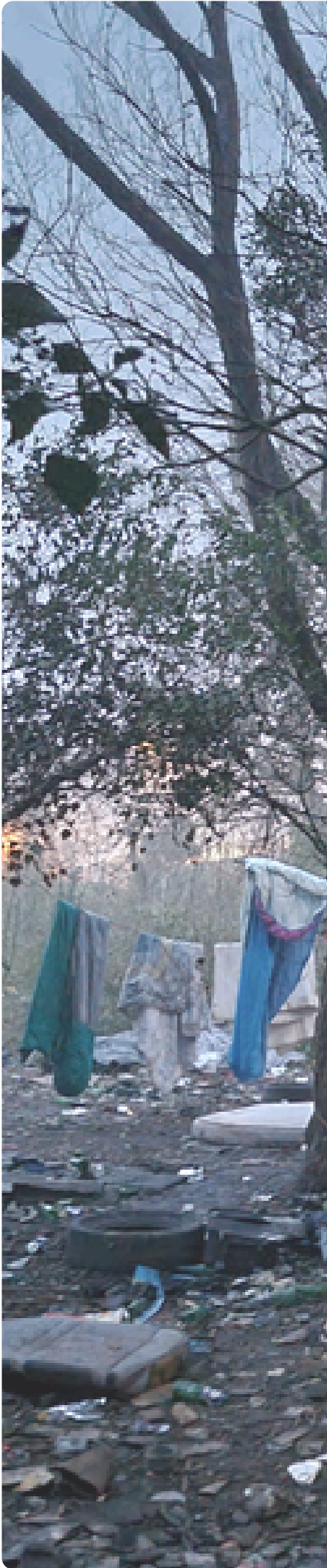


Refugee Womens Center

ANNUAL REPORT

2025





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INTRODUCTION

The year 2025 continued along a trajectory marked, since 2017, by a steady increase in the number of people on the coast, worsening living conditions, and the continued violation of fundamental rights. Compared with 2024, the number of people in the Calais and Dunkirk areas doubled. In the informal settlement in Dunkirk, the Refugee Women's Centre met and supported 12,528 people, compared with 5,426 in 2024 (p.17).

In this context, we have strengthened both our capacity and our organisation in order to respond as effectively as possible to growing challenges. In particular, we achieved a major advocacy breakthrough, representing a significant victory for direct outreach (pp. 6 and 12)..

At the same time, one of the key themes of the year was the identification and support of situations involving trafficking, prostitution and sexual violence, made possible through new partnerships and the strengthening of the team's skills (p.13).

We also consolidated local volunteer teams in Calais and created new ones in Dunkirk, enabling long-term engagement from residents of the area. This has helped diversify our teams, strengthen their local grounding, and create opportunities for volunteers from Dunkirk and Calais to become involved (pp. 11 and 23).

This required significant adaptations to our practices, both in the field and beyond. 2025 was an important year in terms of the professionalisation of the organisation, with several key achievements, including the development of essential tools for both fieldwork and advocacy. This collective capacity-strengthening process made it possible, in particular, to put in place:

- *Improved management of online resources through a shared Drive and strengthened data security;*
- *An improved system for collecting and monitoring data gathered in the field ;*
- *A full update of the Field guide for field volunteers ;*
- *An update of the Social work guide to facilitate coordination around social support work;*
- *The creation of a coordination guide to support team coordination – other guides (fundraising, field preparation) are currently being developed and are expected to be finalised in 2026;*
- *The redesign of the security protocol, revisiting and consolidating together all existing elements while adding the Calais field context and a risk analysis.*

This process of internal structuring helps stabilise and align our practices, contributing to institutional memory and strengthening the organisation's long-term sustainability. Additionally, improved and simplified access to both quantitative and qualitative data provides us with additional tools to speak about what our teams witness on a daily basis..

Because it is important to keep a record of our work on the coast – and above all of the situation of women and families at the Franco-British border – the RWC is actively working with public archives on a project to archive experiences of exile in the Dunkirk area. In particular, we took part in the French National Archives Forum, "Avec attention – archives, archivistes & sociétés", held in Rennes from 26 to 28 March 2025..

