Overview of the project

Dear Supporters,

Welcome to our second quarterly report of 2018. The last three months have been filled with new collaborations, the development of exciting project ideas and our first ever event held in Vial Refugee Camp. People continue to arrive onto the Island and in July alone there were 555 new arrivals onto Chios Island making an official total of over 2000 people residing in Vial.

Subsequently, our services have been in huge demand and we are constantly registering new people to join both our High School and Youth Centre. In fact, over the past 3 months we have registered over 159 new participants including 55 women across both institutions and age groups. The decrease from last quarter is due to the slow movement off the Island.

A particular highlight of this quarter has been the projects that we have co-delivered with our different partners. This has included running Sky School, a blended-learning course in Peace-building, health workshops with SMH and the Unmentionables, and music training from the Shropshire Music Foundation. Such opportunities have proved to be important in expanding our offering to our students and continue to make us relevant and exciting as a project.

We are also very fortunate to have many volunteers who initially committed to 2 months, either continue to stay here indefinitely or already re-commit to coming back later in the year. This is testimony to the exciting and impactful work we are delivering on the Island.

As we enter the third quarter of this year, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our supporters who continue to stand by us and champion our vision and commitment to providing a safe space and essential education to refugee children and young adults arriving into Europe.

Best wishes,

The Action For Education Coordination Team
Update from the Island

Summary

The situation on Chios Island remains dire. Despite a recent visit by the EU Commission and an open letter signed by 12 active NGOs working on Chios, real structural changes to the abysmal conditions of Vial Camp are still lacking.

Whilst the capacity of Chios Island remains officially at 1,104, the figures bear testimony to the desperate conditions on the island. Meanwhile, transfers have slowed right down due to a lack of accommodation on the mainland, meaning many of our students are waiting months to leave.

The conditions on the island therefore continue to be severely overcrowded and of significant concern. Many people are sleeping outside in and around Vial and overall the camp remains wholly unacceptable and undignified. Vial Camp Authorities are almost entirely dependant on volunteer teams for the provision of non-food items (NFIs); more than 200 tents alone have been provided by volunteer teams in recent weeks given the ongoing inability of camp authorities to provide adequate shelter to all people in Vial.

Some families and vulnerable persons continue to live in UNHCR-managed apartments, those of school-age continue to be registered to attend local Greek schools, and we should see a large enrolment of school-aged children living in apartments at the beginning of the next academic year.

DYEP (the afternoon Greek classes) is supposed to start this academic year and we have heard positive reports that steps are being taken to do this. However, no concrete answer or plan has yet been presented so we are waiting to see what will happen and respond appropriately with supporting educational services.
School's Out For Summer
Events & Summer Programmes

The build up to summer has also seen a whole host of newly implemented partnerships and projects, as well as a series of exciting events which have breathed energy and life into the daily running of the project on Chios.

- Music Teacher Training with Shropshire Music Foundation — students and volunteers followed a 2 week programme run by SMF, aimed at providing skills and resources to run music classes in refugee contexts. Trainees were equipped with the key fundamentals of Music Theory, teaching practise and the resources to implement classes in our institutions.

- Vial Sports Festival — At the end of July, we hosted a Sports Festival on the football pitch by Vial Refugee Camp. Hundreds of children enjoyed the day, which culminated in an inter-group football tournament for our Youth centre participants.

- Youth Centre Excursions — This quarter we were able to organise a trip of the South of the Island for all youth groups. The trip started with a visit to Pyrgi, a village famously known for the design of their houses, and was followed by a visit to the Mastic Museum- a museum dedicated to the history of Μαστίχα, a tree only grown in Chios. We finished off the trip with a picnic and game-based activities at the volcanic black beach of Chios.

- World Refugee Day 2018 — In collaboration with Doctors Without Borders, we hosted an evening of music, performance, art and dancing in the central park for the local and refugee communities in Chios. Students performed songs and poetry.

- Youth Centre Performance Evening — In June, students, local and volunteers gave a series of performances and a team of chefs from the Youth Centre ran the catering, preparing a selection of sweet and savoury snacks. The event was attended by over 100 individuals, including strong support from other organisations and actors on the island.

- Peace-Building Programme with Sky School — We are very pleased to have partnered with Sky School, a non-profit developing a globally recognised High School diploma for refugees, to run a 10-week course in ‘Peace-building in your Community’. This course, facilitated by our volunteers and following a tailor-made curriculum by UWSCEA curriculum experts, offers the opportunity for our students to pursue a challenging course and receive a certificate accredited by UWSCEA and Sky School. This course runs from July to September 2018.
'Learning to Teach'
An Update from the High School

ESL PROGRAMME
English classes remain central to our education programme and continue to attract students to the school on account of the quality and consistency of our programme. Students on average access 6 hours of English classes per week, with extra hours dedicated to conversational and independent learning.

STUDENT-TEACHER PROGRAMME
In July, we launched our first ever Teacher Training programme, aimed at equipping our high-level students with the classroom and ESL skills necessary to join our team as teachers. With a successfully selected cohort of 10 students, we rolled out a four week, 60 hour certificate.

