

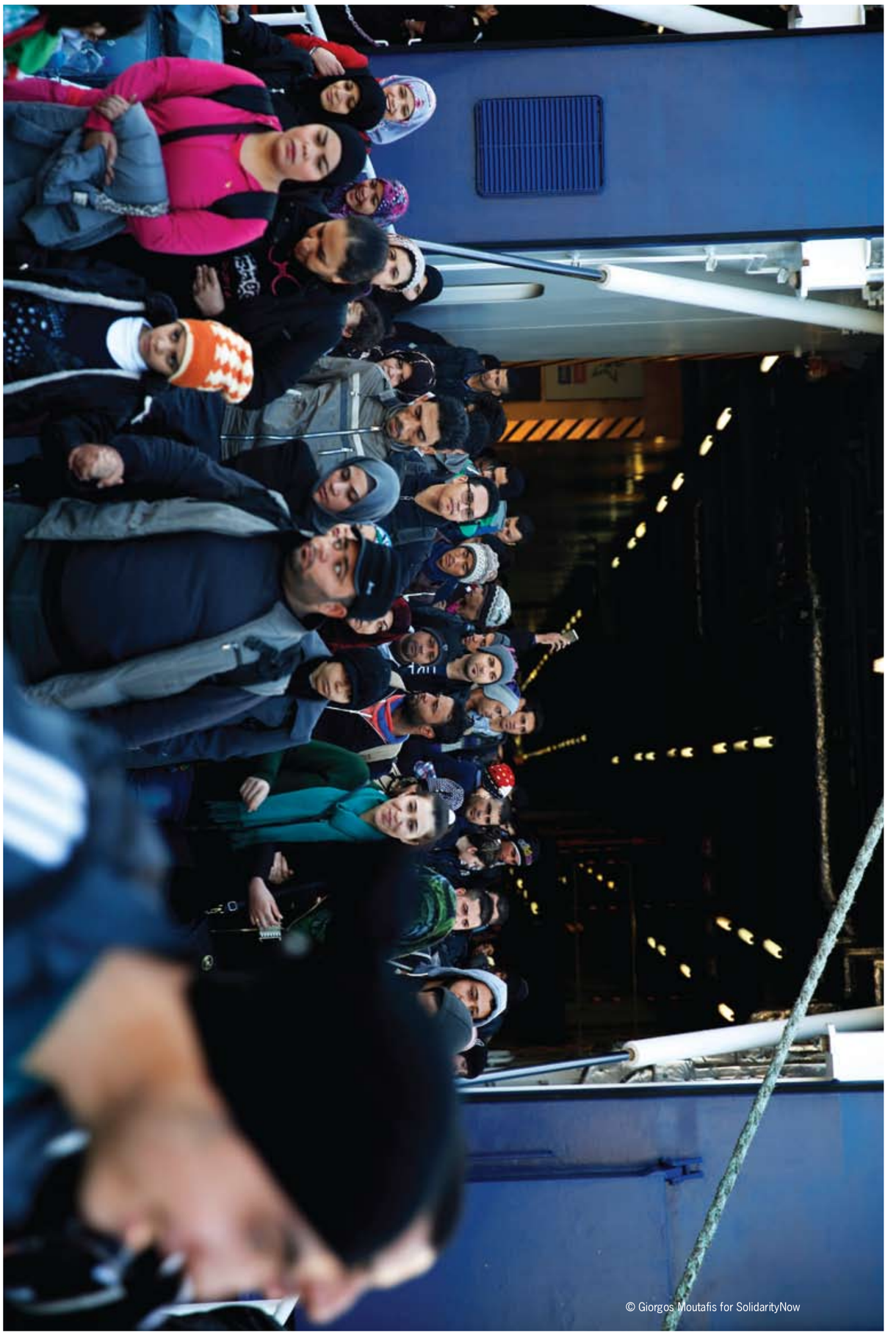
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2016 annual report

αλληλεγγύη
SOLIDARITY NOW
This is our common ground

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annual
report
2016

editorial

"It is imperative that people are moved off the Greek islands"



by **Stelios Zavvos,** Chairman of the Board of Directors

The refugee crisis that enveloped Europe and captured the attention of the world since 2015 and over 2016, was a seismic event. The arrival of more than one million men, women, and children in Europe -most whom made a perilous journey from Turkey across the Aegean in flimsy dinghies to remote Greek islands and from there on through an arduous Balkan route to northern Europe- shook the continent to its very core. These flows presented an existential threat to the basic European values of humanity and solidarity.

Pan-European institutions and individual member states struggled mightily to cope with the influx and were found wanting. As were the once high ideals associated with the European Union, as the refugee crisis was politicized by far-right parties and proponents across Europe, support for which burgeoned as such parties manipulated the situation -through fear mongering, hate speech and base racism- to grow their numbers.
The anti-migrant rhetoric spewed forth in Austria, France, Holland, Hungary, and Norway among others, took many by surprise. And, the terrorist attacks in Paris and the New Year's attacks perpetrated by migrants in Germany only added more grist for far-right parties.

The international community, too, was ill-prepared and even less suited to respond to the refugee crisis. The scale and nature of the crisis -dynamic in the extreme, with the ad hoc arrival of thousands of refugees, driven on by a desperate need to reach their intended destinations- challenged lofty humanitarian best practices, and turned the standard operating procedures of the United Nations Refugee Agency and international non-governmental organizations on their head. Many such entities were slow to respond, caught off-guard by the crisis.

The burden to respond fell first to an array of local, Greek civil society entities -filling the void left not only by the shortcomings of the international humanitarian system, but also that of a failing Greek state deep amid its financial crisis and eroded by years of austerity measures and mismanagement.

As images of refugees -most whom were desperately feeling the horrors of the war in Syria, the extremism and violence wrought by the Islamic State, ad hoc international volunteer movement rallied to support by both refugees and Greek first responders.

As 2015 wore on and into 2016, the numbers of arriving refugees continued unabated. The crisis had become untenable for the EU and member states, and in a series of increasingly draconian measures borders along the Balkan route were first closed to certain nationalities, and then to all those hoping to reach northern Europe.

Shortly thereafter, on March 20, in what was yet another of European half-measures to mitigate the crisis, the EU reached a deal with Turkey to stop all flows. **Consequently, more than 50,000 refugees are trapped in a Greece grossly unprepared**. Ever since, Greek state entities, humanitarian organizations and others have struggled to meet even a modicum of basic standards for refugees housed in a mix of sub-standard camps, hotels, hotspots, detention centers, and more.

And, now, despite a relatively stable caseload, the presence of innumerable international humanitarian organizations and tens of millions of euros made available by the European Union and other donors, the conditions in camps and that for many refugees remain shockingly poor. Making matters worse, now that **it has become increasingly clear that thousands of refugees will be forced into extended stays in Greece**, like elsewhere in Europe the situation is causing stress on and within local communities, creating escalating tensions. It is, thus, nothing short of a volatile mix, a tender box threatening to ignite with the very real prospect of a return of thousands of daily arrivals should the tenuous EU-Turkey deal break.

More than 800 refugees have been returned under the EU–Turkey agreement back to Turkey, while about 23,000 new arrivals have reached Greece since March 2016; nearly all new arrivals seek asylum in Greece. 14,000 are stranded at the Greek islands. Asylum seekers who arrived on the islands in the first days of the implementation of the EU -Turkey statement have been stuck there for almost 10 months. Heavy snow, rain, and strong winds during the winter months, have exacerbated the already dire conditions on the islands.

Consequently, the burden in the islands will soon exhaust their capacity; and this burden needs to be reduced. Refugees must be moved inland to urban settings on the mainland. **Reintegration and peaceful coexistence is now our biggest bet.**

What we are experiencing is Europe's failure to provide shelter to refugees. Shocking images highlighted Europe's inhumane policies towards refugees and migrants. And what we are seeing on the islands is the manifestation of the way Europe is failing to provide dignity for some of the world's most vulnerable. **It is imperative that people are moved off the Greek islands.**

As the first signs of the refugee crisis became evident in the summer of 2015, SolidarityNow rapidly and adroitly adjusted its grant-making portfolio. During 2016, the organization provided much-needed, catalytic support to Greek first responders and to the select few international humanitarian organizations first to react to the looming disaster on the most heavily impacted Greek islands. As the crisis exploded, however, SolidarityNow realized much more needed to be done to address the ever-increasing unmet needs of arriving refugees. Confronted with reality, the organization developed programmatically and operationally so as to simultaneously **undertake directly implemented social service provision and humanitarian relief activities.**

SolidarityNow supports the pan-European asylum policy as the necessary solution to address the growing migration challenge. A certain number of migrants for example 1million per year should be accepted via application to Europe and then allocated proportionally to the GDP of the country and its population. Considering such overwhelming challenges, we are strengthening the fundamental values at the core of SolidarityNow's work -from which our staff and the organization derives strength and purpose, respectively. Put simply, SolidarityNow is a value-driven organization, with an inherent interest in and readily admitted bias to help create, promote, and protect open, just and economically equitable societies.