OUR ORGANISATION

The Refugee Women's Centre (RWC) is a French non-profit organisation founded under the 1901 law. Since 2015, we are committed to supporting women and children on the move, living in informal settlements across the Franco-British border, specifically in Calais and the Dunkerque region (Grande-Synthe, Mardyck, and Loon-Plage). We believe that all women have the right to live in safety, to be heard, and to make her own choices. By supporting women on the move and their families, we defend a more just, humane, and solidarity-based society. Our action is based on a holistic and global approach, centred on the specific needs of women and their children, that takes into account their unique paths, identities, and aspirations.



OUR STORY: A FEMINIST RESPONSE TO A HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY

Refugee Women's Centre (RWC) was started in Grande-Synthe in 2015: an organisation run by women, for women. It operates within a decade-long humanitarian crisis, with people on the move surviving extremely precarious conditions on the Northern French coast. Initially, RWC emerged in the Basroch camp, and then the La Linière camp. Back then our actions focused on supporting women and children by offering them a space to be heard, protected, and supported.

Following a fire in April 2017, which completely and permanently destroyed the camp of La Linière, the RWC officially became an organisation, as per the French law of 1901. This shift allowed us to structure and reinforce our presence in the field and adapt our interventions to the constantly evolving migration-related needs and realities.

Since then, our approach has been to become entirely mobile. But our objective remains: offering global support, restoring dignity, and fostering the empowerment and autonomy of women on the move.



OUR VALUES

Non-oppressive practices : taking action without imposing, by prioritising women's decision-making when providing social and medical support.

Respect : supporting all women, with respect to her individual story, needs, and autonomy.

Collaboration : working with other organisations to share resources and reinforce our impact.

Solidarity : supporting women through their trials (such as grief, violence, and expulsion) with a constant, humane presence.

Intersectional feminism: taking into account the intersections of oppressions (gender, race, migration, and class) in all our actions.

OUR ACTIONS



URGENT HUMANITARIAN AID

Distribution of tents, blankets, clothing, hygiene products, baby formula, and emergency accommodation



SOCIAL AND MEDICAL SUPPORT

Pregnancy monitoring, access to contraception, gynaecological care, and support in response to gender-based and sexual violence.



PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

Women-only workshops, discussion spaces, and creative activities to strengthen social bonds and autonomy.



ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS-RAISING

Inter-associative mobilisation, social media campaigns, and testimonies to raise visibility around the realities faced by women on the move.



FOCUS ON A MAJOR VICTORY IN 2025

Since its creation, the resilience of the Refugee Women's Centre has been rooted in strong beliefs and values. One of these beliefs is that we must act today to ensure access to fundamental rights for people on the move. Other approaches are possible, such as research or advocacy, which we of course support. However, we have always prioritised action in the field, guided by the idea of leading the struggle by example. Some call this direct action.

On several occasions, our approach has been questioned, particularly by those who believe that the work carried out by associations allows state actors to avoid taking responsibility. They argue that if associations organise access to fundamental rights such as drinking water, food and accommodation, then there is no pressure on the State to ensure that these rights are upheld on French territory, even though this falls under its responsibility.

However, the logical consequence of this would be to stop providing all support in the hope of triggering a response from state services. In our view, this would instrumentalise people on the move, who would be the ones to suffer the consequences. We have therefore chosen to maintain a daily presence in the field, out of respect for the human dignity of the people we support.

This position also allows us to bear witness to everyday realities: rights being violated and violence taking place in informal settlements. Over the years, we have developed expertise and gained real legitimacy to speak out in meetings with local and national public authorities, as well as in the media and before the courts.

Alongside Médecins du Monde, Utopia 56, Roots, Salam and Human Rights Observers, the RWC took legal action against the State in 2025 for failure to respect human rights. An fundamental liberties procedure was filed in order to establish the urgency of the situation. This long-term effort required substantial evidence gathering – including testimonies and statements – as well as close coordination with lawyers.

The outcome was historic. This action led to several concrete advances: the distribution of water jerrycans by the State, the introduction of waste collection, the management of showers – previously run by the RWC and Roots – and toilets by AFEJI, an association mandated by the State, as well as information outreach work for unaccompanied minors, also managed by AFEJI.

