

ANNUAL REPORT

MUSHKila  **kabira**

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The Netherlands

RSIN: 856543342 • KvK: 66416841

2016-2017

Content

| | |
|--|---|
| Preface..... | 2 |
| 1. Report of the board | 2 |
| 1.1 The Mobile Info Team | 2 |
| 1.2 The goals and objectives..... | 3 |
| 2. Future vision | 4 |
| 2.1 The Mobile Info Team | 4 |
| 2.2 Advice and legal assistance in the Netherlands | 4 |
| 3. Organization | 5 |
| 3.1 Board | 5 |
| 3.2 Employees | 6 |
| 4. Financial statements | 6 |
| 4.1 Income | 6 |
| 4.2 Expenses | 6 |
| 4.3 Future finances | 7 |

Preface

This is the first annual report of the Mushkila Kabira foundation, founded in June 2016. We have decided to prepare this annual report 12 months after founding Mushkila Kabira. So it covers July 2016 to July 2017. An annual report for calendar year 2017 will follow.

A lot has been achieved this year, a lot has happened, much has been learned. The activities of the Mobile Info Team in particular have grown enormously. Writing the annual report was an opportunity for the board to look back, to reflect, to evaluate goals and to develop new visions for the future. As said, a lot has been done, but the ambitions for further development are still present. The Mobile Info Team is on the eve of a major step to further professionalize and at the same time the first cautious steps are taken for the next project in which legal support for social and cultural initiatives in The Netherlands is investigated. Much of this is still unclear and in this annual report we find it too early to discuss these plans.

1. Report of the board

The first full year of the existence of the Mushkila Kabira Foundation, July 2016 through July 2017, was a full and productive year. The foundation immediately turned to the first project: The Mobile Info Team. During the year, the focus of the foundation was mainly on this project, and the project will therefore be the main focus of this annual report.

1.1 The Mobile Info Team

From a small project that tried to achieve as much as possible with minimal resources, The Mobile Info Team has grown into a steady actor in the humanitarian aid field of northern Greece. The team provides refugees information on a variety of subjects, although the main focus is on information about asylum procedures. In addition to general information provision, families and individuals are also helped with so-called 'case work'; personal guidance with the asylum trajectory.

The Mobile Info Team has grown. An organization with twelve medium term volunteers, of which two translators, employees specialized in 'advocacy', fund-raising, social media and a team of three long-term coordinators. The team currently rents two apartments, has two vehicles and operates from an office made available by the English organization "Help Refugees".

The team has assisted over five hundred 'cases'. This means that around 1100 people immediately made use of personal advice and guidance from The Mobile Info Team. In addition, the team answers around 150 questions per month that come in via Facebook and the phone line. Mobile Info Team also visits refugee camps and accommodations weekly, answer questions there, dispels rumors and takes new cases where necessary. Finally, the team has over 1800 followers on social media, mainly Facebook and partly Twitter. Especially via Facebook many refugees are kept informed of recent developments in asylum procedures relevant for the refugee population in Greece.

This year's activities:

Case work; guiding individuals and families during their asylum procedures

Information provision: Via Facebook, Twitter and the Mobile Info Team telephone line

Bridging: connecting refugees with specific problems / wishes with relevant humanitarian organizations

Media outreach: maintaining contacts with different media to ensure that the story of the refugees in Greece is heard in Europe

Advocacy: organizing lobbying and political activities to put pressure on the EU and its member states

1.2 The Goals and Objectives

As a foundation, Mushkila Kabira has set the following goals:

To provide humanitarian assistance to people who are in difficult situations and to assist and advise them, in the broadest sense of the word.

Specific goals for The Mobile Info Team (as described on the website) are:

1. Dissemination of information on asylum procedures to refugees in Northern Greece.
2. Provision of information about the situation in refugee camps and refugees' needs to other stakeholders and the media.

Development objectives:

Over the past twelve months, the focus of the team has shifted from daily information sessions in the camps to personal guidance of people and families, mostly via 'Whatsapp'. There are a number of reasons for this shift. The most important reason is that with the onset of the harsh winter of 2016 the refugees who previously lived together in camps were moved to apartments and hotels spread over northern Greece. This made it more difficult to do information sessions for groups such as the team previously did in the camps. In response to this, the team has shifted more towards individual guidance via Whatsapp. A second reason for this shift is that the refugee population became better informed about the general functioning of the asylum procedures. Therefore the questions asked were less general and more about the personal situation.

The second form of information provision, which via Facebook, Twitter and the telephone line has expanded throughout the year. Especially the number of followers on Facebook has increased drastically. Many questions are also received via the Facebook Chat. Especially now that the refugee population in Northern Greece is spread over several smaller locations, on line information provision and consultation has proven to be a solution.

