

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

ASOCIACIÓN ESPAÑOLA HABIBI CENTER

Welcome

& Thank you for reading our Annual Report

Below you will find the index of our 2024 Annual Report. **Click to navigate.**



The Team

Meet the people who keep the school running

In 2024, Raf and Fanny joined the on-site team at Habibi to assist Camille in running the project on-site. Stephanie is now back in the US and is running the project remotely. Beyond our on-site crew, the Habibi Family spans the globe with volunteers and supporters from various corners. Meet the faces that make the Habibi Center something exceptional for each of us.



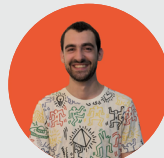
Fanny



Kamila



Camille



Matthew



Anita



Victoria



Asher



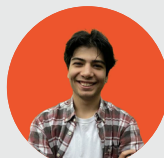
Jessie



Anne



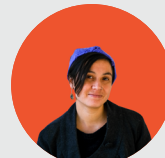
Julian



Pouya



Matt



Stephanie



Tatiana



Alfeus



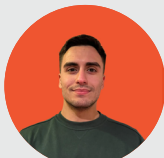
Katrina



Krikor



Rakhie



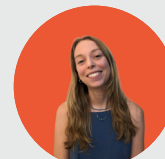
Jake



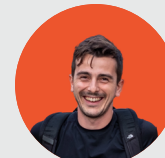
Edward



Joe



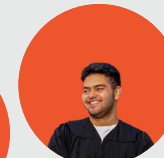
Sarah



Simon



Steven



Nima



Oliver

The Team

What Habibi Center represents for them

Stephanie (Co-Founder) and Camille (Project Coordinator)

STEPHANIE As I reflect on this past year, I'm filled with gratitude and amazement at how far the Habibi Center has come. This year, more than ever, is a testament to that growth. For the first time, I was able to step away for three months, and during that period, the Habibi Center was managed and cared for by Camille, Julian, and Raf. Their dedication allowed me to take a much-needed step back and ultimately make the decision to pursue my master's degree in the United States. This is a significant milestone for me personally and for the Center as a whole.

Camille, in particular, has stepped up with incredible courage, strength, patience, and unwavering commitment. She has taken on the in-person responsibilities with grace and resilience, ensuring that the Habibi Center continues to thrive. I cannot thank her enough for her leadership, and I'm fully confident that as this year draws to a close and a new chapter begins, the Habibi Center remains in very capable hands.

CAMILLE 2024... four years and growing! Where should I start? Where did I start four years ago? As a short-term teacher! Where am I at now? This year is peculiar. A pinch of challenge, a bit of fear, a dose of experience and here I am... four years later... co-managing the NGO with Stephanie! It's only been three months and it's brought its share of questions, challenges, decisions and laughs. Overall, challenging but fantastic and I'm looking forward to 2025!

I'd like to thank Stephanie for this amazing opportunity and Fanny, who's been with me since day 1 and is a reliable and joyful support!



The Team

What Habibi Center represents for them

Julian (Long Term Volunteer) and Fanny (Long Term Volunteer)

Julian After two years with the Habibi Center, I remain deeply inspired by this incredible community. Until July 2024, I had the privilege of working full-time with the team. However, I had to take a step back due to personal reasons, which was a challenging decision for me.

Despite this, I continue to support the Habibi Center where I can, offering assistance and stepping in when needed. I look forward to the day when I can rejoin this remarkable team. Grateful for this journey, I remain committed to shaping a more compassionate world together.

Fanny July 2024: I applied for a civic service at Habibi Center. August 2024: Stephanie and Camille gave me their fiat to become a member of their team. September 2024: I embarked on a one-year journey at Habibi Center, and I can say that I regret this decision not in the least.

Every day, when I wake up, I feel happy and excited thinking about the time that I am going to spend at Habibi Center. Meeting volunteers, preparing my lessons, seeing my students progress and blossom day after day, helping Camille and Stephanie to run various projects, bonding with teachers and students: the time I spend at Habibi Center and for Habibi Center really makes my days. I am also very thankful for the training courses that the organization offers me to take to become better in different areas (teaching, safeguarding, trauma management, to name but a few).

Stephanie, Camille, you have my deepest gratitude for giving me the opportunity to play a part in the youth empowerment mission, a mission that is deeply close to my heart. I am more than ready to keep working towards it in 2025!



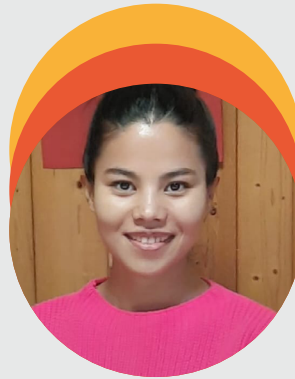
Intern Volunteers

What they brought to Habibi



Nima (Teacher)

Teachers at Habibi Center showed me that there is hope even if our own life is in darkness. Teachers' smile were honest with me. I was looking for this. A cosy place with some mixture of feeling that I have never felt in my life. There is no name in my mind to call this feeling, but this feeling led me to apply to be a member of this lovely team. Maybe, I should say I have given up a face to receive rest of faces. By the way, I appreciate being beside these angels.



Kamila (Accounting)

It is Kamila. It has been almost 10 months that I am accounting intern in HC. What I learn is not only accounting or bookkeeping, but also improving my communication and language skills. This wonderful place seems to be a small community, but when I went through-1.5 year ago-till yet, it has been full of enjoys. Honestly I miss everything there and hope to be there again someday. I should not forget to say that among those stressful days that I had in Athens, the HC was the reason of my mental health. Thanks to all, specially Mathew (my internship boss).



Pouya (Social Media and Website)

Hi, I'm Pouya, and I'm honored to be an intern at the Habibi Center! Steph, who always recognizes students' potential, saw my interest in IT and gave me the chance to learn by managing the Center's social media and website. Thanks to this opportunity, I've gained the skills to run these platforms professionally. I'm truly grateful to the Habibi Center for the growth and experience it's provided me!

University Internships

University Students In Action

Rakhie (University of Lorraine) and Max (University of Leeds)

The Habibi Center is proud to collaborate with universities around the world, hosting interns as part of their academic journeys. These dedicated individuals take on roles as English teachers and contribute to various administrative tasks or workshops, gaining valuable experience while supporting our mission. We would like to extend heartfelt gratitude to Max for leading the Science Workshop and setting up the library, and to Rakhie, who remains an integral part of the Habibi Center, dedicating her time and expertise to coordinating our Career Day initiative.

“My name is Rakhie, and I am currently an engineering student at ENSAIA, University of Lorraine. I joined Habibi Center as part of my internship, seeking an opportunity to combine volunteering with teaching English. I discovered Habibi Center through online research while exploring community-driven projects. I was immediately drawn to its mission of fostering education and personal growth. This experience has been invaluable in helping me develop my interpersonal skills while connecting with people from diverse cultural backgrounds.” - **Rakhie**

“Hi, I’m Max. I’m a third year Politics, Philosophy and Economics student at the University of Leeds. The goal of my internship was to develop ethical leadership skills working on a program with a humanitarian focus.

As well as teaching, I helped coordinate a science workshop during my time at Habibi Centre. We have provided these materials for future volunteers with the hope that they can pick them up easily and run the workshop again” - **Max**



About us

Habibi Center is a non-formal education project established in Greece since August 2016 and officially registered in the National Association Registry in Spain under the name Asociación Española Habibi Center (Nº 616525) since October 2018.

Mission

Provide comprehensive support to young refugees in Greece, regardless of their country of origin, who are facing prolonged stays in temporary situations.

Focus on their education, equipping them with essential tools for a brighter future and instilling life values.

Foster positivity and hope among vulnerable youth dealing with heightened emotions and uncertainty, enabling them to cultivate self-esteem, confidence, and independence for a dignified life within our society.

Vision

Education stands as the cornerstone for societal development, transformation, and progress. Ensuring equal access to resources is paramount in forging a just society.

Empowering the youth is pivotal in constructing a positive tomorrow.

Offering socio-emotional support to vulnerable young individuals is crucial for their seamless integration and active involvement in society.

Values

EDUCATION: Habibi Center embodies a unique educational approach, embracing tolerance, diversity, creativity, and determination in its broadest sense.

VOLUNTEER: Volunteering serves as the driving force propelling Habibi Center forward. Without it, the accomplishments thus far would not have been possible.

COMMUNITY: Habibi Center is a collective endeavor led, supported, and organized by everyday individuals. United in purpose, we have the power to effect change in our surroundings.