Since 2021, the Refugee Women's Centre had been running shower slots by creating women-only spaces, with shuttle services, on-site activities, hygiene products and clean clothing for women and children. This was a service we developed from scratch, improving it through practice. In 2025, we secured the transfer of this responsibility to public services, through constructive dialogue with the Dunkirk Urban Community. This allowed us to use our expertise to contribute to the development of the service framework and to remain available to advise the association mandated by the State if needed.

For the first time since the creation of the organisation, we were able to put into practice, across an entire mission, our conviction that we must lead by example – and that this can later pave the way for successful advocacy efforts, with patience and care, while always prioritising respect for the fundamental rights of women and families on the move. For us, this achievement in 2025 marks the finish line of a marathon that began five years ago.

OUR ACTIVITIES



Preparation for a mobile material distribution with individually labelled bags

CALAIS



In 2025, the Calais branch experienced a significant period of stabilisation. With a significant rise in the number of women and children on the coast, particularly in the Dunkirk area, some of the RWC's resources were redeployed to Dunkirk, which resulted in reduced presence in Calais by one day a week (Wednesdays). In this context, and with the expansion of Médecins Sans Frontières' (MSF) activities dedicated to women, we refocused on our unique contribution: offering outreach visits to camps and outreach initiatives to meet women in informal settlements.

MATERIAL SUPPORT



326

TENTS



64

SLEEPING BAGS



623

BLANKETS



18

BOXES OF BABY FORMULA



7

BABY CARRIERS

A STABLE SCHEDULE AND A CLEARER PRESENCE

To ensure greater transparency regarding our activities — for both women and our partners — we have established a fixed schedule, which also helps to maintain a healthy work-life balance within our teams. This stabilised way of operating has helped to ensure a more consistent and coherent presence and avoid shifts finishing too late.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning	Depending on requirements	Visit to living sites	Depending on requirements	Visit to living sites	Maraude
Afternoon	Presence at the Secours Catholique day centre	Maraude	Depending on requirements	Maraude with Médecins Sans Frontières*	Presence at the Secours Catholique day centre

**including a nurse and an Arabic-speaking cultural mediator*

SUPPORT MADE POSSIBLE BY STRONG PARTNERSHIPS

Support in Calais is now highly organised, largely thanks to smooth coordination with local stakeholders. For example, procedures for dealing with cases of sexual violence are well established, with clear identification of the relevant contacts within the police and health services.

The partnership with Gynaecology Without Borders (GSF) has continued to grow, as has the collaboration with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), which is keeping its hotel open.

DEVELOPING SUPPORT SERVICES TO PROMOTE ACCESS TO RIGHTS

In the autumn, we reinforced our support services to help people access their rights, particularly in cases of human trafficking. This has resulted in direct support for individuals to access the Initial Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers and the single point of contact for asylum seekers, referrals to the French Immigration and Integration Office, and a more proactive approach than simply redirecting them to the Reception and Administrative Assessment Centres.

We have also worked to strengthen our links with the 115 helpline (the social emergency number) and have begun supporting transgender people, an area of focus that will be further developed in 2026.

COORDINATING WITH THE COMMUNITY NETWORK AND FOLLOW UP WITH ACCOMMODATION PROVIDERS

Alongside Utopia 56, we have continued to run the community-based accommodation network in Calais. A specific role has been created within RWC to carry out regular check-ins with hosts, to ensure that guests are welcomed in the best possible conditions.

We have also strengthened our links with the network of accommodation providers in Boulogne-sur-Mer.

Over the course of the year, this gradual reorganisation has helped to bring lasting stability to the Calais branch and clarify our role both to the women we support and to our partners. Despite the partial relocation of resources to Dunkirk, we have maintained a strong, well-structured and consistent presence, capable of meeting needs whilst adapting to developments on the ground.

DUNKIRK



Queue for a distribution at Grande-Synthe

In 2025, the Dunkirk area saw a significant increase in the number of women present on the coast, leading to a significant rise in demand. To address this, we have expanded our presence, diversified our activities, developed new tools and strengthened our partnerships. This year has been crucial in adapting our practices, opening new reception facilities and mobilising local resources to ensure more comprehensive and responsive support.