The second goal that The Mobile Info Team has set itself is to provide information on the situation in refugee camps and the needs of refugees to other stakeholders and the media. Mobile Info Team tried to achieve this goal through three different strategies:

First, by bridging. When the team encounters specific wishes or concerns from refugees in the field, they try to connect those involved with aid organizations or other actors that can provide a solution. To do this as well as possible, volunteers from The Mobile Info Team visit the CwC

(Communicating with Communities) meetings of UNHCR, the 'Coordinator meetings' set up by "Help Refugees " and The Mobile Info Team keeps themselves informed through media outlets 'Are You Syrious', 'News that Moves' and various Whatsapp and Facebook groups in which volunteers in Greece inform each other about the latest developments.

Secondly, The Mobile Info Team maintains relations with various media and tries to contribute to reporting on the refugee problem in Greece. The Mobile Info Team has been covered by the Dutch national news organization NOS, been covered by photojournalists and has done video presentations at a Dutch school. Foreign TV channels and newspapers have also made items in collaboration with The Mobile Info Team. In addition, the team is in contact with local journalists and the above-mentioned groups Are You Serious and News That Moves to ensure that these groups have access to relevant information.

Third, the team has also had an 'advocacy' team that is engaged in lobbying and campaigning for several months. The advocacy team tries to contribute to an informed debate within the EU by providing detailed information to members of the European Parliament. She does that cooperation with other organizations that are involved in advocacy, such as the various national Councils for Refugees, Caritas, Pro Asyl and many others. The team offers support in the form of data and stories for members of the European Parliament. It also tries to build up momentum by petitioning and supporting political actions. Especially the petition against it limiting the number of 'Dublin family reunification' flights from the German government has been very successful, collecting over 25,000 signatures.

2. Future vision

2.1 The future of Mobile Info Team

The Mushkila Kabira Foundation intends to continue the Mobile Info Team project in the second year of existence. The objectives it has set in the first year will continue to exist. The project has included four evaluation moments in the coming year in which the project is evaluated quantitatively (quantity of 'cases', answered questions, information sessions) and qualitatively (investigating what is the impact of the aid to see if the project continues to benefit refugees).

At these moments, it's also investigated if the team is still in the right location for the work that it wants to do. The large number of refugees in northern Greece was a direct consequence of the closing of the Greek-Macedonian border in early 2016. That group is getting smaller due to the continuous relocation and family reunification that allows refugees to travel to another European country. At the same time, we see an increase in the number of refugees in Athens and on the Greek islands. It is therefore possible that the team will move to one of these two locations in the coming year.

The Mobile Info Team intends to expand its activities with interview training for refugees. Making refugees aware of which parts of their life stories are relevant to their asylum application.

2.2 Advice and legal assistance in the Netherlands

In addition to legal aid to refugees in Greece, Mushkila Kabira's board is currently also considering possible projects in the Netherlands. Discussed are projects that reflect the vision of the foundation as described in the policy plan. Mushkila Kabira is discussing facilitating legal aid at the

Amsterdam cultural refuge ADM. Further implementation of these plans will take shape in the coming year.

3. Organization

Address:

Mushkila Kabira Foundation
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1103 AV AMSTERDAM

Mail:

stichtingmushkilakabira@gmail.com

KvK (chamber of commerce) number: 66416841

RSIN (tax agency) number: 856543342

Legal form: Foundation

Type of foundation: Algemeen Nut Beogende Instelling (ANBI), Charitable institution

Statutory name: Mushkila Kabira Foundation

Registered office: Municipality of Amsterdam

Date of incorporation: 06-07-2016

Registration of trade register: 06-07-2016

Activities (SBI): 94993 - Support fund (not in the area of welfare)

Description: Providing humanitarian aid, advice and / or support and organizing (social) activities.

3.1 Board

The board of the foundation has three members: the chairman, the secretary and the treasurer. The board is unpaid. The board is independent and the chairman is independent. Decisions are taken by the board alone.

In the past year there were no changes in the composition of the board and it is expected that this will not happen in the coming year.

