

**HIAS**  
Europe

**ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2021**







**HIAS**  
Welcome the stranger.  
Protect the refugee.

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## FOREWORD

2021 is likely to be remembered as the year in which the world began to recover from the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet, for refugees worldwide, 2021 was largely a story of continuing insecurity and deteriorating access to safety. While protracted crises in Yemen, Syria, and Venezuela—amongst others—showed no sign of abating, new crises such as Afghanistan generated hundreds of thousands of newly displaced families.

In the EU, applications for international protection increased by a third from 2020, returning to pre-pandemic levels. This trend—of increased movement linked with the waning pandemic—was seen on migration routes worldwide, from the Mediterranean, to the US-Mexico border, to the Darién Gap between Colombia and Panama. Meanwhile, countries such as Belarus found new opportunities to leverage migration as a political tool to exert pressure on their neighbours, while asylum seekers and migrants suffered the consequences.

Anti-asylum policies and narratives—that reject solidarity in favour of containment and deterrence—are banefully out of step with the reality of unprecedented global displacement. As a result of climate disasters, violence, and persecution, more than 89 million people had been forced to flee their homes by the end of 2021, according to the [UN's refugee agency UNHCR](#).

Despite continuing challenges to assisting those who have been forced to flee their homes, HIAS Europe continues to step up. 2021 was another year of growth, both in terms of the impact of our international programmes as well as in terms of the number of supporters and partners around Europe. HIAS Europe expanded programming to cover 13

countries around the world and took steps to build technical expertise in Brussels. At the regional level, HIAS Europe led the Jewish response to the Afghan refugee crisis and the Poland-Belarus border crisis, working closely with local Jewish communities in the process. Finally, HIAS Europe initiated programming within the EU that aims at building the capacity of Jewish community leaders and activists to challenge xenophobia and promote inclusion.

There remains much work to be done. According to OCHA, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, [274 million people will need humanitarian assistance and protection in 2022](#). This number is a significant increase from 235 million people a year ago, which was already the highest figure in decades. With a dedicated—and growing—staff in Brussels and around the world, and the support of the European Jewish community behind us, our impact is set to increase even further in 2022.

Ruth Ringer  
CHAIR

Ilan Cohn  
DIRECTOR, HIAS EUROPE



## INTRODUCTION

Through humanitarian action in 13 countries worldwide, as well as long-term engagement with European Jewish communities, organisations and activists, and advocacy at the European level, HIAS Europe strives for a world which allows refugees to rebuild their lives in safety and dignity.

Our 2021 strategic plan focused on three key areas: humanitarian programming, community engagement, and shaping European humanitarian and refugee policies. Progress on each of these three pillars was achieved via the expansion of our international projects; strategic efforts to enhance our visibility amongst Jewish communities; and collaboration on advocacy with other NGOs and faith-based communities.

### VISION

HIAS Europe stands for a world in which refugees find welcome, safety, and opportunity.

### MISSION

Drawing on our Jewish values and history, as well as humanitarian principles, HIAS provides vital services to refugees and asylum seekers around the world and advocates for their fundamental rights so they can rebuild their lives. HIAS Europe, the Brussels-based European headquarters of HIAS, was established to “pursue all actions necessary to further and protect, in the widest sense, the rights and interests of refugees, asylum seekers, stateless or forcibly displaced persons, internally displaced persons, and other persons in need of international protection.”

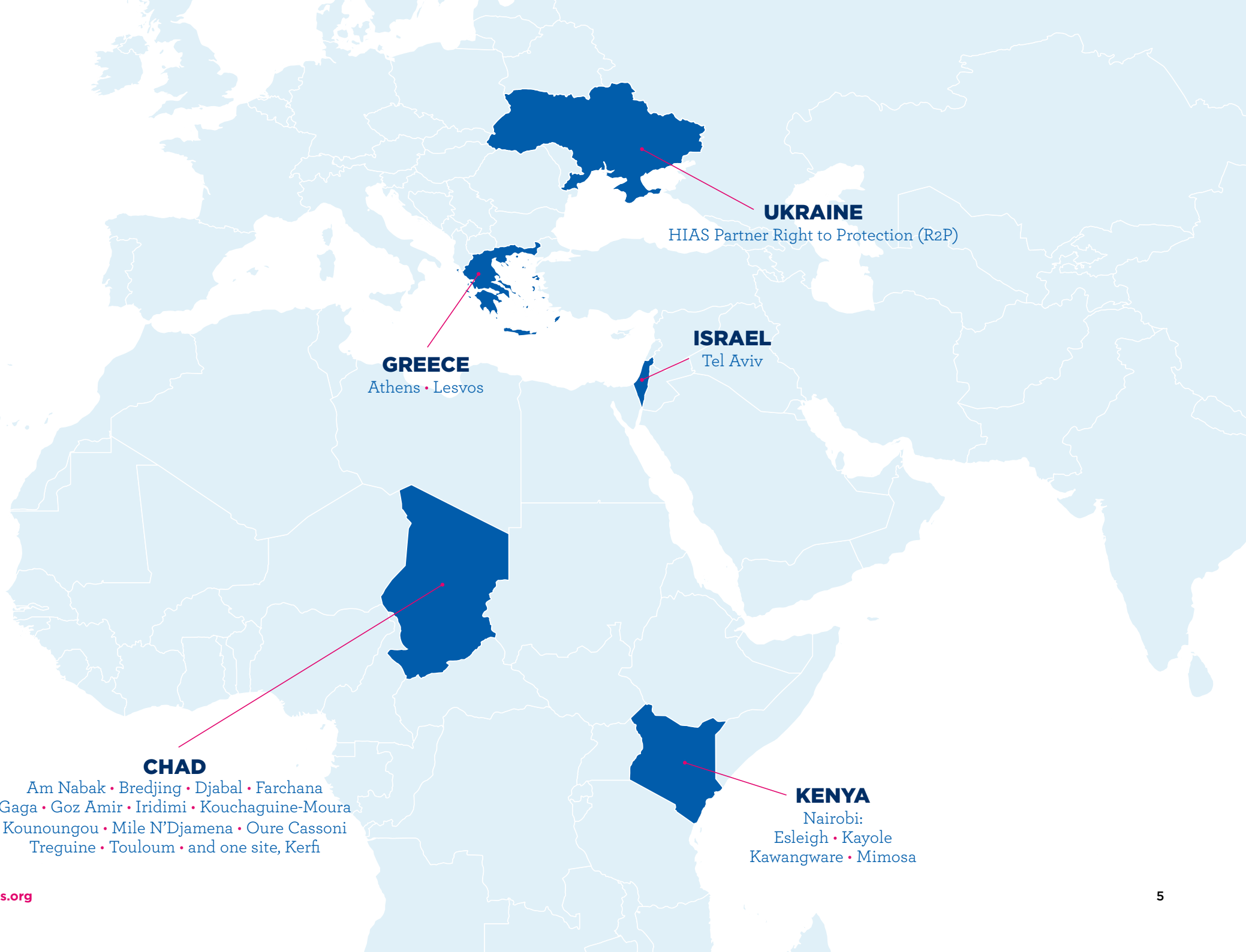




## WHERE WE ARE







**UKRAINE**

HIAS Partner Right to Protection (R2P)

**GREECE**

Athens • Lesvos

**ISRAEL**

Tel Aviv

**CHAD**

Am Nabak • Bredjing • Djabal • Farchana  
Gaga • Goz Amir • Iridimi • Kouchaguine-Moura  
Kounoungou • Mile N'Djamena • Oure Cassoni  
Treguine • Touloum • and one site, Kerfi

**KENYA**

Nairobi:  
Esleigh • Kayole  
Kawangware • Mimosa



## HUMANITARIAN ACTION

### 2021 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Expand international aid programming, while ensuring effective programmatic oversight of projects implemented by HIAS Country Offices.
- Build up HIAS Europe administrative capacities and institutional standards to effectively manage international aid.

### HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMMING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH HIAS COUNTRY OFFICES

#### Introduction

In 2021, HIAS Europe notably expanded its international programming from eight to thirteen countries having taken into consideration the new needs caused by COVID-19 and other crises. For the refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants that HIAS Europe assists, the pandemic context was especially devastating. Many lost their income-generating activities due to the lockdowns, and many women and girls reported increased cases of gender-based violence (GBV). Such threats and others heavily impacted the mental health of affected populations. While the year's start was marked by continued lockdowns, the gradual easing of measures around the world allowed many Country Offices to progressively implement activities and services partly in-person.

COVID-19 was not the only crisis faced in 2021. The death of Chad's president in April put the country under a curfew and HIAS activities had to be paused for several weeks during which the security situation was unclear. The protests and coup d'état in Khartoum in October and the





resurgence of the conflict in West Darfur in December further impacted the work of HIAS Chad.

In May and June, many remote villages in Guyana were hit by heavy rains which continued into July. HIAS Guyana mobilised internal emergency response resources and conducted a rapid needs assessment before distributing relief items. Many people were forced to relocate from the villages to mining areas for work, as their main livelihoods of farming and fishing were devastated by the floods. HIAS Guyana has kept in contact with the villages affected and has been sharing water treatment information to prepare people for the potential of future flooding.

In Mexico, HIAS faced several emergencies in 2021 in addition to the pandemic. Changing immigration policies that affect asylum seekers and the arrival of more than 300 Afghan families in Mexico City required additional attention from the team. Furthermore, the people escaping from Haiti during September and October along the Northern border overwhelmed the services and required an emergency response. In addition, cities across the Northern border saw an increasing number of internally displaced people (IDPs) from southern and central federal entities in Mexico. The drivers of these massive displacements of individuals, families, and in some cases, entire towns, included violence and drug cartel activities.

HIAS Europe focused on four key areas in its international programming in 2021:

- I. **Legal protection programming** which both secures legal status and ensures effective access to rights.
- II. **Mental health and psychosocial support services** that address acute and increased distress levels, support continued community connection, address stress and isolation due to the COVID-19 crisis, and increase basic psychological skills such as healthy coping mechanisms.
- III. **GBV prevention and response** programming that reduces risks for women and girls during lockdown, strengthens women's self-reliance, and protects children and adolescent girls from sexual violence.
- IV. **Economic inclusion** programming to ensure that affected populations have safe economic opportunities to earn sustainable income and rebuild their lives. With a focus on empowering vulnerable groups, these programmes are geared towards improving self-reliance.

In 2021, HIAS Europe selected project proposals from field offices in thirteen countries: Aruba, Chad, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Greece, Guyana, Israel, Kenya, Mexico, Panama, Peru; and with HIAS' local partner Right to Protection (R2P) in Ukraine. This section provides snapshots of these projects.

## I. LEGAL PROTECTION

### Costa Rica

In Costa Rica, the government closed the Peñas Blancas Migration Post in early 2021 due to COVID-19. Before the pandemic, Peñas Blancas was the main entry border post between Nicaragua and Costa Rica. Since the closure, HIAS Costa Rica did not find a significant number of irregular border crossings. Through monitoring activities in Peñas Blancas and La Cruz in communities with a recent entry into the country, HIAS Costa Rica directly identified 344 vulnerable migrants and refugees, whom they provided with legal information. An immediate and special protection needs assessment was applied to determine cases that needed a wider approach, follow-up, or a referral to other service providers. In addition, 547 vulnerable migrants were supported with comprehensive public legal information and legal assistance on the Refugee Status Determination process and on how to access health, education, and justice. 208 people were referred to specialised services.

### Greece

During 2021, HIAS Greece provided individual representation to 62 asylum seekers at all stages of the asylum procedure, conducted targeted legal information sessions in coordination with other partners to 89 asylum seekers, and engaged in 32 advocacy activities, increasing asylum seekers' access to safe and fair asylum systems. HIAS Greece further supported 40 GBV survivors and other vulnerable individuals.

HIAS Greece was also active on strategic litigation and advocacy. The team assisted in the drafting of 32 letters to national, European, and UN bodies, and has submitted three cases to the European Court of Human

Rights. These cases concern poor reception conditions and a lack of medical care, in breach of the European Convention on Human Rights. With Erik Marquardt, a member of the European Parliament, HIAS Greece drafted three parliamentary questions about the examination of the merits of asylum applications submitted by Syrian applicants that must be answered by the European Commission. The Commissioner for Home Affairs, Ylva Johansson, indicated that these questions will be communicated to the Greek government.

HIAS Greece is also developing a new Athens-based integration project. Given the reduced number of arrivals to the Islands, the project would allow HIAS Greece to give more attention to the integration needs of (young) recognised refugees in Athens.

### Kenya

In 2021, legal protection programming in Kenya was focused on building and strengthening the capacity of community mechanisms and organisations at national and local level to address refugee populations' needs; building community relations; and improving the fulfilment of refugees' rights and access to services. HIAS Kenya established a refugee committee for persons with disabilities that developed an action plan on how to engage with community members through dialogue and awareness raising. Similarly, HIAS Kenya established a refugee committee for elderly persons that focused on elderly persons' vulnerability in light of renewed government measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Challenges faced include a lack of livelihoods, diminished support from family and friends, and a lack of valid documentation. In partnership with UNHCR and the Refugee Affairs Secretariat, HIAS Kenya conducted a training for 69 government officials aimed at increasing officials'



understanding of refugee protection, the inclusion of refugees, and increased access to services from government institutions. Similarly, HIAS Kenya trained 28 refugee leaders (the majority of whom were people with disabilities) on strengthening disability mainstreaming and inclusion of persons with disabilities. The training resulted in increased referrals by refugee leaders of persons with disabilities to HIAS and Handicap International for assistive devices, as well as registration with the National Hospital Insurance Fund and livelihoods interventions.