In this challenging environment where populism supports xenophobia, racism, and anti-migration policies, SolidarityNow stands as a catalyst to promote open society values.

editorial

"Moving towards an Open Society through Civil Society"



by **Epaminondas Farmakis,** General Director

SolidarityNow, a leading Greek philanthropic non-governmental organization, was amongst the first entities to fully appreciate the magnitude of the refugee crisis -for Greece, Europe and beyond.

Programmatically, SolidarityNow initially focused its efforts on addressing the broad consequences of the suffering caused by the Greek financial crisis. While remaining true to its original mandate, the emerging needs resulted by the refugee crisis and the compounded consequences of it and the ongoing economic crisis, challenged SolidarityNow to respond accordingly.

To begin with, SolidarityNow operates since 2014 its two Solidarity Centers in Athens and Thessaloniki. These Centers have been and continue to be in the heart of SolidarityNow activities. Operated with an "open door to all/ free of charge" policy, the Centers provide an array of vital services under one roof to address the needs of marginalized communities. In 2016, more than 150,000 services were offered through our Centers.
The services in both Centers were adjusted and expanded in order to best address the evolving social challenges, shaped by the parallel crises in Greece. So, in addition to the ongoing psycho-social support provided, the Centers began to offer asylum registration services, aid refugees to get vital work permit accreditation, vaccinate refugee children to alleviate concerns about them attending Greek schools, as well a wide range of other re-tailored services.

Secondly, the evolution of the SolidarityNow model lead in 2016 to the organization's designation as an implementing partner of international organizations, such as the UNHCR and UNICEF, especially in establishing accommodation structures and providing specialized aid in camps, all over Greece, following the EEA and Norway Grants earlier. While in 2016, SolidarityNow was successful to establish a three-year renewal grant from the Open Society Foundations (OSF-OSIFE).

SolidarityNow has provided during 2016, accommodation to 3,717 People of Concern (PoCs), through a wide spectrum of different housing models. In addition, we launched a community development project in the local context of Sindos (Thessaloniki) transforming a former private student residence in a pilot project hosting 133 asylum seekers. We also tested the solution of small scale interventions in local insular societies such as Tilos island and Rovies in Evia, observing the impact that a new population group could have in local development, in terms of economy and integration. Another important project and campaign took place during 2016 under the name "Home for Hope" where Greek families hosted more than 800 asylum seekers, building on a solidarity impetus and taking advantage of the famous hospitality spirit of the Greeks.

Starting from December 2016 and as part of our continuing efforts to protect the most vulnerable refugee and migrant groups, special mobile units known as "Blue Dots" are being rolled out in 11 areas across Greece to provide vital services to more than 1,000 children and women, combining counseling and safe space in a single location.

Another innovative project implemented by SolidarityNow started in 2016 is the "Safe Refugee" -a specialized housing and assistance program for the LGBTI refugees and asylum seekers staying in Greece. A major concern to cope with through this project is the double vulnerability (being both LGBTI and a refugee) that this community faces. Thus, psycho-social assistance to this specific target group is provided to handle and resolve issues, such as trauma, violence, abuse, and exclusion.

Equally important are the advocacy initiatives taken by SolidarityNow which will be intensified in 2017. Having repeatedly and publicly condemned the inhumane agreement between the EU and Turkey which has resulted in the increase of deaths of those trying to reach Europe, we have campaigned for the closure of the refugee camps and the transfer of refugees and asylum seekers in urban hospitality structures, thus providing better living conditions for these people as well as their peaceful and unpretentious integration into the local social web.
SolidarityNow has submitted a petition to the European Parliament calling for greater transparency in the related funding. Lack of a plan together with bad management and corruption has resulted in various deaths in camps in Greece. We ask, is this appropriate for an EU country?

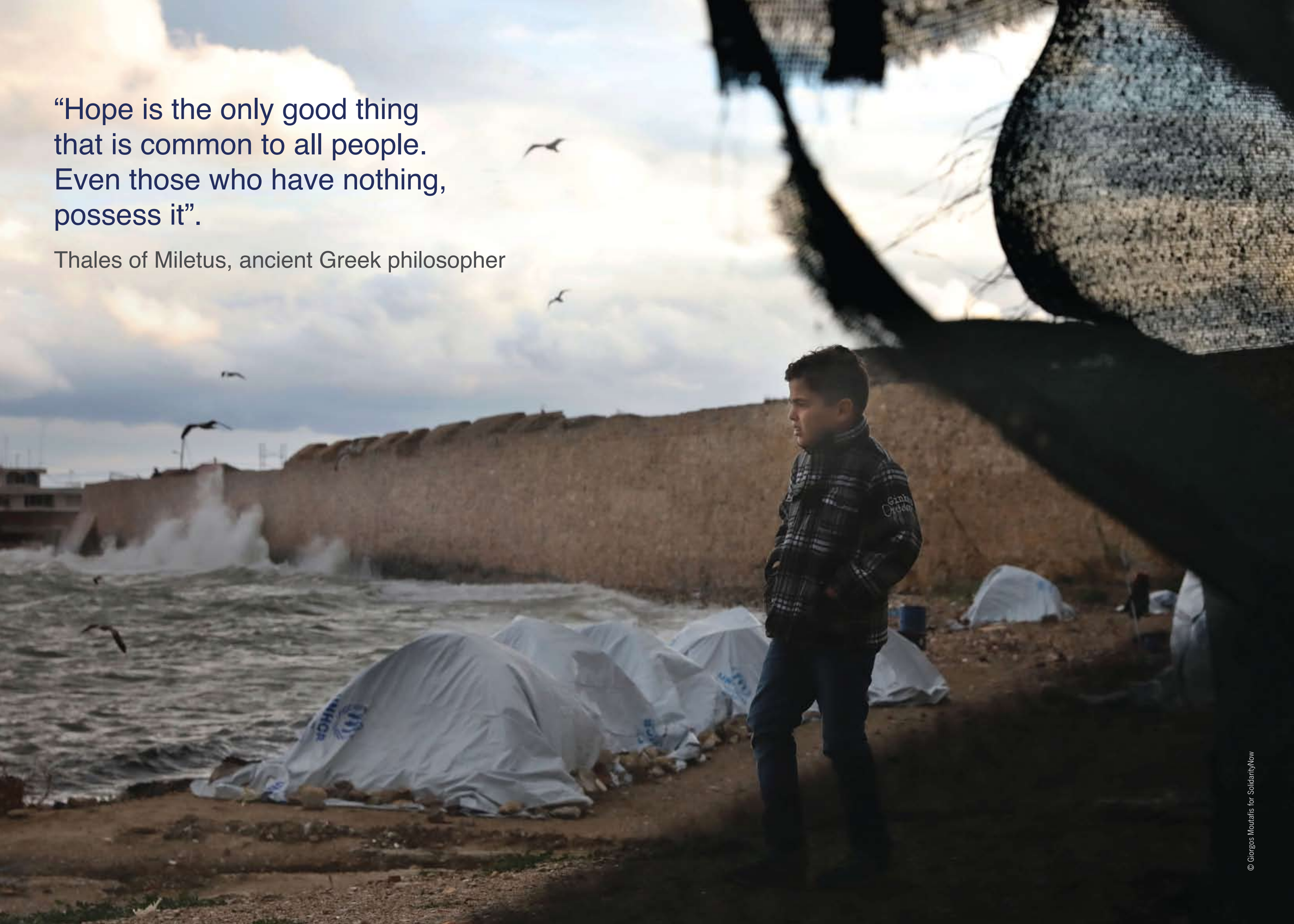
Although historically it has been proved that democracy is a highly durable institution, we would all agree that nowadays it has been severely shaken. Politics and politicians have failed to meet the expectations of citizens and this failure made people feel deeply disappointed by the prevailing versions of democracy. That is why it is universally been observed the rise of extreme forms of populism.
And this phenomenon must be stopped! SolidarityNow shall fight for this, through several public events and activities, and we hope that day by day we will meet more supporters in this endeavor.

SolidarityNow has grown a lot and matured in 2016. It has evolved to a responsible employer too, as to effectively manage the aforementioned programs and its growth in general, our staff increased to over 300 within a year.

Much work remains to be done to address the critical needs of many people –Greeks, refugees and migrants. Unfortunately, nowadays the need of organizations like SolidarityNow is even more imperative.

And to succeed our goals, **we need to have even more supporters with whom we share the same vision: to move forward from the civil society to an open society, where people just accept people for what they are, no matter race, religion, or gender... Where any person fits, and may thrive. Because then, and only then, we may say that our actions are worth the effort.**

And only then we will have the strength and aspiration to accomplish even more new, fresh, innovative ideas. Always for the benefit of those in need – and always in a spirit of solidarity.



“Hope is the only good thing
that is common to all people.
Even those who have nothing,
possess it”.

Thales of Miletus, ancient Greek philosopher

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A lot have happened during the last year. But here are some of the major events of

2016

milestones

June

UN Secretary General visit



The UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, on the first day of his arrival in Greece, visited the Athens Solidarity Center, to see firsthand the activities that have been implemented by SolidarityNow to address the socio-economic crisis.
The Secretary General, as part of a brief visit to our country, visited the Athens Solidarity Center, where he met and spoke with the Chairman of the organization, Mr. Stelios Zavvos, members of the Board of the organization, employees and volunteers, on how to assist the most vulnerable people in Greece.

