



# Refugee and Migrant Crisis in Europe

## Humanitarian Situation Report # 16



10 OCTOBER 2016

## Highlights

- In 2016, more than 241,930 refugee and migrant children sought asylum in Europe. This is three times the number of children, who arrived by sea in Greece and Italy.
- In September 2016, some 2,400 children benefitted from psycho-social support, recreational and structured education activities in Greece, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia, while 607 babies and children were reached with infant and young child feeding (IYCF) and nutrition support. In addition, some 5,600 children were reached with basic supplies and hygiene kits.
- The slow pace of relocation, family reunification and asylum procedures; the rise in fear and discrimination, as well as the near total lack of access to basic services- including education – are daily challenges for children, and require political attention and urgent action.

## SITUATION IN NUMBERS

**631,075**

# of child asylum-seekers in Europe between January 2015 and August 2016  
(Eurostat, 3 October 2016)

**241,930**

# of child asylum-seekers in Europe in 2016  
(Eurostat, 3 October 2016)

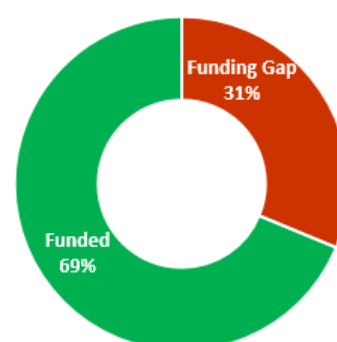
**345,980**

# of child arrivals in Europe by sea between January 2015 and August 2016  
(UNHCR, 3 October 2016)

**80,592**

# of child arrivals in Europe by sea in 2016  
(UNHCR, 3 October 2016)

## UNICEF Revised Appeal 2016

**US\$ 31,375,228**


| UNICEF RESULTS WITH PARTNERS (EXTRACTS)  | UNICEF and Implementing Partners Response |               |
|--|---|---------------|
|  | Targets 2016                              | Total Results |
| Number of children (boys and girls) received psychosocial support in family support hubs, child friendly spaces and mother-baby corners <sup>1</sup>                       | 90,500                                    | 86,772        |
| Number of infants (under 2) accessed mother and baby care centre nutrition services <sup>2</sup>   | 7,180                                     | 7,747         |
| Number of children received basic supplies (including clothing and baby hygiene items) to protect them from weather conditions and keep good personal hygiene <sup>3</sup> | 90,160                                    | 121,308       |

1. Results and targets aggregated from Croatia, Greece, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Slovenia.

2. Results and targets aggregated from Croatia, Greece, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia

3. Results and targets aggregated from Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia and Turkey.

Please see additional footnotes on results in the body of the report.

## Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

In 2016, more than 241,930 children sought asylum in Europe (Eurostat). This is three times the number of children, who arrived by sea in Greece and Italy over the same period of time (80,592, UNHCR)<sup>1</sup>. In addition, while the number of sea arrivals during the first eight months of 2016 is 18 per cent lower compared to the same period in 2015, the number of asylum claims, registered by children, is almost thirty per cent higher (some 54,000 child asylum claims more than last year).<sup>2</sup>

Continuous sea crossings from Turkey to Greece and irregular movement throughout the Balkans have led to an ever increasing number of children stranded in the Balkans (an estimated 30,000 children), particularly in Greece and Serbia<sup>3</sup>. In addition, due to the newly introduced border restrictions at the Serbian/Bulgarian border, the number of children, stranded in Bulgaria has doubled since July.<sup>4</sup>

As part of the ongoing efforts of the Greek government to integrate refugee and migrant children in the formal education system, on 10 October, 15 Greek schools in Attica, Thessaloniki and Epirus regions opened their doors for children from nearby camps. Although other Governments have taken similar important steps, access to learning opportunities in temporary reception and accommodation shelters, particularly for young children (0-5 years old)<sup>5</sup> and adolescents (16-18 years old) remains insufficient. Limited capacity, language barriers, as well as fear and discrimination are other common obstacles, which refugee and migrant children encounter across Europe.

Commendable efforts and commitments have been made during the past month to increase resettlement, scale-up relocation from Greece and Italy, and increase engagement for social inclusion of refugees and migrants in their new home countries. Yet, with less than 6,000 people relocated one year after the 160,000 relocations target was set, life is at an increasingly desperate standstill for thousands of children awaiting family reunification and international protection.

