

A woman with dark hair, wearing a striped sleeveless top and jeans, is carrying a young girl on her shoulders. The girl is wearing a red t-shirt with a cartoon character and purple pants. They are standing in front of a large white sheet hanging over a wall covered in colorful graffiti. The woman is smiling at the camera, and the girl is laughing with her mouth open. The background includes a tree trunk on the right and some greenery at the bottom.

humanitycrew

Annual Report 2018



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MISSION

Humanity Crew is an international aid organization specializing in the provision of first response mental health interventions and psychological aid to refugees and people in crisis. Humanity Crew works to deploy mental health and psychosocial support to displaced populations in order to improve their mental health and wellbeing, to restore order in their lives, and to prevent further psychological escalation. Humanity Crew seeks to create a world in which mental health support is a fundamental component in all emergency efforts for victims of humanitarian crises.

OVERVIEW

Humanity Crew's third active year was fruitful and exciting. Our progress has been documented and showcased through a TED talk by our own co-founder and mental health director who was also named a TED Fellow, a TEDx talk by one of our team members, contributing to the new World Health Organization's (WHO) mental health and psychosocial support (MH-PSS) technical guidelines, our first international conference that we hosted in Athens, new research reports and five new funds, amongst other accomplishments. We have witnessed significant progress in all aspects of our work and have ensured the documentation of our growth in order to constantly assess and improve our services.

For yet another year however, the refugee situation, in general and regarding mental health support specifically, has remained a catastrophe. People remain helpless, traumatized, and stuck. The numbers remain shocking, and the need for MHPSS continues to be a dire need to all those being affected in this modern-day refugee crisis, including the service providers working in the field.



THE REFUGEE SITUATION IN EUROPE IN 2018

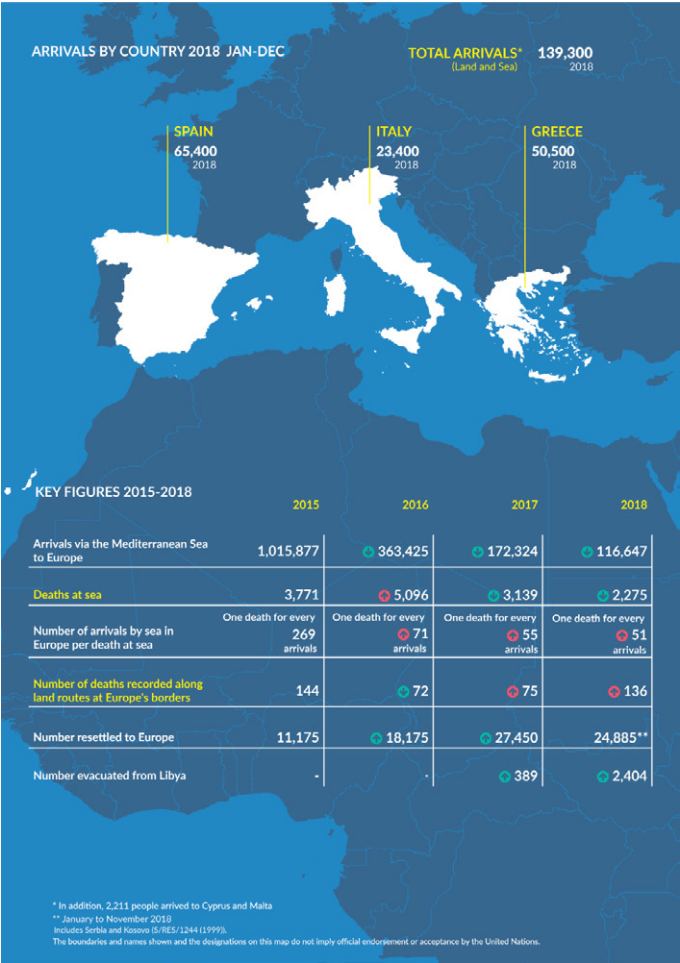
Even though the number of arrivals is down from their peak in the height of the refugee crisis in 2015 due to the new Balkan borders, the Italy-Libya arrangement and the EU-Turkey deal, thousands of people are still trying to reach Europe.

