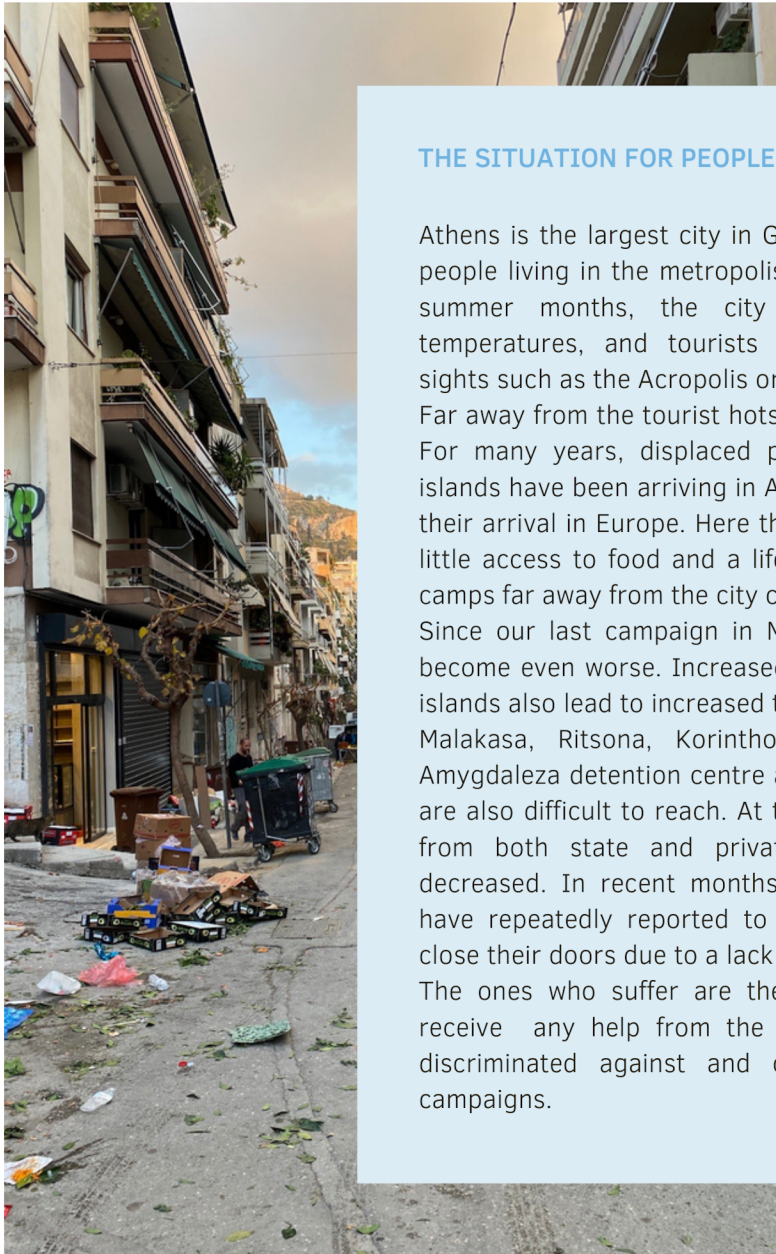


# CAMPAIGN REPORT



# ATHENS 2023



## THE SITUATION FOR PEOPLE ON THE MOVE IN ATHENS

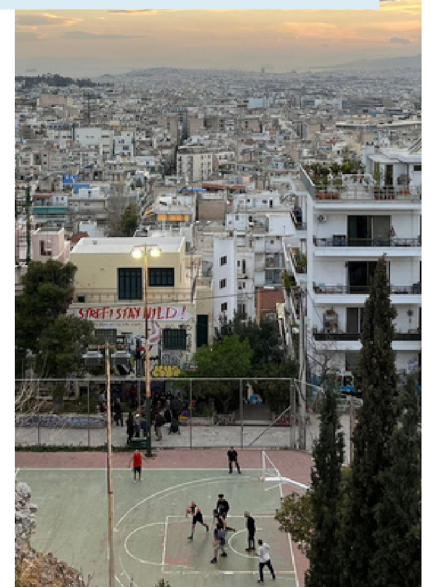
Athens is the largest city in Greece, with around 5 million people living in the metropolis in the Attica region. In the summer months, the city has to cope with high temperatures, and tourists crowd around the ancient sights such as the Acropolis or the historical Agora.

