



Monthly Impact Report

DECEMBER 2025



DECEMBER

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

12

SESSIONS

WE WORKED WITH

68

CHILDREN

WE PLAYED FOR

28

HOURS

We worked at **five different locations**, including independent safe houses, community centres and informal living sites - reaching a consistently high number of children.

Session Spotlight!

In December, we created a theatre that the children had to decorate and bring to life. The idea started with a box with a garland, which the children were able to paint, mixing primary colours to create new ones. We brought in little characters to create a small world full of imagination!



Parental Support & Casework



In December, we handled **one case file** for a families in need of specific support.



We made **4 referrals**, mainly for clothes, shoes and material needs.



We also made a referrals for support for an **unaccompanied child**, working with our partners at Croix Rouge and Utopia 56.

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NEWS and UPDATES

From the border:

The number of people in Calais increased towards the end of December, creating ongoing difficulties in accommodating everyone and meaning many were left without shelter in cold weather. Whilst we saw fewer children than in previous months, we expanded our service to include *Distribution de Joie*, with resources for adults too. Play matters for everyone - even grown ups!

Key issues:



Temperatures dropped significantly in December, and while that meant additional shelters opening towards the end of the month, this was not sufficient to meet the needs of the children we work with.



Emergency shelters for cold weather (as part of the Plan Grand Froid) are always welcomed, but are only opened when temperatures drop below 0 degrees.



We worked with many children and families who struggled to access sufficiently warm clothes, and in particular gloves and hats.

Distribution de Joie!

This month we launched “**Distribution de Joie**” at a living site near Dunkirk, where adults do not have access to day centres or other spaces to relax. We set up two gazebos, one for children and one for adults. Facilitated by Project Play playworkers and volunteers from other organisations, this opens up access to our games and leisure activities to everyone!





Political Engagement:

In December we supported a **visit from the Zack Polanski and Rachel Millward** - leader and deputy leader of the Green Party of England and Wales. It was great to speak to them and show them first hand the difficulties children face at the border as a result of UK policies, and look forward to seeing how this visit informs their policies going forward.

We were also on the panel for an event in the UK Parliament, marking the launch of **Human for Rights' Network's report on violence at the border**. This was an important opportunity to ensure the voices of children are represented in policy discussions, gaining audience with a number of MPs and members of the House of Lords.



Our team:

As our previous team of three psychosocial support workers completed their year-long commitment in November, we welcomed five new members, including a psychotherapist, a clinical psychologist, a former volunteer, and a play therapist.

Together, they bring experience across both humanitarian and clinical settings and collectively speak six languages. They are able to provide online 1:1 sessions for the entire Project Play team, as well as group talking circles, helping to create a supportive workplace environment. We have extended this support to Kaleidoscope's team members, one of our partner organisations who work to support young people aged 12-18.



GALLERY

*some favourite
moments
this month!* 🪁



Free play is the cornerstone of many of our sessions - providing lots of resources and enabling children to exercise autonomy and discover their interests!

Distribution de Joie has been really successful - it's been great to facilitate space for adults and children to play and relax in a living site with very little support.

Our theatre making was a process of imagination and creativity - from start to finish!



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Thank You!

ENGAGE

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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 join us remotely - we're currently recruiting a [Chair for our Board](#).