The lack of mental health support for those going through the journey, those who have arrived and waiting, and for those who have settled into their host countries is still critical, and social, legal and mental obstacles further aggravate

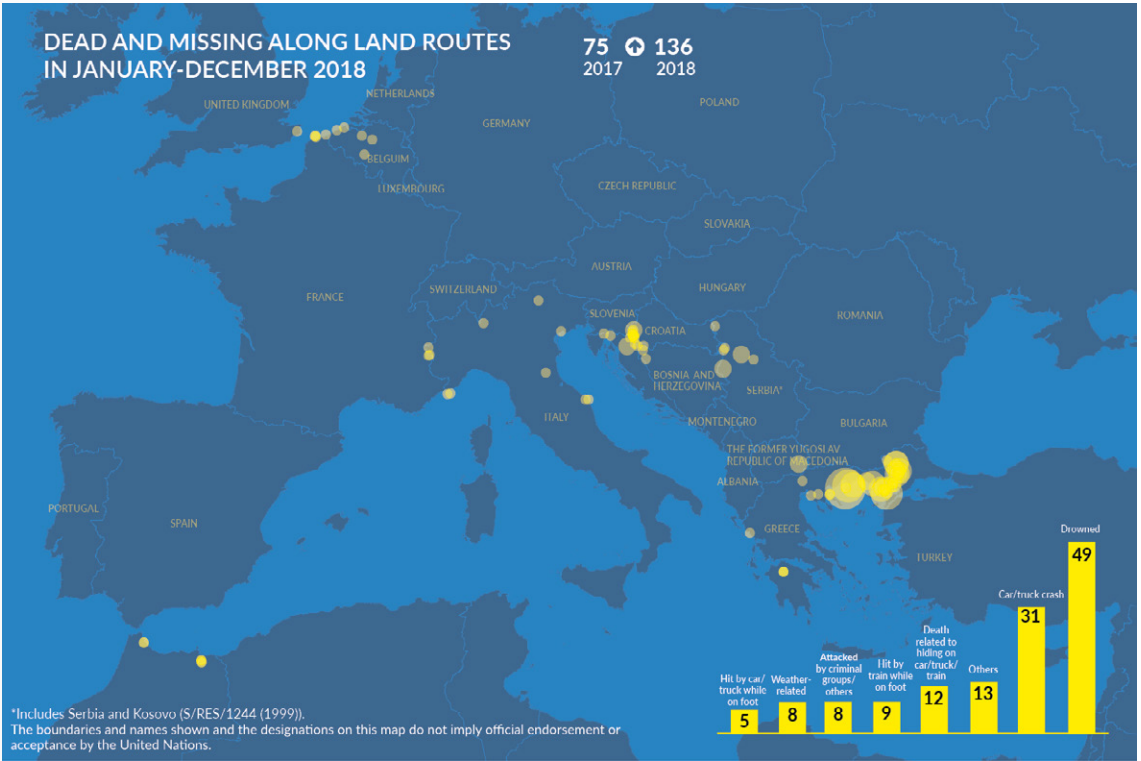
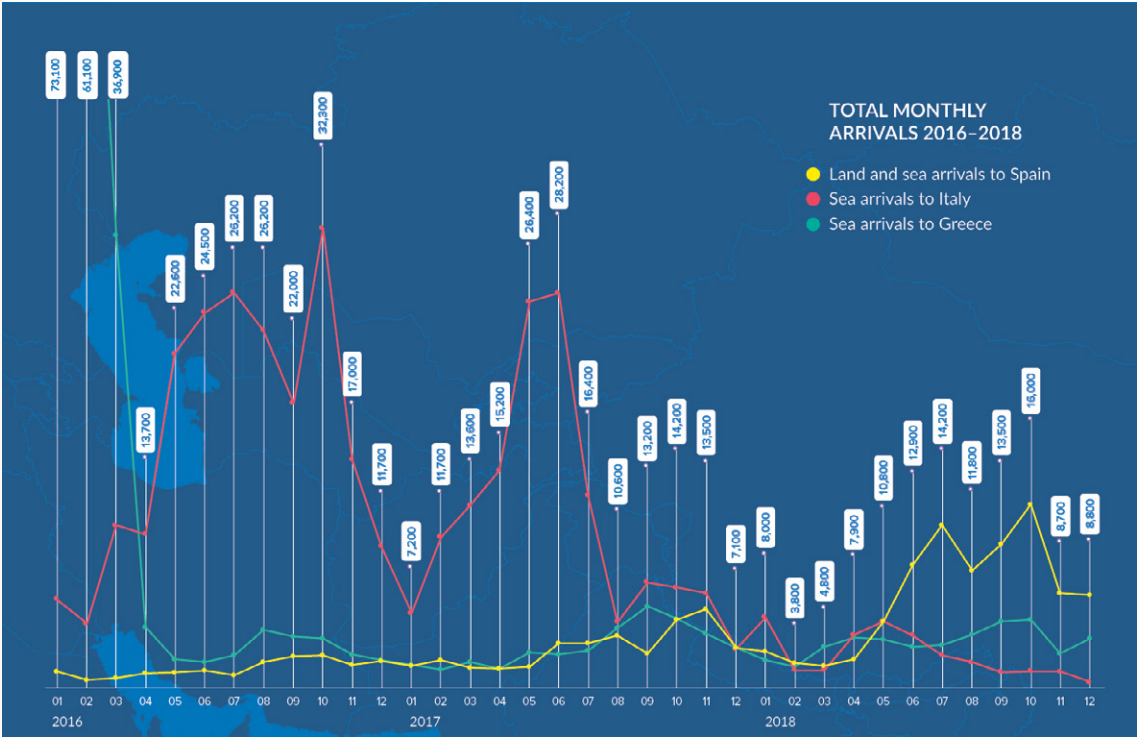
their overall wellbeing and resettlement.

