

ECHO *for Refugees*



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

ECHO 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

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WELCOME

to ECHO's annual report.

The library had a wonderful and quite unpredictable year, from busy children's sessions, sudden surges of arrivals, new projects and serious mechanical issues with our beloved library van.

As per usual our fantastic volunteers and supporters from around the world have helped us see through another year of our small but mighty solidarity library. Read on for more detailed information on our activities inside and out of the camps, some statistics, finances and plans for 2026.



Our report this year is a little more detailed - as we enter our 10th year, we thought we'd take the opportunity to dig a little deeper into our library work. Although info-gathering is definitely limited and does not give a full picture, we hope that what we have also helps to give a sense of the reality that we witness on a daily basis here at Europe's borders, and have been witnessing for many years now.

THE SITUATION IN EUROPE AND GREECE

Now that it's come to an end, 2025 has been an year full of harmful and highly impactful policies, in the direction of a further erosion of the rights of people on the move.

At a EU level, tendencies of member states, that had been labouring undercurrents in the past years, emerged in a series of regulations, narrowing access to asylum, facilitating deportations and externalising responsibilities far beyond the Union borders. While not all these measures are applied yet, they sit within the framework of the European Pact on Migration and Asylum, which – 6 years after its first proposal – is due to be implemented in the Summer of 2026.

**READ MORE ABOUT THESE CHANGES IN EUROPE MUST ACT'S MOST RECENT REPORT:
[A STATE OF SHRINKING PROTECTION](#)**

In Greece, far-right policies – and politicians – definitely entered the mainstream in 2025. Both Asylum and Migration ministers who succeeded each other in 2025, Makis Voridis and Thanos Plevris, are known extremists, having been affiliated with far-right parties such as LAOS and EPEN before joining the welcoming ranks of the ruling party. Step by step, the narrative around migration and people on the move harshened. Voridis publicly described migrants as criminals and defined integration as an unrealistic goal. Plevris considered death at the borders as inevitable and vowed to give “hell” to people on the move in the country, by means of deprivation of basic services and provisions. Policies swiftly followed words, Voridis ministry scrapped an important path to regularization for people who could prove three years of residence in Greece and laid the groundwork for a repressive framework that was then brought to completion by his successor. During the summer, asylum rights were suspended for all people arriving to Greece via Crete and Gavdos, and in September a new law was passed, termed as law on returns, but with a far wider scope.

The new law:

- creates a new crime of “illegal” stay, punishable with prison sentence between 2 and 5 years;
- extends the limits of administrative detention to 24 months;
- curtails procedural rights for asylum appeals;
- legalises the use of electronic monitoring for people seeking voluntary returns;
- removes a path to regularisation for people who stayed in the country for more than 7 years
- Second any suspension of sentence to the acceptance to “voluntary” return.

In short, the law turns “return or prison” into official policy.


Previously, on the 19th of July, a three-months ban on asylum application was implemented for people who reached the Greek coasts on the islands of Crete and Gavdos. This was immediately denounced by a network of more than a 100 civil society organisations and resulted in large-scale detention for people forced to remain on the island of Crete despite the lack of any form of organised reception. It also caused a large backlog of asylum applications that will produce delays far into 2026. The government justified this ban as a response to the large number of people arriving to seek asylum in the country by sea on the increasingly used route from Libya to southern Greek islands of Crete and Gavdos. **11,487 people have used this dangerous route in the first 8 months of 2025.** By comparison, 813 reached Greece via this route in 2023 and 5,161 in 2024. Combined with the lower number of arrivals from Turkey, in 2025 this route counted for around 45% of total arrivals by sea, according to the most recent data available. This shifts in routes impacted the demography of the camps all over Greece, especially those around Athens.

A separate but connected phenomenon surfaced this year, the use of false charges of smuggling to criminalise people on the move. As in previous years, prosecutors all over Europe are using smuggling charges to criminalise one or more people on each boat arriving to the EU coasts, with no regards for the reality of people's crossing. According to de.criminalize, **more than 2400 people are detained in Greek prisons convicted of smuggling**. Mataris Committee, with which ECHO collaborates, has launched the campaign #freetheboys and #50outofmany, to financially support the large number of young sudanese boys sent to court with these trumped-up charges, especially on Crete. Following months of monitoring, they reported on the systematic racism of such trials, with an average length of around 10 minutes, systematic lack of translations, refusal of accepting IDs of third country nationals, sentencing of minors as adults, and sentences ranging between 10 years and life in prison.

DIG DEEPER:

- [HTTPS://WWW.INSTAGRAM.COM/MATARIS_SSC/](https://www.instagram.com/mataris_ssc/)
- [HTTPS://DECRIMINALIZE.EU/EN/HOME-EN/](https://decriminalize.eu/en/home-en/)
- [HTTPS://WWW.BORDERVIOLENCE.EU/](https://www.borderviolence.eu/)
- [HTTPS://RSAEGEAN.ORG/EN/](https://rsaegean.org/en/)
- [THE MIGRATORY ROUTE TO CRETE AND GAVDOS, 2025 REPORT BY OPERAZIONE COLOMBA \(ITALIAN\)](#)

ECHO LIBRARY AND THE CAMPS



ECHO runs its sessions outside of four “reception structures”: the refugee camps in Malakasa, Oinofyta, Ritsona and Thiva. In Korinthos, we run our session a few hundred metres from the camp, hosted by the Xeirapsies community centre.

According to the Asylum and Migration Ministry website, these “Accommodation Facilities” offer “a stable living environment that meets residents’ essential material, social and educational needs”, while also proposing “a variety of services to residents, such as meal services, education on rights and obligations of applicants of international protection, psychological support, medical services, personal hygiene items, clothing, Greek language classes, and training sessions for the development of skills and competencies.”

Nothing is further from reality. Over the past year we heard complaints from our readers about the lack of healthcare and educational services, about food being served far beyond its due date, infestations of cockroaches, interruption of running water, etc. We have met people who were kicked out of their accommodation because they were outside the camp (at work, in hospital...) during “counts”. We heard of fights among camp residents and people being too afraid to go out of their caravans.

All these stories hardly make the news, but compose a clear picture nonetheless. Camps are not the overcrowded and unsanitary hell of a few years ago, but have become part and parcel of a mechanism of division, control and deterrence. Perimetral walls, access by turnstiles and x-ray scanners, 24/7 private security, cameras: camps are open-air prison, where the lack of services, the isolation and the harshness of conditions are essential to the authorities policy of deterrence - policies that have long been proven ineffective, other than inhumane. As we probably don’t say enough, while camps could have been a necessary temporary response at a time of “emergency”, there is absolutely no reason to keep using such structures as accommodation facilities.

It is difficult to provide detailed information about the demographics of the camps we visit, because very little data has been published. We'll be using the figures for 30 June 2025, published by Refugee Support Aegean (RSA), and obtained through Parliamentary questions. While it's important to publish these figures, they are an only partially useful indicator, that crystallizes a specific moment in time.

For example, these figure fail to include the large increase in camps population that took place over the summer following the surge of arrivals from the Libyan-Crete route.

Read more here: [Reception & refugee camps in Greece in the first half of 2025, by Refugee Support Aegean](#)

Malakasa

Capacity: 2608 - Occupancy: 1876

Malakasa is 2 camps in one. A part is a Registration and Identification Centre (RIC), the other is a Controlled Access Facility for the Temporary Accommodation of Asylum Seekers (CAFTAAS). Our sessions take place in the car park of the latter.

Of the camps we visit, it is the better connected to Athens, as it is located 10 minutes walk from the train station of Sfendali, around 40km north of Athens. This year, there have been several protests at the camp, due to the sudden relocation of many of its resident to other camps in Greece, often including people with active work commitments in the area and with little to no notice or communication.

Oinofyta (CAFTAAS)

Capacity: 404 - Occupancy: 231

Oinofyta is located 20 km further north from Malakasa. It has a capacity of 412 people. The camp is made of an old factory and its surrounding grounds. It opens up directly on a busy highway, and we have held our sessions in different bits of land near the camp entrance. Since 2023, former residents of the evicted squatted camp in Lavrio were moved here, and until very recently, still made up some of the camp's population. It is the only camp we visit that doesn't have a perimetral wall - there is a fence instead - and electronic controls of its gates.

