

UNITED HORIZONS:



Discover the Unique Stories of Young
People Who Paint Their Own Path

Dear readers,

It is an honor and a privilege to introduce our first edition of "United Horizons", a magazine that seeks to shed light on the inspiring stories of young refugees in Greece as well as those working tirelessly to support them. In a world where we are often drawn towards noticing divisions and differences. We believe that it is crucial to highlight the bonds, resilience, and hope that transcend cultural barriers. "United Horizons" was born as a result of a profound desire to help bridge the divides between the local Greek and Refugee communities focusing on telling a narrative of compassion, solidarity, and overcoming obstacles.

In a world that often focuses on divisions and differences, we believe it is essential to highlight human connections, resilience and hope that transcend cultural barriers. "United Horizons" is born from a deep desire to unite local communities and refugees in a shared narrative of compassion, solidarity and improvement.

Throughout these pages, you will discover the brave stories of young refugees who have faced unimaginable challenges and found the strength to keep going. They will also meet the unsung heroes: the professionals, volunteers and activists who, with their dedication and empathy, are making a tangible difference in the lives of these young people.

In "United Horizons", we don't just tell stories; We also celebrate cultural diversity through art, creative expression and collaboration. We believe in the importance of providing young refugees with a space to express their own unique voices and perspectives.

This magazine would not be possible without the collaboration and support of many incredible people, and we want to thank all the interviewees, photographers, writers and contributors who have shared their time, talents and experiences to bring these pages to life. All the data and stats you can find them also at [Statista.com](https://www.statista.com)

We hope that by reading "United Horizons," you will be inspired to take action, learn more, and join us in the ongoing effort to build a more compassionate and understanding world. Our horizons may be diverse, but together, we can transcend borders and find common ground.

Thank you for your support and for joining us on this journey. With gratitude,





Source: <https://www.acnur.org/noticias/stories/diez-datos-sobre-el-campamento-de-refugiados-de-zaatari-diez-anos-de-su-apertura>

Refugees in the World: A Glance at the Global Situation

In a world characterized by interconnectedness and mobility, the refugee crisis is a crucial issue that transcends national borders and affects millions around the world. Armed conflict, persecution, violence, as well as numerous other factors have led to the amount of people seeking refuge and protection in countries outside their places of origin to increase significantly. In this article, we will explore the overall situation, examining key statistics, countries of origin, major host nations, and the impact of the refugee crisis on children.



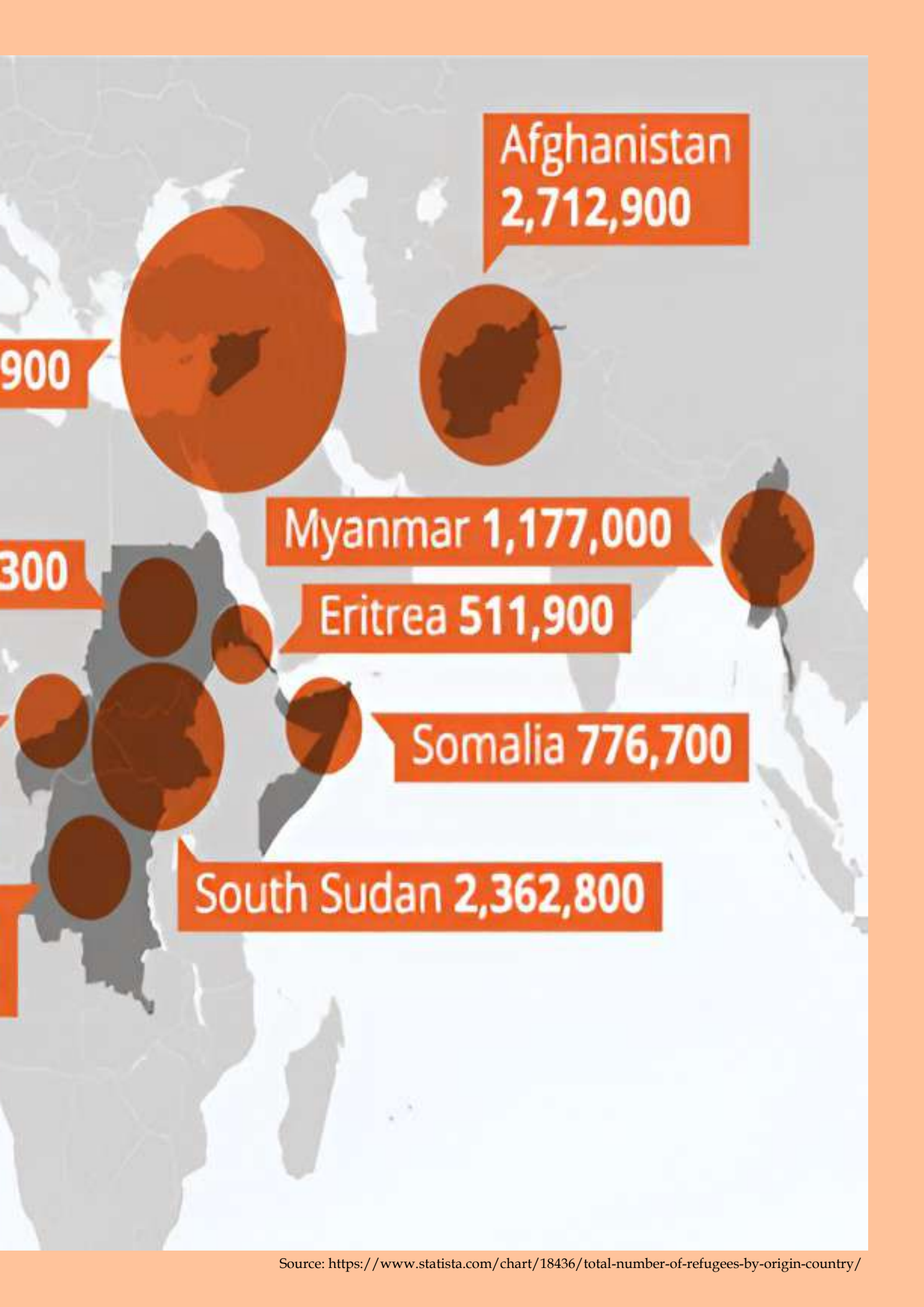
Venezuela
4,605,600

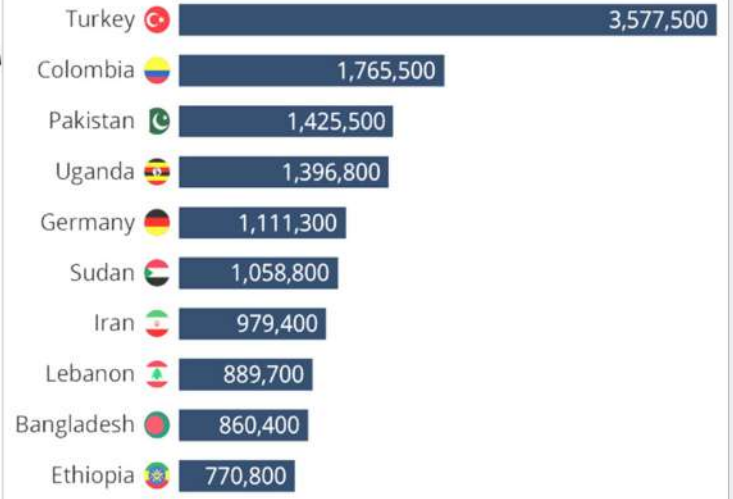
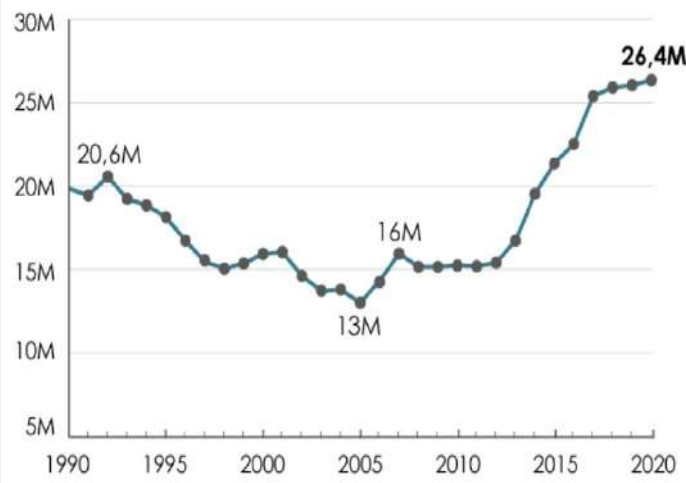
Syria 6,848,

Sudan 825,

Central African Rep.
737,700

D.R. of the Congo
908,400





Global statistics

The magnitude of the refugee crisis is staggering. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), as of early 2022, the number of forcibly displaced people around the world has reached a staggering figure of more than 82 million. This includes refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced people. These figures represent one of the largest humanitarian crises of our time.

Host countries

Countries hosting refugees play a critical role in responding to this global crisis. Around the world, a relatively small set of nations has taken on the responsibility of hosting the majority of refugees. In 2022, Turkey, Colombia, Pakistan, Uganda and Germany were some of the main host countries, providing shelter and support to millions of displaced people.

"Refugees are not numbers. They are people who have suffered a lot and who need our help. It is a duty of all of us to help them."

Regarding the origin of refugees, the main countries of origin have varied over the years. In 2022, some of the nations that have generated high numbers of refugees include Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Myanmar and Somalia, among others. The flight of these people is due to armed conflicts, political and ethnic persecution, violence and humanitarian crises.

However, it is important to highlight that these host countries often face significant challenges in providing refugees with basic services, such as housing, education, and healthcare. The generosity of these nations is impressive, but it also underscores the need for stronger global cooperation to effectively address this crisis.



