



HIAS
Europe

2020
Annual Report



In 2020, a record-breaking number of people were affected by forced displacement; according to the UN Refugee Agency, UNHCR, there were 79.5 million refugees and internally displaced persons in the world by the end of 2019. The international protection system has been under immense pressure during the COVID-19 pandemic, amid increasing opposition to norms of international burden-sharing, including within Europe. In many ways, these challenges to humanitarian protection were a continuation of challenges of previous years, yet the pandemic intensified these long-term stressors. COVID-19 threatened to turn a simmering refugee crisis into a full-fledged humanitarian disaster.

The pandemic has upended the lives of nearly every person on the planet, but it has posed particularly acute dangers to displaced persons. Our “[Assessment of Emergency and Protection Needs: COVID-19 Situation](#)” pointed out that the pandemic has seriously undermined the economic rights of many asylum seekers and refugees. More than 70 percent of those receiving aid from HIAS were no longer able to meet their basic needs for food, compared to 15 percent before the outbreak. As many of the most vulnerable displaced persons rely on the informal economy, they were among the first to suffer the economic impacts of lockdown. In response, HIAS significantly expanded economic livelihood programming and particularly cash-based interventions.

The pandemic also forced HIAS, and others who provide services to refugees and asylum seekers, to work remotely or under adverse conditions. Despite these disruptions, there has been a pressing need for HIAS Europe to deliver on what is the core of its vision: to work towards a world in which refugees find welcome, safety, and opportunity. In many countries, HIAS assistance during 2020 proved a lifeline. We have been partnering with local supermarkets in Ecuador to help asylum seekers buy food with credit. In Kenya’s cities, we have found ways to deliver our services online, including one-on-one mental-

health counselling. In Chad’s refugee camps, we have built hand-washing stations, distributed masks, and provided information about how the virus spreads. And finally, we have found ways to engage our supporters, including European Jewish communities, in new ways that do not require in-person meetings.

At the end of 2019, HIAS Europe set out two objectives for 2020. First, to enhance its capacity to administer aid for refugees and displaced persons at the highest possible international standards. As a relatively new organization, this goal meant our focus during 2020 would be on governance issues, the development and operationalization of administrative, financial, and programmatic processes, as well as setting out in more detail our relationships with other parts of the HIAS family. We also strove to diversify sources of funding for HIAS Europe, as well as for HIAS Country Offices. The second objective was to increase awareness of the existence of HIAS Europe and its mission amongst its local constituency: primarily, Jewish communities throughout the European Union. This annual report sets out our progress towards these two strategic objectives.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'I. Cohn', written in a cursive style.

Ilan Cohn
DIRECTOR, HIAS EUROPE

INTRODUCTION

The year 2020 for HIAS Europe was characterised by growth, both in terms of “international programming” and in terms of “domestic programming.” To better cope with this growth, the organization invested in setting strong foundations. As several public events and Community Engagement activities had to be cancelled during the year, the team was more available to focus on the internal capacity and foundational infrastructure to administer international aid. In terms of staffing, a Program Officer and an Administration and Finance Officer were recruited to join the HIAS Europe Director in Brussels. In addition, preliminary steps were taken to double the staff once more during 2021. To support the expanding team, five new board members were identified during 2020.

In addition to investing in human resources, HIAS Europe developed a set of policies and procedures that are to govern its operations over the coming years¹. These policies and procedures were drafted to ensure HIAS Europe:

- is transparent and accountable in delivering international aid;
- complies with humanitarian principles and observes the highest ethical standards;
- has a suitable operational capacity to design, implement, and monitor international aid projects;
- ensures compliance with relevant rules, regulations, and standards of the organization itself, as well as those of external donors;
- has a sound internal control system.

In 2020, HIAS Europe signed agreements with HIAS in the U.S. to better define the relationship between the two entities. Moreover, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were drafted to clarify the project cycle

management process, as well as roles and responsibilities in relation to the oversight of programs/funds administered by HIAS Europe and implemented by HIAS Country Offices (COs). These procedures were communicated to the COs and a training session took place to enhance familiarity with the SOPs among Country Directors. Furthermore, the HIAS Europe Mission Statement, as reflected in its statutes and code of conduct, was formally adjusted to better reflect its own Jewish history and roots, as well as its commitment to humanitarian principles.

