

Monthly Impact Report

OCTOBER 2026

ProjectPlay

OCTOBER *in* PLAY



We are a grassroots organisation supporting children and families on the move in northern France through **play**, **parental support** and **casework**. This month:

WE FACILITATED	WE WORKED WITH	WE PLAYED FOR
29	202	48
SESSIONS	CHILDREN	HOURS

This month, we ran service at **ten locations** across northern France - including makeshift camps, independent safe houses and community centres. Alongside our normal play sessions, this month we also ran play distributions at harder to reach sites - more below.



Session Spotlight

This month we welcomed back Hermione, who first joined the playworker team earlier this year. During her time away from Calais in the UK, she raised funds to purchase some new Montessori-inspired toys, which have already made a big difference to our sessions! A favourite has so far been the car ramp racer which can be set up by children across the play space to have races with matchbox cars. It has been great to see the children not only excited by new materials, but learning and developing new skills through play. Games and materials such as these build coordination and support cause-and-effect learning as children watch motion unfold based on their input.

NEWS *and* UPDATES

From the border:

The month of October was characterised by a high number of crossings, especially in the last weekend of the month. Nevertheless, the number of people in the living sites is still quite high and unusual for the month of November, compared to past years. This October marked 10 years since the dismantling of 'the jungle', seeing many events and media attention. As an organisation we reflected on the increase of state violence throughout the ten years, as well as the increase in the number of children stuck at the border.

State Accomodation - Many unaccompanied minors (UAMs) were refused State accommodation because there were not enough spaces, but communication around availability is not clear, making referals difficult to do.

Poor weather conditions - As weather conditions worsen, as do the conditions of living for people who are living in makeshift camps leading to an increased demand for shelter. During storm Austen, the state opened a shelter for 200 people, prioritising women and families, despite numbers of people living outside being close to 2,000. Exceptional shelter was not made available for UAMs

Waste removal - We observed high levels of waste and garbage within camps and at distribution points. In Dunkirk, we, along with other organisations, have contacted the city hall to deal with this, and to try to find a way to prevent large puddles forming where we conduct our play sessions.



Caregiver Support & Casework

In October we provided specific casework support to **5 families**.

We **made 29 referrals,** mainly for medical support, tents, sleeping bags, clothes and food, for families in need of these services.

GALLERY

some favourite moments this month!

Some more of the montessori toys brought to Calais by Hermione





Our education sessions have continued throughout October, in safe houses and Calais living sites.



Our team have been learning how to make giant bubbles, which have been LOVED by the children during our sessions





Thank You!

ENGAGE

Follow Project Play and our partners in northern France to stay informed, and sign up to our newsletter to receive our updates.

SUPPORT

We rely on our community of supporters to run our service. Click here to find out you you can help us keep playing – and keep fighting for change.

JOIN US

Join our team of playworkers in northern France, or keep an eye out for opportunities to join our remote team.