May

1st World Humanitarian Summit by the UN



SolidarityNow participated in the 1st World Humanitarian Summit by the UN which took place in Istanbul from the 22nd to the 24th of May 2016. The Summit brought together the largest humanitarian organizations worldwide and over 70 top leaders in order to participate in the global dialogue on pressing global humanitarian issues.

SolidarityNow took part in the civil society forum (Exhibition Fair) of the Summit, along with 300 other organizations from around the globe, presenting the organization's findings and actions based on its multilayered humanitarian response and the involved people's perspective on their experience and needs.

May

"The Journey. People On The Move" Photo exhibition @ Benaki Museum



On Monday, May 16th the Benaki Museum opened its doors to the public for the photo exhibition "The Journey. People on the move", which was co-organized by SolidarityNow and the Museum. 8 renowned photographers / photojournalists from Greece captured with their lenses the Journey, the route all these people took in the past year as they had to flee their countries. The images traced their journey from Turkey to Greece, with destination the borders, hoping to reach a safe haven in Europe.

September - December

Awareness campaign Home For Hope

HOME FOR HOPE

Through the message "Banish Fear. Give Shelter" SolidarityNow implemented a nation-wide campaign for the Hosting Scheme project "Home for Hope" that aimed to raise awareness, inform, and encourage citizens to "open their homes" and host refugees who needed a shelter for a short period of time. SolidarityNow's information campaign used various means to pass on its messages:

- Special website for the program www.homeforhope.gr, with relevant information about the program
- TV and radio spots
- Inserts in newspapers and magazines, banners in electronic media
- Digital campaign through the organization's social media
- Posters at the Metro and bus stations

2016

November

#SolidarityNow_ Refugee_Team: The first refugee team in the history of the Athens Classic Marathon

milestones

SolidarityNow participated in the 5km race of this year's Athens Classic Marathon with the first group of refugees in the history of the Marathon, which consisted of 15 refugees – beneficiaries of the organization's Hosting Scheme project. The #SolidarityNow_Refugee_ Team, along with its coaches, sent its own message of solidarity, unity and peaceful coexistence.



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Activities' Overview

Solidarity Now is a value-driven organization, with an inherent interest in and readily admitted bias to help create, promote, and protect open, fair, and economically equitable societies. In the following pages, you will see how we attempt to achieve it.



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problems adressed / solutions provided

Everyone has one story to share.
Every story reveals specific needs.
Every need has many aspects.

A sectoral approach can be relieving but is not efficient in assisting people taking over the control of their lives, lifted up from a difficult moment.


© Steven Tagle

More than 63,000 people have used the services of the three Centers that SolidarityNow operates in Athens and Thessaloniki, to provide people with a holistic, needs-based not status based solution to their daily challenges and assist with sustainable improvement of their lives.

More than 50,000 refugees and asylum seekers are stranded in Greece. Through a wide range of accommodation solutions SolidarityNow provided off camp shelter to 3,717 people, through the support to establishment of 2,101 accommodation places. The variety of shelters provided, that range from cohabitation with Greek families to community development projects, is based on the active expression of beneficiaries' preference. 42% would prefer to stay in autonomous apartments, 46% would prefer to live in collective settlements (young men prefer living in hotels as to have better services, and women under reunification process preferring collective settlements for protection and safety reasons).

The needs of the refugee response coincide with the challenges because of the socio-economic hardship in Greece. SolidarityNow believes that through cooperation, Greeks and refugees can work together, boosting local development. Tilos, the unique island of Dodecanese, serves as an example of solidarity as an agent of social progress and sustainability, through the active cooperation with local authorities.


© Paul Cohn

Committed to the promotion of dignity and self-empowerment, SolidarityNow provided cash assistance, through vouchers or unconditional multipurpose pre-paid cards to more than 2,400 people, asylum seekers and Greeks. Cash based interventions not only guarantee the de facto exercise of beneficiaries' rights but also assist local economies and small shops, expanding people's potential.

Forced fleeing away from home led thousands of people to reside in camps throughout the country. SolidarityNow established safety islets for children and their families to provide them a sense of normality. More than 1,200 children in 10 different camps had already the chance to experience their childhoods that they have lost along the migration route.

Not all people are the same, neither share the same needs. SolidarityNow implements projects that target differentiated needs of various vulnerable groups, from a specialized project for LGBT+ refugees, a shelter for people in extremely need and school support for young ROMA children. People are at the epicenter of our effort.

SolidarityNow invests in the proactive involvement of beneficiaries in the design and evaluation of our projects. 56% of PoCs that requested more information on their rights and enhanced interaction with the legal team, while 87% would feel safe to report and discuss an incident of racism or violence to SN staff. 97% of SN beneficiaries feel safe in SN-run structures and safer than in previous accommodation. 96% would participate again in SN-run projects, 92% rate our services as "very good".

De facto school drop outs because of the educational system structural difficulties, along with the highlighted challenge to finding a job in Greece underlines the risk for the unmet potential of young people. SolidarityNow provides non-formal educational support and skills empowerment activities, through novelty e-learning and class projects, assisting people to reconnect with the labor market and the school community. More than 2,000 children and adults benefited from non-formal educational services, while 69 refugee children attended day schools along with Greek peers.

The geography of programs

as by December 2016

Thessaloniki

- Solidarity Center/ *Donor: OSF/OSIFE & UNHCR/EU*
- Blue Refugee Center • Blue Dot/ *Donor: UNHCR/EU*
- Home for Hope *Donor: UNHCR/EU*
- Hosting/Accommodation of Refugees/Asylum Seekers/ *Donor: UNHCR/EU*
- Cash-based support/ *Donor: UNHCR/EU*
- Children Friendly Spaces and educational activities/ *Donor: UNHCR/EU*
- Specialized Programs for LGBTI Refugees/ Asylum Seekers/ *Donor: UNHCR/EU*

Derveni (Thess)

- Mobile Unit • Blue Dot/ *Donor: UNICEF*

Serres

- Mobile Unit • Blue Dot/ *Donor: UNICEF*

Filippiada

- Mobile Unit • Blue Dot/ *Donor: UNICEF*

Sindos (Thessaloniki)

- Hosting/Accommodation of Refugees/ Asylum Seekers/ *Donor: UNHCR/EU*
- Cash-based support/ *Donor: UNHCR/EU*
- Children Friendly Spaces and educational activities/ *Donor: UNHCR/EU*

Vassilika (Thess)

- Mobile Unit/ *Donor: Care International*

Oreokastro (Thess)

- Mobile Unit • Blue Dot/ *Donor: UNICEF*

Kavallari (Thess)

- Mobile Unit • Blue Dot/ *Donor: UNICEF*

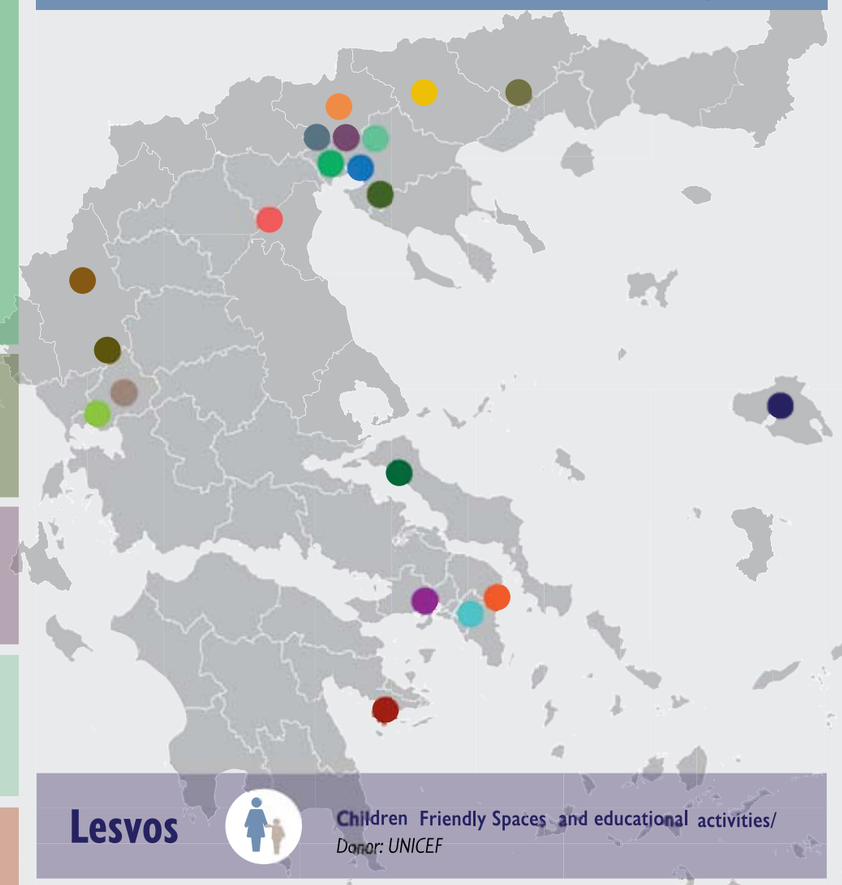
Kranidi / completed

- Hosting/Accommodation of Refugees/Asylum Seekers/ *Donor: UNHCR/EU*
- Children Friendly Spaces and educational activities/ *Donor: UNHCR/EU*
- Cash-based support/ *Donor: UNHCR/EU*

