



Lighthouse Relief

Supports Children and Youth integration through education

About Lighthouse Relief

LIGHTHOUSE RELIEF (LHR) is a Swedish established, non-religious, non-political, non-profit organization, that do not carry out any commercial activities. Its mission is to provide immediate crisis response, as well as long term relief, for the most vulnerable groups, such as youth and children in a dignified, respectful and empowering way. Staying true to our value of volunteerism, a significant part of our human resources are volunteers and interns, acting as the driving force behind our operations.

Background

Lighthouse Relief (LHR) is a Swedish organisation that sprang to life on the shores of Lesvos in 2015, to provide emergency relief and humanitarian assistance to the unprecedented number of refugees making the perilous journey to Greece by sea. In 2016, as the borders closed and the need grew bigger, LHR expanded the operations into the mainland.

The past two years have seen the political landscape transformed, but our commitment to the wellbeing of the tens of thousands of refugees still stranded in Greece remains unchanged.

LHR provides long-term relief, in the form of Psychosocial Support Services (PSS) and Protection programming, to vulnerable groups such as children, and youth in Ritsona camp and help them to regain a sense of community and dignity.

Additionally, LHR is still providing emergency relief to refugees arriving in Skála Sikamanéas, along with its night watch from the lighthouse on Korakas.

Proposal Summary

Since 2016, LHR has been assisting vulnerable groups such as unaccompanied minors, children and youth with refugee status in the long term accommodation centre of Ritsona, located approximately 70km from Athens. The centre is administered by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and Lighthouse Relief is the only actor on site implementing continuous psychosocial support interventions by providing creative activities.

As of end September 2018, the total population of Ritsona was 855 people: 560 males and 295 females of all ages. Of these, 43% (368) are adult males and 20% (171) are adult females, 23% (197) are males under eighteen years old, and 15% (128) are females under eighteen years old.

This year, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) that administers the refugee camps, has offered LHR to expand its activities to two other refugee camps located in the same region; Malakasa and Oinofyta with total population 1.300 and 700 respectively and with similar

demographic breakdown. IOM has accorded this proposition to LHR because of its high esteem to LHR's approach to non-formal education activities and programming in general.

LHR aims to provide the means to kids and youth to successfully integrate into society in the host country and maximize their opportunities to contribute in the future, in the development of their home society as equal and valuable members.

With the recent confirmation of the permanent status of Ritsona refugee camp, and the needs-assessment made in the camps of Oinofita and Malakasa, LHR focuses on:

- continuing its long-term, qualitative and sustainable approaches to its psychosocial programmes in Ritsona,
- introduce educational and STEM¹ (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) activities that will enforce children's and youth's skills, allowing them to integrate in school society,
- Expand pilot programs in near close located camps of Malakasa and Oinofita.

For continuing serving its beneficiaries, introducing new added-value educational activities and expanding to two other camps, LHR is seeking funding for the year 2019, for a total monthly budget of USD 18,000.

CHILD FRIENDLY SPACE PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Program Summary

Ritsona Camp hosts 158 Children age 3 to 12, out of which daily we receive over fifty participants daily at LHR Child Friendly Space.

Child Friendly Spaces (CFSs), in accordance with guidelines set out by UNICEF, are widely used in emergencies as a first response to children's needs and an entry point for working with affected communities. For the past 2 years, LHR has operated a CFS, providing a safe space for resident children in Ritsona camp. Our monitoring has allowed us to adapt the activities to engage the children even more which has increased weekly attendance.

Notwithstanding, the CFS meets the rights of children as outlined in the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child* specifically:

- a. Article 4 (Protection of rights)
- b. Article 6 (Survival and development)
- c. Article 28: (Right to education)
- d. Article 31 (Leisure, play and culture)

¹ LHR overall STEM approach is analyzed in Appendix I

e. Child Protection Working Group (CPMS) Standard 17 (Child Friendly Space)

Needs Assessment

In Greek refugee camps, parents with small children live in overwhelmingly close quarters and are prone to feelings of frustration and helplessness. These can unfortunately be passed on to their children, who lack the space and means to play, which results in them continuing to feel unsafe, even if they have no direct experience of conflict. The long-term effects have the potential to impact an entire generation of young people, and threaten the prospect of peace and development.