Project Objectives

Learning English on an academic level

Structured and Academically-Based Learning

Learning English is an essential communicative tool for our youth. It enables them to interact with their surroundings, fostering greater independence and a sense of safety without relying on interpreters.

While the primary purpose of language is communication, this project adopts a structured and academically-based approach. The goal is to help vulnerable young people reach their appropriate school level as quickly as possible, ensuring they have access to the same opportunities as their European peers.

Many of our students have been displaced from their homes and have missed years of formal education. As a result, a significant number arrive at the center with high levels of illiteracy—not only in English but sometimes in their mother tongue as well. To address this, classes are divided by proficiency levels and tailored to meet individual needs. However, the initial stages require special adaptations and a significant investment of energy to support students' unique challenges.

This foundational stage is critical. Reaching a basic level of literacy is a prerequisite for entering any formal or informal educational program. Alarming, the number of illiterate young people continues to rise—not only among those interested in joining the Habibi Center but also among others across the city who struggle with limited prospects and future goals. By addressing these challenges, we aim to equip our students with the tools they need to rebuild their lives and unlock opportunities for a brighter future.



Project Objectives

Learning English on an academic level

Curriculum and Exams

When young people begin acquiring basic literacy skills, they follow a carefully designed curriculum developed by the Habibi Center team, drawing on over eight years of experience. This curriculum combines materials from established self-study books, custom resources created by our team, and the unique creativity of each volunteer. It provides a structured syllabus for new volunteers to follow, ensuring consistent learning without unnecessary repetition or progression that is too rapid for students.

A distinctive feature of our approach is preparing students for official Cambridge exams. Since July 2017, 140 students have taken these exams, with notable achievements: 8 students earned the B2 level certificate, 36 achieved B1, 56 earned A2, and 17 attained A1. While 8 students did not pass, the preparation process remains a vital part of their development, significantly improving their English skills, confidence, and personal growth.

The Cambridge exam experience also allows our students to interact with local Greek youth. The exams are scored objectively, based solely on performance, without bias toward their legal status. Many students have used their certifications to support asylum applications, qualify for higher-level jobs, and attend interviews requiring English proficiency in other European countries.

By combining structured learning with opportunities for official certification, we empower our students to unlock pathways to further education, employment, and better futures.



Project Objectives

Youth Empowerment

Empower to Grow

Many students come to the Habibi Center to learn English, but the core goal of the project is to empower young refugees and support them in becoming independent, self-sufficient individuals. The program focuses on developing both social and professional skills, which are essential for personal and career growth.

At the Habibi Center, students are encouraged to recognize and build on their strengths while addressing their weaknesses and fears. The program equips students with values and practical tools to boost their confidence and self-esteem. A significant emphasis is placed on providing practical knowledge, such as teaching basic computer skills, improving typing speed and accuracy, and creating professional CVs. These skills are critical for helping students achieve their goals and transition into independent, active members of society. Located in the heart of Athens, the Center has been open since 2017 and operates on weekdays from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. This schedule allows students to attend official Greek school either in the morning or evening while participating in the Habibi Center's program in the afternoon.

A Safe Space

The Habibi Center also serves as a safe and welcoming space for young people and adults to learn, connect, and grow. It promotes freedom, coexistence, and the building of a brighter future through education. Originally, the Habibi Center was an apartment, but it has since been adapted to become a set of classrooms functioning as a community center. The educational supplies—simple yet functional—include tables, whiteboards, and a small library. The walls are adorned with motivational quotes, project displays, past art pieces, and photos of students and teachers. This eclectic, colorful decor creates a relaxed, comfortable atmosphere while preserving the warmth and familiarity of a home.



Project Objectives

Resolutions and Progress

A Strong start to 2024

At the start of 2024, we set three key resolutions to guide our efforts toward better serving our students:

1. Enhance Digital Learning:- Integrate digital skills into English lessons for a technologically advanced learning environment.
2. Broaden Student Support: - Extend career and academic planning support to a wider spectrum of students, ensuring a more comprehensive commitment to their success.
3. Promote Literacy: Increase the integration of reading exercises into English lessons and actively encourage a love for reading.

Progress Highlights

- Digital Learning: We've integrated digital skills into English lessons, using tablets, laptops, and students' phones. Skills like GPS navigation help students manage life abroad, from finding doctors to attending job interviews.
- Career and Academic Support: Our new "University Research and Career Support Team" is helping former students with CVs, LinkedIn profiles, job searches, and university opportunities.
- Promoting Literacy: A new hallway library encourages students to read, offering quick reads and engaging adventures between classes. Reading comprehension activities have also been integrated into the English curriculum after every unit, fostering critical thinking and language skills.

These efforts empower students to thrive academically, professionally, and personally.



Programs

Career Day

Expanding Horizons for Our Students

This year, with the invaluable support of Rakhie and Fanny, we launched a new initiative called “Career Day.” This program aims to help students explore future career possibilities by introducing them to a diverse range of industries and professions.

This year, we hosted guest speakers from diverse industries to share their expertise and inspire our students. Some of these include:

- Web Development and Marketing: Insights into website creation, digital advertising, and essential tech skills.
- Yacht Hospitality: A glimpse into luxury service roles and career opportunities.
- Export and Import: Practical advice on global trade and navigating this dynamic field.

The impact of Career Day has been profound. One student, inspired by the talks, called his mother and exclaimed, “I finally know what I want to do!” Another remarked, “I found Career Day very interesting, but it wasn’t enough. We need more time—I would like to receive training from the speaker.”

By connecting students with real-world professionals, Career Day broadens their horizons, fuels their ambitions, and equips them to make confident, informed decisions about their futures.



Programs

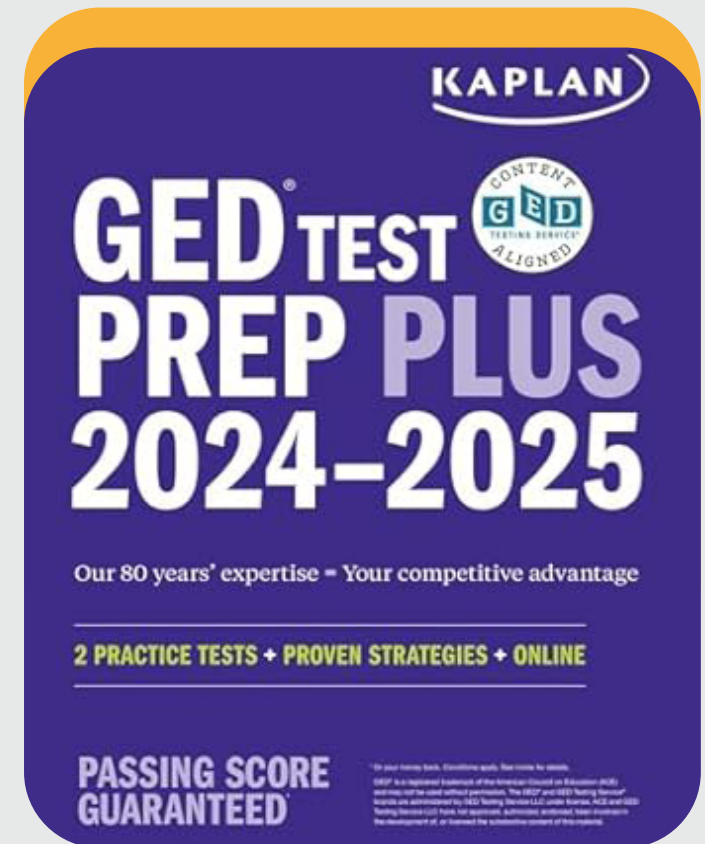
Unlocking Opportunities

GED

In addition to Habibi Center's core programs, the Habibi Center offers GED (General Educational Development) exam preparation classes for students unable to complete the Greek school system. The GED exams, which cover Mathematical Reasoning, Science, Social Studies, and Reasoning Through Language Arts, can be challenging. However, with tailored preparation classes for each subject, students are equipped to succeed and earn an American high school equivalency credential. This achievement opens doors to further education and better career opportunities. This year, we are proud to support one student as she prepares for her Mathematics exam.

