



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

WAVE THESSALONIKI



2024 has been a turbulent year: the genocide of the Palestinian people entered its second year; conflicts in Sudan, Congo, and across the world continued; climate affects led to fires, droughts and floods; and Syria entered an uncertain political era as Assad's long-time dictatorship fell. All this has only served to make oppressed and marginalised people even more so.

Since its inception, Wave has striven to meet the needs of the most vulnerable by providing services that are missing to people who often fall through the gaps - hot meals, water, showers, clothing, hygiene items, washing machines, computers, the list goes on. Fulfilling these needs is nothing more than a basic human right, but access is often impossible for underserved groups.

Not only are we dedicated to supplying these essentials, but it is our mission to do so with dignity, respect, equality and care. We operate with an open-door policy: we don't ask anyone for documents, for their names, their details, nor do we question whether someone could access a meal or a shower elsewhere. Very simply, everyone who comes to Wave is welcomed.

As you will see across this report, 2024 was a year of joy and of challenges. Amidst global turbulence and rising threats to human rights across the world, we continue to stand in solidarity with those who come through our doors, by providing for basic needs but also offering a safe space and a community to be a part of.

INTRODUCTION

Since Wave was founded four years ago, we have made it our mission to help where no help is being given and fill service gaps. Throughout 2024 we have continued to do so.

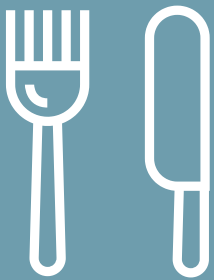
This year brought immense challenges — from extreme weather conditions to recruitment difficulties and fluctuating volunteer capacity. Yet, thanks to the unwavering support of our donors, volunteers, and community members, we adapted, innovated, and expanded. Together, we created a safe and welcoming space where thousands found warmth, nourishment, and solidarity.

Wave remains committed to advocating for the rights of people-on-the-move and addressing the immediate needs of those experiencing displacement. As you read through this report, we hope you'll see the tangible difference your support has made and share in the pride of what we have achieved together.

But first and foremost, none of this could have been done without the support of the communities we work in solidarity with. As we enter 2025 with an even more uncertain political climate, we promise to keep standing side by side with these communities in our fight for equality for all people.

A YEAR IN REVIEW

2024.



10,365 HYGIENE ITEMS

1,318 CLOTHING ITEMS

733 LAUNDRY LOADS

1,057 HOT SHOWERS

2,496 DEVICES CHARGED

336 PACKAGES SENT
TO PEOPLE IN IMMIGRATION

DETENTION

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

Quarter 1

The start of 2024 brought freezing temperatures to Thessaloniki, where many of the communities we work in solidarity with struggled to find adequate shelter. Our centre gradually grew busier from January on, as more people used it to shelter from the harsh weather and others arrived anew from the border or released from Pre-Removal Detention Centres.

In February and March, Ramadan preparations and celebrations dominated. Thanks to our hugely successful crowdfunding, we managed to raise more than we anticipated and could make the month extra special for those observing. We adjusted our operating hours to accommodate fasting schedules and provided special Iftar and Suhoor meals like doro wat, briwat, burek and tamina from Ethiopia, Algeria, Morocco and Turkey. Over Ramadan we served over 3,000 meals!



Quarter 2

April saw Wave celebrating its fourth birthday. Although the project has been around Thessaloniki for many years in different formations of self-organised collectives, the pandemic of 2020 led to us formalising under the name of Wave. We took this anniversary as an opportunity to reflect on our growth since then, from an organisation serving take-away meals outside to comply with Covid-19 restrictions, to a fully functional community centre offering multiple services and - most importantly - a safe place for people to use as their own.

In June, we saw changes in the demographics of people coming to the community centre with far more women and children attending. This was due to increased transfers of asylum seekers from the islands to the mainland camps, among other factors. We set up a series of meetings with the new community members to understand how best to address their needs and have sent one of our new coordinators on a safeguarding course recently to adapt our Safeguarding Policy to reflect the new realities of the centre.

Both Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha fell in quarter two this year - one at the beginning and one at the end. We used both as occasions for celebration, serving up feasts with dishes from all over the world and encouraging the communities we work in solidarity with to use our space for their own festivities. In between these two parties, in May, our volunteers revamped the space with fresh paint and shelving and thanks to a private donor we managed to install air conditioning in the storage space which the doctors use to operate their clinic in the summer.

Quarter 3

The summer in Greece brought with it record-breaking heat waves which underscored the importance of our shower services, and donations like fans, mosquito coils, and basic summer clothing. Contributions of a TV and computers for the centre brought much needed relief and entertainment when it was hard to do anything more than lie on the sofas and wait for the heat to pass!