Directors:

Title: Chairman

Name: Schellekens, Thomas Corneel

Date and place of birth: 12-08-1984, Nijmegen (the Netherlands)

Date in office: 06-07-2016 (date of registration: 06-07-2016)

Scope of competence: Jointly authorized (with other director (s), see articles of association)

Title: Secretary

Name: Sloot, Fabian Johannes

Date and place of birth: 16-08-1980, Doetinchem (the Netherlands)

Date in office: 06-07-2016 (date of registration: 06-07-2016)

Scope of competence: Jointly authorized (with other director (s), see articles of association)

Title: Treasurer Name: van Koeverden, Els

Date and place of birth: 25-08-1989, Buren (the Netherlands)

Date in office: 06-07-2016 (date of registration: 06-07-2016)

Scope of competence: Jointly authorized (with other director (s), see articles of association)

3.2 Employees

The Mobile Info Team project currently consists of twelve volunteers. Of those twelve volunteers, there are three long-term coordinators and two translators. Volunteers are often accepted on the basis of specific skills (advocacy, fund-raising, etc.), but everyone on the team does case work. Volunteers for The Mobile Info Team are unpaid.

Exceptions are made for long-term volunteers from the refugee population, they receive a small compensation of € 100 per month. The reason for this being that they often have no other financial means at their disposal.

At the moment, the team is investigating whether there is financial space to also give the coordinators a monthly fee. This is because the coordinators have been working intensively with The Mobile Info Team for a year and a half, have a lot of knowledge and expertise and their commitment in the future seems essential for the successful continuation of the project. Without a stipend, it will not be feasible that the coordinators can continue to work for The Mobile Info Team.

4. Annual accounts

The annual accounts of Mushkila Kabira and her project The Mobile Info Team are the same for this year.

4.1 Income

The income of Mushkila Kabira consists this year mainly of private donations: donations from individuals. Three-quarters of Mushkila Kabira's income comes from this type of donation. The second category consists of 'organizational donations': donations from other organizations. These are mostly smaller foundations and associations from the Netherlands and abroad that donate amounts between five hundred and three thousand euros. These types of donations are sporadic. Lastly there is a small category 'other donations': donations coming from any another source. This category only occurs in the first month and concerns donations to The Mobile Info Team from a joint donation pool - inlaid by well-off sponsors who made funding available in the north of Greece for volunteer initiatives. Since this is not a personal donation, but also not a donation from an organization, we have labeled this group as 'other'.

The complete financial overview can be found in the financial year report.

4.2 Expenses

The expenses of The Mobile Info Team can be divided into eight different subcategories:

4.2.1 Food

The Mobile Info team provides food and shelter for its volunteers. The reason for this is that the team can not function without long-term volunteers. Training a volunteer takes an average of one month. That is why The Mobile Info Team requests a minimum of three months availability to its volunteers. Experience has shown that in order to get high quality volunteers for this time frames it is necessary to provide food and accommodation. Basic meals are offered three times a day by the foundation. These meals consist of simple, affordable products. Luxury supplements have to be paid by the individual volunteers themselves.

4.2.2 Fuel

For visiting the camps, The Mobile Info Team has two cars at its disposal. The costs of fuel for these cars have steadily declined this year last year because the team visits fewer camps and does more of their work over the phone.

4.2.3 Telephone / Internet

For the work of The Mobile Info Team it is essential that our volunteers have a Greek phone number with Whatsapp.

The Mobile Info Team provides Greek SIM cards with for calling and Internet. The office and the house also have an Internet connection so that work can be done properly. The costs of this have remained fairly stable during the year.

4.2.4 Office supplies / Information signs

This category includes costs that are directly related to the office and office supplies as well as items used for information sessions in camps, social centers, churches and private housing projects.

4.2.5 House

As explained in 4.2.1, the team provides food and shelter. The cost of the rent is a large part of the monthly budget. The costs vary due to periodic payment of rent, gas-water-light.

4.2.6 Legal

Legal costs are defined as expenses related to legal support to refugees such as translators, lawyers' fees, costs for requesting documents and registration as an NGO in Greece.

4.2.7 House supplies

This item covers all costs that the team spends on housekeeping its apartments. This cost item is relatively low and some months even zero. Exceptions are the months in which the refrigerator and the washing machine were purchased.

4.2.8 Transport

The 'transport' category includes the purchase, maintenance, insurance and taxes of the cars used by the team. The expenses in this category are very different per month. In months that a car has been purchased, repairs have been done or insurance has been paid in advance, the costs are very high, while in other months the costs are very low.

4.3 Future finances

There are two separate fund raising plans for next year. The newly established project to organize independent crowd funding for legal support to ADM will be funded by individual donations and small-scale fund raising activities, both in the Netherlands and abroad.

For The Mobile Info Team, a fund raising plan has been developed that shifts the focus from individual donations to raising funds from larger donations and grants by foundations and other organizations. Larger donors are currently being approached for this. It is estimated that for further development of the project 100,000 euros per year is needed. In the coming months it will be investigated whether this amount is feasible. If this is not the case, the project will have to be re-evaluated and possibly structured differently.