### **Israel**

The COVID-19 pandemic has had devastating impacts on asylum seekers in Israel. HIAS Israel represented asylum seekers from Darfur, Blue Nile, and the Nuba Mountains regions of Sudan in asylum interviews and requests to obtain a status, often in cases that have been pending for ten years. In May, HIAS Israel filed a petition with the Aid Organisation for Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Israel (ASSAF) and Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) requesting medical and social rights for elderly asylum seekers above 60 years of age. There are around 250 asylum seekers above the age of 60 in Israel who are in dire need of support and at higher risk due to the pandemic. The HIAS Family Law Programme is the only source of pro bono legal aid in family law cases for refugees and asylum seekers in Israel. HIAS Israel welcomed seven family law fellows in 2021 and provided legal representation in 11 new cases involving 18 clients and 25 dependents. HIAS Israel continued its collaboration with 10 of Israel's leading commercial law firms as well as 30 lawyers and 10 law interns from firms representing asylum seekers pro bono in various proceedings.

### **Mexico**

The situation on the Northern border of Mexico was uncertain throughout 2021, causing constant distress among affected populations. People in need of international protection are vulnerable to traffickers and extortionists. With Know Your Rights sessions, HIAS Mexico provided reliable information on what is happening at the border, what is required to seek asylum in the United States, and what the rights and duties of asylum seekers are, both in the U.S. and Mexico. HIAS Mexico has further specialised its orientation and assistance for people under MPP, as the U.S. administration reopened this procedure at the border in December.

### **Ukraine**

In Ukraine, HIAS Europe's local partner Right to Protection (R2P) helped IDPs and conflict-affected persons. In 2021, R2P helped to lift fines for residents of the non-government-controlled areas travelling to government-controlled areas via the border of the Russian Federation. This was achieved through monitoring of the situation and occasional litigation. In addition, R2P successfully implemented the procedure for compensation for destroyed housing and established local commissions to clarify and explain the procedure. R2P's protection unit reported on illegal restrictions of freedom of movement and the legal aid unit took the cases to court. During 2021, R2P reached 9,155 beneficiaries with primary and secondary legal assistance. These cases concerned issues of limited freedom of movement, access to social benefits and pensions, housing, land and property issues and access to adequate housing.

## II. MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

Mental health and psychosocial support programmes were implemented in eight Country Offices in 2021, representing one of the larger programmatic elements of HIAS Europe.

### Aruba

In Aruba, HIAS provided individual counselling and facilitated support groups for 256 vulnerable Venezuelan refugees and migrants, aligned with adapted IASC guidance for the COVID-19 response.

### Colombia

In Colombia, 48 GBV survivors received psychosocial support from HIAS and 921 affected persons participated in community activities for social cohesion. HIAS Colombia further provided migrants, refugees, and host communities with basic tools for psychological first aid to strengthen the capacity of the population to manage stress or depression situations.

### Ecuador

Despite the easing of COVID-19 restrictions in Ecuador, the mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) programming continued to face high demand, often because of the effects of the pandemic on vulnerable refugees and migrants. HIAS Ecuador focused on strengthening coping and resilience tools and referring beneficiaries to complementary HIAS services, e.g., child protection, psychotherapeutic processes, psychological support, and protection case management for GBV survivors and at-risk persons. HIAS Ecuador trained 3,335 community volunteers, public health officials, and key actors on

psychological first aid and support skills. In addition, HIAS Ecuador facilitated support groups for 524 refugees and migrants to improve their emotional well-being. More than a thousand people participated in individual or group MHPSS interventions and 81% of them reported an improvement in their well-being afterwards. HIAS Ecuador trained 2,509 members of civil society organisations and implemented





community integration activities for 1,598 community leaders to strengthen their capacity on human rights, refugee and human mobility, mental health, access to services, community management, identification of cases at risk and referrals to specialised services.

### **Kenya**

The HIAS offices in Nairobi, Kenya, provided integrated MHPSS interventions throughout the year. HIAS assessed 381 persons and offered counselling to 188 persons with specific needs. These included COVID-19, stress, anxiety, suicidal thoughts, loss and grief, and conflicts with other people. 184 individuals successfully completed their counselling process and met their goals, while 4 persons are completing their counselling in 2022. In addition, HIAS Kenya provided counselling to 40 children.

### **Mexico**

In Mexico, HIAS worked on improving reception conditions by supporting vulnerable populations with access to appropriate psychological assistance as part of the community-based protection support. HIAS Mexico provided 3,327 people with psychological support through MHPSS group sessions and short-term sessions implemented in safe spaces and HIAS offices, in person or via tele-counselling and remote case management.

### **Panama**

Through MHPSS programming in Panama, HIAS provided individual interventions for women and LGBTQ persons as well as in-person and remote group activities. Sessions covered topics such as anxiety management, grief, and strengthening support networks.



### III. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

#### Aruba

HIAS Aruba implemented risk-reduction strategies to respond to specific needs communicated by women and female adolescents and supported and strengthened response systems for survivors of GBV, girls in forced marriages and unions, and human trafficking. More than 100 first line service providers and affected persons participated in workshops on GBV prevention and response. In addition, 43 GBV survivors benefited from HIAS Aruba's case management, assistance, and referrals. HIAS Aruba also developed programming on the topic of masculinity, engaging boys and male adolescents in groups to discuss positive masculinities.

#### Chad

HIAS and community mobilisers in Chad identified and assisted 426 GBV survivors: assistance included the distribution of food and non-food items, psychosocial support, income-generating activities, and awareness-raising.

#### Colombia

In Colombia, HIAS worked with vulnerable Venezuelan women and persons from the LGBTQ community who have survived or been at risk of GBV. More than 160 affected persons participated in trainings on GBV prevention and response. HIAS Colombia held talks on topics of self-esteem and self-care; feminism and gender equality; human rights of women; sexual and reproductive rights; violence against women; access to protection services; and referral and support pathways for GBV survivors and at-risk populations. Furthermore, HIAS Colombia has piloted a new curriculum on GBV to use with men's groups in refugee and host

communities. Overall, 921 individuals participated in community activities on women's human rights and positive masculinities.

#### Costa Rica

HIAS in Costa Rica observed increasing GBV cases during lockdowns and restricted movement due to COVID-19. In response, the HIAS team designed a prevention and mitigation strategy to conduct empowerment and prevention workshops and to deliver kits with information. Nearly 300 women were assisted with this service.

#### Kenya

HIAS referred 108 GBV survivors to legal assistance, medical assistance, livelihood assistance, counselling services, security services, safe housing, and assistance for stolen documents. HIAS Kenya conducted an online training for 32 staff about causes, drivers, and categories and consequences of GBV, as well as remote case management and GBV data collection. HIAS Kenya also trained 20 representatives of UNHCR, the Refugee Affairs Secretariat, International Rescue Committee, and other groups. The training focused on causes, drivers, and consequences of GBV, a survivor-centred approach, and GBV prevention and response. HIAS Kenya conducted a similar training for 34 frontline service providers. Finally, HIAS Kenya held two capacity-building sessions about GBV response and root causes of GBV for 21 refugee community leaders and for 29 participants from refugee-led community-based organisations.