MATERIAL SUPPORT



2233

TENTS



1623

SLEEPING BAGS



3619

BLANKETS



77

BOXES OF BABY FORMULA



16

BABY CARRIERS

ADAPTING TO GROWING NEEDS

The year was marked by **a sharp rise in the number of women with families**, prompting us to adapt our activities to meet these new needs. Firstly, there was **a significantly increased presence of volunteers** on the ground between January and March, with a much greater turnout than in the previous year. Thanks to the support of our partner organisations and the foundations that back us, **an emergency fund** was also set up in April to address the shortage of tents. Furthermore, our summer protocol – which involves deploying additional resources and a dedicated person to man the on-the-ground helpline (the ‘groundphone’ role), liaising directly with women in exile to refer them to our activities and those of our partners – was previously limited to the summer period but is now in place throughout the year, ensuring essential administrative and logistical continuity.

SETTING UP AND ORGANISING A TEAM OF LOCAL VOLUNTEERS

To support the opening of the drop-in centres and meet the growing demand, we have mobilised a team of local volunteers (around twenty people). This is a new development compared to the usual RWC model: a team of international volunteers (working full-time) for periods of at least two months, hosted by the association. Volunteers commit to a few hours a week or a month, for an indefinite period.

In practice, there are usually 1 or 2 local volunteers on duty per shift, who attend the meetings at the start and end of the shift. A shift is a half-day period assigned to a specific task. Varying availability and language barriers make training volunteers more challenging, even though some travel as far as Calais for training; **the challenge for 2026 will therefore be to integrate them fully on an equal footing with other volunteers and to ensure their long-term commitment.**

These new volunteers are a valuable asset to the organisation thanks to their long-term commitment, their in-depth knowledge of the local area, their ability to mobilise others, and the local resources they bring forward for fundraising events and awareness-raising workshops. It also creates new ambassadors who can speak from first-hand experience about the situation on the ground in Calais and Dunkirk

STRENGTHENING RESOURCES AND PRACTICES

From May onwards, in response to the doubling in the number of women, **we reallocated additional resources:**

- One additional vehicle (for a total of two dedicated vehicles)
- 6 to 8 volunteers for distributions in the informal settlements (4 in 2024)
- An increase in the number of volunteers mobilised in Dunkirk, made possible by reducing our intervention in Calais by one day.

In addition, following the assessment carried out by Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), **we strengthened safety measures during distributions.** We set up a physically demarcated women-only space, organised the flow using cones and rope, and introduced a registration system to make the process smoother and reduce tensions, particularly in waiting lines.

NEW!

OPENING OF A DAY CENTRE



In April, **we opened a fixed day centre** at Saint Joseph Parish, run by five volunteers. Located 15 minutes from the settlement, this is the only women-only space where women can step away from the urgency of the living site to rest, charge their phones, access clothing and receive information about their rights. It also made it possible to structure more comprehensive support:

Upon women's arrival – Reception

- Systematic registration
- Registration for tent and sleeping bag distributions
- Registration for shower slots

Inside – Support & Information

- Psychosocial activities
- Phone charging
- WASH space with prevention and information activities (NAG, risk reduction, sexual and reproductive health)

At the end of the day – Distribution

- Clothing distribution
- Bedding distribution

This regular presence became an essential anchor point in a highly unstable context.



Inside of the day centre

MAJOR PROGRESS IN THE SHOWER ACTIVITIES AND WASH



Changes in the locations of services

The shower services were organized across several locations: in Buffon on Sundays, then in Mardyck on Tuesdays and Thursdays in partnership with the Red Cross and the city hall, and finally in Dessinguez to increase capacity.

A place of support. The showers provide a single-sex space, outside the camp, allowing women to step away from their daily struggles three times a week to take care of themselves. They also offer a special moment during which, after showering, we organize wellness and psychosocial support activities among women. By creating this space away from the daily emergency, we were also able to identify other needs regarding social support.

A shuttle system picked up the women who had registered the day before from their living quarters to take them to the gyms provided by the city halls. Upon arrival, the women could choose to clean their clothes before taking a shower.

