

The Edith M Ellis 1985 Charitable Trust

CRIBS Interational

#CMBRZTFPG3 submitted on 14 April 2025

1.1 Please summarise what you are seeking from us

We are asking for support to help refugee women in Athens who are pregnant or have young babies. Our project offers them a safe home, care, and the tools to rebuild their lives with dignity.

Tell us more about your project and the impact it will have on those it aims to help, and how it will bring about significant change

CRIBS International is a UK-registered charity based in Athens, Greece, providing support to refugee women who are pregnant or have recently given birth. Many of the women we assist have fled conflict, violence, or exploitation and arrive in Greece without access to housing, financial support, or social services. Under current policies, these women are not officially recognised as “vulnerable,” which often excludes them from essential support systems. Without access to shelter or income, they may find themselves in precarious situations, including homelessness or unsafe accommodation in overcrowded camps.

CRIBS intervenes at this critical point by offering safe housing, financial assistance, and personalised casework. Each woman we support is provided with a private, secure living space and is assisted by a dedicated caseworker who helps with medical appointments, legal processes, and registering children in school. In 2024 alone, we supported 75 individuals, including 31 women and 29 babies, assisted 7 women through childbirth, and helped 5 families transition into independent living.

The CRIBS Mother and Baby Free Shop

A key part of our work is the CRIBS Mother and Baby Free Shop, which serves both the women we house and the broader refugee community in Athens. Its aim is to provide access to essential items in a respectful and choice-based environment, rather than through one-size-fits-all charitable distributions that may not meet individual needs.

The shop offers a range of everyday childcare and household items, including nappies, baby wipes, baby food, children’s and women’s clothing, towels, shoes, school bags, and underwear. Clothing is available for children up to age 12, and for women of all sizes. We strive to create a setting that mirrors a typical shopping experience helping to restore a sense of normalcy and autonomy.

The Free Shop is managed by a full-time staff member who coordinates logistics, manages inventory, and trains volunteers. It operates Monday to Thursday and offers up to 11 appointments each day. This system helps manage high demand while ensuring fair access and a comfortable experience for each visitor. A designated area for breastfeeding is also available to make the space more accessible for mothers with infants.

Stock is replenished regularly through partnerships with organisations. Additional donations are received from both UK-based supporters and local residents in Athens.

Due to the closure of other similar initiatives in the city, demand for the Free Shop remains high. As a result, there is often a waiting list for appointments. To bridge this gap, CRIBS distributes emergency kits that include essential hygiene products and underwear. On average, around 300 individuals access the shop each month for nappies and hygiene items. In 2024, nearly over 1000 people benefited from the Free Shop.

Operational costs include £300 per month for rent and storage, and a monthly stipend of £792 for the Free Shop manager. This funding ensures the continuity of the service and enables CRIBS to offer consistent support to families in need.

1.3 Which grant-giving categories does your project fulfil?

- B - Peace-building and conflict resolution
- C - Interfaith and ecumenical understanding

1.3b Peace-building and conflict resolution

CRIBS supports refugee women and children fleeing war, violence, and persecution—many are survivors of sexual violence and trauma. We provide safe housing, emotional and legal support, and a nurturing community. Our work enables women to heal, regain control, and rebuild their lives, contributing to grassroots peace-building and fostering resilience within displaced communities.

1.3c Interfaith and ecumenical understanding

Our project brings together people from a wide range of religious and cultural backgrounds, both among the women we support and the team who support them. We foster an inclusive, respectful environment where women of all faiths (and none) are treated with dignity and equality. Our work promotes understanding, compassion, and solidarity between communities that might otherwise remain separate.

1.4 Which country is the project based in?

Greece (GR)

1.5 Will the project continue after initial funding has ended?

Yes

1.5b Please give details of how you plan to continue after initial funding has ended

CRIBS International has a strong track record of sustainability, supported by diverse funding and a cost-effective model. After initial funding ends, we will continue our work through multiple income streams. Since 2016, we have successfully secured grants from trusts, foundations, and institutional donors. Our strong funder relationships, transparent reporting, and proven impact position us well to secure renewed and future funding, ensuring continuity of support for the vulnerable women and children we serve.

1.6 How will the project be monitored and evaluated?

CRIBS assigns each family a dedicated caseworker who provides ongoing, tailored support. We monitor progress through regular updates, team reviews, and direct family feedback. Our flexible, needs-based approach allows us to adapt as situations change. We track attendance, service use, and support given across programmes. This helps us evaluate impact, allocate resources effectively, and remain closely connected to the real, evolving needs of the women and children we support.

2.1 Expenditure

EXPENDITURE ITEM	AMOUNT	NOTES
Rent of the Free Shop	£3,600	
Free Shop worker Stipend for a year	£9,504	
TOTALS	£13,104	

2.2 Income

INCOME SOURCE	TARGET AMOUNT	AMOUNT RAISED	NOTES
Grants and Trusts	£8,000	£3,500	

Individual donations	£5,401	£1,000	
TOTALS	£13,401	£4,500	

2.3 What is the total amount (in £ sterling) your organisation is requesting from The Edith M Ellis Trust?

£4,000

2.4 Has your organisation made an application to The Edith M Ellis Trust before?

No

2.5 Please state your organisation's annual turnover (in £ sterling)

£158,352

2.6 Do you wish to upload your audited accounts or financial statement?

Yes

2.6b Upload File

<https://theedithmellischaritabletrust.org/assets/uploads/2025/04/CRIBS-Charity-1173021-Company-10644387-Annual-report-2023-24-2.pdf>

2.7 Please tell us where payment should be made if your application is successful

Lloyds Bank

67078668

309091

3.1 Your name

Helene Bauwens

3.2 Your contact telephone number

+32470952332

3.3 Your position within the organisation

Fundraiser

3.4 Your email address

fundraising.cribsinternational@gmail.com

3.5 Organisation name

CRIBS Interational

3.6 Please state the status of your organisation

UK charity

3.7 Please summarise what your organisation does

CRIBS International is an experienced, longstanding and reputable UK registered NGO working in Athens, Greece. We focus on provision of the following: Refugee women and infant's housing project, Casework, psychologist, legal, medical and employment support, Community development work and a Free Shop for women and children ensuring distribution with dignity.

3.8 UK correspondence address for organisation

Registered address: 55 Den Lane, Springhead, Oldham, OL4 4NN

3.9 UK telephone number

+44 7935 964145

3.10 UK charity number (if applicable)

1173021

3.11 Year established

2016

3.12 Website (if applicable)

<http://www.cribsinternational.org>

3.13 Social media accounts (if applicable)

<https://www.facebook.com/CRIBSInternational/>

<https://www.instagram.com/cribs.international/>

4.1 How did you hear about The Edith M Ellis Trust?

fundsforngos.org