

# Needs Assessment Report

Q2 2022



# Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	3
<b>Methodology</b>	5
<b>Overview</b>	7
The Needs	8
Analysis	12
<b>Regions</b>	17
Northern France	20
The Balkans	30
Mainland Greece	41
The Aegean Islands	53
Lebanon	64
Eastern Europe	75
Other Regions	78
<b>Call for Action!</b>	79
<b>Our Partners</b>	81



# Introduction

This report displays the needs of grassroots groups supporting displaced and otherwise disadvantaged people across the European continent and in Lebanon. At Distribute Aid, we offer these groups logistical support, spread awareness about their work and needs, and use our platform to garner further external support for displaced and disadvantaged people.

These results were gathered through the use of Distribute Aid's online form where groups could answer how many specific items they need to continue their services for the second quarter of 2022 (April 1st - June 30th). On March 14th, this form was sent to a range of groups we work with or who were new to our network. Each group was asked to fill out the form within two weeks of receiving it.

An overview of all of the results is provided below, before individual chapters for each region. Within each region's chapter, we include population statistics, situational context, the regional needs, and an analysis of these needs.

Grassroots groups only appear to fill needs when there are gaps in services provided by the state or other large actors. Generally, if there was no need, the group would not have formed. Therefore, every service exists because it is needed and not provided in any other form, and every requested donation is needed because these services could not run without donations. We hope the analysis provided will accurately portray the sheer importance and power that grassroots movements hold and expose the huge gaps left by official responders.

# Introduction continued

Overall, 33 groups filled out our Needs Assessment form, from 5 different regions: 4 in Athens, 7 in Thessaloniki, 3 in the Aegean Islands, 6 in Northern France, 7 in Lebanon, 3 in Bosnia, 2 in Serbia, and 1 in Croatia. We are hoping to get even more responses in our next round, which will cover the period of July 1st until September 30th 2022.

As many of the aid collection groups operating in this grassroots network tend to focus their efforts on certain areas, we have created a layout to this report to reflect that. If a group or individual is reading this report specifically for information on one region, they can now find all of the information relating to that region within one chapter.

These results are to be seen as a general overview and guide. You should always get in contact with receiving groups in the region to confirm the items are still needed and if they have restrictions on what type and material they need to be. This is not to be used as a definitive source of authority, it is simply a guide on where to turn to with your donations.

For full population statistics you can visit the [UNHCR data portal](#).

# Methodology

Below are detailed the full results from the Q2 Needs Assessment 2022. In the first section, an overview of all of the results is displayed. Following this, a new region's data is displayed in each section, broken down into population statistics, context, needs, and analysis.

For the sections covering population sizes, each participating organisation was asked how many people there are in their region or area who require access to NGO services (this may include refugees, asylum seekers, local houseless people or other disadvantaged people), and how many people access their services (i.e. how many people their individual group serves each month). The average was then taken from the population sizes given in each region to give us the 'People who occasionally access NGO services'. When calculating the 'People served by responding groups', the total sum of each group's given number is provided.

Comparing these figures enables us to identify gaps in service provision, lack of capacity, or a balanced ratio of NGO's to beneficiaries. Where the total number of people served is higher than the population in that area, this would suggest that individuals are accessing multiple NGO programmes such as a food distribution and a clothing distribution.

As NGOs often cannot cover an entire region or country and not every NGO in a region or country filled out the form, an official figure is provided as well where possible. The number of NGOs who responded to the survey from each region is also provided for the purpose of transparency and to indicate how large the data set is for these figures.

# Methodology continued

We hope these results will provide a range of benefits. Being able to publish needs in this manner will provide a better understanding across regions for both aid sending and aid receiving groups. Groups that provide services directly to displaced people can identify other groups that have the same needs as them locally and work together to procure these needed items. Furthermore, if one group has a donor that could fill a need of another group, this provides a chance for that network development to happen.

This data will allow for effective and focused aid collection and sourcing for groups that collect and send aid. Such rich information across the entire network has not previously been available. Using the data in this report, aid collections can be more targeted to a specific region's needs, and the valuable time of donation collection groups can be put to more effective use!

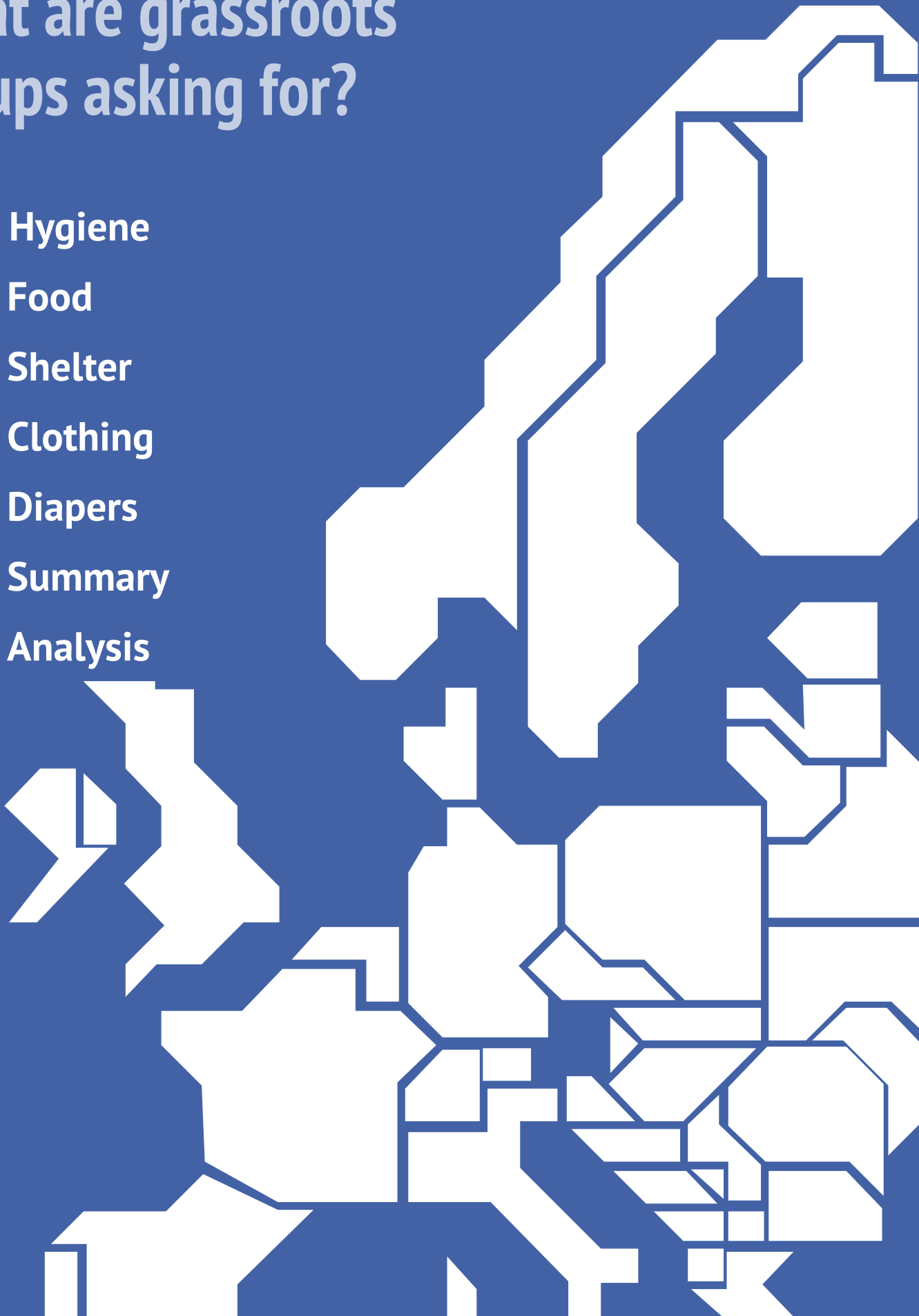
Finally, we hope this data will show other international organisations and actors where gaps in service provision exist. Grassroots groups do an amazing job at filling these gaps, but it should not be down to civilians to volunteer their time and money to cover basic human needs for asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants.

You can hover over the graphs for the exact numbers!

# Overview

What are grassroots groups asking for?

8	Hygiene
9	Food
9	Shelter
10	Clothing
11	Diapers
11	Summary
12	Analysis

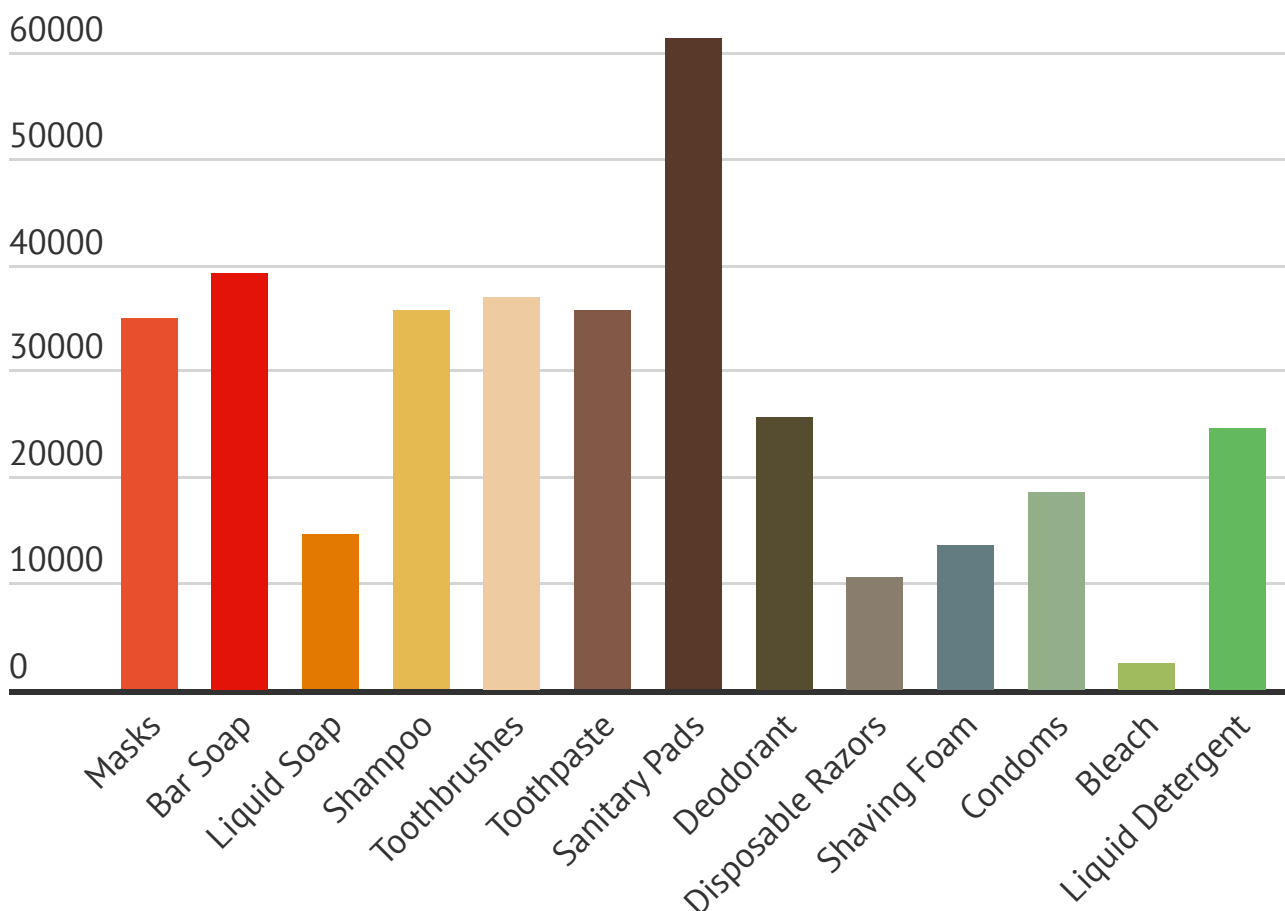


# The Totals

Below are the total items requested from all of the responders in every region. This will provide the total figures to put into context the size of the grassroots response across Europe and beyond! The regional needs breakdowns can be found on page 17 onwards.

If you are able to donate in bulk and help towards covering a certain item completely, please jump to the last page of this report for information on in-kind donations.

## Hygiene



- Soap: 100g bars
- Shampoo: 250ml bottles
- Toothpaste: 100ml tubes

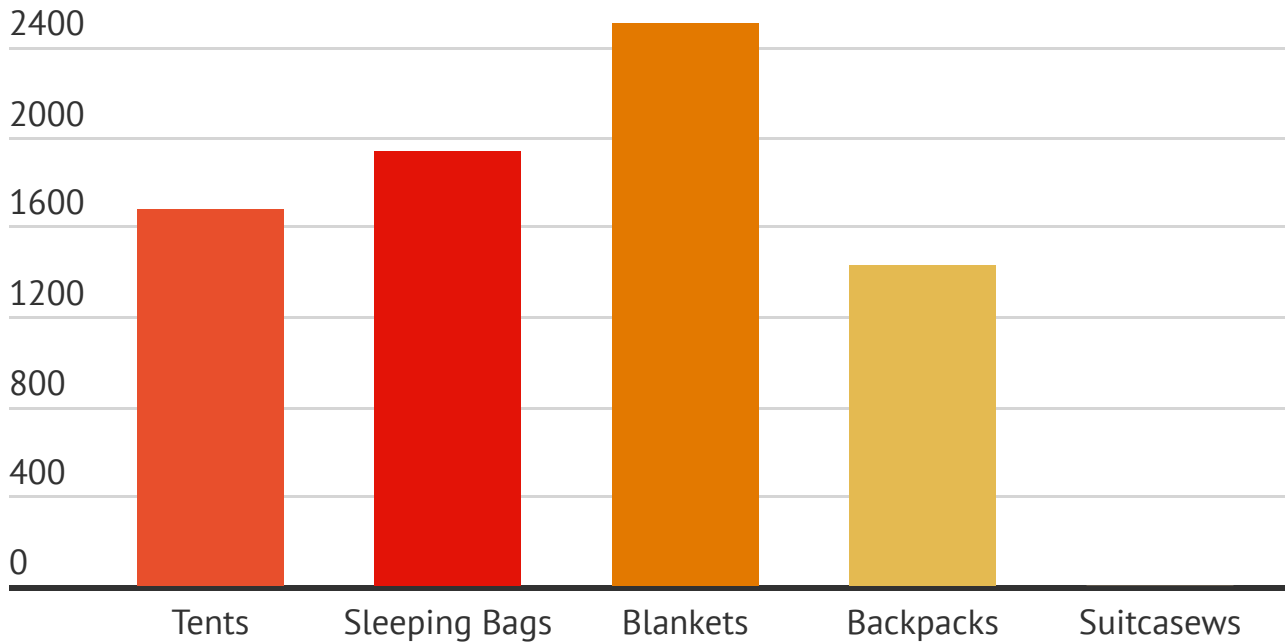
- Deodorant: 100g rollers
- Shaving foam: 200ml cans
- Liquid soap: 250ml bottles

