



## Organisation Overview

Nearly 60,000 refugees including many children find themselves in extremely vulnerable conditions in Greece. Many have been living in refugee camps for nearly three years. Following the closure of some crucial internal EU borders, most refugees feel confined in a crisis-ravaged country. Yet more people continue to take the tremendous risk of crossing the Aegean Sea from Turkey to arrive in Greece. Lighthouse Relief (LHR) was created in 2015 and has been operating ever since. Lighthouse Relief daily provides emergency relief to people arriving and provides sustainable assistance to vulnerable children and youth in the refugee camps.

Today, thanks to the continued dedication and expertise of Lighthouse Relief's staff and international volunteers, we have become both respected and highly skilled in the services we provide. All of it is made possible by our donors and supporters.

## Our Mission

To provide a dignified, sustainable, and empowering humanitarian assistance, with a focus on supporting children and young people.

## Our Vision

To adopt a response that simultaneously improves conditions for refugees and the local community.

## Our Approach

To create a highly versatile organisation that can respond to the ever evolving needs of refugees from various backgrounds and in crucial complement to the actions of the other existing organisations.



## Operations Overview: Safe Spaces & Psychosocial Support in Ritsona Refugee Camp

In Ritsona camp that is located 70 km north of Athens, Lighthouse Relief has developed two central activities.



**Child Friendly Space (CFS)** is a safe place where children aged 3 to 11 learn through play and regain a sense of normality in the midst of an emergency. The purpose of the CFS is to offer psychosocial support services that reinforce the resilience and wellbeing of children. It allows them to play with volunteers, create art projects and express themselves in a safe environment. LHR is also committed to identifying and referring vulnerable cases: abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence against children can occur in many different contexts, including as a result of conflict and forced displacement. Our CFS also offers targeted programming for young girls and parents such as yoga and arts.

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## Looking Ahead

Because of lack of a political consensus on how to resolve the issue, the situation for refugees in Europe remains dire. Lighthouse Relief's flexible and adaptable approach to humanitarian response has allowed us to remain agile in the face of uncertainty - and we remain committed to continue providing sustainable assistance to those in need until solutions for them are found.

With your support, we can continue to advance the well-being of young refugees at a time when it is most needed.

Visit our website at [www.lighthouserelief.org](http://www.lighthouserelief.org) for more information about our work and ways to get engaged.

Contact [gcm@lighthouserelief.org](mailto:gcm@lighthouserelief.org) to discuss potential partnership opportunities.



**Youth Engagement Space (YES)** is a centre for youth aged 12-25, providing a space for art therapy programming, language courses, work skills training, music lessons, sports, and cultural entertainment. It is a place where the youth of Ritsona can find a peer-to-peer support as well as express themselves creatively

YES gives Ritsona youth a space to create, share, and express themselves fully. Every 3 months, the youth in the Space work together to launch The Ritsona Kingdom Journal, a magazine that showcases their talents and perspectives in their own voice.

In March 2018, Lighthouse Relief kickstarted a Residential Volunteer Programme, in which residents in Ritsona are encouraged to go through specific trainings in order to work with in both of our spaces.

## Operations Overview: Emergency Response Team in Lesvos

The Lighthouse Relief team in Lesvos works closely with other INGOs, UNHCR and Greek authorities to assist people the moment they arrive on the northern shores of Lesvos. At the moment LHR is the only INGO to maintain a near constant watch of the shores and as such is able to respond to emergencies and arrivals from the moment they occur. Since the beginning of 2018, LHR team has assisted many people with landings and provided immediate critical help in the transit camp.

In the summer months, our Eco Team works hard to clear the beaches on northern Lesvos of detritus and wastage left by people and crafts on the shore. This is done with the aim of both decreasing the environmental impact of our operations, as well as a way to give back to the local community.

