



IRC Greece ECHO Updates January 2017

Background

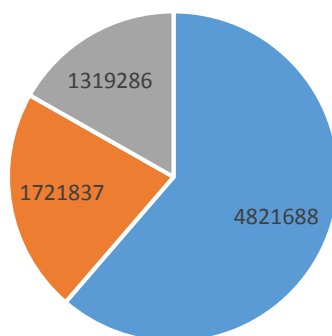
In late June 2015, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) launched an emergency assessment to the Greek island of Lesbos, and by July 2015 had established its first operations in response to the humanitarian crisis. Initial operations on Lesbos focused on providing immediate shelter, emergency supplies, safe transportation, up-to-date information, protection, and, environmental health (specifically water, sanitation and hygiene facilities and services to arriving refugees). Following the March 2016 closure of borders along the Balkan route, the IRC also launched emergency environmental health and protection services across formal and informal sites on the mainland.

Today, the IRC's response in Greece is focused on three areas: environmental health, economic recovery and development in the form of emergency financial assistance, and protection and information, with specialized services for the most vulnerable including women and children traveling alone, and survivors of gender-based violence. The IRC continues to respond on the Greek island of Lesbos along with three sites in the Attica region, and, currently, at three sites in northern Greece. The IRC collaborates with and supports both local and international partners, local and national authorities, and contributes to the local economies on Lesbos, greater Attica and in northern Greece.

Results & Achievements to Date

The IRC's response in Greece targets approximately 12,200 beneficiaries in Athens, northern Greece, and on Lesbos, focusing on protection, environmental health, ERD, and emergency shelter programming. As per the interim report submitted to ECHO in December 2016, the IRC has exceeded this target, reaching 13,532 individuals. Total programme spending (without support costs) is estimated at EURO 7,862,811 as of December 2016.

Programme spending per sector to date in EURO (December 2016)



■ WASH (Constructions and Maintenance) ■ Protection (Constructions and services) ■ Emergency Cash Assistance

Emergency summer and winter non-food item (NFI) distributions have also been carried out in the following locations: Alexandria; Derveni; Kavalari – Sanitex; Oreokastro - Fessas; Rodestos; Serres; South Sindos – Karamanlis; Vagiochori; Veroia-Armatolos Kokkinos; as well as in an informal settlement on a football field near Cherso. 57,455 NFIs were distributed to 17,690 individuals.

In January 2017, the IRC carried out emergency response efforts in Samos and Lesbos, providing 44 life shelters as a temporary but more weather resistant, durable shelter solution to accommodate 410 individuals.

Therefore, as of January 31, 2017, the IRC has reached a total of 31,642 beneficiaries, with 13,532 individuals being reached through regular programming and 18,110 individuals through emergency response.

Total number of refugees in Greece as of March 20 2016 (arrivals and stranded- source: UNHCR via Greek Government)	76,080	
Individuals that benefited from IRC's core programming	13,532	18.%
Individuals that benefited from IRC's emergency response efforts	18,110	24%
Individual assisted by the IRC in Greece post March 20 2016	31,642	42%

1) Protection

Protection issues are at the heart of this crisis and therefore form a major part of the IRC's response. Through its protection programming, the IRC has been providing specialized services and information for vulnerable groups through safe spaces in targeted refugee sites, and community outreach. Programming particularly focuses on women and children as amongst the most vulnerable in any crisis. Through its protection programming, the IRC seeks to ensure women, children and vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers in need of support have access to case management, relevant specialized services, i.e., women's safe spaces (WSS), safe healing and learning spaces for children, (SHLS), mental health and psychosocial support services, (MHPSS), support to survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), and child protection, (CP); up-to-date information about their rights and options for asylum, family reunification or relocation, and the safe and confidential space to receive them. To date, EURO 1,721,837 has been spent on protection across Greece by the IRC.