[According to UNHCR](#), 2,275 people are estimated to have drowned in the sea (an average of 6 deaths per day) along their journey in 2018. 139,300 people

successfully crossed to Europe through land and sea, with almost 11,000 of them being children. Spain received the largest numbers of refugees with a total of 65,000 people, increasing the numbers by 131% from last year. Greece received 50,500 refugees by land and sea increasing its numbers by 45% from last year, and Italy received 23,400 with a decrease of 80%.



“Until the root causes and triggers of displacement and migration are addressed in many countries in nearby regions, people will continue to seek safety and protection. [...] Refugees hoping to be reunited with family members in Europe continue to face significant obstacles that keep many of them apart. These obstacles include restrictive definitions of family applied by some states, difficulties gaining access to the relevant embassies in order to apply, a lack of access to the documentation required to prove family links, the high costs involved in the process, and delayed or more limited access to family reunification for beneficiaries of subsidiary protection.”



*Infographics and data: UNHCR Desperate Journeys Report of Jan-Dec 2018



OUR WORK IN GREECE & THE MEDITERRANEAN

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We started off our 2018 with an assessment period to all our work. We built a new MHPSS program in Athens and launched it in early March, expanding to an urban setting with a full team of professionals and qualified

volunteers. We created new partnerships with centers and built programs in all of them, tailored to cater to the needs of each location's beneficiaries which we implemented through community-based interventions run by our qualified

volunteers, and focus groups and individual sessions conducted by our mental health professionals in the field.

As way of background, since November 2015 Humanity Crew has worked in camps, shorelines, ports, centers,

shelters, rescue boats, and hospitals. We ran significant emergency work during the height of the refugee crisis and initiated several emergency operations. These initially included work on-board rescue boats, mental health mobile clinics on shores and ports, and our work with hospital staff and transit camps once refugees were referred there. We then continued the work throughout the years in different geographical locations as well as various establishments providing MHPSS services as well as tailored trainings and workshops.

We have tailored detailed activities to contribute to the resilience of the refugees, prevent the deterioration of their mental health, and enhance the communal empathy and support mechanisms. The activities, implemented by mental health professionals and qualified volunteers, support the refugees' recovery by empowering them with tools and skills to cope with the traumas they have endured. They conducted daily activities for children that included recreational activities and non-formal educational activities. We led weekly activities for adults that included

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crisis intervention for individuals and families in need, as well as support group sessions which included gender and age sensitive groups for men, women and teenagers. From these group sessions, we were then able to detect particularly vulnerable cases which we later treated on an individual case by case basis. We also conducted dyadic activities for infants and their primary caregivers.

The work in the field was then coupled by our research and awareness campaigns through different social media outlets, university partnerships, talks, staff trainings, and NGO workshops to reach a larger audience and attack the issue of lack of mental health services from all sides and on all levels.

ATHENS

In July of 2017, our team, with the direct supervision of our mental health director, ran a pilot program and assessment in order to scope out the urban setting of the field work before our start in 2018. We assessed different centers and projects in Athens, as well as MHPSS community centers. Our team returned after a long and fruitful month with significant feedback, and the result of our research and assessment was translated to our urban program launch in Athens, Greece in March of 2018 in partnership with 10 different centers, shelters, and organizations.

Partners

Hestia Hellas: A community center that addresses the growing need for mental health services, psychosocial support, life skills training, integration-focused services, and services for children with special needs. Our partnership: we have offered community based activities specialized for children, individual sessions, and an Arabic speaking women's focus group.



Mosaico House: A shelter for vulnerable single women and children with a mission to help provide a safe space for refugees to live, learn, grow and be empowered. Our partnership: we have offered community based activities specialized for children run by our qualified and long-term volunteers, psycho-educational activities, dyadic focus groups, mothers focus group, young women focus group, and children's focus group, alongside various individual session cases.

