



Annual report 2022-2023



Office for the New Earth

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Introduction

Stichting Office for the New Earth (ONE) was established on the 2nd of February 2022 with the aim of helping children in need through design and construction projects. The foundation is a follow-up to projects carried out in 2018 and 2019 on Lesbos, in Greece, in the context of the refugee crisis. In 2018 Michaël Vrijhof saw an opportunity to use his expertise in architecture to aid NGOs in creating high-quality spaces that support children in their development (education, psychological support, play, movement and happiness).

Mission & Vision

ONE's mission is to give children in need (orphans, refugee children, children in poverty, etc.) a safe, nurturing and educational space. Michaël's specialization in the psychological and physiological impact of architecture on the well-being and development of children, allows us to aim for high-quality in contrast to the quantitative approach of much larger organizations.

Goal & Strategy

The aim of the foundation is to build and realize buildings and facilities for refugee children and/or children in need, where these children are being able to feel safe, to heal, to play, to learn and to develop, and everything else that is related to or can be conducive to this, all in the broadest sense of the word.

The foundation tries to achieve this goal, among other things, by:

- a. identifying and locating urgent problems (children in need);
- b. locating potential places and organizations to achieve the goal (buildings and facilities for children);
- c. giving advice;
- d. designing, constructing and executing construction projects, transformations, renovations and/or restorations;
- e. collaborating with other organizations;
- f. fundraising and donations, and everything else that is related to or may be conducive to this, all in the broadest sense of the word.

The objective is achieved as much as possible in a sustainable, socially and commercially responsible manner. The foundation aims to operate as a public benefit institution within the meaning of Article 5b of the State Taxes Act, and does not aim to make a profit.

Financial policy

The foundation will generate its income from donations from individuals or companies and fundraising. The income of the foundation will be fully spent on realizing the goal. This is mainly done in the following ways:

- Buying of building materials and other direct project-related costs.
- Payment of people for the design, construction, and construction at the site in question. (see remuneration policy)*
- Travel expenses for people involved in construction.
- Accommodation for people involved in construction.
- Financing of the website and costs of an administrative nature.

*Remuneration policy: This only concerns directors or volunteers if they do work that would otherwise necessarily require the hiring of external professional parties (for example: drawing up the design, calculations for the construction, and building on the construction site). This amount will be reasonably determined in relation to the general project costs and the income of the foundation.

Whenever possible, the surplus income will be used as a reserve for unexpected costs or disappointing income the following year.



The Temple of the Sun | Lesvos 2022

In the field

The year 2022 has been full of challenges and moments of great learning. Since our official registration we have completed two dedicated healing spaces for the children in refugee camps. One on the island of Lesbos and one in the community center in Serres. Our team on the field evolved naturally by the coming and going of volunteers and was additionally supported by Astrid Ydema and Marianne Vollenhoven, both highly experienced in trauma-involved childcare.

Lesvos | April - Juni 2022

Last spring, our project team completed a healing space inside the Mavrovouni camp on the island of Lesbos. This project was done in collaboration with the Greek NGO Metadrasi responsible for the education of children inside the camp. Their newly opened educational hub consisted, before our project completion, of roughly 12 containers/iso-boxes and white gravel and was in great need for play activities, shade, and a more welcoming atmosphere.



Education center inside Mavrovouni camp before our construction works

We developed a masterplan for the educational hub enriching the emotional experience of the entire school area. Three smaller healing spaces were designed and constructed connected by a meandering pathway running through the area and stone walled plant beds. The first healing space is dedicated to the very young children: the playhouse. It has an extra wide slide for multiple children to slide off stimulating social connections, a big sand pit for children to create their imagined structures, smaller openings to prohibit older children from entering, an orange chalkboard to visualize their dreams, and a pen board to play games with each other.



The playhouse for the very young children

Our second structure is a finely crafted pergola that provides well needed shade in the area. The benches allow for people to relax, let them feel the unique expressions in the woodwork, and connect with the smell and sight of the plants behind. Three swings can be attached to the pergola to create additional play for the children. The back and forth movement calms their minds and body. Our highest and last structure is called 'Temple of the Sun' and is a space for the older children. Under the large pointing triangles, they have room for imagination, play, social activities and relaxation. The warm yellow coloured chalkboard allows for expression of their feelings, the extra wide swing for social interactive play, and the hammock for relaxation.



