

23 December 2017

THE ATHENA CENTRE FOR WOMEN

PROSPECTUS



ACTION
FROM
SWITZERLAND

A black and white photograph of a person's hands holding a tambourine, with the instrument's head in the foreground and the person's arms and torso visible in the background.

FIGHTING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER TOMORROW ALONGSIDE WOMEN CURRENTLY DISPLACED BY VIOLENCE, CONFLICT AND PERSECUTION

ABOUT US

Action from Switzerland is a non-profit organisation based in Zurich that pays special attention in defending the rights and needs of the extra vulnerable displaced, especially women and girls, in order to combat exploitation and gender based violence and promote women's rights and social inclusion.

Since our opening on 20th July 2016, our Athena Centre for Women, the first women's only space outside of camps in the whole of Greece, has welcomed over 586 women and girls and recorded more than 6,213 entries. This Centre has been essential for psychosocial well-being of the women, offering a safe space to learn and share with other women living in the camps, offering them the possibility to distance themselves from the precarious living conditions of the tents, be empowered through information, and regain a sense of self, something which has been lost due to the distress of war and the perilous journey to safety.

STATS

586

Women Supported

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6213

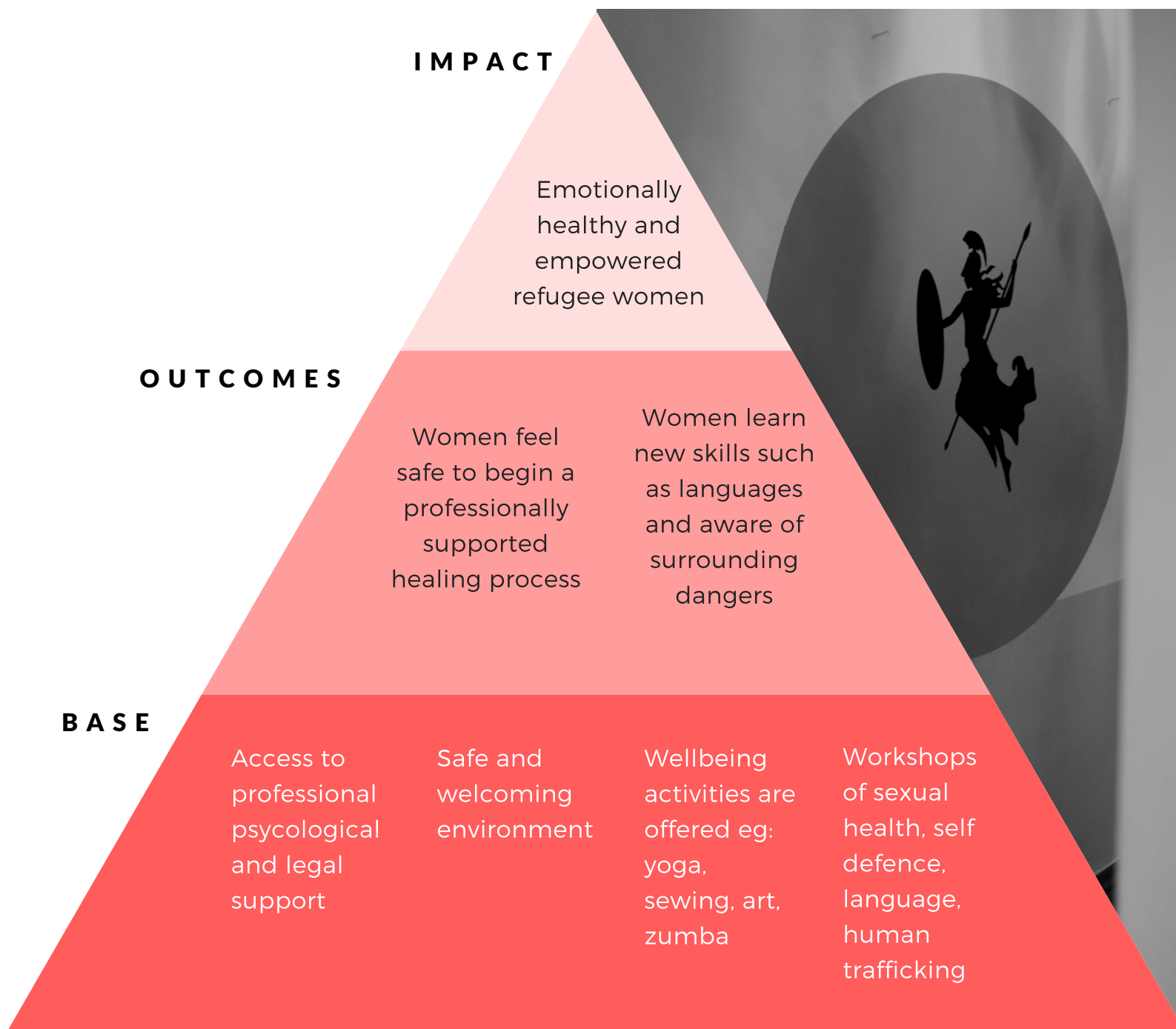
Visits to the Centre

Updated:
23 December 2017

PROJECT GOAL

Our Athena Centre for Women's aim is to empower refugee women and girls through our three pillars: education, information sessions, and psychosocial support. Through our partners, we provide legal and medical services, for the women to make informed choices about their future.

A safe space is at the heart of this project. The following theory of change scheme illustrates how we achieve a positive impact in refugees' lives.



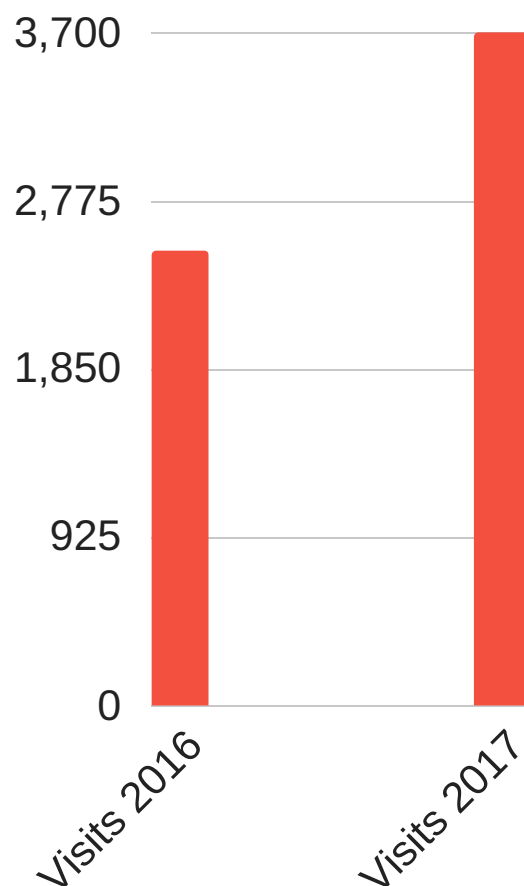
MEASURABLE IMPACT

Our target population is refugee women and girls from age 12 and above. Since we opened our doors, our Athena centre for women has benefitted 586 persons, and we have recorded a total of 6,213 visits to our premises. Our visitors are varied in terms of age and country of origin, having in the beginning a more or less equal amount of Farsi and Arabic speakers, and more recently, a group of French speaking women.

As of the 23rd December 2017:

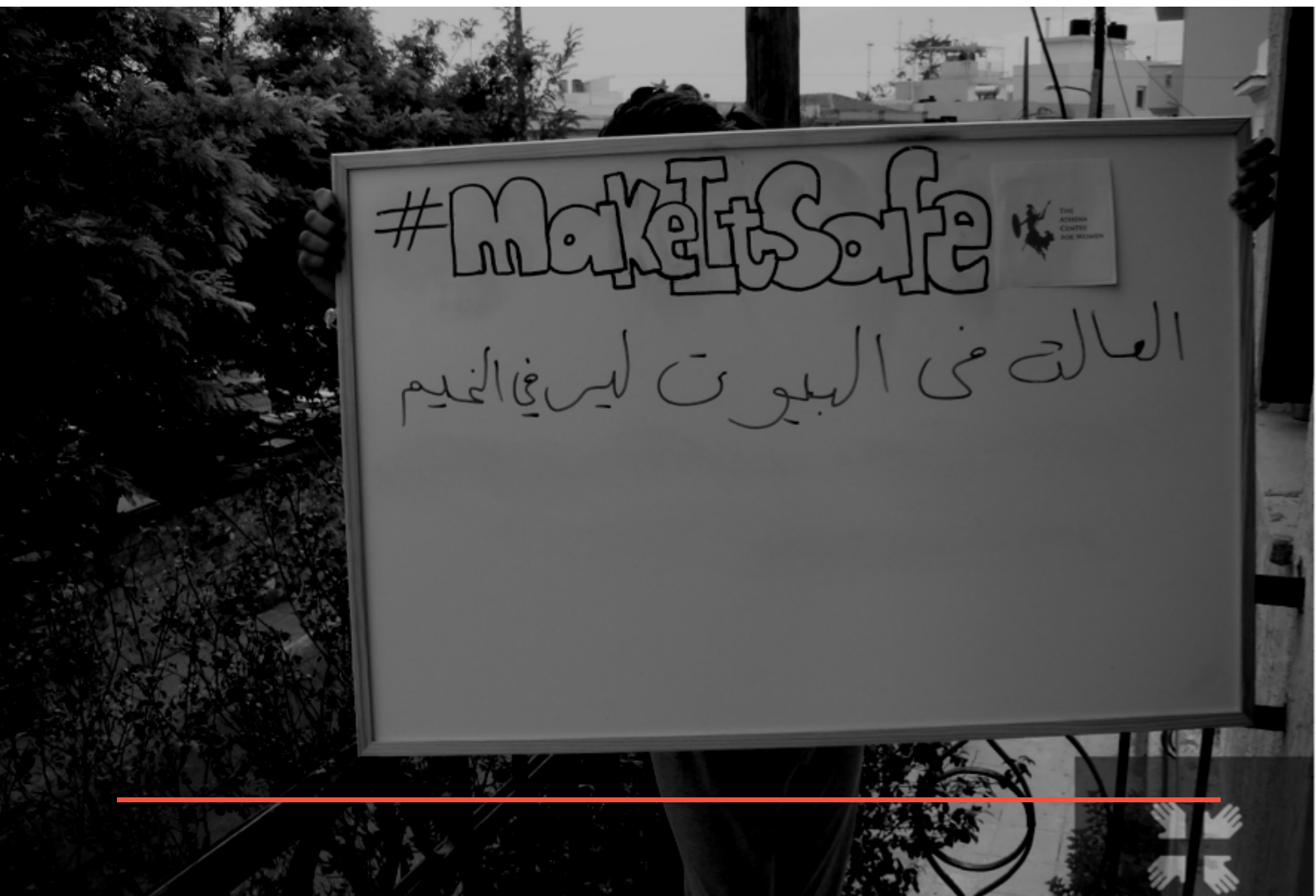
- 316 have accessed female psychologists,
- 280 received legal consultations, information about the asylum process and prepared them for their asylum interviews;
- 308 have been assisted with our translators to the hospital and private health care (ophthamologist, dentists) that the Greek state has been unable to provide..

Trusting us with their stories in our safe space, we have also managed to document numerous cases of sexual and gender based violence that happened either during the journey or on Chios. The incidents include domestic violence, attempted sexual assaults, sexual harassment, trafficking and rape.