WE ARE ALL
MADE TO BE
EQUAL

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

Street Campaign Workshop

CONTINUE TO RESPECT EACH
OTHER ALL YEAR.

SUPPORT THE CAUSE!

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Erasmus+

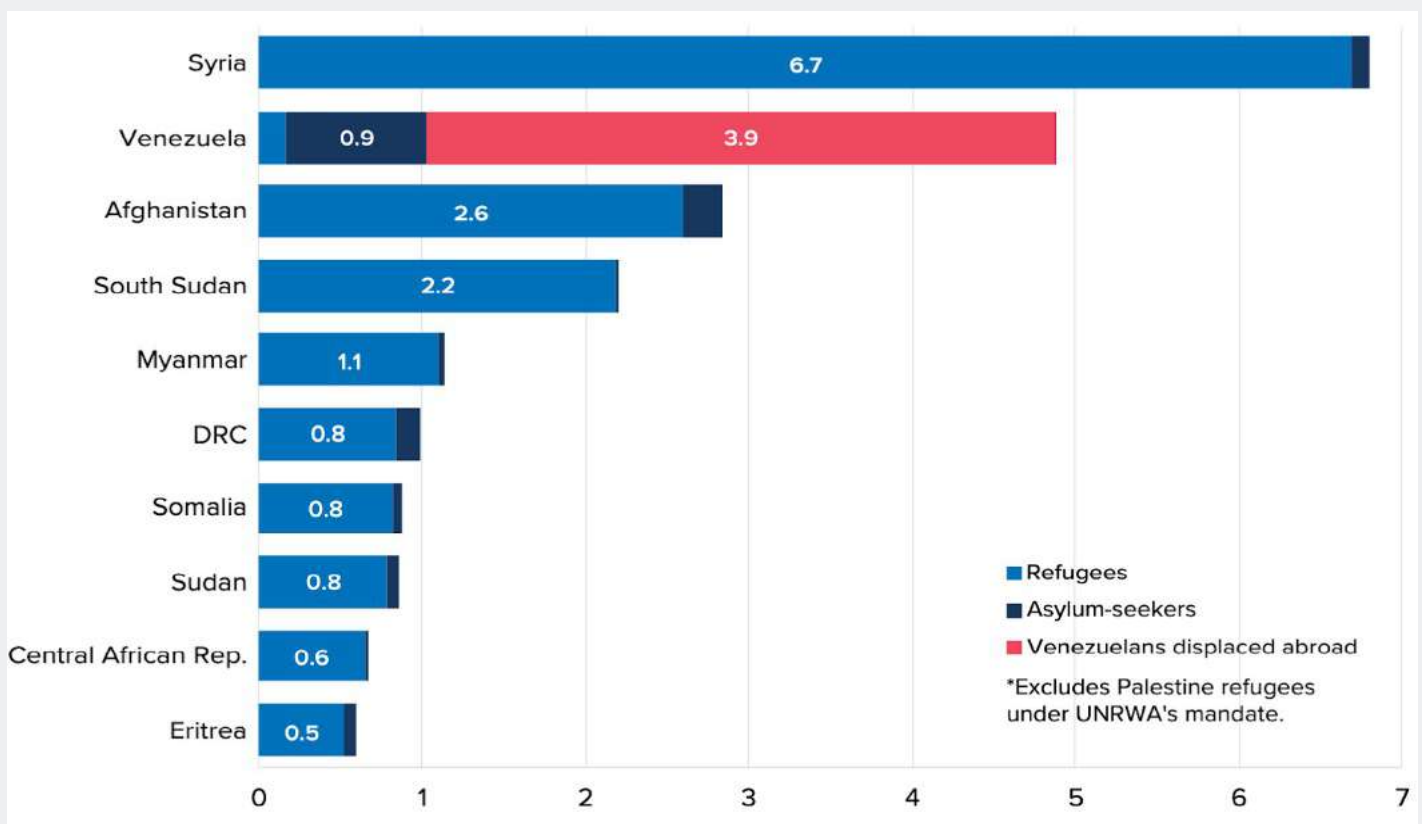


Co-funded by
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Official website: <https://www.yce.gr/en/>

The Origin of Refugees: A Look at the Causes and Statistics

The global refugee crisis is a phenomenon that has taken root in the last decade, affecting millions of people around the world. To fully understand this crisis, it is essential to examine the underlying causes and the countries of origin of the refugees. Through the collection of data and statistics, we can shed light on this crucial issue and raise awareness of the conditions that lead people to flee their homes in search of safety and protection.



Source: <https://data.unhcr.org/fr/documents/details/104013>

These statistics highlight the magnitude of the refugee crisis and underscore the need for a coordinated, empathy-based global response. As countries of origin face diverse and complex challenges, it is essential to address the root causes of forced displacement, including conflict, persecution and inhumane conditions. The international community faces a collective challenge in protecting and supporting those who have had to flee their homes in search of safety and dignity.

INTERCULTURALS EVENING

This event is part of the Solidarity Project
“Around the table: Community, Culture and
Food”

For more information:

📷 [@aroundthetable.project](https://www.instagram.com/aroundthetable.project)

🌐 <https://solidarityprojectc.wixsite.com/aroundthetable>

EPIRUS
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More info about here: <https://solidarityprojectc.wixsite.com/aroundthetable>



YOUTH CENTER OF EPIRUS

Ioannina: Different Perspectives

**Documentary about the city of Ioannina
Magazine about the voices of the city**



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CORPS**

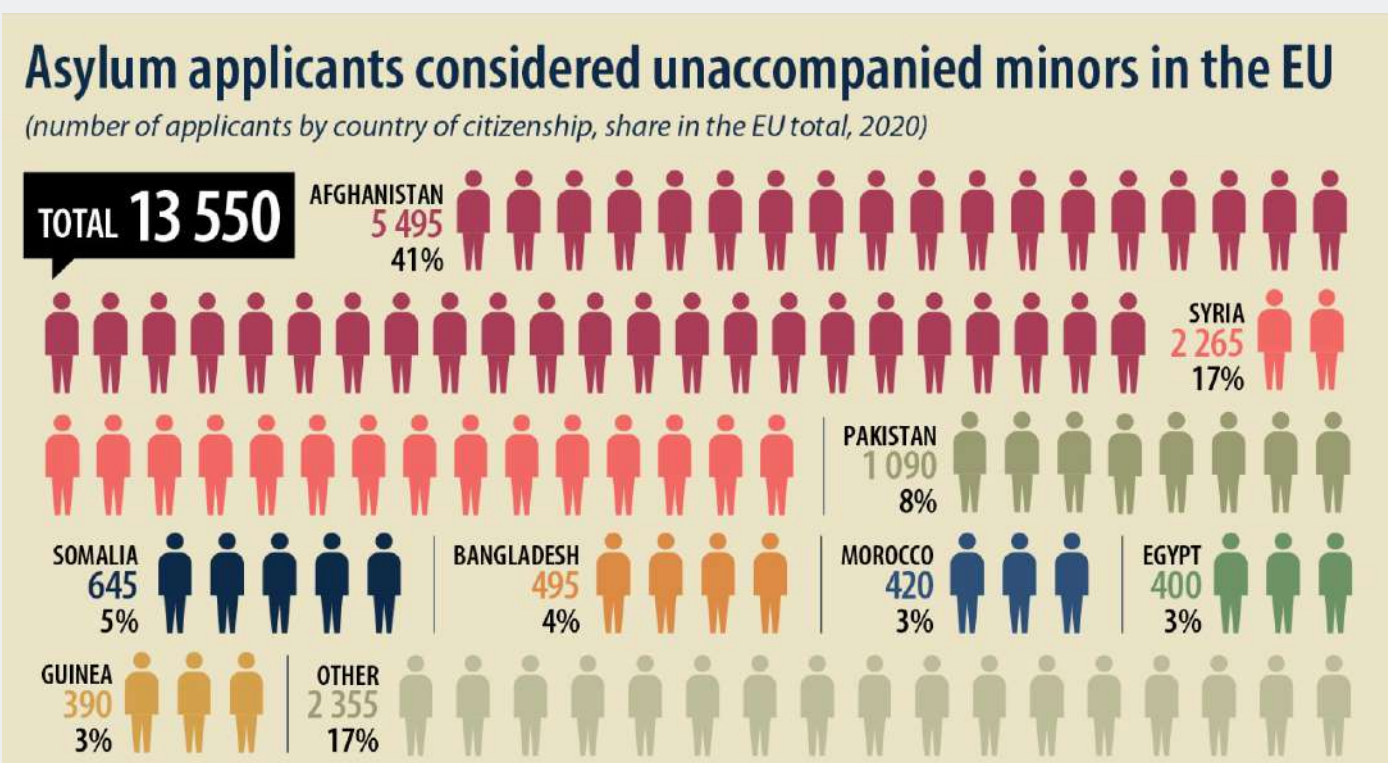


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The impact of minors

A particularly worrying aspect of the refugee crisis is its impact on minors. Children make up a significant proportion of the refugee population. In 2022, it was estimated that more than 50% of refugees were under 18 years of age. Childhood is a crucial period in human development, and refugee children often face trauma, disruptions in education, and difficult living conditions.