#### Guyana

In Guyana, Venezuelan refugees continued to enter the country despite movement restriction and border closures arising from COVID-19. HIAS works with Venezuelans who are GBV survivors, women engaged



in survival sex, and single female-headed households. In 2021, HIAS Guyana conducted four safety audits with Venezuelan adolescent women and girls in Georgetown and Bartica. The findings demonstrated that gender-based risks and vulnerabilities negatively impact these women's healthy development, such as early marriage and childbearing, gender-based violence, and sexually transmitted infections. The results of the safety audits supported HIAS Guyana's efforts to engage with vulnerable Venezuelans on possible solutions for risk reduction and safety improvements. In addition, HIAS Guyana provided survivor-centred GBV case management to 112 women. In addition, HIAS Guyana conducted support groups for 48 women and adolescent girls who met weekly for two months. The activities focused on empowering the women by providing them with accurate information and strengthening their support system.

### **Mexico**

GBV is not only increasing among refugees and migrants in Mexico but is also a significant component of why people fled their countries of origin. Recognised as a leading organisation in relation to GBV prevention and response in Mexico, HIAS provides GBV case management and referrals to legal, medical, mental health, and related services.

### **Panama**

In 2021, HIAS Panama worked both remotely and in-person to support beneficiaries. In Panama Centre, San Miguelito, and Panama Oeste HIAS identified women and LGBTQ persons at risk and in vulnerable situations to be integrated into the programme and referred to other HIAS programmes and other organisations. HIAS Panama developed a curriculum. "Transforming Together," that aims to promote the autonomy of women, as well as their personal, social, and collective voice.

This programme was implemented in cooperation with the National Women's Institute (Instituto Nacional de la Mujer). HIAS Panama trained 52 community mobilisers on First Psychological Aid and on protection rights of refugees and migrant women. In total, HIAS Europe funding reached 2,356 people in Panama in 2021.

### **Peru**

As the country that hosts the second largest population of Venezuelans after Colombia, Peru has seen a 'shadow pandemic' of GBV during the COVID-19 crisis. Awareness-raising activities were carried out about GBV for survivors to understand their rights. With the cooperation of the Women's Emergency Centre, HIAS Peru held webinars to cover the topics of GBV, human mobility, female migration, and referral pathways for 80 persons from the migrant and refugee communities in San Martín de Porres. HIAS Peru conducted similar webinars with the municipalities of La Perla, La Libertad, and Trujillo. In addition, HIAS Peru held a webinar about 'Knowing my sexual and reproductive rights' on the International Day for the Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy. With the programme 'Nosotras somos el cambio' ("We are the change") HIAS Peru reached 31 adolescents in Lima and Trujillo through regular sessions about sexuality, security, and prevention of GBV and created six peer support groups for 78 GBV survivors. HIAS Peru managed 329 GBV cases in 2021 through remote and in-person sessions, as well as home visits. HIAS Peru also provided capacity building support for 421 public officials and community leaders from different organisations in Lima and Trujillo. Finally, HIAS Peru trained managers of the municipality of Carmen de la Legua on female migration, response and care of migrant and refugee GBV cases, and the different areas of work of HIAS.

## IV. ECONOMIC INCLUSION

HIAS Europe's economic inclusion programmes enable refugees to exercise their social and economic rights, rebuild their lives by accessing safe and dignified employment, grow their assets, manage their savings, and take control of their lives and resources.

### Aruba

HIAS Aruba implemented a socio-economic support programme that focused on integration needs but also provided cash support to help families at risk. At least 40 families were identified and received remote training on managing finances as well as language courses, although three families were deported before the end of the programme.

### Chad

HIAS Europe has continued to help implement a permagardening project in Chad. A phased approach integrates agricultural skills with the rainy seasons and agricultural cycles in the camps of Brédjing, Tréguine, Gaga, Farchana, Djabal, Goz Amir and one site, Kerfi. The programme targets vulnerable refugees identified with high levels of distress who are unable to be treated through other psychological services. The methodology has been combined with trainings in financial literacy, the principles of village savings, as well as loans associations to support selling of surplus products, saving income, and building resilience and well-being. In 2021, HIAS Chad successfully enrolled and trained 1,000 households in Farchana and Goz Béida. By bringing refugees together for permagardening trainings and solidarity groups, participants built social networks and support systems.

### Kenya

A labour market assessment for urban refugees and asylum seekers in Nairobi and Mombasa was conducted by HIAS in Kenya. The study findings revealed that:

- Urban refugees are integrated within host communities, but they need support to achieve equal access to livelihood opportunities and the right to work
- In both Nairobi and Mombasa, refugees' livelihoods are mostly in the informal sector (for instance, selling house-related items, foods and beverages, or shoe-shining businesses).
- Some public and private educational institutions admit refugees, but they often require proof of qualification from their previous education or training, which most do not have.
- HIAS and other agencies can improve the livelihoods of the refugees and asylum seekers by creating market opportunities to link buyers to refugee-dedicated markets; working with the private sector, especially financial institutions, to develop refugee tailored products with manageable credit risk; and through advocacy for efficient documentation and adherence to the national and international refugee policies and laws.





## HIAS EUROPE ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Several steps have been taken to build up HIAS Europe administrative capacities and institutional standards to effectively manage international aid. Following the relaxation of COVID-19 travel restrictions, HIAS Europe engaged in a monitoring visit to Greece, and subsequently initiated an external evaluation of the Islamic Relief Worldwide funded “Emergency Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) for Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Lesbos” project. The evaluation report pointed to some important lessons for combining legal and mental health services.

In addition, framework partnership agreements between HIAS Europe and HIAS Country Offices were signed; a HIAS Europe procurement procedure was adopted and subsequently staff were trained in its application; HIAS Global Security and safety policies were comprehensively reviewed, and staff engaged in security awareness training. Policies on document management, data retention and erasure, as well as anti-terrorism and sanctions are being reviewed to be formalised in 2022. The HIAS Europe team is recruiting for a Communications & Advocacy Officer as well as an EU Partnerships Manager. To enable future growth, HIAS Europe will relocate to new premises in 2022.



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## 2021 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Promote involvement of European Jews on behalf of refugees in Europe, enhancing co-existence and understanding of migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees.
- Increase general awareness of HIAS among European Jewish communities.

## SUPPORTING EUROPEAN JEWISH COMMUNITIES

HIAS Europe's community engagement work serves to educate, organise, and mobilise the European Jewish community to act in solidarity with refugees and asylum seekers. Indirectly, it also increases awareness of HIAS Europe as the humanitarian relief arm of the European Jewish community, engaging European Jews in humanitarian causes affecting forcibly displaced people. As HIAS Europe does not provide services directly to refugees and asylum seekers in Europe, it instead seeks to enhance the capacity of local Jewish activists and congregations to become active in this domain.

Although European Jews and recent migrants and asylum seekers share similar histories and experiences of intolerance and discrimination, there is work to be done building trust and understanding between the two communities. Therefore, HIAS Europe community engagement programming seeks to promote mutual understanding between these communities and to debunk harmful bias, myths, and stereotypes. Online trainings and meetings have continued throughout the pandemic, and in-person events commenced again in January 2022.

## GISHUR: CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

The EU-funded [Gishur: Connecting Communities](#) project, led by HIAS Europe in collaboration with project partners CEJI and Paideia, officially launched in February 2021. Gishur offers capacity building and coalition building support that empowers Jewish community leaders and activists to challenge xenophobia and to promote inclusion through dialogue with refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants.