Ritsona (CAFTAAS)

Capacity: 2352 - Occupancy: 1246

Ritsona has a capacity of 2,884 people. It is the most remote camp we visit. At Northern border of the Attica region, it is situated in an industrial area 75 km from Athens, 11 km from the closest train station and 10 km from the closest bus stop. The nearest hospital is 18 km away.

Thiva (CAFTAAS)

Capacity: 892 - Occupancy: 667

Thiva has a capacity of 889 people. Built on the grounds of a disused factory, people's accommodation are partly within the industrial building, partly in containers. Situated 5km from Thiva town and 70km from Athens, over the last months of 2025, the camp saw its perimetral wall being built.

Korinth (CAFTAAS)

Capacity: 800 - Occupancy: 517

Korinth camp has a capacity of 876 people. While it's around 90 km from Athens, it is one of the very few camps in Greece located within a city boundary. It is also the only camp we visit where residents are accommodated in large RUB hall-style tents.

Self-managed camp in Lavrio

ECHO also occasionally runs sessions in Lavrio, at the Kurdish community self-managed camp just outside of the town. This camp survived the eviction of the main camp in town of the summer 2023, accommodating some of the evictees and giving a home to Kurdish and Turkish political refugees arriving into Greece.

LIBRARY TIMETABLE 2025

MONDAY

Our sessions in **Victoria Square** remained quiet, but also a good way to meet occasional new people and keep in touch with some regular Athens-based book-loaners. We also use the session as a place to give talks and interviews with interested people passing through Athens, from journalists, to students and researchers.

TUESDAY

At **Oinofyta** camp we normally ran our sessions in the parking space across the road from the camp. This was not a stable or safe place to run our sessions - often there was no room and it was right next to a busy road with regular passing lorries - but there was little choice. We moved further down to the side of the camp when we were super busy, but this impacted our visibility to camp residents, although it was safer for the children. Despite the cold we had generally quite busy sessions in the first half of year. We had a nice community of Kurdish children and mothers that came out on a regular basis and we had some lovely creative craft activities.



However during the summer many families moved on and from September onwards many new arrivals, coupled with a lack of regular activities due to the library van's mechanical issues have meant that engagement here dwindled.

Malakasa - our sessions here were consistently fluctuating yet busy, and we never knew who was going to turn up or discover the library, from groups of Egyptians, older friends and new arrivals from Sudan. The library was used for everything, not just loans but also games, English practice and a space for hanging out that wasn't the camp. Although we had very few children here this was balanced by the large number of young adults making use of what we had to offer. We frequently overran our timetable here!

WEDNESDAY

The library story of **Ritsona** in 2026 illustrates exactly why we continue to do what we do, even though we sometimes even doubt our own sanity.

Sessions here have been very quiet for a long time. Ritsona was also the camp where we experienced the most harassment from camp security and had to move the van to more and more precarious places. Sometimes we would come here, only to have 1 or 2 people come out. In the first half of the year we loaned only 36 books.

Then, starting in mid-July a new group of arrivals - almost exclusively from Sudan - discovered the library. It was this that caused us to almost bankrupt ourselves printing learning resources and requests in September onwards. Sessions became hectic and full of interesting and interested young men who came to take resources, practise their English and play chess. By the end of the year we had loaned a total of 238 books here and it would have been much more had our library van not broken down.





Our **Thiva** sessions, despite a low ebb over the freezing weather during February and March, were often really lovely and very busy.

During the spring and summer we were regularly met by a cohort of incredibly energetic children, many of whom wanted books in Turkish, which prompted a hastily arranged visit to Istanbul in March.



Our main issue at Thiva during these busy times was in fact how to handle the large numbers of children whilst also allowing adults to use the library effectively. We had to be careful to recruit extra volunteers to come especially for this reason which seemed slightly absurd given the quiet sessions in Ritsona until July. We also distributed a lot of art materials to a few keen artists during the late spring/early summer.

Later in the year we started alternating being the order that we ran our sessions, sometimes doing Thiva after Ritsona to allow certain library users who had jobs to get back from work and then visit the library.

When we ran later sessions here we missed the children, but it seems a good compromise to strike between our older and younger library users.

Particularly here at Thiva it is noteworthy how little there is for children - at this age they should have the freedom to explore, to play and learn in inspiring ways. Being forced to live in the camps deprives them of these basic opportunities and it continues to be a heartbreaking reality that we confront every time we visit.



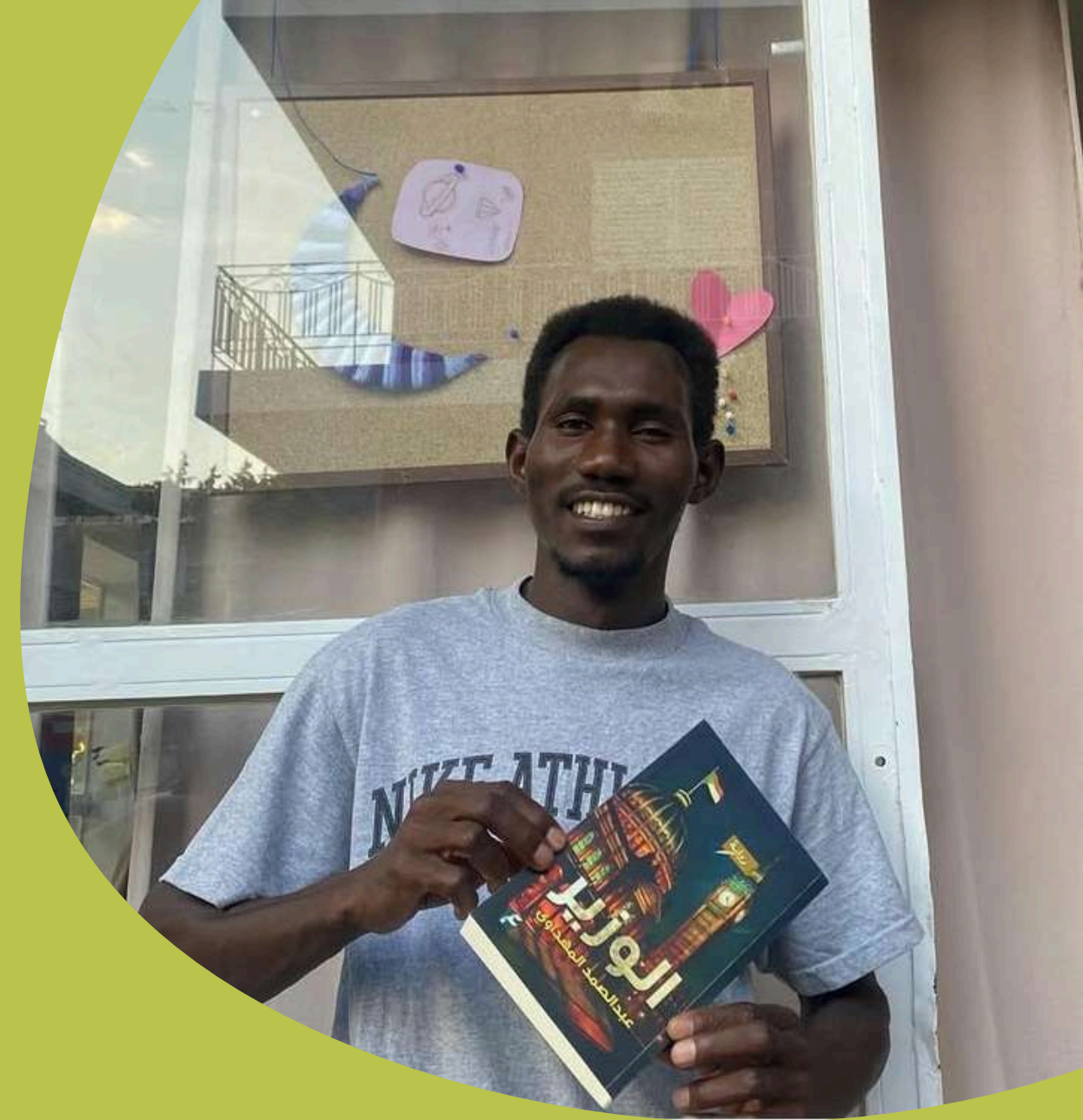
THURSDAY

Our sessions at Kheirapses centre in **Korinthos** continued to be calm and consistently enjoyable. Here we were proud to support the newly published writer Abdalsamad Mohamed from Sudan to present his book "the Minister" at the centre in September. Our one copy of the book is currently on loan in Ritsona and we will collect more copies for him (and the library) during our trip to Cairo in January 2026.