Veria

- Home for Hope/ *Donor: UNHCR/EU*

Estimated number of beneficiaries in 2016: 80,000 persons



Lesvos

- Children Friendly Spaces and educational activities/ *Donor: UNICEF*

Kilkis

- Home for Hope/ *Donor: UNHCR/EU*

Drama

- Mobile Unit • Blue Dot/ *Donor: UNICEF*

Doliana (Ioannina)

- Mobile Unit • Blue Dot/ *Donor: UNICEF*

Faneromeni (Ioannina)/completed

- Hosting/Accommodation of Refugees/ Asylum Seekers/ *Donor: UNHCR/EU*
- Mobile Unit • Blue Dot/ *Donor: UNICEF, UNHCR/EU*

Athens

- Solidarity Center/ *Donor: OSF/OSIFE,EEA Grants, European Commission*
- Home for Hope/ *Donor: UNHCR/EU*
- Hosting/ Accommodation of Refugees/ Asylum Seekers/ *Donor: UNHCR/EU*
- Cash-based support/ *Donor: UNHCR/EU*
- Children Friendly Spaces and educational activities/ *Donor: UNHCR/EU*
- Specialized Programs for LGBTI Refugees/ Asylum Seekers/ *Donor: UNHCR/EU*

Rovies (Evia)

- Hosting/Accommodation of Refugees/ Asylum Seekers/ *Donor: UNHCR/EU*
- Cash-based support/ *Donor: UNHCR/EU*
- Children Friendly Spaces and educational activities/ *Donor: UNHCR/EU*

Ioannina

- Accommodation of Refugees/Asylum Seekers/ *Donor: UNHCR/EU*
- Children Friendly Spaces and educational activities/ *Donor: UNHCR/EU*

Elefsina (Attica)

- Mobile Unit • Blue Dot/ *Donor: UNICEF*

Agios Andreas (Attica)

- Mobile Unit • Blue Dot/ *Donor: UNICEF*

Tilos

- Hosting/ Accommodation of Refugees/ Asylum Seekers
- Peaceful coexistence of hosting and hosted communities
- Children Friendly Spaces and educational activities

Donor: UNHCR/EU and OSF/OSIFE

Solidarity Centers

Both Centers in Athens and Thessaloniki, programmatically and operationally, have been and continue to be the heart of SolidarityNow activities. Adopting an "open door / free of charge" policy, the Centers provide an array of essential services to address the needs of economically marginalized communities.



© Steven Tagle

Solidarity Center
ATHENS

The first phase of the Athens Solidarity Center (ASC) was implemented in partnership with the Municipality of Athens and civil society organizations, including PRAKSIS, ARSIS, Network for Children's Rights and Together for Children, with the financial support of the European Economic Area Grants (EEA Grants). In September 2015, the Greek Asylum Service began its operations at the Center, with a specific focus on cases of vulnerable persons. **In 2016, the ASC entered its second phase,** when the services were adjusted and expanded to best address the evolving social challenges, shaped by the parallel crises in Greece – the socioeconomic hardship and the influx of refugees and migrants.

The set of services offered to the beneficiaries, are:

- Legal support: Legal advice, mediation, litigation, and advocacy
- Social Work: counseling and guidance on connection with services and availability of aid, access to services and referrals, protection
- Psychological support: evaluation of psychological needs, counseling and support, diagnosis, and guidance to specialized aid /specialized therapy
- Helpline and counseling for families, children and adolescents (with the partnership of Together for the Children)
- Children Friendly Space (through the Network for Children's Rights)
- Asylum Office Services, following a booked appointment by the central Asylum Service.

Supporters: EEA Grants, Norwegian Embassy in Athens, Open Society Foundations.

Total number of beneficiaries at the Center

49,808

Total number of beneficiaries of programs

29,796

Number of services provided

121,880

Solidarity Centers


© Valia Andrakakou

Solidarity Center
THESSALONIKI

Since January 2014, the Thessaloniki Solidarity Center (TSC) has served as a central hub that provides healthcare services, social support services, and legal aid to underprivileged groups who live in Thessaloniki.

In April 2016, the Thessaloniki Solidarity Center entered a second phase of operation. Building on lessons learned, the TSC shifted its model to one that focused more on the provision of individualized services tailored to each beneficiary. This personalized approach provides a more complete set of services focused on an individual's needs, to best overcome the range of difficulties and obstacles they encounter. Thessaloniki Solidarity Center is now possible to address each need - from interpretation and nutritional care, to legal support and skill certification. It focuses on reintegration measures (employability, education, etc.) that enhance the peaceful coexistence of Greeks, immigrants, and refugees.

Supporters: UNHCR, Open Society Foundations.

Total number of beneficiaries of programs

12,850

Number of services provided

20,077

Blue Refugee Center

The **Blue Refugee Center** operates in Thessaloniki since November 2016 as part of SolidarityNow's projects in Northern Greece and serves as an open space where people of diverse backgrounds can come to receive various services, including education and livelihood programs, attend social and recreation events, and exchange information and experiences with one another.

The primary objective of the Center is to empower refugee and host communities by providing a central place for these groups to actively participate in decisions that affect their lives.

The Blue Refugee Center also provides reproductive, neonatal and postnatal counseling and care to mothers, designated spaces for breastfeeding ("breastfeeding corners"), child-friendly spaces and targeted services to beneficiaries, including legal, social, and psychological support.

The Center's Info Desk offers:

- A variety of services linked to the daily lives of beneficiaries (e.g. administrative matters, contacts with social services, logistical advice, information on how to file grievances, referral services).
- Basic legal advice and document translation services.
- Operation of a peer2peer helpline that provides practical information to beneficiaries, such as referral information and associated services. The helpline is operated by staff and volunteers from the same communities as the beneficiaries it serves.

The project is supported by UNHCR and funded by the European Union.



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"Blue Dots" Units

The Blue Dots are Child & Family Care Hubs for children, women and other vulnerable people living in reception centers in Central Greece, Epirus, Central and Eastern Macedonia, as well as in the urban environment of these regions, where the greatest populations' needs are recorded.

More specifically, the operation of the Child & Family Care Hubs includes:

- Child-friendly spaces that provide recreational and educational activities for children to restore the sense of normalcy that they have lost during the journey and while stranded.
- Identification and referral of vulnerable persons to specialized services, including vulnerable families, single mothers, children at risk with a specific focus on unaccompanied children, persons with disabilities or illnesses, cases of suspected trafficking, survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).
- Breastfeeding corners and provision of reproductive, neonatal and postnatal care, and counseling.
- Sharing efficient and accurate information to refugees and migrants about their rights (before and after applying for international protection).
- Providing general psycho-social services, and referrals when needed.

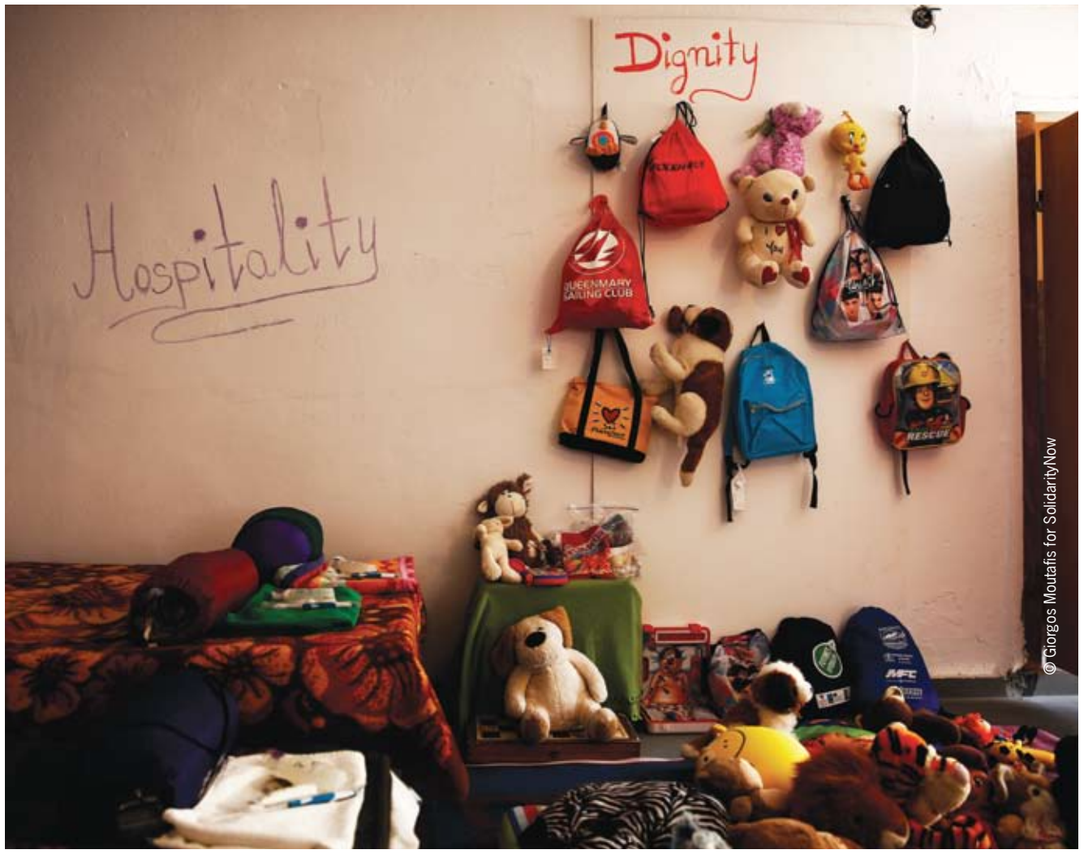
The Blue Dots program is implemented by SolidarityNow, supported by UNICEF, with funding from the European Commission's humanitarian aid department.



