

Updates, News, and Observations

WE CARRIED OUT

28

SESSIONS

WE WORKED WITH

148

CHILDREN

WE PLAYED FOR

67

HOURS

Both France and the UK have signed and ratified the **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**, meaning they have the obligation to **respect, protect and fulfill** the rights within it. Instead, they **pursue hostile border policies** which prevent children on the move from accessing their rights.

Access to Play

The 11th June marked the UN's first International Day of Play. On this day, we joined with partner organisations across 3 continents to celebrate the importance of play, but also to open up conversations about the barriers far too many children face to accessing this right - on the UK-France border and further afield.

Play is the cornerstone of childhood, supporting social, cognitive, physical and emotional development. It is not a luxury - it is a right, and fundamental to the lives of all children. Yet, the children we work with have no access to safe spaces to play, instead facing regular violence and being forced to undertake life threatening journeys to safety. We urgently need an end to hostile border policies that inflict violence on so many children, and prevent them from accessing their rights.

A.16: Right to Play

State Violence

Last month, we again had a high number of disclosures from children in regards to police violence during crossing attempts. A number of children spoke about the teargas being used against them, and two children sustained injuries to their limbs. Seeking asylum is a human right - no-one should be forced to risk their lives to access safety.

A.19: Freedom from violence

Our advocacy extends to all children subject to violence and rights violations. We've partnered with Hope and Play, who work to bring play to children in Gaza. These children face displacement, loss and trauma - day in and day out. Follow and support Hope & Play to enable them to continue bringing small moments of joy amidst the ongoing genocide.

Standards of Living

For children who live in informal living sites, there is no state provided water, food or sanitation facilities. This prevents them from accessing basic necessities to live healthily and in dignity. As the weather gets warmer, we have observed an increased number of children telling us that they are thirsty. Last month, we also had a number of children reporting that they were extremely hungry. The living site itself has no waste disposal facilities, and our team noted that there was often broken glass, rubbish and other debris close to where we set up.

A.27: Standard of Living