We made a few trips to the **Lavrio** autonomous Kurdish camp this year, however a lack of shared language makes communication limited. The camp is small but friendly and we would like next year to go a little more consistently, especially for the small group of children there.

During one of these trips Giulio discovered that the camp's little library was generously populated by many of our library's unreturned Kurdish books. We intend to reclaim these books in 2026 and re-integrate them into our Kurdish collection!

It is a time of political change amongst the Kurdish community since the announcement by Ocalan of the end of the Kurdish armed struggle. We were invited in November to an event at the camp which commemorated the anniversary of the formation of the PKK. It was an interesting moment for all members of the community to reflect and discuss the future (and dance). Whilst the region of Kurdistan remains a flashpoint geopolitically speaking, we are still hoping that a transition to a peaceful struggle to advocate for Kurdish political and cultural freedoms is successful and is respected by those in power.



2025 LIBRARY STATS

BOOKS
LOANED
1189

WHICH LANGUAGES?

39% ARABIC

39% ENGLISH

14% FARSI

9% TURKISH

2% KURMANJI

2% FRENCH

WHERE?

THIVA - 383 32%

MALAKASA - 304 26%

RITSONA - 238 - 20%

KORINTHOS - 158 13%

LANGUAGE LEARNING RESOURCES DISTRIBUTED

ENGLISH: 1680

GREEK: 995

GERMAN: 450

WHO BORROWS?

76% MALE

48% YOUNG ADULTS
(20-25 YEARS OLD)

2025 LIBRARY LOAN INFO

From late summer onwards we were somewhat overwhelmed with printing costs. In September alone we gave out 652 resources, bringing the total to 3322 for the whole year. October and November would have been similar except for the fact that we had to reduce our sessions because of the van breaking down. Despite us sending PDFs of the resources to people, it is clear that physical copies are preferred and people continue to return for the next parts, particularly for our English resources.

This year Arabic fiction favourites include the infamous *Land of Zikola*, a fantasy book that has been incredibly popular these past couple of years, followed by other works of fiction by Arab writers such as *The thorn of the darwish* by Sudanese author Ziyad Hammour, *The other side of the shadow* by Rashid al-Daif and *Idols: Cain, whose heart turned to his brother Abel* by Amin al Zawi. Translated fiction was also popular, including *The hunter* by Hung, Jaw Li, Khaled Hosseini's *A thousand splendid suns* as well as *Crime and Punishment* by Dostoevsky and myriad books on psychology, philosophy and politics.



Farsi language favourites included the very popular psychology/philosophy series from the School of Life (if only we had more of these!), *Pride and Prejudice*, *Sadeq Hedayat* and the poetry of *Sohrab Sepehri*.

English language loans made up nearly 40% of all loans this year, the majority being staged English readers. We are now very short indeed on these and will need a fresh selection of them if we are going to keep up with demand in 2026. We also want to record audio files to go with our Basic English booklets to give people a more holistic resource.



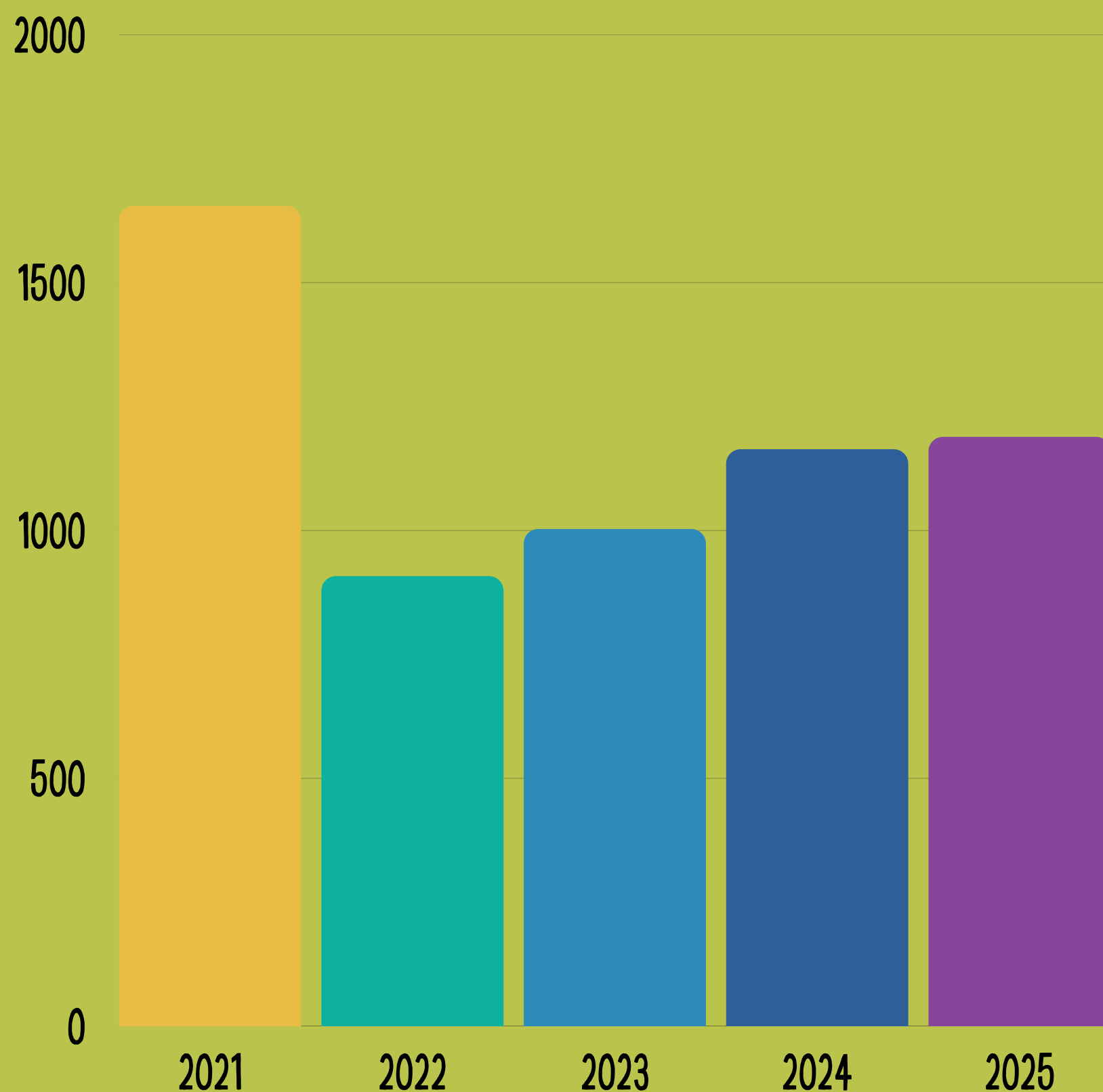
Requests this year were varied, from resources for mothers who want to start teaching their children Arabic and maths, through to Descartes and, Marx in Arabic, linguistics and Viktor Frankl's *Man's Search for Meaning* in Farsi.

A deeper dive into our loan statistics from over the past few years shows some trends that reflect the reality of how the library operates, as well as the shifting demographics of the camp residents.

The information gathered is not complete and only includes library users that have borrowed books. Many many others are more difficult to capture in our information gathering - so many people engage with the library in different ways - coming to chat, taking a resource, playing games, colouring, the list goes on. However, some of these graphics hopefully help to illustrate some of our lived experience with the library and its activities.