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Hosting & Accommodation programs

SolidarityNow implements in Greece innovative hosting and accommodation programs for refugees and asylum seekers.



Accommodation in Hosting Families / "Home for Hope"

"Home for Hope" is implemented by SolidarityNow since April 2016 and encourages Greek residents to host asylum seekers in their home. Until December 31st, 2016 SolidarityNow had created 720 temporary accommodation places for refugees, 425 in Attica and 295 in Thessaloniki and the wider region. The goal of the program is not only to provide asylum seekers with a more humane form of housing, as compared to a refugee camp, but also to serve as a practical demonstration of "solidarity in action". Hosting asylum seekers helps form bonds of solidarity between host communities and individuals on the move, by bringing these groups together and positively changing their perceptions of one another. Programs like these serve as models for the development of further acts of solidarity and engagement that can help overcome nationalistic and xenophobic rhetoric.

HOME FOR HOPE
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Accommodation in Hotels

SolidarityNow provided refugees and asylum seekers who were eligible for relocation with a wide range of services (information and interpretation services, psychosocial and legal support, recreational and educational activities, case management) with the aim to facilitate their temporary stay in Greece. By the end of 2016, 2,729 people have benefited from this program in Athens, Evia (Rovies), Peloponnese (Kranidi) and Epirus, while being accommodated in UNHCR-leased hotels.

Accommodation in shelters and independent buildings

Accommodation and a wide range of free services (information and interpretation services, psychosocial and legal support, recreational and educational activities, case management) was provided to asylum seekers and refugees in Thessaloniki and Sindos through two independent blocks of apartments and a shelter for vulnerable cases. By the end of 2016, more than 500 individuals have been benefited through these programs.

"Safe Refugee" – specialized program for LGBTI refugees and asylum seekers

To meet the increased needs and the multiple risks faced by LGBTI refugees and asylum seekers, SolidarityNow implemented a specialized housing and support program, known as "Safe Refugee", under which LGBTI refugees are accommodated in independent apartments in Athens and Thessaloniki. Participants in the program received psychosocial support, legal aid, participated in educational and recreational activities and were part of a wider network aiming to improve their living conditions and support them while staying in Greece.

Tilos – Community & Integration pilot project

The Social Care and Development Society of Tilos Municipality is currently running an accommodation shelter for refugees and asylum seekers. The shelter, which was set up in 2015 by SolidarityNow, continued to stand out as a unique example of a small local community project that welcomed refugees and migrants and catered for their smooth integration to society.

The Hosting and Accommodation Programs are implemented with the support of UNHCR and funded by the European Union.

April - December
2016

3,717
beneficiaries
Total

720
beneficiaries
Home for Hope

2,997
beneficiaries
Other programs

Hosting & Accommodation Program Budget
€4.7 mln

Other **programs**

Cash4Solidarity

In SolidarityNow we believe that the substantial assistance towards a recipient should not come in the form of charity but in a way to help them get the control of their life with dignity and independence.

Within the framework of its partnership with UNHCR, through EU funding, SolidarityNow inaugurated in November 2016 a cash transfer program for the beneficiaries of its accommodation projects. Specifically, SolidarityNow distributed prepaid cards with an amount of money corresponding to each beneficiary's household.

At the same time, SolidarityNow has launched a multi-layered informational campaign, consisting of information sessions and descriptive videos, multilingual leaflets, microsite and a helpline providing feedback and technical support to pre-paid card holders.


© Georgios Georgiou

Following their footsteps

To safeguard the human right to safety and decent living conditions, Faros in collaboration with four other organizations – SolidarityNow, Merimna, CivisPlus and Babel – launched a program entitled "Following their Footsteps".

The program aims to strengthen the **systematic identification and registration of unaccompanied and separated minors** living under difficult conditions in the streets of Athens and the provision of holistic care and hospitality through an alternative to detention or life on the streets. More specifically, the program aims to provide these children **social integration opportunities, enhance the effectiveness of the existing support network in Athens** and contribute decisively to reducing the **phenomenon of absconding from accommodation structures** through advocacy for the development of a specific national policy.
The project is funded by EPIM (European Programme for Integration and Migration).

FOLLOWING THEIR FOOTSTEPS

Grants

We join forces and resources with reliable third-party partners to reach even more people in need.


© Giorgos Moutafis for SolidarityNow

Grants

Securing the right to humanitarian assistance

• Provided services to more than 40,000 people on the move
• Present in 7 frontline islands providing health and legal services
• Monitoring all detention centers in Northern Greece
• Supported 32 organizations for People on the move projects

Securing the access to asylum

• Supported the de facto access to asylum by establishing 4 Asylum Service Offices
• Hosted the Asylum Office for Vulnerable Cases to secure fast-track case management
• Strengthened Civilian Services by empowering First Reception Service on critical locations (Kos, Leros)
• Run 7 projects providing free legal support and court representation
•Secured access to internet for asylum procedure to informal settlement

Providing Safe shelter

• Established 4 accommodation structures for people on the move
• Created the first shelter in Greece for UAMs turning adults
• Supported rent of hotel rooms of 200 people capacity in Thessaloniki

Investing on skills development

• Advocated and ensured policy change that introduced the right to work for asylum seekers
• Providing free lessons of Greek language through cooperation with the University of Athens
• Providing ICT training and English language training with certification to accelerate pre-integration and labor market integration in destination countries
• Strengthening integration through certified courses of interpretation


© Paul Cohn

Grants

Empowering local capacity

• Established common spaces for local NGOs interaction, promoting intersectionality
• Bringing together local, international and institutional stakeholders
• Provided trainings and comfort services to humanitarian workers
• Supported the creation of approximately 1,150 job positions
• Mapping free services provided to all, on an online tool

Caring for the most vulnerable

• Supported a hosting scheme for single mothers, disabled and elder people on Lesvos
• Created a hub for refugee and migrant women
• Operating a helpline for psychosocial support of LGBT+ asylum seekers and refugees
• Provided mental health support to third country nationals with post-trauma disorder
• Secured HIV+ testing to people on the move at Athens Solidarity Center

Caring on the move

• A mobile unit for protection and interpretation in Idomeni
• A mobile health and legal unit serving Korinthos Detention Center, Eleonas and Amydgaleza camps
• Street work information and protection teams in concentration points in Athens for erring people on the move
• A mobile team for legal advice throughout northern Greece
• A mobile team for protection and families' support at Piraeus port

Catering based on need, not origins

• Providing health services on Tilos island for both locals and people on the move
• Establishing food voucher projects for 500 deprived Greek, settled migrants and people on the move families, based on vulnerability
• Implementing an open-door policy for services' provision, no documentation required
• Created the first joint shelter for people on the move and Greek homeless


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Advocacy

One of our main priorities is to make sure that the voice of the most vulnerable people is being heard through our advocacy initiatives.

Human rights situation of refugees and migrants

Stranded in Greece following the EU -Turkey Deal on March 2016, roughly 40,000 people live in formal or informal sites across the mainland for over a year, while approx. 10,000 remain detained on the Greek islands. The sites vary greatly in their suitability and preparedness to provide safe accommodation and services. In reality, a significant number of the population is living in dangerously overcrowded and substandard conditions.

SolidarityNow has been monitoring the situation in the camps closely, both through the implementation of projects and ad hoc monitoring visits, and has been engaged in relevant advocacy efforts under the general message #closethecamps.

Key actions:

- Joint policy brief of 12 NGOs "More than six months stranded – Now what?" (October 2016)
- Joint statement of 25 NGOs "How many refugees must die before safety is guaranteed in Greece?" (November 2016)



© SolidarityNow

Human Rights situation in Turkey

Linked to the overall advocacy on the EU -Turkey deal, and the political and legal liability that returning refugees to Turkey entails, SolidarityNow has been engaged in advocacy against Turkey being considered a safe third country for refugees. Regarding Turkish citizens, SolidarityNow has coordinated joint advocacy efforts in relation to the "helicopter case" of eight Turkish officials threatened with extradition from Greece. Along with other organizations and leading figures, we coordinated an effort that led to the Greek Supreme Court's decision not to extradite the Turkish officers because there was a valid risk that they would be subject to persecution and inhumane and degrading treatment if returned to Turkey.