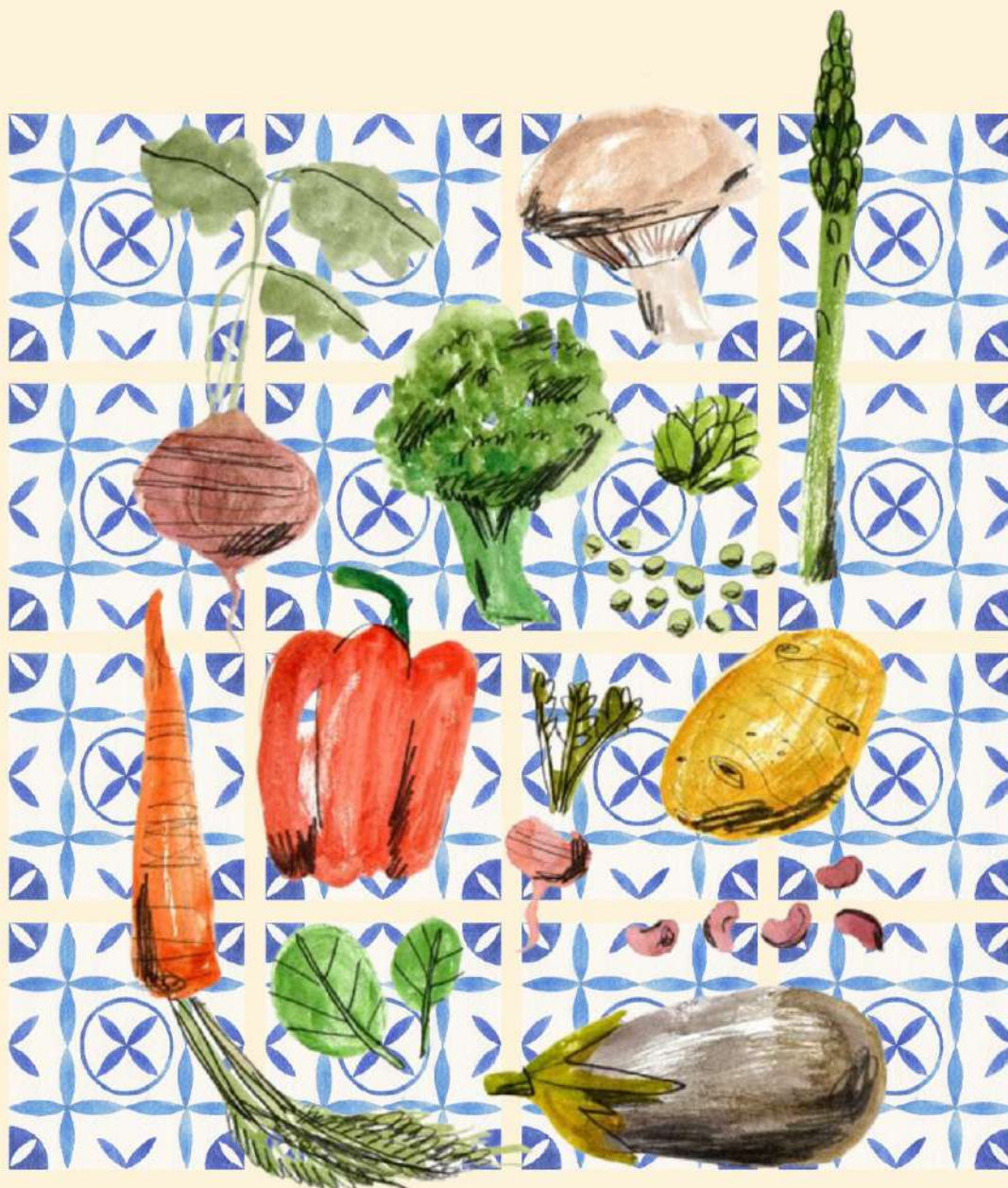
The situation of refugee minors raises important questions about the protection of human rights, mental health care and the guarantee of educational opportunities. The international community faces a collective challenge in protecting and supporting these young people who have been displaced from their homes.



Source: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/-/ddn-20210423-1>

In short, the refugee crisis is a global reality that affects millions of people around the world. The magnitude of the crisis, the countries of origin and host, as well as the impact on minors, are aspects that deserve continued attention. Addressing this crisis will require strong commitment from the international community, cooperation between nations, and a focused approach on the human rights and dignity of displaced people.

Around the table: Community, Culture and Food



EPIRUS
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**EUROPEAN
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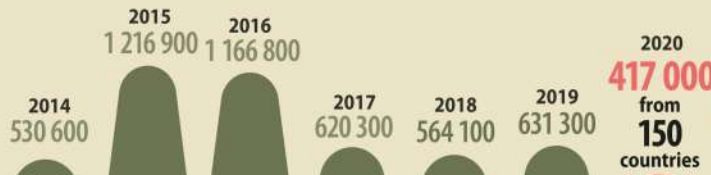
Co-funded by
the European Union

For more info about here: <https://solidarityprojectc.wixsite.com/aroundthetable>

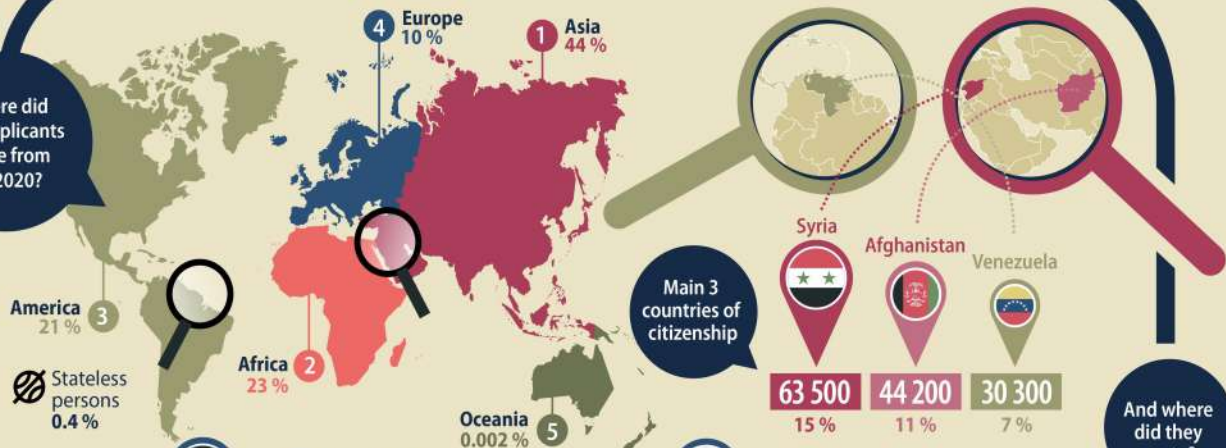
Asylum seekers in the European Union

THE 2020 SITUATION

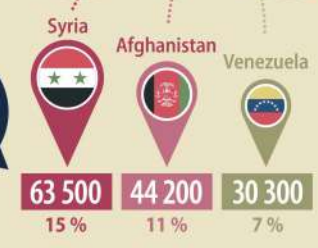
First-time asylum applicants, 2014-2020



Where did the applicants come from in 2020?



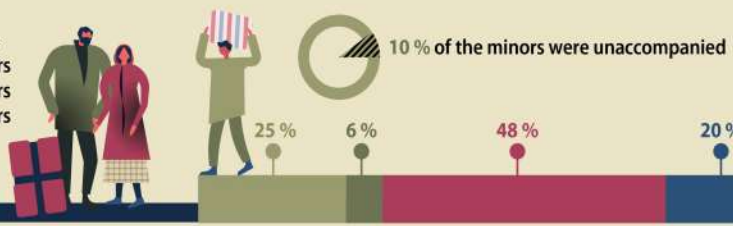
Main 3 countries of citizenship



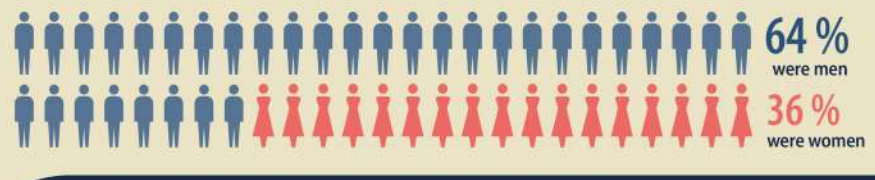
And where did they go to?



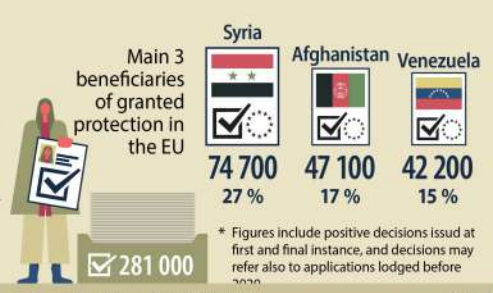
- Less than 14 years
- From 14 to 17 years
- From 18 to 34 years
- From 35 to 64 years
- 65 or over



Who were the people asking for asylum?



What were the outcomes of applications?