The trainees followed a series of workshops including: Child Protection, Relationship Boundaries, Introduction to ESL teaching, Digital resources, Classroom Management, Conflict Resolution and Project Planning. This was followed with hands-on experience gained in the classroom, shadowing teachers and then preparing and delivering specifics components of a lesson. In addition to the student-teachers initial training, they are offered continuing professional development and support throughout their time at AFE and, importantly, they are provided with an employment reference when they move on.

PROJECTS
New volunteers have continued bringing creativity and individuality to our projects in the High School. Through these projects, students not only develop academically and vocationally in new directions, but are empowered to make choices and commitments, challenge themselves as well as lead their own projects for their peers.

In our 12 - 14 year old group, thanks to the training provided by the Shropshire Music Foundation, the weekly music projects have been run by long-term students who have become proficient in music theory, guitar and harmonica. Similarly our German project has been run by a long-term student who runs a Beginners' German Course.

This has motivated other students to sign up to deliver projects which they have an interest in. Again, we are thrilled that students feel comfortable within the school to relax, learn, explore interests and build on life skills.
A safe space for teenagers and young adults
An Update from the Youth Centre

THE YOUTH CENTRE

The Youth Centre continues to run 7 days a week from 11am to 8pm, catering to 6 multinational groups of 25-30 participants. Participants come twice a week for 4 hours each session.

Over the past months, AFE has collaborated closely with The Unmentionables who held workshops in our women’s group around sexual and reproductive health. The teenagers also had the possibility to ask questions in a safe space whilst having a professional present. We additionally facilitated interactive dental hygiene projects for all groups run by SMH.

One important new step in our Youth Centre operations has been the development of participant-led decision making. We’re now holding regular brainstorming, idea creation and voting assemblies, encouraging participants to proactively create their own calendar of projects.

TOPICS OF THE MONTH

Starting with the topic ‘Festivals’ in May, participants engaged in discussions around different cultural festivals and also took time to discuss Ramadan, beginning in June.

The topic was followed by the theme of ‘Social media’, creating space to reflect on social issues as well as technology. We explored the Chios Voices platform with each group and launched an Instagram Account (@yugi_chios) to be used by our participants and to enable them to choose what to upload and also to see from other groups what they are doing.

July’s theme was ‘Sports’, which tied in with the Football World Cup hosted by Russia. At the end of the month, we hosted our own extremely popular Football Tournament in Vial Camp, getting everyone involved in the fun!
Our quarter in numbers
Summary of Quantitative Data

Over the past 3 months we have registered a total of 159 new participants across our High School and Youth Centre including 55 women.

**REGISTRATION**

Over the past 4 months we have registered a total of 159 new participants including 55 women across both institutions and age groups. Alongside our standard education programme, we’ve maximised the hours available to beneficiaries through implementation of co-delivered educational programmes and additional events.

New registrations for the High School and Youth Centre came from over 12 nationalities. The major countries of origin remain: Iraq (29%), Syria (27%) and Afghanistan (21%).

45% of newly registered students are 14 - 17 years old and 55% are 18 - 22.
Programme Developments

Working Groups

Three months ago, we launched 3 volunteer-led working groups aiming to add value and impact to the continuing development of the project. These working groups have proved themselves effective in fostering creative discussion and subsequent implementation of new aspects to the project. Key developments include:

- **Chios Voices Network**
  - a public exhibition in the central park of Chios
  - a Chios Voices hanging wall display in the High School
  - a new ‘recipe’ section to the website
  - more illustrations for student poetry produced as part of our ‘Art Across Borders’ initiative
  - the launch of our Chios Voices for Schools education initiative
  - the launch of our Wider Voices platform inviting submissions from local and international writers
  - increased student & volunteer engagement in the platform

- **Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning**
  - sets of posters on themes of sexuality, gender-based violence, bullying for the High School and Youth Centre
  - a new SEAL programme for participants in the Youth Centre, focusing on self-reflection and personal development
  - encouraging student-led assemblies and end- assemblies
  - encouraging student-led projects and student-led project idea generation
  - instigating a voting-system to ‘group-plan’ upcoming sessions

- **Community Outreach**
  - A successful and packed Performance Evening held at the Youth Centre involving local, student & volunteer performances, alongside food prepared by our student chefs!
  - A co-hosted event in the Central Park of Chios with Doctors Without Borders, featuring student performances, an exhibition, an interactive art display and activities for children
  - Food Parcels: small sweets and treats cooked and delivered by students from the Youth Centre to neighbours
  - Continued bite-size Greek language learning in the Youth Centre
  - A ‘Vial Sports Festival’ event held on the Vial Football pitch, involving all Yugi groups and open to the wider Vial community

Partners

- Be Aware and Share
  - Funding Partner
- Sky School
  - Education Partner
- Shropshire Music Foundation
  - Education Partner
- Action from Switzerland
  - Local Partner
- Prism: The Gift Fund
  - Charity Partner
- NCC Education
  - Education Partner
- OneStopEnglish
  - ESL Partner
- ESL Library
  - ESL Partner
- MathsWatch
  - Education Partner

We continue to thank our partners for the valuable support they provide and their commitment to building bridges into education.

If you would like to discuss a possible partnership with us, please email our team.
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