Supporting the psychosocial well-being of these children is critical. They need safe places to learn and play, ‘to be children’, and to continue their normal family lives. In Greece, refugee children younger than 6 do not have access to the national school system, and often lack structured alternatives. Child friendly spaces can help to protect children both physically and psychologically against exploitation and harm.

Furthermore, Greek law stipulates that all children, including refugee children, have the right to education from the ages of 5 - 15, and that school authorities should enrol foreign students even if they do not have the necessary documents. Accordingly, the Greek education system on the mainland has been catering for refugee students aged 6 to 15 years old from December 2016. However, the overall educational experience for most asylum-seeking kids and youth is frequently unsatisfactory, and unpleasant for all parties. Teachers in the public-school system do not have the institutional capacity or resources like translators or classroom assistants to assist them to cope with students who are new to the system and do not speak Greek. Even in cases where refugee students attend separated classes, Greek teachers lack the expertise, the skills and the resources of teaching foreign students resulting to poor performance results, fatigue students unwilling to go to school.

The main drivers for many refugees and migrants include seeking safety and access to education as well as the fear of grave violations against children committed in these conflict-affected countries. Some of these children have missed a few years of schooling due to displacement, while others have never been to school and are illiterate in their own mother tongue. Whether they are staying in Greece or are moving to other European countries, every child needs education. It is essential that children return to school – not only to learn a language, but to build the life skills necessary to carry on with their lives. Education is both a fundamental right and a life-saving intervention for these children.

Children who come into a country as refugees from crisis areas are frequently not in a state of readiness for learning in school. They find it difficult to settle to learn in formal classes and may not have the social and emotional skills to take part in formal education. Also, refugee children and



youth lack the basics of the country's culture they live in creating more barriers to their integration.

Approach & Methodology of CFS Program

Our Child Friendly Space (CFS) is a safe place where children aged 3 to 12 can learn through play and regain a sense of normality in 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, create art projects and learn what's needed for their safety, both inside and outside camp life, like hygiene and sanitation, personal safety or road safety, through fun thematic activities conducted in a safe environment. Many of the children have grown up in war, and this is their first playgroup experience.

Lighthouse Relief is also committed to identifying and referring vulnerable cases: abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence against children can occur in many different contexts, including conflict and forced displacement. We assess and monitor children's well-being, safety, and hygienic practices individually and as a group, identifying and reporting potential concerns.

LHR's goal is to extend its services to all the children in the camp who fall into the target age group, ensuring that they have a safe space where they can learn to be children within a structured play environment. We believe that, by providing child protection and psychosocial support services, we can help to prevent and minimise the harmful consequences of violent conflict and displacement, empowering children to change their own futures and develop into competent, engaged and dynamic adults. At the same time, LHR is focusing to cover the linguistic gap, the cultural gap, the educational gap of the target group and to support them with tutoring to attend class grades based on their age and integrate in Greek school society.

PROJECT DESIGN OVERVIEW:

1. Spaces & Facilities:

It is the aim of the Lighthouse Relief-led CFS in Ritsona to provide an opportunity for creative and free-flowing play. The physical layout of CFS is designed to encourage this fluidity.

We believe that is important to run multiple activities simultaneously in order to reach more children and further allow each child the space and autonomy to be as creative as possible. For this reason, the CFS has been designed by a Play Therapist and organized in the following three spaces:

A. Large Tent and Outdoor Area

- a. Doubling as the area in which children congregate for their formal welcome to CFS each day, under the supervision of and the instructions given by LHR staff, this space gives

children the opportunity to paint or colour with various materials as well as craft with beads and other art materials

- b. Together with the open area, this space is also used for the welcome and the ending circle, two of the most important sessions in which all the children get to know each other, sing and do short activities/games related to the alphabet and the numbers as a way of improving their phonological reading or spelling skills. In the welcome circle, rules regarding the respect of the CFS are provided as well

B. The Home Corner

- a. Supports individual and cooperative play in a space where children can let their imaginations run wild, cooking up elaborate meals on toy kitchens, holding tea parties, feeding and nurturing their dolls etc.

C. The Corner

- a. Encourages sensory play in a cosy and comfortable space with a big mattress and pillows and many stuffed animals. Children use toys, large Legos, cars and trains to create little worlds, as well as playing with books and puzzles.