Reflections from the teacher:

"Working with a student from the moment she joined the Habibi Center through to the time she left to study in the US has been a real privilege. I can't imagine a clearer way to see the difference that just a few hours per week can make to the direction that someone takes. With both of my students, the ability and motivation has always been there, but being part of that extra push to reach a student's goals sooner has been incredibly rewarding. I'm continuing classes with my second student, and she also demonstrates how important a long-term connection is. Having moved on from English classes in a previous year, she has realised that a high-school level education is important for where she wants to go, but with the difficulties of settling here, the Greek school system wasn't able to provide this at the time. She is now making positive steps with the GED curriculum and I am sure she will have success with it next year." - **Matthew**



Programs

Focus on Literacy

The Literacy Program

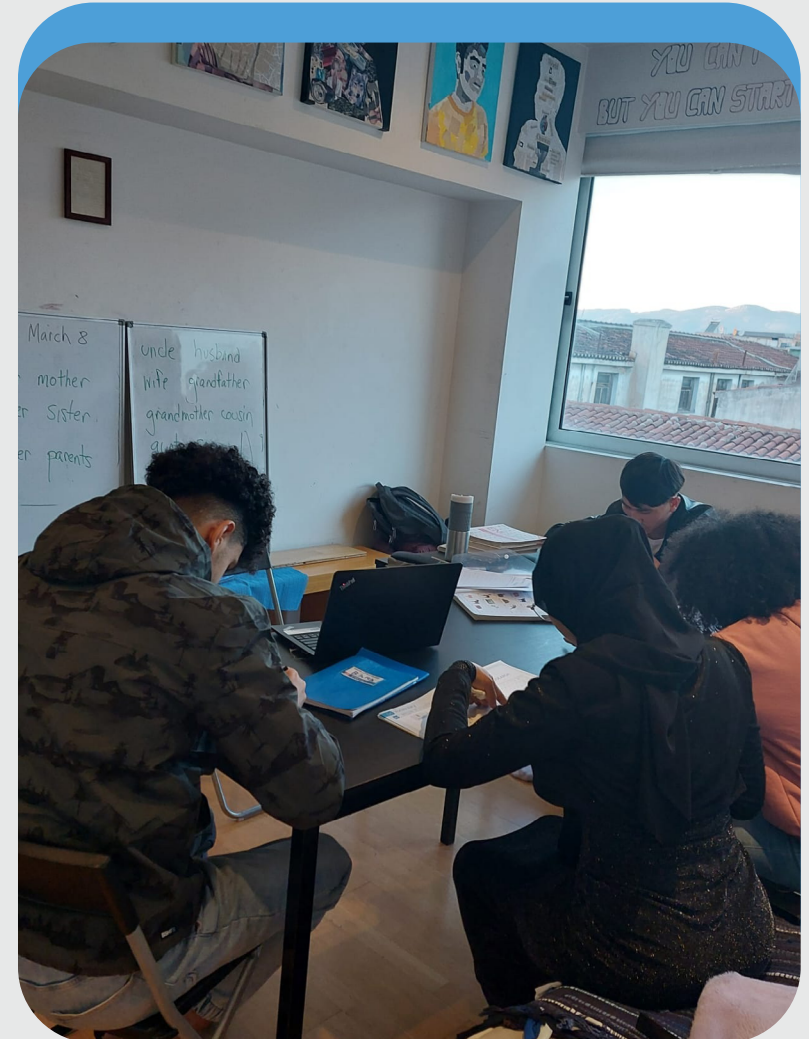
It is hard to imagine being a refugee teenager—arriving in a foreign country where you don't speak the language and are expected to integrate, attend school, and study subjects like Biology, Politics, and Philosophy, all in a language you can barely use to say hello. Even harder to imagine is being illiterate—never having attended school in your own country—and facing these same challenges.

For illiterate refugees, the prospects are bleak. Many are pushed into hard labor jobs, often under illegal conditions and for wages far below the minimum. The inability to read a label, let alone a job contract, makes exploitation and cheating even more likely. Illiteracy doesn't just limit job opportunities; it deeply affects self-confidence and independence. Someone who cannot read street signs or metro station names will lack the confidence to navigate a city alone, leaving them completely dependent on others.

This is why teaching literacy is a cornerstone of what we do at the Habibi Center.

In our literacy classes, students start from the very basics—learning to write the alphabet, combine letters into words, and read simple sentences. It's a joy to witness their determination as they sound out words like 'birthday,' and the moment they succeed, their eyes light up with pride and excitement. Beyond reading and writing, we focus on essential communication skills, such as speaking to a doctor or asking for help in a store. From day one, students acquire practical language abilities to navigate daily life, as English often becomes their primary means of communication.

At the Habibi Center, literacy is more than just learning to read—it's about restoring independence, building confidence, and opening doors to a brighter future.



Programs

A Year of Global Connections and Learning

Pen Pal Program

At the Habibi Center, we have a proud tradition of running pen pal programs, and this year was no exception. In the first half of the year, we partnered with a language school in Spain, engaging 18 students on both sides. For six weeks, students exchanged letters twice a week, sharing stories about their lives, families, and hobbies.

In the second half of the year, we expanded the program by collaborating with Mercy High School Burlingame, an all girls' school in California, United States. This initiative followed a similar structure, providing students with a unique opportunity to connect across cultures while developing their language skills. Through these exchanges, students not only gained valuable cultural insights but also made significant progress toward their long-term academic goals, including preparing for the Cambridge Exams. The program has proven to be an engaging and effective way to improve writing skills in a real-world context.



Buddies Without Borders

This year, our Buddies Without Borders program continued to thrive, fostering meaningful cross-cultural connections. The program brought together students from diverse backgrounds to exchange letters, share stories, and explore each other's worlds. Participants engaged in structured correspondence, developing not only language and communication skills but also mutual understanding and respect.

With its emphasis on building global friendships, Buddies Without Borders reinforces the Habibi Center's mission of creating opportunities for learning, empowerment, and personal growth. It is through these connections that our students continue to develop the confidence and skills necessary for their future endeavors.



Programs

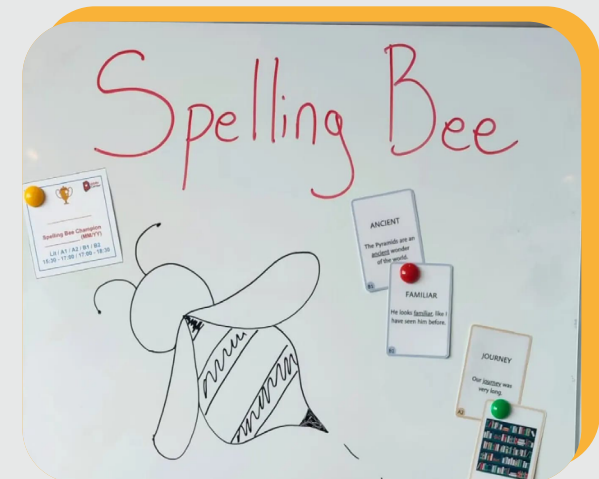
Raising Confidence

Spelling Challenge

Every last Friday of the month, all classes at the Habibi Center come together for an exciting spelling challenge. We ensure students of all levels participate because we believe in the power of connection and peer learning. By hosting this recurring event, we aim to improve students' spelling skills while boosting their motivation, focus, and confidence during regular classes.

The challenge is tailored to each student's level. Students spell a word suited to their ability, and if they get it right, they advance to a more challenging word in the next round. To celebrate the diversity of talent, we select a winner from each class—ensuring that every student has the chance to shine, regardless of their English proficiency.

Teachers also join in, making the event a true community celebration and a highlight of the Habibi Center experience.



Programs

Reducing the Gap

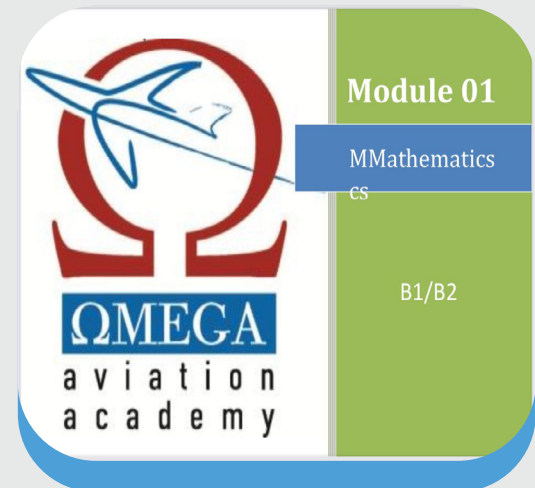
Support Maths Program

At the Habibi Center, students' diverse educational backgrounds often lead to challenges adapting to the Greek school system, creating a need for academic support. To address this, we offer personalized Saturday Maths classes.