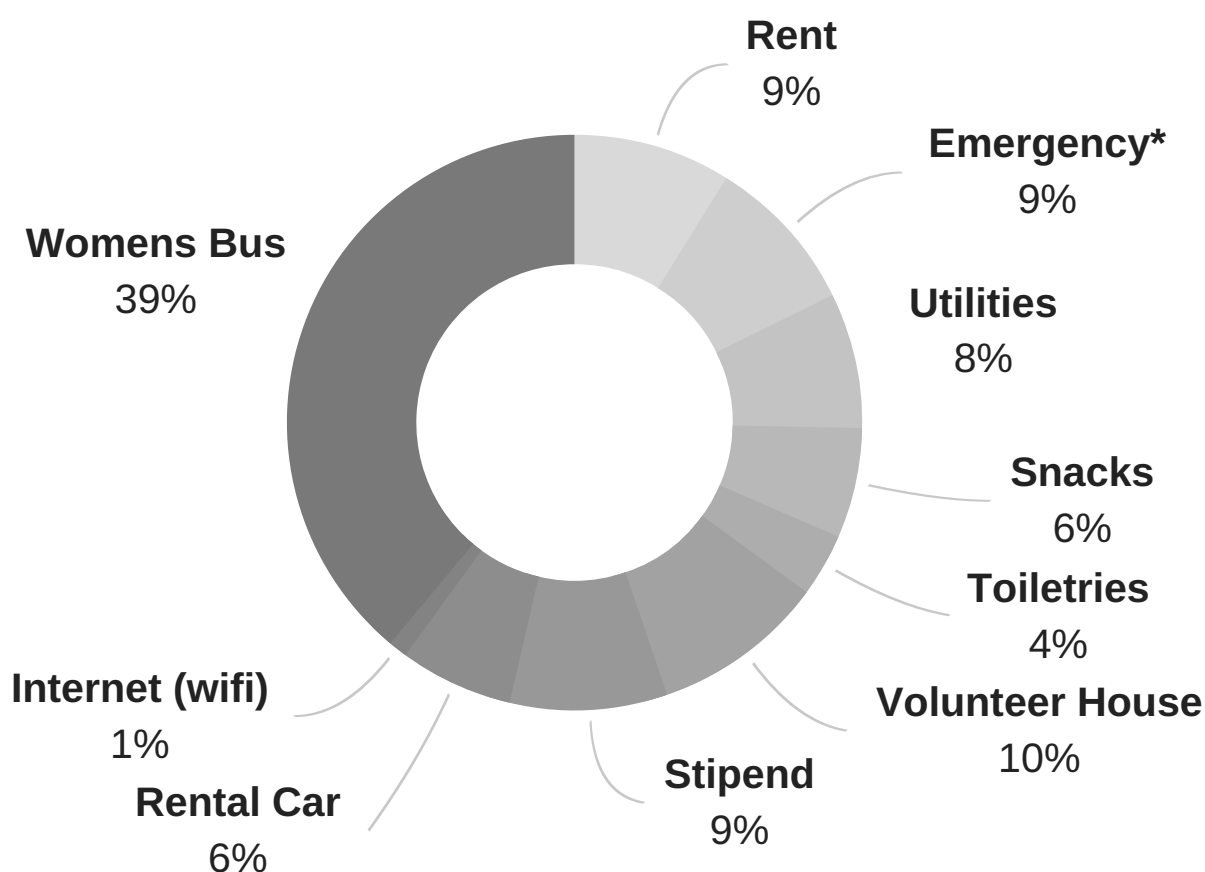
ADVOCACY

By providing a safe space with our Athena Centre for Women, we have managed to document reports of domestic violence, sexual harassment and even attacks. Witnessing the atrocious conditions and lack of sufficient protection, and trying to fill the gap is no longer enough. Our team strongly believes that we have a responsibility to advocate for the protection of women from all forms of violence, discrimination and violation of their rights to life, liberty and security. In November 2016, we launched our **#MakeItSafe** campaign, to advocate about the plight and series of challenges faced by displaced women in this refugee crisis. In light of the recent callous attacks by fascists on Souda camp, Chios, where the vulnerable displaced population were set upon, causing one pregnant woman to lose her twins because of insufficient protection measures, it is more crucial than ever to speak up.



BUDGET

Costs for running our operations on Chios averages 5,400 € per month. Low administrative costs ensure that 90% of our funds go to project operations solely.



*Emergency accommodation: Over the past 8 months, we have been appalled by the lack of first and immediate response for SGBV (sexual gender based violence) cases in both camps. We have therefore assigned a budget exclusively for emergency temporary accommodation.

GET INVOLVED



DONATE

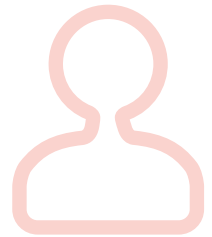
Costs for running the Centre on Chios averages 5'400 Euros per month. Replicating the model of godparents, you can ensure that a women or girl is able to get education and psychosocial support at the Athena Centre for Women.



FUNDRAISE

Fundraising for a cause you believe in does not have to be complicated. You could:

- Organize a Quiz Night
- Art Fundraiser
- Cake Sale



VOLUNTEER

Finally, you can also volunteer with us on-site! Please fill out our volunteer application here:
<https://actionfromswitzerland.ch/help-us/volunteer/>



CONTACT

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