Far away from the tourist hotspots, the picture is different. For many years, displaced people transferred from the islands have been arriving in Athens as a second stop after their arrival in Europe. Here they often face homelessness, little access to food and a life either on the streets or in camps far away from the city centre.

Since our last campaign in May 2022, the situation has become even worse. Increased numbers of arrivals on the islands also lead to increased transfers to the mainland.

Malakasa, Ritsona, Korinthos camps as well as the Amygdaleza detention centre are full to bursting point and are also difficult to reach. At the same time, offers of help from both state and private sources have gradually decreased. In recent months, our partner organisations have repeatedly reported to us how NGOs have had to close their doors due to a lack of funds.

The ones who suffer are the refugees, who can hardly receive any help from the Greek government and are discriminated against and criminalised by state hate campaigns.



## A SUMMER FULL OF ELPIDA EVENTS

Following our Samos campaign, we started fundraising for our partner organisations in April 2023. After a short visit in March 2023, we decided to work with a total of three new partner organisations, which are presented on the following pages.

In the course of spring, we gradually started to present our partner organisations, their staff and the situation in Athens through our social media channels. From May onwards, several events followed in Berlin and Leipzig. We were present with information stands at various flea markets and at Sing delä Sing concerts, where we were able to promote our work and collect donations at the same time.

The highlight of our fundraising campaign was the screening of the documentary "Sara Mardini - Against the Current" about the sea rescuer Sara Mardini and her criminalisation. A total of 500 people came to the ARTE-Sommerkino at Potsdamer Platz on 20 June, the international World Refugee Day. At the end of August, we finally started our campaign.



PREPARATION

# MAZI HOUSING PROJECT



## NEW BEDS FOR MAZI

Mazi Housing Project offers a total of 23 young refugee men a place to stay in two flats and supports them in their search for housing and integration.

Last year, we were able to supply Mazi with washing powder, toilet paper and other cleaning materials for a whole year. Shortly before our arrival, their supply ran out. In the meantime, the organisation has gained access to washing powder supplies through another NGO in Athens, so it was not necessary to support them there. In an Athens wholesale market, we were able to buy toilet paper, kitchen roll, various cleaning products and utensils for the entire next year. These included gloves, mops, brooms, window and floor cleaners as well as various sponges and cloths.

We were also able to help Mazi replace some of their beds. In a small shop in the centre of Athens, we bought seven metal beds including slatted frames, plus pillows and matching covers. The advantage of metal beds is that they are less prone to infestation by bed bugs, which are a particular threat in households with many people and high heat. Housing remains one of the biggest problems in Athens. For this reason, in the future, we want to find more ways to create and maintain safe places for young refugee men with the Mazi Housing Project, which also have an integrative character.



## GROCERIES FOR KHORAS SOCIAL KITCHEN

Khora has been active in Athens since 2016 and supports people in need with clothing, hygiene items, food and legal advice at three locations. After working with Khora on our 2022 campaign, we were able to quadruple our support with the help of a grant from the German Postcode Lottery.

From this, we were able to buy almost 4000 bars of soap for the FREE SHOP. In the FREE SHOP, people can register with Khora and then choose hygiene products, clothes and also toys for free.

In addition, Khora cooks up to 300 meals a day in her SOCIAL KITCHEN. For this valuable project we were able to buy 5000 food trays in which the portions are served. This will cover Khora's needs for the next 3 months.

We were also able to buy several kilograms of lentils, rice, pasta, tomato sauce and other food for the SOCIAL KITCHEN.