Activities for the project included:

1. The development of three Jewish holiday resource guides that promote values associated with social inclusion, under the guidance of an expert group;
2. Capacity building via the training of Jewish community leaders, rabbis, youth leaders, and activists;
3. Community building by organising local interfaith holiday celebrations;
4. Coalition building towards the development of the European Jewish Network against Xenophobia and for Inclusion.

Based on the recommendations of an expert group, Paideia began drafting the Jewish holiday resource materials for Shabbat, Pesach, and Sukkot. To prepare Jewish community leaders and activists, a three-day training based on the Shabbat resource was planned for Stockholm in January 2022.

Co-funding provided by the German government will support activities in Germany. An additional training is planned in Berlin during 2022.

The resources will be translated into six languages: English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, and Dutch.



## KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOUR

HIAS Europe formulated the “Neighbours” project, which was put forward for funding by the Citizenship, Equality, Rights and Values programme of the European Commission’s Directorate General of Justice. The project foresees an educational component to be implemented in partnership with ten congregations affiliated with the European Union of Progressive Judaism (EUPJ). The programme will also invest significantly in nurturing local coalitions between Jewish and migrant and refugee communities to promote inclusion. The project is due for approval in February 2022, and coordination will begin in March 2022.

## ONLINE EVENTS

On the occasion of International Holocaust Remembrance Day on 27th January, HIAS Europe and B’nai B’rith Europe organised a [joint event](#). This event featured the film “The Starfish,” which tells the story of Herb Gildin, a man who escaped Nazi persecution with the help of HIAS. The event was attended by 102 participants, in 25 European countries, from B’nai B’rith’s lodges in Europe. The event included a panel discussion with Tyler Gildin, the film’s producer, and Mindy Utay, Herb’s daughter, as well as Rabbi Melchior from Denmark.

On February 9, HIAS Europe was joined by the Lutheran World Federation, the Quaker Council for European Affairs, and Islamic Relief Worldwide in organising a [webinar](#) on “The Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and the Role of Faith-Based Organisations in

## REFUGEE SHABBAT

Refugee Shabbat (5th-6th March) was co-sponsored by Paideia, the European Union for Progressive Judaism (EUPJ), the European Union for Jewish Students (EUJS), and Limmud Europe. Nine European communities and individuals signed up, with Jewish congregations in Berlin, Brussels, Luxembourg, and Rome integrating the HIAS Refugee Shabbat resources in their Shabbat services. HIAS Europe’s Celia Gomez presented at the Rome Refugee Shabbat. The Jewish Community Centre (JCC) in Krakow organised [two online events](#) about the situation of asylum seekers in Poland and the New North London synagogue held an [online discussion](#) with author David Nasaw.

Refugee Protection”. The event discussed both the internal and external dimensions of the GCR commitments in Europe.

In partnership with HIAS Europe, EUPJ organised a [Refugee Shabbat webinar](#) on 21st March to discuss how EUPJ affiliates can assist refugees (recording available [here](#)). Among the speakers were Jewish refugee activists from Amsterdam, Brussels, Milan, Rome, and Vienna, who presented various distinct models of Jewish community engagement with refugees. The 39 participants represented EUPJ congregations around Europe.

On 21st November, HIAS Europe organised a [panel discussion](#) for the ECJC second e-summit. The programme consisted of an open discussion of the need for a European Jewish humanitarian organisation. Panellists included Uriel Perugia, Director of UCEI, Italy; Rabbi Michael Schudrich, Chief Rabbi of Poland; and Graham Carpenter, OLAM UK Community Manager.

On 27th December the [Limmud Festival](#) featured a [panel](#) of HIAS Europe and four of its local Jewish partners from Austria, Italy, Netherlands, and Poland. The discussion centred on the local and global obligations of the European Jewish community towards the most vulnerable.

## AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE

HIAS Europe stepped up to support Afghan refugees, including by launching an [Afghan Refugees Emergency Appeal](#) with the European Council of Jewish Communities (ECJC) just before Rosh Hashanah.

The 11,000 euro raised will be used to offer technical and financial support to the Italian Jewish Community initiative to host and integrate 17 Afghan families. HIAS has already provided the Italian Jewish community with funding to address initial needs like phones, hygiene items, and housing. Following a needs assessment, a second agreement will be signed in 2022 to address longer-term integration needs. HIAS Europe has spoken out in support of Afghan refugees, including by signing a [joint statement](#) calling on European countries to evacuate Afghans facing immediate security and safety risks.

## SMALL GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY-BASED REFUGEE SUPPORT

As part of the Joint Distribution Committee Tikkun in Action Small Grants programme, HIAS Europe reviewed a range of proposals for community-led programmes supporting refugees. Five projects were selected to receive HIAS Europe funding:

### 1. Beth Hillel Rome: Improving the Lives of African Refugees in Rome

Volunteer programmes operated by the congregation of Beth Hillel in Rome aim to improve the lives of African refugees in Rome and support their integration into Italian society. A delegation of Beth Hillel’s Tikkun Olam Group visited the head office of Casa Africa to deliver five new laptops and six refurbished ones donated by the congregation’s members. These laptops were used to help run online lessons for refugees living at a distance from the Casa Africa premises.





Beth Hillel also held four Jewish holidays events for Rosh Hashanah, Sukkot, Simchat Torah, and Hannukah. Casa Africa delegates were invited to participate and engage with the meanings behind each festival. In November 2021, a group of ten volunteers was formed to teach online Italian conversation classes which will continue into 2022. These programmes benefited more than 100 refugees and engaged more than 200 synagogue members.

## **2. Shalom Alaikum Vienna: Aid for Refugee Families during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

This project mobilises Jewish community members to mentor refugees in navigating Austrian bureaucracy. The project also supports legal aid, language courses, and social support for children to enable integration and socialisation, especially for children. The community members tutor students, and the cost of school trips and after-school activities are covered for selected students.

## **3. European Union of Progressive Judaism (EUPJ): Getting to Know Your Neighbours**

Getting to Know Your Neighbours sought to allow school groups from largely Muslim immigrant neighbourhoods in Brussels to learn about Jews and Judaism. Through guided visits and learning sessions in the Beth Hillel synagogue, the project facilitates meetings between Jewish and Muslim youth. With the help of facilitators, students toured the synagogue, asked questions, and listened to the facilitators' experiences of Judaism, life as a Jew, and of Jewish stereotypes.

This pilot will be used to shape the rollout of the Neighbours project across Europe in 2022.

## **4. Kimiyaa: Professional Mentoring for Refugees**

Kimiyaa facilitates professional mentorships between refugees and local professionals to guide their next steps into employment or their first UK-based work experience. In 2021, Kimiyaa successfully linked 18 refugees or asylum seekers with 18 London-based professionals. The project offers a sustainable pathway towards entry into the labour market by bringing newcomers out of isolation and helping them to gain confidence and specific knowledge of relevant sectors and industries.