Reflections from the teacher :

"The first class was with a very special girl. Finding students who genuinely enjoy studying maths has been quite rare, so the opportunity to work on fun, challenging and off-syllabus content with a very enthusiastic student has been a wonderful experience. She has just successfully completed her first semester in a university in the US and I know that she is going to thrive there. As with many of our students, her ability and motivation has been there all along, and a bit of extra support has helped to secure her next steps.

Classes with my second student were quite different, as the student was taking evening classes alongside working. His lessons were fast paced, and with his long working hours very difficult to keep up with, particularly given his lack of formal education. While at Greek school he focused on learning the language - which he did very successfully - but this left his level of education somewhat uneven. I think being there for him regularly, working at his own pace and with no judgement at what he found difficult was very beneficial. Even just being there for him to chat to about his stresses and concerns in general was an important part of giving him the headspace to think about studying." - **Matthew**



Programs

Preparing Habibi Students for the next step

The University Preparation Course

This journey began when students approached us, seeking support to boost their confidence and better prepare them for university life. In response, we created the University Preparation Program.

This program is not like our other classes; it's a personalized curriculum tailored to the unique needs of our students. Our weekly sessions delve into text comprehension, grammar, presentation skills, and essay writing. The objective of the University Preparation Course at Habibi Center is to empower students equipping them with the linguistic skills and confidence essential for success in higher education.

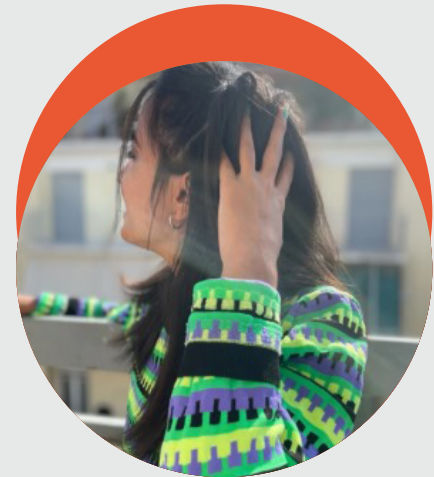
This year we have been working with Sahar and Tayebe, supporting them in their university journey.

"Last year, with the help of the Habibi Center, I passed some university courses. One year ago, I couldn't even understand the questions at exam. They helped me improve my listening and reading skills, which is why I got better results this year at university. I have now realised my main problem is expressing my opinions, especially in speaking and writing. The Habibi Center has a plan to help me develop my academic writing and focus on improving my speaking skills."

- **Sahar** (International Relations at the New York College of Athens)

"Heather provides the scaffolding that allows me to strengthen and expand my skills."

- **Tayebe** (Psychology at Deree University)



Programs

Equipping Teachers

Teacher Training and Development Program

In 2023, after a student requested to be trained as a teacher, the Habibi Center launched the “Teacher Training and Development Program,” a special project designed for volunteers without a teaching background and for advanced students who are interested in becoming a teacher at the Habibi Center. The aim of the program is to equip future teachers with the essential skills and knowledge needed for an effective teaching journey. This year, Anna, Raf, Darragh, Steven, Fanny and Emma took part in the training.

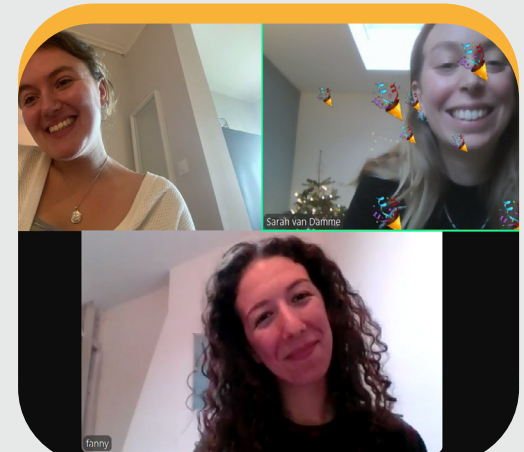
Here is a snip bit of what the program participants had to say about this program:

“I’m very thankful to the Habibi Center for offering me the opportunity to take that training. The programme is really complete, I’ve learnt a lot of useful methods, tips, and good practices, and the fact that the training was every Monday enables us to apply what we’ve just learnt during the week. Sarah is such a great teacher and her lessons are an inspiration in themselves!” - **Fanny**

“It gave a succinct and clear introduction to modern teaching techniques and greatly helped the classroom experience.” - **Stephen**

“I can’t say how helpful it was. It was amazing! Sarah was such a great resource. It was nice to do it along side teaching. If anything, I think it should be like mandatory. It was laid out so nicely, inspiring. I can recommend it and don’t know what I would have done without it. The best part was that everything we learned, we could use” - **Emma**

“Sarah was a very patient and thoughtful teacher who was able to greatly aid me (who had no previous classroom experience) in basic teaching skills and classroom management techniques. The teacher training massively improved my confidence and ability to help the students. Sarah was very generous with her time and was able to tailor lessons to specific issues we were facing each week.” - **Anna**



Workshops

Mastering Life Skills

Adulting

Year after year, turning 18 has become an increasingly daunting challenge for unaccompanied minors.

This year, changes in Greek laws have heightened anxiety and uncertainty among students, leaving many unsure about their future after aging out of shelters. In response, the Habibi Center launched the Adulting Workshop, a vital and innovative program designed to support young refugees as they transition into independent adulthood.

Over five days, this workshop equips participants with essential life skills to foster self-reliance and success. It tackles critical topics such as navigating legal and financial responsibilities, managing time effectively, and accessing educational opportunities for integration.

Through hands-on sessions, participants learn to budget, plan meals, cook, and maintain hygiene in their daily routines. The workshop also covers health practices, cleaning techniques, and laundry management—skills that prepare them for the realities of living independently.



Workshops

Exploring Life Journeys

ART

Since the founding of the Habibi Center, we've been honored to have Anne, our talented and dedicated art teacher, lead our annual art workshop. This year's theme, "One's Own Life Journey," encouraged students to reflect on their past, present, and future while expressing their stories through creative projects.

Students began by creating collages to represent meaningful experiences from their past. They then explored self-expression through a variety of self-portraits, including a traditional piece using a printing technique and a unique sculpture depicting themselves as flowers. To conclude, they crafted motivational collage art to inspire themselves to pursue their future dreams.

This enriching journey allowed participants to celebrate their individuality, channel their creativity, and find hope for the future. The art workshop remains a treasured tradition at the Habibi Center, fostering empowerment, self-reflection, and artistic growth.



Workshops

Celebrating Creativity and Collaboration

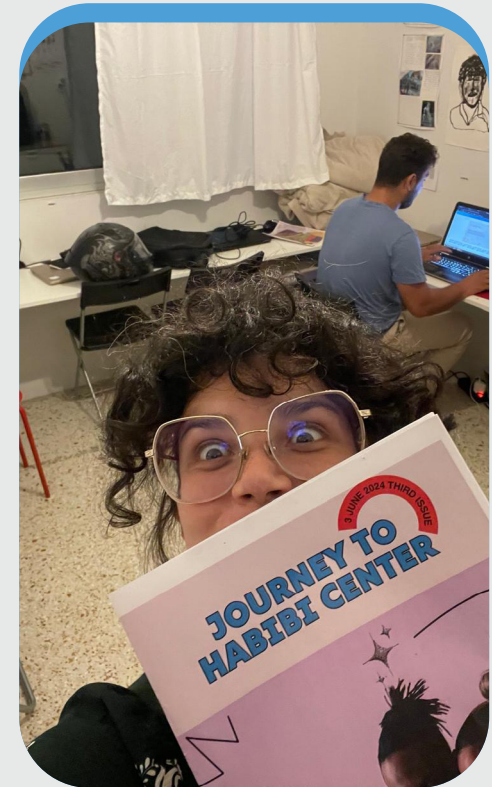
Editors

The Editors Workshop at Habibi Center is a unique initiative that fosters creativity, collaboration, and personal expression.

Designed to empower students with skills in writing, editing, and publishing, this workshop allows participants to share their stories, perspectives, and artistic talents. This year, we proudly published two issues of our student-produced magazine, Journey to Habibi Center—Issues #3 and #4—showcasing the remarkable voices and talents within our community.

Through this workshop, students not only develop valuable communication and teamwork skills but also gain confidence in expressing themselves. They learn to craft compelling narratives, refine their ideas, and work collaboratively to bring their vision to life. The magazine itself is more than just a collection of stories and artwork—it's a celebration of the students' resilience, creativity, and vibrant community spirit.

The Editors Workshop exemplifies Habibi Center's commitment to empowering young refugees by providing opportunities to learn, connect, and share their journeys with the world.