Focus on migrant and refugee integration

Although the situation in the field was seemingly stabilized over the past months, people stranded in Greece remain with little or no integration prospect. Access to the (already problematic) labor market was difficult whilst access to education was hampered by both lack of resources and host community reactions. The difficulty was further exacerbated by the paradox of accommodation provision to relocation candidates in apartments in urban areas, whereas the population that will remain in Greece and therefore needs to be integrated (Afghans, Iranians etc) was mostly channeled to camps in isolated areas.

SolidarityNow has actively engaged in the recruitment of asylum seekers by making use of their strategic advantages (mostly as interpreters), while offering them further training and skills certificate programmes.

At the same time, SolidarityNow has addressed the authorities on integration issues in several ways:

- The need for granting pre-registered refugees access to the labor market
- Hampered implementation of the access to labor market for asylum seekers: a. social security numbers, b. bank accounts
- citizenship issues.

Racism and hate crime

The presence of a significant population stranded in the country -and not being on the move-, combined with the lack of specific integration measures as well as the tensions created within the refugee population itself because of the ethnic profiling of several policies (relocation, hosting etc), is gradually leading to fear and hostility on the part of host communities, which in turn leads to racist reflexes and rise in hate crimes.

SolidarityNow is a member of the Racist Violence Recording Network, an umbrella network of 37 NGOs coordinated by UNHCR and NCHR that aims to record hate crimes, support litigation and advocate for institutional changes. SolidarityNow will intensify its advocacy efforts against hate crimes, through campaigns and other actions.

SolidarityNow in the United Nations

SolidarityNow has actively participated in the World Humanitarian Summit in Turkey (May 2016) and the UN Summit in New York (September 2016). SolidarityNow's main goal is to increase its participation and input in all relevant institutions and the corresponding dialogue.


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The refugee crisis has a face; and this is Karim, Alaa, Hannah, their children, and their stories.

human stories



© Giorgos Moutafis for SolidarityNow

Human stories of those who fled their homes and everything else they love, to pursue a better life - a life without discriminations, which will be governed by solidarity and respect.

“A meal is enough for two;
and it is enough for five”

Hamad, migrant from Syria, hosted Narin and her three children, in the framework of “Home for Hope” accommodation project



Narin with her husband and their three children left from Syria for the long trip to Europe. They walked for many hours, travelled by bus also for many hours and arrived at Attalia, Turkey. Unfortunately, not all family members continued the trip to Europe – family’s finances could support the trip only for Narin and the kids. Therefore, the father stayed in Turkey to work so as to be able in the near future to follow Narin and his children in Europe.

Narin and her children travelled with a boat normally intended for 20 passengers; however, in this boat there were 60 refugees who luckily arrived safe at Lesvos. Next stations, Thessaloniki and Idomeni, where Narin found the borders closed.

Hamad never forgot that he had been a migrant, trying his best for a better future in a foreign country. Hamad, without a second thought “saved” Narin and her children, as she says, and opened his home to host them. As Hamad says *“a meal is enough for two and is enough for five…”* and he is the true example of solidarity in action.

“There is no better feeling
than knowing that
you made
someone happier”



Dimitra, Social scientist at SolidarityNow in one of the organisation’s accommodation structures

For Dimitra and the rest of the team, the goal is one and clear: “To create a small society based on the principles of tolerance and acceptance in which different cultures and cultural habits can coexist”.

Through activities such as gymnastics, team sports, painting, songs, and dancing, the team is trying to return these people part of a normal life. *“We want to support them to catch the thread of their life from the beginning. I joined the organization SolidarityNow, which is trying to provide the least to people in need: a decent shelter, human living conditions and food, opportunities for integration into Greek society, education”.*

“We will never forget
the sense of solidarity
we felt here”



Alaa from Iraq, father of two, was hosted by a Greek family, in the framework of the “Home for Hope” accommodation project

Alaa and his family were forced to leave Iraq, their country, when the ISIS “destroyed my work and my life”, Alaa says. As a small company owner, trading laboratory equipment and computers, Alaa was cooperating with the state and had public work contracts. This was enough to be prosecuted as well as to be threatened for his life and for the life of his children and wife. He initially fled to Jordan, where he stayed for a short period, before making the decision to come to Greece dreaming to go to Europe. *“We left with $5,000 and we thought that we would be able to go somewhere safely; this was my priority – to find a shelter for my family where we would feel safe. Thus, my children would continue their school and I would find my way to start a job”.*

During their stay in Greece, Alaa’s family was hosted at a home that has opened to accommodate them, in the framework of the SolidarityNow hosting and accommodation program Home for Hope. *“We have a home that we feel it as our home; we are grateful to those people who offered it to us, although we know that we will not stay in Greece forever. We will never forget the sense of solidarity we felt here”.*

Today, Alaa, Nadia and their two daughters, the 8-year-old Rania and the 6-year-old Lanya, have been relocated to Ireland to begin their life from scratch.

“Athens is my home now”

Wasim from Syria,
athlete beneficiary
of the “Home for Hope”
accommodation project


© Steven Tagle

In 2015, Wasim’s father, 55 years old, left to Berlin not only for the treatment of his health problem but also to find work and support financially the rest of his family.
The same path was followed by the young Wasim who abandoned Syria dreaming of a better life; he initially arrived in Iraq but soon left with the aim to travel to Europe where he would be able to reunite with his father and live in safety.
Since September 2016, Wasim lives temporarily in one of SolidarityNow’s accommodation structures in Athens. Wasim loves to work, but also, he loves swimming, basketball and football. His love for sports led him to participate in the 5km race of Athens Classic Marathon as one of the members of the first Refugee Team ever participated in the Marathon.
“Every day I go out to Exarchia. My friends are Germans, Italians, Egyptians, Syrians, Albanians, French, Greeks”. Wasim has many reasons to love Athens since it has become his hometown now; more importantly Athens is the city where he met Ana, the Spanish girl, the girl he loves.

“They are children and they need a hug”

Eleftheria, retired teacher,
hosted Avin’s family
from Syria,
in the framework
of the “Home for Hope”
accommodation project


© Giorgos Moutafis for SolidarityNow

A lovely morning in Prochoma at Thessaloniki begins with this short but indicative greeting:
– *Good morning mom!*
– *Good morning my baby!*
Then, they exchange the day’s first kisses and hugs and sit together around the table to have breakfast. This takes place every day since August, when they started living together.
Beautiful family moments, among people who are not blood related, however they became a family thanks to the offer of Eleftheria and George, who opened their home and most widely their arms, to host and embrace the Syrian family of Avin, Kawa and their daughter.

“My parents came as refugees to Greece, crossing the same sea you did”

Dimitris, pensioner,
hosted a Syrian family,
in the framework
of the “Home for Hope”
accommodation project

Dimitris has retired and is the father of two adult children. He offered his home to accommodate refugees; he was not prevented by his advanced age or his health problems. He acted spontaneously after being exposed to pictures of homeless and exhausted people.
The mother sat on the couch relieved and she shared with us her happiness for the fact that she will finally be able to have a home to give birth to her third child, as every mother and every newborn deserve.
In parallel, the father showed us photos of their demolished home in Syria, and spoke about the responsibility and agony to keep his family alive and safe.
Until they leave for their new country, under the relocation program, they live with dignity in Dimitri’s house.
They will always remember the kindness of Dimitris who opened his home for them but also that here, at the first country that welcomed them with love, they had their new family member.


© SolidarityNow

About
SolidarityNow

SolidarityNow was established in 2013 with the support of Open Society Foundations (OSF/OSIFE).

SolidarityNow is an NGO and consists of a network of people whose goal is to assist and support those most affected by the socioeconomic and humanitarian crises in Greece. Through the provision of services to both the local Greek and migrant populations, we seek to restore the vision of a strong Europe based on solidarity and open values.

Through the adroit use of direct implementation and fund-managed grant-making and strategic advocacy, SolidarityNow undertakes and supports targeted and prioritized activities – co-designed with beneficiaries, communities of concern and other key stakeholders – which employ innovative, best-practice grounded approaches to mitigate the causes for and alleviate suffering associated with the socio-economic, political and psychological impacts of crises. Apart from responding to the needs of those fleeing conflict, political upheaval, extremism and the impacts of climate change, we foster, cultivate and strengthen the resilience of open societies through targeted essential service programs, advocacy / policy initiatives as well as preparedness and relief activities.



© Anna Pantelia

Pillars of action

Our mission becomes practice through three main pillars of action.



© Paul Cohn


© Paul Cohn

Programs

SolidarityNow designs and implements programs that aid and support those most affected by the economic downturn and the humanitarian crisis. We collaborate with international humanitarian agencies (e.g. UNHCR, UNICEF, CARE International) to implement programs in a manner that promotes efficiency and allows us to reach the broadest range of beneficiaries, including vulnerable populations.


© Steven Tagle

Solidarity Centers

SolidarityNow has created two Solidarity Centers that operate in Thessaloniki and Athens.

They are based on the idea of a supply and help node with the participation of different civil society groups to address the lack of access to integrated health and welfare services for the most vulnerable populations in each city. The services offered are free of charge and include primary healthcare, medication, legal aid and counseling, job training and employment services and support programs for parents and children.


© Paul Cohn

Grants

Through our granting policy we design programs with other non-governmental organizations that respond to the essential social needs of the community. These programs are implemented in ways that empowers recipients to manage the challenges of their daily lives with dignity.