Whereas COVID-19 constrained to some degree new planned programmatic initiatives within Europe, 13 new international projects were initiated in Chad, Colombia, Ecuador, Greece, Israel, Kenya, Mexico, and Peru. Another project initiated in 2019 to prevent gender-based violence (GBV) in Colombia and Kenya continued throughout 2020. There was a particularly notable spike in activities implemented in Greece following the fire that ravaged Greece’s largest camp for asylum seekers.

In its international programming, HIAS Europe applies a Refugee Rights Framework which focuses on helping refugees attain their rights and realize their full human potential as contributors to society through four programmatic focus areas:

- Legal protection;
- mental health and psychosocial support;
- economic inclusion;
- and gender-based violence prevention and protection.

As the numbers of refugees and other displaced people and the need for services increased dramatically in 2020, HIAS Europe continued to work in each of these areas, adapting services to COVID-19 protection measures.

PROGRAMMATIC FOCUS AREAS

HIAS' **legal protection programs** ensure that refugees know their rights, can access critical services, and navigate complicated legal systems to achieve permanent legal status and security.

HIAS' **community-based psychological services** provide tools and build on refugees' existing strengths and resources, and provide guidance and space for individuals, families, peer groups, and communities, to care for themselves and each other.

HIAS' **economic inclusion programs** provide refugees with opportunities to earn a sustainable income to support their families and achieve economic self-sufficiency.

HIAS works with communities around the world to reduce the risk of sexual and **gender-based violence**, increase support for survivors, and build partnerships with women-led organizations to promote and protect the rights of survivors, girls, and LGBTQ refugees.

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.” Just like HIAS in the United States, HIAS Europe's work is guided by humanitarian principles and Jewish values and history.

¹These include Staff Rules, Code of Conduct, Finance Manual, Anti-Fraud Policy, Conflict of Interest Mitigation and Response Measures, Procurement Procedures, Duty of Care Statement, Staff Security Policies, Child Protection policy, Safeguarding Policy, Environmental Safeguarding Policy, Data Protection Procedures, Document Management Procedures and Travel Policy. At the time of this writing, these documents were at various stages of formal approval.

²Already expressed through the signing in 2019 of the “Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief.”

WHERE WE ARE

2,247 asylum seekers received information about the asylum systems in the U.S. and in Mexico.

MEXICO

Ciudad Juarez • Matamorros
Monterrey • Nuevo Laredo
Mexicali • Tijuana

HIAS reached **1,257** people directly with their community-based psychological services in Ecuador.

Focusing on GBV Prevention and Response, HIAS reached **217** people directly and **4,864** people indirectly in Peru.