*"I found in Kimiyaa a great opportunity to understand my current situation regarding the UK work market. Having professional conversations and discussions with my mentor help me to increase my self-confidence and to improve my hiring chances."*

(Mohammed, Engineer, mentee)

## **5. Scottish Council of Jewish Communities - Jews and Refugees: Connecting Conversations**

The Scottish Council of Jewish Communities partnered with Interfaith Glasgow to provide a programme of three events that explored refugee issues and social integration for Jewish communities and 'New Scots' through shared activities and dialogue. These used Jewish tradition and learning to actively encourage integration and reduce loneliness and social isolation for refugees living in Glasgow.

One event focused on the importance of bread in different cultures, and ways in which food can bring people together. Child attendees used bread to create edible art, while adult participants shared their thoughts and reflections.

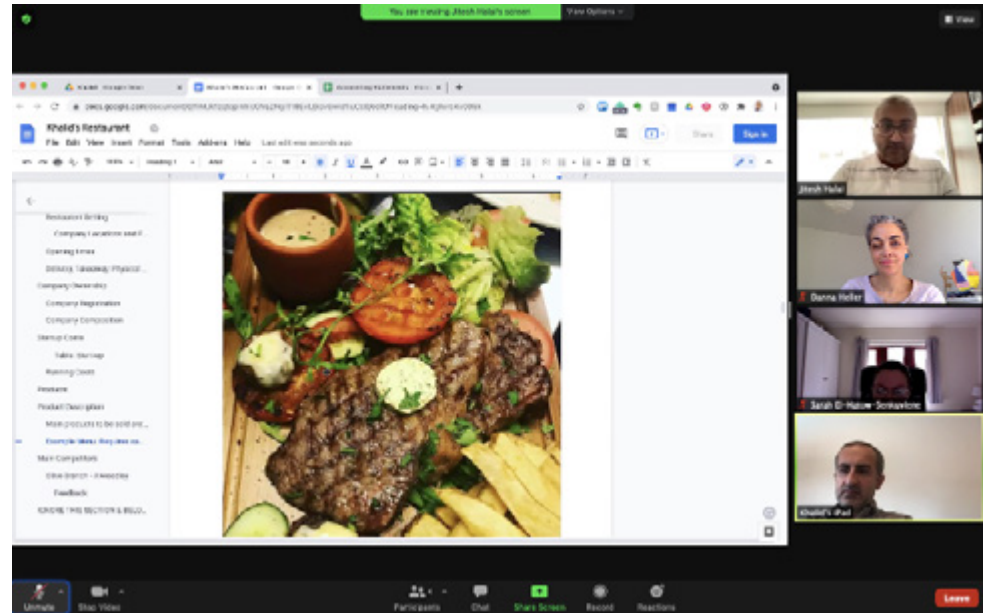


*“It was lovely seeing the different types of bread from different places, and I learned about how similar, in essence, the importance and attitudes towards bread are in different cultures.” (Yasmin Abbas, workshop participant)*

Other interfaith programming included a “Sharing the Shabbat” event and “Woodland Welcome,” an afternoon of outdoor activities and interfaith dialogue. About 90 participants were engaged in total.







# PUBLIC AFFAIRS

## RELEVANT 2021 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Join other NGOs and faith communities in Europe in advocating on behalf of refugee/humanitarian protection.
- Promote involvement of European Jews on behalf of refugees in Europe, enhancing co-existence and understanding of migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees.

## ADVOCACY

In 2021, HIAS Europe reinforced its commitment to EU-wide advocacy in favour of refugee and humanitarian protection, including by working as part of coalitions with other NGOs and faith communities.

HIAS Europe joined the civil society Quality Sponsorship Network programme of The International Catholic Migration Commission, which supports the development of pilot and ad-hoc refugee sponsorship initiatives across Europe. In addition, HIAS Europe joined the International Dialogue Centre [Network for Dialogue](#), which brings together faith-based actors around the issue of refugee integration policy.

In response to the humanitarian crisis on the [Polish-Belarusian border](#), HIAS Europe, together with the European Union of Jewish Students (EUJS) and the Jewish Community Centres in Krakow and Warsaw, released a [video](#) calling upon relevant authorities to guarantee

humanitarian access to the border region. The campaign was fully coordinated with the Polish Jewish community and also sought to raise funds for the Community Centres' programming in support of refugees.

The HIAS Europe Board approved more public pronouncements on key humanitarian issues. For the first time, HIAS Europe joined civil society public advocacy efforts by joining European Council on Refugees and Exiles statements on Afghanistan and the Polish-Belarusian border. The latter [statement](#) condemned the actions of Belarus, whilst also calling for an EU and Polish government response rooted in EU and international legal obligations and standards of common decency.

On 20th October, HIAS Europe presented its EU-funded Gishur project at the [3rd European Policy Dialogue Forum](#) on Refugees and Migrants, in Lisbon. At the forum, a [KAICIID Policy Paper](#) on Ensuring Access for Migrant and Refugee Children to Compulsory Formal Education in Europe was presented, featuring two HIAS-supported Jewish community initiatives. Furthermore, HIAS Europe joined the bi-annual meeting of the KAICIID Network for Dialogue, on 19th-20th November in Belgrade. The [network](#) seeks to empower interreligious dialogue for the social inclusion of migrants and refugees.

Additionally, HIAS Europe has participated in a series of meetings organised by the European Commission to provide input on the new EU Strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life.



## COMMUNICATIONS

For World Refugee Day, Ilan Cohn, HIAS Europe Director, [wrote an op-ed](#) on supporting refugees through community sponsorship models. The article featured in several Jewish media outlets, including Times of Israel (English), Times of Israel (French), Jewish News (UK), Juedische Allgemeine (Germany), HaGalil (Germany), Bet Magazine Mosaico (Italy), JOI Magazine (Italy), Vrijdagavond (Netherlands), and Jonet (Netherlands). Similar articles were also published in the July edition of Joods Actueel (Belgium, Flemish) and the September edition of Le Shofar (Belgium, French).



On World Refugee Day itself, 20th June, HIAS Europe took over the Instagram account of the European Union of Jewish Students (EUJS). Throughout the day, the followers of EUJS saw HIAS content on posts and stories and could join three live sessions with Sivan Carmel, Director of HIAS Israel; Aleksandr Galkin, Director of R2P in Ukraine; and Bini Guttman, EUJS President.

An article was published about HIAS Europe in the Rosh Hashana issue of Joods Actueel, the Dutch language Jewish newspaper in Belgium. The article focused on possibilities for Belgian Jewish communities to engage in community sponsorship initiatives. Additionally, HIAS Europe placed Jewish new year wishes in Belgian and Dutch Jewish newspapers. Also prior to Rosh Hashana, copies of the Annual Report 2020 (English / French) were disseminated to select stakeholders in the Jewish community.

Just before Rosh Hashanah, 20 representatives of European Jewish groups assembled at the Brussels Sephardi synagogue to celebrate the second anniversary of the opening of HIAS Europe. During the meeting, Raphael Marcus, Senior Vice President Programs at HIAS, introduced HIAS Emergency Response Programming. The event was covered on the websites of several of the participating organisations, presenting HIAS as the “humanitarian arm of the European Jewish community.” HIAS Europe launched a Twitter account and an Instagram account. The HIAS Europe Facebook group is gradually growing and currently has 300 members.