KHORA



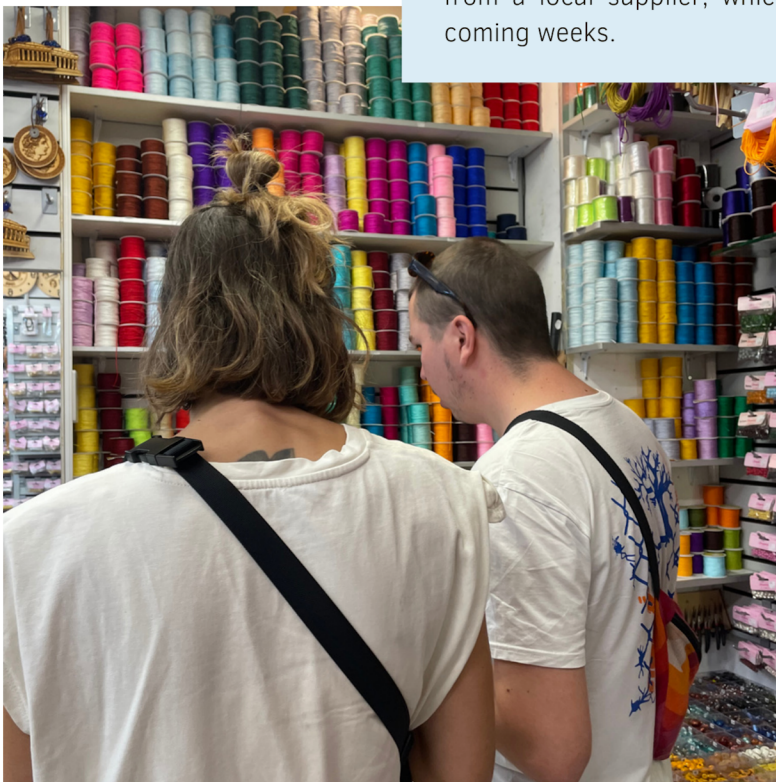
## FABRIC SUPPLIES FOR GLOCAL ROOTS

Glocal Roots is a Swiss organisation that has been active mainly on Samos for several years. In 2022, they moved to Athens and have since been running a SAFE SPACE for refugee women there in the Victoria Community Centre, which is also home to other non-profit organisations.

At the SAFE SPACE, women have the opportunity to rest in a quiet environment or take part in various workshops. One of them is the sewing project, where fanny packs, purses and much more are sewn. We are so enthusiastic about these bags, which also have the story of the seamstresses printed on them, that our whole team has bought one in the meantime.

For this project, we were able to buy fabrics in various small sewing shops, some of which have been in business for several generations, which are now waiting for their next use. All colours and fabrics were included.

In addition to these workshops, Glocal Roots has recently started to offer informal childcare, which enables the women to go shopping and relieves some of the pressure on them. For this, we had ordered large quantities of diapers and wet wipes from a local supplier, which will be used in the coming weeks.



**MEDICAL CARE BY MVI**

With Medical Volunteers International - or MVI in short - we were able to work directly with a medical organisation for the first time in Greece. In addition to the branch in Athens, MVI is also active in Serbia and has many years of local experience through its former locations in Thessaloniki and Lesvos.

In Athens, MVI's Meraki clinic offers refugees access to medical care through medical consultations and physiotherapy. In addition, our partners also provide care to addicted and homeless people through their streetwork programme on the streets of Athens. MVI has also recently started reaching people in the camps in Ritsona and Malakasa through its outreach programme.

Due to the increase in petrol prices in Greece, we had already been informed that this is currently one of MVI's most urgent needs - especially as there is already a secure supply of medicine through other organisations.

Therefore, we provided MVI with a budget of 500€ for transport costs for the outreach programme. In addition, we were able to purchase a CPR simulator from a local medical shop for further training, as well as a portable medicine backpack that will be used in both outreach and street work.

We were also able to help improve the structure of the clinic by adding storage boxes for medicines and plants to make the treatment rooms a place where patients feel even more comfortable and safe.



## MUSICAL COMMUNITY CENTRE

We were also able to work with the Fáilte Centre for the first time this year. In their Community Centre in the centre of Athens, the two founders Claire and Colleen offer refugee children and adults a place of retreat, but also further education, such as language or music lessons.

To support these activities, we collected guitars together with the German School of Athens and donated a total of seven to the Fáilte Centre. During our Athens campaign, we were also able to collect and hand over holders, strings and plectrums.

In order to secure the offer of language lessons, we were also able to buy writing pads and pens from a small stationery shop in Athens. For psychosocial support, we were able to provide crayons, watercolours and canvases.

Finally, we were able to make the children at the Fáilte Centre happy by adding a toy shop to the play corner.







**Yorck  
Kinogruppe**



### OUR SUPPORTERS

In addition to the support of private donors, we would like to take this opportunity to thank a few actors who have supported us institutionally.