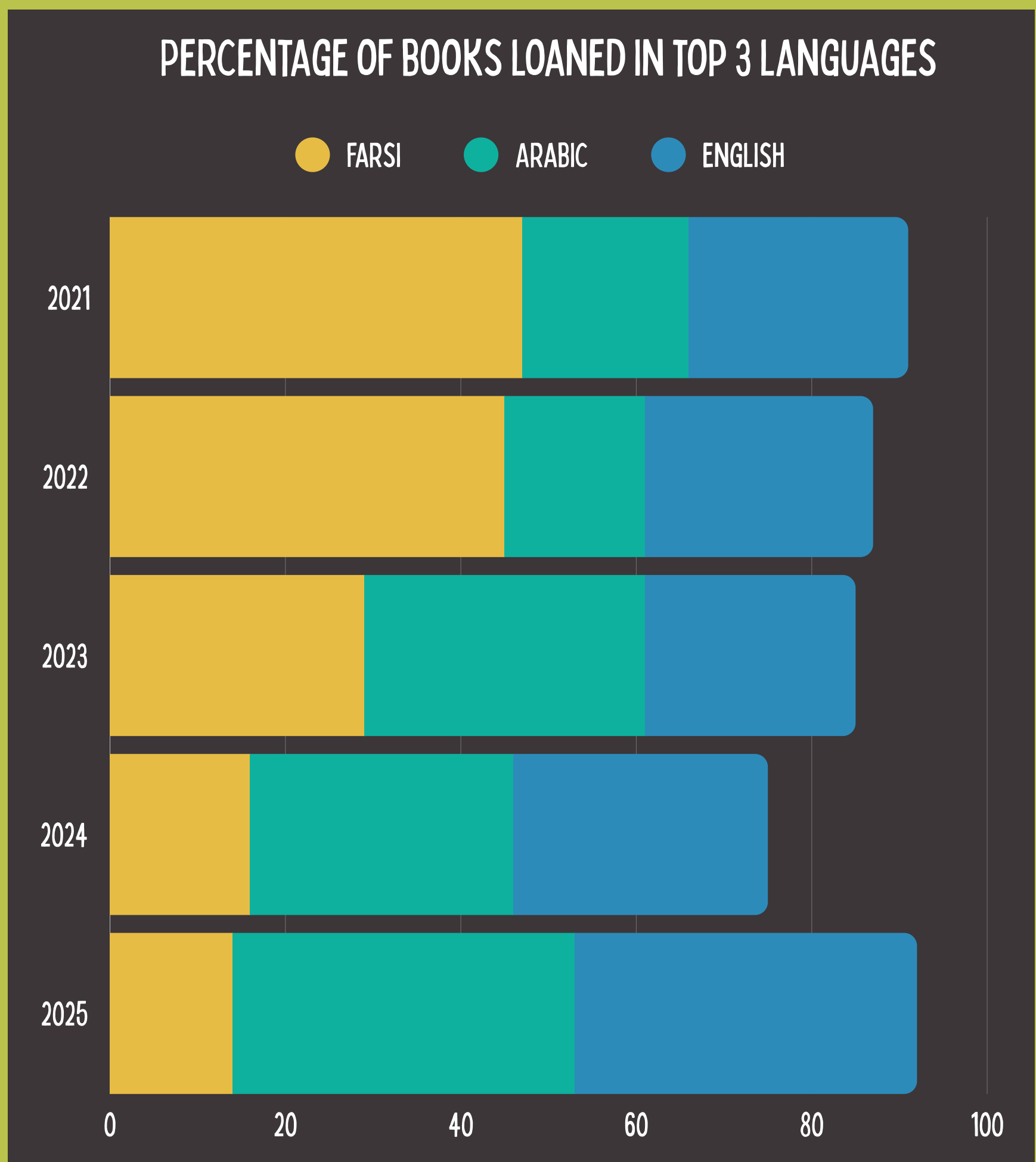
Firstly, from 2021 (the earliest our consistent record-keeping goes) the story speaks for itself. After the lockdown was lifted, and even with partial camp access, we loaned 1655 books in 6 months (see below), more than we do now in a full year.

TOTAL NUMBER OF BOOKS LOANED 2021-2025



Losing camp access was devastating for the library and our activities. All the issues that we currently experience regarding engaging women, younger readers and children were somewhat mitigated when we could go inside the camps themselves instead of being in precarious outside spaces: we could do effective in-person outreach, we provided activities for the children which encouraged women to come out and engage with the library. We could even go door-knocking with a mini-selection of our books which in some places was also very effective.

These past couple of years have seen the number of Farsi loans decrease dramatically, whilst the number of Arabic and English language loans increase. This we have not really been able to understand well because until recently the number of Afghan camp residents across the places we operate stayed reasonably stable (as far as we could tell, according to word of mouth and the few statistics that exist). However possible

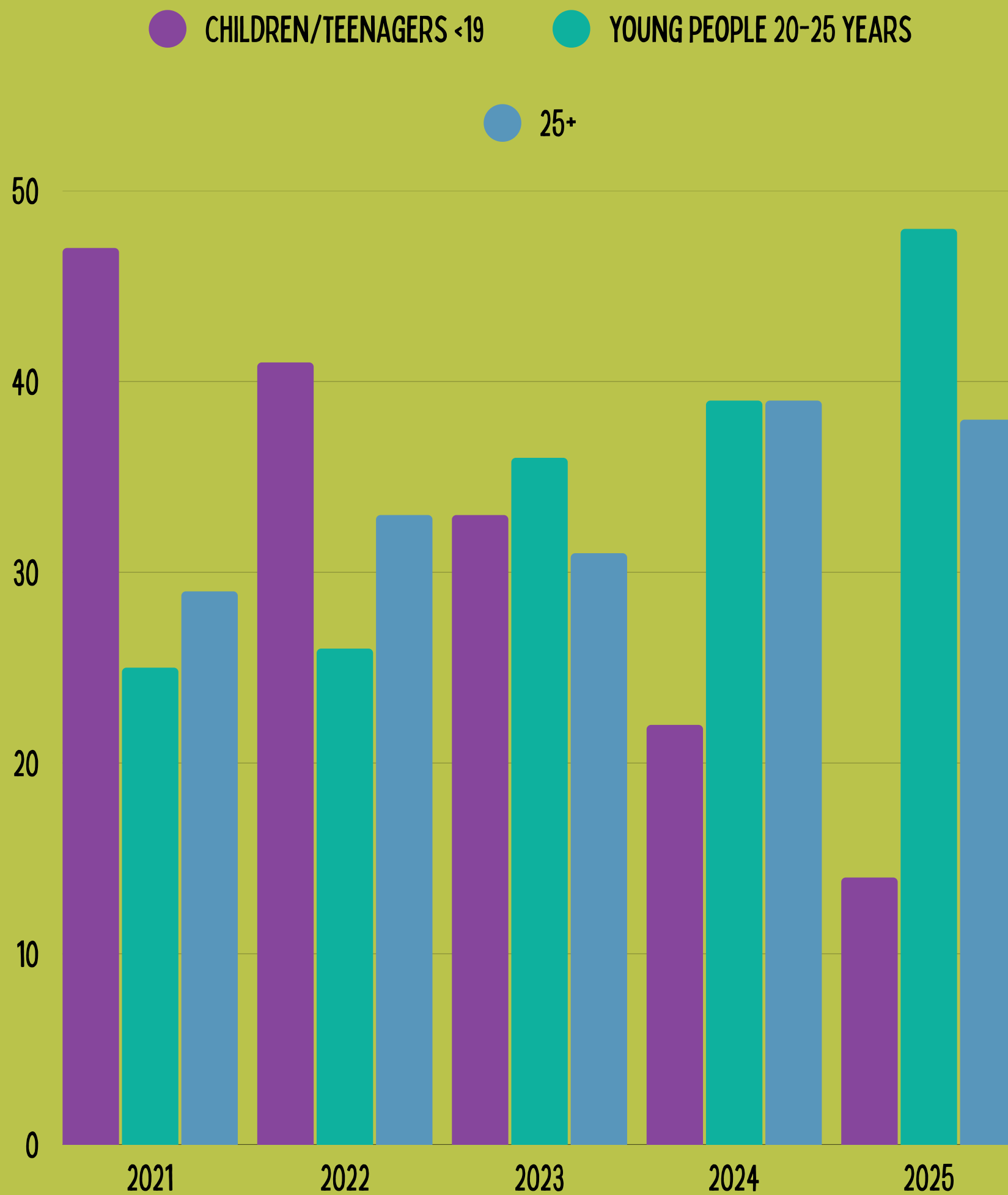


explanations can be traced to the fact that many Afghans are here as part of family units and so independently coming out of the camp to visit the library is difficult in many cases, especially if they are younger and/or women. This last consideration affects the female camp population in general because many women do not feel safe in the camps or walking around independently. They also, very often, have family or child-care duties.

