

April 2023

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



76
Children

45
In GS

31
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 76 children. We expect the total number of children living in informal sites in northern France to be higher.

Food & Water

There is no state provided food or water for people on the move in northern France. This month, a family asked us for both food and water, expressing that they hadn't eaten in two days.

Environment

The weather has continued to be cold and windy. On **four occasions, children told us that they felt cold, and needed jackets.** On multiple occasions, children **didn't have access to warm and dry socks or shoes.** With the state failing to provide support, people rely on NGOs, but supplies are often limited.

The Failure to Provide Safe Routes

Safe routes to the UK are increasingly inaccessible for those who need them; instead hostile policies are doubled down on, forcing more people to undertake more hazardous journeys in search of safety.

Mental Wellbeing: We often observe a marked change in the behaviour of children over time, as they endure repeated failed crossing attempts and are forced to remain in the hostile conditions of northern France for longer. **Children display lower energy levels and are visibly distressed and upset.**

Children express fear & worry about the journeys they're forced to embark on. This month, **a child asked us what to do if someone drowned. Another child asked what to do if their little brother got in the water.**

Physical Health: We also observe the physical impact of crossings; **a child injured their leg as their boat sank, and a parent told us their baby had been hospitalised with hypothermia after an attempt.**

No child should have to endure these journeys.

No parent should be forced to put their child in a boat to reach safety.

The relentless pursuit of hostile border policies must end - and we must ensure that safe routes are accessible to all those who need them. Head to our website to find out how you can take action.



www.project-play.org

Contact us:
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No childhood should look like this.

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