COLOMBIA

Barranquilla • Bogota

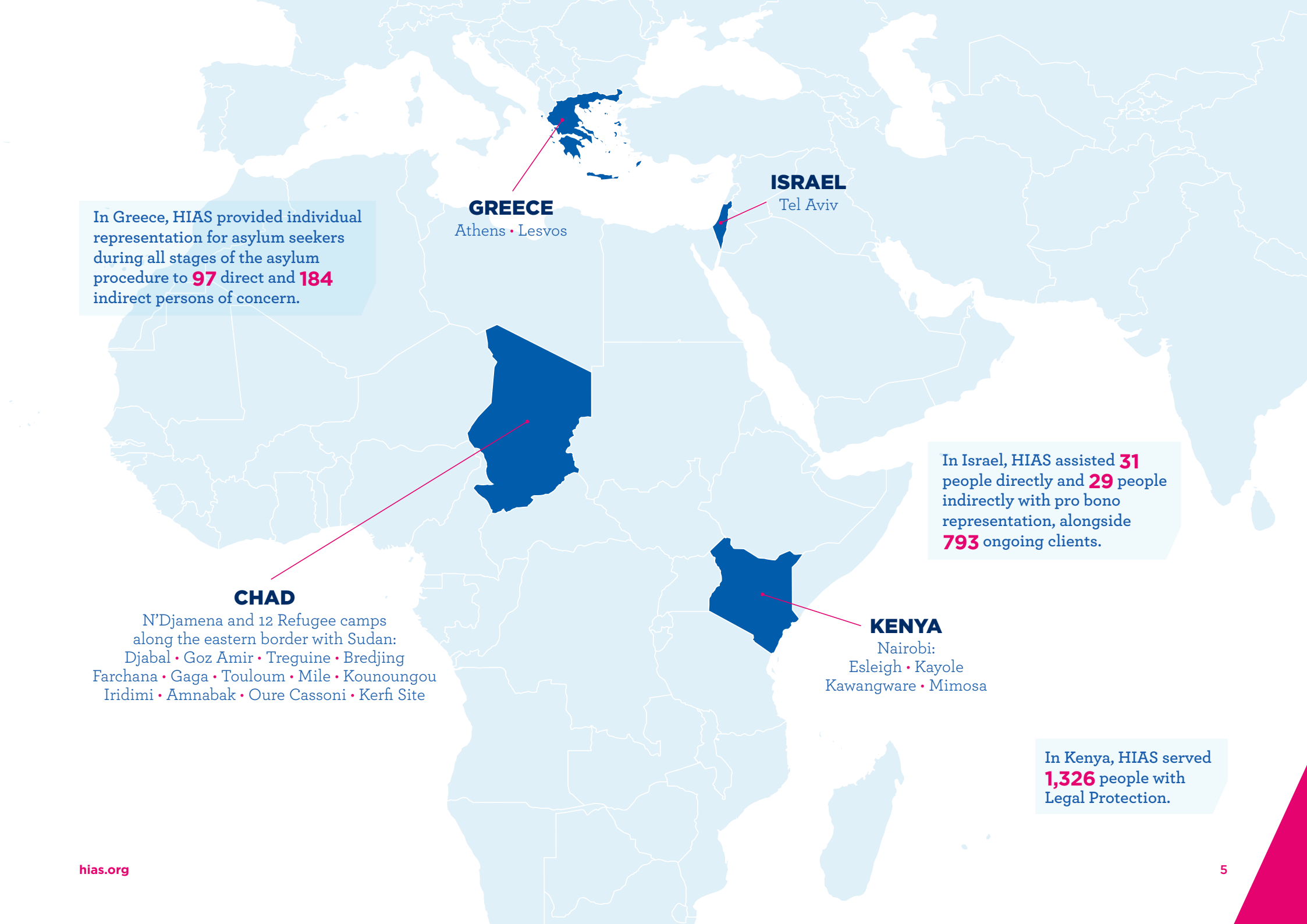
ECUADOR

Ambato • Cuenca • Esmeraldas
Guayaquil • Huaquillas • Ibarra
Lago Agrio • Machala • Manta
Quito • San Lorenzo
Santa Domingo • Tulcan

PERU

Lima

In Colombia, 90 people trained on prevention and response of GBV, **27** female GBV survivors received psychosocial support, and **512** people participated in community activities for social cohesion.



In Greece, HIAS provided individual representation for asylum seekers during all stages of the asylum procedure to **97** direct and **184** indirect persons of concern.

GREECE
Athens • Lesbos

ISRAEL
Tel Aviv

In Israel, HIAS assisted **31** people directly and **29** people indirectly with pro bono representation, alongside **793** ongoing clients.

CHAD

N'Djamena and 12 Refugee camps along the eastern border with Sudan:
Djabal • Goz Amir • Treguine • Bredjing
Farchana • Gaga • Touloum • Mile • Kounoungou
Iridimi • Amnabak • Oure Cassoni • Kerfi Site

KENYA

Nairobi:
Esleigh • Kayole
Kawangware • Mimosa

In Kenya, HIAS served **1,326** people with Legal Protection.

EUROPEAN PROGRAMMING

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This program educates, organizes, and mobilizes the European Jewish community to take action in support of and in solidarity with refugees and asylum seekers. Indirectly, it also increases awareness of HIAS as the global Jewish community humanitarian relief arm, mobilizing European Jews in support of 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. Such capacity building activities may include the development of educational and awareness-raising resources, training activities, networking activities, and coalition building, as well as the provision of seed money to facilitate European Jewish community and activist programming that is in line with HIAS Europe vision. This also includes programming that facilitates positive interaction and the trust building between Jewish and migrant communities in Europe. Although European Jews and recent migrants and asylum seekers share similar histories and experience various types and degrees of intolerance and discrimination, their relationship is often framed by mutual mistrust. Therefore, HIAS Europe community engagement programming also seeks to promote mutual understanding between Jewish and migrant communities and debunk harmful bias, myths, and stereotypes. Whenever appropriate, HIAS Europe seeks to build on expertise and resources developed by HIAS in the U.S. context. This program in particular was severely impacted by public health restrictions, as travel and in-person meetings became increasingly difficult. In response, some new initiatives and partnerships emerged at the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, all based on online programming.

