



Refugee and Migrant Crisis in Europe

Humanitarian Situation Report # 15



12 SEPTEMBER 2016

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Highlights

- Between January 2015 and August 2016, 596,275 refugee and migrant children sought asylum in Europe. More than 341,600 of them arrived by sea.
- Since the beginning of 2016, UNICEF reached more than 67,000 children with psycho-social support, recreational and structured education activities in Greece, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia, while some 7,370 babies and small children benefitted from infant and young child feeding (IYCF) support. UNICEF has also reached over 52,000 more refugee children in Turkey since January through the Syria crisis response plan (3RP).
- UNICEF advocacy and technical assistance has successfully supported policy and strategy changes at national level, such as on the integration of refugee and migrant children in education systems in Greece, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Slovenia, strengthened protection standards at reception and accommodation centres in Germany, etc. Yet refugee and migrant children still face challenges requiring urgent policy measures and political commitment.
- Deep concern of protection risks and reception conditions, the lack of safe and legal options, and the continued trend of children resorting to smugglers, UNICEF has urgently called on governments to build stronger protection systems for children, speed up family reunification, improve guardianship and end migration detention of children.

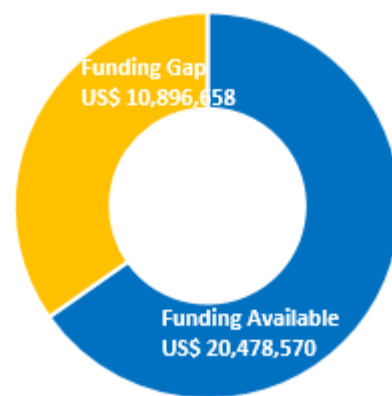
596,275

of child asylum-seekers in Europe between January 2015 and August 2016
(Eurostat, 13 September 2016)

341,644

of child arrivals in Europe by sea between January 2015 and July 2016
(UNHCR, 13 September 2016)

UNICEF Revised Appeal 2016

US\$ 31,375,228

SUMMARY OF RESULTS		UNICEF and Implementing Partners Response		
		Targets 2016	Total Results	Change since last report
Number of children (boys and girls) received psychosocial support in family support hubs, child friendly spaces and mother-baby corners	Croatia	18,100	17,346 ¹	28
	Greece	6000	904	372
	Serbia	30,200	29,530 incl. 134 CwD	1,616 incl. 3 CwD
	Slovenia	3,200	3,483	76
	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	33,000	33,105	94

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

According to UNICEF's report [Uprooted: the Growing Crisis for Refugee and Migrant Children](#), globally 31 million children live outside their country of birth, including 11 million child refugees and asylum-seekers. This is twice as many as a decade ago. Europe has seen a recent spike of child asylum seekers, recording a two-fold increase of child asylum claims in just one year- between 2014 and 2015. In addition, despite the slow-down of sea arrivals to Europe 2016, of the 596,275 child asylum claims registered in Europe between January 2015 and August 2016, some 207,000¹ were registered this year (Eurostat). Two in every three of the newly registered child asylum-seekers, or more than 166,000 children, are in Germany. Around one third of them are below 10 year's old (including some 61,000 children 0 to 5 years old), and almost 26,680 are unaccompanied or separated (BAMF).

Although the proportion of children among new arrivals in Greece has dropped significantly (from 40 per cent in March 2016 to approximately 15 per cent in July), children continue to undertake risky sea crossings from Turkey to Greece, leading to a greater number of stranded children in Greece. Moreover, due to the slow pace of the relocation and resettlement schemes, UNICEF and partners have observed ever increasing use of irregular routes with support of smugglers through the Balkans region. According to UNHCR, at least 24,700 people, many of whom children, are believed to have continued their journey to Western Europe since the closure of the borders in the Western Balkans in March 2016. Similarly, many among the refugees and migrant children arriving in Italy often try to move onwards to other western European countries and rarely stay in protection centres for longer than a few days or weeks. This trend of irregular cross-border movement continues to escalate, exposing children to serious risks of abuse and exploitation, including risking their lives on unseaworthy vessels, exorbitant costs which leaves them indebted and in turn facing even greater dangers. The pace of drownings has soared and 2016 is set to become the most deadly year on record for those attempting to cross particularly the Central Mediterranean – where 90 per cent of children (15,152 between January and July 2016) arriving in Italy are unaccompanied.