The Unmentionables: A community day center that provides forcibly displaced individuals and communities around the world with safe and consistent access

to sexual and reproductive health education, services, protection, and empowerment programs, providing them the knowledge, tools, and skills to make well-informed decisions for their futures. Our partnership: we provided focus groups for the young women there, as well as a focus group for mothers. We were also responsible for some of their Arabic speaking individual sessions, and have provided a training for their staff. The Unmentionables were also part of our panel on mental health issues during our conference in Athens (see page 12).

Welcommon: Is a seven-floor facility building in the center of Athens that

offers accommodation for people of all ages and places, a hostel for sustainable tourism, a proposal for accommodation of social, cultural and environmental active persons during their stay in Athens. Previously a shelter for almost 400 vulnerable cases, it is now more than just a hostel with social impact. It serves as a community center and is an experiment of innovation and art, as well as a centre for social and job integration for Greek locals, migrants and refugees. Our partnership: we have long been partners of Welcommon, as they were the center where we piloted our programs in the beginning of our move to Athens. We have offered community based activities, festivity planning, volunteer debriefings, staff trainings, individual sessions and focus groups.

Velos Youth: Is a non-profit that provides a safer space and a youth service for displaced and disenfranchised young people (aged 16-21). The community center operates as a community-minded, grassroots layers of attention to vulnerable youth, and facilitates access to state-run and other established services including protection, asylum, accommodation and education. Our partnership: we have

provided a young men's focus group in Velos, hold individual sessions with their Arabic speaking beneficiaries, and have previously provided training for their staff and beneficiaries.

Greek Forum of Refugees: According to their website, the aim of GFR is to create a panhellenic network of individuals, legal professionals and communities, working to support asylum seekers, political refugees and stateless persons, as well as any others who may meet the criteria set by the Convention of Geneva and the protocols attached to it, or the Greek framework for the protection. Our partnership: we have offered three different trainings for the staff and beneficiaries of the organization as well as contributed to their information booklet by writing a chapter on inclusion, exclusion, diversity and cosmopolitanism. One of the trainings offered was part of a larger project in collaboration with the renowned fashion designer **Saher Okal**, where he assisted the forum's beneficiaries in their crafts services and offered them various methods in regards to how and where they should sell their products and use their talent.

Home Project: A unifying initiative set



up to address the needs of refugees and refugee children in particular who have arrived in Greece alone and provide them with security, dignity and decent living conditions for the most vulnerable throughout the shelters they have scattered in the city of Athens. Our partnership: we were responsible for providing focus groups for the children, and a focus group for the young mothers in one of the shelters.

Melissa Network of Migrant Woman: Melissa is a community center in Athens and is a network for migrant women living in Athens, Greece. It aims to strengthen their bonds, to build a bridge of communication with the host society

and to promote empowerment and active citizenship. Our partnership: we provided community based activities to their children's space where our volunteers built programs and assisted Melissa's staff.

Khora Community Center: Was a humanitarian co-operative foundation run completely by volunteers before it was shut down. They had focused on the provision of services for refugees in their community center. Our partnership: we offered focus group sessions, community based activities focused to children and parents, and individual sessions.



ACSAR Foundation: Within the framework of the [UNINTEGRA European project](#), the ACSAR Foundation organizes stays of socio-educational support and emotional recovery aimed at refugees in Greece, in partnership with NGOs and Greek local entities. The stays are made by teams formed up of participants from different disciplines and training experiences, with their main objective being to directly support the refugees in their daily lives. [Our partnership:](#) as partners of the UNINTEGRA project we were responsible to provide trainings for their staff and volunteers that are based in Athens. We ran trainings twice a month for three months for their staff.

Skaramagas Camp: A camp on the outskirts of Athens that hosts around

3,500 refugees. [Our partnership:](#) we offered a training workshop for Skaramagas beneficiary women in regards to sewing and the making of clothes through our Hero Project and [our collaboration with Saher Okal](#).

THE MEDITERRANEAN

As a continuation of our efforts to provide mental health first aid on the front lines, Dr. Essam Daod, Humanity Crew mental health director, embarked on a rescue effort in the Mediterranean with our partners Proactiva Open Arms. He was on board as a mental health lifeguard and documenting the status in the Mediterranean. [Watch one of his videos documenting](#) the harsh reality of the sea.