- Liquid detergent: Litres
- Powder detergent: KGs
- Bleach: Litres

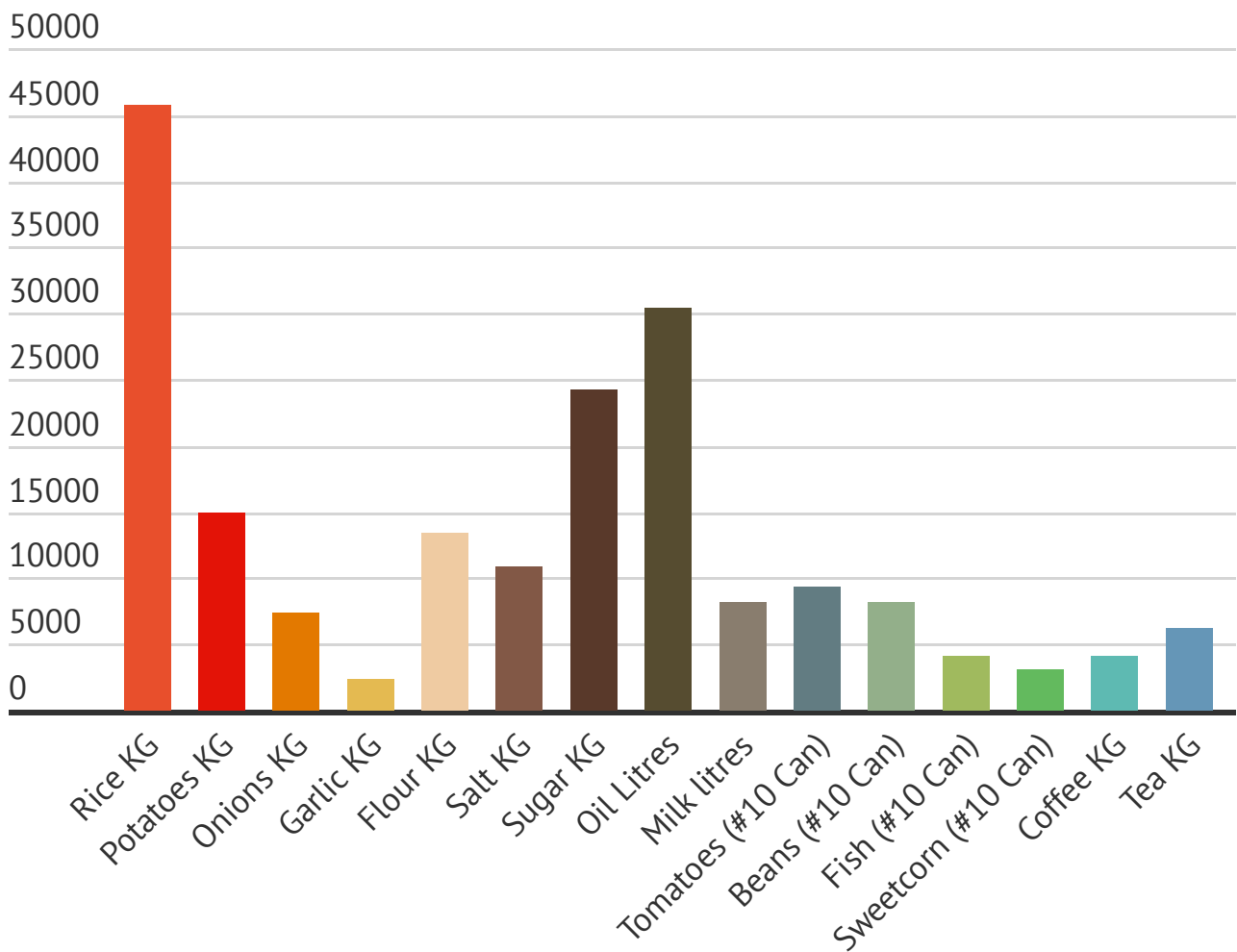


# The Totals

## Shelter and Storage

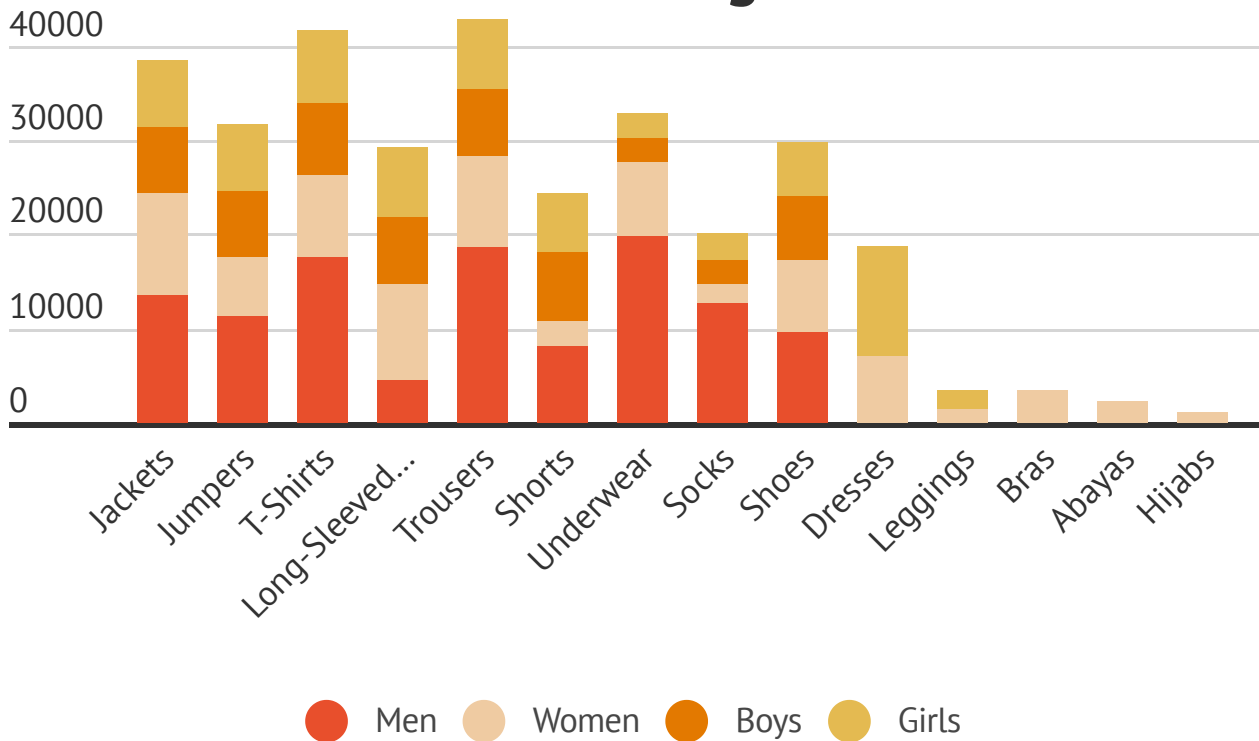


## Food

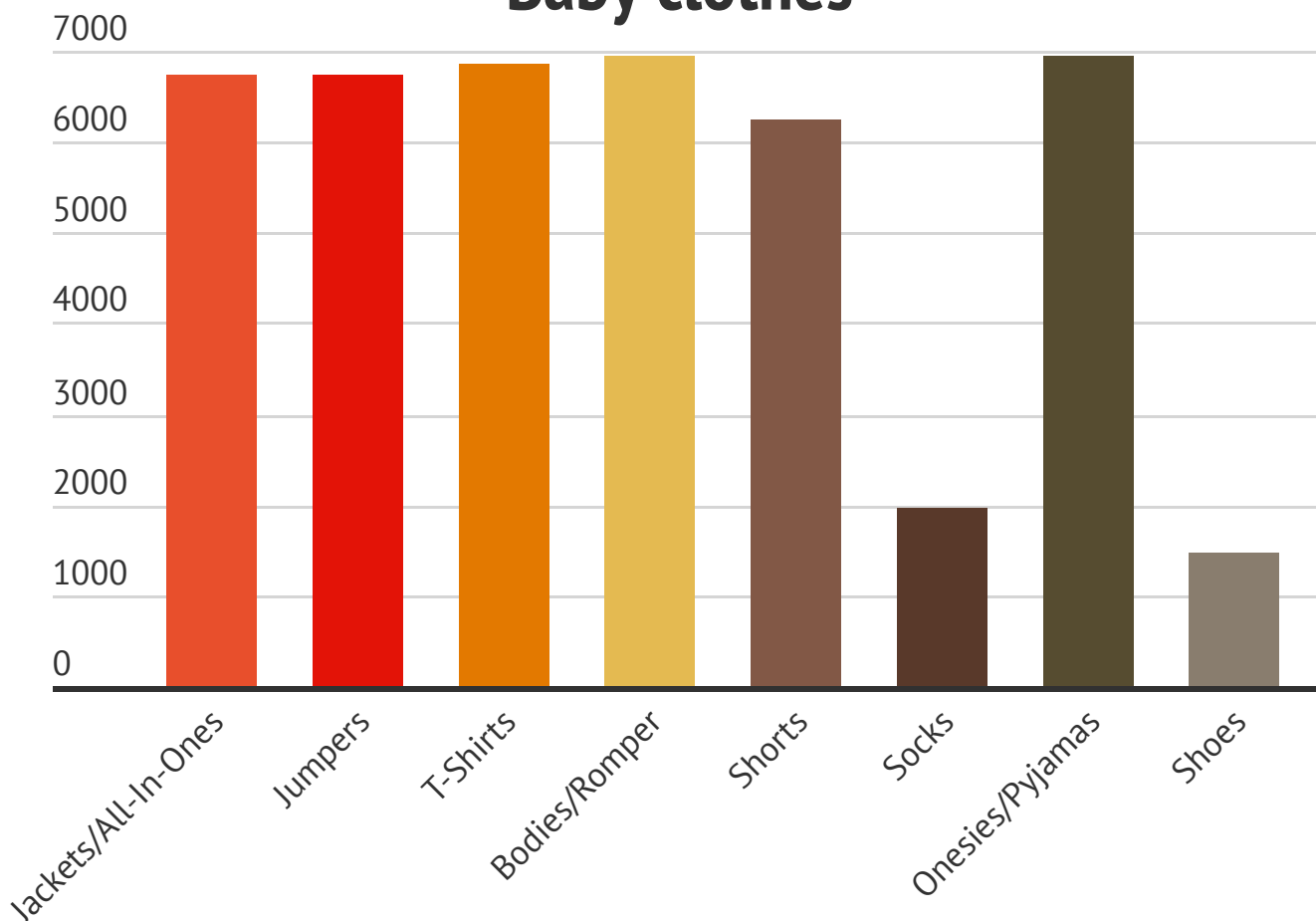


# The Totals

## Clothing

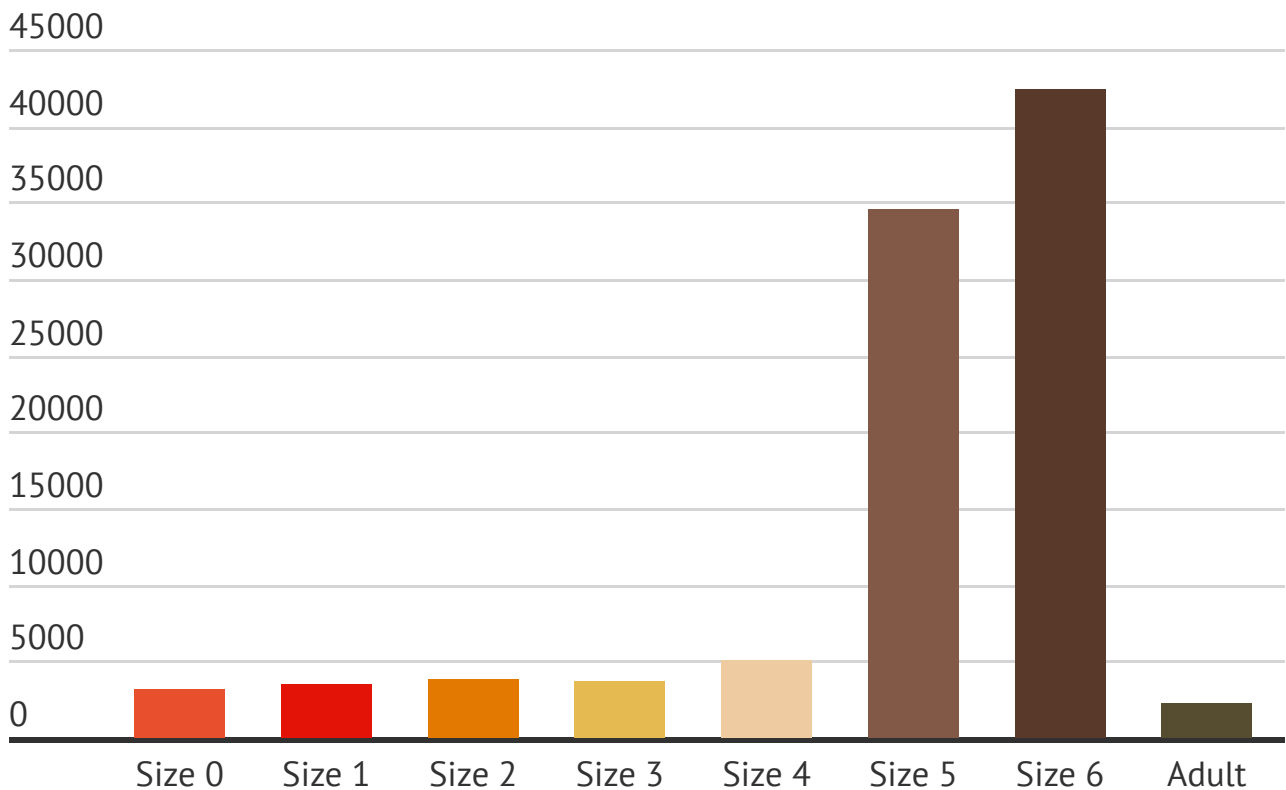


## Baby clothes



# The Totals

## Diapers



The groups that have responded to our needs assessment form have indicated that some items are needed across the network we support. For hygiene products the most needed item is sanitary pads by a large margin. As sanitary pads are single-use, the need for them is always high. Other highly needed hygiene items are bars of soap, toothbrushes, and toothpaste. As COVID-19 cases have dropped notably, the need for masks has also decreased. For clothing, we have had a lot of requests for trousers, t-shirts, jackets, and new underwear. For food, rice has been highly requested followed by oil and sugar.

# Our Analysis

## What do these figures mean?

In this section, we will explore the meaning behind the figures. Grassroots groups only step in to fill the gaps in services that are left by an official response (or lack thereof). Therefore, these needs represent the operational size of these organisations, and consequently demonstrate the vast gaps left by the EU and/or individual government responses.

Every need that is filled by a grassroots group, is a need that would not otherwise be filled. To put this into context, for every meal that is distributed, that is a meal that may have had to be skipped by the beneficiary otherwise. Every pack of diapers that is distributed would not have otherwise been available for a baby, or the caregiver(s) would have had to go without something else so they could afford diapers. The figures you see on the next few pages are so high, it is difficult to put them into perspective - unfortunately, it is a true reflection of how displaced people are treated and the lack of comprehensive support provided to them.

We will use the Sphere Standards for our analysis. Sphere is an international organisation made up of NGOs and INGOs, who have used their expertise to establish globally agreed international minimum standards for human rights. These standards apply to humanitarian work, and establish a baseline that responses must at a minimum meet, but aim to exceed. It is the standards detailed in [the Sphere Handbook](#) that we use to calculate 'needs met' below in this report.

# Our Analysis

For items not included in Sphere Standards, Distribute Aid has its own method of calculating the needs. The Sphere standard for needs such as shelter is not something grassroots groups could ever meet the international standard for. This is due to the policies in place, structured to create deplorable conditions for those seeking asylum in Europe, as well as funding limitations.

Other items such as toothpaste, are not included in the Sphere Handbook, however, we believe these are important items for people to have access to.

The tables below list the number of items requested on the needs assessment, followed by the number of needs that that volume of a product would fill. For example, 61,200 sanitary pads were requested by groups through their form responses. According to Sphere Standards, 15 sanitary pads should be provided per person per menstrual cycle. Therefore, we must divide 61,200 by 15 in order to identify how many needs need to be filled, i.e. how many menstrual cycles this number of sanitary pads should theoretically cover.



# Sphere Standards

Item Requested	Number of Items Requested	Needs Yet to be Met
Soap (grams)	7,541,250	30,165
Sanitary pads	61,200	4,080
Diapers	98,307	655
Sleeping bags	1,930	1,930
Blankets	2,510	2,510
Womens clothes	80,260	6,688
Mens clothes	116,560	9,713
Girls clothes	67,600	5,633
Boys clothes	55,250	4,604
Baby clothes	43,900	3,658
Totals	8,068,767	69,638

According to Sphere Standards, each person should have 250 grams of body soap per month, 15 sanitary pads (for people who menstruate) per month, and 150 diapers per month (for babies or people who are incontinent). Therefore, the needs listed above for these items are one month's worth of an item to fill a need.

Sphere Standards also state one blanket and one sleeping bag per person, as well as two full sets of clothing per person, is needed. The clothing must fit, be appropriate for the weather conditions, and be appropriate for a persons culture and religion. We have calculated that a full set of clothing consists of six items. These needs will be met until the item is broken, confiscated or no longer fit for use.

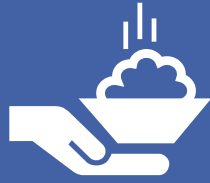
# DA's Standards

Item Requested	Number of Items Requested	Needs Yet to be Met
Masks	34,957	17,479
Shampoo (ML)	8,901,250	89,013
Toothbrush	36,895	36,895
Toothpaste (ML)	3,568,500	71,370
Deodorant (g)	2,559,500	73,129
Disposable razor	10,585	3,528
Shaving foam (ml)	2,692,000	89,733
Condoms	18,640	4,660
Tents	1,670	3,340
Totals	17,823,997	389,146

At Distribute Aid we believe each person should have: 100ml of shampoo per month, 50ml of toothpaste per month, 35g of deodorant per month, 30ml of shaving foam per month, 3 disposable razors per month, and 4 condoms per month. Therefore, the needs listed above for these items are one month's worth of an item to fill a need.

Distribute Aid also believes each person should have a minimum of one toothbrush, two reusable masks, and one tent per two people. These needs will be met until the item is broken, confiscated or no longer fit for use.

# Food



**22,746+ people rely on grassroots groups every month to access food.**

International standards for food are listed in the Sphere Handbook, however, they include many variables on the nutritional value, calories etc. making an accurate analysis difficult. Needs vary depending on age, gender, atypical needs, and other individual considerations. With the data we have available, we would not be able to make an accurate analysis of needs met by the food items listed on the needs assessments responses.

Of the 33 groups that responded to our needs assessment form, 18 of them provide some form of food-based service. This covers a range of food packages and meal distributions. According to the data recorded, these 18 groups serve a total of 22,746 people per month. These groups also indicated how many times an individual may access their services in a month. Combining these figures would suggest that:

# 96,692 meals

are served **every month**. This is a huge number of people not receiving adequate support from the state in order to feed themselves, resulting in them having to use the services of grassroots groups.



# Regions

For each region you can find information about:

## Populations, Context, Results and Analysis

**20 Northern France**

**30 The Balkans**

**41 Mainland Greece**

**52 The Aegean  
Islands**

**62 Lebanon**

**73 Other**



# Introduction to regions

Detailed below are the complete results for the Q2 needs assessment, along with population statistics and contextual information. Each chapter covers a different region, highlighting population size and migration trends for beneficiaries to service providing grassroots groups. It also provides an overview of the conditions and political situation in that area, along with the regions' needs organised by category.

Each participating organisation was asked how many people there are in their region or area who require access to NGO services (this may include refugees, asylum seekers, local houseless people or other people in need), and how many people access their services (i.e. how many people their individual group serves each month). The average was then taken from the population sizes given in each region to give us the 'People who occasionally access NGO services'. When calculating the 'People served by responding groups', the total sum of each group's given number is provided. Comparing these figures enables us to identify gaps in service provision, lack of capacity, or a balanced ratio of NGOs to beneficiaries. Where the total number of people served is higher than the population in that area, this suggests that individuals are accessing multiple NGO programmes such as food distributions and clothing distributions. As NGOs often cannot cover an entire region or country and not every NGO in a region or country filled out the form, an official figure is provided where possible. The number of NGOs from each region is also provided for the purpose of transparency and to indicate how large the data set is for these figures.

# Introduction to regions

The regional context chapters were researched and written at the end of March in 2022. Where a sentence or phrase is underlined, you can click through to a linked article where that information was found. You can also use these links for further reading. We hope these sections will provide more contextual background to the circumstances under which grassroots groups work and give a better understanding of why certain items are needed and why everyone should support these groups.

Being able to publish needs in this manner will provide a better understanding across regions for both aid sending and aid receiving groups. Groups that provide services directly to displaced people can identify other groups with the same needs locally and work together to procure these needed items. Furthermore, if one group has a donor that could fill a need of another group, this provides a chance for that network development to happen.

This data will allow for effective and focused aid collection and sourcing for groups collecting and sending aid. Such rich information across the entire network has not previously been available. Using the data in this report, aid collections can be more targeted to a specific region's needs, and the valuable time of donation collection groups can be put to more effective use! Finally, we hope this data will show other international organisations and actors where gaps in service provision exist.

Grassroots groups do an amazing job at filling these gaps. Still, it should not be down to civilians to volunteer their time and money to cover basic human needs for asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants.

You can hover over the graphs for the exact numbers.



# Northern France

2,817	People who occasionally access NGO services
4,029	People served by responding groups
N/A	Official figures
6	NGOs responded

## Population trend for those served by NGOs is increasing

It is difficult to gather accurate data on the number of displaced people in Northern France for several reasons. The population is largely on the move, with many journeying here to attempt to make the dangerous crossing to the UK. The French government continues to refuse support from the UN, so very few official statistics are collected. These numbers are small compared to Lebanon, for example, but since many groups here have lost their funding, operational security is under threat. There is a predominantly male population, a significant number of whom are unaccompanied teenagers. There is also a small population of women and children in Dunkirk. In February 2022, Human Rights Observers reported meeting 60 unaccompanied children in Pas-de-Calais and Grande-Synthe, which is likely an underestimate of the actual numbers.

# Regional Context

The number of displaced people in Northern France continuously fluctuates, as it hosts a transient community. Many people reach Northern France after months of travelling in the hope to cross the channel to the UK. Calais and the surrounding area host around 2,000 refugees, which will likely increase given the situation in Ukraine. The war in Ukraine has led many Ukrainian nationals to seek temporary refuge in Calais while attempting to seek asylum in the UK. As of March 8th, around 600 Ukrainian refugees are residing in Calais.

In 2021, an estimated 35,382 people attempted to cross the English Channel, almost three times as many as in 2020. This is likely due to other routes being closed or more difficult to access, rather than an overall increase in people seeking asylum. Many people making this journey will speak English, have family or friends in the UK, and/or have been subject to state violence in other countries, deterring them from claiming asylum there. Some will stay in the region for a few weeks whilst making repeated attempts at the dangerous crossing. Others will travel between the north and Paris or Brussels, following various opportunities or transiting between familiar places.

The French government has consistently failed to address the extent of the problem in this region. The 2021 Human Rights Watch World Report states that displaced people in France “...faced inhuman and degrading living conditions, as well as police abuse and harassment.” The state offers some accommodation, although requests are often denied. Emergency shelter is sometimes provided during particularly cold weather. However, almost all migrants here are forced to live outside in makeshift camps.

# Regional Context Continued

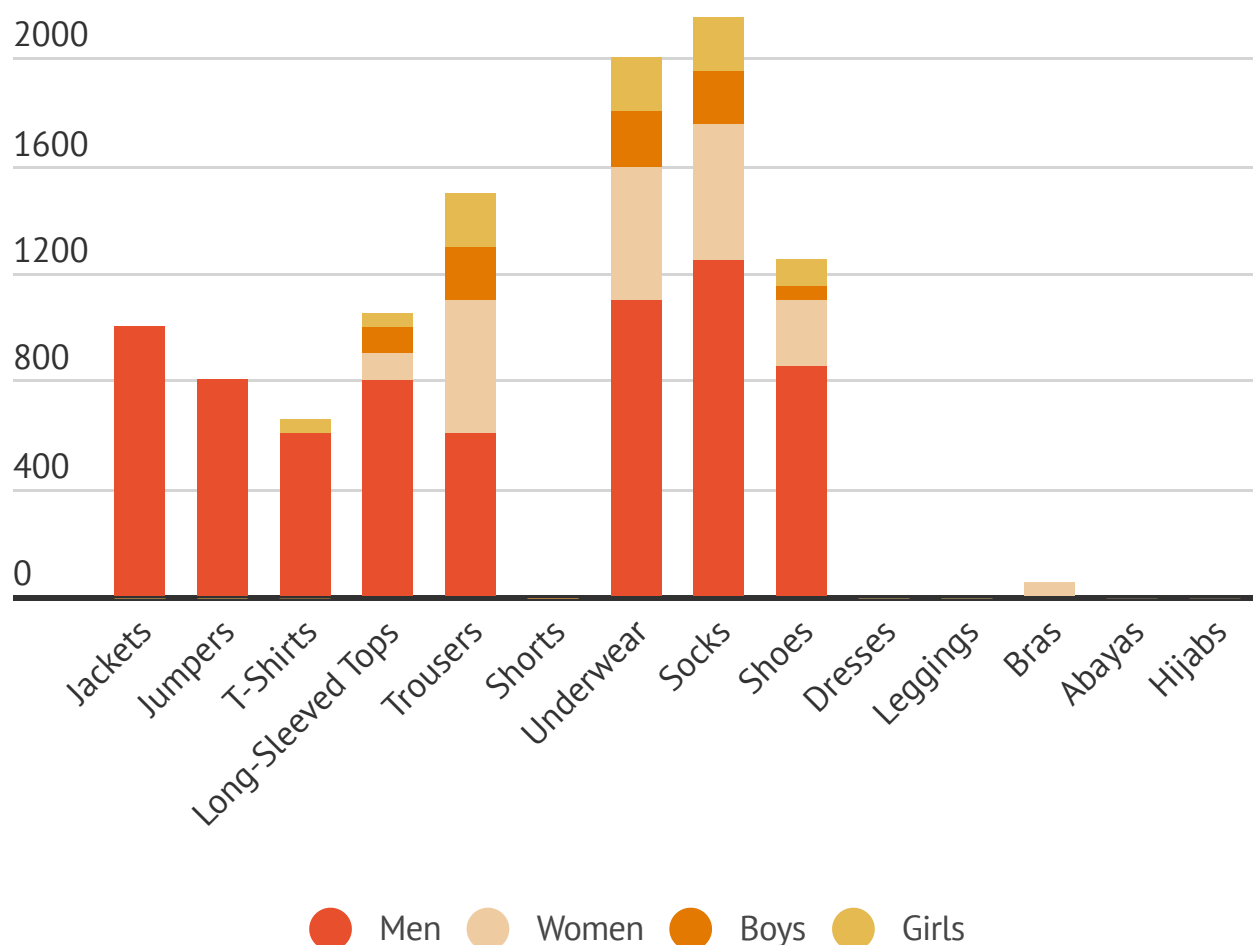
Evictions take place frequently, with the police minimising livable perimeters as well seizing property. Human Rights Observers witnessed at least 156 evictions in February alone, and roughly 627 tents and tarps were destroyed across Calais and Grande-Synthe. HRO further reports that these evictions regularly subject people to violence and police brutality. Due to ongoing eviction cycles, tents and sleeping bags are essential items in Northern France. These are regularly confiscated and destroyed by authorities, which means they need to be replaced continuously.

