators work alongside asylum seekers to build confidence and skills for continuing learning and vocational opportunities. Since 2018, we've been creating a highly specialised curriculum that nurtures individual and group-orientated soft skills in young refugees, including resilience, self-esteem, non-violent communication, multi-cultural tolerance and teamwork.

In complimenting provision, our digital literacy and language courses have prepared hundreds of asylum seekers for continuing education and job opportunities. With a focus on English within emergency contexts and Greek within wider society, more than 5,000 students have attended courses, with many absolute beginners graduating from our centres with proficient language abilities. At a younger age, children aged 2 - 7 and 6 - 12 have received daily early childhood and primary-aged education, where we focus on preparing children and parents for continued learning through acclimatisation to classroom spaces and daily learning habits.

Across our centres, our suite of in-house Teacher Training and Youth Leadership Training courses lead to many of our participants taking on work experience placements with our volunteer teams, such as language teaching and youth work. With continuing professional development, an organisational reference, and a first European work placement, since 2018 we've worked with 80 young asylum seekers, many of whom have gone on to find jobs in Athens or abroad.

Case study

Antoine Guittin - PAL Trainer - Youth Leadership Programme, Chios

"The PAL Youth Leadership Course has been brilliant success. Run for those wishing to take on leadership and mentorship roles in our Centre, the course builds youth leadership skills. The 4-week course comprised various trainings, both theoretical and practical, that covered Principles of Leadership, Child Protection, Conflict Resolution and other topics. 17 participants applied for the course and 15 completed it.

Each group in the Youth Centre now has active PALs supporting the volunteers. Since then, the PALs have been running projects, such as teaching chess, art, gym and ping pong and encouraging disengaged participants to join in with creative projects by being approachable and empathetic. As a team we are happy and proud that our Youth Centre is being led by youth and the community have a part to play in the running of the centre."

SOCIETY IMPACT GOAL 3

Society develops better ways of working with and welcoming displaced people.

Statistical range: Jan 2018 - Dec 2019

230 hours

of volunteer time given daily, totalling 143,000 hours!

180%

increase in social media reach

286

international & community volunteers placed

217

inter-NGO coordination meetings attended

200+

published works of student creativity

€75,000

raised through public crowdfunding



In our work with volunteers, we've created a network of over 200 ambassadors all around the world. As former volunteers in Greece, they are knowledgeable advocates for refugee rights, based in over 30 countries. Through their advocacy, we have reached thousands more people, mobilising citizens around the world to donate over €75,000 in crowdfunding.

In the grassroots sector, we are leading the way in coordination and partnership efforts. AFE coordinators are not only active members of UNHCR-run working groups in Greece, but facilitate a number of other crucial working groups. These include NGO Coordination, Community Engagement and Sustainability Working Groups. We've co-authored a number of key advocacy statements to the European Parliament and produced publications for the grassroots sector on the topics of Environmentalism, Organisational Registration, and Non-formal education, strengthening the processes of sharing best practices.

On a yet larger scale, we've built an engaged audience across social media channels, which has grown at a rate of 180% since 2018. We've sought creative ways of sensitising audiences to refugee issues, such as hosting the largest online archive of refugee student creativity from Greece - Chios Voices - and developing resources for schools and delivering regular situation updates.

Case study

Jacob Warn - Chios Voices: the largest online creative platform from Greece | www.chiosvoices.com

"Chios Voices began on a cold February afternoon inside our old school building in Chios. A long roll of brown paper spread across several desks around which students gathered. But the images and poems created on that day set the tone for a much larger creative project.

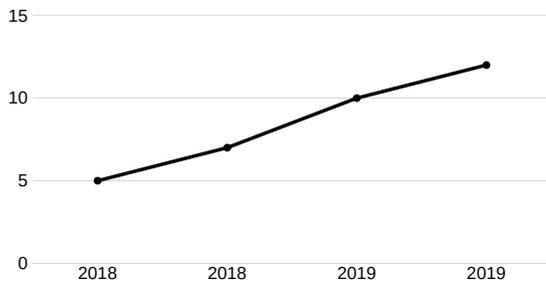
Refugees on the island of Chios face multiple physical and psychological forms of entrapment. Not only is the geographically isolated, but it is also hidden from the eyes of the world. But mentoring students to create verse, video and journalism offers a way of fighting back. On our online platform, children and young adults address the world. Translated from Arabic, French and Farsi into English and Greek, their refugee experiences are read around the globe and have become the largest digital collection of such writing from Greece."

GROWTH

2018 - 2019

Demonstrating innovative and scalable practices in a grassroots context

Coordination Team



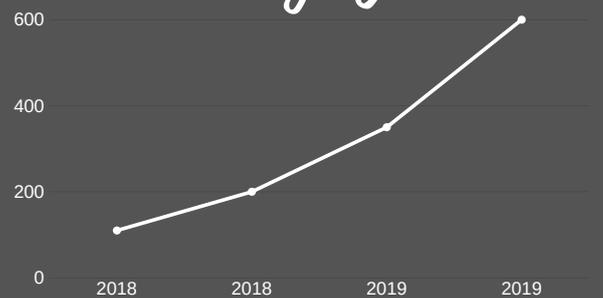
Since the initial team of 5 coordinators launched our projects in early 2018, we've successfully built a much larger, more diverse and multi-locational team.