2. Goals and Skills

CFS program aims to improve the following skills:

A. Social and Interpersonal Skills:

- a) getting along with other children and adults and developing good relationships
- b) Playing cooperatively following space and game rules

B. Disposition to Learning:

- a) Self regulation of attention and behaviour
- b) Improve social skills to develop a positive relationship with others
- c) Improve attitude toward learning
- d) Improve the ability to set goals and develop and follow through on plans
- e) Understanding, accepting, and following rules and routines

C. Music & Arts skills:

- a) Use of varied materials (e.g., crayons, paint, clay, markers) to create original work
- b) Different colours, surface textures, and shapes to create form and meaning
- c) Art as a form of self-expression
- d) Music activities including varieties of simple songs
- e) Movement to music of various tempos

D. Physical fitness & Team spirit

- a) Regular weekly football courses provided by professional coaches and other sports provided by LHR staff
- b) Various sport activities according to the age group and kids interests

E. Educational Skills (Not Currently offered)

- a) Daily Greek courses with aim to improve their linguistic skills in Greek resulting to increase self-confidence so as to be able to integrate easily in school society and be able to attend courses in school,
- b) STEM (System, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) program delivered through STEM Education Organization, Greece combines the structure and consistency of a formal curriculum with a non-formal learning environment, where life skills and social and emotional needs are addressed.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT SPACE PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Program Summary

Ritsona camp hosts around 260 youth aged 13 to 25 brimming with creativity and potential, they are unable to work or study, spending their days in limbo. This state of precarity and boredom fosters psychological distress and leaves them vulnerable to marginalisation, exploitation, violence and substance abuse. This is especially true for unaccompanied young men.

The Youth Engagement Space (YES) targets a demographic whose needs are often overlooked when it comes to humanitarian service provision. By offering the young residents of Ritsona camp access to activities and resources and encouraging participation, teamwork and curiosity, we can better equip them to work or study when they are resettled. We believe that by helping individuals to retain a sense of purpose and agency, we can inspire them to reach their full potential as engaged members of communities present and future.

The result is a programme that the youth in camp actively seek out and respond to positively. By building on what we have learnt from our experience in Ritsona, we aim to develop a model to be rolled out in similar contexts. As well as safeguarding the future of the young people we work with, our approach advocates a more holistic understanding of service provision, which engages camp residents in activities that focus on self-esteem and self-actualisation.

Needs Assessment



The YES engages young people between the ages of 13 and 25 to participate in age-appropriate activities, including arts and crafts, music, writing, sports, as well as professional development and provides a space for these young people to socialize with peers and to retain hope and constructively invest in their long-term futures.

Throughout Greece, children aged 6 to 15 from refugee and asylum seeking communities have access to the national school system. Meanwhile, the older demographic remains excluded (although occasionally vocational training is offered up to 18): young people up to 25 have often been unable to complete their education due to war and forced displacement, and lack an outlet for their curiosity and creativity. Also, lacking basic knowledge of the Greek language and country's culture increase the barriers of integration in society and employment opportunities. There is insufficient programming and infrastructure for young adults, and this target population tends to be side lined in emergency settings when it comes to service provision.

Approach & Methodology

The driving vision behind Lighthouse Relief's YES is to provide a safe setting - based on universal standards of best practice - for residents aged between 16 and 25 to explore their creativity, critical thinking and untapped potential. The YES space and its activities aim to increase individuals' sense of self-efficacy, self-confidence, social inclusion, self-worth, and strengthen their ability to cope with adversity and stress.

The mission of YES is to be a youth-friendly drop-in center where young people can engage in unstructured leisure activities as well as structured workshops, including those focusing on visual arts, writing, music, education and life skills. YES provides a safe space that gives young people the opportunity to engage in meaningful challenges as well as participating in games and leisure activities in a positive social environment that welcomes all genders, religions and ethnicities.

Program Design Overview

Spaces & Facilities

1. **Art Corner**
 - a. The Programme provides an Art Space IsoBox, filled with materials and art supplies a workspace and display unit
 - b. Mixed media art is available along with film, photography, painting, drawing, and magazine writing.

2. **Drop-in Centre**
 - a. The Drop in Centre IsoBox is a safe space for youth to relax, socialise, meet new people and build self-confidence by engaging in age-appropriate activities.