The UK government is currently seeking to introduce a new 'Nationality and Borders Bills', also referred to as the 'Anti-Refugee Bill'. Controversial from the start, many international bodies have voiced concerns about the illegality of many clauses within the bill. When in the House of Lords, amendments were made to remove many of these clauses such as the use of offshore detention centres, the ability to revoke citizenship without notice, and criminalisation of people reaching the UK through unconventional means. On 22nd March 2022, the House of Commons voted against the amendments made by the Lords, pushing the bill to a 'ping-pong' stage. The UNHCR has repeatedly voiced concern over this bill and its incompatibility with international law.

To learn more about the situation in France, read Refugee Rights Europe's report detailing the changing conditions in Calais in the five years since the Calais jungle was dismantled.

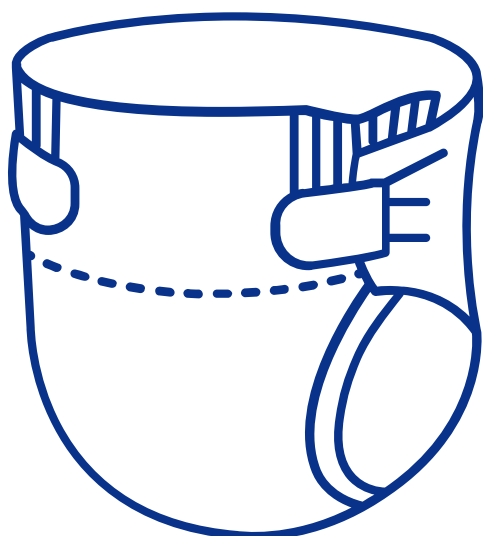
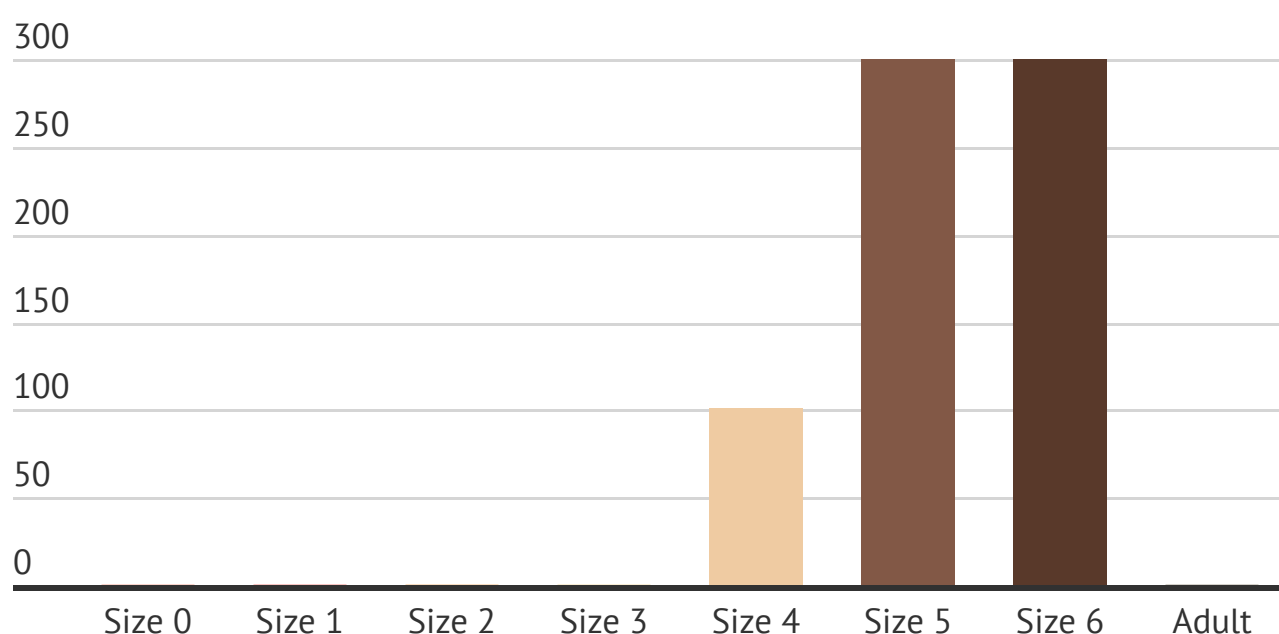
# Clothing

As the weather slowly gets warmer across Europe, the needs in Northern France are changing. There is a big need for underwear and socks, items that must be brand new. There is also quite a large need for trousers, shoes, and jackets. For this quarter the need for winter clothes, such as hats, gloves and scarves is nonexistent.



# Baby items

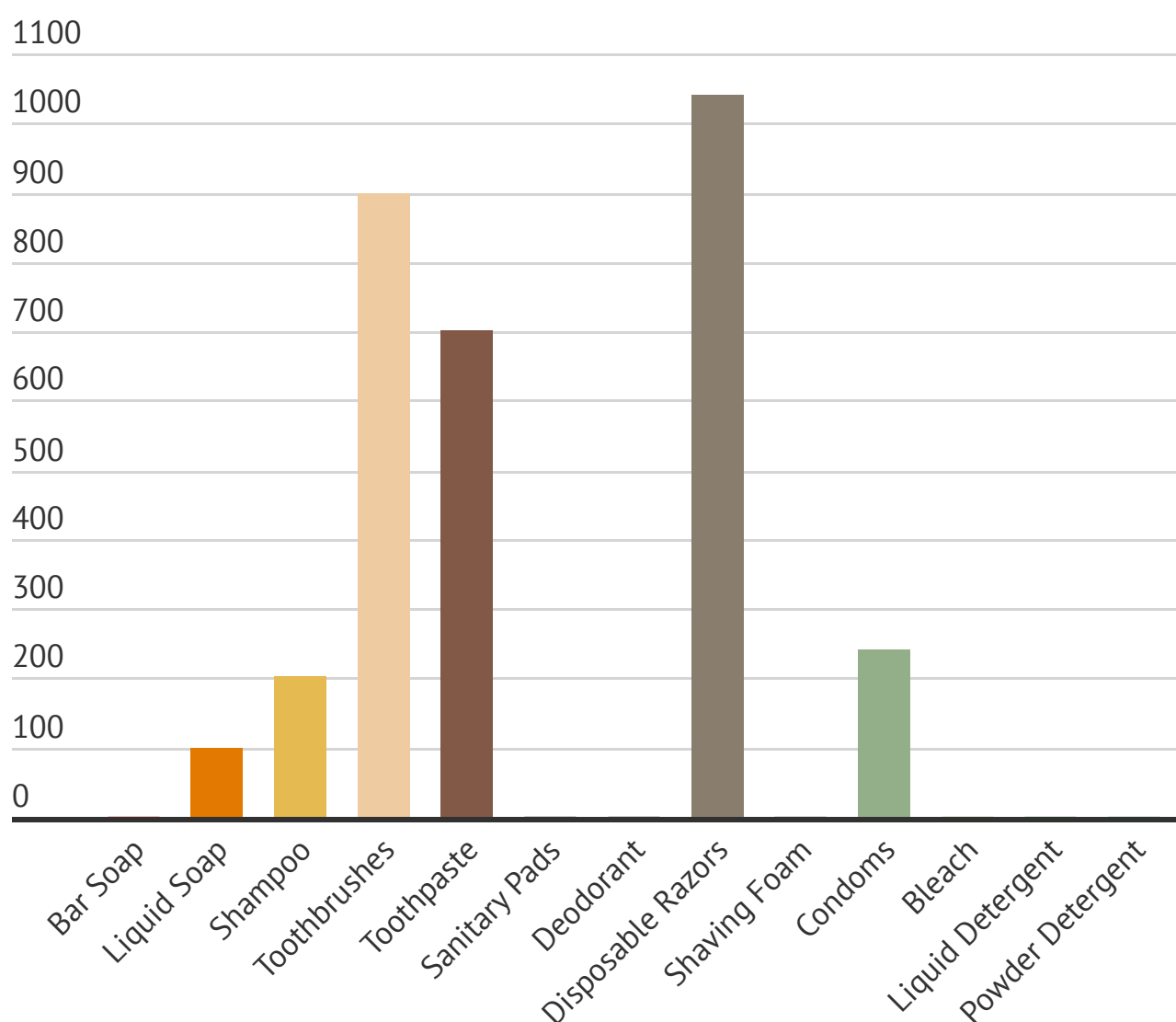
The number of families and babies accessing NGO services in Northern France is not as high proportionally as other regions. This quarter we had no requests for any baby clothing in the Northern France region. However, there is a need for 700 diapers.





# Hygiene

Razors are the biggest need in North France in terms of hygiene. As a large percentage of the population in Northern France is male, razors are often requested for personal care. Toothbrushes are also highly sought after. They can be hard to acquire as they must be new and in a properly sealed package.



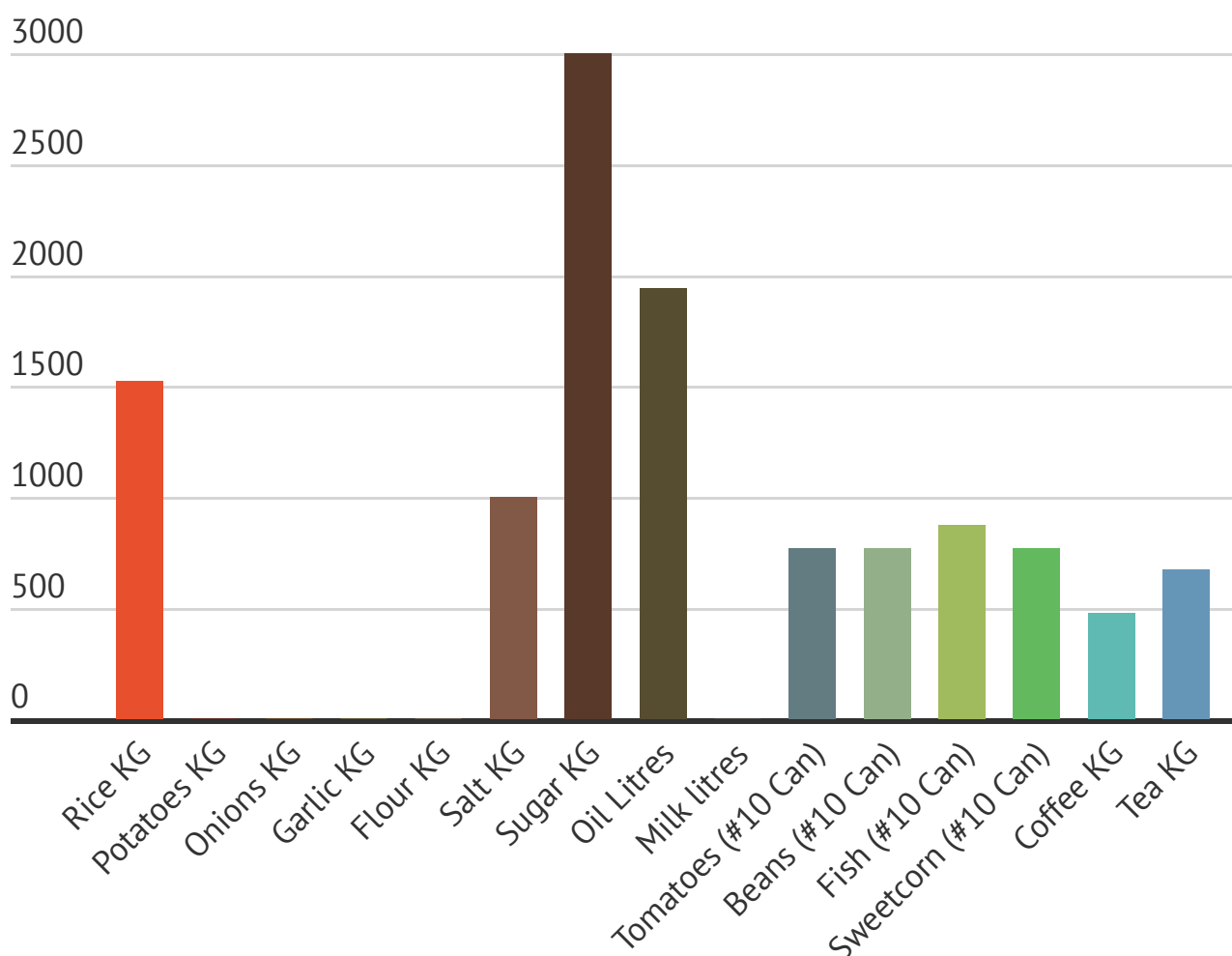
- Soap: 100g bars
- Shampoo: 250ml bottles
- Toothpaste: 100ml tubes

- Deodorant: 100g rollers
- Shaving foam: 200ml cans
- Liquid soap: 250ml bottles

- Liquid detergent: Litres
- Powder detergent: KGs
- Bleach: Litres

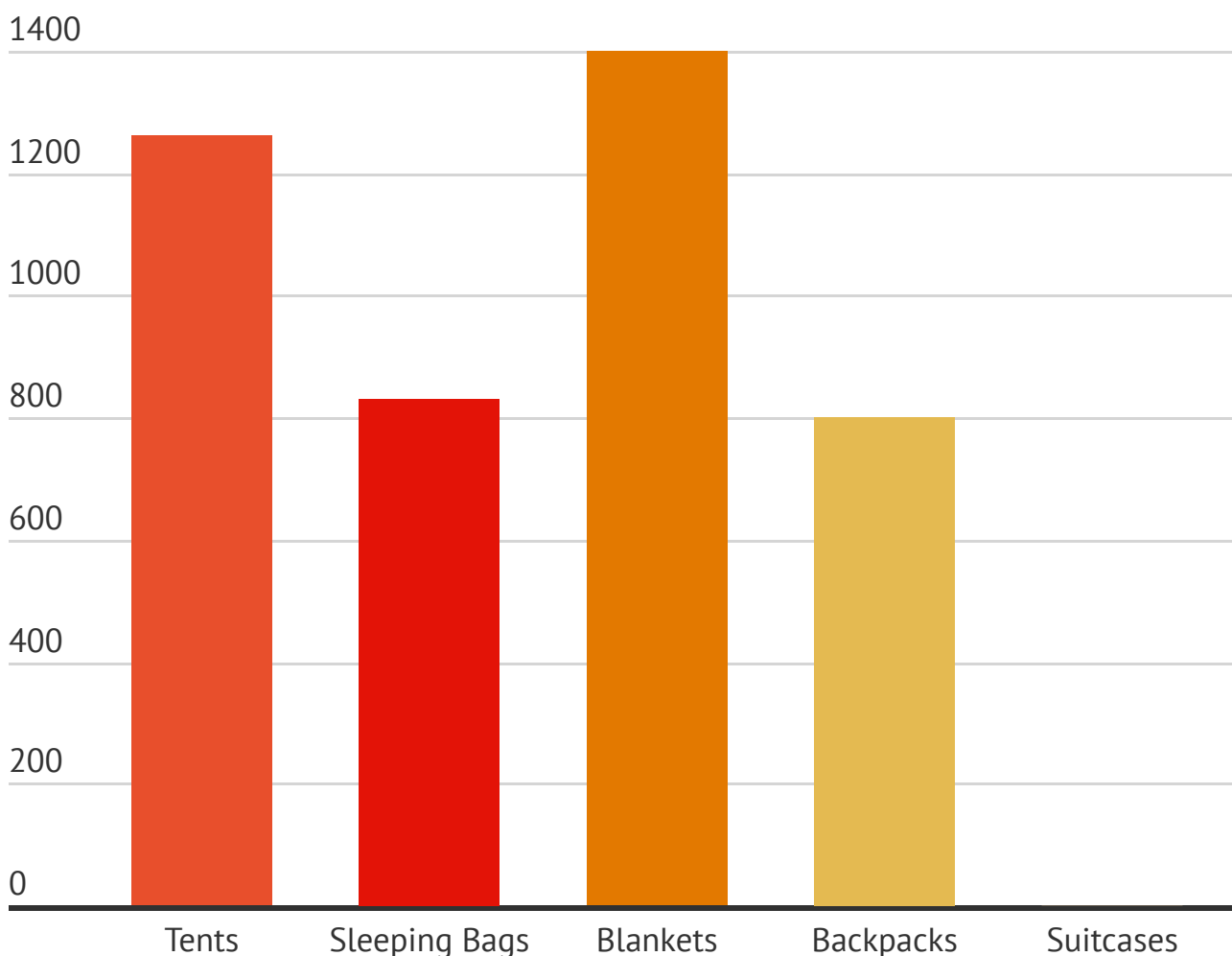
# Food

The most requested food item in northern France by some margin is sugar which is primarily used as a sweetener for tea. This is followed by staple food items used for a lot of different kinds of meals, oil, rice, and salt. This quarter there was a large need for canned food as well.



# Shelter and Storage

The need for shelter, in general, is very high in Northern France. This is due to the authorities' relentless eviction cycles that continue into winter (despite many laws instructing that this should not happen). During these evictions, all belongings can be taken and destroyed by the police. This includes tents, blankets, sleeping bags and other items that help someone stay warm.



# Needs Yet to be Met

## Sphere Standards

According to Sphere Standards, each month a person should have 250 grams of body soap, 15 sanitary pads (for people who menstruate) per month, and 150 diapers (for babies or people who are incontinent).

Therefore, the needs listed above for these items are one month's worth of an item to fill a need. Furthermore, one blanket and one sleeping bag per person, as well as two full sets of clothing per person, is needed. The clothing must fit, be appropriate for the weather conditions, and be appropriate for a persons culture and religion. We have calculated that a full set of clothing consists of six items. These needs will be met until the item is broken, confiscated or no longer fit for use.

Item Requested	Number of Items Requested	Needs Yet to be Met
Soap (grams)	25,000	100
Sanitary pads	0	0
Diapers	700	5
Sleeping bags	830	830
Blankets	1,400	1,400
Womens clothes	1,900	158
Mens clothes	7,000	583
Girls clothes	800	67
Boys clothes	750	63
Baby clothes	0	0
Totals	38,380	3,206

# DA Standards

At Distribute Aid we believe every month, each person should have: 100ml of shampoo, 50ml of toothpaste, 35g of deodorant, 30ml of shaving foam, 3 disposable razors, and 4 condoms. Therefore, the needs listed above for these items are one month's worth of an item to fill a need. DA also believes each person should have a minimum of one toothbrush, two reusable masks, and one tent per two people. These needs will be met until the item is broken, confiscated or no longer fit for use.

Item Requested	Number of Items Requested	Needs Yet to be Met
Masks	0	0
Shampoo (ML)	50,000	500
Toothbrush	900	900
Toothpaste (ML)	70,000	1,400
Deodorant (g)	0	0
Disposable razor	1,040	347
Shaving foam (ml)	0	0
Condoms	240	60
Tents	1,260	2,520
Totals	123,440	5,727

## Food

Of the 6 groups that responded to our needs assessment form from Northern France, 2 of them provide some form of food-based service. This covers a range of food packages and meal distributions. According to the data recorded, these 2 groups serve a total of **1,000** people per month. This is the equivalent of **12,400** meals.



# The Balkans

## Serbia

4,630	People who occasionally access NGO services
1,500	People served by responding groups
4,903	<u>Official figures</u>
2	NGOs responded

**Population served by NGOs is steady**

## Bosnia

2,300	People who occasionally access NGO services
1,580	People served by responding groups
5,462	<u>Official figures</u>
3	NGOs responded

**Population served by NGOs is decreasing**



# The Balkans

The Balkan region borders the EU and Schengen zone, which makes it a standard route for transitory migrants wishing to gain asylum within the EU. Like in Northern France, accurate population numbers are hard to ascertain as people tend to be on the move. However, January estimates put the number of migrants around 8,029 people. The UNHCR estimates that over 95% of new adult arrivals in the Balkans are male. There are also a significant number of families transiting through this region. Numbers can change substantially across the Balkans from season to season due to drastic temperature fluctuations, among other reasons.

Most people-on-the-move in Bosnia are trying to reach EU countries, although some choose to stay and claim asylum. The DRC reports that almost 24,000 people arrived in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2021, many of whom get stuck there due to harsh treatment and violent pushbacks at the Croatian border. We had a total of 6 groups respond from the Balkans. 2 in Serbia, 3 in Bosnia, and one in Croatia.