Thanks to our partner organizations, we had a wide selection of hygiene products, creams, hair masks, and clothing, allowing each woman to choose what she liked and what she needs.

After showering, group activities were organized around music, a snack, or tea, fostering conversation, psychosocial support, and the identification of more specific social needs.

Advocacy

Alongside Médecins du Monde, Utopia 56, Roots, and Salaam Human Rights Observer, the RWC has filed a lawsuit against the government for human rights violations. An emergency motion for a preliminary injunction was filed to highlight the urgency of the situation. This long-term effort required extensive evidence gathering (testimonies, affidavits) and tight coordination with attorneys. This initiative led to several concrete advances: the distribution of water jugs by the government, the implementation of waste collection, the management of showers (previously managed by the RWC, the Red Cross, and Roots) by the Afeji association (commissioned by the government), as well as outreach efforts and shelter provision also provided by Afeji. This initiative is part of the RWC's commitment to ensuring the recognition of common law and defending respect for human rights along the coast.

Facing growing needs and the increasing presence of women along the coast, the RWC has established itself as a key actor in solidarity and resistance. By strengthening its teams, organizing its efforts, and defending fundamental rights, it has reaffirmed that dignity is not a favor but a right. On the ground, every action, every shift, every mobilisation carries the same conviction: as long as human rights continue to be violated, we will continue to act, to speak out, and to build spaces of justice.

COASTLINE



A view of a living space

With a **strong increase in the number of women and families seeking refuge along the coast** (+22% in Calais, +130% in Dunkirk), the number of requests and needs has risen significantly. In 2025, we therefore adapted our practices at the RWC to better address them. We adjusted our approach, strengthened our presence on the ground, and became more responsive.

One of the major focuses of the year was **identifying and providing support in cases of human trafficking, prostitution, and sexual violence**. In particular, the RWC investigated a human trafficking ring involving individuals from Eritrea and Ethiopia, at a time when asylum applications from these nationalities increased by 42% in 2025. Many victims were identified in the Dunkirk area, and to a lesser extent in the Calais area, where specific resources exist to support them.

This has led to **strengthened partnerships** with MIST (Mission for Intervention and Awareness-Raising Against Human Trafficking) and MIPROF (Interministerial Mission for the Protection of Women), which has fostered a better understanding of the dynamics of trafficking on the ground and helped build stronger ties with government agencies.

This collaboration has **helped gain significant recognition for the RWC's work**, both at the prefectural level and within the nonprofit sector, particularly regarding issues affecting women and families. It has also fostered a collective commitment to building a network of stakeholders to improve support for the women involved, always in keeping with the association's spirit of collaboration.

This year has allowed us to improve the quality of our support and better address the situations we encounter on a daily basis:

- WhatsApp Business has become a key tool: Stories allow us to quickly share essential information with the women (access to showers, eviction alerts, changes on the ground, etc.).
- Translated flyers were created to explain access to day centers, as well as information on sexual and reproductive health.
- Our observation work with SOL continued, with a report published this year.
- Medical and social support services were increasingly entrusted to long-term volunteers, strengthening their role and autonomy while enabling them to support more women.
- Thanks to a donation from MSF (pregnancy tests, emergency contraception), the team was able to provide more comprehensive support and establish itself as a reliable source of information on reproductive health and risks.

WAREHOUSE AT THE AUBERGE DES MIGRANTS



RWC Space at the Inter-Organisational Warehouse

Our team works tirelessly and meticulously to source, sort and organise donations of supplies for women and families in exile. **Over 90% of the supplies we distribute come from donations, mainly second-hand***. This approach, which is both cost-effective and environmentally friendly, requires a significant investment: appeals for donations, collection, sorting, packing, storage... each stage involves many hours of work. A remote volunteer coordinates the logistics of the donations. In constant contact with the team on the ground, she adapts requests according to the seasons and the needs expressed by the women. She communicates with donors and organises transport to Calais, ensuring the responsiveness essential to dealing with rapidly changing situations on the ground.