While acknowledging that accommodation facilities for children and families are far below standard, UNICEF welcomes efforts undertaken by some Governments, including Greece, Italy, Germany and Serbia to improve reception conditions for refugee and migrant children and strengthen national protection systems to improve the care of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) and keeps working to further strengthen and improve services.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

GREECE

Child Protection: In August, UNICEF provided psychosocial support, recreational activities and other services to 445 children and caregivers through the inter-agency Blue Dot in Victoria square, Athens, and on average 44 children/day benefitted from child-friendly services. UNICEF is currently working with partners on the soonest possible expansion of Blue Dots to 12 new sites across Central Macedonia, Epirus and Attica regions. In addition, UNICEF has supported partners providing child-friendly services in Northern Greece and Attika region through recreational kits, which benefit more than 300 children every day.

Due to the growing number of children and their families experiencing psychological problems and distress, UNICEF is scaling up activities in Attica region to provide specialised mental health and psychological support (MHPSS) services to children at risk targeting those residing in camps as well as in shelters for unaccompanied and separated children. Efforts to support the Greek government in increasing the protection for UASC continue through various programme activities, such as support to the UK DUBs programme (aiming to transfer eligible UASC from Greece to the UK), outreach and referral of unregistered UASC, and identification of small-size transit shelters for up to 75 UASC, currently placed in closed facilities, on Lesbos and in Athens.



*Sarah (left) sits with her sisters Sham (centre) and Salaam (right) in a classroom at the Skaramangas refugee camp, Greece. Her sisters Isra and Moena both teach at the school, which children at the camp attend for just 40 minutes each day.
@UNICEF/UN030619/Gripiotis*

¹ Child asylum claims registered in Europe since the beginning of 2016 exceed the number of arrivals. This may be due to backlog in national asylum systems and procedures, resulting in aggregation of asylum data at the European level months after children actually arrived.

Education: UNICEF is providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Education on the implementation of national strategies to gradually integrate refugee and migrant children into the national education system through reception classes in the afternoon and other non-formal education activities in and outside camps. As part of its short-term strategy for the summer period, UNICEF supported learning activities for 650 refugee and migrant children in Skaramangas camp, while preparing for the start of structured non-formal education activities for at least 850 children (3-5 years old and 11-17 years old) in the same area with the beginning of the new school year. Planned expansion of formal and non-formal education activities is expected to also cover Epirus and Thessaloniki regions, where some 1,700 refugee and migrant children (6-17 years old) will be able to go to school. In addition, an integration project for afternoon reception classes within a Greek public school with around 200 children from Eleonas camp is being piloted, and will possibly be replicated elsewhere in the country.

Child Rights Monitoring: UNICEF continued providing technical assistance to the Ombudsman for Children to strengthen the systematic collection of qualitative data on the situation of refugee and migrant children in Greece. In August, the Deputy Ombudsman undertook a number of monitoring visits to the Greek islands and on mainland Greece, which looked into the reception conditions, access to services and education opportunities for refugee and migrant children. Findings and recommendations will be soon made publically available and followed up in collaboration with UNICEF.

Health: UNICEF has supported the Greek Ministry of Health with the procurement and delivery of 50,000 doses of MMR², 1,200 BCG³ and 11,000 PCV⁴ vaccines, which will be used in upcoming national vaccination campaigns targeting refugee and migrant children.

Water, Hygiene and Sanitation: In August, UNICEF started implementation of its WASH programme, which includes the provision of drinking water and the set-up of showers and toilets, benefitting at least 7,000 children and women in four sites in northern Greece and Attica region.