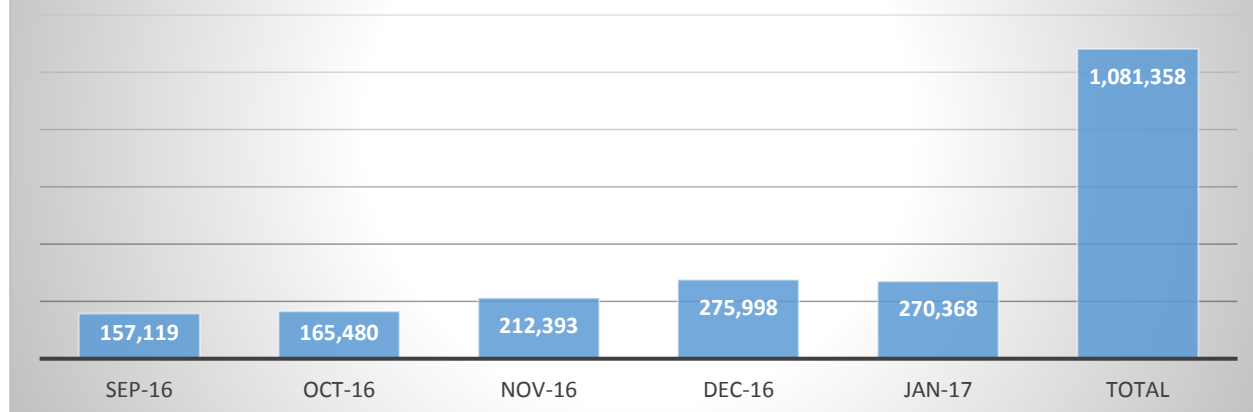
2) Environmental Health

Through its environmental health programming the IRC has been providing water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) support in refugee sites across the Greek mainland and on Lesbos. Programming seeks to ensure that refugees have access to appropriate sanitation facilities (toilets, showers, and bathing areas), safe drinking water, laundry facilities, and necessary hygiene information and materials to maintain a clean environment, prevent water-related diseases and facilitate living in a dignified and sanitary manner. To date, the IRC has spent EURO 4,821,688 on environmental health programming in Greece—over 60% spent on construction and the rest on care and maintenance (including desludging) and NFIs. NFIs include basic supplies (e.g., shampoo, soap, towels and washing liquid) as well as items to meet men's, women's and young children's specific needs (e.g., shaving cream, sanitary towels, diapers, toilet-training potties and baby toothbrushes and toothpaste). The IRC also distributed seasonally-appropriate NFIs (e.g., mosquito repellent and sun cream).

3) Economic Recovery & Development

To assist refugees and asylum seekers who have seen their economic resources depleted, the IRC is providing emergency financial assistance as part of their response. Pre-paid cards provide beneficiaries with the purchasing power to buy culturally appropriate products that they need and help them regain some autonomy in their lives. The emergency financial assistance also goes a long way towards stimulating the local economy. 3,764 individuals across two sites in Attica and three sites in northern Greece have benefitted from this component of the IRC's response, and to date, EURO 1,081,358 has been spent (net value cash distributed to beneficiaries).

Net Emergency Cash Assistance Disbursed by IRC in Greece to Date



4) Emergency Shelter

The emergency shelter component of the IRC's response was introduced in September 2016 when the IRC responded, on an emergency response basis, at Moria on the island of Lesbos, providing temporary shelter to refugees after a fire destroyed their tents. Since then, the IRC has responded on an as-needed basis to provide temporary shelter for refugees at Moria. In January 2017, in response to extreme weather and urgent need at Moria, the IRC provided 23 life shelters —a weather resistant, durable, temporary accommodation solution—to accommodate up to 410 individuals. The IRC also sent 21 life shelters to Samos to support the emergency response there. Ten chemical toilets and five shower containers, as well as internet, were provided for refugees from Moria who were temporarily accommodated on a naval vessel in Mytilene harbor. Heating systems were also sent to Samos for installation in UNHCR-supported rub halls.

Beneficiaries

The number of refugees who benefitted from the IRC's environmental health programming are calculated based on the total residential capacity of each site, as every resident there will benefit from the IRC's WASH interventions. For the IRC's protection component, IRC staff currently record the number of visits made to each service and an individual may make multiple visits. Numbers presented here reflect number of individuals who have availed of IRC protection programming, not the number of visits. ,

A brief summary of key activities implemented in each site where the IRC works can be found below. This is not an exhaustive list.

Northern Greece

Alexandria

The IRC has been implementing environmental health, economic recovery and development, and protection programming in Alexandria site since June 2016. To date, the IRC's environmental health programming has consisted of activities including construction and maintenance of WASH facilities, provision of fuel to heat hot water and hygiene promotion initiatives. Through its ERD programme, which aims to meet the basic needs of refugee populations by providing cash-based assistance, the IRC has provided 323 individuals with pre-paid visa cards. The IRC's protection programming has consisted of services focused on CP, provision of a Safe Healing and Learning Space (SHLS) for children and WSS for adults, the provision of MHPSS and support for survivors of GBV (through the IRC's case management services). To date, a total of 4,876 visits have been recorded for these services in Alexandria.

