

February 2023



Project Play is a grassroots NGO that aims to provide safe spaces for displaced children in northern France.

31
Children

21
In GS

10
In MA

We work with children in the informal living site in Grande-Synthe (GS), as well as in independently run safe houses and day centres (maisons accueillantes - MA).

This month, we worked with 31 children - 21 in Grande-Synthe and 10 in maisons accueillantes.

Compared to last month, we worked with almost 50% fewer children. The numbers of people living on the border fluctuate for a wide variety of reasons, and we hope that children and their families have been able to access warmer spaces. An increase in eviction operations and a dangerous chemical leak exposed people to new hazards, and meant that our service was disrupted.

Chlorine release

Next to GS, a factory caught fire and resulted in a chemical leak, believed to be chlorine.

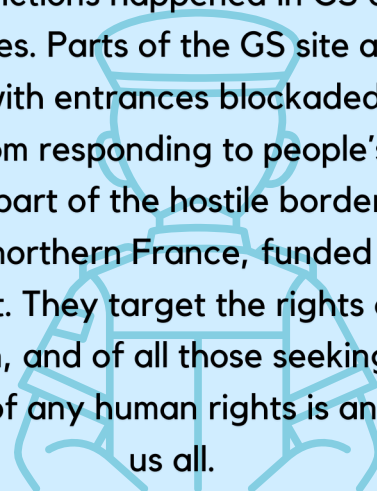
The chlorine in the air caused people to experience symptoms including burning eyes & respiratory difficulties. More than 20 people reported for medical attention. Yet, the authorities in Dunkirk did not take any action with evacuation, washing or provision of medical attention



State violence

Several evictions happened in GS and other living sites. Parts of the GS site are now unusable, with entrances blockaded to prevent NGOs from responding to people's needs.

They are part of the hostile border policies pursued in northern France, funded by the UK government. They target the rights of women, of children, and of all those seeking safety. The denial of any human rights is an affront to us all.



This month, at least 62 people have been killed off the southern coast of Italy whilst trying to seek safety. Men, women, children, and a newborn baby. Simultaneously, the Italian Government introduced new measures against sea rescue charities. The pursuit of increasingly hostile deterrence policies will not stop people from making these journeys. It only make them more dangerous.

As members of Calais Appeal, we were partners in Collective Aid's campaign 'New Year, Old Policies'. Messages of people-on-the-move were used to create posters that have been exposed in public spaces. The aim is to bring those voices to the ears of the politicians who create and uphold unjust policies. It is never too late to print posters, put them up and tag politicians! More information at @collectiveaidorg 's social media and website.



www.project-play.org

Contact us:
advocacy@project-play.org

No childhood should look like this.

Project Play is a registered French Charity, No: W594012083. We also operate under Donate4Refugees, Charity No: 1168435.