Refugee Shabbat

Twelve different Refugee Shabbat-affiliated activities in Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, and the United Kingdom had to be cancelled. HIAS Europe supported the registered communities with ideas and materials to move their activities online through HIAS materials for a virtual Seder, readings, movie screenings, and discussions.

Jointly with Limmud Europe, HIAS Europe organized a [webinar](#) featuring HIAS' Rabbi-in-Residence on how to talk about refugees during Jewish holidays, how to remain connected as a community, and how to organize a Refugee Seder at home. The webinar was attended by 19 people from Jewish communities in Europe, including activists on social issues, members dedicated to Jewish learning, and youth leaders. The webinar further discussed how Jewish holidays can address social justice issues in times of online meetings, remote activism, and virtual activities.

[Early Passover Seder](#) with the European Union of Jewish Students

The European Union of Jewish Students (EUJS) and HIAS Europe brought together 25 Jewish youth activists from across Europe on 17 February to learn about today's refugees and contemporary challenges to the right to international protection. Using the HIAS Haggadah, the students held a seder and discussed in what ways young European Jews could effect change. They also considered potential ways to get involved in refugee causes, such as serving as mentors to refugee students or facilitating their integration on campus.

“We reflected on the responsibility we hold, as young Jews, to bring help and relief to those who need it,”

said Elias Dray, and EUJS member.



A HIAS Haggadah in French

In order to engage European Jewish communities in Belgium, France, Luxembourg, and Switzerland, HIAS Europe translated the HIAS Haggadah into [French](#). A [Refugee Seder with the European Jewish Community Centre](#) was planned on 29 March to inaugurate the French Haggadah and initiate partnerships with Belgian NGOs, Convivial and Plateforme Citoyenne de Soutien aux Réfugiés, as well as the European Platform Peace and Justice. Around 80 guests were expected for the Refugee Seder from all partners and the Jewish Community of Brussels, as well as two guests from the Jewish-Refugee project Integrationswerkstatt Unkel in Germany. The event had to be cancelled due to the outbreak of COVID-19.



Webinars

HIAS Europe organized and participated in numerous webinars during 2020. As COVID-19 forced many governments to impose national lockdowns, the European Union of Jewish Students (EUJS) held an [online seminar](#) with HIAS Europe Director Ilan Cohn and HIAS' Greece Country Director to discuss how the pandemic affects refugees on Lesbos, EU migration and asylum policies, and ways of supporting both the work of HIAS Greece and HIAS Europe. Within the framework of EUJS Tikkun Olam in Action Human Rights Week, HIAS' Director of International Programs joined a [Facebook live webinar](#) with Member of European Parliament Erik Marquardt and UNHCR representative on refugees. They discussed the situation in Greece, the impact of rising far-right populist politics, and gave advice for young professionals interested in human rights.

The Dor Vador Synagogue in Paris held a refugee-themed webinar for Shavuot, featuring HIAS' Europe Program Officer who presented HIAS Europe's approach to talking about today's displaced people during Jewish holidays and linking the two together. The webinar was joined by 25 people from the Dor Vador community.

HIAS Europe participated in the [European Council of Jewish Communities' two-day e-Summit for European Jewish Leaders](#) with a virtual booth presenting HIAS' humanitarian and community engagement work, as well as the video "HIAS: For the Refugee."

Refugee Aid Service Program

In partnership with the European Union of Jewish Students (EUJS), HIAS Europe developed a [Jewish Refugee Aid Service Program](#) that intended to support the deployment of European Jewish students and youth as volunteers in HIAS Country Offices in Ecuador, Greece, and Panama during the summer of 2020.

The program aimed to increase opportunities for Jewish European youth (aged 18-35) to get involved in humanitarian relief efforts around the world. Following the field placement, the program would help the participants continue their engagement in refugee protection, either by supporting EUJS or their own Jewish communities in working with refugees, or taking a stand against prejudice and xenophobia.

The program received 25 applications from across Europe. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the program has been postponed to summer 2022.

Tikkun in Action Small Grants to Initiatives Supporting Refugees in Europe

HIAS Europe initiated the “Refugee Track” as part of the Joint Distribution Committee [Tikkun in Action Small Grants Program](#), supporting Jewish initiatives with refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants in Europe. Nineteen proposals were received in this Refugee Track. These deal with community integration at the local level and initiatives that promote co-existence. Some of the proposed interventions included measures to facilitate local integration, including legal support, counselling, mentoring, language and employment-related training, and various forms of humanitarian support.