Left: the swing inside the Temple of the Sun. Right: the pergola with swing.

During the project we involved the children in the design and building process as much as possible. We hosted two participatory design workshops where the children could create their own creature and, with help of some building materials (sticks, paper, rope), express their dreams and imagination of what kind of space their creature wanted. This was a fun activity although the children found it challenging to work with the materials and the results were not directly interpretable for our design. This kind of involvement is something we would like to explore more in the future. Next to the participatory workshops, we involved the children with planting and taking care of the plants. This was a big success and we saw many smiling faces.



The children are helping us out with taking care of the plants

Serres | October - December 2022

In the autumn of 2022 we completed a healing space at the community center in Serres, located approximately 500 meters from the refugee camp. We partnered with the American NGO Lifting Hands International responsible for running the center and providing language classes and creative workshops to the community. The children were hosted in the existing CFS tent for children. This space lacks proper daylight, ventilation, views to outside, and is generally opposite of what traumatized children need. We extended the existing CFS tent with a multifunctional shaded area to host a wide range of children related activities.



The CFS tent in Serres before our construction works

Our team constructed an open timber structure of birch plywood with a semi-closed roof, rounded corners, smooth edges, and elegant trusses. The openness allows for a clear connection to the surrounding nature and is further emphasized with large plants that also provide the necessary shade in summer. A sense of enclosure is key for the children to embody the space. Rather than focusing on the means of closed surfaces we chose to emphasize embracing shapes, smooth angles, round corners and a lower ceiling. Additionally we installed adjustable hammocks to offer a direct sensation to the body with an enveloping soft fabric. The space is completed by stimuli for curiosity and play. We engage the child's senses with ornaments in the structure, the light reflecting colours from the ceiling panels, and an interesting variety of plants. On a physical level we installed play elements such as monkey bars and different forms of swings.



The new CFS in Serres with space for relaxation, play, and healing

Looking forward

The year 2022 can be best described as our *pilot year* and making our first steps as an official NGO. We learned many things both technically, in our projects and engineering, as well as how to run a professional NGO, and we want to take these lessons into 2023. Our main focus for 2023 is towards *expansion* and establishing ourselves more professionally and independently in every aspect.

Financially we want to create a more professional and structured way of approaching new possible income streams, such as regional and international funds, mid to large scale businesses, and explore other possible income streams. This will provide the necessary stability for the foundation's future, allow us to hire the necessary people to complete upcoming (bigger) projects, and to become more independent of partnering organisations in the field.

With a more structured financial plan, we have the possibilities to expand our organisation and team on-site to design, engineer, and construct larger and more complex projects. We have plans to hire several architectural interns and an all-round project manager to help us out on all the site related activities. Besides the help on our construction site, they will also help with social media and other PR related activities.

Volunteers have always been vital in contributing to our projects on-site. We are planning on creating the infrastructure for a more consistent and reliable flow of new volunteers to our future projects. We will approach university students (TU Delft), the platform 'Indigo Volunteers', WorkAway, and others, and experiment with what works the best.

We will revisit, restructure, and improve our long term strategy towards designing and constructing our *healing spaces*. We will make small steps to further define and detail our framework, expand it, and support it with more comprehensive literature studies and examples from the field. The aim for the next few years is to slowly work towards a handbook applicable for designing a true healing space. This can be used internally as well as a comprehensive guideline for other organisations to use, increasing the overall quality of the spaces dedicated for traumatized children and their caretakers.

Next to this, we are planning on expanding our knowledge on several more natural building materials (earth, bricks, bamboo), as well as specific wood construction techniques and more advanced digital manufacturing such as CNC milling and 3D printing. This will be a process of the next few years, organically evolving by visiting and talking to experts and, where possible, doing small scale experiments on site.

Financial statement

The financial report below shows a summary of income and expenses for the year 2022. Everything is displayed in euros. The full overview can be found in Appendix A.