TURKEY

Child protection: In August, UNICEF-supported outreach teams identified 1,285 children at-risk and in need of protection. Nearly 90 per cent of them were referred to relevant local services for specialized support, demonstrating real progress in efforts to strengthen existing referral pathways. Social workers and child protection specialists are following up on these cases through individualized case management in cooperation with the children's parents. In addition, within the framework of Syria Crisis response, UNICEF has also reached over 52,000 more refugee children in Turkey with structured child protection or PSS programmes since January.

Education: UNICEF is supporting formal education opportunities for over 230,000 refugee children in Turkey. Details on these activities can be found in the UNICEF Situation Report for the Syria Crisis.

Basic Needs: UNICEF supported the distribution of 801 family and 295 baby hygiene kits to refugee and migrant families at risk in the provinces of Istanbul, İzmir and Muğla, reaching to 2,700 children. In addition, 127 highly vulnerable children, for whom all efforts to receive support through local services were exhausted, received additional emergency assistance to cater for their immediate needs (such as health care, access to shelter, specialized equipment for disabilities, etc.).

Due to the increasing needs in Turkey, eight months into the year, UNICEF has already reached more children than the initially planned annual targets for the humanitarian response.

THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Child Protection: UNICEF has been supporting and coordinating case management of all registered children in need of protection and social assistance. In addition, UNICEF has been working with the State Chamber of Psychologists on implementation of mental health and psycho-social support activities targeting refugee and migrant children and their families in Gevgelija.

Education: UNICEF has supported the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy in defining non-formal education activities for refugee and migrant children during the upcoming school year, and identified language, maths and other relevant education materials. Due to the high interest in German language classes, UNICEF has established collaboration with the Goethe Institute to support learning activities in transit centres and facilitate testing and certification of language skills. In addition, UNICEF has conducted an assessment of current informal learning activities for refugees and migrant children, and shared recommendations for their improvement with all relevant stakeholders. Finally, to respond to the needs of young children, UNICEF is currently establishing an Early Childhood Development (ECD) centre in Vaksince, near Tabanovce reception centre, which will be placed within the premises of the local primary school.

² Measles, mumps and rubella

³ Bacillus Calmette–Guérin vaccine

⁴ Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine

Health and Nutrition: UNICEF is currently providing technical assistance on IYCF aimed at improving the provision of child-appropriate food in transit centres. In addition, the increased presence of patronage nurses and midwives in transit centres has helped building trust between refugee/migrant women and health service providers, as well as the overall improvement of health and nutrition conditions.

Water, Hygiene and Sanitation: UNICEF is supporting a project for infrastructure improvements of the water and sewage system in the transit centre in Tabanovce, which will also benefit the local population living nearby. Construction work is expected to finish in September.

SERBIA

Child Protection: UNICEF continues to support direct service provision along with technical assistance to the Serbian government. Addressing the growing needs UNICEF is supporting child-friendly spaces (CFS) in Krnjača, Šid and Preševo and will expand these activities to a newly established centre in Bujanovac. In addition, UNICEF is expanding its support to social workers in Preševo, Belgrade, Šid and Bujanovac, as well as in the Centre for Care of Foreign Unaccompanied Children in Belgrade. As part of the assistance to the national association of social workers to strengthen their capacity to identify and better respond to the needs of vulnerable refugee and migrant children, two sets of trainings were conducted during the summer- on the implementation of the newly adopted SOPs for UASC, as well as the improvement of coordination between actors at the northern border with Hungary.

Education: Following the growing number of refugees and migrants in Serbia that are likely to stay for extended periods of time in the country, UNICEF is ensuring availability of structured learning activities in Blue Dots, including English and Serbian language classes, Math and activities for adolescents. UNICEF is also working with the Ministry of Education on inclusion of refugee and migrant children into the formal education system through education needs assessment, collection of relevant education materials, development of a 3W on education and guidelines for the provision of non-formal education in reception and transit centres. In partnership with the Centre for Education Policy, UNICEF is supporting development of a training programme for education professionals in Serbia to facilitate integration of refugee and migrant children into Serbian schools.