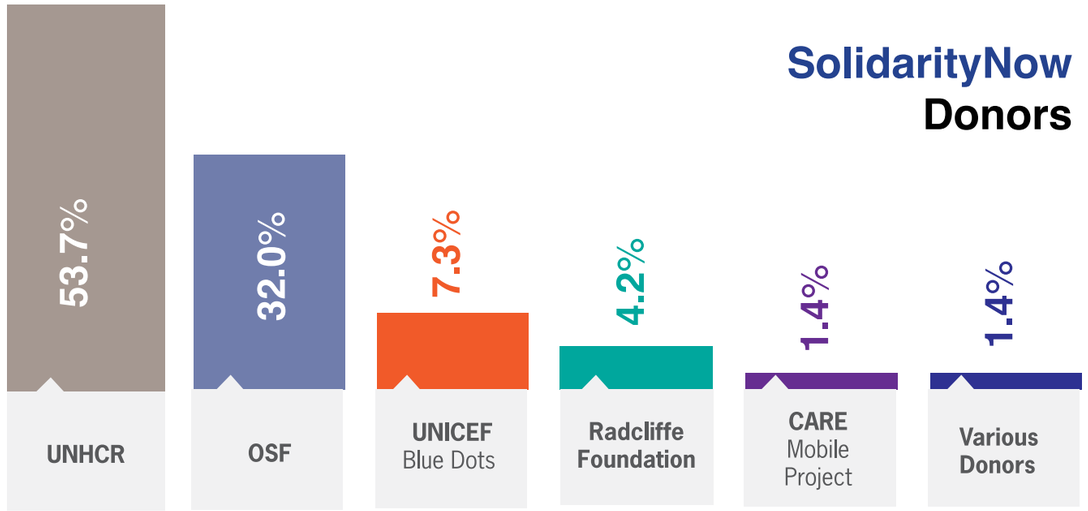
SolidarityNow in Numbers

Statement of activities
January - December 2016

Auditing

With the initiative of SolidarityNow, independent auditing by Ernst & Young Hellas is carried out and the results are published at www.solidaritynow.org. At the same time, SolidarityNow is also being audited by certified auditors for every grant received.

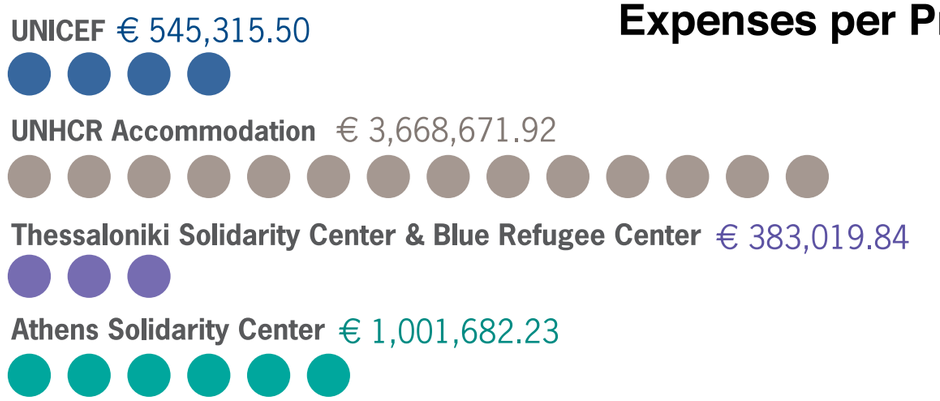
SolidarityNow Donors



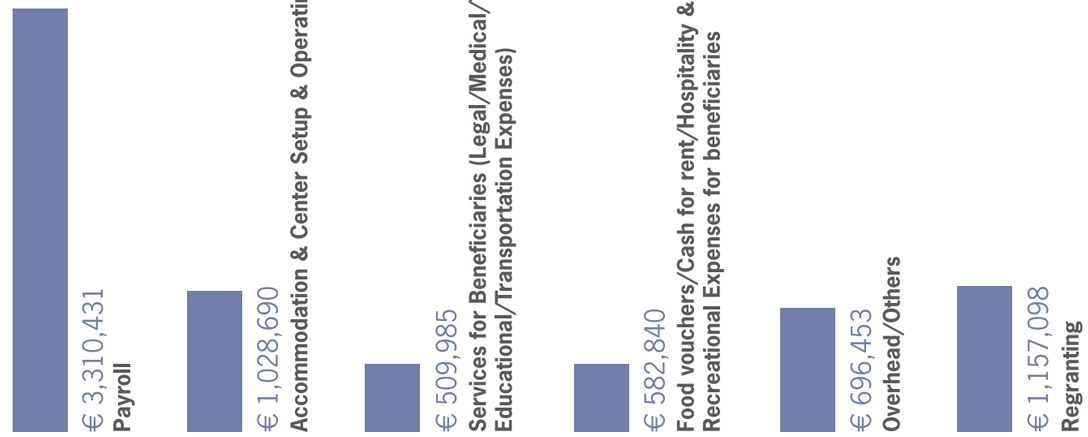
SolidarityNow Beneficiaries

Accommodation program	Athens Solidarity Center	Thessaloniki Solidarity Center	Blue Refugee Center	Blue Dots Units
3,717 beneficiaries	49,808 beneficiaries	12,805 beneficiaries	156 beneficiaries	1,341 beneficiaries
243,375 accommodation nights				
2,981 psychosocial follow-up sessions	121,880 services provided	20,007 services provided	1,551 sessions	

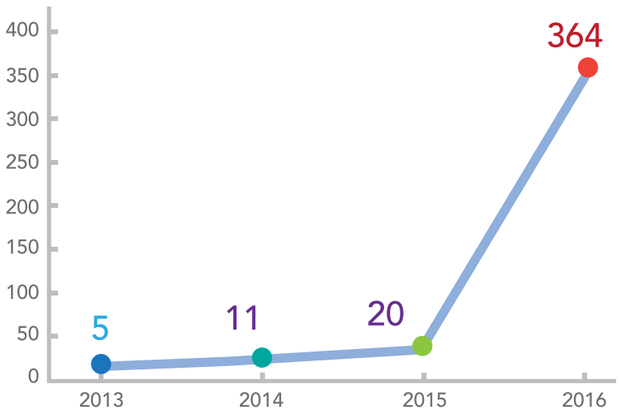
SolidarityNow Expenses per Program



SolidarityNow Allocation of Expenses



SolidarityNow Human Resources 2013 - 2016



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	Note	2016	2015
ASSETS			
Tangible assets	3	53	4
Intangible assets		14.334	
Advances and long-term assets		51.951	
Non-current assets		**66.338**	**4**
Trade and other receivable	4	113.450	4.714
Cash and cash equivalents	5	1.438.872	18.816
Total current assets		**1.552.323**	**23.530**
Total assets		**1.618.661**	**23.534**
EQUITY			
Retained earnings		-22.886	-22. 886
Total equity		**-22.886**	**-22.886**
LIABILITIES			
Provisions for employee benefits		40.519	
Noncurrent liabilities		**40.519**	
Trade and other payables	6	1.601.028	46.420
Current liabilities		**1.601.028**	**46.420**
Total equity and liabilities		**1.618.661**	**23.534**

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

	Note	1/1-31/1/2016	20/10-31/12/2015
Revenue	7	7.285.497	108.672
Payroll		-3.350.530	-110.861
Depreciation	3	-433.598	-587
Other expenses	8	-3.482.229	-20.039
Operating (loss)/profit		**19.140**	**-22.815**
Finance income		97	0
Finance expense		-19.237	-71
Net finance expense		**-19.140**	**-71**
(Loss)/Profit before tax		**0**	**-22.886**
Income tax		0	0
(Loss)/Profit after tax		**0**	**-22.886**
Total comprehensive loss for the period		**0**	**-22.886**

Statement of Changes in Equity

	Retained earnings
Balance at 20 October 2015	**-**
Total comprehensive loss	-22.886
Balance at 31 December 2015	**-22.886**
Total comprehensive loss	-
Balance at 31 December 2016	**-22.886**

Statement of Cash Flows

	1/1-31/12/2016	20/10-31/12/2015
Cash flow from operating activities		
(Loss)/ Profit before tax	**0**	**-22.886**
Adjustments for		
Depreciation	433.598	587
Provisions for employee benefits	40.519	
Net finance expense	19.237	71
Changes in:		
Trade and other receivable	-160.687	-4.714
Trade and other payables	1.554.608	46.420
Interest paid	-19.237	-71
Cash generated from operating activities	**1.868.038**	**19.407**
Purchase of fixed assets and other long-term assets	-447.981	-591
Net cash used in Investing Activities	**-447.981**	**-591**
Cash flow from financing activities	-	-
Net (decrease)/increase in cash & cash equivalent	**1.420.056**	**18.816**
Cash & cash equivalent at the beginning of the period	**18.816**	**-**
Cash & cash equivalent at 31 December	**1.438.872**	**18.816**

THIS REPORT HAS BEEN TRANSLATED FROM THE ORIGINAL VERSION IN GREEK

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Members of the Non-Profit Corporation "SOLIDARITYNOW"

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Non-Profit Corporation "SOLIDARITYNOW", (the "Corporation"), which comprise statement of financial position as of December 31, 2016, the income statement, comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and cash flows for the year then ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, as adopted by the European Union, and for such internal controls as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards of Auditing which have been transposed into Greek Law (GG/B'/2848/23.10.2012). Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of "Corporation" as at 31 December 2016, and their financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, as adopted by the European Union.