OUR WORK WITH OTHER PROFESSIONALS

Part of our 2018 activities was aimed at other NGO staff, service providers, volunteers, and mental health professionals in the field. Our mental health experts implemented educational workshops and informative trainings in mental health

related issues, as well as cultural mediated tips on working with Syrian, Iraqi and other Arabic speaking people. The workshops we offered in 2018 as part of our "helping the helpers" program have expanded from the previous year and now include:

- 1. **Cultural Aspects in Death, Grief, and Bereavement:** Understanding the role of cultural background on the recovery process.
- 2. **Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Grief:** Prevention, detection and early intervention.
- 3. **Children and Traumatic Stress:** Providing the tools the service providers need to bond with children and important approaches to decrease their anxiety and calm their behaviors.
- 4. **Exposure Therapy Basic Training:** Exposure therapy based treatment for trauma, basic elements, and understanding.
- 5. **Case Studies, Dilemmas and Conflicts in Working with Refugees:** Discussion of case studies, dilemmas and conflicts and what we can learn from them.
- 6. **EMDR Basic Training:** Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) therapy basic elements for trauma interventions.
- 7. **Anxiety, Hysteria, and Panic Attacks:** Steps for the appropriate reaction and intervention.
- 8. **Sexual Harassment Training Workshop:** Integrating theories and exploring treatment and intervention options.
- 9. **Building a Functioning Heterogeneous Community:** The role of cultural factors: How to work through them and not against them towards a functioning heterogeneous community.
- 10. **Trauma and the Disorganized Attachment in Refugee Children:** Integrating theories and exploring options of intervention.
- 11. **Psychological First Aid (PFA):** How to provide PFA to people in crisis.
- 12. **Skills for Psychological Recovery (SPR):** How to help the survivors afterwards gain skills for SPR in order to manage distress and cope with post-disaster stress and adversity.
- 13. **Strengthening Personal Resilience:** Placing the personal resilience of service providers and refugees in the context of the humanitarian crisis and exploring the influences, techniques and approaches that help individuals

develop and sustain personal control and resilience.

- 14. **Suicide and Self Harm Intervention and Prevention Training:** Training designed to help service providers to recognize, review risks and intervene to prevent the immediate risk of suicide and self-harm.
- 15. **Empowering Workshop for Women Refugees:** Empowerment group for refugee women and creating support frameworks.
- 16. **Sensitivity Training for Women Focused Care-Service Providers:** How to achieve better understanding of the context of violence against

women in Arab/Middle Eastern societies and the conflicts, social characteristics and values that need to be respected while working with them.

- 17. **Interpreters in Mental Health:** Preserving the therapeutic setting, avoiding pathological, and symbiotic relations, building self-resilience, detection of vulnerable cases and better understanding of the triangular relationship between therapist, interpreter, and beneficiary.
- 18. **Mental Health Lifeguards:** Training lifeguards and first responders in issues related to mental health first aid in the sea and mental health emergency response.



OUR VOLUNTEERS

In 2018, our volunteer training program was a continued success. Run by a team of mental health professionals, we led 4 open-for-all trainings covering a total of 20 hours of material. The trainings offered background information about the locations we work in, the current refugee situation, intensive Psychological First Aid (PFA), resilience tools, appropriate recreational activities, psycho-

educational activities, intervention tools, EMDR elements, cultural mediation tools, scenario simulations, focus group activation, and the code of conduct of volunteering.

By 2018, we have completed over 230 missions with over 182 qualified

volunteers supporting our mental health professional team in the field. Our volunteers, under the supervision of our mental health coordinator, built programs for the refugees within their own line of work, hobbies, and skills, in order to implement within their missions. In addition, our volunteers assist us locally where we often hold events, trainings, lectures, workshops, and exhibitions for the local community to raise awareness.

In 2018, our volunteers served more than 1,310 hours of volunteering in Athens.

"I volunteered twice with Humanity Crew. It is my second home filled with love and endless giving from the amazing and professional crew. Through my experience I realized that not only are we changing the refugees' lives, but we're also changing ours. As volunteers we experience and hear a lot of difficult stories and it changes us, it leaves us with an incredible feeling, it makes us look at life differently and makes us believe in humanity again, because anyway our true identity is humanity. Speaking the same language as the refugees

makes our experience with them very different and it is an important tool in understanding their true needs." - **Suha Batthish, returning volunteer, Athens 2018**

"In the first days at the centers I could see the different agendas, different physical looks and different people that come around, but what was the same all the time is that people (Arabic speakers) who met us were always astonished that we talk Arabic. One of the kids told me 'You talk just like us! Arabic'. I didn't understand his innocent reaction and amazed face at the moment. Through my volunteering in Athens I got to see the huge number of volunteers that come and go. Nearly all of them English speaking. The children have to adjust to this new language, beside many other changes, and to learn it in order to communicate with that new person who will be leaving soon. I think for the children speaking in another language it is like crossing another bridge by themselves, like their arrival to Athens. Speaking Arabic as a mother tongue too I think it made it easier for them. It is like someone crossed the bridge for

them and with them. That someone came or approached them to where they are now. The children who spoke Arabic were intuitively coming across and expressing freely their desires, their dreams, and their fears.