# Regional Context

The Balkan region acts as a transitory region for people on the move and many reside temporarily in the different countries that make up the region. For this reason, compared to other European countries, the Balkans have relatively low numbers of asylum applications. For instance, both Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia have around 5000 asylum seekers while Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Albania have less than 200. However, it is estimated that some 60,000 people travelled along the Balkan route in 2021. A majority of states are also often antagonistic and sometimes hostile towards people who are seeking refuge in Europe. Many transition through these countries in the hope of gaining entrance to either Croatia or Hungary, from where they can travel onwards to other EU states. Most people who pursue the Balkan route come from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Syria, Iraq and Iran.

There has been a persistent problem of pushbacks along the Croatian and Hungarian borders since 2017, where harsh treatment is commonplace. Pushbacks happen when people attempt to cross a border, only to be forcibly removed and 'pushed back' into the country they entered from by the authorities present. In February 2022 the Border Violence Monitoring Network reported 32 instances of pushbacks affecting 3614 people on the move in the Balkans. The practice often constitutes multiple human rights violations, including violations of the 1951 Refugee Convention. Hungary is the only EU country to have formally legalised pushbacks nationally, although they are now commonplace in many EU countries. In the last year, there have been several instances of pushbacks at the borders of Serbia-Hungary, Serbia-Romania, Bosnia and Herzegovina - Croatia, and more



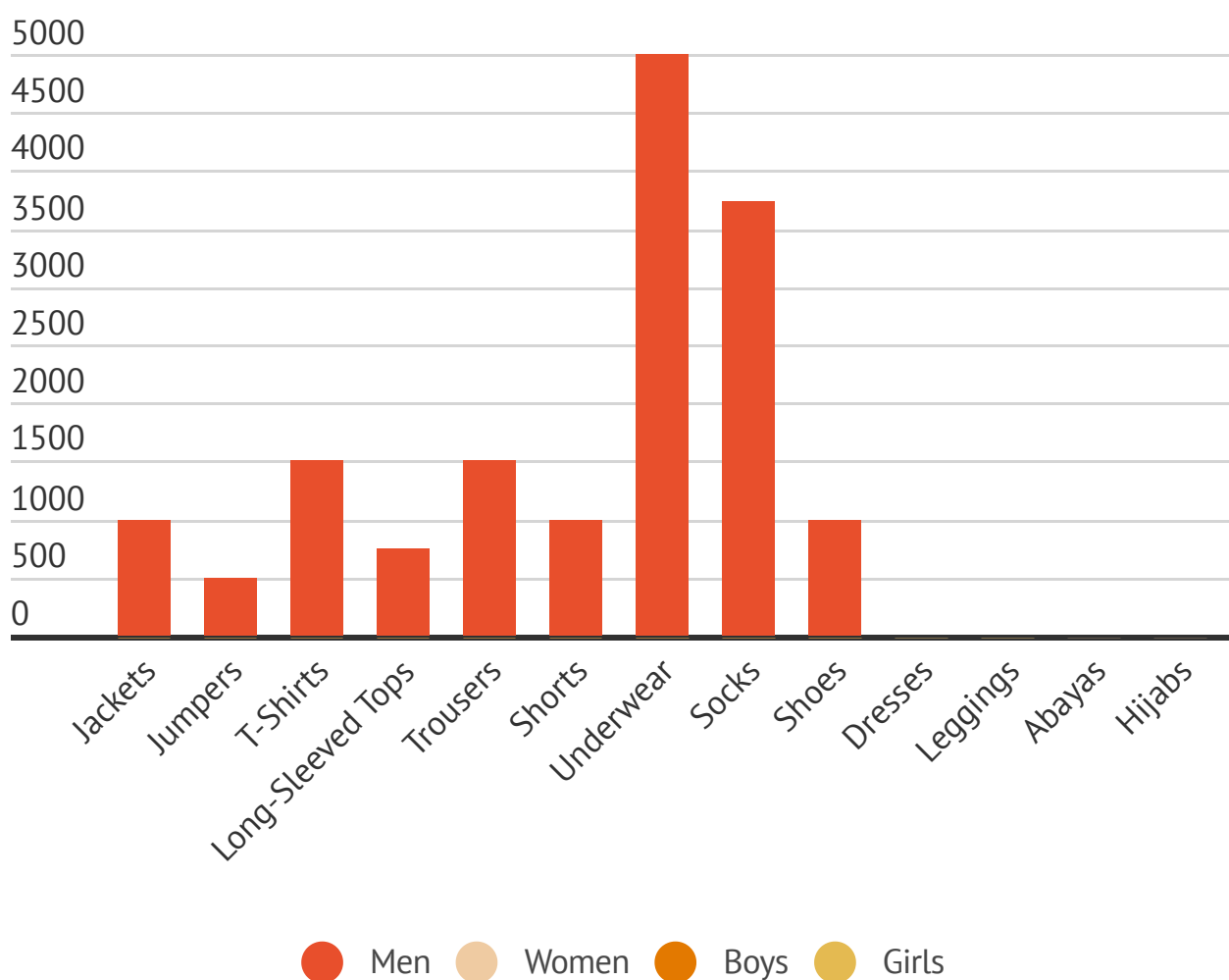
# Regional Context Continued

Refugee Rights Europe have compiled evidence showing that pushbacks routinely include assault, as well as regular instances of gender-based violence and violence against children. On top of this, phones, money and other possessions are often seized in the process. Notably, many people get pushed back here multiple times. Hence, the needs for these populations include emergency humanitarian aid and medical care, as well as food and non-food items. If you want to read more, Refugee Rights Europe have reported extensively on border violence and rights violations in the Balkan region [here](#).

Currently the EU is applying new high-tech measures to hinder people from crossing the Balkan borders into the EU. The European Border and Coast Guard Agency, Frontex are currently testing out new tools through the use of [technology tracking, biometric data gathering, and drone surveillance](#). This could lead to a decline in people migrating through these territories, instead choosing more dangerous routes, or taking greater risks on the existing Balkan route.

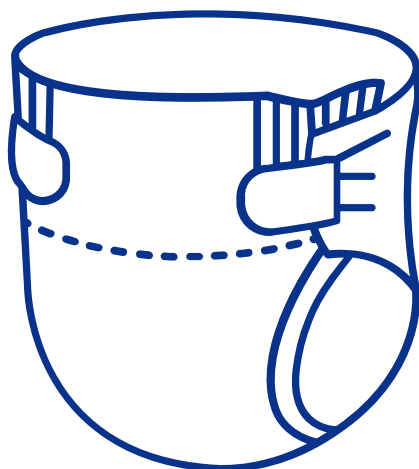
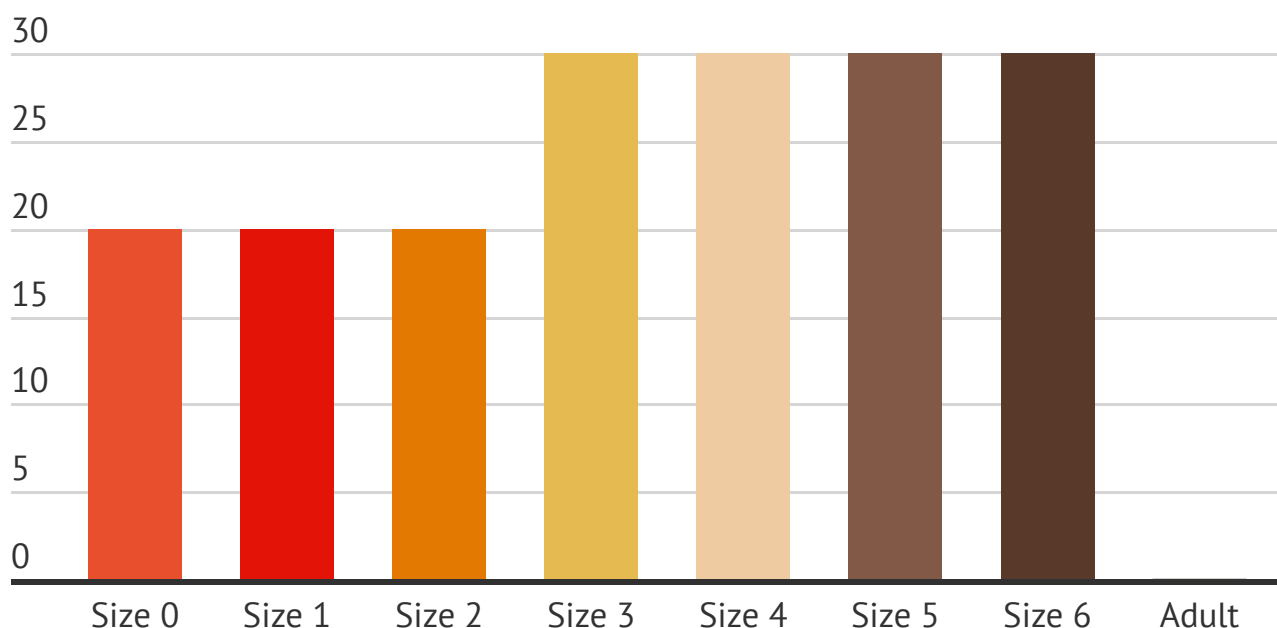
# Clothing

It is notoriously difficult to ship second-hand aid to the Balkans. A transitory population means the need for clothing is very high across the board. Noticeable for this quarter's requests is the fact that organisations only have requested male clothing. The biggest need for the upcoming quarter is new underwear and new socks.



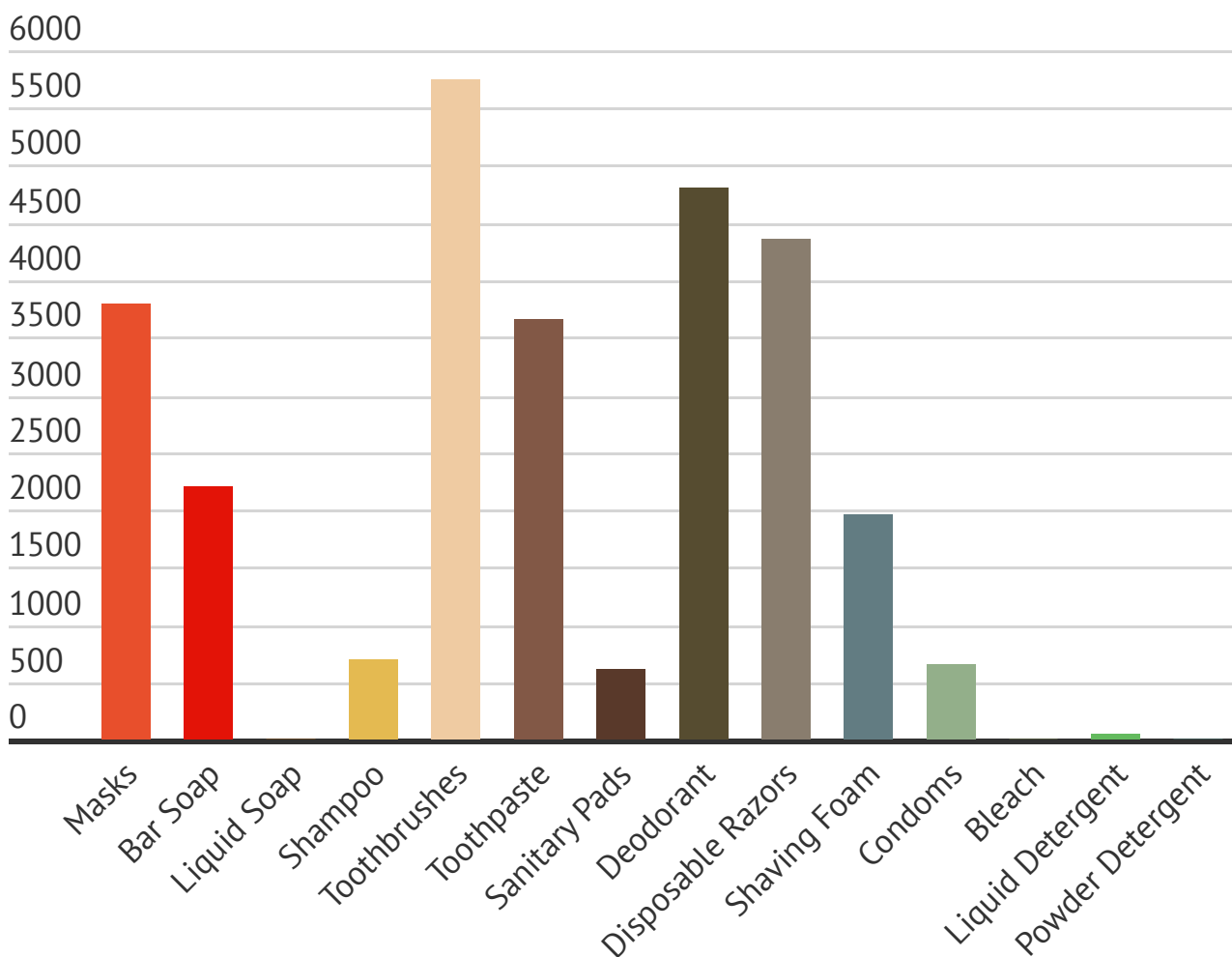
# Baby items

The vast majority of people accessing grassroots services in the Balkans are single men. This is often a trend seen with transitory populations as such journeys are extremely dangerous, particularly for women and children. Therefore, the need for baby items is low but not non-existent.



# Hygiene

The most significant hygiene needs in the Balkans relate to dental hygiene, deodorant, and razors, closely followed by masks and soap. This demonstrates a wide range of needs, indicating a general need for increased stock and donations.



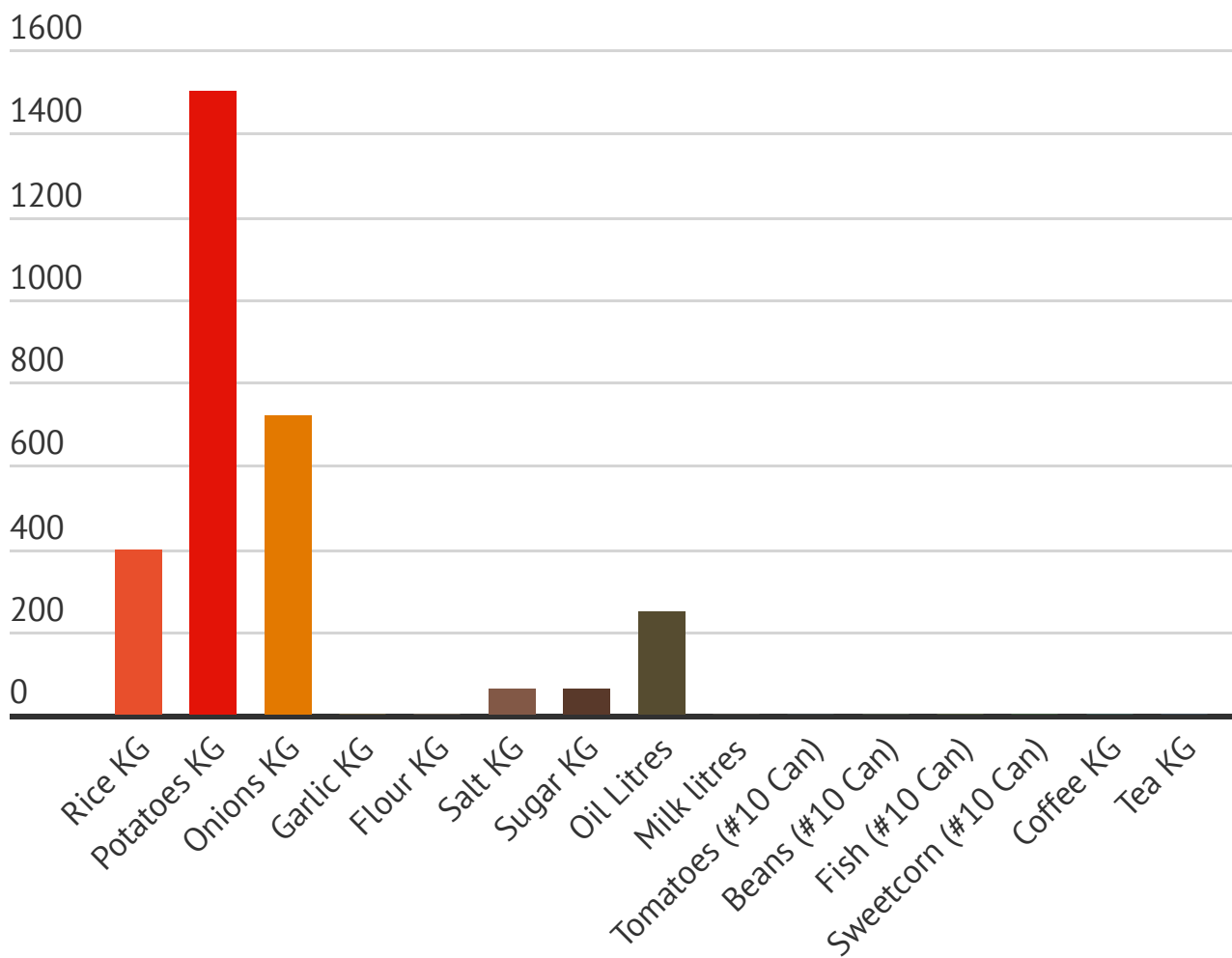
- Soap: 100g bars
- Shampoo: 250ml bottles
- Toothpaste: 100ml tubes

- Deodorant: 100g rollers
- Shaving foam: 200ml cans
- Liquid soap: 250ml bottles

- Liquid detergent: Litres
- Powder detergent: KGs
- Bleach: Litres

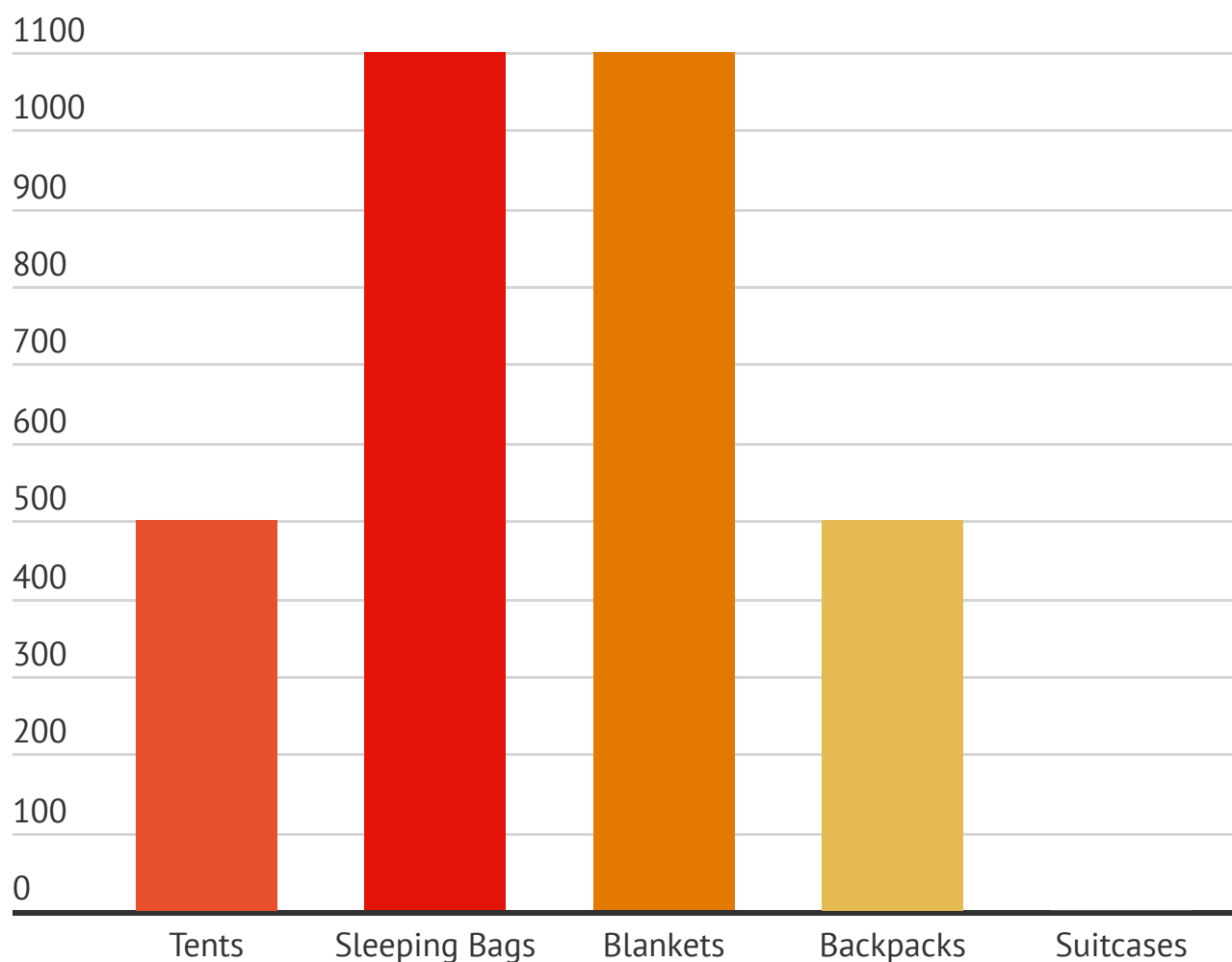
# Food

The largest need for food in the Balkans is the ingredients that would make the base of a meal: potatoes, onions, and rice. These three ingredients can go into almost any filling and warm meal! There is also a large need for oil, which is always needed for a lot of different types of meals.