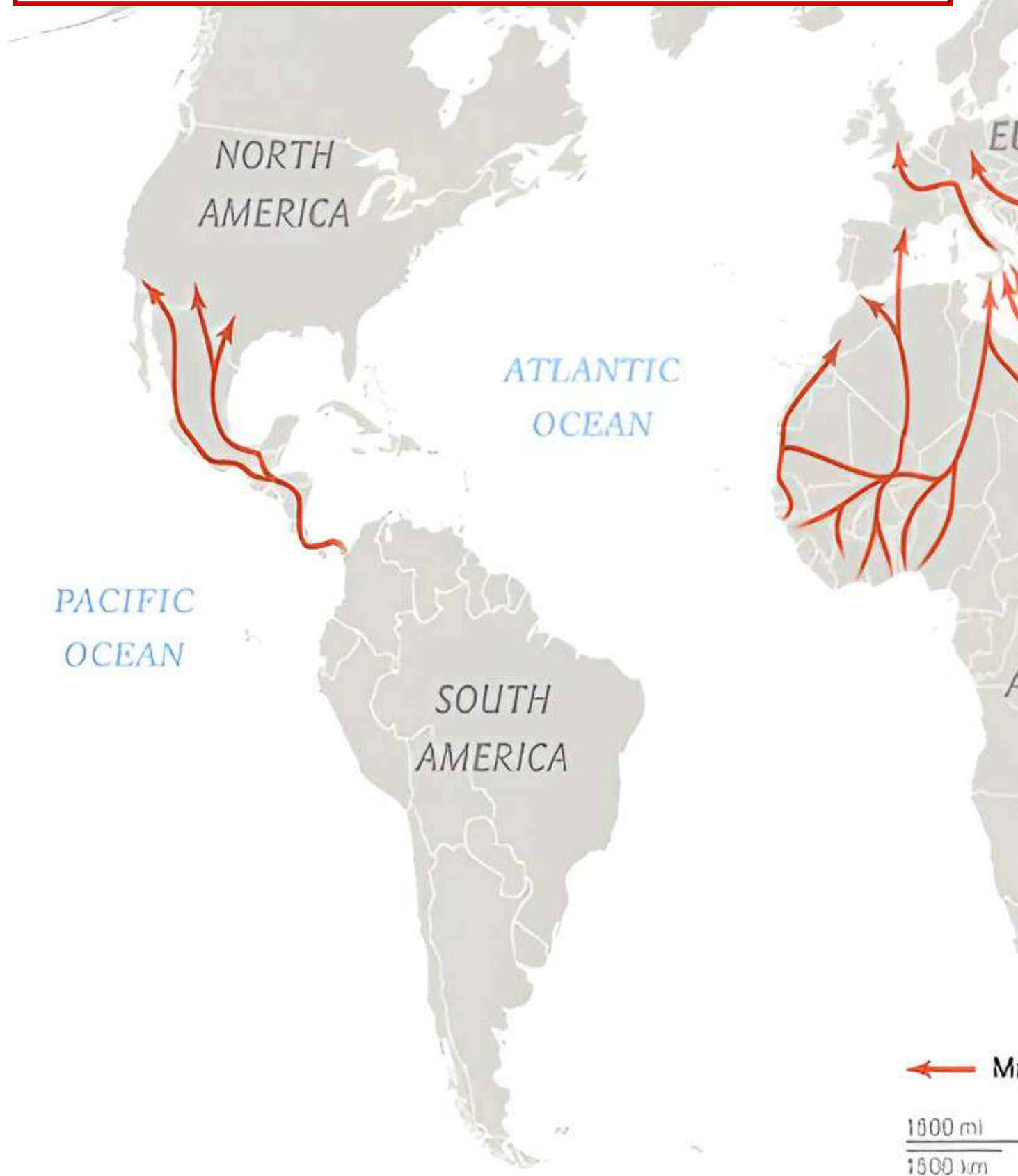
Resettlement

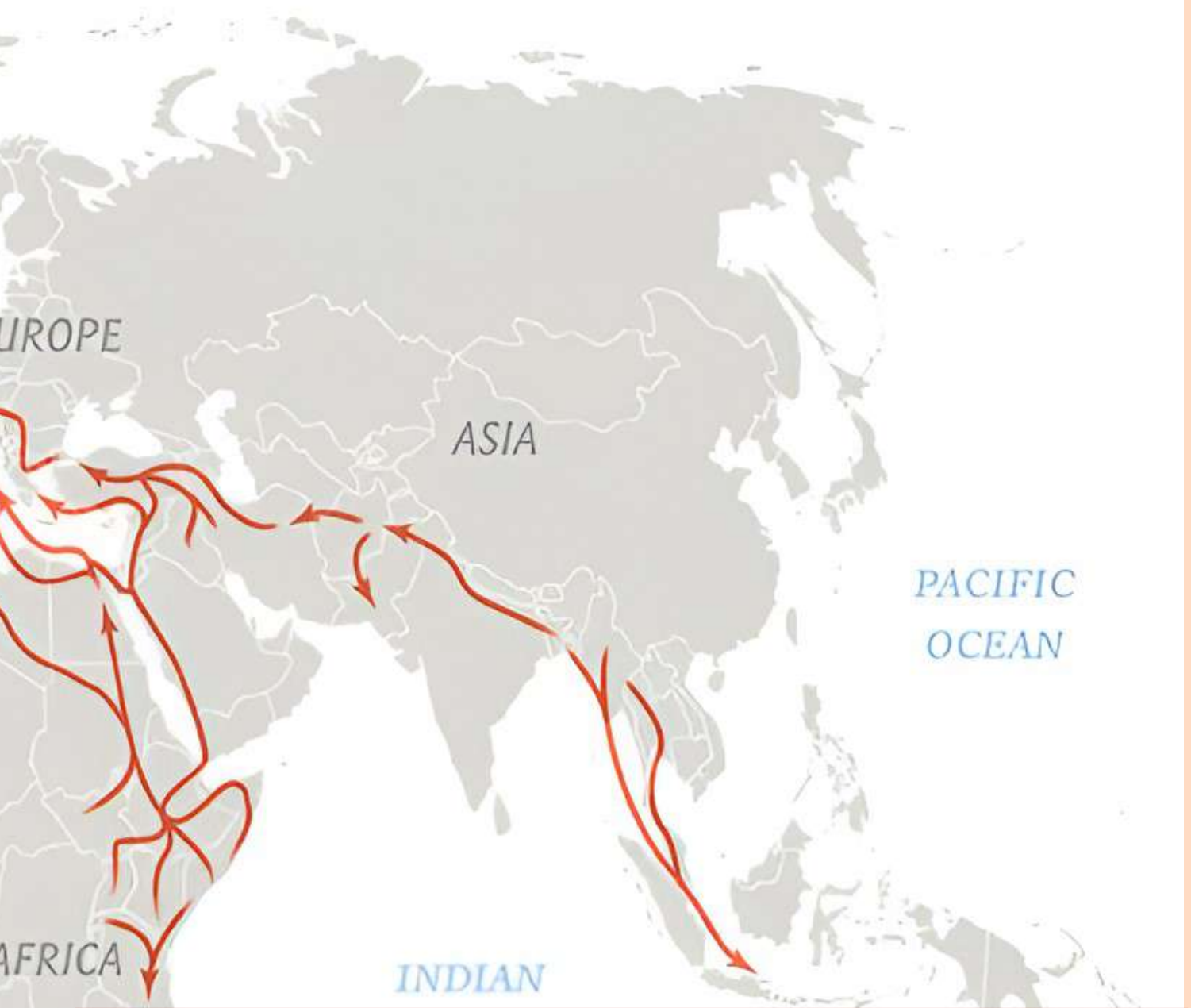
** Resettlement means the transfer of third country nationals, on request from UNHCR, to a Member State where they are being granted protection status.



The resettlement figure does not include the data for Spain and Portugal.

"Migration Routes of Hope: In the Footsteps of Refugees"





The global refugee crisis is a complex phenomenon that spreads throughout the world. As millions of people flee violence, persecution and precarious conditions in their home countries, they are forced to travel dangerous paths in search of safety and a better life. These migration routes, often filled with obstacles and challenges, offer a glimpse into the struggle and resilience of those who travel them. It is worth to mention the "The refugee crisis: reverse path" Project, which is purely intertwined to this topic: <https://view.genial.ly/63510be4b9e80400181f95db/interactive-content-the-refugee-crisis-reverse-path>

Europe: the Mediterranean route

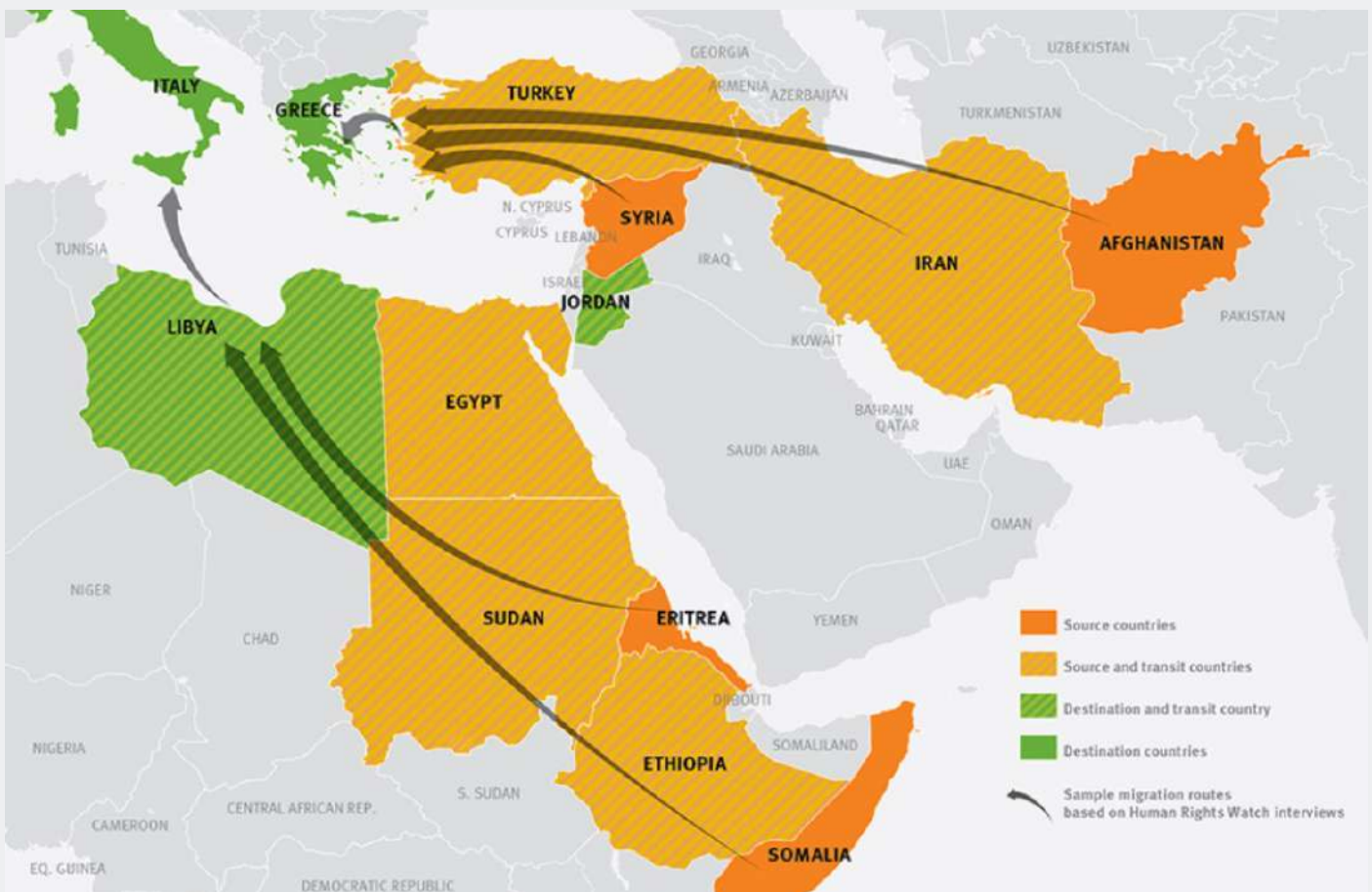


Source: <https://3cnevus.net/canarias-recvbe-1l-409-inmigrantes-irregulares-en-lo-que-va-de-ano-y-5-328-solo-en-octubre/>