Although we faced capacity issues during this time - which will be expanded on in the 'Challenges' section of this report - our community spirit flourished with members of the community stepping in to support the cooking and cleaning. In September, we celebrated Ethiopian New Year with a special meal of chicken doro wat.



Quarter 4

As the year drew to a close our team developed their capacities with a medical first aid training session, a psychological first aid training workshop, and a safeguarding course for one coordinator. Our barbershop service was revived with new equipment and Ahmed, a dedicated volunteer barber from Morocco who is using the space to hone his skills for a future career.

Our Winter Fundraiser exceeded its target, enabling us to buy thermal clothing and sleeping bags to distribute to those who need it most and were struggling with drastic drops in temperatures. We celebrated Christmas with diverse dishes prepared by members of the communities we work in solidarity with, and we celebrated the festivities and the year's achievements together as 2024 ended.

2024 CHALLENGES

In 2024, there were times where we faced shortages of volunteers and had to operate without a full coordination team due to struggles with recruitment. While Greece used to be considered a migration 'hotspot' and therefore drew in resources like funding, volunteers and in-kind donations, the protracted nature of the so-called crisis for many years now has seen a commitment to the region and displaced communities within it, decline. Greek communities who were very active in 2015 and 2016 have reached their limits, still feeling the ongoing effects of the financial crisis of 2009 in which people lost their homes, businesses and savings. Even though people, local and international, often have empathy with displaced populations they simply cannot keep contributing to gaps that ought to be filled by states and well-funded institutions. This has led to the closure of many organisations across Northern Greece, Athens and the Aegean islands, and those who remain have definitely felt the effects.

We are one of the organisations who has fought to stay open, and we want to be honest here that it hasn't always been easy. In May we were forced to face the situation head on, as we were still operating seven days a week with very few volunteers and a coordination team of three instead of four. We took the difficult decision to close the centre for a few days and collectively strategise around the key issues our team were facing, coming up with creative solutions and a redesign of our operations. This led to the realisation that our biggest issue was capacity, and we took immediate steps to address that.

We decided to reduce our operating hours and open six days a week instead of seven. We also paused our operations providing care packages to people detained in Pre-Removal Detention Centres, luckily before long, Lifting Hands International stepped in and covered these operations for a few months whilst we got back on our feet.

Unfortunately, in August our capacity took another hit. We struggled to replace two coordinators who had moved on from the project and were left running the operations with a coordination team at half capacity with only two members. We again closed the centre for a week in August to address these challenges, and reopened our doors with an operative schedule of four days per week, which we are continuing today.

Although these were very tough decisions to make, we were forced to recognise that we could either push forward with all our services and a reduced team on a short-term unsustainable basis or take a step back to ensure the longevity of the project. When you are so close to the daily reality of the situation it can be hard to see the wood for the trees, and so we brought in extra support from our Board to facilitate these discussions and decisions.

Addressing the changing situation in Greece, including the rising cost of living, we also decided that it would be more sustainable – and therefore beneficial for recruitment – if we were able to reduce operations and the size of the coordination team to offer increased stipend support to those running the project. As we hoped, later rounds of recruitment with improved financial support and asking for a longer term commitment were far more successful than previous ones and we were able to recruit a new, committed and experienced team for the start of 2025.

“ 2024 TESTIMONIALS

“I received a lot of real support, the first of which was when I was in Xanthi detention centre when you gave me clothes. When I left I came to the place where you feed people. Some days I was very happy, and I really wanted to share this feeling with you”

“I know that you are very wonderful people and I thank you very much, appreciate and respect you. This is very wonderful work. I pray for you a lot and thank you a lot for providing assistance to me and others”

“You are the greatest team. Keep up the good work. There is nothing better than helping others”

“The unconditional support of people regardless of their residence status makes Wave a unique partner organisation that fills the term solidarity with so much substance that it can be felt throughout the Community Centre” - **Project Elpida**

“Wave is such an important space. Of all the centres we work in, it is there that we encounter the most vulnerable and underserved participants, and one of the few where we also see people from the local population as well. Despite the many challenges that the team have faced, they keep showing up for their community, and it is a pleasure to work alongside them.” - **Med'Equali Team**



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025

After the difficulties of 2024, we are entering 2025 with renewed hope for and commitment to the future of Wave. This last year forced us to develop creative, innovative solutions and to find new ways to push on in an ever-changing and unpredictable environment.