- b. It is a community centre running age appropriate activities by a highly qualified and skilled staff team specific to youth engagement programming
 - c. Includes sofas, chairs, rugs, kitchenette, TV, speakers, magazines etc.
3. **Outdoor Garden Patio**
 - a. The outdoor space allows the youth to take ownership of their space, including the upkeep of the patio, garden, outdoor art works and fences
 - b. Participants are able to engage in dance, drama, sports, yoga, break dancing etc.
4. **GYM Centre**
 - a. A well-equipped GYM centre for young girls and men that allows them to train themselves either individually or in group training classes provided by LHR staff.
5. **Educational Center (Not currently available)**
 - a. Greek Courses by teachers specialized in teaching the language to foreigners
 - b. STEM program for youth.
 - c. IT Program for youth.
 - d. Increase engagement of Resident Volunteers by offering 4 traineeships to those assisting by providing translation to the main languages of Ritsona - Arabic, Kurdish, Farsi and French. Each traineeship is one year in duration and is internationally recognised. Trainings take place online, meaning that if a volunteer has to relocate suddenly, they can continue their training.

Goals & Skills

Lighthouse Relief's YES programme activities, goals and skills are based on universal methodology and best practices for youth-specific programming. Programme goals will be monitored and evaluated based on program inputs, activities, outputs as well as immediate, intermediate, and long-term outcomes for goals and skills improvement. The programme's theory of change is conceptualized in the facilitated activities.

1. Long-term Goal
 - a. To increase the sense of self-efficacy, self-confidence, social inclusion and self-worth of young people aged 16to25 and strengthen their ability to cope with adversity and stress.
 - b. LHR aims to provide the means to youth to successfully integrate into society and bridge the gap between the post and host society and maximize their opportunities to contribute in the future in the development of their home society.
2. Short-term Outcomes
 - a. Youth establish positive patterns to resolve differences with peers

- b. Youth increase perceived social support and report decreased sense of alienation
- c. Youth establish positive patterns for dealing with complex issues or problems, including by asking for help from staff and/or peers.
- d. Youth increase confidence in facing new situations and/or trying new activities.
- e. Youth increase sense of independence and self-esteem
- f. Youth increase their confidence in their ability to plan and lead projects in the space, including with peers
- g. Youth become more independent and confident in decision-making

CFS & YES Programs Resources

1. Specialized and experienced dedicated staff team with participation of International Volunteers and Interns
2. Professional Sport Coaches
3. Professional Greek Teachers
4. IT teachers
5. Consultants from STEM Education organization
6. Book, Workbooks and learning material
7. Art supplies and Materials
8. Craft materials (paper, pencils, crayons, glue, paint)
9. Toys (play kitchen, puzzles, books, baby dolls, stuffed animals, balls)
10. Water, light snacks and small food items
11. Electronic equipment (ie, TV, tablets, speakers - *already obtained*)
12. Sports equipment (ie. footballs, volley-balls, yoga mats, break dancing mats - *already obtained*)
13. Musical instruments (ie. guitars, ukulele, drums - *already obtained*)

Programs Budget

A monthly budget break down is presented in Appendix II

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

A Logic Model for CFS and YES programming is constantly followed.



PROGRAMME PROPOSAL SUMMARY

Lighthouse Relief's proposal formally addresses for financial support in order to guarantee the continued delivery of high quality, long-term programming and pilot expansion to Oinofita and Malakasa Camps.

Sustainable Humanitarian Aid programming can only endeavour to maintain its standard by ensuring that programmes are delivered by a qualified, skill-specific staff team. The need for Lighthouse Relief to hire and retain specialised staff has never been greater: our programs are now fully established and operating based on tested long-term models.

A recent increase in the number of camp residents, including children and youth, highlights the urgent need to sustain our programming. Having long-term, experienced staff breeds trust, and gaining the trust of our beneficiaries is essential to them utilising our services and, as a result, obtaining much needed support in a difficult situation.

Monitoring and Evaluation documentation is continuously updated and available throughout programming along with programme reporting, which will be available quarterly.

As the refugee crisis shows no sign of abating, we are seeking long-term solutions a in our projects to continue serving the vulnerable population of Ritsona. Your support is invaluable to the continuation of Lighthouse Relief Programmes.