On site, our team spends **three days a week on distributions and activities with the women, and two days sorting items at the warehouse**. This is a crucial stage: it allows us to ensure that the clothes are in good condition, suitable for life in the camps, and that they meet each woman's tastes and needs. It is also a time for sharing and camaraderie, far from the stress of the field, where strong bonds are forged between team members. The sorting takes place at the Refugee Women's Centre, located in a **shared warehouse** managed by *Auberge des Migrants*. **Sharing this space with other organisations** allows us to reduce costs, exchange best practices and strengthen coordination between organisations. We also share our offices and meals there, fostering a spirit of collective solidarity. The warehouse houses the stocks and teams of several organisations working with refugees: *Project Play* and *Kaléidoscope* for children and young people, *Care For Calais* and *Refugee Community Kitchen* for food distributions, *Utopia 56* for support along the coast, as well as the projects of the *Auberge des Migrants*, *Channel Info Project* and *Woodyard*.

This logistical work is essential to ensuring that our activities are well organised and that we can accurately meet the needs of the women and families we support.

**Some items, such as underwear, are never distributed second-hand.
We only collect new knickers, out of respect for women's privacy and dignity.*



DATA: MAIN FINDINGS

6 137 | 6 726 | 2 854

WOMEN
SUPPORTED

CHILDREN
SUPPORTED

FAMILIES
SUPPORTED

In 2025, the Refugee Women's Centre supported 15,720 people, including 2,854 families, 6,137 women, 6,726 children and 2,857 men, highlighting the strong presence of families and single women in the informal settlements.

6 137 WOMEN SUPPORTED

- 2642 single women
- 732 single mothers
- 2763 women with husbands

Amongst these women, 484 were particularly vulnerable:

- 392 pregnant women
- 49 elderly women (over the age of 55)
- 18 women with disabilities
- 15 women belonging to an ethnic minority in the informal settlements
- 10 LGBTQIA+ women

Overall, the number of particularly vulnerable women almost doubled between 2024 (214) and 2025 (484). There was a slight decrease in the number of women over the age of 55 (61 in 2024 compared with 49 in 2025), as well as stability in the number of women belonging to an ethnic minority in the camps (17 in 2024 and 15 in 2025). By contrast, the number of pregnant women increased 2.6-fold (150 in 2024, compared with 392 in 2025), revealing a significant rise in situations requiring strengthened follow-up.

Finally, in 2025, we introduced a new monitoring criterion: LGBTQIA+ women, in order to adapt our approach to their specific needs and improve the way their vulnerabilities are taken into account. **These data show a clear and worrying deterioration of the situation, with a particularly marked increase in the most vulnerable profiles, highlighting the urgent need to strengthen support and protection mechanisms.**

2 857 MEN SUPPORTED

- 94 single fathers
- 2763 men accompanying women (husbands, brothers, family members etc.)

The number of single fathers supported doubled between 2024 (45) and 2025 (94), and the number of men accompanying women increased by 65%, a trend that reflects the overall dynamic observed across the coast.

COMPARING 2024 TO 2025

TOTAL OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED

LOCATION	2024	2025	EVOLUTION
DUNKIRK	5426	12528	+7102 people (+130%)
CALAIS	2424	3192	+768 people (+22%)
TOTAL	7850	15720	+7885 people (+40%)

TOTAL OF WOMEN SUPPORTED

LOCATION	20E4	2025	EVOLUTION
DUNKIRK	2196	4779	+2583 women (+118%)
CALAIS	1012	1358	+346 women (+34%)
TOTAL	3208	6137	+2929 women (+91%)

TOTAL OF CHILDREN SUPPORTED

LIEU	2024	2025	EVOLUTION
DUNKIRK	2062	5508	+3446 children (+167%)
CALAIS	907	1218	+311 children (+34%)
TOTAL	2969	6726	+ 3757 children (+127%)

6726 CHILDREN SUPPORTED

- 1147 children aged 0 to 2
- 1603 children aged 3 to 5
- 2123 children aged 6 to 12
- 752 adolescents aged 13 to 17, including 207 unaccompanied girls

These figures point to a particularly worrying situation: in just one year, the number of children supported more than doubled, with a particularly sharp increase among the youngest children aged 0 to 5. While the number of adolescents remained stable, it is important to highlight that the number of unaccompanied girls – among the most vulnerable people – quadrupled between 2024 (45) and 2025 (207).