Getting to know the centers and the dynamic families, I felt more connected and knew their needs and which activities will suit them. The program with Humanity Crew helped me see the group and also the individual, so we had aims that were wider, and other more for specific individuals. I will always remember the good time and the gorgeous people I met there, their strength and ambitions.” - **Haya Zidan, long-term volunteer, Athens 2018**

“This interaction with refugees of such diverse age groups from over a dozen countries was a very insightful and humbling experience. The refugees, I came across some of the most intelligent and smart people, who just seemed to have been unfortunate to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. It taught me a lot about our bubble of privilege, which in reality is just based on our accident of birth. It also helped me empathize with the refugees, as I tried to put myself in the same shoes as those affected, and was left in awe by their resilience and steadfastness” - **Mohammad Ali Ilahi, Cornell University volunteer, Athens 2018**

RESEARCH

In addition to our field work and expert trainings and workshops, our research department conducts and leads several field and clinical research, and shares published reports in academic journals, international conferences, and the media about our findings. We aim to produce more knowledge for ourselves and for other organizations in the field of the mental health of refugees, stressing the role of culture and language in the psychosocial support process.

WHO

Humanity Crew was part of the [WHO Expert Working Group](#) and contributed technical advice and expertise to the technical guidelines for “Mental health promotion and mental health care in refugees and migrants”. The guidelines were published in November of 2018 and can be [read here](#).

The Migration and Health program, the first fully fledged program on migration and health at the WHO Regional Office for Europe, was established to strengthen

the health sector’s capacity to provide evidence- informed responses to the public health challenges of refugee and migrant health. This technical guidance reviews the frequency of some mental health disorders. Based on best-available evidence regarding risk factors and areas for intervention, eight key priority action areas are identified in the report for consideration by policy- makers regarding the mental health of refugees and migrants.

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Humanity Crew was approached by [The Cornell Institute for Public Affairs \(CIPA\)](#) in order to cooperate with students as part of their studies during their MPA and Capstone project at Cornell University. Our organization was chosen by three different groups as a case study and was part of their project research. In 2018, they delivered two reports addressing different subjects.

Our partnership formulated three reports for the publication of Humanity Crew in conjunction with CIPA. The first report addressed the difficulties of fundraising for an organization similar to Humanity Crew who functions on different fields and in different countries. The second was a Capstone report consisting of two parts; the first completed in 2017 and the second in early 2018. The Capstone report covered [MHPSS guidelines](#) within camps and centres in Greece, and if/how the employees of different organizations benefit from them. The 2018 report is the result of their fieldwork in Greece, done specifically for this study and led by Humanity Crew. The third study that took place was in regards to media and the mental health of refugees which resulted in a report completed in 2018, and fieldwork that is ongoing in 2019.

Moreover, we had a Cornell intern come and assist the headquarters in Haifa with various projects in the summer of 2018.

GREEKFORUMOFREFUGEES

In 2018, Humanity Crew contributed in the writing of a manual in collaboration with one of our partners, the [Greek Forum of Refugees](#). The manual introduces students to the notion of exclusion and its impact on individuals and communities. It also provides students with a list of best practices of dos and don'ts, which strive to eliminate prejudice and alienation and facilitate inclusion. It ends with a list of activities on exclusion/inclusion and suggested readings for those who are interested in deepening their knowledge and understanding. The manual was written by one of our mental health experts, Dr. Suha Diab.

RAISING AWARENESS

Humanity Crew's team has been active in raising awareness both locally and abroad in regards to the current mental health status of the refugees and the importance of mental health in that context. In 2018, we held over 50 talks in conferences, forums, universities, schools, embassies, and private NGOs on the importance of mental health aid for refugees. Some of the initiatives that we took part in in 2018 included TED talks, webinars hosted by Omprakesh, MHPSS sub working groups, Interdisciplinary Workshop run by The School of Disobedience, Women's Forum in Paris, The Civil Society Forum, The Second Mental Health Conference in Gaza, and the NEXUS forum.

OUR FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Humanity Crew organized its first international conference in October of 2018 in Athens, Greece entitled **"Refugees and Mental Health: A Holistic Approach to Trauma, Stress,**

and Resettlement". The conference was a great success bringing over 140 people over the course of two days and participants from all over the world, including Greece, Afghanistan, Britain, Palestine, USA, Jordan, and Ireland.