Workshops

Building Futures

Employability

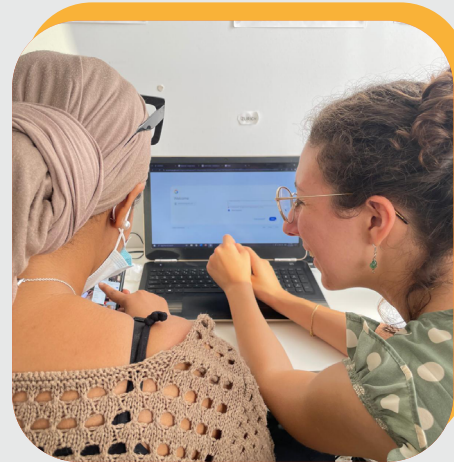
This year we ran two Employability Workshops, empowering participants with the skills and confidence to navigate the job market.

Students worked diligently to create professional CVs translated into Greek, broadening their employment opportunities in the local job market.

Participants also learned to craft tailored cover letters that highlight their unique strengths and practiced mock interviews to build confidence and refine their communication skills. By the end of the workshop, they had taken tangible steps toward employment, including submitting job applications.

This workshop is vital for young refugees striving to build independent lives. It equips them with the tools to overcome employment barriers, integrate into the workforce, and achieve financial stability.

Each participant left the program not only with job-seeking skills but also with renewed motivation and hope for a brighter future.



Workshops

Bridging Cultures

Greek

The Greek Workshop is where students take their first steps in learning Greek, often confronting challenges that go beyond the language itself.

This year, the workshop focused on simple, practical goals like building everyday vocabulary and practicing basic conversation skills.

For many students, learning Greek can feel daunting due to difficult experiences or trauma they've faced while living in Greece, or because of their reluctance to accept staying in the country when their dreams lie elsewhere in Europe.

The workshop provides a safe and supportive space to ease these emotions, helping students overcome their hesitation or resistance.

Through patience and encouragement, it fosters growth, builds confidence, and creates a sense of connection to their new community—one word at a time.



Workshops

Turning Skills into Careers

Interpreters

Our recent Interpreters' Workshop was a success, equipping students with essential skills for interpretation and opening doors to potential career opportunities.

Participants learned from seasoned professionals, including court interpreters, asylum interview specialists, medical interpreters, and experts in psychological and shelter-based interpretation.

The workshop provided hands-on training, enabling students with strong language abilities to develop the expertise needed for professional interpreting.

Alongside a 30-hour attendance certificate, participants earned credentials in areas such as safeguarding, medical terminology, asylum interpreting, and personal resilience through online courses.

Feedback from a student:

"Absolutely recommend this workshop! The materials covered are crucial and beneficial in life!" - **Muhanned**



Workshops

Mastering Technology, Unlocking Endless Learning Opportunities

IT

Digital skills are no longer optional—they are essential for accessing decent-paying jobs and even for basic online job applications. Beyond workforce integration, these skills empower students to become independent learners, giving them control over their education and future.

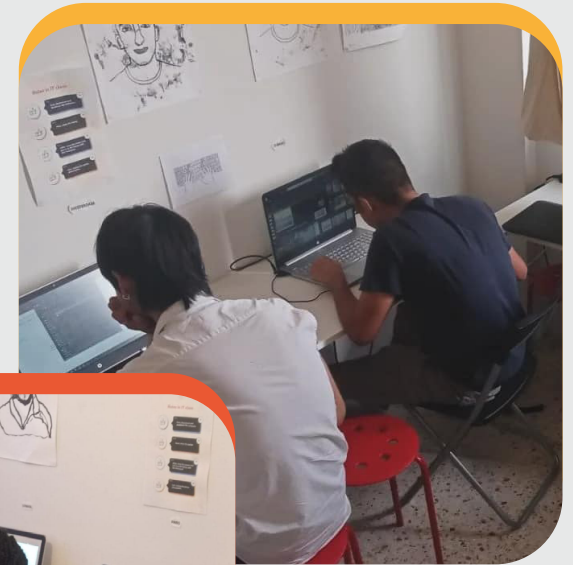
At the Habibi Center, we offer three levels of IT training:

Level I: Students build foundational skills like sending emails, creating documents, and navigating the web.

Level II: Students gain confidence by solving problems independently through instructional videos and learn to create a website. This level blends guided learning with self-directed tasks, with teachers available for support.

Level III: Students select official online courses tailored to their interests and goals, using platforms like Coursera, FutureLearn, and Udemy. Topics range from IT systems, advanced coding, and social media marketing to business management and accounting. This level emphasizes independent learning and applying skills from earlier levels.

Our IT program remains central to Habibi Center's mission: empowering students to harness the digital world and take charge of their futures.



Workshops

Exploring Wonders, Sparking Curiosity

Science

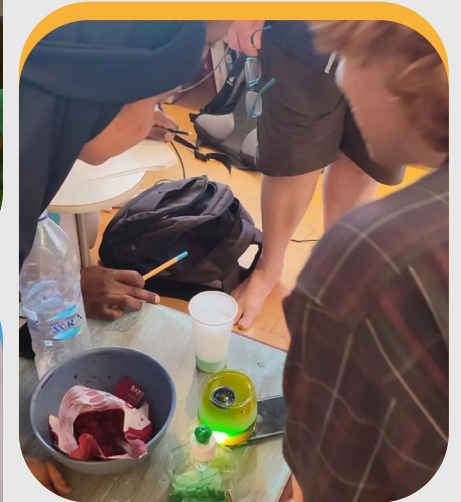
Our students embarked on an inspiring journey into the world of science, overcoming language barriers with curiosity and enthusiasm.

They explored space by creating a play-dough solar system, learning about Earth's orbit, seasons, time zones, and the moon's phases. Delving into Earth sciences, they discovered how the water cycle, plate tectonics, and volcanic formations shape our planet and sustain life.

In biology, they investigated cells, DNA, and proteins, even extracting DNA from raspberries—a hands-on experiment that sparked excitement and wonder.

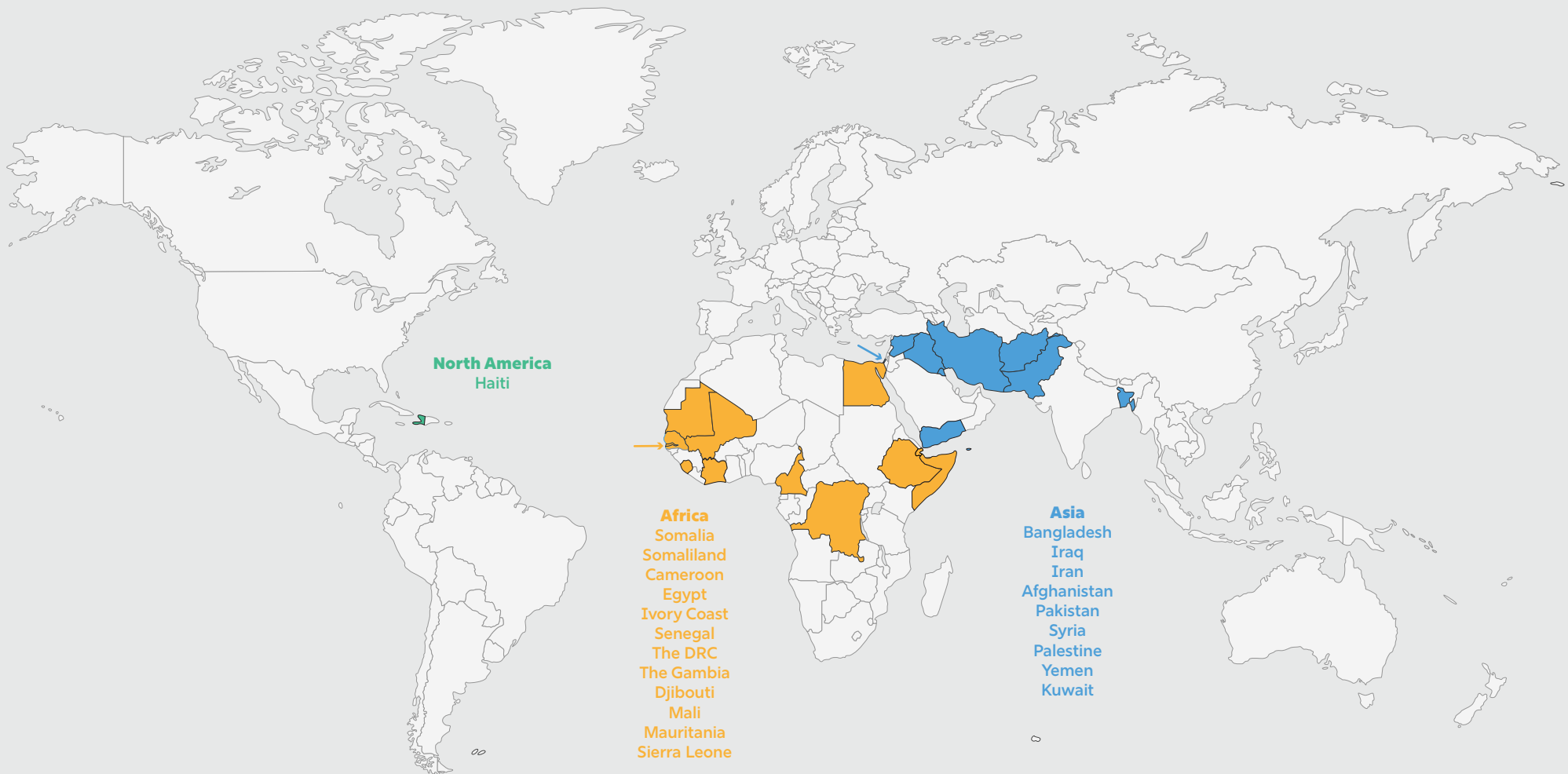
Chemistry brought elements to life through experiments on density, states of matter, and conductivity, while physics introduced the principles of waves, light refraction, and earthquake science using slinkies to visualize concepts.