# Shelter and Storage

Even as spring approaches, there is a big need for shelter. People on the move often times rely on tents, sleeping bags, and blankets for shelter as finding permanent shelter can be very difficult. It is crucial for health and survival that people can stay warm.



# Needs Yet to be Met

## Sphere Standards

According to Sphere Standards, each month a person should have 250 grams of body soap, 15 sanitary pads (for people who menstruate) per month, and 150 diapers (for babies or people who are incontinent).

Therefore, the needs listed above for these items are one month's worth of an item to fill a need. Furthermore, one blanket and one sleeping bag per person, as well as two full sets of clothing per person, is needed. The clothing must fit, be appropriate for the weather conditions, and be appropriate for a persons culture and religion. We have calculated that a full set of clothing consists of six items. These needs will be met until the item is broken, confiscated or no longer fit for use.

Item Requested	Number of Items Requested	Needs Yet to be Met
Soap (grams)	220,000	880
Sanitary pads	600	40
Diapers	180	1
Sleeping bags	1,100	1,100
Blankets	1,100	1,100
Womens clothes	0	0
Mens clothes	16,000	1,333
Girls clothes	0	0
Boys clothes	0	0
Baby clothes	0	0
Totals	238,980	4,455

# DA Standards

At Distribute Aid we believe every month, each person should have: 100ml of shampoo, 50ml of toothpaste, 35g of deodorant, 30ml of shaving foam, 3 disposable razors, and 4 condoms. Therefore, the needs listed above for these items are one month's worth of an item to fill a need. DA also believes each person should have a minimum of one toothbrush, two reusable masks, and one tent per two people. These needs will be met until the item is broken, confiscated or no longer fit for use.

Item Requested	Number of Items Requested	Needs Yet to be Met
Masks	3,800	1,900
Shampoo (ML)	175,000	1,750
Toothbrush	5,750	5,750
Toothpaste (ML)	366,000	7,320
Deodorant (g)	480,000	13,714
Disposable razor	4,350	1,450
Shaving foam (ml)	390,000	13,000
Condoms	650	163
Tents	500	1,000
Totals	1,426,050	46,047

## Food

Of the 6 groups that responded to our needs assessment form from the Balkans, 2 of them provide some form of food-based service. This covers a range of food packages and meal distributions. According to the data recorded, these 2 groups serve a total of **600** people per month. This is the equivalent of **4,800** meals.





# Mainland Greece

## Athens

6,250	People who occasionally access NGO services
12,065	People served by responding groups
N/A	Official figures
4	NGOs responded

**Population trend for those served by NGOs is increasing**

## Thessaloniki

6,650	People who occasionally access NGO services
5,129	People served by responding groups
N/A	Official figures
7	NGOs responded

**Population served by NGOs is unclear**



# Mainland Greece

Northern Greece and Athens host a combination of people in transit and people actively seeking asylum or looking for permanent residence. The UN does not offer any official figures on people in the region as a whole. Once someone gains refugee status, they may settle on the mainland and no longer access NGO services. Therefore using 'refugee figures' in Greece is not particularly insightful.

## Regional Context

There are two core areas on the Greek mainland where NGOs are based, Thessaloniki and Athens. In the north of Greece, Thessaloniki is both a place where displaced people may seek permanent residence and somewhere people prepare to travel further west. Athens is most commonly where people are moved to from the Aegean Islands after their asylum applications have been processed. Recently, people have been transferred off the Greek islands while their asylum cases are still being processed. Some people seek permanent residence in Athens whilst others only stay until arrangements are made for resettlement elsewhere in Europe. In both cities and surrounding areas, there are some formal camps, as well as people living in squats, apartments, or without any shelter. The camps on the mainland are changing similarly to the ones on the islands, with high concrete walls being built around them, echoing the detention centre style of accommodation.

# Regional Context continued

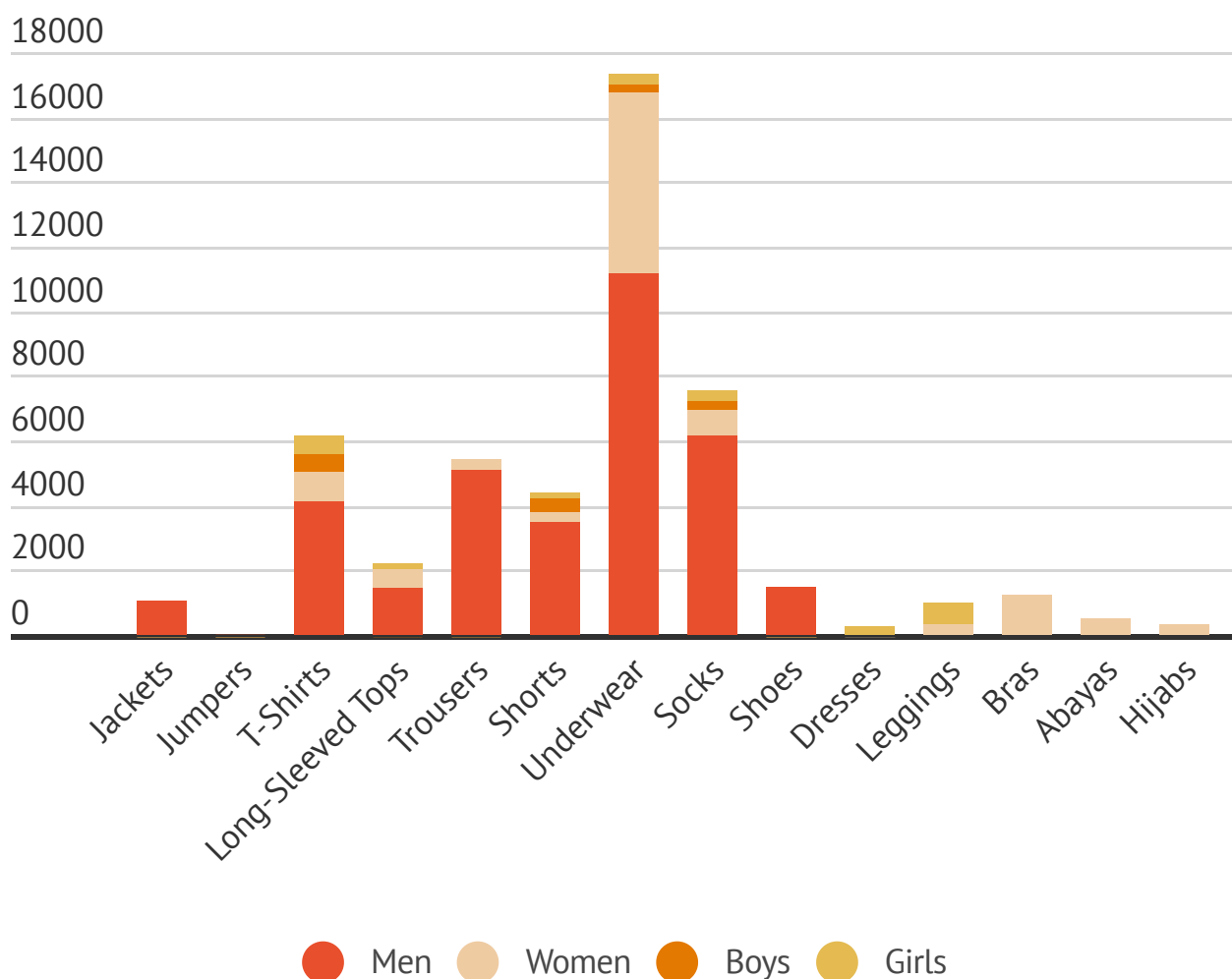
In both Athens and Thessaloniki, there are organisations that operate a larger central warehouse. They then support smaller, more specialised grassroots organisations with donated items.

In October, Greece assumed responsibility from the UNHCR for making cash assistance payments to asylum seekers. Since then, cash assistance has been widely slashed, resulting in many NGOs raising concerns over growing hunger amongst Greece's asylum-seeking and refugee population. The new regulations mean that you are only eligible for assistance if you live in government accommodation and have an open application for asylum. If someone is self-accommodated they cannot receive cash assistance. Once someone's asylum application is closed, their assistance will stop, leaving many displaced people without the financial means to access necessary items such as food.

These new rules around cash assistance have knock-on effects for migrants in Greece. People now have to register in specific reception centres to claim asylum and receive cash assistance. Until 2020, Greek law stated that detention would only be used as a last resort for refugees. However, the lack of reception centres both on the Aegean islands and on mainland Greece has led to detention centres being the only alternative for people in need of the cash assistance programme. The living conditions in the centres are often deplorable. In Eleonas, close to Athens, overcrowding and low maintenance are significant issues. You can read more about this ongoing and intensifying human rights abuse in a [recent report from Refugees International](#).

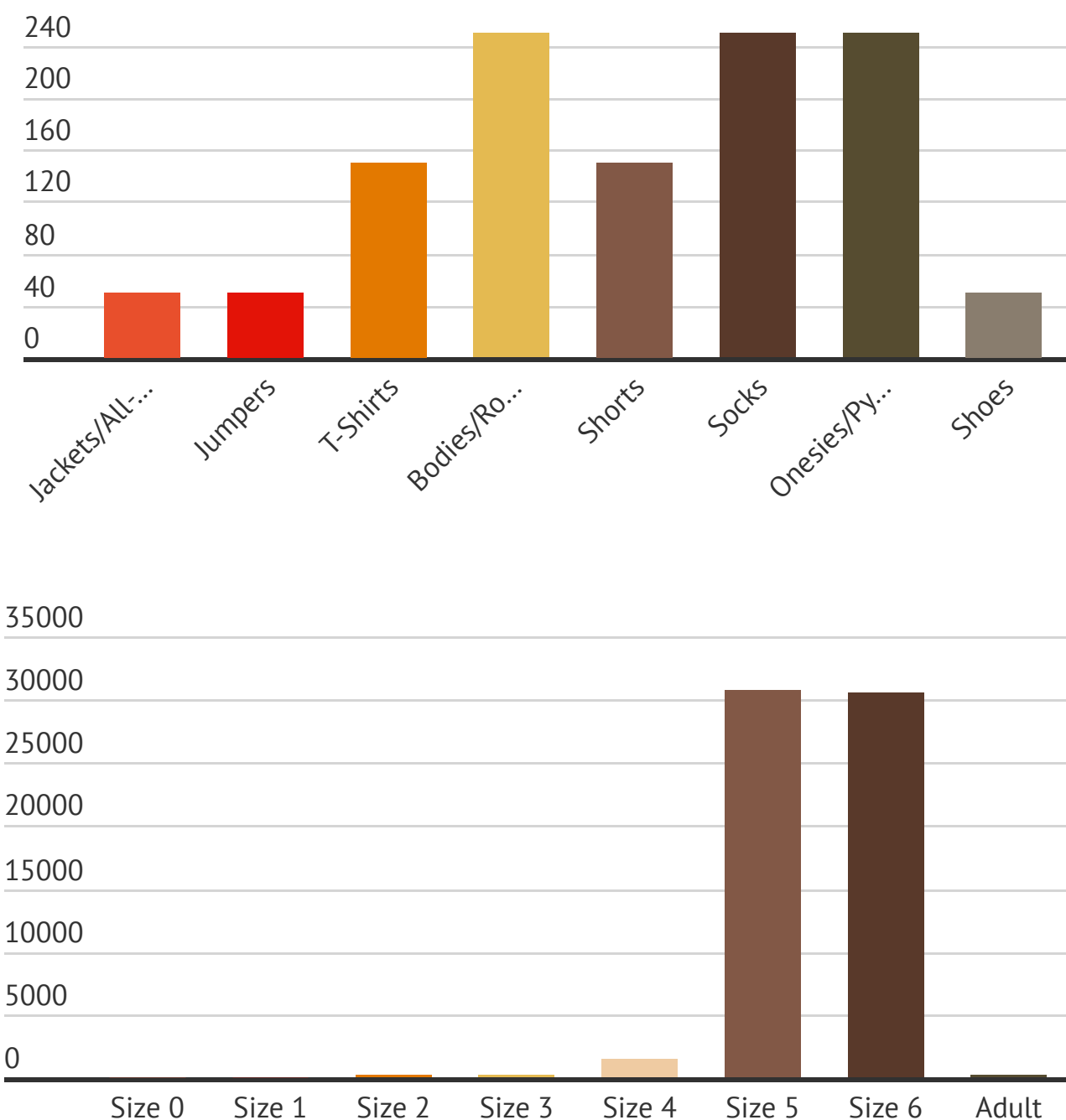
# Clothing

The need for clothing in mainland Greece largely reflects the population, with a mix of men's, women's, and children's clothing needed. As seen in many other regions, underwear continues to be the significantly largest need. After underwear, the most needed items reflect that the winter is over and people are requesting lighter types of clothing.



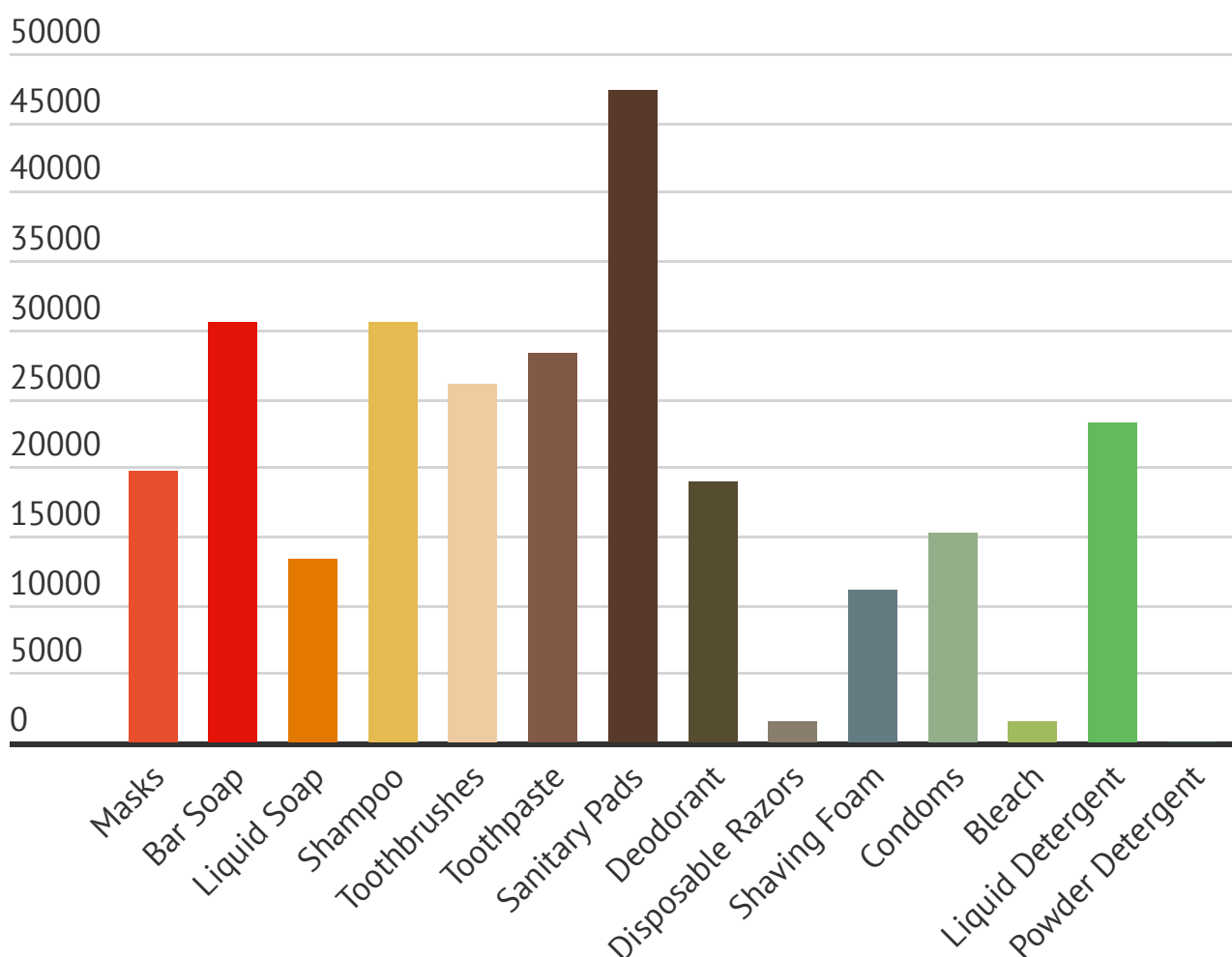
# Baby items

The need for baby clothing is relatively high in mainland Greece. Diapers continue to be a large need with sizes 5 and 6 being the most needed.



# Hygiene

Sanitary pads and masks are the most requested hygiene items in mainland Greece. Other much needed items are soap bars, shampoo, and dental hygiene products.



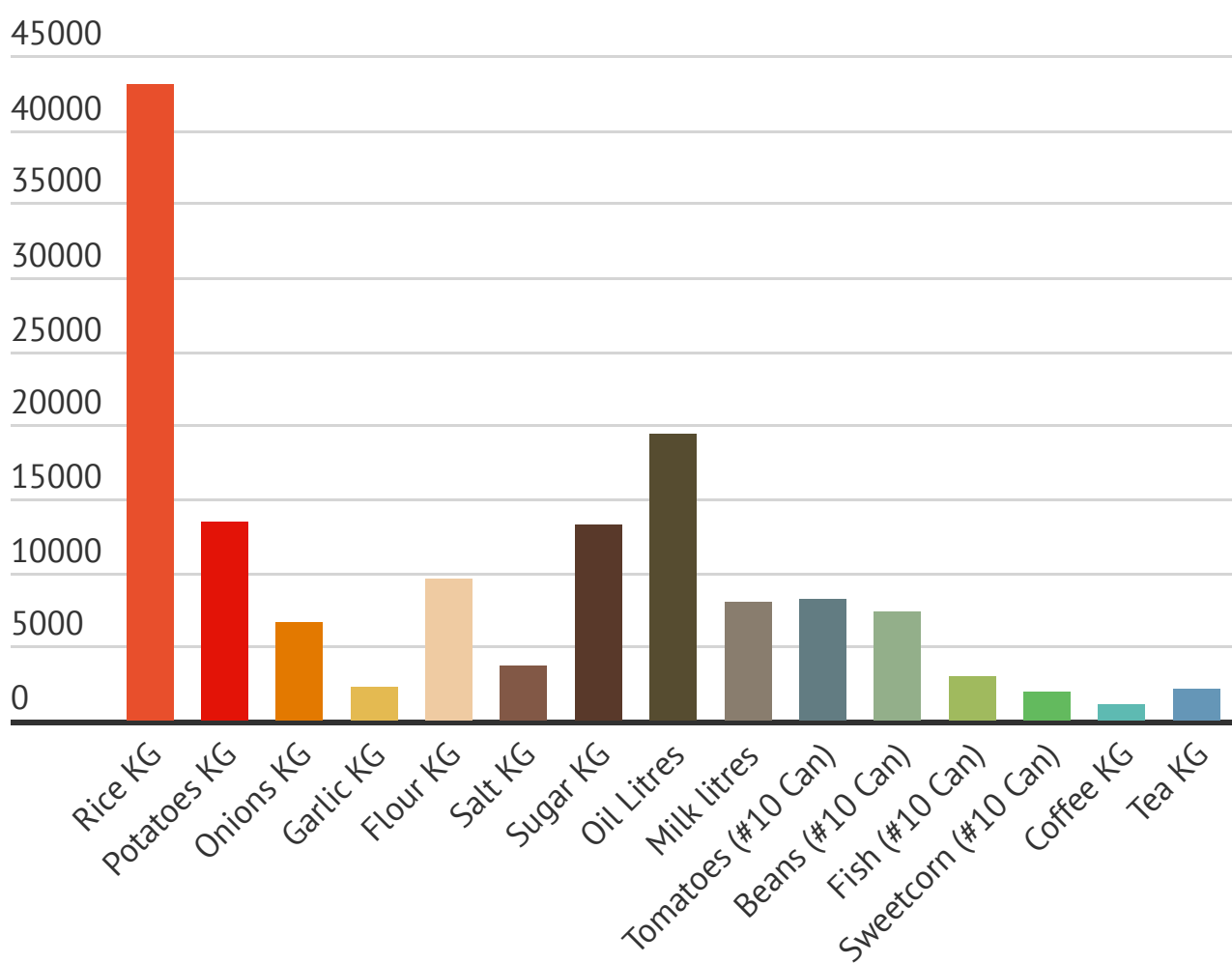
- Soap: 100g bars
- Shampoo: 250ml bottles
- Toothpaste: 100ml tubes