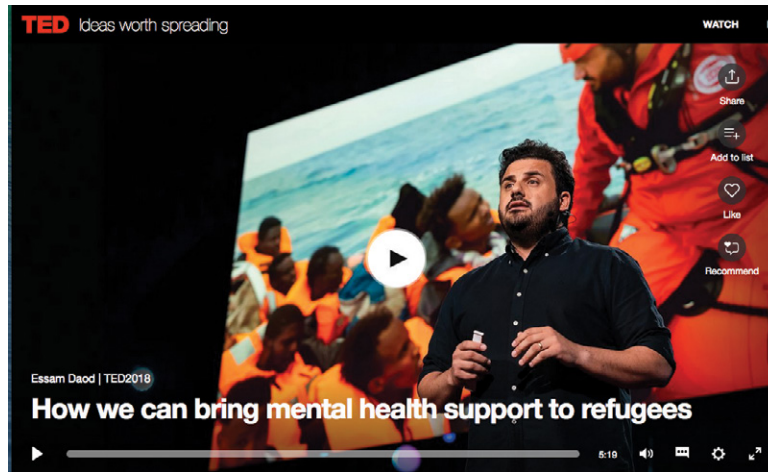
The conference covered different topics and workshops including *Suicide and Self Harm: Understanding and Prevention*, *Tension Relaxing Exercise* training, *Neurofeedback* training, *EMDR* training, *SEE FAR CBT* training, a panel discussion on *Issues, Challenges, and Successes in the Field, Psychological Trauma*, and *Child Traumatic Stress*, among others.

TED

In 2018, Dr. Essam Daod, co-founder and mental health director of Humanity Crew was announced as a 2018 Ted Fellow and went ahead to give a [TED talk](#) on their main stage. His talk went viral and has gathered over 1 million views and counting.

Dr. Daod's talk communicated the importance of mental health first aid in moments of crisis, and showcased the positive effects of preventing child trauma from developing with the correct tools and methods. The talk, and its powerful message on the refugee crisis, and the mental health aspects surrounding it, garnered a massive amount of followers, and succeeded in raising awareness which was showcased through with the amount of donations, articles, researchers, and attention the organization received after it aired. The talk also allowed us to network with many different organizations and entities which in turn allowed us to raise more awareness and fulfil our mission.

The [TED Fellows program](#) supports extraordinary, iconoclastic individuals at work on world-changing projects, providing them with access to the global [TED](#) platform and community, as well as new tools and resources to amplify their remarkable vision. The



TED Fellows program now includes 453 Fellows who work across 96 countries, forming a powerful, far-reaching network of artists, scientists, doctors, activists, entrepreneurs, inventors, journalists and beyond, each dedicated to making our world better and more equitable.

PICUM

[PICUM](#), the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants, is a network of organizations working to ensure social justice and human rights for undocumented migrants. Humanity Crew became a member of the PICUM forum in 2018.

General Assembly

Humanity Crew attended PICUM's General Assembly in Brussels in April

2018, and was officially voted in as a member of the network. The Annual General Assembly had around a 100 representatives of over 160 member organizations.

GLOBAL PHILANTHROPY FORUM

[The Global Philanthropy Forum](#) is a peer-learning network of philanthropists and social investors committed to advancing international causes. Through conferences, programs and matchmaking services, the GPF seeks to build a community of philanthropists, and to inform, enable and enhance the strategic nature of its members' giving and social investing.

In May of 2018, Humanity Crew joined the forum and was one of the main speakers in its annual conference in Palo Alto. Our co-founder discussed the importance and repercussions of mental health on people in crisis.

WOMEN'S FORUM

Our team participated and were invited to speak at the [Women's Forum](#) Global Meeting in Paris in November 2018. The Forum gathered global leaders from

different societies and economies to bridge divides and move towards more inclusive progress for all of humanity.

NEXUS & UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

UN General Assembly

Our co-founder was the closing speaker at the UN General Assembly session hosted by [NEXUS](#) Global Summit.

Nexus is a global community founded to bridge communities of wealth and



social entrepreneurship. The 2018 NEXUS Global Summit, under the theme of "Next Generation Solutions for a World in Transition", took place from July 26-28 in New York City, and included a session at the United Nations headquarters. The annual event is an exclusive gathering of 600+ leading next generation philanthropists, impact investors, and social innovators

from 70 countries. Humanity Crew was among other young and inspiring actors who were also invited to share and explore solutions to pressing problems facing our generation and the world in 2018 and beyond.

Nexus MENA

Ms. Shadia Sbait, our strategy and development advisor, contributed in the NEXUS MENA Summit titled “Leaving No One Behind - Inclusive Models for People on the Move and Host Communities.” The summit took place in Cairo, Egypt.

TEDxHAMBURG

One of our core staff members and programs coordinator, Ms. Jana Boulus, delivered a TEDx talk in Germany with the title of “Showing evil the other face of reality”. Jana highlighted Humanity Crew’s work, the importance of her cultural heritage and history, and the importance of grassroots organizations.