Athens, 12 June 2017

The Certified Auditor Accountant

ANDREAS HADJIDAMIANOU
S.O.E.L. R.N. 61391
ERNST &YOUNG (HELLAS)
CERTIFIED AUDITORS ACCOUNTANTS S.A.
CHIMARAS 8b, 151 25 MAROUSSI
SOEL REG. No. 107

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Chairman

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President of A M. Nomikos Transworld Maritime Agencies S.A.

Anna Triantafyllidou
Professor, European University Institute, Florence, Italy

We would also like to recognize the contribution of a former Board Member, the late Dimitris Trihopoulos, Professor of Cancer Prevention and Epidemiology, School of Public Health at Harvard University and a member of the Academy of Athens.



The Team

SolidarityNow is supported by an experienced and passionate team of more than 300 individuals with diverse backgrounds and areas of expertise.

Epaminondas Farmakis, General Director

Program Implementation
Marilyn Polena, Head

Legal, Ethics, and Governance
Efie Syrmou, Head

MEAL (Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, Learning) & Performance Quality
Ioakeim Vravas, Head

Research, Policy and Advocacy
Eleni Takou, Senior Advocacy Officer
Aya Burweila, Senior Researcher and Public Policy Officer

Operations Department
Dora Komninou, Head

Communications Department
Sophia Ioannou, Head

Athens Solidarity Center
Iorgos Karagiannis, ASC Director
Valia Andrakakou, ASC Deputy Director

Northen Greece projects
Ioanna Fourkiotou, Programs Coordinator
Cecile Abi Tayeh, Blue Refugee Center Coordinator

Financial Department
Rania Papadopoulou, Head

Human Resources Department
Antonis Matzouranis, Irene Dimitoglou
HR Officers

For more info on our staff, you may visit www.solidaritynow.org

Memberships

SolidarityNow joins forces with international and national organizations, networks and institutions of the civil society and works together in order to enhance human rights and support all vulnerable populations.



OSEN

SolidarityNow is a member of **OSEN** (Open Society European Network).
The Open Society European Network brings together spun-off national foundations of the Open Society Foundations in Europe with the aim of ensuring a continued level of collaboration, the exchange of information, and to provide the opportunity to contribute to the mission of the Open Society Foundations in Europe. Currently, members of the Open Society European Network are based in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, and Slovakia.

International Detention Coalition
Human rights for detained refugees, asylum seekers and migrants

The International Detention Coalition (IDC) is a unique global network, of over 300 civil society organisations and individuals in more than 70 countries, that advocate for, research and provide direct services to refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants affected by immigration detention.
www.idcoalition.org

Δίκτυο Καταγραφής Περιστατικών Ρατσιστικής Βίας

The Racist Violence Recording Network was created on October 2011 through the initiative of the UNHCR office in Greece and the National Commission for Human Rights, in order to monitor the escalation of hate crimes. There are currently more than 35 non governmental organizations and other bodies that participate in the Network, providing legal, medical, social or other support services and come into contact with racist violence victims.
www.rvrn.org

Transparency Register

Citizens can, and indeed should, expect the EU decision-making process to be as transparent and open as possible. The more open the process is, the easier it is to ensure balanced representation and avoid undue pressure and illegitimate or privileged access to information or to decision-makers. Transparency is also a key part of encouraging European citizens to participate more actively in the democratic life of the EU. The transparency register has been set up to answer core questions such as what interests are being pursued, by whom and with what budgets. The system is operated jointly by the European Parliament and the European Commission.

SolidarityNow joined the Transparency Register platform to contribute to its goals and vision. **http://ec.europa.eu/transparencyregister/**

Accountable Now

SolidarityNow is member of Accountable Now, a global platform that supports civil society organisations (CSOs) to be transparent, responsive to stakeholders and focused on delivering impact. Our Members are internationally operating CSOs who drive this agenda together with us. Accountable Now was founded in 2008 under the name International NGO Charter of Accountability by 10 leading CSOs, including development, humanitarian, environmental, rights-based and advocacy organisations.
www.ingoaccountabilitycharter.org

Registries

SolidarityNow is registered in the National Registry of Institutions of the Private Sector Non-profit holding social care services and in the Special Registry of the Volunteering Non Governmental Organizations of the Greek Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity. The registered members in the above registries are recognized as certified bodies of the National Social Care System.

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS FUNDERS GROUP

SolidarityNow is a member of the International Human Rights Funders Group, a global network of donors and grantmakers committed to advancing human rights around the world through effective philanthropy.
www.ihrfg.org

ecre
European Council on Refugees and Exiles

SolidarityNow is a member of ECRE (European Council on Refugees and Exiles), a pan-European alliance of 90 NGOs protecting and advancing the rights of refugees, asylum seekers and displaced persons. Our mission is to promote the establishment of fair and humane European asylum policies and practices in accordance with international human rights law.
www.ecre.org

Supporters

The vision of SolidarityNow is realized thanks to the active support of organizations, institutions and companies that share common values and act themselves to relieve vulnerable populations.

Among SolidarityNow's supporters are:

OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS/OSIFE

Open Society Foundations co-funded the Tilos project, the Athens Solidarity Center (since May 1st, 2016) and the Thessaloniki Solidarity Center. It also supported all of SolidarityNow actions and grants.
www.opensocietyfoundations.org

UNHCR

UNHCR supported the services of the Thessaloniki Solidarity Centre (since September 1st, 2016), the Community Center of Thessaloniki, the Accommodation Program for refugees (Home For Hope and other structures), pilot accommodation projects, the LGBT+ - refugees and asylum seekers support projects.
www.unhcr.gr

UNICEF

UNICEF supported the Mobile Units - Blue Dots project.
www.unicef.gr

EPIM

The European Programme for Integration and Migration (EPIM) funded the "Following their Footsteps" program.
www.epim.info

CARE

Care International co-financed an IT project implemented in Polykastro that provided internet access and connectivity to the stranded population of Polykastro, financed a program that responded to the vital food needs of vulnerable populations, including refugees, asylum seekers, migrants and unemployed Greeks and also financed the Mobile Units at Vassilika site camp.
www.care-international.org

STAVROS NIARCHOS FOUNDATION

The Stavros Niarchos Foundation funded a research for the Solidarity in the Neighborhood Upgrated Participatory Services (SNUPS) program.
www.snf.org

EEA GRANTS

The Athens Solidarity Center was established through joint funding provided by Open Society Foundations and EEA Grants (up to 30.4.2016).
www.eeagrants.org

EASI

Employment Enhancement and Social Services Integration in Athens Municipality - EASI project supports part of the services provided at the Athens Solidarity Center.


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MICROSOFT

Microsoft, as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility and initiatives for NGOs, provided us all necessary MS products at very competitive prices.
www.microsoft.com

ERNST & YOUNG

#EY4Solidarity was a short-term project for vulnerable children funded by Ernst & Young Global Limited. It was implemented at the Solidarity Centers in Athens and Thessaloniki.
www.ey.com

GIVMED

GIVMED is the first community for utilizing excess medicines. It encourages and enables individuals to share their unused, unexpired medicines and save people's lives.
SolidarityNow receives for free all needed medicines from GIVMED.
www.givmed.com

WESTERN UNION

Western Union supports educational activities for refugees in the broader area of Skaramaga.
www.westernunion.com

GUERRILLA FOUNDATION

Guerrilla Foundation supports the realization of the training program "Future Interpreters" for community interpreters and cultural mediators in Athens and Thessaloniki.
www.guerrillafoundation.org

GOOGLE

Google's employees support the activities of SolidarityNow through donations.
https://causes.benevity.org/

SolidarityNow **needs your help**



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Even a small amount, an in-kind donation or a bit of your personal time can make the difference. It all come to support the implementation of our programs aimed at improving the lives of the most vulnerable communities.

You can donate through a:

CREDIT CARD

Press the “Make a donation” button at our website (www.solidaritynow.org) to send electronically the amount you wish.

BANK DEPOSIT

You can visit one of Eurobank branches and deposit your donation to the following account:

Account Number EUROBANK:
0026.0012.36.0201017438

Account Number IBAN:
GR7702600120000360201017438

Beneficiary Account:
SOLIDARITY SOLIDARITYNOW

Corporate donations

The concept of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is put into practice by many companies operating in Greece. The partnerships we seek are various: financial aid, donations in kind, information, awareness of their employee’s, volunteerism, etc.
When there is a willingness to help, there is always a way to put it in practice!

Hands-on!

SolidarityNow is constantly looking for volunteers to offer their assistance to the organization.
If you are interested, please complete the online form you find on our site, and soon we will contact you to explore the ways that you can contribute to our efforts.

2016 annual report

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αλληλεγγύη

SOLIDARITY NOW

This is our common ground

www.solidaritynow.org

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