An interesting sidenote regarding languages that people read in: previously we loaned quite a lot of books to women wanting Farsi books for their children. This has practically disappeared. One reason is that many of the Afghan families in the camps now have spent time in Turkey and many of the children, despite being Afghan, read in Turkish. This also goes for most of the young children who loan books with the library and has been the main reason why we have a Turkish collection in the library at all.



PROPORTION OF BOOK BORROWERS BY AGE

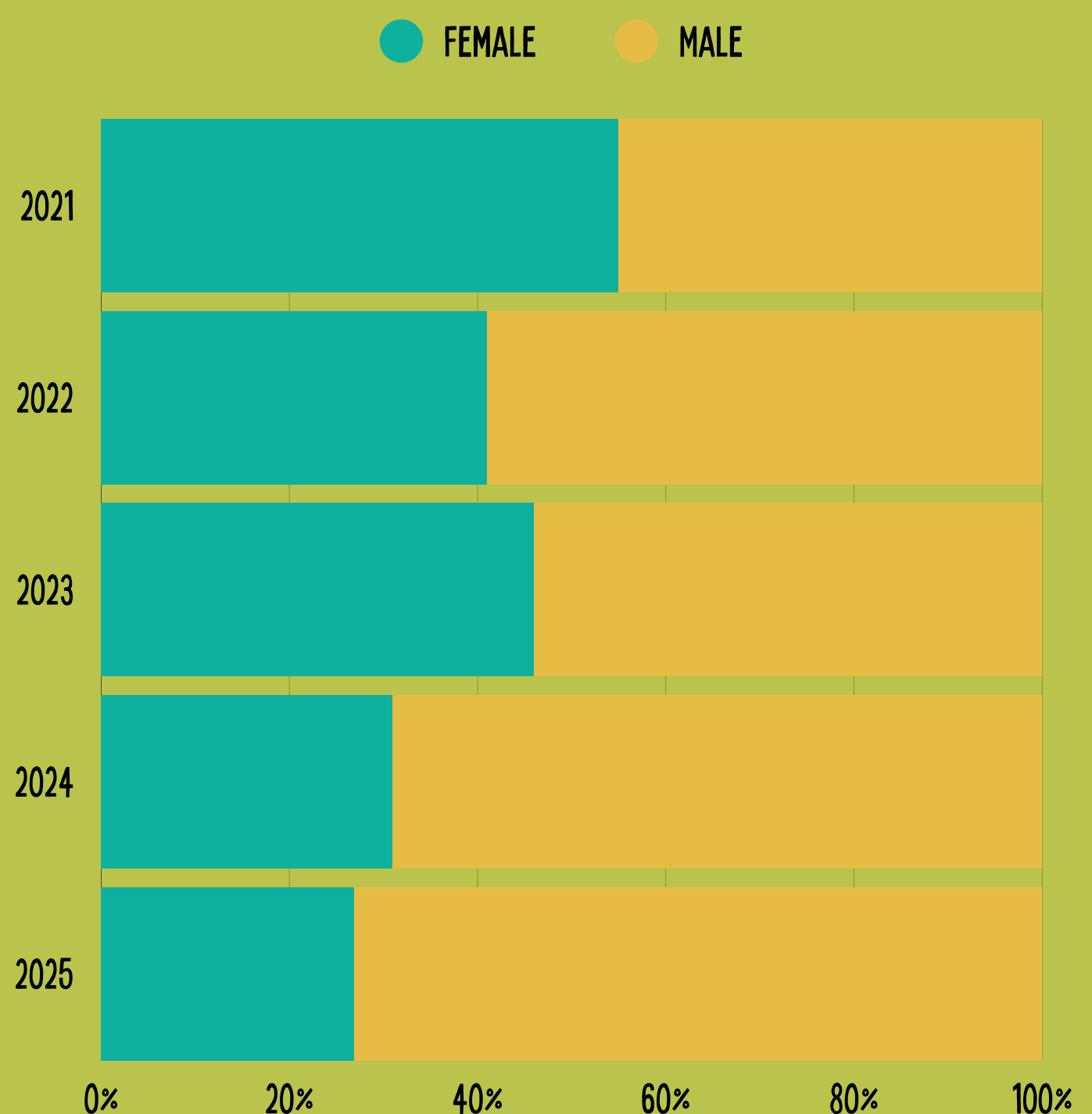


In addition, in the past year in particular has seen an influx of people coming from different conflicts and regions, especially Sudan. Whilst there have always been a high proportion of single young men making the journey to Europe, this has increased in recent months. The change of demographic in the camps means that some of the shift in languages, age and gender that we see in our statistics makes sense.

These reasons have also impacted the gender of those borrowing our books although, just as we mentioned before, the loan statistics do not include those who engage with the library in other ways.

Many women in the past have come out with their children to participate in the creative activities, or to knit, chat and much more. A notable example of this in 2025 was the first half of the year in Oinfoyta where we had busy sessions despite making almost no loans.

GENDER OF BOOK BORROWERS (ASSUMED)



THE LIBRARIANS AND OUR ACTIVITIES

2025 saw many wonderful people taking on the role of community librarian. Our beloved Tulsi, Ondina, Oli, Stefano, volunteers from the collective Solidarity with Migrants as well as a group of French Erasmus law students have kept us going this year.

Outside of our regular library sessions we once again participated in our local community football tournament Kipseli Mundial, creating a beautiful banner with handprints of some of the younger visitors to the event, which decorated the playing field during the final matches and award ceremony. The library also put in an appearance at the Anti-Racist festival in July.



November brought the (now annual) fixture of the Gin Night fundraiser at the British School of Athens where, despite rain, we managed to raise about 1700euros. Once again a massive thanks is due to our long-term librarian Tulsi and the BSA staff who organised this perennially enjoyable event.



This year the library applied to the European Cultural Foundation with a proposal to collaborate with the Sudanese community group Mataris. The application was successful and one of the first parts of this project was a discussion in local cafe and activist hub La Zone in Exarcheia about the Sudanese Revolution on 2018. For this we managed to bring several Sudanese residents of Ritsona camp to participate. There is a clear interest in this subject, as well as a need to create space for discussion for Sudanese and others alike. We hope to repeat the event in other spaces in 2026.



At the end of 2025 we created a campaign on the theme of ECHO library Muses. The original idea had been to select a small number of inspirational, radical women writers and activists and share them as part of our fundraising campaign. But pretty quickly the number expanded to 28 women (and we could have done more!). We asked friends with an artistic disposition to create illustrations, and then we made social media posts about each of them over the month of December, including biographical information and a quote. We also have printed postcards, stickers and made badges for them too. We are hoping this will have the dual role of raising awareness about these women and the library project at the same time. We are thinking about expanding our available merchandise to the ubiquitous tote bags, t-shirts and perhaps even a tea-towel - watch this space...



BOOKS AND RESOURCES

This year we felt increased pressure on our Arabic book collection and ended up purchasing a large number of Arabic books, around 200 in total. We also made a quick visit to Istanbul in March to get more Turkish books for children and teenagers, something we should repeat in 2026.

Farsi books have been a little harder to come by - we received a small donation from a friend at the start of 2025, but now the situation in Iran has become so unstable that people have not been visiting so much to be able to bring books back to Europe. Unfortunately the start of 2026 is not boding well for an improvement, but we are hoping for the best, not for the library's sake, but for the people of Iran.