The first thank you goes, as already mentioned, to the **German Postcode Lottery**, without which we would not have been able to increase our donations to such an extent. Another thank you goes to the **German School of Athens**, whose students collected a total of seven guitars and two sewing machines for The Fáilte Centre. The social department stores' **Contact e.V.** from Augsburg also helped us out with four sewing machines for the sewing project for Glocal Roots.

Together with **Wir Packen's An**, we were again able to send football shoes, jerseys and balls in various sizes to our partner organisation CHEERIN Greece, which provides football training for refugee children and adults. Finally, we would like to thank the **Yorck Cinemas** and the **Zeiss Planetarium** for allowing us to organise an event and information stand there, and of course **Kuckuckszwei** and **Sing del a Sing** for their constant support at all collection points.



**WIR PACKEN'S AN**  
Nothilfe für Geflüchtete



**Zeiss-Großplanetarium**

SUPPORTING ORGANISATIONS



# THANKS TO YOU

# WE COULD BUY

- 900 rolls of toilet paper
- seven new bed frames
- 200 kg rice
- 100 kg pasta
- 200 l sunflower oil
- 200 l olive oil
- 200 kg beans & lentils
- 5000 food wrappings
- 3996 bars of soap
- 7980 diapers
- and much more...

## SUPPORT FROM THE



The Athens 2023 campaign was the first campaign in which we received support from a foundation in addition to donations from our fundraising.

Together with the German Postcode Lottery, we can now support a total of eight of our partner organisations with an additional budget. In addition, for the first time we had a travel budget that can only be used for the costs of flights as well as car rental.

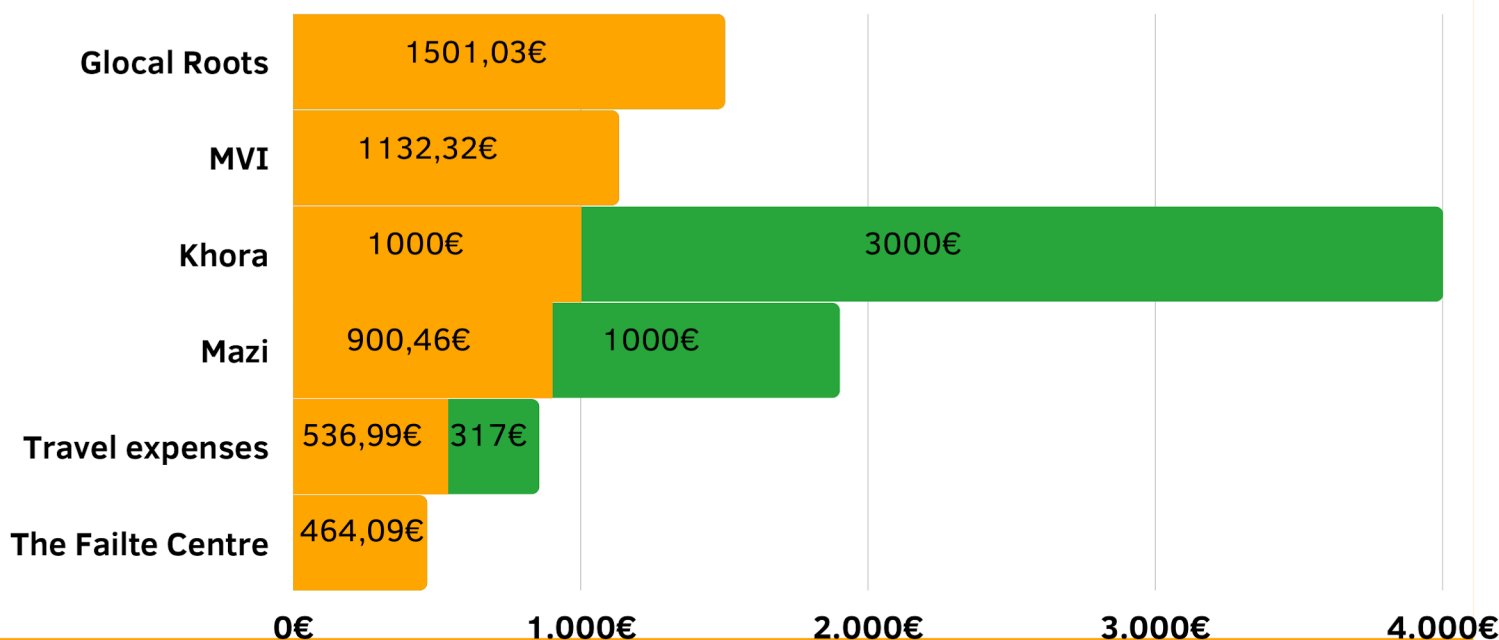
We were already able to distribute the first donations in Athens and Samos. During our winter campaign in Northern Greece in December, we will continue with this and visit our partner organisations on site again.