Key works carried out at Alexandria include the following:

- Connection of the site to the public sewage system;
- Rehabilitation of several existing buildings to use as a WASH area, WSS, SHLS, office and warehouse;
- 44 toilet facilities constructed (11 male, 16 female, 2 handicap-accessible, 15 latrines in containers);

- 23 showers (12 male, 11 female) installed with hot water due to installation of a petrol-fueled boiler system;
- 40 taps installed (20 for drinking water, 20 for laundry) and 30 sinks installed in WASH facilities;
- Establishment of a hygiene kiosk, and distribution of 12,876 hygiene items to 2,263 individuals;
- An average of 20 women participating in activities in the WSS each day;
- An average of 84 children (40 girls, 44 boys) participating in activities in the SHLS each day;
- 31 CP or GBV cases identified through case management services;
- 2 MHPSS referrals, 22 MHPSS individual counselling sessions and 9 psychoeducation group sessions provided;
- 41 people (IRC staff and community facilitators) provided with psychological first aid training;
- 310 rubber hot water bottles, 76 tea kettles, 134 bottles of mosquito repellent, 361 towels and 81 jugs provided through door-to-door distributions; and
- Hygiene promotion initiatives implemented, including: a scabies prevention and treatment campaign; hand-washing activities for children; a head-lice prevention and treatment campaign; formation of a WASH committee; and focus group discussions on menstrual hygiene management (MHM), WASH facilities maintenance, and scabies prevention.

Diavata

The IRC has been implementing environmental health, economic recovery and development, and protection programming in Diavata since June 2016. To date, the IRC's environmental health programming has consisted of activities including construction and maintenance of WASH facilities, provision of fuel to heat hot water and hygiene promotion initiatives. 14,512 individual items have been distributed through the hygiene kiosk to 4,919 individuals. Through its ERD programme, the IRC has provided 433 individuals with pre-paid visa cards. The IRC's protection programming has consisted of services focused on a WSS for adults, the provision of MHPSS and support for survivors of GBV (through the IRC's case management services), and a total 3,430 visits have been made to date for these services.

Key works carried out at Diavata include the following:

- Connection of the site to the public sewage system;
- 88 toilet facilities installed (42 male, 42 female, 4 handicap-accessible);
- 40 showers (20 male, 20 female) installed with hot water due to installation of a petrol-fueled boiler system;
- 135 taps (72 taps at WASH points, 43 in showers, 20 in toilets) installed and maintained;
- Rehabilitation of existing buildings to use as a WSS and a school, including installation of new doors and windows in both buildings, replacement or repair of roofing and flooring, installation of air conditioning units, and rehabilitation of toilets and sinks in the school;
- Establishment of a hygiene kiosk with 14,512 hygiene items distributed to 4,919 individuals;
- An average of 27 women participating in activities in the WSS each day;
- 1 MHPSS referral and 12 individual MHPSS sessions provided;
- 15 IRC staff members provided with psychological first aid training;
- 552 environmental health kits (one per individual, containing towels, mosquito repellent and jugs), 46 cleaning kits for families living in containers (containing a mop, mop bucket and torch light), and 26 hygiene kits provided through door-to-door distributions, which contain shampoo, wet wipes, laundry powder, sanitary pads, razors, shaving foam, toilet paper, soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes.
- Garbage bags distributed daily to site residents; and
- Hygiene promotion initiatives implemented, including: a Hepatitis A prevention and treatment campaign; a scabies prevention and treatment campaign; a cleaning campaign (270 participants); a diarrhea awareness campaign for children (80 participants); a dental hygiene campaign (57 participants); and information sessions on food storage and hygiene.

Cherso (Now Closed)

The IRC implemented environmental health and protection programming in Cherso from May 2016 until its closure in December 2016. The IRC's environmental health programming consisted of activities including construction and maintenance of WASH facilities, provision of fuel to heat hot water and hygiene promotion initiatives. These initiatives benefitted 3,986 residents on the site. The IRC's protection programming consisted of services focused on CP, provision of a SHLS for children and a WSS for adults,

the provision of MHPSS and support for survivors of GBV (through the IRC's case management services), and a total of 5,176 visits were made for the IRC's services while the site was open.