Health and Nutrition: UNICEF continues supporting IYCF activities in mother and baby corners in Presevo and Sid and mobile teams of nurses responding to the needs of families located along the Serbian border with Hungary. IYCF services and breastfeeding counselling are expanding to the new reception centre in Bujanovac, as well as in Belgrade. UNICEF continues to lead consultations with partners on the development of national guidelines on IYCF, adaptation of existing programmes to the current situation and increasing the capacity of frontline workers.

Basic Needs: In August, UNICEF reached 1,074 children with basic supplies, including clothes and baby hygiene items.

CROATIA

Child Protection: UNICEF in Croatia is focusing on monitoring and identifying children at risk and supporting case management of refugee and migrant UASC, including through the provision of structured activities and support to cross-border family reunification. UNICEF continues with supporting psycho-social and recreational activities in the reception centre in Zagreb, providing services for 20 to 25 children every day.

Education: UNICEF is currently providing technical assistance to authorities in Zagreb and Kutina on integration of refugee and migrant children into the Croatian education system for the 2016 / 2017 school year.

Health and Nutrition: UNICEF continues to advocate for the adoption of national guidelines on breastfeeding in emergencies and improvement of child-appropriate nutrition in reception centres along with supporting breastfeeding mothers in the reception centre in Zagreb.

SLOVENIA

Child Protection: In August, UNICEF continued working with the Government to build the capacity of frontline workers on engaging with refugee and migrant children and families, while cooperation with the Slovenian Social Chamber has led to the development of national



*Advocating with Macedonian authorities to ease the emergency exit policy and allow children to be taken to short excursions as part of child-friendly activities, supported by UNICEF.
@UNICEF/ Open Gate/La Strada*

standards, protocols and training materials on child protection. As part of its support to direct service delivery, UNICEF has been expanding the range of activities for children to address the specific needs of various age groups through ECD programmes for children 3-6 years old, structured recreational activities and after-school support and tutoring for children 7-14 years old, as well as youth empowerment activities (language and cultural sensitivity programmes) for adolescents.

Health and Nutrition: On request from the Government, UNICEF is planning to establish regular presence of paediatric and psychological care in selected asylum centres.

BULGARIA

Further to the increased influx of refugee and migrant children to Bulgaria, UNICEF has initiated a process, involving all relevant stakeholders, to implement a rapid safety assessment of all reception and asylum centres in the country with the aim to inform and support the development of protection checklists and minimum protection standards for refugee and migrant children. UNICEF is formalizing the cooperation with the State Agency for Refugees (SAR) concentrating on capacity-building for SAR staff as well as ensuring the provision of psycho-social support, recreational and education activities for children and adolescents in reception and asylum centres. The cooperation is also aiming to improve national data management systems to enable better disaggregation and follow-up of refugee and migrant children. This combines with strong advocacy with Bulgarian authorities to prevent the detention of UASC and the identification of alternative protective accommodation for UASC.

UNICEF is monitoring the situation of refugee and migrant children in Bulgaria and has supported the provision of legal counselling to 40 UASC in July. In addition, 10 new cases were initiated before national courts and 8 appeals were submitted to the second instance court on behalf of refugee and migrant UASC to end their detention.

GERMANY

Following the endorsement of the [national protection standards for refugee and migrant children and women](#), developed with UNICEF support, and the first set of protection trainings to managers and coordinators in asylum centres, UNICEF is currently finalizing two training packages for the Training of Trainers (ToT) planned to take place in October. The ToT will allow the expansion of capacity-building activities to all 25 consultation centres across Germany, familiarize frontline workers in centres on key child protection and ECD issues and equip them with practical and user-friendly tools for the development and implementation of protection strategies and child friendly spaces. Additionally, UNICEF is developing a monitoring toolkit for all 25 consultation centres, which includes community resource analysis and ethical guidance note, assessment tools and self-audit tool for the minimum protection standards.