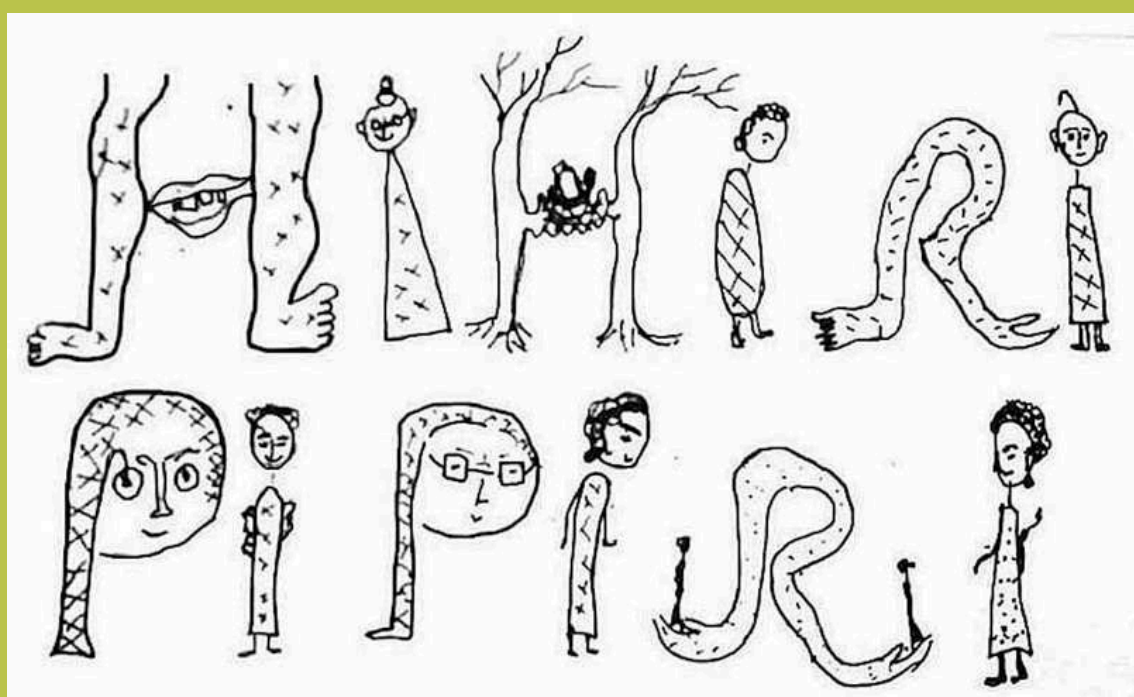
Courtesy of Becka and a last-minute dash to a large second-hand bookshop in Paris as well as other friends, our French selection is now quite healthy. We also received 4 lovely books in Bengali by Tagore for any interested new readers.



At the end of the year we collected some new books in English, Arabic and Farsi from a closing community centre in Athens. As part of those books we had a few English staged readers, however not nearly enough to keep up with demand.

We have managed to re-establish contact with Book Aid and hope to received a donation from them at some point in 2026. We hope that this will help resolve some of our issues around our current lack of English staged readers.

This year we supported the translation and dissemination about refugee law in Arabic, French and Farsi in partnership with Refugee Legal Service. This information is useful to encourage people to better understand and advocate for their rights in the Greek Asylum service.



We also started a new collaboration with HiHiPi PiPiRi, a small association that provided ECHO with translation services for a couple of key resources – the first two being our basic English booklets which we now finally have available from Turkish.

Secondly we are now doing the layout for the information guide for refugee women on mainland Greece. This invaluable resource was compiled by activists in our network and we had previously helped with the layout and proof-reading in Farsi and French. However unfortunately it had proven difficult to find a translator for the Arabic version. Now, with the support of HiHiRi PiPiRi the Arabic version is almost ready to be printed and offered for free both online and in our library.

At the end of the year Giulio and Becka also did their first interviews to gather information for the book that will be created as part of the ECF library partnership project. Much remains to be done, but it was an inspiring start to something that will surely become a unique resource in our library.



FINANCES

EXPENSES:

£ 28,274.18

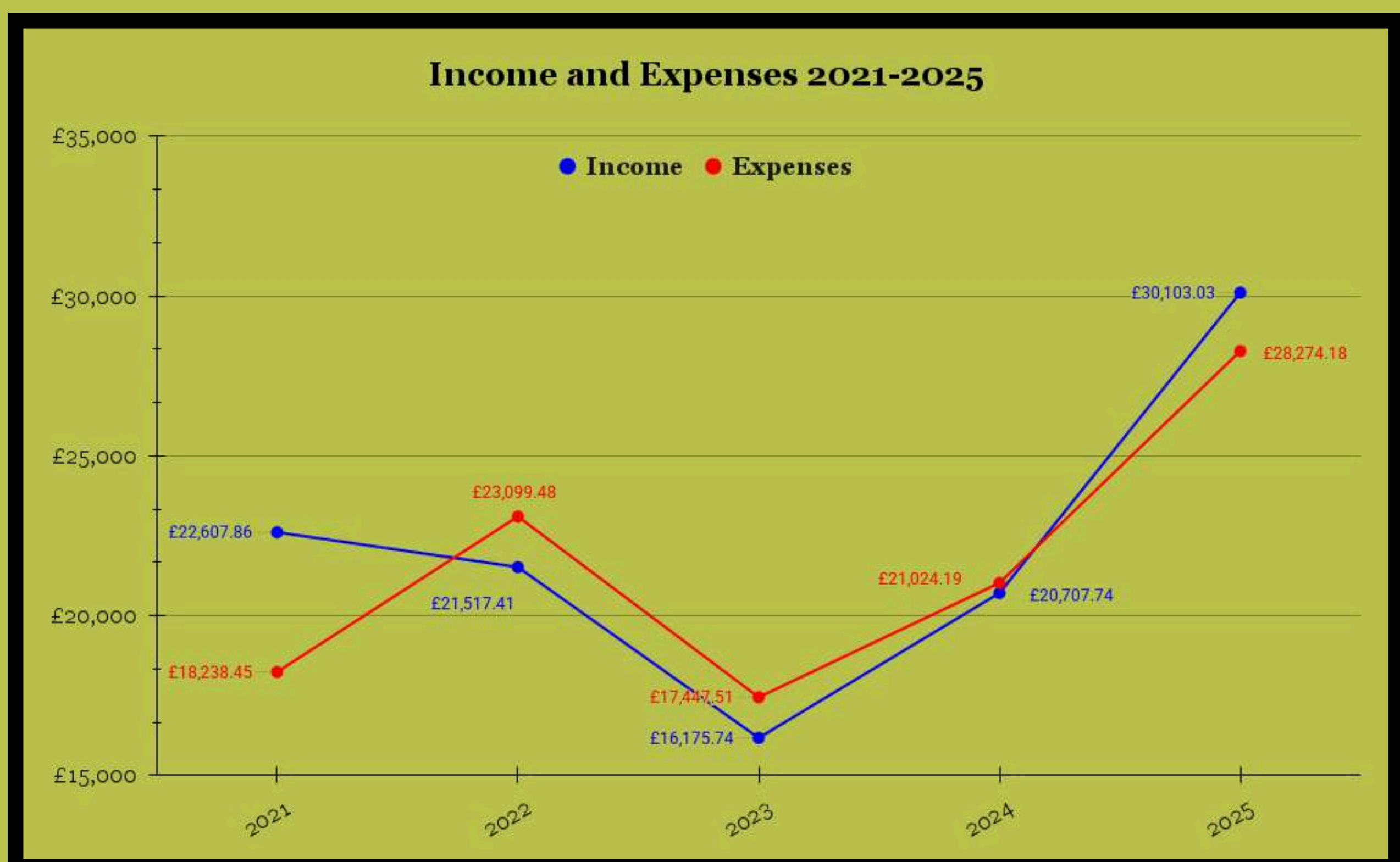
INCOME:

£ 30,103.03

2025 has been a financial rollercoaster! By far, it has been the year we spent and received the most. In comparison, last year we spent £ 21,024 and received £ 20,707. These increases are due to two very different reasons.

The good news of 2025 was that we were awarded a €10,000 grant by Europe Challenge, the annual program for libraries run by the European Cultural Foundation (ECF). We received the first chunk of funding for a project in collaboration with Mataris - Sudan Solidarity Collective - that will bear its fruits next year. While this is a great achievement already, most of the funding from this grant will cover specific costs related to this project and won't impact the normal running of the library.

The bad news is that our Mr. Renè, our library van, suffered a major breakdown in October, which resulted in a bill exceeding £5,000. Not only this made running our project a lot more difficult, but was a major blow to our budget.