Key works carried out at Cherso prior to site closure included:

- 100 container toilets installed (50 male, 50 female);
- 28 showers installed (28 male, 28 female), with hot water being provided to every shower;
- 6 shower + toilet blocks for people with disabilities;
- 204 taps installed;
- Establishment of a hygiene kiosk and 21,563 hygiene items distributed to 716 individuals. Items included soap, shampoo, toothpaste, baby toothpaste, toothbrush, baby toothbrush, bath towels, combs, razors, shaving foam, nappies sizes 3-6, adult nappies, washing powder for clothes, dish washing liquid, dish washing sponge, toilet paper, mosquito repellent, jugs and sanitary pads.
- Construction of three informal, temporary learning areas;
- An average of 20 women participating in activities in the WSS each day;
- An average of 85 children (41 girls, 44 boys) participating in activities in the SHLS each day;
- 1 referral and 3 individual MHPSS counselling sessions provided;
- 18 people (IRC staff and community facilitators) provided with psychological first aid training;
- 424 items distributed through door-to-door distributions including buckets, tea kettles, hot water bottles, and chocolate; For door-to-door distributions we provided (for the warmth),
- Garbage bags distributed daily to site residents; and
- Hygiene promotion initiatives implemented, including: focus group discussions on MHM; hand washing activities with children; a dental hygiene campaign; a hand washing campaign; a head-lice prevention and eradication campaign (incorporating distribution of head lice shampoo and combs through the hygiene kiosk).

Giannitsa (Now Closed)

The IRC implemented environmental health and protection programming in Giannitsa from May 6, 2016 until its closure in early September 2016. The IRC's environmental health programming consisted of activities including construction and maintenance of WASH facilities and provision of fuel to heat hot water, reaching all 794 residents in the site. The IRC's protection programming consisted of services focused on CP, provision of a SHLS for children and a WSS for adults, the provision of MHPSS and support for survivors of GBV (through the IRC's case management services), and a total of 1,408 visits were made for the IRC's services while the site was open.

Key works carried out at Giannitsa prior to site closure included:

- 42 container toilets installed (20 male, 20 female);
- 24 showers (12 male, 12 female) installed with hot water due to installation of a petrol-fueled boiler system;
- 2 shower + toilet blocks for people with disabilities;
- 29 taps (20 for laundry, 9 for drinking water) installed;
- Hygiene promotion initiatives implemented;
- An average of 20 women visited the IRC's WSS on a daily basis.
- 635 visits made to the SHLS (51% female, 49% male);
- 15 CP cases identified and managed until site closed, then handed over to other CP actor;
- 2 MHPSS referrals and 13 individual MHPSS counselling sessions provided;
- Distribution of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials, focus group discussions on waste management, and vector control; and
- Garbage bags distributed daily to site residents.

Veroia:

The IRC began implementing environmental health, economic recovery and development, and protection programming in Veroia in early October 2016. To date, the IRC's environmental health programming has consisted of activities including construction and maintenance of WASH facilities, provision of fuel to heat hot water and hygiene promotion initiatives along with protection-related construction, benefitting the site's 340 residents. Through its ERD programme, the IRC has provided 255 individuals with pre-paid visa cards. The IRC's protection programming has consisted of services focused on CP, provision of a SHLS for

children and a WSS for adults, the provision of MHPSS and support for survivors of GBV (through the IRC's case management services), and a total of 504 visits have been made to the IRC's services.

Key works carried out at Veroia included:

- Rehabilitation of two buildings to provide spaces for WSS and SHLS activities;
- 50 toilets installed (25 in buildings, 25 in containers);
- 29 showers (21 permanent, 8 in containers) constructed or installed;
- Establishment of a hygiene kiosk and 12,132 hygiene items distributed to 426 beneficiaries;
- An average of 20 women participate in activities at the WSS each day;
- An average of 42 children (17 boys, 25 girls) participate in activities in the SHLS each day;
- 9 vulnerable cases have been addressed and supported through the IRC's ongoing case management services;
- 1 MHPSS referral and 3 individual MHPSS counselling sessions provided;
- 267 rubber hot water bottles, 62 tea kettles, 218 packs of toilet paper, 62 packs of laundry pegs, 62 clothes drying racks, 98 thermal flasks and 98 soap containers provided through door-to-door distributions; and
- Hygiene promotion initiatives implemented, including: Global Handwashing Day activities for children and women; a dental hygiene promotion for children (51 participants); a cleaning campaign (140 participants); and a vector control campaign, which included focus group discussions and distribution of IEC materials.