- Deodorant: 100g rollers
- Shaving foam: 200ml cans
- Liquid soap: 250ml bottles

- Liquid detergent: Litres
- Powder detergent: KGs
- Bleach: Litres

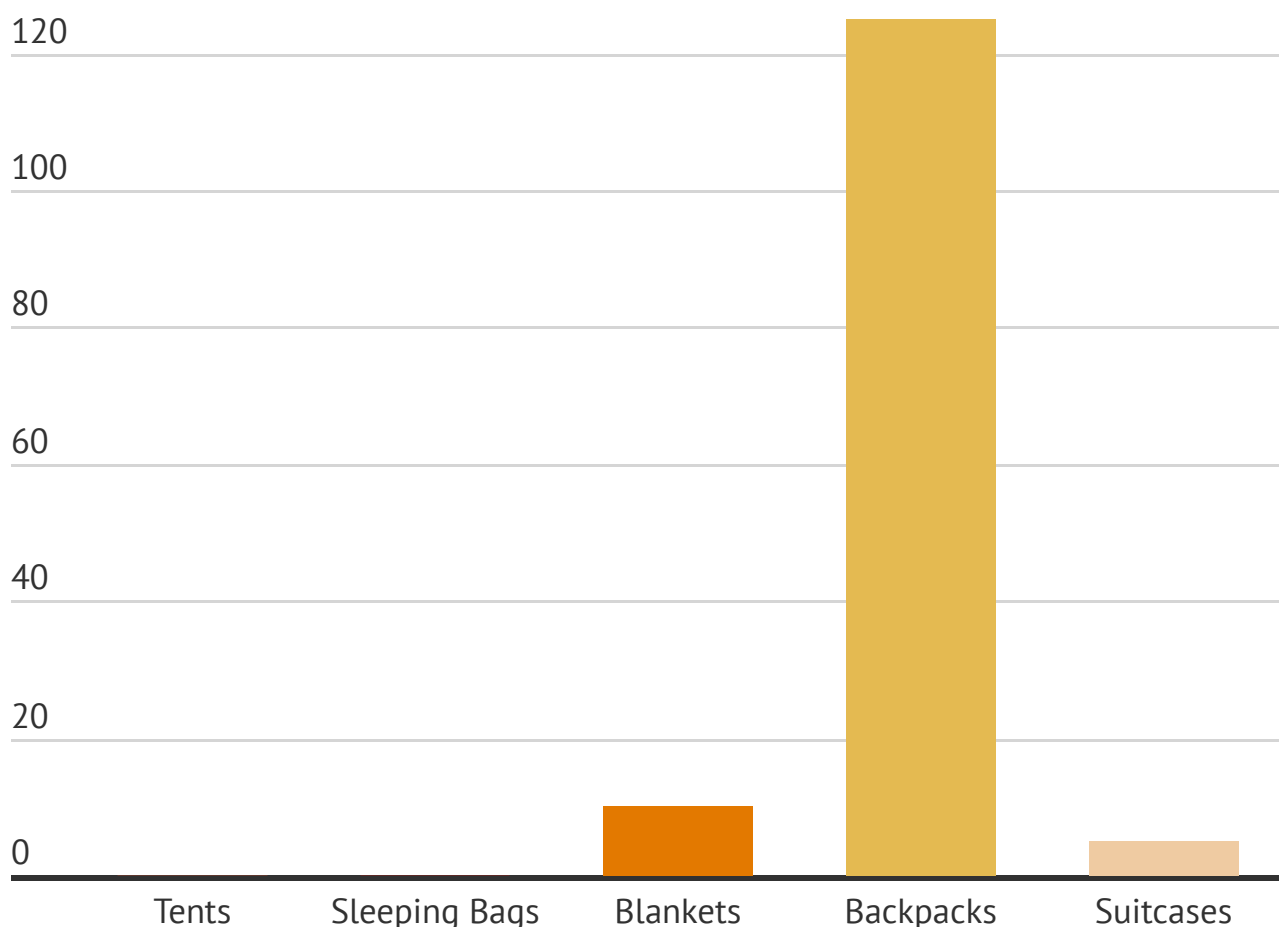
# Food

As seen in other regions, rice, oil, and potatoes are among the most needed food items. These items can create the base of any hearty meal and are therefore high in demand. This is followed by a fairly high need for sugar, flour, and milk.



# Shelter and Storage

The need for shelter and storage in the mainland is not as large as in other regions; however, there is still a need for 120 backpacks. Due to the spring months arriving the need for warm shelter is not as urgent as it has been in previous months.





# Needs Yet to be Met

## Sphere Standards

According to Sphere Standards, each month a person should have 250 grams of body soap, 15 sanitary pads (for people who menstruate) per month, and 150 diapers (for babies or people who are incontinent).

Therefore, the needs listed above for these items are one month's worth of an item to fill a need. Furthermore, one blanket and one sleeping bag per person, as well as two full sets of clothing per person, is needed. The clothing must fit, be appropriate for the weather conditions, and be appropriate for a persons culture and religion. We have calculated that a full set of clothing consists of six items. These needs will be met until the item is broken, confiscated or no longer fit for use.

Item Requested	Number of Items Requested	Needs Yet to be Met
Soap (grams)	6,356,250	25,425
Sanitary pads	47,300	3,153
Diapers	63,127	421
Sleeping bags	0	0
Blankets	10	10
Womens clothes	10,800	900
Mens clothes	33,980	2,832
Girls clothes	2,350	196
Boys clothes	1,550	129
Baby clothes	1,200	100
Totals	6,516,567	33,166

# DA Standards

At Distribute Aid we believe every month, each person should have: 100ml of shampoo, 50ml of toothpaste, 35g of deodorant, 30ml of shaving foam, 3 disposable razors, and 4 condoms. Therefore, the needs listed above for these items are one month's worth of an item to fill a need. DA also believes each person should have a minimum of one toothbrush, two reusable masks, and one tent per two people. These needs will be met until the item is broken, confiscated or no longer fit for use.

Item Requested	Number of Items Requested	Needs Yet to be Met
Masks	19,652	9,826
Shampoo (ML)	7,626,250	76,263
Toothbrush	25,945	25,945
Toothpaste (ML)	2,832,500	56,650
Deodorant (g)	1,897,500	54,214
Disposable razor	1,475	492
Shaving foam (ml)	2,210,000	73,667
Condoms	15,250	3,813
Tents	0	0
Totals	14,628,572	300,869

## Food

Of the 11 groups that responded to our needs assessment form from Mainland Greece, 10 of them provide some form of food-based service. This covers a range of food packages and meal distributions. According to the data recorded, these 8 groups serve a total of **17,096** people per month. This is the equivalent of **69,842** meals.



# The Aegean Islands

2,800	People who occasionally access NGO services
2,600	People served by responding groups
3,005	<u>Official figures</u>
3	NGOs responded

**Population trend for those served by NGOs is unclear**

The population on these islands has been drastically decreasing since the end of 2020. According to Aegean Boat Report's most recent figures, there are now just 3,005 people residing in Reception and Identification Centres on the Aegean Islands. Despite ongoing illegal pushbacks, some new arrivals are still making it to the islands.

# Regional Context

The Aegean Islands are a group of small Greek islands in the Aegean Sea, located just a few kilometres west of Turkey. Their close proximity to the Turkish coast makes them a destination for many people seeking safety in Europe. However, smugglers using this route have employed life threatening and money-saving tactics, such as not giving the boats enough fuel to complete the crossing, using unsuitable boats, providing fake or no lifejackets, and/or sending boats despite poor sea conditions.

There are now roughly 3,100 asylum seekers on the Aegean islands according to estimates from the Aegean Boat Report (ABR). 2021 saw the lowest number of people arriving to the Aegean islands since the beginning of the so-called migrant crisis in 2015. This is due to a range of changes including illegal mass asylum rejections and deportations, ongoing illegal pushbacks, and people being moved to the mainland more rapidly. According to ABR figures, during the week 7th to 13th March 2022 alone, 15 boats carrying 506 people were stopped from reaching the islands by either the Turkish Coast Guard or Police. hiding..

# Regional Context continued

On June 7th, Athens declared that all asylum seekers from Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia, Pakistan and Bangladesh could be sent back to Turkey because it was deemed to be a "safe country". This has resulted in roughly two thirds of asylum seekers getting their applications rejected within a few days of arrival. The reasoning behind sending people from these specific countries to Turkey has not been publicly announced. Turkey is not a safe third country for most asylum seekers. They have an overwhelmed asylum system, poor treatment of asylum seekers, and often conduct forced returns to other countries, including Syria. These factors have resulted in many people being taken to pre-deportation centres or going into hiding.

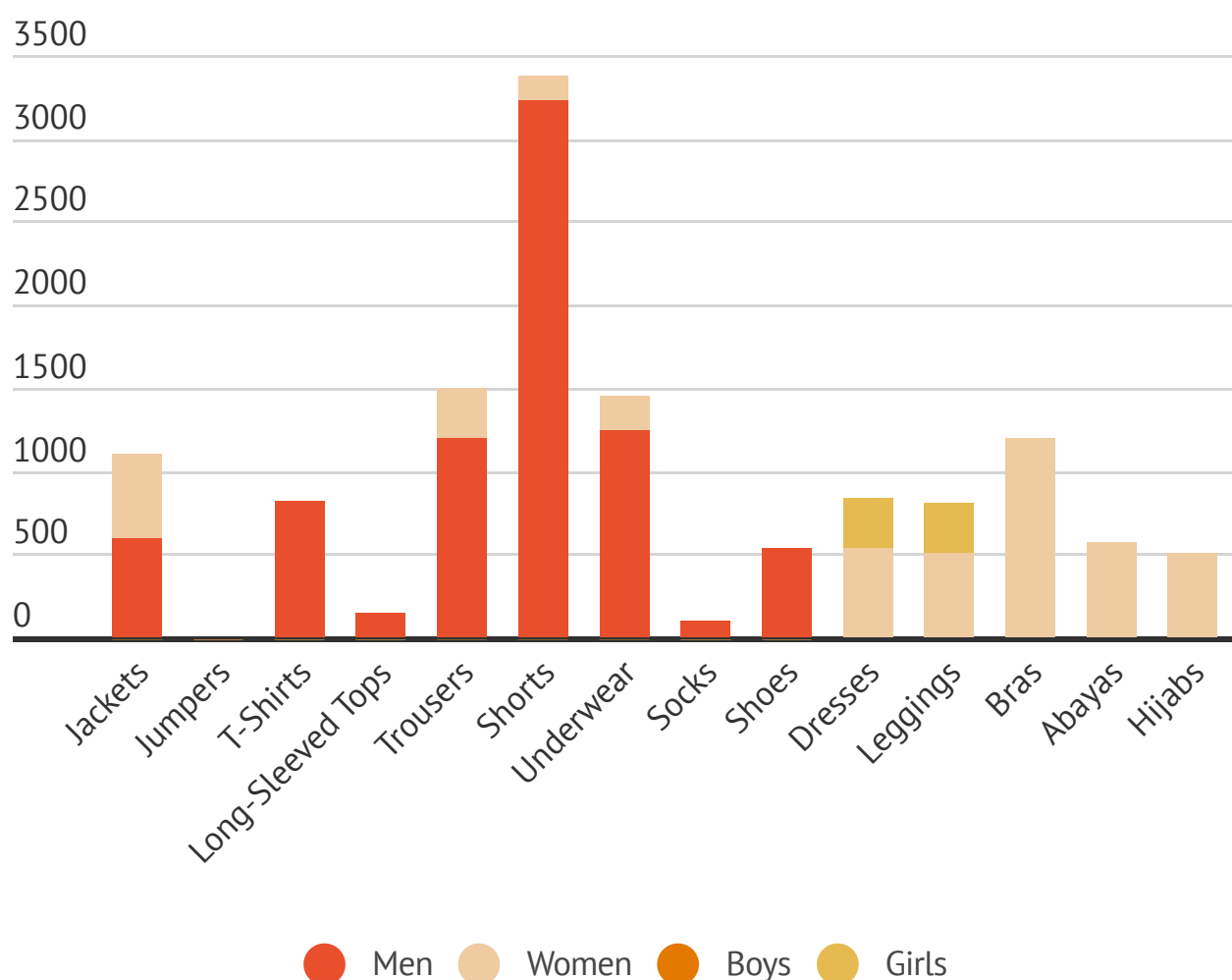
Greece recently took over responsibility for making cash support payments to asylum seekers from the UNHCR. Since this handover, the rules surrounding eligibility have changed. You can only access cash support if you are in official accommodation from the Greek Government, and you can only be provided official accommodation if your asylum application is open. This means that as soon as a decision is made, cash assistance is cut. Government provided accommodation is either completely inhumane (such as the existing camps on the Aegean Islands), or the accommodation acts as a detention centre, which makes people reluctant to stay there despite needing cash assistance for essentials. These changes are creating what NGOs are calling a hunger crisis. You can read more about this ongoing and intensifying abuse of human rights in a recent report by Oxfam.

# Regional Context continued

The €130 million project funded by the EU commission to build closed camps on Samos, Kos and Leros is now completed. These facilities are supposed to be open, however, people held there are only allowed to leave for 12 hours a day, and it has been unclear whether children will have access to education or not. While these plans continue to come to fruition, there is still no clear pathway for sufficient services to be provided to the residents, for human rights observation, or for the freedoms of asylum seekers protected by international law to be upheld. Plans still remain to build closed facilities on Lesbos and Chios. However, in January, local residents blocked construction machinery from unloading at their respective ports and in February, protestors on Lesbos were arrested after demonstrations turned violent.

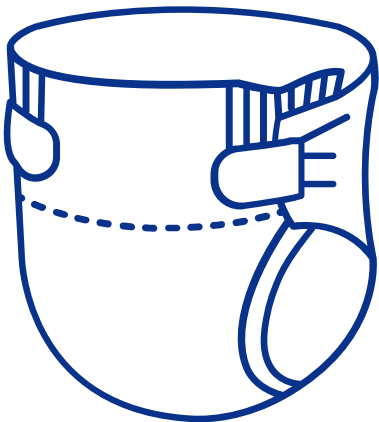
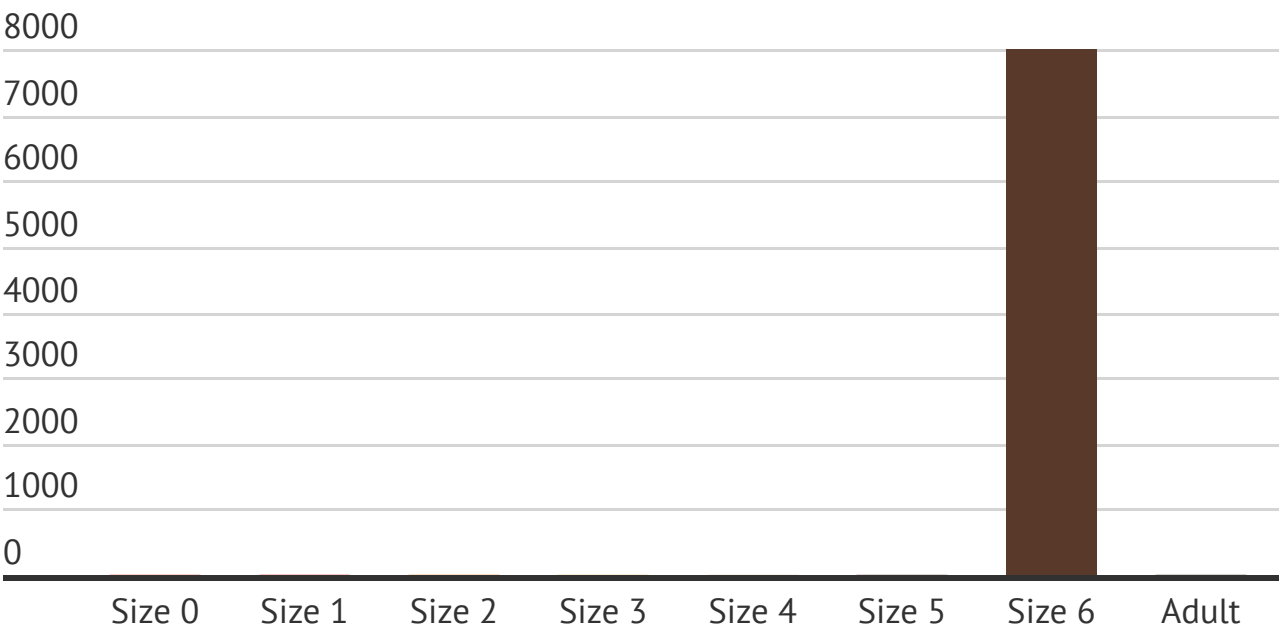
# Clothing

As the asylum-seeking population remains small on the Aegean islands (compared to the past few years), the volume of aid needed matches this. Usually, underwear is the most requested item of clothing in the region. However, for this quarter we see a large need of shorts especially. Beyond this, the needs are fairly spread out but still relatively low.



# Baby items

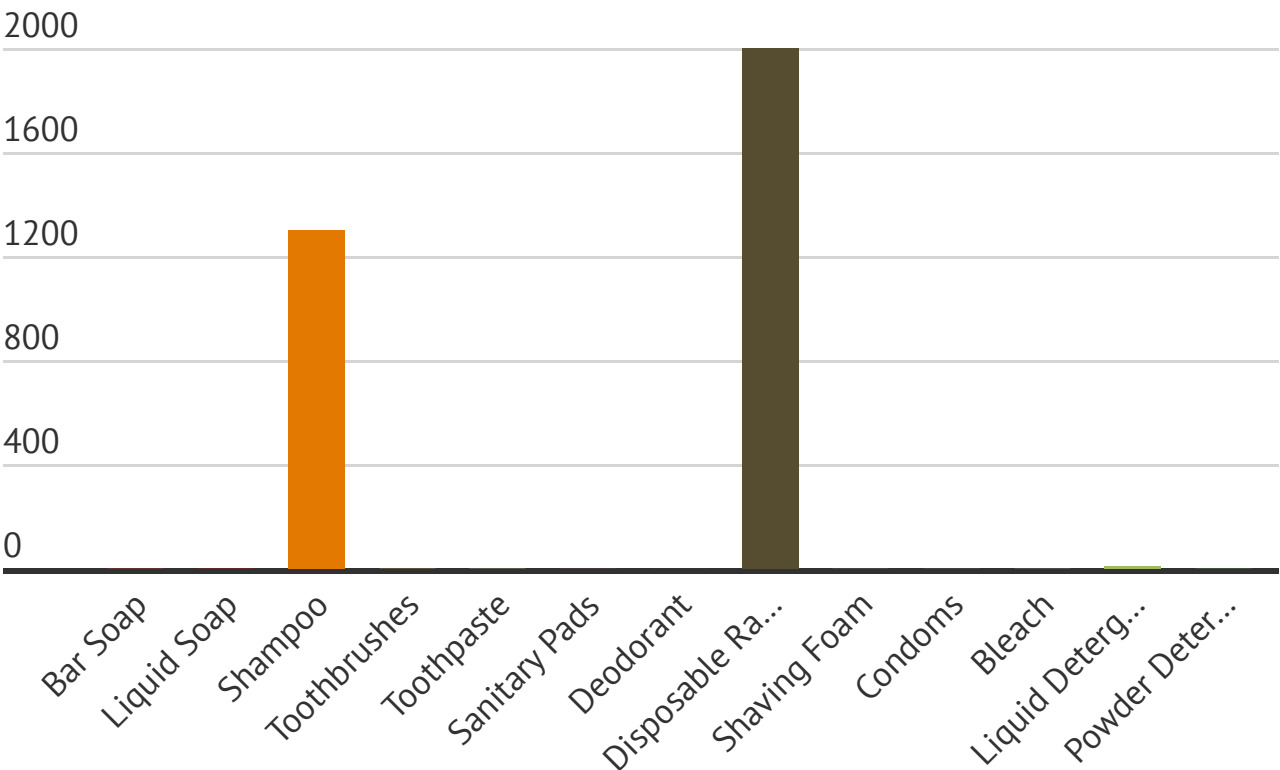
The need for baby items on the Aegeans is much lower than in previous quarters and at this time last year. This is either due to a pre-existing large stock of baby items or a lack of young children remaining on the islands. All that was requested for April, May, and June 2022 was a large stock of size 6 diapers.