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Your support drives change in the struggle for justice and freedom for displaced persons around the world. Thank you for your partnership.

## APPENDIX I: HIAS EUROPE OBJECTIVES FOR 2022

HIAS Europe Objectives	Key Performance Indicator(s) / Milestones	Accomplished by
<p><b>1.</b> Further develop HIAS Europe administrative capacities and institutional standards to effectively manage international aid.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1.</b> Audit for FY 2021 successfully completed;</li> <li><b>2.</b> Agreements with HIAS Country Offices (COs) signed, defining relationship between HIAS Europe and COs;</li> <li><b>3.</b> HQ certified CO RFP 2021 expenditures were correctly executed in line with HIAS financial policies and procedures;</li> <li><b>4.</b> All CO audit reports filed by HIAS Europe;</li> <li><b>5.</b> Roll-out of HIAS' global security infrastructure in alignment with international standards;</li> <li><b>6.</b> Work Rules - in line with Belgian regulations - formally adopted;</li> <li><b>7.</b> Document Management Procedures (incl. retention &amp; erasure principles) adopted;</li> <li><b>8.</b> Counterterrorism / Suspension and Debarment SOP adopted;</li> <li><b>9.</b> Risk analyses completed;</li> <li><b>10.</b> Contract Review and Approval Procedure adopted.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1.</b> Q2</li> <li><b>2.</b> Q1</li> <li><b>3.</b> Q1</li> <li><b>4.</b> Q1</li> <li><b>5.</b> Q1</li> <li><b>6.</b> Q1</li> <li><b>7.</b> Q1</li> <li><b>8.</b> Q1</li> <li><b>9.</b> Q1</li> <li><b>10.</b> Q1</li> </ol>
<p><b>2.</b> Expand international aid programming, whilst ensuring effective oversight of projects implemented by HIAS Country Offices.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1.</b> Thematic coverage of international programming expanded to include at least two signature approaches in majority of partner countries;</li> <li><b>2.</b> Overall funding for International Programming reached minimum of EUR 2.25 million;</li> <li><b>3.</b> Full adherence to standard operating procedures for fund disbursement and oversight;</li> <li><b>4.</b> EU Partnerships Manager recruited;</li> <li><b>5.</b> Geographical diversification of grant portfolio beyond Greece and Mexico;</li> <li><b>6.</b> External evaluation of at least one project;</li> <li><b>7.</b> Minimum of 20 international projects administered, quarterly monitoring meetings conducted for each of them;</li> <li><b>8.</b> Minimum of four monitoring field visits conducted;</li> <li><b>9.</b> Involvement in at least one needs assessment and development of ten new projects.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1.</b> 2022</li> <li><b>2.</b> 2022</li> <li><b>3.</b> 2022</li> <li><b>4.</b> Q1</li> <li><b>5.</b> 2022</li> <li><b>6.</b> Q1</li> <li><b>7.</b> 2022</li> <li><b>8.</b> Q1-Q2</li> <li><b>9.</b> 2022</li> </ol>

HIAS Europe Objectives	Key Performance Indicator(s) / Milestones	Accomplished by
<p><b>3.</b> Diversify and expand funding through the development of new partnerships with European Institutions, European bilateral donors, European NGOs and private donors.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1.</b> New funding streams added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• at least one new project funded by Germany</li> <li>• at least one new project funded by EU</li> <li>• eight new project grants</li> <li>• private fundraising initiated (emergency response crowd-funding and/or individual philanthropists)</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>2.</b> ECHO certification obtained;</li> <li><b>3.</b> Share of external donor funding (other than HQ) increased to at least 25% of total operational income.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1.</b> 2022</li> <li><b>2.</b> Q3-4</li> <li><b>3.</b> 2022</li> </ol>
<p><b>4.</b> Increase general awareness of HIAS among European Jewish communities.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1.</b> Communication &amp; Advocacy Officer recruited;</li> <li><b>2.</b> Engage Board Members to enhance HIAS' visibility in Europe (i.e. public speaking, writing articles, etc.);</li> <li><b>3.</b> Ten op-eds/articles/blogs published in various Jewish media outlets;</li> <li><b>4.</b> Movie on refugee-themed holiday events produced and disseminated;</li> <li><b>5.</b> Reach on social media channels increased: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facebook group: 300 members</li> <li>• Twitter: 200 followers</li> <li>• Instagram: 200 followers</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>6.</b> HIAS Europe webpage created (integrated within HIAS website);</li> <li><b>7.</b> Annual Report in English and French produced and disseminated;</li> <li><b>8.</b> Two public events targeting Belgian Jewish community organised.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1.</b> Q1</li> <li><b>2.</b> 2022</li> <li><b>3.</b> 2022</li> <li><b>4.</b> Q1-Q3</li> <li><b>5.</b> 2022</li> <li><b>6.</b> Q1-Q2</li> <li><b>7.</b> Q2-Q3</li> <li><b>8.</b> 2022</li> </ol>



HIAS Europe Objectives	Key Performance Indicator(s) / Milestones	Accomplished by
<p><b>5.</b> Promote engagement of European Jews on behalf of refugees in Europe and enhance co-existence and understanding of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1.</b> Refugee Shabbat in Europe promoted: minimum of ten European communities signed up and at least two events supported;</li> <li><b>2.</b> Jewish community involvement in Community Sponsorship programmes promoted in at least one EU Member State;</li> <li><b>3.</b> Complete administration of five ongoing refugee aid projects implemented by European Jewish Communities/activists;</li> <li><b>4.</b> Complete emergency response programming (Italian Jewish community project for Afghan refugees and humanitarian work of Polish JCCs at Eastern border);</li> <li><b>5.</b> Refugee Shabbat Resource launched, translated to five languages;</li> <li><b>6.</b> Passover Resource launched, translated to five languages;</li> <li><b>7.</b> Sukkot Resource launched, translated to five languages;</li> <li><b>8.</b> Two regional trainings organised based on Resources;</li> <li><b>9.</b> Six events organised, based on resources, in partnership with Paideia;</li> <li><b>10.</b> Regional networking event for European Jewish activists organised with CEJI;</li> <li><b>11.</b> Refugee Aid Service Corps launched with EUJS (subject to funding);</li> <li><b>12.</b> Development of Coalition Building Guide, translated in five languages (subject to grant agreement with EU being signed);</li> <li><b>13.</b> Regional Coalition Building Workshop based on guide (subject to grant agreement with EU being signed).</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1.</b> Q1</li> <li><b>2.</b> 2022</li> <li><b>3.</b> Q1-2</li> <li><b>4.</b> Q1-3</li> <li><b>5.</b> Q1</li> <li><b>6.</b> Q2</li> <li><b>7.</b> Q3</li> <li><b>8.</b> Q1-Q2</li> <li><b>9.</b> Q1-Q3</li> <li><b>10.</b> Q3</li> <li><b>11.</b> Q1-Q3</li> <li><b>12.</b> Q2-Q3</li> <li><b>13.</b> Q4</li> </ol>
<p><b>6.</b> Join other NGOs and faith-based organisations in Europe in advocating for refugee/humanitarian protection.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1.</b> HIAS involvement/membership in European networks maintained/activated <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World of Neighbours Network (Church of Sweden)</li> <li>• Network for Dialogue (KAICIID)</li> <li>• European NGO Platform on Asylum and Migration (EPAM)</li> <li>• International Partnership in Religion and Sustainable Development (PaRD)</li> <li>• EC Roundtable with European Jewish Organisations</li> <li>• European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE), under leadership of HIAS Greece</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>2.</b> Support Welcoming the Stranger public event with LWF and IRW on World Refugee Day 2022;</li> <li><b>3.</b> Obtain Voice Membership.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1.</b> 2022</li> <li><b>2.</b> Q2</li> <li><b>3.</b> Q3-Q4</li> </ol>