Europe: the Mediterranean route

Europe it has been a major destination for refugees fleeing conflicts in the Middle East and Africa. The Mediterranean route is one of the best known and used. Refugees leave countries such as Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and North Africa for European shores in search of safety and opportunity. However, this dangerous journey often involves travel in precarious boats, and thousands of lives have been lost at sea in the process.

Italy and Greece have been common arrival points on this route. As refugees land in these nations, they face a new set of challenges, including seeking asylum and integrating into a foreign society.



Source: <https://www.hrw.org/report/2015/06/19/mediterranean-migration-crisis/why-people-flee-what-eu-should-do>

The journey begins in distant lands, from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and various African countries marked by conflict, persecution and inhospitable conditions. Entire families, brave individuals and young children leave in the hope of finding safety and opportunity in Europe. However, departure means leaving behind homes, belongings and, in many cases, loved ones.

Italy and Greece, with their Mediterranean coasts, have become crucial arrival points for those seeking asylum in Europe. However, arrival in these lands does not mark the end of the journey. Refugees face often complex asylum processes and integration into societies that can be unfamiliar and, in some cases, hostile.

The beginning:

**The Dangerous
Maritime Voyage:**

**Italy and Greece:
Arrival Points:**

The Mediterranean Sea has witnessed heartbreaking tragedies. The refugees, for the most part, entrust their fate to precarious and overflowing boats that venture through the tumultuous waters. This dangerous journey not only represents the fight against the waves, but also against uncertainty, desperation and, in unfortunate cases, loss of life.

The refugee crisis on the Mediterranean Route highlights the need for coordinated action at a global level. From addressing the root causes of displacement to strengthening asylum and reception systems, the international community faces the task of forging a fairer and safer future for those seeking refuge in Europe. Ultimately, the Mediterranean Route is more than a series of journeys; is a reminder of our collective responsibility to embrace shared humanity and build a world where everyone can live with dignity and hope.

Challenges on Mainland:

As refugees seek to settle into their new environments, they face additional challenges. The language barrier, cultural adaptation and job search are just some of the obstacles they must overcome. Furthermore, the response of some local communities can range from solidarity and welcome to resistance and distrust.

Humanity in Action:

Despite the challenges, the Mediterranean Route has also witnessed moving acts of humanity. Non-governmental organizations, volunteers and local communities have joined forces to provide assistance, shelter and emotional support to refugees. These efforts are essential to counteract the difficulties inherent in the journey and transition to a new life.

Towards a Common Future:

*Interview with
Aisha: a young
refugee*



Interviewer (I): Aisha, we really appreciate you sharing your time and your story with us. To start, could you tell us a little about your trip from Somalia and why you decided to undertake it?

Aisha (A): Thank you. My family and I are from Somalia, and the conditions there were very difficult due to violence and insecurity. We decided that the best for me was to undertake this journey in search of security and hope for a more stable future.

I: We understand that the journey from Somalia to here can be very challenging. What were the most difficult moments during the journey?

A: The journey by land was exhausting. We passed through a lot of different countries and walked for days to reach the coast. Then the trip at sea was the worst part. The waves were huge, and the boat was packed. And also, we had an accident during the trip and we had to swim for 20 mins to arrive until the coast.

I: Getting to dry land is just the beginning. What have been the biggest challenges you faced since arriving in Europe?

A: The language barrier is a big challenge. Although I'm learning, communication can be complicated. Furthermore, cultural adaptation is a process. I miss my home and my community, but I am trying to build a new life here and I have met a lot of people that wants to help me.

I: We understand that there are significant challenges. Can you share any positive experiences or support you have received since your arrival?



UNACCOMPANIED MINORS SEEKING ASYLUM IN GREECE

Unaccompanied minors are a particularly vulnerable category of refugees, facing peculiar struggles and challenges. One of the latter is about obtaining the papers that certify their asylum-seekers' status. In this video, we retrace briefly the stages of this bureaucratic journey, which is intricate and, most-likely, time-consuming. Retrieved from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ta0wn5CcfYI&ab_channel=YouthCenterofEpirus-%CE%9A%CE%AD%CE%BD%CF%84%CF%81%CE%BF%CE%9D%CE%AD%CF%89%CE%BD%CE%97%CF%80%CE%B5%CE%AF%CF%81%CE%BF%CF%85

A: Yes, I have met wonderful people. Local volunteers have helped us with food, clothing and guidance. I have also made friends among other young refugees, and together we are building a good atmosphere where I feel very supported every time.

***I:* That solidarity is inspiring. Looking to the future, what are your dreams and aspirations now that you are here?**

A: My dream is to be able to study and build a better future for myself and my family. I would like to contribute to this society in some way, learn more about the culture of this place and maybe, one day, be able to help other refugees.

***I:* Your aspirations are admirable. For those who have not experienced refugee life, what message would you like to convey to them?**

A: I would like people to understand that refugees do not choose this life. We are forced to leave our homes due to difficult circumstances. We need understanding and support, and I hope that, over time, we can be an active part of the society that welcomed us.

***I:* We sincerely appreciate you sharing your story, Aisha. We wish you the best on your journey and building your new life here.**

A: Thanks for listening to me. I hope that more people understand our experiences and we can build bridges of understanding and empathy.



Gina Batlle Oliva Photo Project

At the heart of the refugee crisis lies a complex and moving reality that transcends statistics and reports. The photo shoot "Limbo" seeks to capture the essence of that reality, exploring the moments of pause, unfathomable uncertainty and persistent hope that characterize the refugee experience. Through these images, we immerse ourselves in the nuances of limbo, that state of transition where lives are suspended between what was and what could be. Each photograph is a window into the struggle, resistance and resilience of those whose destinies are on pause, but whose dreams continue to navigate towards an uncertain horizon.

Limbo: an uncertain period of awaiting a decision or resolution; an intermediate state or condition.

Temporariness has become the norm in contemporary refugee protection. Many

refugees face extended periods of time waiting for permanent status, either in camps or

living among citizens in their state of asylum. This practice of keeping refugees waiting

constitutes a benefit to states.

This exhibition aims to reflect on the emotional journeys of asylum seekers through the concept of “Limbo” as an state of constant Waiting; leaving behind memories, ties and identities to immerse oneself in an a-temporary space of paperwork, administrative processes, confusion and prolonged uncertainty.

The exposition is composed of a series of images, that, through everyday objects and architectural elements, evoke, in an abstract way, the concept of Limbo in a journey.

These images are combined with the photos of unaccompanied minors asylum seekers who live in the center of Agios Athanasios in the Zagori, region of Epirus. Taking them as a

The aim of these photographs is to give visibility to all of them and to do a critique of the long uncertain proceeds, the lack of information about they rights, and the way of them confronting with the situation they’re living.

“Waiting for nothing”





Exploring the
World Through
Flavors



Marta Mamolar

In this section of our magazine, we embark on an exciting culinary journey that transcends borders and adversities. Through the delights of cuisine, we explore the stories, traditions and resilience of five countries marked by crises and challenges: Somalia, Palestine, Gambia and Afganistan.

In each recipe, we discover more than simple ingredients and culinary techniques; We find the cultural richness, community connection and hope that resides in each dish prepared with love and tradition.

These are more than just delicacies; They are living testaments to human resilience and the ability to find joy even in the midst of adversity.

*Join us on this fascinating gastronomic journey as we learn to prepare exquisite dishes that not only nourish our bodies, but also connect us with the diversity and resilience of those who have turned the kitchen into a refuge of identity, memory and hope. Get ready to discover the world through the flavors that unite humanity! The pictures of this content retrieved from
Marta Alonso Mamolar*

SUUGO SUCAR - SOMALIA



Ingredientes:

- 500 grams of beef (cubed)
- 2 tablespoons of vegetable oil
- 1 large onion finely diced
- 3 cloves of garlic de ajo (chopped)
- 1 piece of fresh ginger (approximantly 2 cm long, chopped)
- 4 médium-sized tomatoes(peeled and chopped)
- 2 green peppers (chopped)
- 1 red pepper (chopped)
- 1 teaspoon of cilantro powder
- 1 teaspoon of tumeric to sprinkle on top
- 1 teaspoon of cumin to sprinkle on top
- 1/2 a teaspoon of red pepper (optional, to increase spicyness)
- Salt (to taste)
- Water
- Fresh cilantro (garnish)

Instructions:

1. Preperation of the Beff

- In a large pan bring oil to médium heat

Add the beff and cook until browned on all sides. Remove beef from pan and set aside for later.