APPENDIX I : STEM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, EDUCATION AND MATHEMATICS) & GREEK COURSES PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The program introduces STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) programs and Greek Courses (Language and Mathematics) to the child and youth residents of Ritsona Long Term Accommodation Center in Central Greece. The programs are implemented through the Child Friendly Space (CFS) and Youth Engagement Space (YES) of the Swedish humanitarian organization, Lighthouse Relief (LHR).

The programs developed by Lighthouse Relief aims to:

- a) Support kids to improve their linguistic skills in Greek so as to be able to integrate easily and be able to follow courses in school,
- b) STEM program offered by Lighthouse Relief and delivered through STEM Education Organization, Greece combines the structure and consistency of a formal curriculum with a non-formal learning environment, where life skills and social and emotional needs are addressed. To enable this, the managers of the CFS and YES programs will work with the STEM facilitators, the participants, and volunteers of the Residential Volunteer Program to ensure participation, respect for space and sufficient translation services.

STEM Education Organization, is experienced in delivering STEM programs to both public schools and informal learning environments in Greece, such as community centres and refugee accommodation centres. This experience strengthens this program's parallel and non-formal education coherence with that of the Greek government education system. In this way the program bridges the gap to enable children and youth to ultimately return to full engagement in formal education.

LHR aims to offer a 40 week long program 2019, through four targeted programs for children aged 4-6, 6-9, 10-14 and 15-20. The programs will be delivered weekly and onsite at Ritsona via instructors from Athens. Each class is 90 minutes long and are undertaken with educational material from the LEGO DUPLO Education series. All activities are accompanied by relevant audiovisual material and specially designed worksheets that allow the children and youth to verify what they have learned by observing. The STEM Educations Greece classroom process involves children in practical activities, through active teamwork and exploratory experimentation that helps them conquer learning, knowledge and language skills through questioning, search for motifs, choosing strategies and formulating conclusions. Certificates of completion will be given to all who successfully engage and complete the programs.



To strengthen the impact of the program, LHR will offer 4 traineeships to the Resident Volunteers providing translation to the main languages of Ritsona - Arabic, Kurdish, Farsi and French. Each traineeship is one year in duration and is internationally recognised. Trainings take place online, meaning that if a volunteer has to relocate suddenly, they can continue their training.

Collaboration

LHR will work with STEM Education Organization, Greece throughout the project. STEM Education are a member of the STEM Alliance, and are experienced in delivering STEM programs to both public schools and informal learning environments in Greece, such as community centres and refugee accommodation centres. STEM Education have worked with over 2,500 students in Greece through over 50 programs in the past 3 years. They have successfully trained over 50 educators and are the leading national experts in the field of STEM in Greece.

LHR will also partner with local experienced teachers to offer Greek and Mathematic courses.



APPENDIX II: Programs' Budget - Duration 24 weeks (6 months)

	Hours/week	Cost/Week	Nr. Of weeks	Total Cost
A. RITSONA ACCOMMODATION CENTER				
CONSULTANTS FEES				
STEM Program Instructors	6	\$ 678.60	24	\$ 16,286.40
Translators	12	\$ 139.20	24	\$ 3,340.80
Greek Teachers	20	\$ 324.80	24	\$ 7,795.20
TOTAL CONSULTANTS' COST				\$ 27,422.40
STAFF STIPENDS				
Program's Manager	40	\$ 208.80	24	\$ 5,011.20
YES Manager	20	\$ 104.40	24	\$ 2,505.60
YES Facilitator	31	\$ 142.10	24	\$ 3,410.40
CFS Manager	20	\$ 104.40	24	\$ 2,505.60
CFS Facilitator	31	\$ 142.10	24	\$ 3,410.40
TOTAL STIPENDS COST				\$ 16,843.20
ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES				
Staff Accommodation	WEEKLY	\$ 406.00	24	\$ 9,744.00
Staff Transportation	WEEKLY	\$ 174.00	24	\$ 4,176.00
Overhead Expenses	WEEKLY	\$ 174.00	24	\$ 4,176.00
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES				\$ 18,096.00
OTHER EXPENSES				
Materials & Supplies	lump sum			\$ 5,800.00
TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES				\$ 5,800.00
PROJECT COST at Ritsona Camp				\$ 68,161.60

Marginal Cost for Expanding to Oinofita & Malakasa Camps \$ 40.000