Five projects have been selected:

1. *Beth Hillel Rome: Improving the Lives of African Refugees in Rome*
The congregation Beth Hillel in Rome will operate a number of different volunteer programs (e.g., tutoring, cooking classes) to improve the lives of African refugees in Rome and support their integration into Italian society.

“With HIAS’ funding, we are able to ensure our volunteering activities with the NGO Casa Africa, supporting migrants in Italy. Through these activities, we teach our young generation about Tikkun Olam and welcoming newcomers in our society.”

—Fabio Benjamin Fantini, International Relations,
Beth Hillel Rome

2. *Shalom Alaikum Vienna: Aid for Refugee Families during the COVID-19 Pandemic*
The project will mobilize Jewish community members to mentor refugees in Vienna, helping them to navigate Austrian bureaucracy. The project will also support legal aid and language courses.
3. *European Union of Progressive Judaism (EUPJ): Getting to Know Your Neighbours*
Getting to Know Your Neighbours is an educational program that will allow school groups from largely Muslim immigrant neighbourhoods in Brussels to learn about Jews and Judaism. The project will organize guided visits and learning sessions in the Beth Hillel Brussels synagogue, and facilitate meetings between Jewish and Muslim youth.

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.
5. *Scottish Council of Jewish Communities: Jews and Refugees: Connecting Conversations*
The Scottish Council of Jewish Communities is partnering with Interfaith Glasgow to provide a program of three events centered on exploring refugee issues and social integration for Jewish communities and ‘New Scots’ through shared activities and dialogue.

“HIAS’s funding has allowed us to export the ‘Know Your Neighbor project,’ developed in Amsterdam to Brussels, where our synagogues are located in immigrant and migrant populated neighborhoods. Thanks to HIAS, we are able to bring down the walls separating our Jewish community from their neighbors.”

—Bill Echikson, Director EUPJ

Increased Community Engagement in Europe for 2021

In 2020, HIAS Europe received a grant from the Rights Equality & Citizenship Program of the European Commission. This program will fund much of HIAS Europe Community Engagement programming in 2021 and 2022, allowing it to intensify its capacity building approach.

COMMUNICATIONS

During 2020, HIAS Europe was featured in 13 European Jewish news outlets in Dutch, English, French, German, and Italian. Several articles were published for Passover and World Humanitarian Day, presenting HIAS's community engagement work in Europe as well as humanitarian action around the world. Since there were few events that could be covered, most publications were opinion articles seeking to raise awareness about HIAS within the European Jewish community. Messaging focused on the plight of refugees within and beyond Europe, and highlighted possibilities for Jewish communities to support refugees.

Published articles:

- [Van vluchteling naar humanitair hulpverlener](#), Jonet.nl
- [From refugee to humanitarian](#), Times of Israel English
- [De réfugié à humanitaire](#), Times of Israel French
- [Von Geflüchteten zu humanitären Helfenden](#), HaGalil
- [Flüchtlingshilfe: Auch unsere Verantwortung](#), Jüdische Allgemeine
- [“Flüchtlingen zu helfen ist wichtiger denn je” HIAS hofft auf die Unterstützung jüdischer Gemeinden Europas](#), Jüdisches Europa
- [Da rifugiati all'assistenza umanitaria: il lavoro con HIAS](#), Bet Magazine Mosaico
- [Giornata Mondiale dell'Aiuto Umanitario, la ong ebraica: “COVID catastrofico”](#), Moked
- [L'appello di una ong ebraica per evitare una catastrofe umanitaria](#), Pagine Ebraiche
- [Da rifugiati all'assistenza umanitaria](#), Confronti
- [World Humanitarian Day, una storia ebraica](#), JOI Magazine
- [Refugees, Jews and HIAS in Europe](#), Times of Israel English
- [Les réfugiés, les juifs et HIAS en Europe](#), Times of Israel French

- [Les réfugiés, les juifs et HIAS en Europe](#), Tribune Juive
- [Rifugiati, ebrei e HIAS in Europa](#), Bet Magazine Mosaico
- HIAS: les Juifs solidaires des réfugiés, Le Shofar
- Deur open met de Seider, Nieuw Israelitisch Weekblad (NIW)

POLICY & ADVOCACY

In 2020, HIAS Europe began working with several NGO networks active in refugee protection, such as the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE), the European NGO Platform on Asylum and Migration (EPAM), and an informal network of Brussels-based faith-based organizations. Following the publication of the European Commission's New Pact on Migration and Asylum, HIAS Europe participated in several NGO forums to discuss civil society responses to the new pact. It participated regularly in the EPAM Meetings as well as ECRE's meetings for Brussels-based members. Finally, HIAS Europe also participated regularly in the European Commission Roundtable with European Jewish organisations as well as coordination meetings organised by UNHCR.