# Hygiene

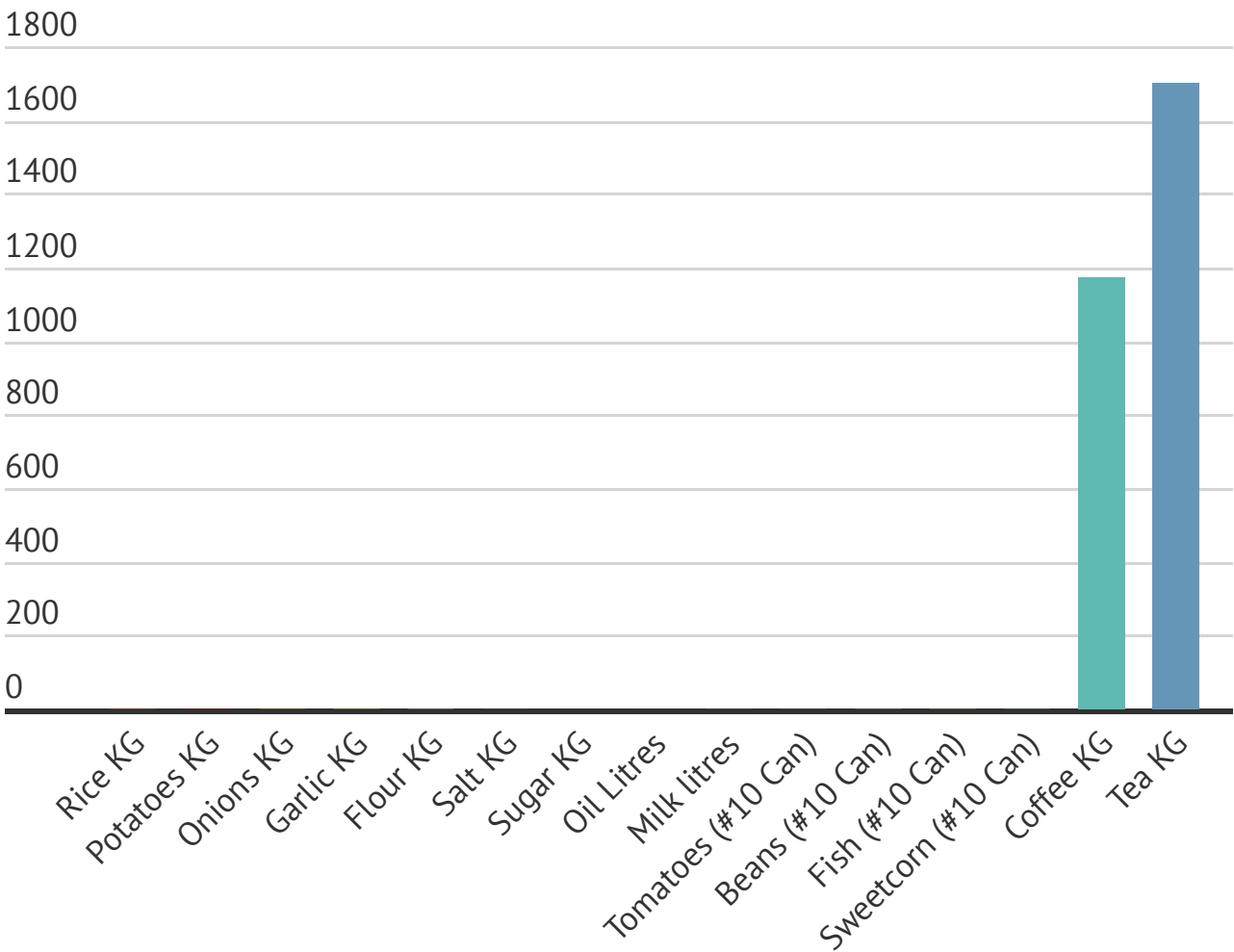
The highest need in the hygiene category for the Aegean islands is disposable razors, followed by shampoo. There's currently no foreseen need for additional hygiene products in this region.



- |                           |                              |                            |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Soap: 100g bars         | • Deodorant: 100g rollers    | • Liquid detergent: Litres |
| • Shampoo: 250ml bottles  | • Shaving foam: 200ml cans   | • Powder detergent: KGs    |
| • Toothpaste: 100ml tubes | • Liquid soap: 250ml bottles | • Bleach: Litres           |

# Food

The only food items requested on the Aegeans for this quarter is tea and coffee. The food-providing organisation that replied to the survey has their food-needs met locally.



# Shelter

No items of shelter were requested from our partners on the Aegean islands. Items such as tents will not be such a big need as the new camps are built and the population on the islands is not actively increasing.

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**Shelter Needs**

# Needs Yet to be Met

## Sphere Standards

According to Sphere Standards, each month a person should have 250 grams of body soap, 15 sanitary pads (for people who menstruate) per month, and 150 diapers (for babies or people who are incontinent).

Therefore, the needs listed above for these items are one month's worth of an item to fill a need. Furthermore, one blanket and one sleeping bag per person, as well as two full sets of clothing per person, is needed. The clothing must fit, be appropriate for the weather conditions, and be appropriate for a persons culture and religion. We have calculated that a full set of clothing consists of six items. These needs will be met until the item is broken, confiscated or no longer fit for use.

Item Requested	Number of Items Requested	Needs Yet to be Met
Soap (grams)	0	0
Sanitary pads	0	0
Diapers	8,000	53
Sleeping bags	0	0
Blankets	0	0
Womens clothes	4,460	372
Mens clothes	7,870	656
Girls clothes	600	50
Boys clothes	0	0
Baby clothes	0	0
Totals	20,930	1,131

# DA Standards

At Distribute Aid we believe every month, each person should have: 100ml of shampoo, 50ml of toothpaste, 35g of deodorant, 30ml of shaving foam, 3 disposable razors, and 4 condoms. Therefore, the needs listed above for these items are one month's worth of an item to fill a need. DA also believes each person should have a minimum of one toothbrush, two reusable masks, and one tent per two people. These needs will be met until the item is broken, confiscated or no longer fit for use.

Item Requested	Number of Items Requested	Needs Yet to be Met
Masks	500	250
Shampoo (ML)	325,000	3,250
Toothbrush	0	0
Toothpaste (ML)	0	0
Deodorant (g)	0	0
Disposable razor	2,000	667
Shaving foam (ml)	0	0
Condoms	0	0
Tents	0	0
Totals	327,500	4,167

## Food

Of the 3 groups that responded to our needs assessment form from the Aegean Islands, 2 of them provide some form of food-based service. This covers a range of food packages and meal distributions. According to the data recorded, this group serve a total of **1,100** people per month. This is the equivalent of **1,700** meals.



# Lebanon

543,325	People who occasionally access NGO services
18,420	People served by responding groups
839,788	<u>Official figures</u>
7	NGOs responded

## Population trend for those served by NGOs is unclear

The figures used for 'Official figures' are the UNHCR data on Syrian refugee figures across different regions. However, many grassroots groups in Lebanon provide services to a range of different populations as explained below.

### Bekaa Valley

The largest population of refugees in Lebanon is in Bekaa, which hosts 39% of total registered refugees in Lebanon. 80% of refugees have no legal residency, making it difficult to calculate how many refugees currently reside in the country. The Masnaa Border Crossing in the Bekaa is the busiest crossing point between Lebanon and Syria. Twenty percent of Syrian refugees in Lebanon live in informal tented settlements. The current circumstances of economic insecurity in Lebanon have resulted in 9 out of 10 Syrian refugees falling into extreme poverty. The lack of legal residency creates barriers to accessing jobs and essential services such as education and healthcare, leaving refugees vulnerable to exploitation, eviction and deportation.



### **South Lebanon, Sidon**

The most recent update issued by UNHCR records that there are 90,832 registered refugees in South Lebanon– the lowest overall in the country. Since many choose not to get registered, the actual number is likely much higher. The Southern region has refugee camps that have been around since the late 1940s. These established settlements mainly host Palestinian refugees who initially fled from conflict and others who were displaced from other parts of Lebanon. More recently, there has been an influx of Syrian and Palestinian refugees displaced from Syria. The camps were damaged during the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon and have not been properly rebuilt since. With increasing numbers of refugees arriving, living conditions are worsening. Many camp residents can only find seasonal work in agriculture and construction. As the situation grows dire in Lebanon, many struggle to provide for themselves and their families and depend on humanitarian services for basic assistance.

### **Beirut**

The accumulation of crises in Lebanon, specifically Beirut, has led to enormous difficulties across many levels of society. People living in Beirut have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, electricity shortages, fuel shortages, medicine shortages, massive inflation, and the port blast in August of 2020, which left 300,000 people without shelter. These factors have resulted in significant numbers of people falling below the poverty line across all parts of society. As Beirut hosts a large array of Lebanese families, refugees, and foreign workers from many backgrounds, these intersecting crises are affecting the entire population in Beirut to varying degrees.

# Regional Context

As we progress through 2022, the situation in Lebanon is not showing signs of improvement. The once upper-middle-income country now enters its third year of severe economic, political and social crises. 1.5 million refugees facing protracted displacement in Lebanon are at particular risk. Their rights and freedoms, economic opportunities, and relations with host communities have deteriorated amid wide-felt poverty and hardship.

Protection monitoring by UNHCR reported that in the fourth quarter of 2021, 95% of refugee households faced difficulties in buying food due to a lack of money. 54% of refugees in the region declared a loss in employment or income during the same period. Refugees in Lebanon must hold legal residencies, apply for work permits, and provide for their own basic needs. Failure to obtain valid legal residency increases the risk of deportation, resulting in fewer people registering as refugees. As a result, this vulnerable population is further isolated from available support systems.

The winter months have been tough. Thousands of displaced families and individuals are facing evictions as they cannot pay rent. Furthermore, a government decision made in 2019 preventing settlements from becoming permanent shelters has led to the systematic destruction of homes. Currently, 1 million Syrian refugees live in temporary shelters across 2,000 communities.



# Regional Context continued

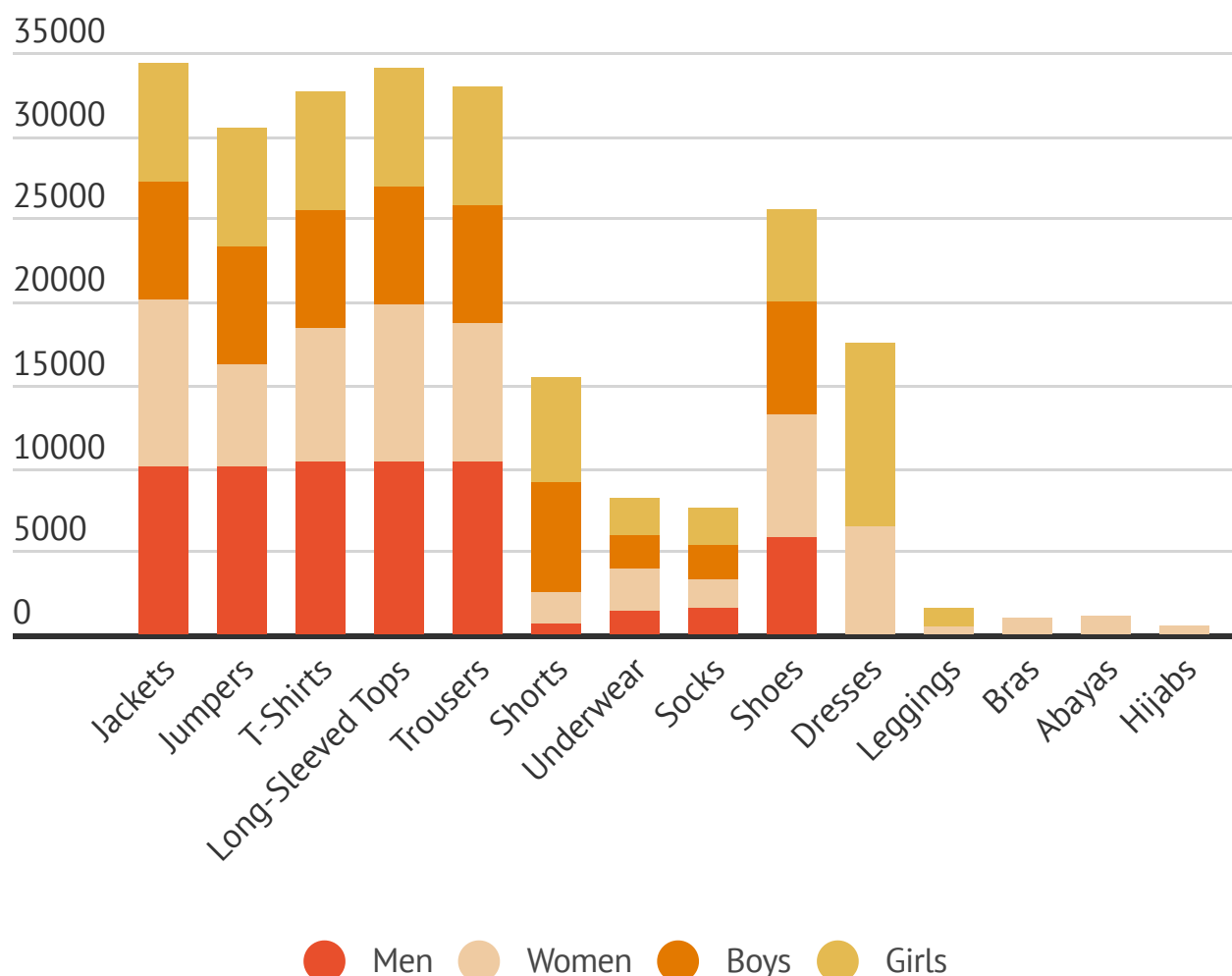
The Lebanese government has yet to propose a long-term and viable plan to improve the situation for refugees and Lebanese citizens struggling to make ends meet.

Amid the massive decrease in international and national funding for refugees in Lebanon, it is important to keep supporting the groups on the ground and the incredible work they do to help the community of refugees during these unmatched times. As these economic, political, and social crises also affect the general population in Lebanon, Distribute Aid continues to support humanitarian groups that offer services to a range of people in Lebanon.



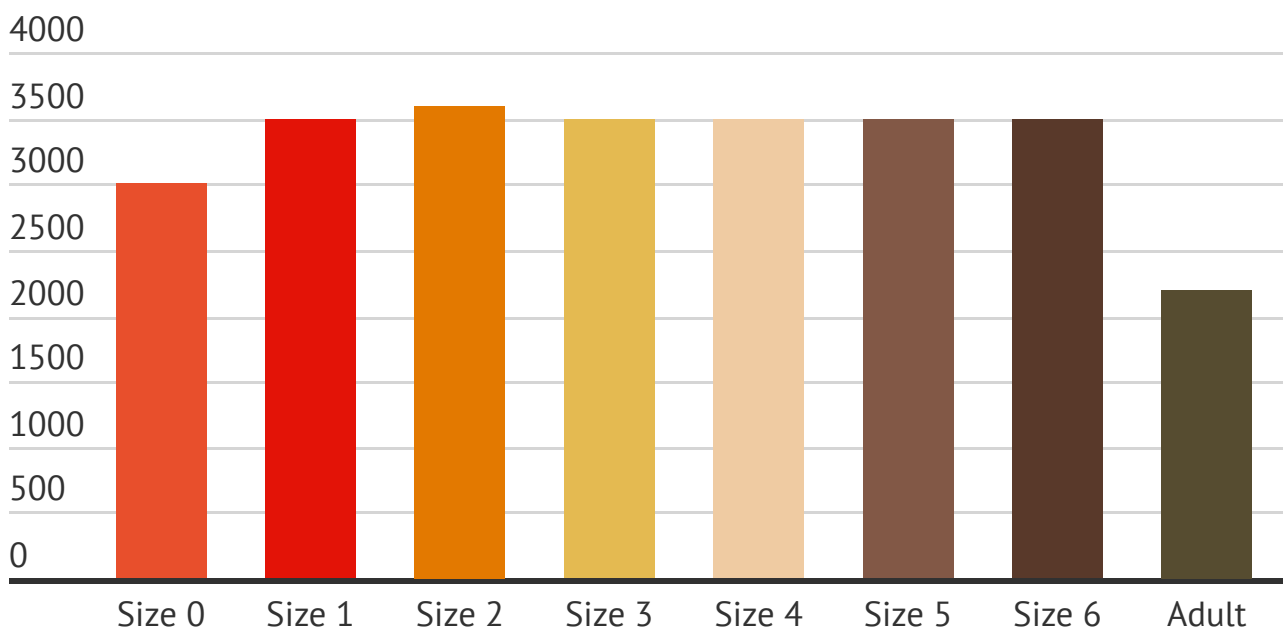
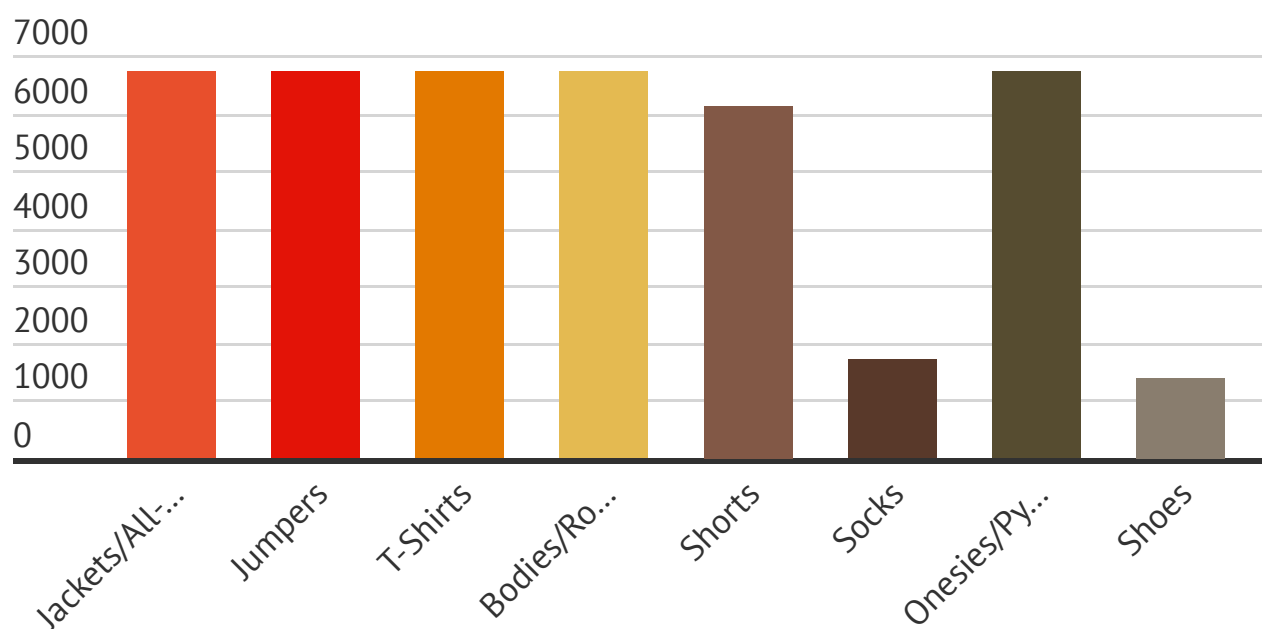
# Clothing

The needs in Lebanon break from the trends seen in Europe in this report. Clothing is typically fairly affordable in Lebanon; however, the number of people living below the poverty line continues to increase as the financial, power, and medicine crises deepen. Therefore, general everyday clothing appears to be the highest need.