We would like to thank the German Postcode Lottery for their trust and support!

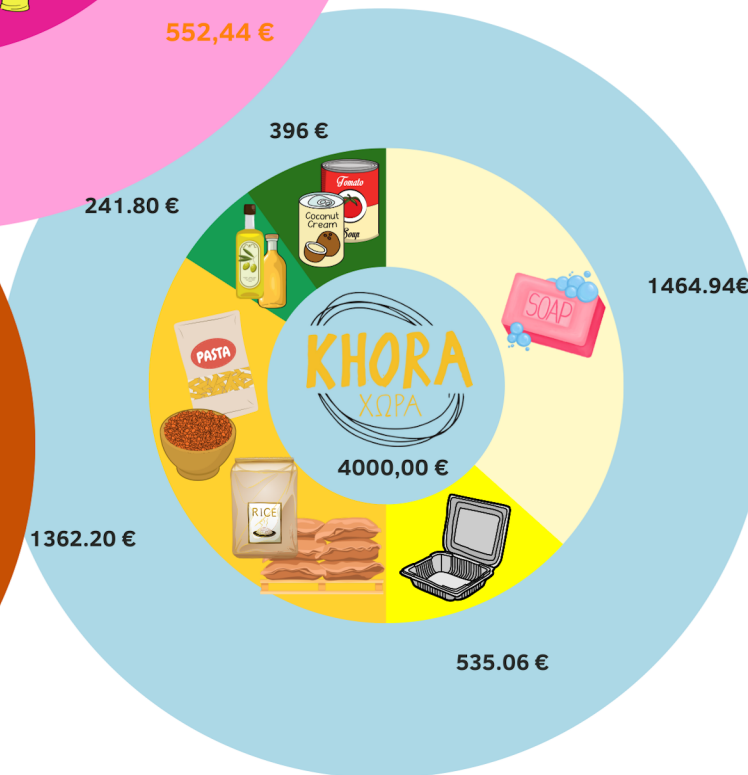
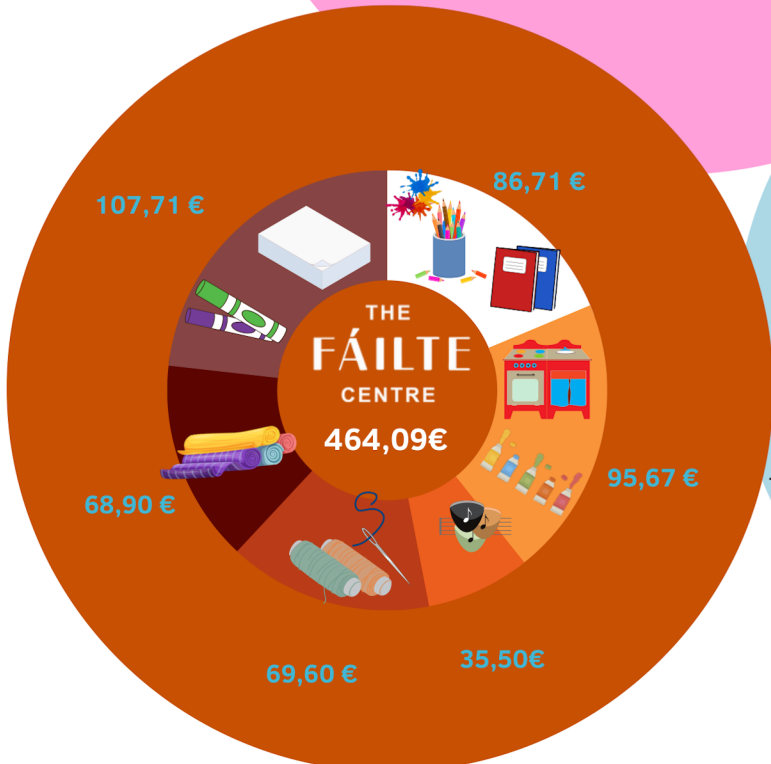
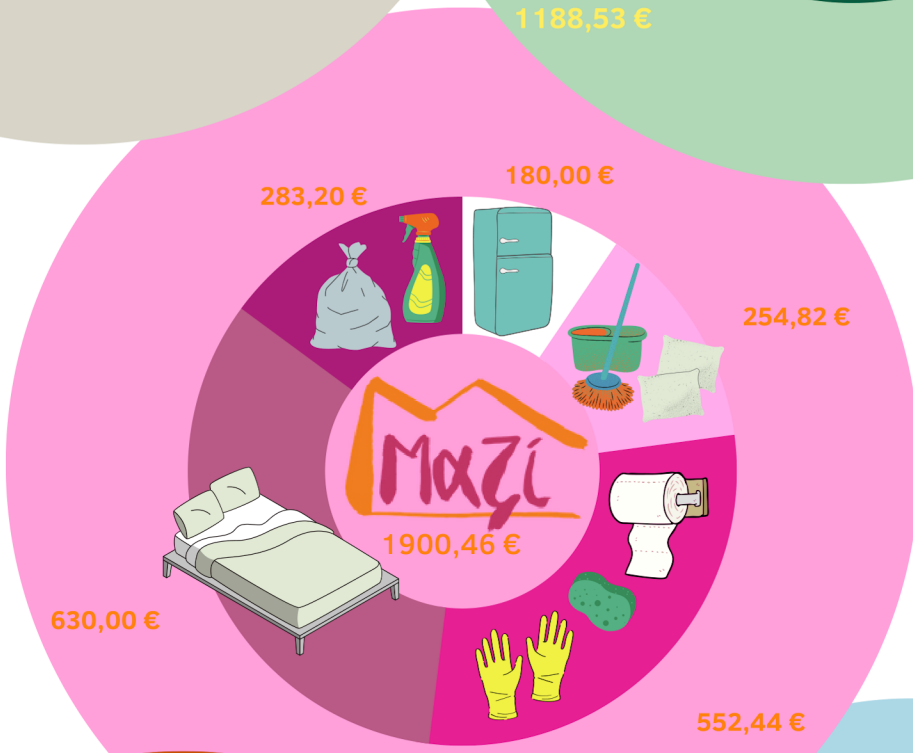
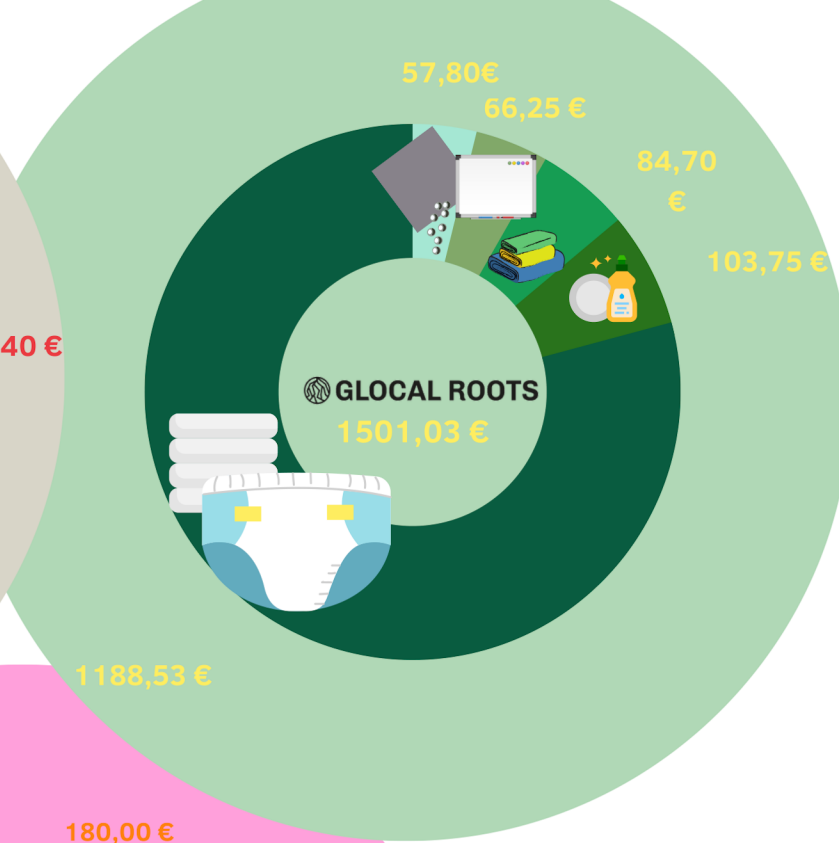
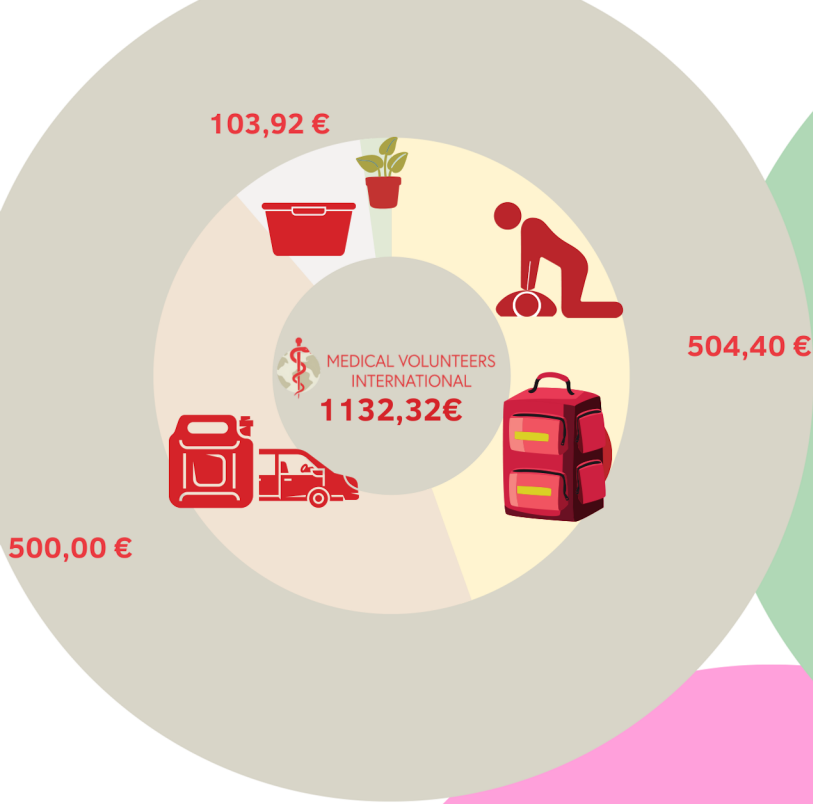
# FACTS & FIGURES

## ATHENS CAMPAIGN 2023: EXPENDITURE OVERVIEW

■ Your donations 5534,89€ ■ German Postcode Lottery 4317€



# FACTS & FIGURES



## WHAT COMES NEXT?

After the Athens campaign comes the Northern Greece campaign. In December this year, we will travel to Thessaloniki and Kavala to visit our partner organisations Northern Lights Aid, Wave and Equal Legal Aid and distribute donations there again.

While the focus in Athens was strongly on homelessness, in Thessaloniki the focus is currently on the unspeakable conditions for undocumented people. These are people who have mostly experienced several pushbacks and live in constant danger of being picked up by the police. At the same time, there are a total of 10 refugee camps and two deportation camps in northern Greece.

Together with our partners at Wave, we want to buy sleeping bags for undocumented people as well as food and hygiene products for the so-called "Prison Packs" for people in deportation detention. We will support Equal Legal Aid with money for legal advice and appeals against rejected asylum decisions.

In Kavala, about one and a half hours away from Thessaloniki, mainly heavily pregnant women are currently being transferred from the camps on the islands. There we want to buy prams, nappies and wet wipes. We also want to add another organisation in Thessaloniki to our list of partners.

We can only achieve all this with your help! Support us in this campaign too!