Psychosocial activity for children in partnership with Project Play

In response to this reality, our team had to adapt its practices to meet needs that were both growing and increasingly urgent. We strengthened our distributions of essential items, intensified support towards access to accommodation whenever possible, and expanded our actions to guarantee access to hygiene, particularly through shower services.

FINANCIAL REPORT

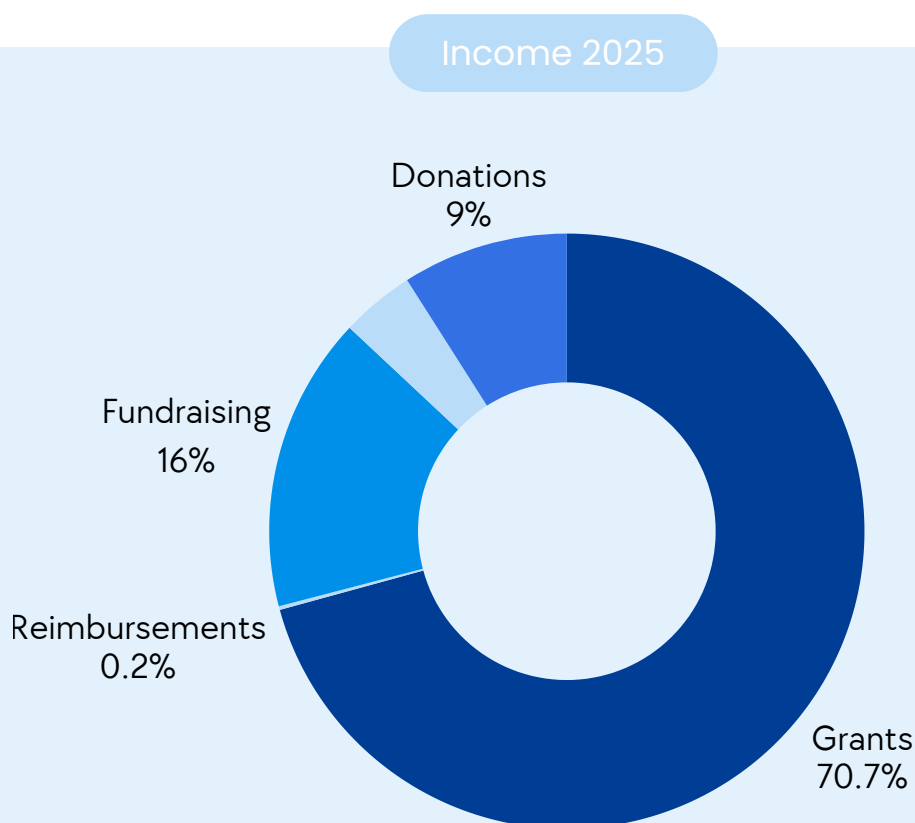


BUDGET 2025

For the first time, volunteers contributed to the rent of their accommodation, paying €100 per month, for a total amount of €11,000 in 2025, while the RWC covers approximately double that amount in actual rent, excluding charges.

- Monthly rents amount to €895 for the accommodation on Rue des Soupirs and €700 for the accommodation on Rue du Progrès.
- The provisional budget was €220,600, with a notable difference linked to summer expenses, particularly tents and bedding.

Total income amounted to €360,179, compared with €247,063 in expenses, resulting in a net balance of €113,116. Taking into account the €100,000 in grants paid in advance for 2026, **the actual year-end balance stands at €13,116.**



247 063€

IN EXPENSES

260 179€

IN INCOME



THE TEAM

RWC Field volunteers

STAFF MEMBERS

The successive changes in field coordinators – in Calais in July and August, then in Dunkirk in November – helped to stabilise operations by formalising much of the informal knowledge and protocols into written procedures. Thanks to these periods of change in coordinators, what was once informal has now become something the team can share and build on.

It is important to emphasise that, in the face of the many challenges encountered in 2025, the RWC was able to rely on the commitment and crucial presence of its two field coordinators, Marie and Louise. Their solid experience, combined with a detailed understanding of the local context and dynamics, ensured consistent decision-making and a constant ability to adapt throughout the year.