Throughout 2025, we increased our spending for books, printing and especially stationery. As our sessions adapt to each camp and situation, we bought more art supplies, games like backgammon and chess boards, but also crochet and knitting materials and juggling equipment. Three times we were back in the Mutab bookshop in Milan to keep up with the requests of our Arabic readers. In the same way, we printed a lot more educational resources to distribute, especially in the second half of the year.

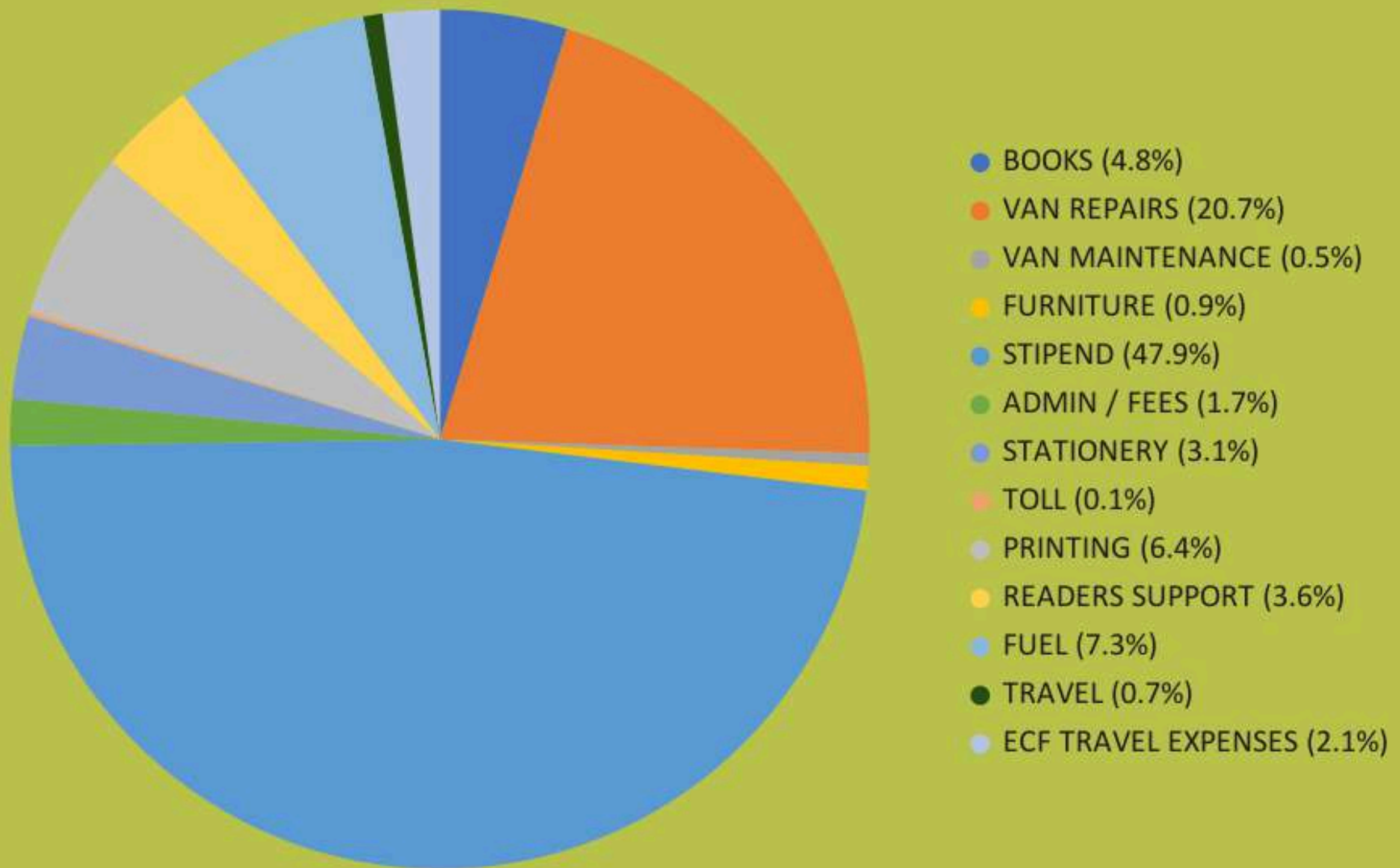
As mentioned, a large chunk of our yearly budget (20%) went to cover the costs of fixing our Mr. Renè.

Consistently with the previous years, stipends are by far the single largest item in our budget (47.9%). Stipends remained the same as last year, €650 per month for two coordinators. As impactful as they are on our budget, they are also essential to the running of our activities, providing continuity and stability to our project. We would like to see them increased to reflect the actual amount of work, expertise and effort that the coordinators put in to make the project work, but until now this has not been possible.

Comparison of main expenses 2023-2025

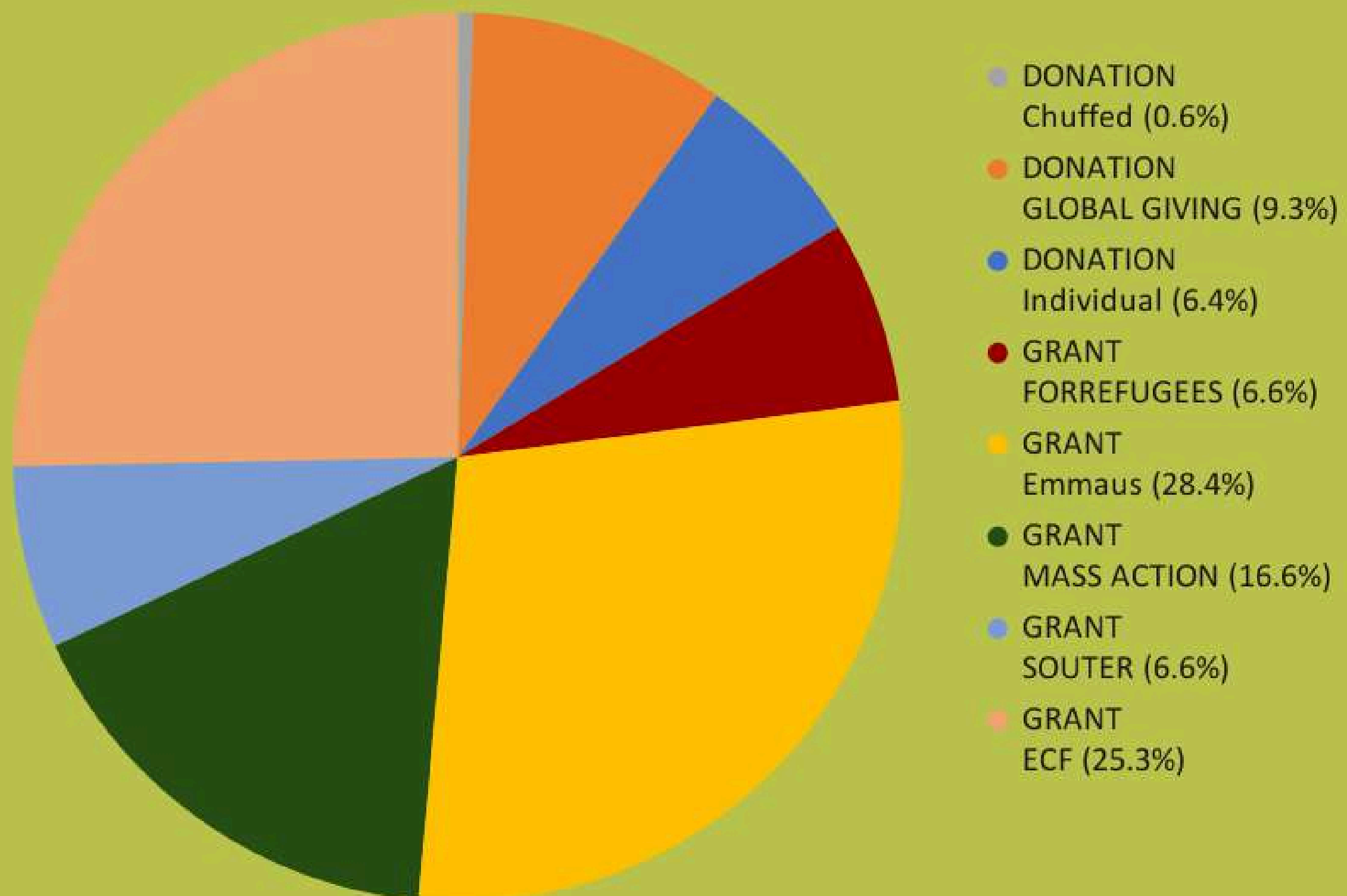
Spending by Category	2025 (£)	2025 (%)	2024 (£)	2024 (%)	2023 (£)	2023 (%)
STIPEND	£13,530.82	47.9%	£12,212.02	58.1%	£10,544.56	60.44%
FUEL	£2,070.50	7.3%	£2,407.74	11.5%	£2,165.00	12.41%
VAN MAINTENANCE	£5,862.17	20.7%	£1,934.34	9.2%	£1,674.84	9.60%
PRINTING	£1,806.04	6.4%	£1,721.86	8.2%	£469.06	2.69%
BOOKS	£1,354.92	4.8%	£1,122.03	5.3%	£527.31	3.02%
STATIONERY	£883.68	3.1%	£591.01	2.8%	£426.72	2.45%
VAN EXPENSES	£131.08	0.5%	£326.11	1.6%	£304.89	1.75%

