

# January 2023



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

**70**  
Children

**50**  
In GS

**20**  
In MA

We work with children in the informal living site in Grande-Synthe (GS), as well as in independently run safe houses and day centres (maisons accueillantes - MA).

This month, we worked with 70 children - 50 in Grande-Synthe and 20 in maisons accueillantes.



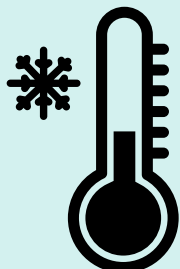
Forced to endure freezing temperatures, people rely on fires to stay warm. Plastics and fabric are burned when wood is scarce, releasing toxic fumes.

**We often witness children playing near to open flames.**



State authorities provide no waste collection for people living in informal sites\*.

**In two thirds of our sessions**, it was noted that there were large amounts of rubbish, with children playing near food waste and **with rusty and sharp objects** found on the ground.



With little shelter from low temperatures and icy winds, **20% of the children we worked with didn't have warm jackets.** On a number of occasions, children were seen shivering.



In **more than half** of our sessions, children asked us for drinking water, **expressing that they felt thirsty.**

\*The State hires 'cleaning' teams and skips employed to facilitate the destruction of belongings in evictions - blankets, sleeping bags, shelters and other personal belongings. Relentless and hostile, these evictions are mentally and physically exhausting for those forced to endure them, and exert strain on the ability of NGOs to respond. The **tireless pursuit of hostile policies, including eviction operations, stops people from being able to access their fundamental rights.**

Marking nine years since **at least 11 people were killed** after Spanish border police fired rubber bullets at refugees swimming to safety, we marched in 'CommemorAction' for **all those who have been killed or disappeared on borders.** We also participated in a **waste collection action**, picking up trash from informal living sites to highlight the urgency of the situation in Calais.



[www.project-play.org](http://www.project-play.org)

Contact us:  
[advocacy@project-play.org](mailto:advocacy@project-play.org)

## No childhood should look like this.

Project Play is a registered French Charity, No: W594012083. We also operate under Donat4Refugees, Charity No: 1168435.