



Monthly Impact Report

SEPTEMBER 2026



SEPTEMBER

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

39

SESSIONS

WE WORKED WITH

249

CHILDREN

WE PLAYED FOR

60

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 have been doing more 'maraude style' sessions. This means packing our materials into a 60L backpack and walking into living sites to reach children and families who avoid busier locations. We make sure to pack sports activities such as a long skipping rope, small games, and art materials. These have been successful, with positive feedback from families and children.

The smaller size of these sessions allow the team to facilitate more tailored play, and to bring educational resources to children who would otherwise have no access to this. It allows us to carry out casework with more care and opportunity to speak with caregivers outside of otherwise busy and often chaotic day centres and distributions. We bring distro bags with toys and craft materials for the children to play with once we leave.



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NEWS and UPDATES

From the border:

September saw a significant rise in numbers, likely because of challenging weather conditions and heavy police and far-right presence. Organisations estimate more than 1000 people in Calais and more than 3000 in Loon Plage, not counting communities displaced elsewhere along the coastline. All organisations are struggling to meet demand.



September was the deadliest month of 2026. At least six people were killed, including a 10-year-old child. Our thoughts are with their families, friends and all those impacted by border violence.



Waste and sewage - The state continues to neglect its duty to provide adequate waste removal and draining for the sewage from portaloos at distribution points despite worsening conditions and calls from organisations for improvement. One child told us that they couldn't play in the puddle at the distribution point because it's "toilet".



Violence towards women and girls - Refugee Women's Centre reported young girls, minors surrounded by lots of men who take them to the day care center, lots of demand for condoms, bruises on women's faces; they suspect sex work in lieu of paying for crossing or exploitation. Most of them stay for very little time in Calais.



Public Health - In September, a case of diphtheria was identified in the community. A vaccination campaign within camps to protect against this highly contagious disease was initiated nearly 2 weeks after the first confirmed case. Unable to socially distance, we made the decision to pause our sessions in higher-risk areas, leaving hundreds of children without safer spaces for play.

Parental Support & Casework



In September we provided specific casework support to **3 families**.



We **made 37 referrals**, mainly for medical support, tents, sleeping bags, clothes and food, for families in need of these services.



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GALLERY

some favourite moments this month! 🎨

Education sessions continue to get better and better, helped by the return of one of our amazing playworkers who has years of teaching experience.



Many many butterfly wings were made as one of the children had a real love for them!



We facilitated two family trips in September, to the indoor play centre, and bowling!





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 keep an eye out for opportunities to join our [remote team](#).