For many refugee youth, whose education has been interrupted, this workshop offered more than academic knowledge; it provided a platform to rekindle their curiosity and build confidence. Through hands-on exploration, these young minds not only deepened their understanding of the world but also ignited a passion for learning that will carry them forward into brighter futures.



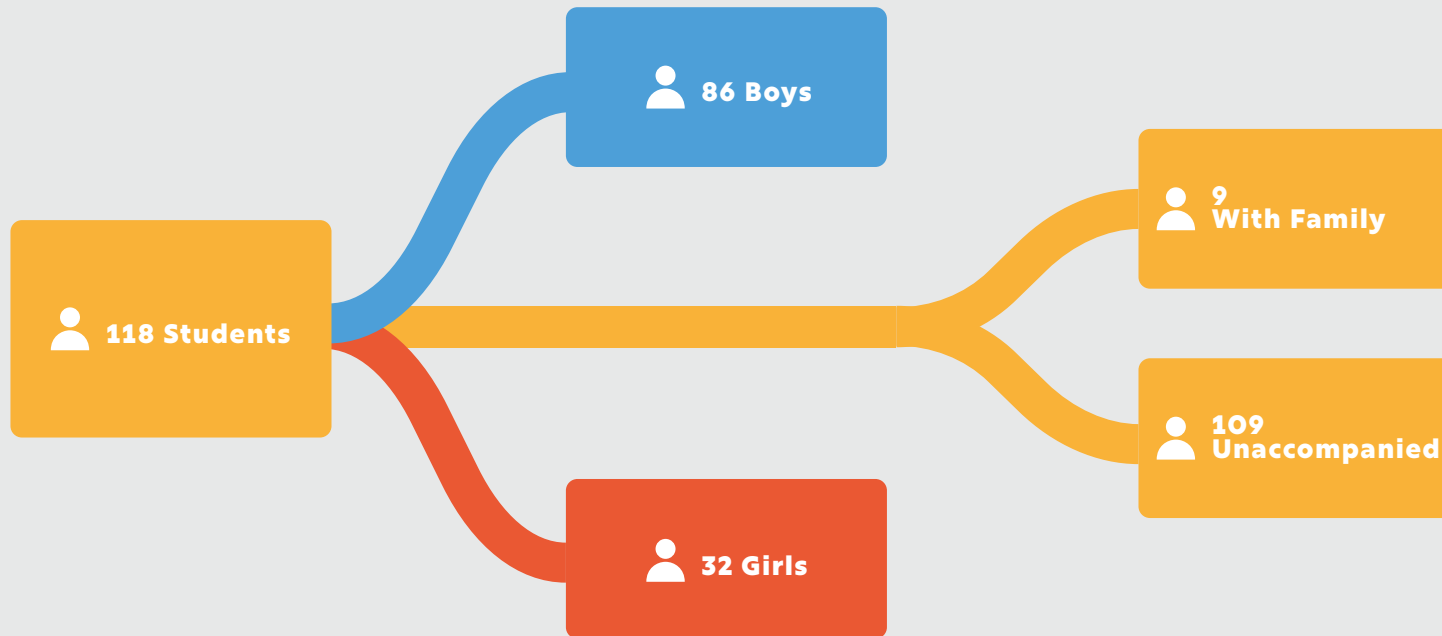
Statistical Highlights of the Year

Where our Students came from



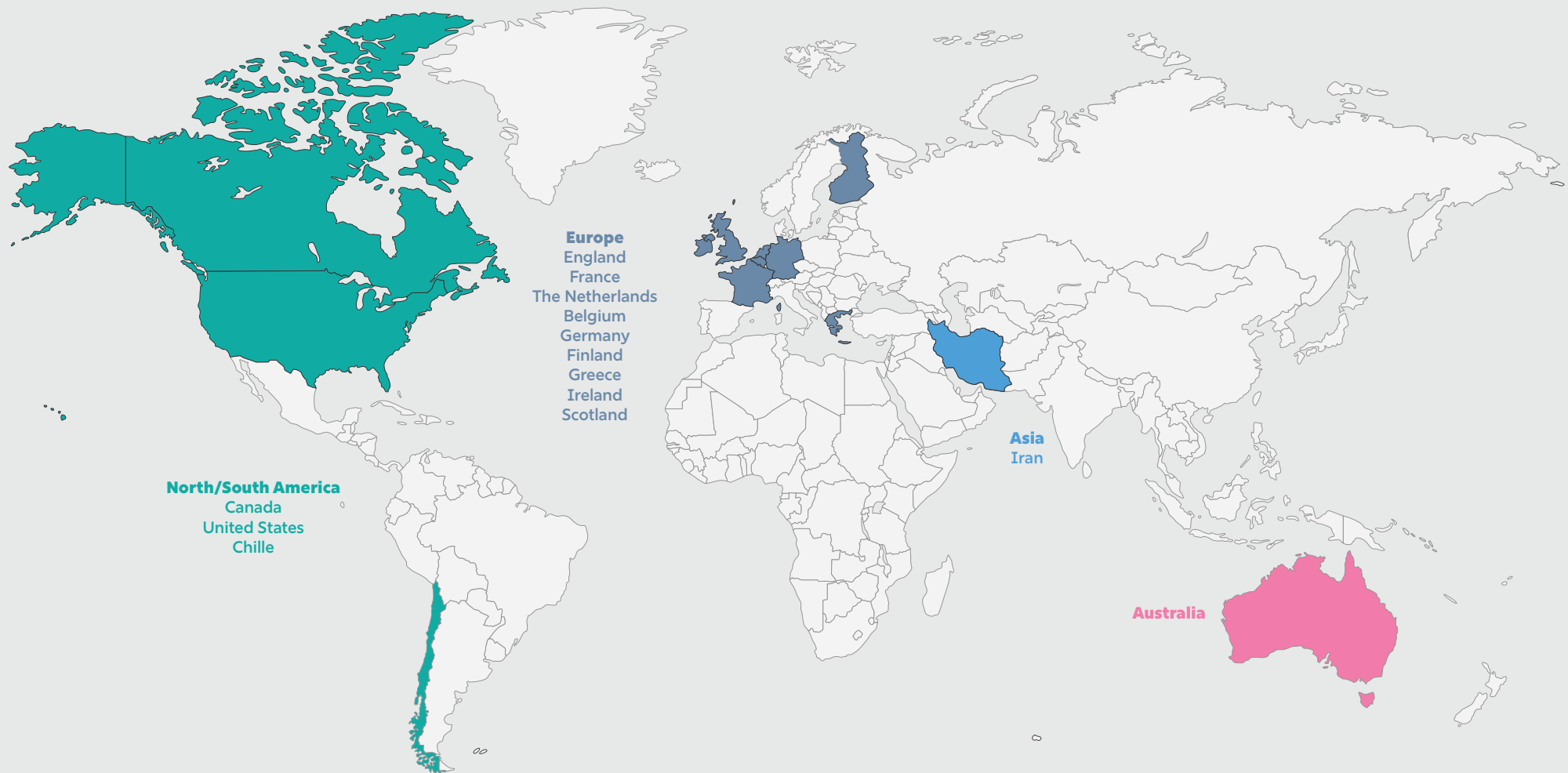
Statistical Highlights of the Year

In Numbers



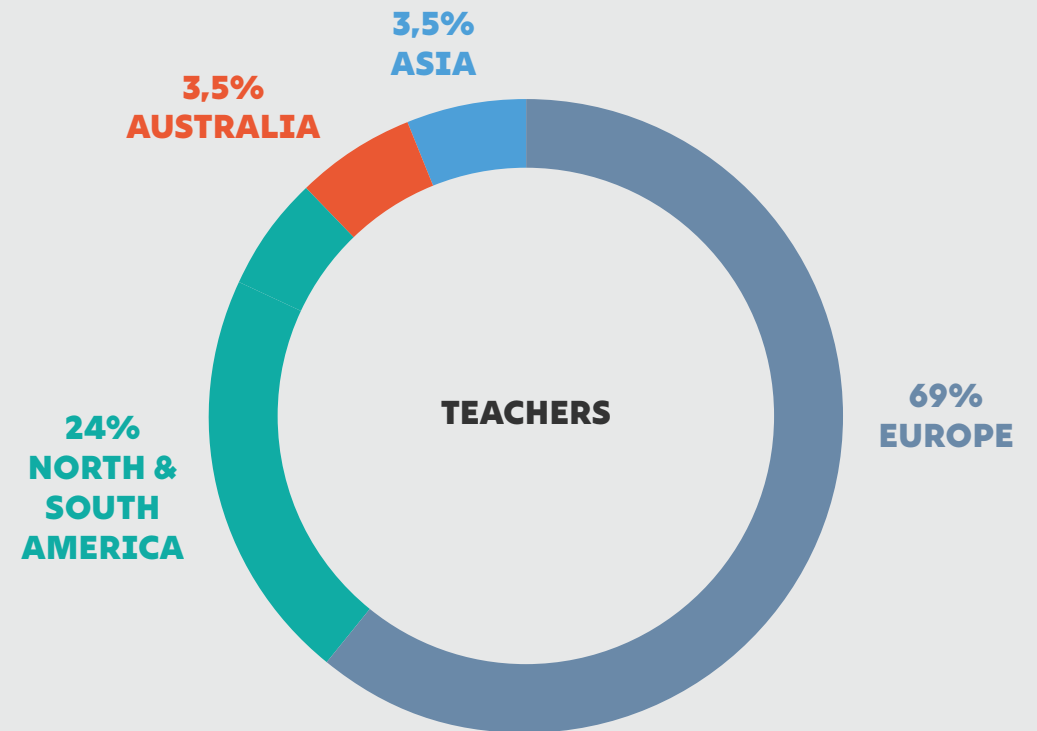
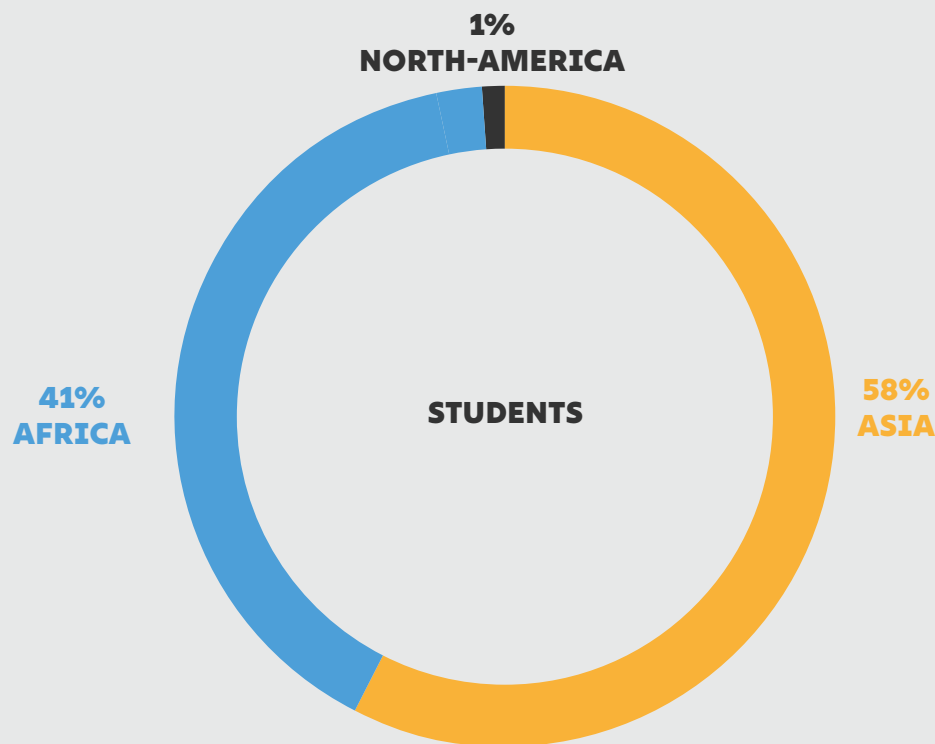
Statistical Highlights of the Year

Where our Teachers came from



Statistical Highlights of the Year

In Percentages



Statistical Highlights of the Year

Student Achievements

55 Students **learned to Read and Write**, many of them for the first time.

6 Students were prepared to take **official Cambridge exams**.

3 Student took the **B2 FCE**

3 Students took the **B1 PET**



Statistical Highlights of the Year

Student Achievements

13 Students **obtained IT certificates** from Habibi Center.

8 Students **passed IT level 1**

5 Students **passed IT level 2**

2 Students are taking **IT level 3**

- Social Media Marketing
- HTML
- Excel



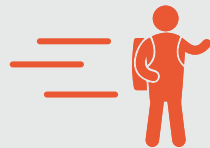
Statistical Highlights of the Year

Student Insights

54 Students **reached adulthood** while being part of the Habibi Center.

2 Students were living in camps **over 2 hours away from the school.**