HIAS Europe is also a member of the network “A World of Neighbours” (AWoN), led by the Church of Sweden. It participated at the AWoN Pre-Summit Gathering in Malmo, Sweden, in January and negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding with the Church of Sweden (to be signed in 2021). The memorandum will support both AWoN's goal to enhance the Jewish presence in its professional network of practitioners in migrant accompaniment and social cohesion and HIAS Europe's goal to engage Jewish communities in Europe in support of refugees and their local integration. As part of this arrangement, AWoN's fundraising activities will be contracted through HIAS Europe consultants to support Jewish communities' engagement in local refugee support activities.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMING (IMPLEMENTED THROUGH HIAS COUNTRY OFFICES)

Despite COVID-19, HIAS Europe did not only manage to continue its International Programming but also to considerably expand it, reflecting the enhanced humanitarian needs caused by the pandemic. As a result of countries closing their borders and restrictions on international travel, many asylum seekers were not able to access asylum countries to seek protection. Certain groups of asylum seekers have been at particular risk, for example those lacking documentation, refugee women and girls facing gender-based violence, children, and stateless persons. It is indeed these particularly vulnerable individuals that HIAS and other agencies have sought specifically to protect through its international programs.

During the second half of 2020 especially, HIAS Europe was able to significantly expand the programming of select HIAS Country Offices, allowing them to adapt their services to the needs of persons affected by national lockdowns. Country Offices were able to continue their services remotely, in addition to safe in-person services whenever possible.

Notwithstanding the increased needs as a result of COVID-19, the fire on Lesbos in November 2020 was a second trigger for HIAS Europe's expansion. The fire destroyed the Moria camp, leaving nearly 13,000 asylum seekers without shelter. In response to the fire and subsequent humanitarian needs, several new partnerships were created with European NGOs and foundations³, building on HIAS Greece's longstanding legal protection programming, and also expanding into mental health and psychological services.

HIAS Europe selected priority programmatic focus areas and geographic locations to focus its programming in support of displaced

people around the world during this time of crisis. These were based on a rapid needs assessment (RNA) conducted during April and May across HIAS program locations in Latin America, Africa, and Europe, as well as the results of a Request for Proposals. The RNA showed clearly how the COVID-19 crisis had caused a global decrease in ability to meet basic needs, posed threats to legal protection, impacted mental health and resilience, and increased both the risks and incidence of GBV. While many of these needs pre-dated the COVID-19 situation, the pandemic has further compounded humanitarian needs in various domains. HIAS Europe opted to focus its efforts on the following:

- Legal protection programming that both secures legal status and ensures effective access to rights.
- 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 situation, and increase basic psychosocial skills such as healthy coping mechanisms.
- GBV prevention and response programming that reduces risks for women and girls during lockdowns, strengthens women's self-reliance, and protects children and adolescent girls from sexual violence.

Furthermore, HIAS Europe programming focused exclusively on countries with a HIAS field presence, and selected proposals from Chad, Colombia, Ecuador, Greece, Israel, Kenya, Mexico, and Peru—building on prior GBV prevention and response programming in Kenya and Columbia.

³Open Society Foundation, the European Programme for Integration and Migration, Islamic Relief Worldwide, and the Dutch Council for Refugees.

LEGAL PROTECTION

The fire in Moria placed HIAS clients in **Greece** in an extremely precarious situation. In the immediate aftermath of the fire, both asylum seekers and civil society faced questions regarding asylum interviews and appeal deadlines. Meanwhile the national authorities did little to provide answers, thereby increasing the already high levels of distress. Asylum procedures were accelerated with applicants being informed with little notice and without the necessary time to secure legal aid and prepare for their interview. HIAS Greece provided individual representation for asylum seekers during all stages of the asylum procedure to **97 direct and 184 indirect persons of concern**, particularly to the most vulnerable individuals. These included unaccompanied minors, single parent families, survivors of gender-based violence, victims of torture, and asylum seekers wrongfully detained.