2. Preperation of the Sauce:

- In the same pan, add the onion and cook until golden
- Add the garlic and ginger. Cook for a few minutes until the smell disapears

3. Tomatoes and Peppers:

- Add the chopped tomatoes to the pan and cook until the tomatoes begin to break apart and mix well with the onion, garlic, and ginger
- Add in the green and red peppers. Cook until tender

4. Spices:

- Add the cilantro poder, the tumeric, the cumin, and the red pepper (optional). Mix the spices well with the sauce.

5 Add the Meat

Place the browned meat back into the pan and mix with the tomatoes and spices. Make sure that the meat is cubed

6. Cook on Low Heat:

- Add suffcient wáter to cover the meat and the vegetables. Bring the mixture to boil and then reduce to low heat.
- Leave the mixture on low heat until the beff is tender and the sauce has thickened.

7. Preperaton of the Pasta:

- While the meat and sauce continue to cook, place the pasta in wáter with saltant and follow the intructions of the packaging.
- Drain the pasta after it has become al dente

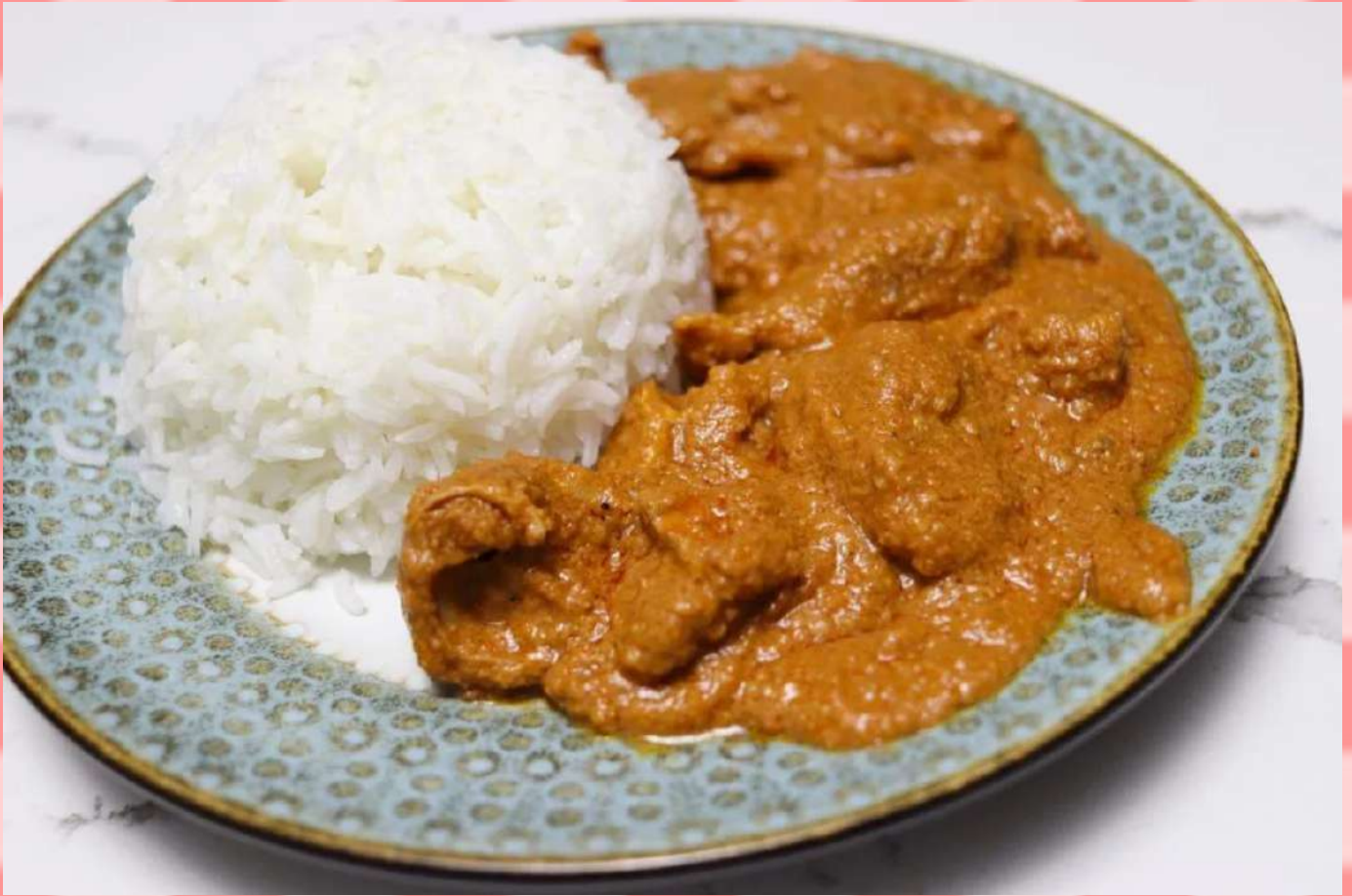
8. Final Mixture:

- Add the cooked pasta to the Suugo Sugaar sauce and mix well so the the pasta soaks up the flavors

9. Serve:

- Season with salt to taste
- Serve the Suugo Suqaar on top of the pasta and garnish with fresh, chopped cilantro

DOMODA - GAMBIA



Ingredients:

- 500 grams of chicken breast (cut into pieces)
- 2 tablespoons of vegetable oil
- 1 large onion (chopped)
- 3 médium tomatoes (chopped)
- 1 green pepper (chopped)
- 1 cup of peanut butter without added sugar or salt)
- 2 cucharaditas de pimienta rojo en polvo (opcional, para un toque picante)
- 1 tablespoon of powdered cumin
- 1 1 tablespoon of powdered curry
- 2 cups of chicken broth
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 2 cups of rice (prereably large grain)
- Fresh cilantro (to garnish)

Instructions:

1. Prepare the chicken

- In a large pan, heat the oil to médium heat

Add the chicken and cook until it is Golden on all side. Remove the chicken from the pan and set it aside.

2.Prepare the Sauce:

- In the same pan, add the chopped onion and cook until lightly browned
- Add the chopped tomatoes and green peppers. Cook until the vegetables are tender.

3. Spices and Peanut Butter

- Add in the red peppers, the cumin, and the curry. Mix well

Add the peanut butter to the mix and remove to créate and creamy and uniformed sauce.

4. Re-add the chicken:

- Put the chicken back into the pan and mix with the salsa. Make sure that the chicken is well incoporated into the mix.

5. Add the chicken broth:

- Add the chicken broth to the pan and mix well. Bring the mixture to a boil and reduce to low heat.

6. Cook on Low Heat:

- Let the fire cook slowly until the chicken is tender and the sauce has aquired a creamy consistency

-

7. Prepare the Rice

- While the Domoda with peanute butter is cooking in the pan, rinse the rice with cold water until the water is clear and cook following the instructions on the packing.

8 Final Mixture:

- Serve the Domoda with peanut butter over the rice and mixed gently so that the rice absorbs the creamy flavors.

9. Serve:

- Add the salt and pepper to tast
- Garnish with cilantro

SISH BARAK - PALESTINA



Ingredients:

For the mass:

- 2 cups of wheat flour
- 1 egg
- Water (necessary amount)
- Salt to taste

For the filling:

- 300 grams of ground meat (lamb or beef)
- 1 large onion (finely chopped)
- 2 cloves of garlic (chopped)
- Fresh parsley (chopped)
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon powder
- Salt and pepper to taste

For the Sauce:

- 2 cups of Greek yogurt
- 3 cloves of garlic (chopped)
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- Salt to taste

For Coverage:

- 2 tablespoons pine nuts (toasted)
- Fresh parsley (chopped)
- Extra virgin olive oil

Instructions:

1. Preparation of the dough:

- Mix the flour, egg, salt and enough water to form a soft dough. Let stand.

2. Filling Preparation:

- Sauté onion in olive oil until golden. Add the meat, garlic, cumin, cinnamon, salt and pepper. Cook until the meat is cooked. Mix with fresh parsley.

3. Dumpling Formation:

- Roll out the dough and cut small circles. Place a small amount of filling in the center of each circle and close them to form dumplings.

4. Shish Barak Cooking:

- Boil the dumplings in salted water until they float. Then, cook for a few additional minutes.

5. Preparation of the Sauce:

- Mix Greek yogurt with garlic, lemon juice and salt. This will be the base sauce.

6. Plate Assembly:

- Place the shish barak on a platter and pour the yogurt sauce over it.

7. Coverage and Serve:

- Sprinkle with toasted pine nuts, fresh parsley and a drizzle of extra virgin olive oil.

BOLANI - AFGANISTAN



Ingredients:

For the Mass:

- 3 cups of wheat flour
- Water (necessary amount)
- Salt to taste

For the filling:

- 2 cups spinach (cooked and drained)
- 1 cup leek (chopped)
- 1 cup potatoes (cooked and mashed)
- 1 cup onion (finely chopped)
- 1/2 cup fresh cilantro (chopped)
- 1/2 cup fresh mint (chopped)
- Olive oil
- Salt and pepper to taste

Instructions:

1. Preparation of the dough:

- Mix the flour with water and salt to form a soft dough. Divide it into walnut-sized balls.

2. Filling Preparation:

- In a skillet, sauté the onion in olive oil until golden.
- Add spinach, leek, potatoes, cilantro, mint, salt and pepper. Cook until the ingredients are well mixed and the spinach is tender.

3. Bolani Formation:

- Roll out each ball of dough into a thin circle. Place a portion of the filling on one side and fold the dough over the filling, sealing the edges.

4. Bolani Cooking:

- Cook the empanadas in a frying pan with hot oil until golden brown on both sides.

5. Drain and Serve:

- Place the empanadas on absorbent paper to drain excess oil.
- Serve hot, accompanied by yogurt sauce or tomato sauce.

What does the asylum process in Greece look like?