UNICEF is partnering with the Ministry of Family and the German Foundation for Youth on 7 regional conferences planned between October and December 2016. The conferences will aim to raise awareness about the protection standards and trigger commitment by authorities for their implementation. Further to Government's request, UNICEF is also contributing to the first annual report on the Law on improvement of the care, accommodation and support to refugee and migrant children in Germany.

ITALY

In light of the rapidly evolving situation and the increased needs for refugee and migrant children arriving in Italy, UNICEF launched its response in August 2016 with focus on the identification and referral of refugee and migrant children at risk; cultural mediation and social work outreach, and provision of education and psycho-social support in reception centres.

In collaboration with the health services in Lampedusa, UNICEF-supported medical doctor/cultural mediator has identified and referred 89 UASC in need of medical assistance, including cases of sexual violence and conflict-related injuries, among others. In Palermo, as a result of a pilot initiative, four centres received support to implement education, psycho-social support and social inclusion activities (three centres for boys, one for girls). Around 190 children took part in induction sessions, and 141 children received information on procedures to obtain international protection, as well as information on how to access education. 140 children started taking Italian language lessons and 125 were engaged in sports activities organized in the centres.

In addition, training took place with the Coast Guard on child protection, child rights and the use of ECD kits. Work is ongoing with Coast Guard teams to improve data collection tools to better monitor the number of UASC during first registration on the ships.

Communications and Advocacy

As part of the objective of putting children at the heart of the high-level summits on refugees and migrants (19-20 September) and creating a 'drum roll' of media attention in the lead-up to the [global launch of the "Uprooted" report](#), UNICEF external communication focused on three key areas – the situation facing stranded children in Greece and UNICEF's response; efforts to improve access to education for all refugee and migrant children in Europe and the greater risks of [smuggling](#) on children with increasingly more dangerous routes being used. UNICEF also took part in a [podcast](#) with young migrants around the world in the run-up to the summits.

With two press releases from 26 August and 2 September, UNICEF pointed out that [27,500 stranded children in Greece face double crisis](#) i.e. protection and education, and warned that about [half a million children may have risked exploitation as the refugee and migrant crisis turns into big business for smugglers](#). UNICEF called for safe and legal alternatives so that children are not forced into the hands of smugglers; for stronger protection systems, i.e. accelerated family reunification; increase capacity of frontline workers in transit countries, particularly in Greece and Italy, to provide individual counselling and support to all vulnerable refugee and migrant children, with a particular focus on UASC; stringent qualitative data gathering; individual interviews within 72 hours, nomination of an adult of reference such as a guardian and improved access to legal assistance. These measures would significantly decrease dangerous reliance on smugglers.

The human cost of border closures was illustrated through the [story](#) of one family's bid to reunite while learning and teaching in a Greek refugee camp.

The global report "Uprooted: The Growing Crisis for Migrant and Refugee Children", including comprehensive data on child migrants and refugees around the world, elaborates on six policy asks, which are a key resource for UNICEF's advocacy on children, migration and displacement. Different advocacy events took place throughout Europe with key media outreach in Brussels, Geneva and Berlin, resulting in enhanced awareness of how children are effected by migration and displacement.

In August a new [advocacy brief on reception conditions](#) was released looking at European laws, policies and practices regarding detention of children and families for migration control purposes. The brief advocates for ending immigration detention of children and applying alternatives such as private accommodation with reporting obligations for families with children, foster care or independent living with supervision for UASC, etc. UNICEF continues to advocate for adequate accommodation standards for refugee and migrant children, meeting the health and safety requirements, as well as guaranteeing access to basic services such as education.

SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME RESULTS - as of 1 September 2016

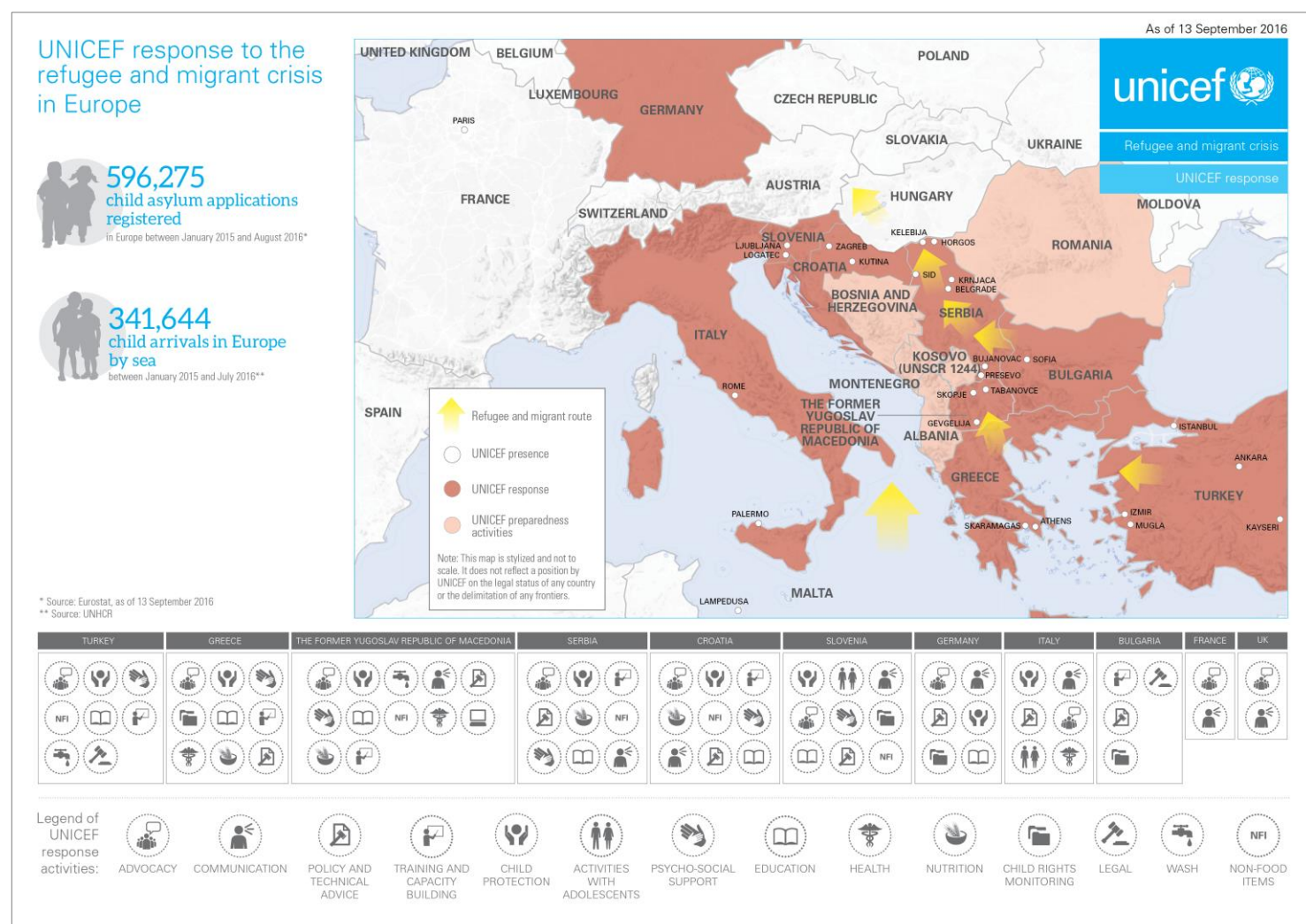
Note: For the period 1 January to 7 March prior to border closures, services were provided in several locations for children on the move. As a result a child may have been reported as being reached in multiple locations along the way. Since 7 March and border closures, refugee and migrant women and children have been stranded across these different locations in south-eastern Europe. In March, UNICEF therefore reached children for the period they were on the move and then continued to provide services after border closures as women and children became stranded in the different locations on the route. For the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia, results reported here represent women and children reached while on the move prior to 7 March, and women and children who received continued/repeated services when remaining in transit/reception centres after 7 March. The numbers since May 2016 for all countries correspond to the number of children and women reached during these months, which may imply some double counting of stranded people, who received services during previous months. In Turkey, UNICEF maintains large ongoing programmes in the areas of Child Protection and Education for refugee children, and results are reported in the monthly Situation Report on the Syria Crisis.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS		UNICEF and Implementing Partners Response		
		Targets 2016	Total Results	Change since last report
CHILD PROTECTION				
Number of children (boys and girls) received psychosocial support in family support hubs, child friendly spaces and mother-baby corners	Croatia	18,100	17,346 ¹	28
	Greece	6000	904	372
	Serbia	30,200	29,530 incl. 134 CwD	1,616 incl. 3 CwD
	Slovenia	3,200	3,483	76
	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	33,000	33,105	94
Number of frontline workers trained on child protection standards/child protection in emergencies	Croatia	200	129	4
	Germany ²	2,000	50	0
	Greece	200	47	0
	Serbia ³	200	306	58
	Slovenia	500	83	14
	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	150	229	0
	Turkey	60	79	-
Number of children at-risk (including UASC) identified and referred to specialised care/services	Greece	2000	213	1
	Turkey	6000	7,582	1,149