Lesbos

Kara Tepe:

The IRC has been implementing environmental health and protection programming in Kara Tepe with ECHO funds since October 2016. The IRC's environmental health programming has consisted of activities including construction and maintenance of WASH facilities, provision of fuel to heat hot water and hygiene promotion initiatives, and protection-related construction. Some of the activities carried out under the protection-related construction included the installation of extra lighting and building playgrounds. In terms of protection programming, 3,365 visits were made to the IRC's Protection services- it should be noted that Kara Tepe had the highest usage of information services, with 850 visits being made by adult females for these services.

Key activities carried out at Kara Tepe include the following:

- 44 toilets constructed (22 male, 22 female, 4 handicap-accessible);
- 22 showers constructed (10 male, 10 female, 2 handicap-accessible);
- 20 laundry stations installed/maintained;
- Three 5000-litre water storage tanks and pressure systems have been installed;
- An average of 30-35 women participate in activities at the WSS each day;
- 1,739 children have been enrolled in activities in the SHLS (cumulative figures)- in December, 333 children (217 boys, 116 girls) attended literacy and numeracy classes, social and emotional learning and recreational activities. In November, 669 children (421 boys, 248 girls) attended these activities, when they first began.
- 67 CP or GBV cases were addressed and supported through the IRC's case management services;
- 92 MHPSS cases identified and 52 individual MHPSS sessions provided;
- 13 trainings conducted on topics such as psychological first aid, GBV and CP in emergencies, case management, protection principles, GBV/IMS training and CP case management;
- A 16 days of activism campaign against GBV from 25 November-10 December; 155 women, girls, boys and men were reached with messages on women's rights and information around GBV prevention and response and participated in activities in Kara Tepe and Mosaik Community Center. Activities included exhibitions, information sessions, videos, recreational activities and discussions on gender issues;
- 79,169 hygiene items were distributed from the hygiene kiosk; and
- Hygiene promotion initiatives implemented, including the establishment of a WASH committee.

Pipka:

The IRC has been implementing WASH programming in Pikpa with ECHO funds since October 2016. The IRC has carried out protection-related construction (which was ground preparation for the installation of isoboxes), as well as WASH-related construction which included the emptying of septic tanks and provision of fire extinguishers. Additionally, while not focused on protection, seven referrals were made to an IRC psychologist in November and December 2016.

Key activities carried out at Pikpa include the following:

- 12 toilet facilities constructed and rehabilitated, (6 for men, 6 for women);
- 12 shower fixtures replaced/rehabilitated, (6 for men, 6 for women);
- 5 wash basins constructed/maintained;
- 12 hand washing tap stands reconstructed;
- Two 2000 litre water storage tanks and two pressure pumps installed; and
- Septic tank capacity was increased to 75m² and has been emptied on a regular basis.

Attika Region

Eleonas:

The IRC has been implementing environmental health, economic recovery and development, and protection programming in Eleonas camp since in May 2016. To date, the IRC's environmental health programming has consisted of activities including maintenance of WASH facilities, installation and maintenance of chlorine testers, regular distribution of NFIs, and the design and supervision of a playground. Through its ERD programme, the IRC has provided 2,108 individuals with pre-paid visa cards. The IRC's protection programming has consisted of services focused on CP and the management of an SHLS, a WSS for adults, the provision of MHPSS and support for survivors of GBV (through the IRC's case management services), and a total of 2,422 visits have been made for these services.