Over the last six months of 2024, alongside redesigning our operations we collectively strategised about the role of Wave's Board. After a series of consultations with previous, current and new coordinators about what they wanted and needed in a board, we wrote new terms of reference and set about operationalising them. Most of our former Board Members didn't have the capacity to continue under these revised conditions and so we said goodbye to Justyna Rosenthal, Nele Grainne de Burca, Peter Teunissen and Bart Driessen. We want to take this opportunity to thank the former Board Members for all of their support and the time and energy they poured into Wave - none of this would have been achievable without you.

This is definitely a year of goodbyes as we also bid farewell to Annie Molloy, our Project Coordinator for the last two years and seven months. When both co-founders of Wave left Thessaloniki in 2021 and 2022, Annie stepped in to ensure the project could continue and evolve, and she has done a wonderful job of seeing it through major highs and difficult lows. A huge thank you to Annie, your dedication and commitment has been a lifeline for Wave.

Moving into 2025 we have a new Board and a new coordination team that we believe stand ready to take the project forwards and continue our mission of helping where no help is being given, and filling gaps in services for people in Northern Greece. We welcome Ruth Sutton, Daniel Riley Eskitürk and Jelle Pieper as Board Members, with Hope Barker remaining on in her role as Chair. All these Board Members are either former or current volunteers and coordinators who have hands-on experience of the project and understand the specific needs of the communities we work in solidarity with. We also look forward to continuing with Franciso Lisboa, Ronja Schindel and Tamer İbra in the Wave coordination team. Once the new teams have settled into their roles, we hope to all meet in person for a strategy session to think through how we can ensure Wave's sustainability and longevity. At the core of this is the need to honour our commitment to work alongside and in solidarity with communities, rejecting forms of aid that infantilise and paternalise or replicate imbalanced power structures and colonial relationships.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to our donors: For Refugees, Network Anthopia, Stichting Vluchteling, Firefly Hope Project, Project Elpida, Grenzenlose Waerme, International Women of Greece, Desmos, Three Peas Makes a Difference, Cuisine sans Frontieres, the Fund for Global Human Rights, Haella Stichting, Hofstee Stichting and Human Aid Now. A huge thank you to all of our private donors and those who have supported our crowdfunding initiatives over the last year.

We also want to take the opportunity to thank our partners and collaborators: InterEuropean Humanitarian Aid Association, Mobile Info Team, Equal Legal Aid, Med'Equali Team, Lifting Hands International, Naomi, Steki Metanaston, and Thess Redefine Space.

This year of operations would not have been possible without all the volunteers who came through and supported in all their many capacities. We also give a huge thanks to all the coordinators of 2024: Miriam Doyle, Sam Hanley, Ruth Turner, Emily Featherstone, Waseem Almazloun and Cassie Espinosa.



Finally, our greatest thanks go to the communities we work in solidarity with, for making the project what it is and bringing love, courage and strength to the space every day.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Balance sheet

in Euros (€)

Assets

Current Assets

Cash at bank and in hand

Total Assets

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Creditors (Amounts falling due within one year)

Total Liabilities

Total Net Assets or (Liabilities)

2024

2023

57,523

(25)

57,523

(25)

61

-

61

-

57,462

(25)

Statement of Income and Expenses

in Euros (€)

Income

Donations and legacies

Charitable Activities

Total Income

Expenditure

Charitable Activities

Total Expenditure

Net income/(expenditure)

2024

2023

6,586

-

107,629

-

114,215

0

56,753

25

56,753

25

57,462

(25)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Notes concerning the financial statements:

Stichting Wave Aid is a non-commercial foundation based in the Netherlands. The foundation is located at De Bereklaauw 11, 7701 EM Dedemsvaart and is registered with the Chamber of Commerce under file number 91066174. The foundation was officially established on 17 October 2023. In accordance with Article 2:10, paragraph 2 of the Dutch Civil Code, this report includes a Balance Sheet and a Statement of Income and Expenses for the financial year 2024. Stichting Wave Aid has obtained ANBI status (under tax number: 865541644), meaning that donations made to the foundation are tax-deductible for Dutch taxpayers. The financial year of Stichting Wave Aid coincides with the calendar year.

In 2024, Wave Thessaloniki, the field project of Stichting Wave Aid, generated a total income of €114,215, sourced as follows:

Grant Funding	€107,629
Private Donations	€3,195
GoFundMe Campaigns	€3,391

Expenditures for the year amounted to €56,753, distributed across the following categories:

Food & Drink Costs	€12,038
Cleaning Supplies	€1,401
Takeaway Supplies	€3,261
Equipment Costs	€1,250
Gas for Cooking	€1,134
Community Centre Costs	€854
Prison Packages	€1,059
Non-Food Items (Clothing)	€5,397
Other Activity Costs	€197
Premises Costs	€8,981
Vehicle Costs	€4,188
Staff Costs	€16,120
Administration Costs	€873