SUMMARY OF RESULTS		UNICEF and Implementing Partners Response		
		Targets 2016	Total Results	Change since last report
HEALTH AND NUTRITION				
Number of infants (under 2) accessed mother and baby care centre nutrition services	Croatia	1,600	1,546	2
	Greece	600	13	13
	Serbia ⁴	3,400	4,225	355
	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	1,580	1,580	8
Number of women accessing infant and young child feeding counselling at family support hubs, child friendly spaces and mother-baby corners	Croatia	1,900	1,654	10
	Greece	1,200	13	13
	Serbia ⁵	3,500	3,675	287
	Slovenia	150	83	-
	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	110	114	4
Number of children vaccinated against vaccine preventable diseases (i.e., measles, diphtheria, and polio)	Greece	25,000	-	-
WASH and BASIC SUPPLIES				
Number of children received basic supplies (including clothing and baby hygiene items) to protect them from weather conditions and keep good personal hygiene	Croatia	17,600	16,574	-
	Serbia	21,200	22,506	1,074
	Slovenia	400	83	-
	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	20,960	21,095	51
	Turkey	30,000	55,404	2,698
EDUCATION				
Number of children including adolescents participating in structured education activities	Greece	5,000	650	650
Number of children including adolescents participating in life-skills education	Greece	3,000	650	650
Notes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Numbers have been revised to avoid double-counting. 2. In Germany UNICEF is providing training to all staff in asylum and accommodation centres, including coordinators and managers. 3. 29 trained in July had not been reported in the July report 4. Results also include outreach activities where infants above 2 also receive support as needed when identified by the outreach teams. 5. Results include women receiving support from mobile teams for the Northern border. While local authorities have suspended operations of Mother-Baby-Corners, UNICEF has been able to maintain mobile service provision in the border areas. 				

Funding Update

Country	2016 requirements (US\$)	Revised 2016 requirements (US\$)	Funds available*	Funding gap	
			(US\$)	\$	%
Countries with on the move and stranded children					
West Balkan Countries**	15,972,000	6,757,957	6,428,078	329,879	5%
Greece	5,462,000	10,000,000	5,966,252	4,033,748	40%
Turkey	2,500,000	7,020,000	1,498,485	5,521,515	79%
Countries of destination and additional countries					
Countries of destination and planned additional countries***	3,400,000	3,403,996	3,065,595	338,401	10%
Regional and global					
Advocacy, communications, technical support and preparedness	3,488,000	4,193,275	3,520,160	673,115	16%
Total	30,822,000	31,375,228	20,478,570	10,896,658	35%



Next SitRep: 12/10/2016

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