The COVID-19 crisis in **Israel** left many asylum seekers without any kind of financial safety. HIAS Israel assisted 25 asylum seekers with **legal representation** to obtain unemployment benefits. In addition, HIAS Israel continued to grow its pro bono network to 240 lawyers and law students who provide high quality legal representation to vulnerable clients, including victims of torture and trafficking, single parent households, unaccompanied minors, and LGBTQ asylum seekers. HIAS Israel's legal aid monthly newsletter distributes legal information and updates to its 300 recipients within the Israeli legal community. The HIAS Country Office in Israel assisted 31 direct and 29 indirect beneficiaries with pro bono representation, alongside 793 ongoing clients.

In order to better understand the needs of clients in **Mexico**, HIAS established a rapid participatory needs survey in Monterrey, Ciudad

Juarez, and Matamoros. HIAS Mexico's "Know Your Rights" (Conoce tus derechos) campaign was carried out online and in COVID-19-safe environments in local shelters. As a result, 2,247 asylum seekers received information about the asylum systems in the U.S. and in Mexico, including the legal requirements to establish a successful asylum claim in both countries. In 2020 57 individuals received legal representation from HIAS to support their asylum claims in Mexico.

COMMUNITY-BASED PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

Focusing on supporting the mental health needs of "people on the move," HIAS **mental health services** in **Ecuador** adjusted to a part-remote, part-in-person model following the spread of COVID-19. Remote individual and group activities via phone and video calls ensured persons of concern could still access services and orientation was still provided at HIAS offices for at-risk cases.

HIAS Ecuador established support groups for adolescents in **Quito**, **Machala**, **Huaquillas**, and **Santo Domingo**, which allowed children to express emotions through art or develop support networks through music. HIAS also focuses on engaging communities through the training of community practitioners. These practitioners strengthen their community members' wellbeing and identify cases with specific protection needs in order to refer them to specialized services.

Building further on its **child protection work**, HIAS Ecuador in collaboration with the community organization La Católica founded a reading club for children and adolescents in **Cuenca**. HIAS Ecuador further cooperated with La Católica's health center to provide tools for psychological first aid.



GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION

Leading in gender-based violence (GBV) risk reduction and response in many countries in 2020, HIAS committed to give voice to survivors and to position women and girls at the center of risk reduction and prevention. HIAS Europe oversaw programming on GBV in Chad, Colombia, Ecuador, Kenya, and Peru.

With funding from the Norwegian Church Aid, HIAS **Colombia** and HIAS **Kenya** focused on engaging men in prevention of and response to GBV and forced child marriage. This project developed a curriculum which places women's voices at the center of the resource. The curriculum was piloted with feedback from male focus groups on its practicality and relevance. Colombia launched the curriculum in a conference with local, national, and international stakeholders.

As in many countries, the state-imposed **lockdown** in **Peru** endangered survivors of GBV by continually exposing them to their aggressors. HIAS Peru activated hotlines for persons of concern to receive information about COVID-19 prevention. Switching to a remote model of work, HIAS created **online meeting spaces** for persons of concern, accompanied cases remotely, and provided in-person support for emergencies. In partnership with Airbnb, HIAS Peru is managing **safe housing** for people at risk and survivors of GBV in the municipality of **Lima**.

With the psychoeducational program "We are the change" ("Nosotras somos el cambio"), HIAS Peru brought together **adolescents** from both the migrant and the host communities in workshops about self-esteem, sexuality, female empowerment, and support networks.

HIAS Country Offices held online campaigns to mark the **International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women** and **16 Days of Activism**, reaching thousands of people of concern and promoting HIAS' GBV prevention and response services to refugees and asylum seekers.