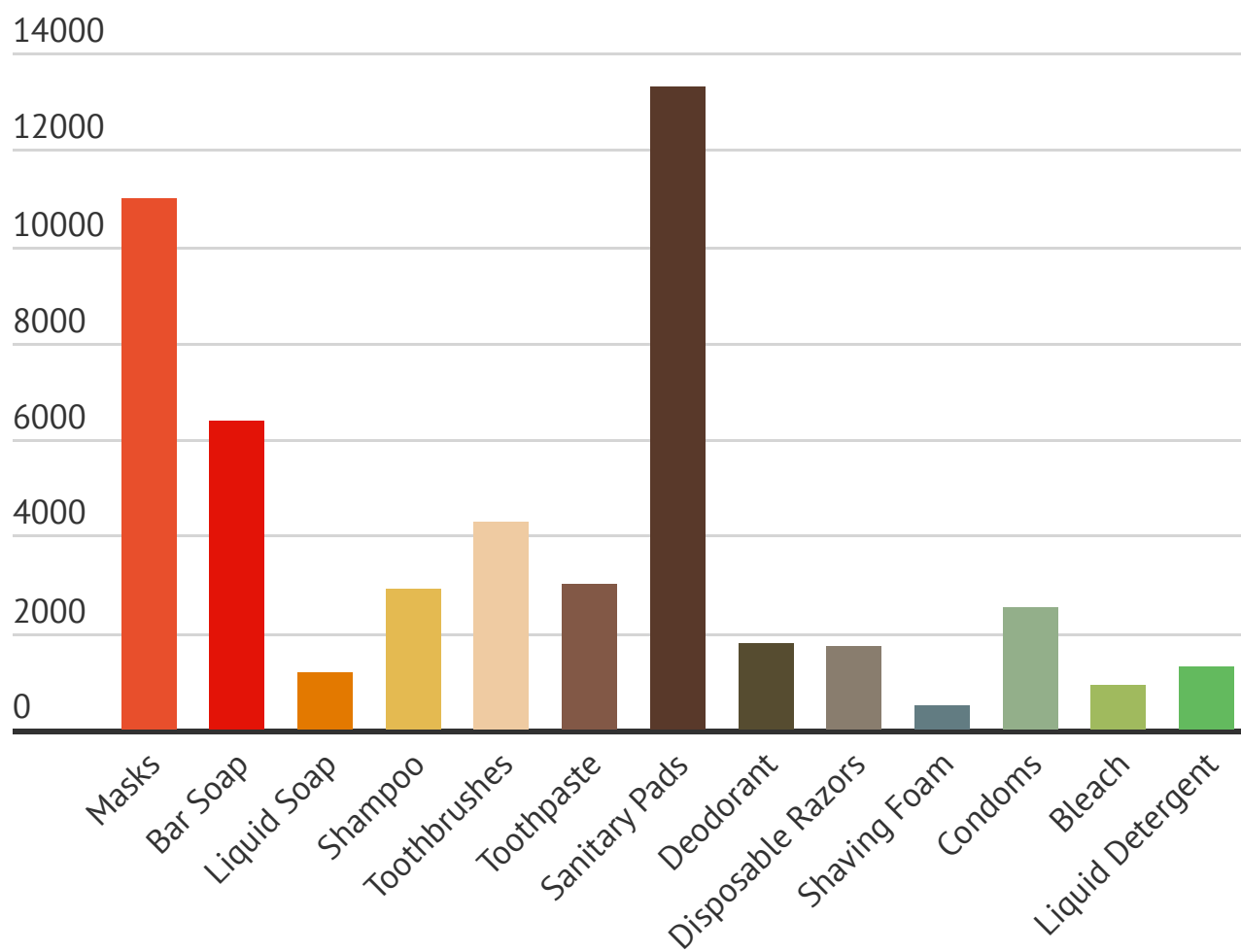
# Baby items

The need for baby clothing is fairly unison across item types, again showing a general need for everyday clothing. This same trend is seen with diapers as well where all sizes are in high demand, as opposed to in Europe where only specific sizes are asked for.



# Hygiene

The largest hygiene need by some margin is sanitary pads. The second most requested is masks, with soap bars coming in third.



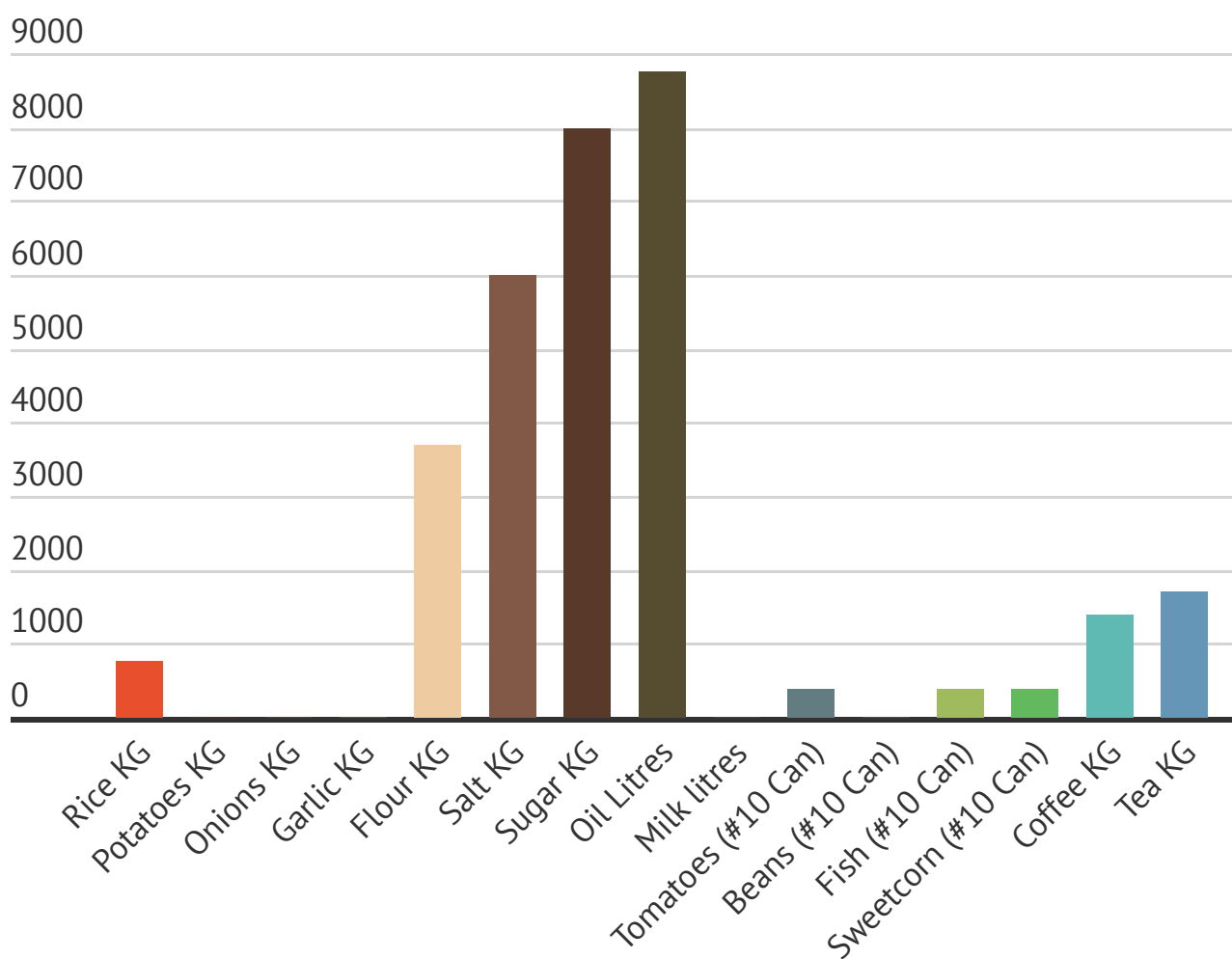
- Soap: 100g bars
- Shampoo: 250ml bottles
- Toothpaste: 100ml tubes

- Deodorant: 100g rollers
- Shaving foam: 200ml cans
- Liquid soap: 250ml bottles

- Liquid detergent: Litres
- Powder detergent: KGs
- Bleach: Litres

# Food

This quarter the most needed food items are oil, sugar, salt, and flour. Not many groups in Lebanon provide hot meals, but instead distribute food packs. The need for food in Lebanon reflects this as the highest needs are typical 'pantry' items. Furthermore, for people who access NGO services in Lebanon, many live in more permanent structures, making it easier to cook for yourself.



# Shelter

This quarter there were no shelter items requested from any groups in Lebanon. Most of the people who are in need of aid reside in permanent structures, therefore tents and sleeping bags are not as highly requested here as in some of the other regions in this report. Since the weather is getting warmer the need for blankets is also lower than in the previous quarter.

0

**Shelter Needs**

# Needs Yet to be Met

## Sphere Standards

According to Sphere Standards, each month a person should have 250 grams of body soap, 15 sanitary pads (for people who menstruate) per month, and 150 diapers (for babies or people who are incontinent).

Therefore, the needs listed above for these items are one month's worth of an item to fill a need. Furthermore, one blanket and one sleeping bag per person, as well as two full sets of clothing per person, is needed. The clothing must fit, be appropriate for the weather conditions, and be appropriate for a persons culture and religion. We have calculated that a full set of clothing consists of six items. These needs will be met until the item is broken, confiscated or no longer fit for use.

Item Requested	Number of Items Requested	Needs Yet to be Met
Soap (grams)	940,000	3,760
Sanitary pads	13,300	887
Diapers	26,300	175
Sleeping bags	0	0
Blankets	0	0
Womens clothes	65,100	5,425
Mens clothes	60,700	5,058
Girls clothes	63,850	5,321
Boys clothes	52,950	4,413
Baby clothes	42,700	3,558
Totals	1,264,900	28,597

# DA Standards

At Distribute Aid we believe every month, each person should have: 100ml of shampoo, 50ml of toothpaste, 35g of deodorant, 30ml of shaving foam, 3 disposable razors, and 4 condoms. Therefore, the needs listed above for these items are one month's worth of an item to fill a need. DA also believes each person should have a minimum of one toothbrush, two reusable masks, and one tent per two people. These needs will be met until the item is broken, confiscated or no longer fit for use.

Item Requested	Number of Items Requested	Needs Yet to be Met
Masks	11,000	5,500
Shampoo (ML)	725,000	7,250
Toothbrush	4,300	4,300
Toothpaste (ML)	300,000	6,000
Deodorant (g)	177,000	5,057
Disposable razor	1,720	573
Shaving foam (ml)	92,000	3,067
Condoms	2,500	625
Tents	0	0
Totals	1,313,520	32,372

## Food

Of the 7 groups that responded to our needs assessment form from Lebanon, 2 of them provide some form of food-based service. This covers a range of food packages and meal distributions. According to the data recorded, these 2 groups serve a total of **2,950** people per month. This is the equivalent of **7,950** meals.





# Eastern Europe

2,662,177	<u>Official figures</u> for Poland
692,501	<u>Official figures</u> for Romania
411,365	<u>Official figures</u> for Moldova
424,367	<u>Official figures</u> for Hungary
317,781	<u>Official figures</u> for Slovakia

## Regional Context

Eastern Europe as a region, including Romania, Moldova, Hungary, Slovakia, and Poland mostly act as places of transition for people wanting to seek asylum in other EU countries- although that is not always the case. Legislative governance in this region has been characterised by right-wing populism, as seen in Hungary and Poland, which results in fewer rights for people on the move. Recently, however, the need for humanitarian aid for displaced persons has been increasingly important in the region because of the war in Ukraine.

# Regional Context continued

In late 2021, thousands of asylum seekers made their way to the border between Belarus and Poland, where they were stopped and trapped. Many NGO's were forbidden to enter the area and were not able to send humanitarian aid to the area. It was widely speculated at the time that Belarus were using the migrants at the border to put pressure on the EU to lift the sanctions the union has imposed on the country. In early February of 2022, 21 people lost their lives trying to cross the border. MSF (Medecins Sans Frontieres) have reported numerous cases of theft of belongings, intimidations, and intentional violent acts. They had to eventually make the decision in January 2022 to leave the area regardless of the fact that there continues to be a critical need for medicine, warm clothing, and shelter. This year, work is already underway to construct a \$353 million fence that runs along half the border with the aim to stop people entering the EU, adding to the growing anti-immigration EU policies often referred to as "Fortress Europe".

Romania has been one of the transitory countries for people travelling from the southeast into the EU. Pushbacks are a common occurrence in Romania- the country has the largest amount of pushbacks recorded by UNHCR. These pushbacks have been repeatedly condemned by NGO's and are illegal according to EU and international law.

# Regional Context continued

On the 24th of February Russia launched a full-scale invasion on Ukraine which has resulted in a significant number of Ukrainian refugees leaving for the surrounding countries. As a direct effect of the war, some 10.7 million refugees are seeking shelter from the violence. Around 4.2 million have fled Ukraine to seek shelter. Most are travelling westward to the bordering states of Poland, Slovakia, and Hungary. As of the 10th of April, over 2.5 million people have fled to Poland, 692,000 to Romania, 424,000 to Hungary, and 411,000 to Moldova. It is expected that these numbers will only increase as the war continues. Instances of the Russian troops deliberately aiming their attacks at civilians and population centres have surfaced which has added to the desire to seek shelter in other countries.

Many are also seeking shelter in Romania and Moldova. As mentioned above, most of these countries are not used to offering long-term protection for refugees and asylum seekers. Moldova's response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine has already resulted in them taking in more refugees than during the second world war. Slovakia registered a total of 298 asylum seekers in 2020, and had a refugee population of around 1000 at the start of 2022. That number is now over 100,000.

[Click here to read more](#) about the humanitarian response to the current situation in Ukraine.



# Other Regions

946	<u>New arrivals to Melilla</u> in Q1 2022
276	<u>New arrivals to Ceuta</u> in Q1 2022
6,078	<u>New arrivals to the Canary Islands</u> in Q1 2022

Distribute Aid does not currently offer logistical support to the above-listed regions, however, if there is enough interest from the donating community we would love to organise aid deliveries to these regions. We believe it is important to stay aware of what is happening in these areas and how EU policy continues to have an impact. We hope that by highlighting them in this report more people and organisations will consider supporting people in these regions.

## Malta

Malta has seen a radical decrease in new arrivals compared to the same period last year. Those who arrive tend to be men, followed by children who are either separated or unaccompanied. The majority of those who get to Malta stay and claim asylum. Many get transferred to other EU countries following ad hoc agreements between the EU member states. However, official numbers suggest that there have not been any new arrivals to Malta this past quarter.



# Other Regions

## Ceuta and Melilla, Spanish Enclaves

Ceuta experienced a considerable increase in arrivals last year; however, figures appear to have dropped again. Another Spanish enclave, Melilla, has seen a significant increase in arrivals in 2022. Ceuta and Melilla have seen at least 1,143 new arrivals in 2022. This change in movement is likely due to increased securitisation of the border with Ceuta. Once in Melilla, people may either apply for asylum or continue their journey across the Mediterranean to reach mainland Spain.

## Canary Islands, Spanish Archipelago

Sea arrivals to the Canary Islands continue to increase, despite being the deadliest route to the EU. January through mid-March of this year has seen 7,254 new arrivals. Those who arrive are usually men from Morocco, Mali, Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire or Senegal. These persons seek to reach mainland Europe, making the archipelago a place of transit. However, the Spanish authorities have measures in place to avoid transferring people to the mainland. Many are therefore stuck on the islands for extended periods of time.

## Regional Context

The Central Mediterranean Route is one of the most dangerous and active migration routes for people crossing to Europe by sea. Due to its geographical location, **Malta** lies as one of the European territories people aim to reach and claim asylum in from sub-Saharan Africa, Libya, Tunisia and Algeria. Over 18,950 people have been reported missing in the Central Mediterranean since 2014.

# Regional Context continued

The year 2021 saw the arrival of 832 migrants in Malta, marking a 63% decrease from the previous year. Records show that 32,400 people have been returned to Libya through illegal pushbacks and ad-hoc negotiation strategies with the Libyan authorities. The Maltese government is firmly against irregular migration. They have the highest number of irregular migrant arrivals as a percentage of their population and feel that they face an undue burden compared to other EU countries.

Undocumented migrants arriving by boat to Maltese shores risk up to 12 months of detention, and migrants who do not apply for asylum or whose asylum claims are rejected can be detained for up to 18 months. The Maltese detention centres, provided by the government, have been heavily criticised as inhumane and degrading, where the human rights of those detained there are neglected and ignored.

Malta, alongside Italy, has spent millions of euros to train the Libyan Coast Guard, repair their boats, and guide authorities through search and rescue processes to defer the responsibility of caring for people in need to Libya. In Libya, migrants are at high risk of mistreatment. There are countless accounts that upon reaching Libya, migrants face detention, torture, sexual abuse, and extortion. Currently, 12,000 migrants are held in prison and detention facilities across Libya.

You can read more about Malta's treatment of people arriving on the island through irregular routes here.

# Regional Context continued

**Ceuta and Melilla** are two Spanish enclaves located on Morocco's northern coast- they are the only two EU land territories on mainland Africa and are vital gateways to Europe. For this reason, with the support of millions of euros in EU funding, there are strict measures and deterrence strategies in place to keep the borders protected, including triple-structured fencing covered in blades and alarms. Some who reach Spanish territory try to apply for asylum and stay in the respective enclaves until they are approved. Others cross the Gibraltar strait or board ferries bound for Malaga, Almeria, or Motril, all located in southern Spain.

Ceuta is located only 28km from mainland Spain, so it has been the main border crossing for migrants. An unprecedented 10,000 migrants arrived in the summer of 2021 due to Morocco using people as political bargaining tools. Many of these people end up deported back to Morocco- Spanish authorities have a history of illegal deportations.

The beginning of 2022 has seen a 72.1% decrease in sea arrivals to Ceuta compared to 2021. Melilla is experiencing a 3,400% increase in sea arrivals. The increase in numbers has led the Spanish government to consider changing the law in order for asylum applications registered in Ceuta and Melilla to be processed in a maximum of 10 days, with the objective of deporting those who are denied protection as quickly as possible. Such a short asylum process raises vast concerns. For example, people may not have sufficient time to prepare or present their cases.

# Regional Context continued

In February 2022, 2,500 migrants and refugees from sub-Saharan Africa tried to cross the border separating Melilla from Morocco. Around 800 migrants managed to do so. In all of 2021, only about 1000 people made it to Melilla as asylum seekers.

Detention centres in Ceuta and Melilla are under criticism for being inadequate, overcrowded, and lacking appropriate resources to care for those living there. Many avoid support systems for fear of potential deportation and mistreatment. Yet, some progress has been made with the agreement made by the Ministerio de Derechos Sociales y las Comunidades Autónomas to divide €15 million between Ceuta, Melilla, and The Canary Islands to support unaccompanied minors in those areas.

The West African Atlantic Route to The Spanish **Canary Islands** is considered the most dangerous border crossing in the world – over 4,000 deaths were recorded in 2021, and at least 91 people lost their lives in January 2022. Nonetheless, it is an increasingly active route used to reach Europe due to the ever-stricter surveillance systems, the rapid deportation of illegal migrants without due process, and the building and strengthening of walls and fences at other EU border crossings.

22,300 migrants arrived to the Canary Islands irregularly in 2021; 3,500 have reached the country since January 1st of this year. These high numbers of arrivals put incredible pressure on the small-scale local service providing groups with little support in their operations from Spanish authorities.



# Regional Context continued

The situation in the Canary Islands has been highly criticised due to the unacceptable reception and treatment of people who enter the country. Migrants are crammed into overcrowded detention facilities for extended periods, many of which lack basic infrastructure. Spanish authorities believe that any improvements to living conditions or transfers to mainland Spain would only increase the attraction for people to make the journey. By taking this stance, Spanish authorities encourage and lead migrants to take dangerous alternatives to reach the mainland, negligently increasing the risk of deaths rather than facilitating safe passage.

Recently, there has been an increased number of unaccompanied minors has been arriving to the Canary Islands. NGOs report that reception centres lack sufficient support to provide accommodation, access to education, and healthcare for these children. Regional officials say that new arrivals will be forced to sleep on the streets without state aid. There continues to be some hostility and resentment towards the migrant population and the humanitarian aid assistance they receive among locals. This is due to feelings that displaced people get more help and support than the locals who are struggling with high unemployment rates and the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has hurt the local economy.

You can read more about the situation on the Canary Islands here.

# How to Help



## Donate Aid

Help meet these needs by donating aid! Find your local collection group or [visit our website](#) for information on our regular routes.



## Volunteer

There are so many ways to volunteer your time. You can volunteer with your local collection group, with a [distribution group](#), or remotely with us!



## Donate Money

Money can help fund aid procurement, shipments, and the unavoidable running costs of organisations.



## Educate yourself and others

Education is a powerful tool. Don't take our word for it, [read up](#) on how displaced people are treated and decide for yourself if this is a cause worth supporting.



## Campaign

The only way to make long lasting change is [by changing policy](#). Let your local representatives know how you feel about the current policies in your country or locality.



## Share this document

If you have felt inspired to act after reading this document, other people will to!



## Donate in-kind

If you can donate goods in-kind, keep reading below!

# In-Kind Donors!

## Can you donate in bulk?

This document has provided the data on how to meet the need for a particular item across the European continent and Lebanon! All you need to do is provide the item (any quantity makes a huge difference!), and we can handle contacting the groups and organising the shipments!

01

### Step 1

Email us to let us know you'd like to donate an item in-kind at [donate-aid@distributedaid.org](mailto:donate-aid@distributedaid.org).



02

### Step 2

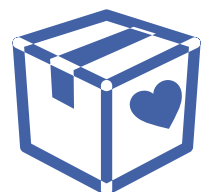
We will do all the hard work. We will find the cheapest shipping for you. All we will need is some basic information!



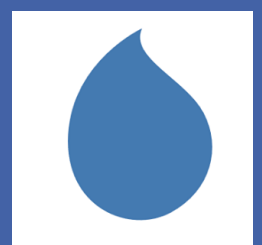
03

### Step 3

The receiving groups can continue their important services, thanks to you!



Thank you to all  
the groups who  
filled out this  
quarter's needs  
assessment!





Have a look at [our BREXIT guide](#) if you're shipping from the UK.



[distributeaid.org](https://distributeaid.org)



[hello@distributeaid.org](mailto:hello@distributeaid.org)

At DA we believe in sharing solutions that benefit everyone. Our tech team, a group of amazing part-time volunteers, helps to do this by keeping our code open source.

Becoming a DA service user will remain free with shipments running at-cost. We get you low cost shipments, connect you with appropriate partners, tell you about the best ways to sort and send aid, and help you implement those techniques.