## APPENDIX II: FINANCIAL REPORT

### BALANCE SHEET 2021

#### ASSETS

Fixed Assets	2,113
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Income Receivable	210,830
Advance Grant Payments	49,784
Cash at Bank	857,436
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>€1,120,163</b>

#### LIABILITIES

Capital and Reserves	820,681
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Prepaid Income	156,048
Payments Due to Suppliers	15,875
Accrued Staff Costs	25,919
Amounts Owed to HIAS Country Offices	- 101,640
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>€1,120,163</b>



### **PROFIT AND LOSS 2021**

HIAS Europe recorded a cumulative surplus in funds of 820,681 EUR in 2021, demonstrating the organisation's financial solvency.

Balance Brought Forward	1,013,007
Revenue 2021	2,500,631
Expenses 2021	-2,692,957
<b>SURPLUS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b>€820,681</b>

### **REVENUE 2021**

HIAS Europe's revenue grew further over the year, in line with our strategic growth goals.

The organisation continued to gradually diversify its sources of revenue, a trend that will continue in future years. Donors included DG Justice (European Commission); Save the Children Spain; International Rescue Committee; Foundation Open Society Institute; Dutch Council for Refugees; European Programme for Integration and Migration; Islamic Relief Worldwide; Safe Passage International; Choose Love; and Jones Day.

Unrestricted Funding from HIAS, Inc.	1,963,026
Restricted Grant Funding and Other Donations	524,126
Other Income	13,480
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€2,500,632</b>

### **EXPENDITURE 2021**

HIAS Europe disbursed more than two million euro in funds to our country offices and other partners. This was an increase on the year prior, reflecting the organisation's dynamic growth.

Donations To HIAS Country Offices and Other Beneficiaries	3,377,286
Staff Costs	224,284
Services and Other Goods	86,894
Asset Depreciation	728
Bank Charges and Currency Exchange	3,765
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>€2,692,957</b>

## APPENDIX III: AUDITOR'S REPORT

### Statutory Auditor's Report to Board of Directors of the Foundation "HIAS Europe" For The Year Ended On 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021

In the context of the statutory audit of the annual accounts of the organisation « HIAS Europe » (the Organisation), we hereby present our statutory auditor's report. It includes our opinion on the audit of the annual accounts as well as our report on the other legal and regulatory requirements. These reports form part of an integrated whole and are indivisible.

We have been appointed as statutory auditor by the board of directors of the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021, following the proposal by the board of directors. Our statutory auditor's mandate will expire on the date of the general meeting of members which will deliberate on the annual accounts closed on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022. We have performed the statutory audit of the annual accounts of the organisation for the second year.

#### REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

##### Unqualified opinion

We have audited the annual accounts of the Organisation, which comprise the balance sheet as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021, the profit and loss account for the year then ended and the notes to the annual accounts, characterised by a balance sheet total of € 1.120.162,58 and a profit and loss account showing loss for the year of €192.325,45.

In our opinion, the annual accounts give a true and fair view of the Organisation's net equity and financial position as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021, as well as of its results for the year then ended, in accordance with the financial reporting framework applicable in Belgium.

##### Basis for unqualified opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) as applicable in Belgium. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Statutory auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the annual accounts' section in this report. We have complied with all the ethical requirements that are relevant to the audit of annual accounts in Belgium, including those concerning independence.

We have obtained from the board of directors and the officials of the Organisation the explanations and information necessary for performing our audit.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

##### Responsibilities of the board of directors for the annual accounts

The board of directors is responsible for the preparation of annual accounts that give a true and fair view in accordance with the financial reporting framework applicable in Belgium, and for such internal control as the board of directors determines is necessary to enable the preparation of annual accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the annual accounts, the board of directors is responsible for assessing the Organisation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the board of directors either intends to liquidate the Organisation or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

##### Statutory auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the annual accounts

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the annual accounts as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a statutory auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these annual accounts.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the annual accounts, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organisation's internal control;
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the board of directors;
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the board of directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Organisation's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our statutory auditor's report to the related disclosures in the annual accounts or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our statutory auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Organisation to cease to continue as a going concern;
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the annual accounts and whether the annual accounts represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the board of directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identified during our audit.

## REPORT ON OTHER LEGAL AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

### Responsibilities of the board of directors

The board of directors is responsible for the presentation and the content of the other information included in the annual accounts for the compliance with the legal and regulatory requirements regarding bookkeeping, as well as for compliance with the Companies and Associations Code, and with the Organisation's by-laws.

### Responsibilities of the statutory auditor

In the context of our mandate and in accordance with the Belgian standard (Revised in 2018) which is complementary to the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) as applicable in Belgium, it is our responsibility to verify, in all material aspects, the other

information included in the annual accounts, compliance with certain provisions of the Companies and Associations Code and with the by-laws, as well as to report on these elements.

### Statement relating to the social report

The social balance sheet, to be filed with the National Bank of Belgium in accordance with article 3:12, § 1, 8° of the Companies and Associations Code, deals, both in terms of form and content, required by this Code, and does not include any significant inconsistencies with the information we have in the context of our mission.

### Statement related to independence

- Our audit firm did not provide services which are incompatible with the statutory audit of annual accounts, and we remained independent of the Organisation throughout the course of our mandate.
- The fees relating to additional assignments compatible with the statutory audit of the annual accounts referred to in article 3:65 of the Companies and Associations Code have, where appropriate, been correctly broken down and valued in the appendix to the annual accounts

### Other statements

- Without prejudice to certain formal aspects of minor importance, the accounting records are maintained in accordance with the legal and regulatory requirements applicable in Belgium.
- The result appropriation proposed to the General Meeting of Members is compliant with legal and statutory obligations.
- There are no transactions undertaken or decisions taken in breach of the by-laws or of the Companies and Associations Code that we have to report to you.

Brussels, the 5<sup>th</sup> August 2022

*Laurent Dethier*

Mailard, Dethier & Co SRL  
 Réviseurs d'entreprises – Bedrijfsrevisoren – Auditors  
 Duly represented by Laurent Dethier, Réviseur d'entreprises, Manager







# HIAS

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