THE POPE’S INVITATION

Humanity Crew, was very humbled to be invited for Mass in Rome’s St. Peter’s Basilica in July 2018, by his holiness



Pope Francis who was commemorating his 5th anniversary of his visit to migrants and refugees in Lampedusa. The Pope thanked rescuers of refugees and migrants for “embodying the parable of the Good Samaritan”, and it was a great honor for Humanity Crew’s founders to join a group of people who are dedicated to doing good in the world, in one of the world’s holiest places.

Humanity Crew continues to be the leading grassroots source for refugee mental health information and awareness.

FUNDING

Up until 2017, most of Humanity Crew’s funding came from community-based support. All our operations ran on private funding and community led support from our volunteers and friends of the organization. In 2018 however, we changed our method of fundraising and focused on applying to funds, trusts, grants, and other applications in an official and professional manner, ceasing our fieldwork temporarily, with the aim to receive a more sustainable source of income and stability. By the end of 2018, we had received 5 funds.

OUR SUPPORTERS

CCFD-Terre Solidaire: The Catholic Committee against hunger and for development (CCFD-Terre Solidaire) is a French Catholic humanitarian aid non-governmental organization with an objective to look for, work with and support the ‘actors of social change’.

Kahane Foundation: The Foundation was established in 1991 by the late Karl Kahane as an independent, privately funded, non-political and non-religious charitable foundation and it aims to help people create a dignified and peaceful living environment for themselves and their neighbours.

Kathryn B McQuade Foundation: The Foundation was established in 2013 by Kathryn B. McQuade and it strives to make sustainable improvements in women and children’s rights education and welfare.

The Global Whole Being Fund: Established in 2016 the GWBF explores holistic ways to embrace human dignity, generosity and kindness by awarding grants through RSF Social Finance in San Francisco, California.

The Woods and Gil Family Foundation: Established in 2017, the WGFF is a private foundation that makes grants in four key areas: human rights, education, arts and culture, and human services. The Foundation’s focus is on improving the lives of children, families, and communities.

We thank all our funders for allowing us to implement our work and for believing in our mission!

NEWSLETTER

Our newsletter is a way for us to connect to our friends, supporters, donors, and people who are generally interested in our work and want to receive updates. Our newsletter email is comprised of a short publication which includes updates, photos, videos, of our recent work. Since its start, we have published a newsletter every few months. In 2018 we published 6 newsletters, in [January](#), [March](#), [June](#), [November](#), and [December](#).

Women, TED, and more!

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Humanity Crew Celebrates Women

In celebration of March and in conjunction with Mother's Day and International Women's Day, we want to take a chance and give a big shout out to the women of Humanity Crew: Maria, Shadia, and Jena. We are proud of the fact that our office is female dominated with the women running the show! We are also proud and thankful that out of our 170 volunteers, 110 of them were female. We want to thank all the women who significantly change the status quo by living their full potential and working to make this world a better place for themselves and others, despite the many obstacles they face.



This is a painting done in 2016 by our CEO, Maria Jammal, by Baker from Davata Camp.



HUMANITY CREW ON TED

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Watch the story of **Omar**, the little boy who stopped the waves with his hands.

On **World Refugee Day** we are doing our part by raising awareness of the mental health of refugees throughout the world. Our very own **2018 TED Fellow** Dr. Essam Daod gives a talk on the TED stage proving that from small ideas, big accomplishments can be made, and revealing the story that made him dedicate his life to refugees' mental health.

Click on the video below to watch.



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This November Marks

THREE YEARS OF OUR

HUMANITARIAN WORK

In 2018 alone, over 6,320 hours of Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support were provided specifically to Children!



Overall, with your valuable help and support, Humanity Crew has been able to improve the lives of refugees through:



IN THE NEWS

Humanity Crew continues to receive a lot of attention in the media in 2018. We were featured in over 18 news stories including [Fast Company](#), [National Geographic](#) and [Haaretz](#). For more news coverage please [click here](#).

In the fall of 2015, [Essam Daod](#) was standing on the beach in Lesbos, Greece, when a crowded rubber dinghy packed with refugees landed ashore. Among them was an inconsolable five-year-old Syrian boy named Omar.



Left: Twelve-year-old Riham Saad was born and raised in Damascus. Now, she and her family live in Moria camp on the Island of Lesbos in Greece. The camp, which was built to hold 2,500 people, is at double capacity. Sometimes electricity cuts and the darkness reminds her of the... [Read More](#)

PHOTOGRAPH BY ROBIN HAMMOND

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