In Greece, the Greek Asylum Service is the agency responsible for receiving and processing asylum applications. The asylum process in Greece functions in a similar manner to those of other European Union countries. Asylum seekers in the country make a formal application for protection. In Greece, this protection can fall into one of two categories. The first, is refugee status which is defined as “someone who cannot return to their country because they have a well-founded fear of persecution there for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.” The other form of protection is referred to as subsidiary protection which under European law is provided to people seeking asylum but who do not

qualify as refugees provided that they “ face a real risk of serious harm” if they were to be returned to their previous country of residence or citizenship. Serious harm is defined as “ (i) the death penalty or execution; (ii) torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; (iii) serious and individual threat to a civilian’s life or person by reason of indiscriminate violence in a situation of international or internal armed conflict.” Most people fall into this category. Alternatively, international protection may be denied and deportation may be ordered.

Greek Response To Migrants Crisis

Initially, the main route to Europe for most migrants was to cross the Mediterranean Sea from Libya to Italy. However, this quickly shifted and crossing the Aegean Sea from Turkey to Greek islands such as Lesbos, Samos, or Kos became the preferred route. From the onset of the crisis in 2015, but especially since the election of Kyriakos Mitsotakis' center right party New Democracy in 2019. The Greek response has been conducted with the implicit objectives of preventing further migration as well as reducing the number of migrants already present in the country. Both on their own as well as in cooperation with the European Union (EU), the Greek government has employed strategies aimed at preventing migrants from entering through both

force and deterrence, and compelling those who enter to leave after arrival. Another heavy focus of Greek policy has been to request support in addressing the crisis from other countries principally from other EU members. Initially at least, the response did also involve some aspects of humanitarian assistance, but as the crisis has dragged on, this aspect has become much less of a focal point. While hundreds of thousands of refugees have passed through Greece, as of today, the country is still home to tens of thousands of people. The vast majority of these are housed in camps located primarily on five Aegean islands located near Turkey. The main focus of Greece's response has been making entering the country as difficult as possible. The objective has

always been to have fewer refugees in the country. This objective is achieved primarily through enforcement. In Greece, this has taken on three primary facets. First, Greece has increased their border security significantly calling in help from the European Border and Coast Guard Agency known as FRONTEX to police it⁹ as well as building a wall along its border with Turkey.¹⁰ Since the beginning of the crisis, Greece has called in several hundred additional border guards to fortify its external borders and has increased the frequency of both sea and land patrols significantly.¹¹ In late 2015, the Greek government requested and received support from FRONTEX in the form of Rapid Border Intervention Teams. These teams were quickly deployed to

Migrant arrivals in Greece by sea



Source: UNHCR (data to 1 March 2016)

BBC

many of the Aegean islands closest to Turkey to assist in operations targeting human smugglers. While these increased soldiers, police officers, coast guard officials, and border guard agents certainly participated in humanitarian work and helped to process asylum claims, many Greek officials have relatively recently begun to practice forms of illegal deportations. Under international

law, these are known as refoulements but more commonly they are referred to as pushbacks. In Greece, this has taken the form of the coast guard or police taking groups of asylum seekers who have made it onto Greek soil and simply taking them back out to sea and dropping them off on small islands or rock outcroppings in Turkish waters leaving it to the Turkish Coast Guard to rescue them. Such forms of push backs are highly ille-

gal under international law because they deny asylum seekers their right to claim asylum once reaching another country. While the Greek government vehemently denies accusations of pushbacks, there is credible evidence from numerous sources that this practice is widespread and not simply a matter of a few isolated incidents.

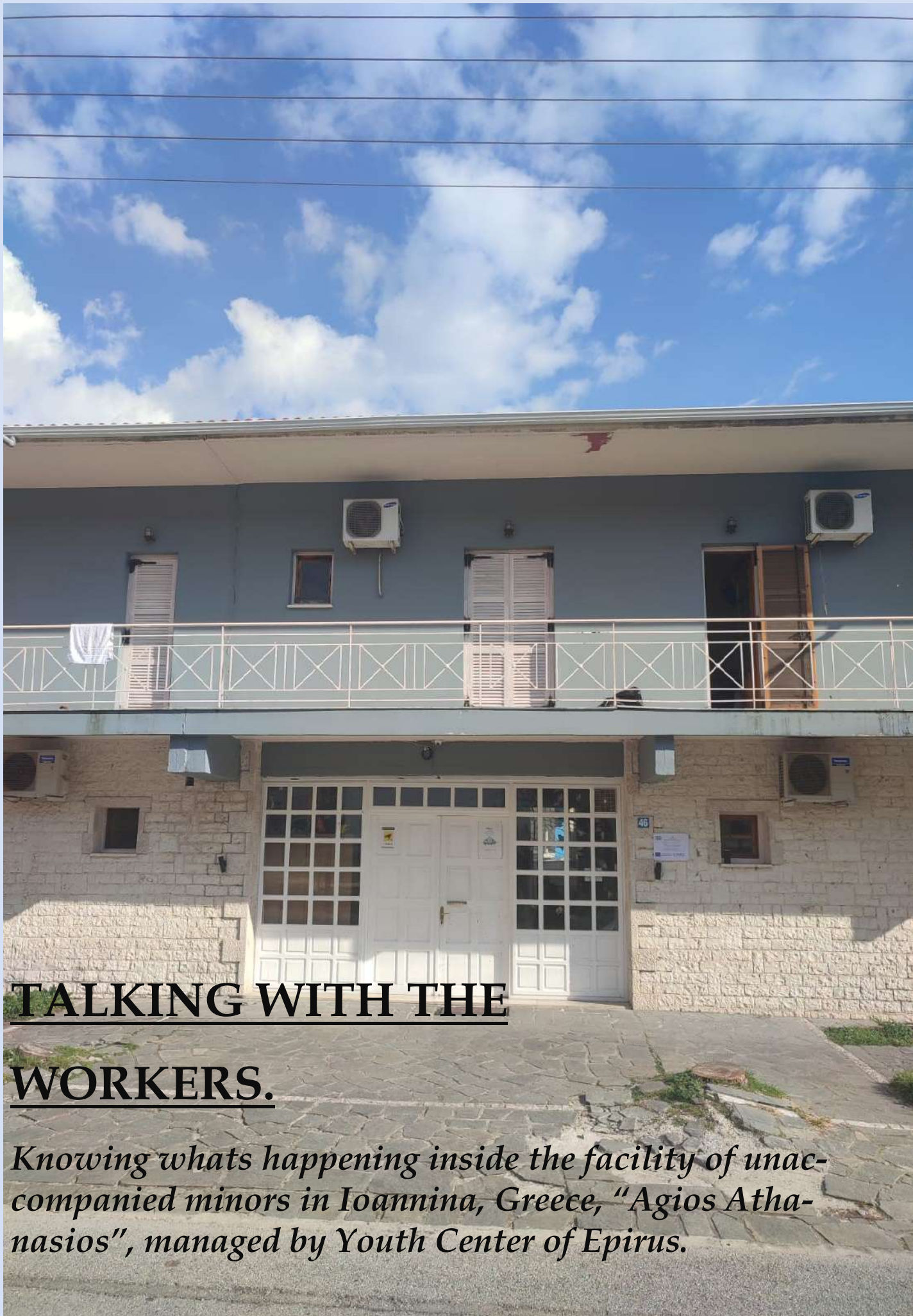
Even the UNHCR has accused Greece of refoulements and called upon them to stop. While there are no such accusations against FRONTEX, the European organization has been accused of covering up refoulement conducted by Greek authorities. Top EU migration officials have called on the Greek government to cease such operations or risk losing funding to address the crisis, but as of yet this has not seemed to deter the Greeks and the funding has still continued.¹³ This is despite the fact that many experts have. In addition to such blatantly illegal practices, the Greek government recently has engaged in a new strategy meant to deter humanitarian aid workers from rendering assistance to refugees and thereby, the hope is, deter refugees themselves from coming knowing that they are unlikely to receive help. Despite recently having charges dropped against them, over twenty refugee workers on the island of Lesbos were charged with numerous crimes including human trafficking and espionage. While these charges had little to no merit, they were intended to frighten off other potential aid workers as well as to slow the work of those charged with crimes through intimidating them with years of trials, appeals, etc. While attempting to deter aid workers, the Greek government has also attempted to intimidate refugees themselves and make their living situation so bad that they will voluntarily leave Greece. This has been done primarily in the form of constructing detention centers on the islands of Samos, Leros, Kos, Lesbos, and Chios. These centers are known as Closed Controlled Access Centers (CCACs) and serve to replace refugee camps. The idea is that the centers will be a safe, sanitary, and secure facility for identifying, providing for, and later relocating asylum seekers. However, there have been numerous reports of various abuses in these centers by both human rights NGOs and refugees themselves. While there are many proposed solutions a prominent one seems to be working towards integrating refugees with the local Greek population. Helping them to obtain a work visa,



learnGreek, go to school and university are all great ideals that in the long run would likely benefit everyone. However, in today's Greek society and with their current political climate, this is an unrealistic and politically unfeasible solution. Only 5% of refugees in Greece wish to remain, and the majority of Greeks hold a negative view of the refugees in their country. 70% say that refugees in the country negatively impact

Greek culture, 58% believe that their presence negatively impacts the economy, and 87% think that the number of refugees is high and/or extremely high. In short, refugees do not wish to remain in Greece and Greeks do not want refugees in their country. Therefore it is necessary to come up with alternative solutions.

Find the sources in the chapter "references"



TALKING WITH THE WORKERS.

Knowing whats happening inside the facility of unaccompanied minors in Ioannina, Greece, "Agios Athanasios", managed by Youth Center of Epirus.

Interviewer (E): To start, can you tell us a little about the work and how you became involved in caring for refugee minors?