Key activities carried out at Eleonas include the following:

- 280 showers (one per isobox) installed and maintained;
- 280 toilets (one per isobox) installed;
- 132,643 hygiene items distributed to more than 2,300 beneficiaries through the hygiene kiosks- the most popular items include diapers, toilet paper, garbage bags and wet wipes;
- An average of 15 women participate in activities at the WSS each day;
- 298 children have been registered at the SHLS since November 2016. Four focus group discussions were conducted (2 with parents, 2 with children) to identify barriers to formal and non-formal education;
- 106 cases have been identified and supported through the IRC's case management;
- 26 MHPSS referrals, 14 individual counselling sessions and 7 family counselling sessions have been conducted;
- IRC ran the 16 days of activism campaign against GBV from 25 November-10 December; women, girls, boys and men were reached with messages on women's rights and information around GBV prevention and response, and participated in activities such as art projects, field trips, community events and career fairs;
- Door-to-door distributions of the following items have been carried out: 115 hygiene kits (soap, shampoo, wet wipe, shaving foam, toothpaste, toothbrush); 460 WASH kits to 460 individuals (basin, laundry pegs, laundry powder, brush); 280 household bins; 280 bathroom kits (bathroom bin, toilet brush, shower curtains); 280 door latches / hooks; 393 Winterization kit (thermal flask, cloth line, tea kettle, rubber hot bottles, pegs, underwear, socks); and
- Hygiene promotion initiatives implemented, including: three focus group discussions on waste management (27 participants); information sessions on vector control; implementation of a mops and brooms lending system; an information campaign on hygiene promotion; 10 toothbrushing and handwashing activities with children; formation of a WASH committee and four WASH committee meetings; scabies prevention and treatment information sessions; 26 clean up campaigns (540 participants); 8 door-to-door distributions of plastic bags; and head lice prevention and treatment information sessions.

Schisto

The IRC has been implementing environmental health and ERD programming in Schisto starting in May 2016. To date, the IRC's environmental health programming has consisted of activities including

construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of WASH facilities, distribution of NFIs, and hygiene promotion initiatives. Through its ERD programme, which was rolled out as of October, 2016, the IRC has provided 654 individuals with pre-paid visa cards.

Key activities carried out at Schisto include the following:

- 27 showers rehabilitated, all of which are supplied with hot water;
- 35 toilets rehabilitated;
- 54 taps installed (34 for drinking water, 20 for laundry);
- Rehabilitation of existing WASH buildings and containers (e.g., roof, walls, floors, water, drainage, sewage network, windows and doors);
- A building rehabilitated to use as a shelter for newborn babies, including installation of new windows and doors, provision of baby cots, painting works, and electrical repairs;
- Rehabilitation of two buildings to use as a school and accommodation, including installation of air conditioning units, replacement of doors and windows;
- 49,946 hygiene items distributed to over 1,500 individuals, with the most requested items including diapers, shampoo, toilet paper and laundry powder;
- Door-to-door distributions have been carried out: 345 hygiene kits (soap, shampoo, wet wipe, shaving foam, toothpaste, toothbrush); 174 cleaning kits (broom, dustpan, mop); 678 laundry kits per to 678 individuals (basin, laundry pegs, laundry powder, brush, jerry can); 150 household bins; 177 winterization kit (thermal flask, cloth line, tea cattle, rubber hot bottles, pegs, underwear, socks); 649 dignity kits (sanitary pads, underwear, wet wipes); and
- Hygiene promotion initiatives implemented, including: handwashing activities with children (77 participants); 6 meetings with the WASH committee (70 participants); 1 focus group discussion on MHM (25 female participants); 2 focus group discussions on waste management (40 participants); more than 100 signs with hygiene promotion messages displayed; 19 clean up campaigns (420 participants); scabies prevention and treatment information sessions; and an information session on potty training (20 participants).

Skaramagkas

The IRC has been implementing economic recovery and development, and protection programming in Skaramagkas since May 2016. The IRC's protection programming has focused on CP, establishment and management of an SHLS, establishment and management of a WSS, MHPSS and case management services for GBV survivors and others in need of support. As of January 2017, 3,291 visits have been made to these services. This site was the second-most popular for participation in the SHLS (after Alexandria), with 1,846 visits being made to the SHLS.

Key activities carried out at Skaramagkas include the following:

- An average of 20 women and girls participate in activities at the WSS each day;
- An average of 37 children attend the SHLS each day, with a total of 645 children registered.
- 64 cases have been identified and supported through the IRC's ongoing case management;
- 36 MHPSS cases identified, 20 individual counselling sessions, one family counselling session, and one group bereavement counselling session conducted; and
- IRC ran the 16 days of activism campaign against GBV from 25 November-10 December; women, girls, boys and men were reached with messages on women's rights and information around GBV prevention and response and participated in activities such as art projects, field trips, community events and career fairs.