EXPENSES 2025



As for our income, once again financial issues remain the core issue of the library. The slight increase in funding we experienced this year has been the result of a concerted effort of all the library team, but this cannot lull us into complacency.

INCOME 2025



INCOME 2025 – By source, and comparison with 2024

SOURCE	2025	2024
Donation CHUFFED.ORG	£ 169.85	£ 1,156.26
Donation GLOBAL GIVING	£ 2,805.96	£ 1,812.92
Donation INDIVIDUAL	£ 1,941.32	£ 3,233.72
Donation FUNDRAISING	-	£ 1,720.17
Grant EMMAUS Aaland	£ 8,558.71	£ 8,132.06
Grant FORREFUGEES	£ 2,000.00	£ 3,000.00
Grant DO:STIFTUNG	-	£ 1,652.62
Grant Britford/MASS ACTION	£ 5,000.00	-
Grant SOUTER TRUST	£ 2,000.00	
Grant ECF EUROPE CHALLENGE	£ 7,627.19	
TOTAL	£ 30,103.03	£ 20,707.70

Emmaus Åland and ForRefugees remain our most consistent donors and supporters. As mentioned, the grant from the Europe Challenge won't impact the running costs of the library, but will fund the production and publication of a book and a podcast (stay tuned in 2026). Regarding donations, we focused our efforts on Global Giving, and we'll see the fruits of our fundraising campaign in 2026.

In general, financial insecurity has been the theme of 2025, with increasing prices and new funding streams becoming harder and harder to come by. The unforeseen and huge expense of fixing our library van made us unsure about the future of ECHO. Securing new and sustainable funding streams has never been a more pressing issue.

ECHO 2026

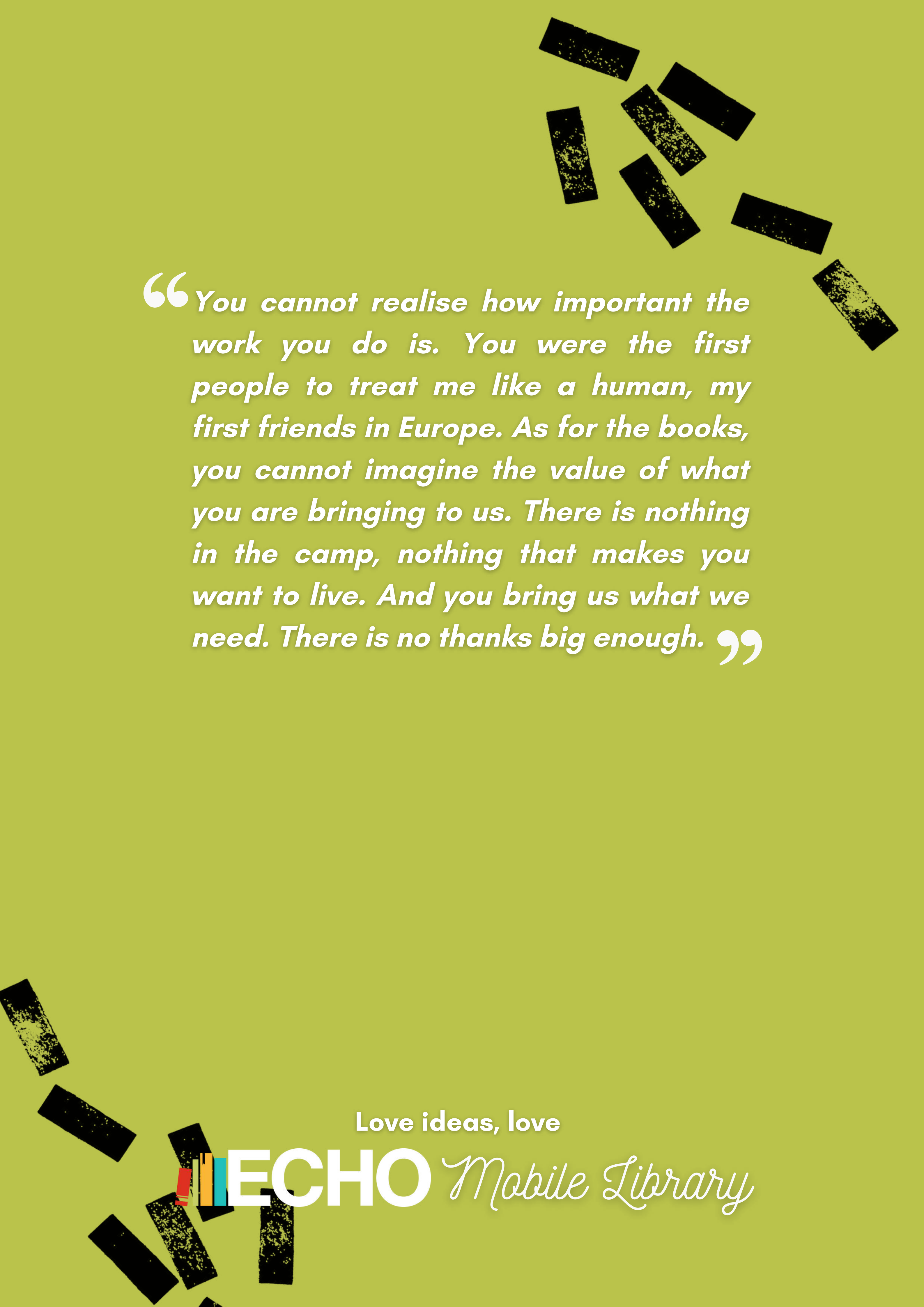
Much like the current world situation, ECHO's 2026 has not got off to a good start. Persistent mechanical problems with Monsier Renè our library van has really impacted our ability to run sessions in the last quarter and continues to do so in January. We will continue to borrow friends' vehicles and run mini-sessions whenever we can, but there is a real possibility we might have to think about replacing this library van.

2026 is going to be a very special year for ECHO as we celebrate in August our 10-year anniversary. We are planning talks and events in the UK and are looking to do this elsewhere in Europe through solidarity networks, not only to promote the library and its work but also to spread awareness about the dire situation in Greece regarding both the rights of people on the move, and the erosion of rights for us all.

At the end of January 2026 we are going to Cairo to the annual international book fair where we look forward to connecting with the world of books and writing in the Arab world.

2026 will also see the conclusion of our collaborative project with Mataris on the Sudanese Revolution. We will be publishing a small book detailing the main events around the history of Sudan and its 2018 revolution, whilst also recording a podcast about it. All of these new resources will be made available in Arabic, English, Turkish, Farsi and Greek to best serve our library and local community.

A busy year is ahead of us. We look forward to sharing our journey with you!



“You cannot realise how important the work you do is. You were the first people to treat me like a human, my first friends in Europe. As for the books, you cannot imagine the value of what you are bringing to us. There is nothing in the camp, nothing that makes you want to live. And you bring us what we need. There is no thanks big enough.”

Love ideas, love

 **ECHO** *Mobile Library*