In 2026, plans are in place to strengthen the coordination team by creating a dedicated role for an administrative and financial coordinator, a vital step towards rebalancing responsibilities and lightening the workload, whilst consolidating the association's internal structure.



FIELD VOLUNTEERS

This year, the RWC saw a particularly high volume of applications, reflecting both the association's increased visibility and improvements to our communication tools. A total of 238 applications were received – an average of one every two days – thanks in particular to the optimisation of the website and increased media coverage.

Of these applications, 38% were successful. The main reasons for applications not leading to volunteering were: withdrawal before or after the interview, or a mismatch between the candidate's profile/expectations and the needs on the ground (14 rejections by the RWC, 64 withdrawals by candidates). The median age of volunteers is 25, ranging from 20 to 70.

Regarding mobility, 56% of candidates describe themselves as "drivers", a figure that does not fully reflect the reality on the ground: many of them hold a driving licence but are not comfortable driving, which limits their operational independence. On paper, volunteers commit to a two-month period, but exceptions exist, whether in the form of shortened assignments or shorter stays planned from the outset.

A particularly positive aspect is the return of 12 former volunteers, a sign of strong attachment to the organisation and an experience deemed enriching.

The involvement of a former volunteer—who became a replacement coordinator and then returned to field work—also provided valuable support for coordination and helped ensure continuity in the teams' work.

Furthermore, an analysis of satisfaction questionnaires from the last three years – despite a response rate of just 20% – shows a very high level of satisfaction, confirming the quality of the support offered to volunteers and the strength of the organisation's framework.

LOCAL VOLUNTEERS

NEW!

26 local volunteers were recruited in 2025.

Following a questionnaire and a satisfaction interview regarding their role at the end of 2025, all 9 women working in the day centre team in Grande Synthe reported a very high level of satisfaction with their experience with the organisation.

Ten (40%) left, either due to difficult personal circumstances or to return to full-time work.



The RWC mobile team

Volunteers, interns, staff members, and members of the association's team in 2025:

Marie, Louise, Elodie, Nina, Cherley, Lou, Caroline, Mathilde, Lisa, Nathalie, Asa, Justine, Sandrine (a.k.a Sand), Agathe, Mairead, Nicole, Emily Joy (EJ), Clémentine, Clea (Clementina), Lou-Anne, Christina, Margaux (a.k.a Gaumar), Constance, Julia, Lucie, Kayanat (a.k.a Kay), Lucie (Lulu), Maud, Clara, Adele, Alessandra, June, Helena, Claire, Ludovica, Giulia, Audrey, Alexandra, Rima, Lena, Nina, Eulalie, Isadora, Asumi, Sarah, Aurora, Olivia, Lou, Anna, Alice, Marcie, Magdalenna, Frida, Nathalie, Dina, Beata, Juliette, Pauline, Regina, Kerstin (Kerri), Valentina, Susanna, Anna, Julie, Aline, Mary, Naomi, Anna Lee, Justynya, Clara, Lizzy, Katie, Safia, Lou, Adeline, Imke, Julieth, Florence, Margaux, Sarah, Victoria (Tory), Fanny, Lila, Martha, Manon, Irene, Julia, Lena, Zoe.

Our new team of local volunteers:

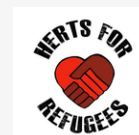
Isabelle, Thais, Zineb, Marguerite, Sherina, Solange, Margaux, Catherine, Nelly, Marie Joelle, Sophie, Eve Marie, Isabelle, Annie, Hélène, Ghislaine, Macire, Simone, Jeanne

A huge thank you to all the members of the RWC – those who sort, distribute, listen, support, speak out, and help restore a little dignity every day.



Thank you!

Thank you to our funders and partners who have chosen to support a feminist and important cause.



The Channel Info Project





CONTACTS

To become volunteer :
recrutement@refugeewomenscentre.com

To organise a donation of equipment
supportus@refugeewomenscentre.com

To provide financial support:
finance@refugeewomenscentre.com

For media enquiries, please contact:
calais@refugeewomenscentre.com et
dunkerque@refugeewomenscentre.com