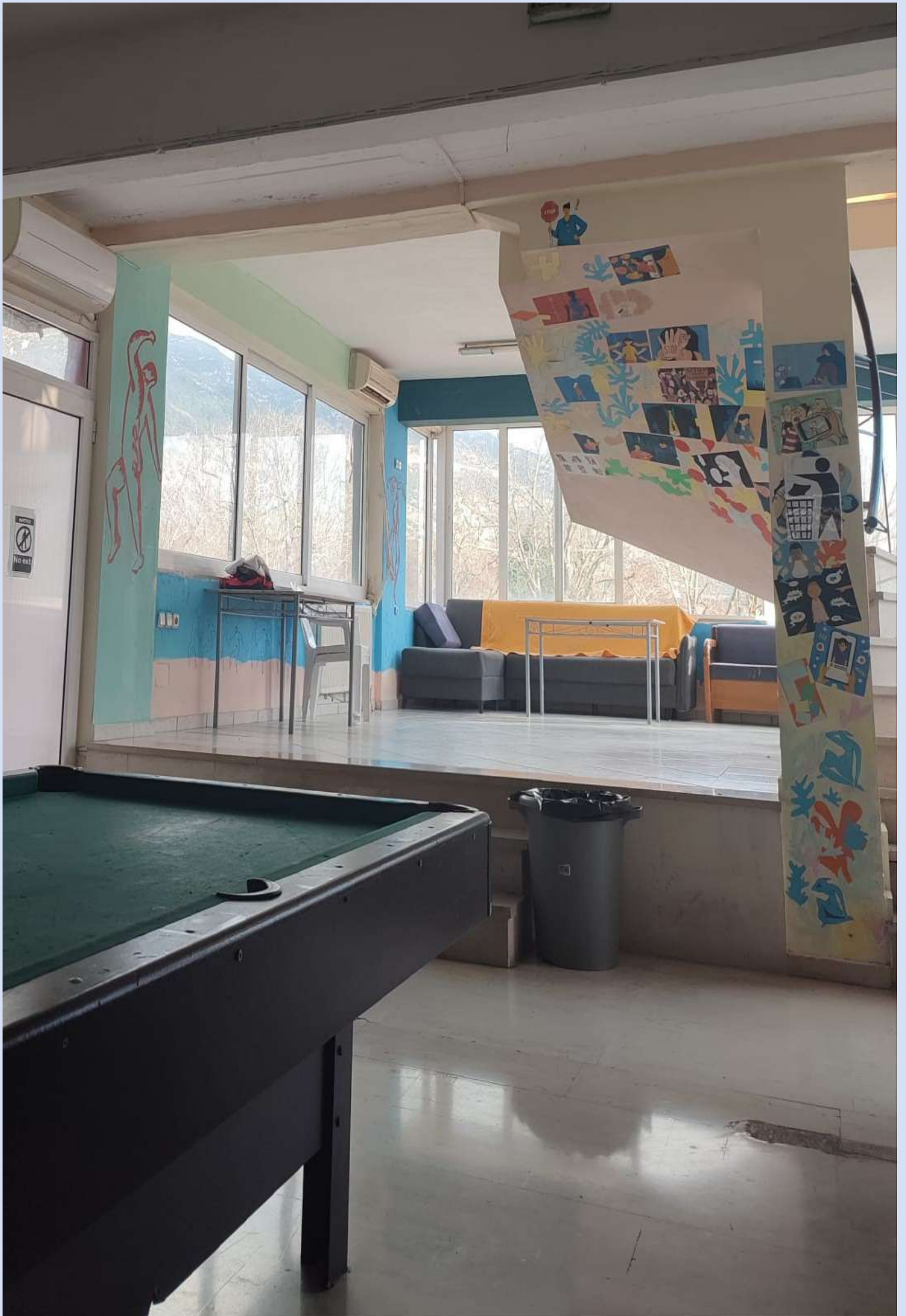
Worker (W): Sure, thanks for having me here. I have been working at a refugee reception center for minors for three years. One of the best things of this work is the satisfaction and the feedback that we receive sometimes of the guys, helping other people is always nice and grateful.

E: Your work is crucial. Can you describe to us what a typical day is like at the shelter?

W: Every day is different, but it usually starts with organizing daily activities. This includes children's education, recreational activities, and of course, making sure they have three nutritious meals a day. In addition, we work to provide emotional support and create a safe and trusting environment.

E: It sounds like a very rewarding but also challenging job. What are the biggest challenges you face in your daily work?

W: One of the biggest challenges is dealing with the traumatic experiences that many of these children have gone through. We had in the past guys with a very hard background that doesn't allow them to integrate correctly with the other guys from different cultures. Having around 30 teenagers from different cultures is not easy and few times we deal with fights and different conflicts between them. Overcoming cultural and linguistic ba-



rriers can also be a challenge. But the most important thing is to provide them with an environment where they feel safe.

E: We understand that each child has a unique story. Can you share a story that stood out to you and exemplifies the importance of this work?

W: I cant give you only one name. During this work I have meet amazing guys with uniques stories. One guy that Im very proud of him is Rich, from Congo, he has a lot of talent and ambition. He goes to the school here in Greece, he goes for painture classes and also his dream is to become Singer, and his is really good at singing. Examples as Rich is a reminder that, despite challenges, every guy who arrives here deserves a chance an a opportunity to heal and grow up.

E: Sounds like a significant impact. Looking to the future, what are your hopes and aspirations for the children who come through the shelter?

W: My hope is that every guy finds a sense of belonging and security here. I would like them to know that they have the potential to build a bright future. Some of them they want to travel and go to other countries, and others they want and built a better future here in Greece. Anyway, I just wish and hope the best for them.

"Exploring Talent and Skills: Snapshots of activities in the Lives of Refugee Youth"

In the daily life of our guys, this photos capture moments of vitality and dedication among young refugees. From circus skills and cooking habilities, grace to artistic expression that gives voice to their experiences, these images are testament to a resilience that is manifested through commitment to various activities. This visual tour not only offers a glimpse into emerging skills, but also the steady determination that drives these young people to embrace every opportunity. Join us on this visual journey through the creativity and palpable effort of young refugees as they explore, learn and excel in various disciplines.





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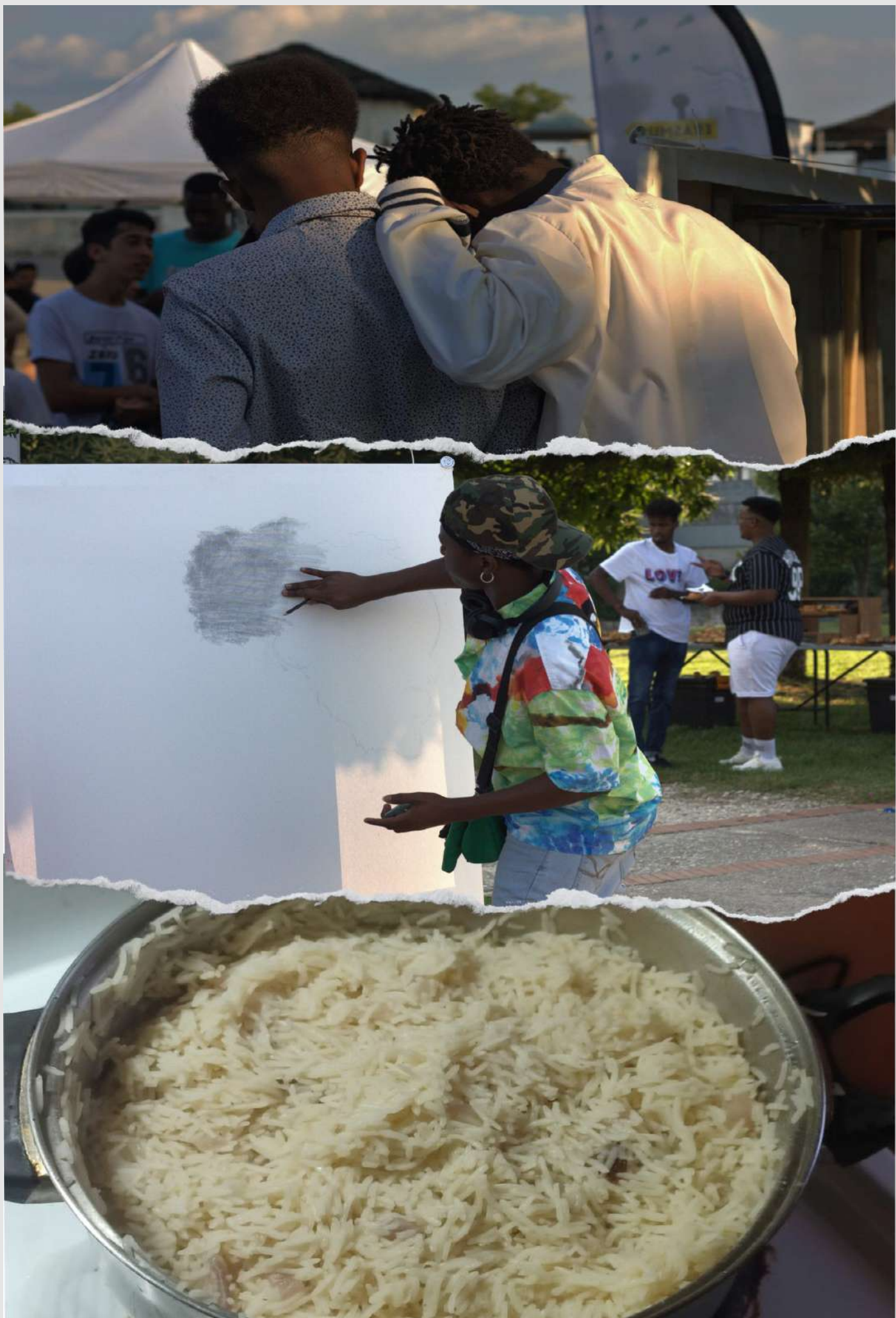
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Pictures retrieved from <https://www.yce.gr/en/activities/toixos2023/>

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Daniel

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