	2022	2021
<i>Income:</i>		
Donations	47.830	0
LHI donation	10.800	0
	58.630	0
<i>Expenses:</i>		
Travel and accommodation	9.682	0
Building materials	23.469	0
Reimbursements	13.000	0
Other	3.280	0
	49.431	0
Result	9.199	0

Other information

Board 2022 | 2023

The board of ONE consists of:

- Voorzitter: Michaël Vrijhof | bouwkundig ingenieur
- Secretaris: Niels Hofstee | civiel ingenieur
- Penningmeester: Frans Kortmann | strategisch adviseur

General information

Stichting Office for the New Earth (ONE)

<https://new-earth.one>

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Appendix: financial report

Stichting ONE
Te Alphen aan den Rijn

Financieel verslag 2022

Inhoudsopgave

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Jaarrekening 2022

Balans per 31 december 2022

(in euro's)

	31 december 2022	31 december 2021
Activa		
Vaste activa	0	0
Vlottende activa:		
Vorderingen	0	0
Liquide middelen	9.199	0
	9.199	0
Totaal activa	9.199	0
Passiva		
Eigen vermogen:		
Continuïteitsreserve	9.199	0
Kortlopende schulden	0	0
Totaal passiva	9.199	0

Staat van baten en lasten over 2022

(in euro's)

	2022	2021
Baten:		
Donaties	47.830	0
LHI bijdrage	10.800	0
	58.630	0
Lasten:		
Reis- en verblijfkosten	9.682	0
Bouwmaterialen	23.469	0
Vergoedingen	13.000	0
Overig	3.280	0
	49.431	0
Resultaat	9.199	0

Algemene grondslagen voor de jaarrekening

Grondslagen voor de waardering van activa en passiva en resultaatbepaling

Algemeen

De jaarrekening is opgesteld in overeenstemming met de wettelijke bepalingen van Titel 9 Boek 2 BW en de Richtlijnen voor de jaarverslaggeving, die uitgegeven zijn door de Raad voor de Jaarverslaggeving.

Activa en passiva worden gewaardeerd tegen de verkrijgings- of vervaardigingsprijs, tenzij in de onderstaande toelichting anders is vermeld. Baten en lasten worden toegerekend aan het jaar waarop zij betrekking hebben. Winsten worden slechts genomen voor zover zij op balansdatum zijn gerealiseerd. Verliezen die hun oorsprong vinden voor het einde van het verslagjaar, worden in acht genomen, indien zij voor het opmaken van de jaarrekening bekend zijn geworden.

Grondslagen voor de waardering van activa en passiva

Vorderingen

Vorderingen worden gewaardeerd tegen nominale waarde, waar nodig onder aftrek van een voorziening voor oninbaarheid. De voorziening wordt bepaald op grond van een individuele beoordeling van de openstaande vorderingen.

Liquide middelen

Liquide middelen worden gewaardeerd tegen nominale waarde.

Grondslagen voor de resultaatbepaling

Het resultaat wordt bepaald als het verschil tussen de opbrengstwaarde van de geleverde prestaties en de kosten en andere lasten over het jaar. De opbrengsten op transacties worden verantwoord in het jaar waarin zij zijn gerealiseerd.

Toelichting op de balans per 31 december 2022

(in euro's)

Eigen vermogen

Continuïteitsreserve:

	2022	2021
Saldo per 1 januari	0	0
Resultaat	9.199	0
Saldo per 31 december	9.199	0

Toelichting op de staat van baten en lasten over 2022

(in euro's)

Reis- en verblijfkosten:

	2022	2021
Accommodatie kosten	6.856	0
Overnachtingskosten	1.495	0
Tol- en benzinekosten	393	0
Overig	938	0
Totaal reis- en verblijfkosten	9.682	0

Kosten bouwmaterialen:

	2022	2021
Gereedschap en staal	3.987	0
Hout	13.685	0
Zand en cement	817	0
Canvas	538	0
Stenen	644	0
Verf	1.662	0
Aanleg tuin	1.676	0
Overig	460	0
Totaal kosten bouwmaterialen	23.469	0

Overig:

	2022	2021
Promotiekosten	338	0
Overig	2.942	0
Totaal overige kosten	3.280	0