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. The following generous donors contributed to HIAS in the 2020 fiscal year:

Dutch Council for Refugees

European Programme for Integration and Migration

Islamic Relief Worldwide

Jones Day

Norwegian Church Aid

Open Society Foundation





APPENDIX I: HIAS EUROPE OBJECTIVES FOR 2021

HIAS Europe Objectives	Key Performance Indicator(s) / Milestones	Accomplished by
1. Build up HIAS Europe administrative capacities and institutional standards to effectively manage international aid.	1. All the needed policies and regulations developed and in place; 2. New Board in place, with appropriate level of engagement and internal division of labour identified; 3. Mission Statement in Statutes adjusted; 4. Audit for FY 2020 successfully completed; 5. a) Appropriate/logical staffing structure developed; b) Five full-time staff employed by end of year; 6. HIAS Europe accounting system and related Finance Manual developed and put in place; 7. a) Adaptation of HIAS HR management/administration standards to Belgian context; b) Full implementation of context-adapted HR management/administration standards by end of year.	1. Q2-Q3 2. Q1 3. Q2 4. Q2 5. Q4 6. Q2 7. a) Q2 b) Q4
2. Expand international aid programming, whilst ensuring effective (programmatic) oversight of projects implemented by HIAS Country Offices.	1. International programming expanded (geographically) to at least 5 additional countries (13 in total); 2. Thematic coverage of international programming expanded to include economic inclusion - in addition to existing three program areas; 3. Overall funding for International Programming increased to at least EUR two million; 4. Standard operating procedures for fund disbursement and oversight defined and operationalized.	1. Q1-Q4 2. Q1-Q4 3. Q1-Q4 4. Q1-Q4
3. Diversify and expand funding through the development of new partnerships with European Institutions, European bilateral donors, European NGOs and private donors.	1. New funding streams that include grants, structural partnerships, and new donors are added to HIAS Europe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one structural partnership with a bilateral humanitarian donor; • one grant agreement signed directly with a European Institution; • four new project grants. 	1. Q1-Q4

HIAS Europe Objectives	Key Performance Indicator(s) / Milestones	Accomplished by
4. Increase general awareness of HIAS among European Jewish Communities.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Op-ed/articles published in at least ten different Jewish media outlets; 2. Twitter account launched; 3. Membership of FB group doubled to 200, new content on weekly basis; 4. HIAS Europe webpage created (integrated in HIAS website). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Q2-4 2. Q2-4 3. Q1-4 4. Q4
5. Promote involvement of European Jews on behalf of refugees in Europe, enhancing co-existence and understanding of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Refugee Shabbat in Europe promoted: minimum of ten European communities signed up and at least one regional event organised; 2. European Jewish involvement in Community Sponsorship programs promoted; at least one European Jewish community involved in such programming; 3. Financial and technical support given to five European Jewish Communities / activists to initiate/expand supportive refugee programming; 4. a) European Expert Group formed to support development of educational resource guides; b) Four virtual meetings and one in-person workshop organized with expert group; c) At least two resource guides developed; 5. MoU with Church of Sweden signed, promoting (Jewish) grass-roots activism in support of “welcoming communities”. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Q1 2. Q2-Q4 3. Q1-Q4 4. a) Q1 b) Q2 c) Q3 5. Q2-4 6. Q3 or Q4
6. Join other NGOs and faith communities in Europe in advocating on behalf of refugee/ humanitarian protection.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. HIAS involvement/membership in Brussels-based (advocacy) networks maintained / active; 2. Public event created on the topic of Global Compact on Refugees and the role of faith-based organizations organised; 3. Organization of “Welcome the Stranger” international conference supported. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Q1-Q4 2. Q1 3. Q1-Q4

APPENDIX II: AUDITOR'S REPORT

Statutory Auditor's Report To Board Of Directors Of The Foundation "Hias Europe" For The Year Ended On 31st December 2020

In the context of the statutory audit of the annual accounts of the foundation "HIAS EUROPE" (the Foundation), 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 4th March 2021. 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 31st December 2022. This is our first year as statutory auditor of the foundation.

REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Unqualified opinion

We have audited the annual accounts of the Foundation, which comprise the balance sheet as at 31st December 2020, the profit and loss account for the year then ended and the notes to the annual accounts, characterised by a balance sheet total of € 1,547,172.90 and a profit and loss account showing a profit for the year of € 1,033,980.50.

In our opinion, the annual accounts give a true and fair view of the Foundation's net equity and financial position as at 31st December 2020,

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 Foundation 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 Foundation'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 Foundation 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 skepticism 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 Foundation'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 Foundation'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 Foundation 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 Foundation's by-laws.

Responsibilities of the statutory auditor

In the context of our mandate and in accordance with the Belgian standard (Revised in 2020) 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 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 Foundation 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.

Bruxelles, the 28th June 2021




Maillard, Dethier & Co SRL

Réviseurs d'entreprises – Bedrijfsrevisoren – Auditors

Duly represented by Fernand Maillard, Réviseur d'entreprises, Manager





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