Through innovative communication strategies and decision-making processes, we're demonstrating how a devolved model of project management can retain the power and responsiveness of grassroots momentum and combine it with a strong and professional NGO structure.

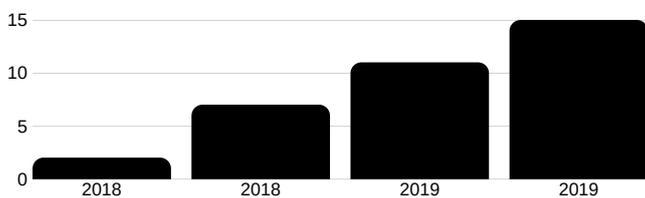
Recognising the challenges faced by grassroots groups in meeting the scale of basic needs, we've constantly pushed to increase the number of beneficiaries we reach every day without ever compromising on quality.

Through effective scaling and replication of our project structures, we've found ways of reaching more and more asylum seekers across 6 centres and 3 geographical locations in Greece.

Beneficiary Growth



Strategic Partnerships



We believe the key to creating effective and high-value change lies in developing strategic partnerships on a national and international level. These include financial, advisory, logistical and activist organisations.

To this end, [we've partnered with over 20 leading organisations](#) from within the charitable and corporate sectors. We continue to form new partnerships that improve and expand our impact and support for refugees.

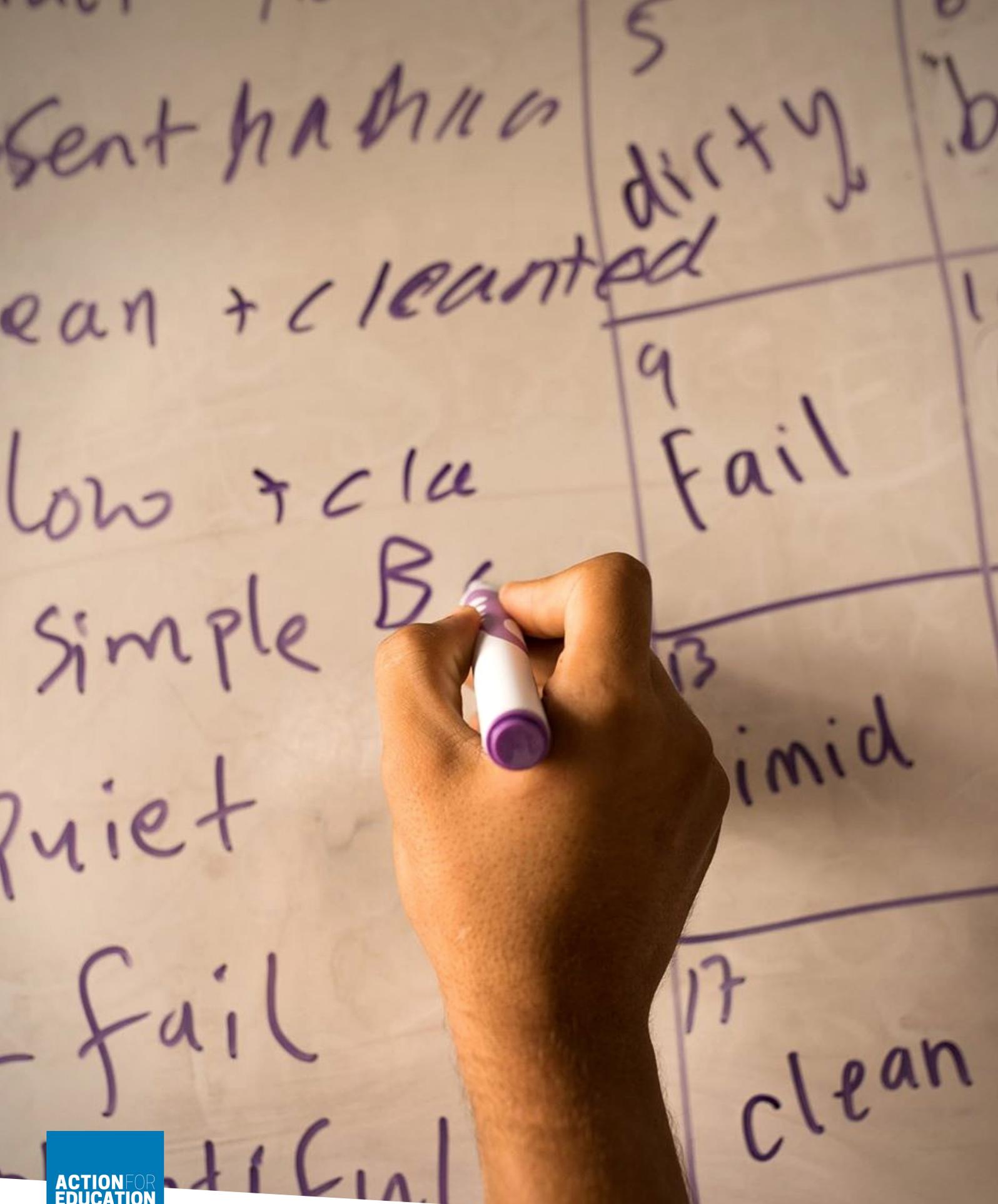
Number of projects
Jan 2018 - Oct 2019



Number of locations
Jan 2018 - Oct 2019



Projects & Locations



Find out more

www.actionforeducation.co.uk