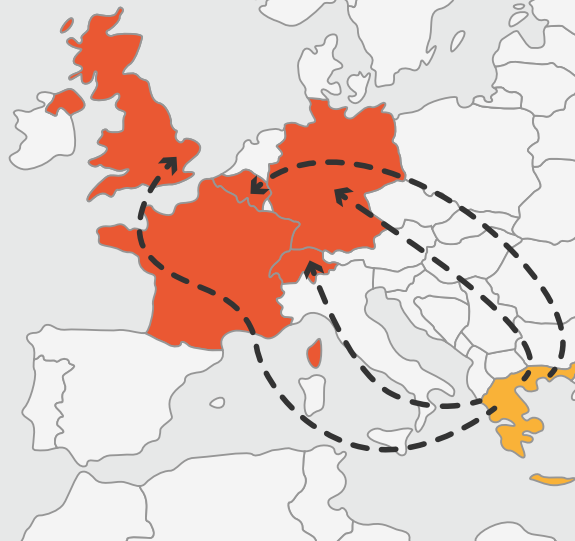
25 Different shelters (for unaccompanied minors) **sheltered our 109 unaccompanied students.** Most of them coordinated efforts with Habibi.



Statistical Highlights of the Year

Student Movements

- 7 Illegal movements** out of the country (most of them were unaccompanied)
- 7 Legal movements** to other European countries
- 3 Family reunifications** in other European countries
- 1 Disappeared**



Statistical Highlights of the Year

Student who left Habibi

25 Had to focus on their jobs/studies once they became adults*

49 Left for other reasons or were asked to stop*

Most of them were unaccompanied*



Statistical Highlights of the Year

Donations

16 Private donors made financial contributions **on a monthly basis**

6 of which are **former volunteers**

60 Private donors contributed through Teaming **collectively raising €639**

3 of which are **former students**

22 of which are **current and former volunteers**

Statistical Highlights of the Year

Donations

96 Private donors made financial contributions **throughout the year**

This includes **1** student and **13** former volunteers

4 Donors made **material contributions to the Habibi Center**

This includes **2** tablets, **1** laptop, **1** monitor, **1** projector & games

4 Former students made **financial contributions to the Habibi Center**

4 Short-term volunteers covered **their own photocopy expenses**



Statistical Highlights of the Year

Grants and events

10 Groups from Spain, The USA, Netherlands, and UK **supported us financially**

To name a few:

€500 granted by **Hadaya**

€1,500 granted by **Amigos de Ritsona**

€355 raised by **Asperodes**

£1,500 granted by **ForRefugees**

€900 granted by **SOS Refugiados Solidario**



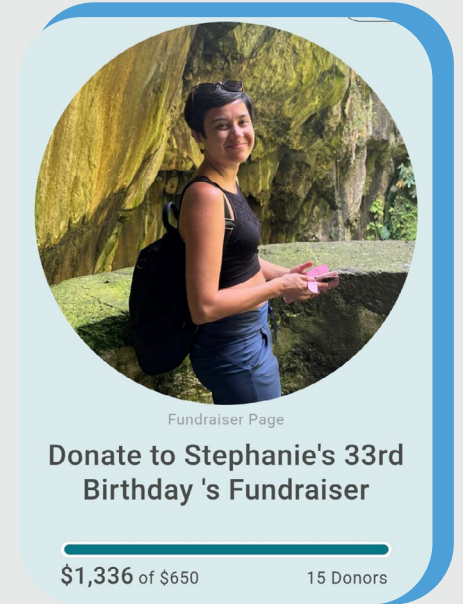
Statistical Highlights of the Year

Donations and Events

1 Food fundraiser **organized by HC USA**

102 Habibi Center books sold: **"There Is More To Me"**

\$1300 Through online **birthday fundraisers**



Statistical Highlights of the Year

Donations and Events

8 Events created awareness and/or raised funds

Including 2 concerts, 1 theater performance, 4 church presentations and 1 interview with **BODEGA** roasting company



www.Bodegacoffee.org

EVERY SIP SUPPORTS A CAUSE.



[Bodegacoffee.us](https://www.Bodegacoffee.us)



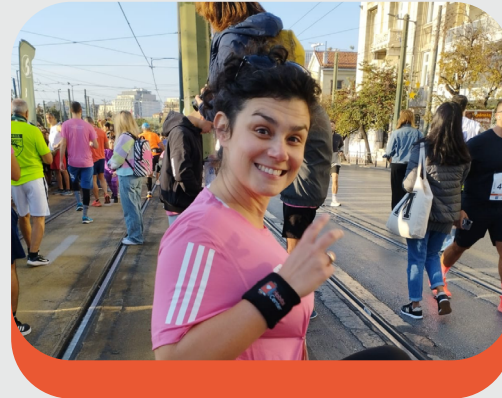
Statistical Highlights of the Year

Donations and Events

\$6,835 - Raised through **our Marathon Fundraiser***

€160 through **matched donations on Benevity**

89 People **donated to our Marathon Fundraiser!**



These funds will not be paid out until 2025 and are therefore not included in this years financial overview*

Testimonials

Our Students

Tayebe

"The Habibi Center has been the garden where I have grown and blossomed, like a seed nurtured by the right environment. It was there that I learned my first English words, alongside people I had never met before. I gained not only language skills but also life lessons - about adulthood, management, and helping others without expecting anything in return."

Sahar

"The Habibi Center stays in your life forever. The Habibi Center is not only a school, it is an opportunity to cultivate yourself and you have great opportunities to take the first step for your future. As from my experiences in HC, you can get ready to study in university, to get a job, to travel, to communicate, or to get out of trouble in different situations in your life."



[You can click here to read more testimonials!](#)

Testimonials

Our Teachers

Lauren (England, teacher from January to April 2024)

"I arrived in Athens again in December, ready for another adventure at Habibi. It is always a privilege to be asked to return, and I've now taught at the school four times, so I feel like i'm almost part of the furniture, always feeling completely at home with the students and other teachers. I always find it difficult to leave, but 'how lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard."

Andrew (USA, teacher from May to July 2024)

"Working with the students at Habibi Center to guide the development of their English skills was worth every minute and penny I invested in coming to volunteer this summer. Thank you, students, for teaching me so much about our world. Oh, the places you'll go!"

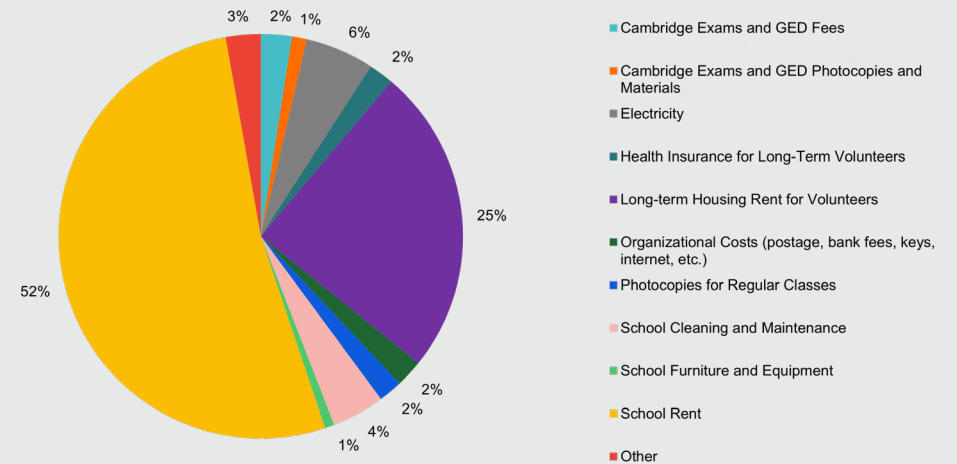


[You can click here to read their testimonials!](#)

Finances

Habibi's Expenses.

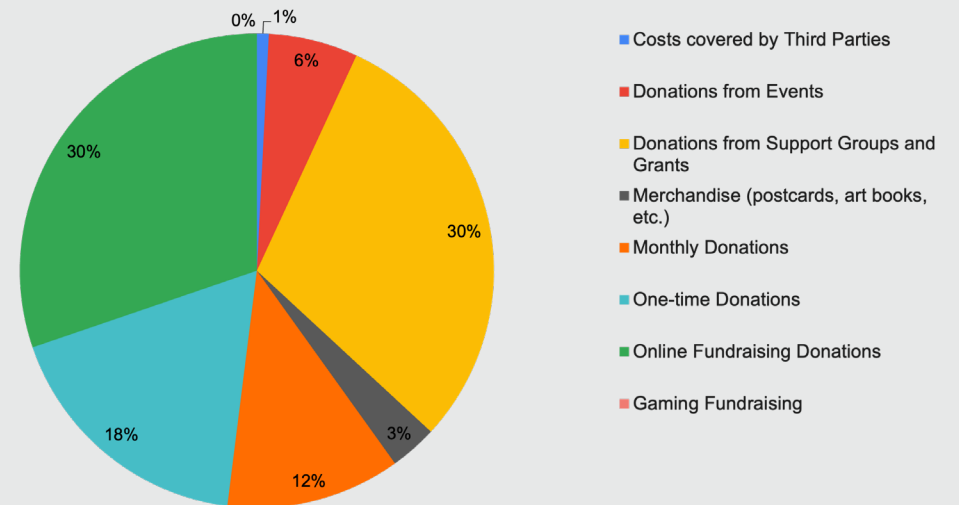
Type	Amount 2024
Activities (spelling bee, celebrations, sports, etc.)	€174.97
Cambridge Exams and GED Fees	€734.25
Cambridge Exams and GED Photocopies and Materials	€358.60
Electricity	€1,637.00
Fundraising Costs	€60.00
Health Insurance for Long-Term Volunteers	€593.88
IT Teaching Costs	€83.99
Literacy Class Costs	€132.80
Long-term Housing Rent for Volunteers	€7,340.00
Materials (pens, ink, paper, books, etc)	€172.10
Organizational Costs (postage, bank fees, keys, internet, etc.)	€647.69
Photocopies for Regular Classes	€569.90
School Cleaning and Maintenance	€955.67
School Furniture and Equipment	€224.46
School Rent	€15,600.00
Teacher Professional Development	€36.00
Workshops	€1,083.12
Total	€30,404.43



Finances

Habibi's Income.

Type	Amount 2024
Costs covered by Third Parties	€254.90
Donations from Events	€1,930.00
Donations from Support Groups and Grants	€9,489.00
Merchandise (postcards, art books, etc.)	€1,020.00
Monthly Donations	€3,766.51
One-time Donations	€5,624.64
Online Fundraising Donations	€9,573.89
Gaming Fundraising	€0.00
Total	€31,658.94



A large collage of 20 small photographs arranged in a grid-like fashion. The photos depict various people in different settings: some are outdoors in parks or on trails, some are indoors in homes or community centers, and others are at social events or gatherings. The images show a diverse group of individuals, including families, friends, and community members, engaged in various activities like walking, running, socializing, and posing for photos. The overall theme is community and social interaction.

To Everyone Reading



**CLICK HERE IF YOU
WANT TO DONATE**