## Summary Analysis of Programme Response

### GREECE

**Child Protection:** In September, UNICEF-supported ongoing activities in the “Blue dot”<sup>6</sup> drop-in centre for women and children in Victoria square, Athens, reaching an average of 53 children/day (an increase of 20 per cent compared to August) with psychosocial support, recreation and other activities. In addition, children and their caregivers benefitted from various referrals to standard services including medical, legal and shelter support. A total of 650 children and caregivers have benefitted from these services from July to September. As part of the plan to scale up the “Blue Dot” minimum package of services to twelve new sites, in September UNICEF partners established presence in 5 new locations in Attika and Epirus region, carrying out vulnerability assessments and providing an initial set of recreational activities for children, as well as focus-group discussions with mothers. In September a new UNICEF-supported project in central Athens began providing psychological and mental health services to refugee and migrant children and families at risk.

Efforts to enhance the availability of appropriate small-size accommodation facilities for UASC continue, and in September UNICEF supported the establishment of a new protective accommodation in Lesbos, which now hosts 17 children. A similar



*Children draw and paint in Blue Dot Family Center, Athens, Greece. In this UNICEF supported centre, run by Faros, services for migrants and refugees include showers, mother-baby feeding corners with breastfeeding support, child-friendly space and play area, wifi, legal referral, medical referral, and counselling.*

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<sup>1</sup> This may be due to backlogs in national asylum systems, registering asylum claims by children a few months after their arrival. But it may also mean that in 2016 many children have also arrived either by road or air.

<sup>2</sup> Between January and August 2016, European countries recorded 241,930 first time asylum claims from children, while between January and August 2015 this number was 188,110.

<sup>3</sup> Some 27,000 in Greece and 2,100 in Serbia.

<sup>4</sup> Currently, some 3,500 people (of whom 906 children) are accommodated in Bulgarian asylum centres, compared to only around 1,500 people (531 of whom children) in July.

<sup>5</sup> In Germany for example, 1 in 3 of all children who claimed asylum in 2016 (a total of 200,900 children) is below 5 years old.

<sup>6</sup> „Blue Dot“ concept was developed in partnership with UNHCR and ICRC/Red Cross.

project is being finalized in Athens with the aim to provide shelter to 25 UASC starting from mid-October. UNICEF continues providing support to the Greek government in managing data on UASC and analysing trends for better responds to the changing needs.

**Education:** UNICEF is scaling up non-formal education activities in Skaramangas camp with the ongoing procurement of 8 new classrooms and school supplies. The assistance aims to deliver more structured and non-formal education activities with English and mother tongue lessons, early learning, parenting and psychosocial support for around 850 children and their caregivers in the camp. UNICEF is working on the earliest possible expansion of these activities to 10 other camps in the Attika, Epirus and Central Macedonia regions, benefitting more than 2,000 children.

**Child Rights Monitoring:** As part of its efforts to increase the capacity of the Greek Deputy Ombudsperson for Children, UNICEF supported several child rights monitoring visits to closed and open facilities and sites for refugees and migrants, as well as to shelters for unaccompanied children on Greek islands and on the mainland. The findings and advocacy points, including concerns about the implementation of the right of all children to education, decent standard of living, safety, health and protection were shared with key stakeholders including government actors, as well as the broader public through an official press release.

**Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (WASH):** In September, UNICEF started the provision of WASH services in four sites in Attika and Northern Greece (Skaramangas, Fragapol, SK Market and Redestos), which will benefit up to 7,000, children, women and marginalized persons. Activities include the provision of clean drinking water, installation of showers and toilets, reparation of existing infrastructure and distribution of hygiene items. This combines with regular hygiene promotion campaigns. On average, up to 25 per cent of the target population are now being reached with WASH services.

## TURKEY

**Child protection:** UNICEF-supported outreach teams in Turkey identified and provided legal counselling, psychosocial support (PSS) and medical assistance to 1,906 children at risk (885 boys, 1,021 girls) in coastal areas. This is in complement to UNICEF's support to Syrian refugee children through child and adolescent-friendly spaces across the country, delivery of parenting briefing sessions for Syrians in host communities, as well as support to local authorities in Gaziantep to prevent early, forced and child marriage among refugees<sup>7</sup>

**Education:** In September, UNICEF supported over 250,000 refugee children in Turkey through its annual *Back to School* campaign, which included assessments of school conditions, trainings for Syrian volunteers and Turkish teachers, as well as provision of school supplies and monthly incentives for Syrian volunteer teachers.<sup>8</sup>

**Basic Needs:** As part of its response to the most pressing needs of refugee and migrant children in Turkey, UNICEF continued the distribution of emergency vouchers and hygiene items. A total of 1,600 family hygiene kits were delivered through partners working in Removal Centres in Kiklarelli and Harmandali, Dikili Readmission Centre and Behcet Uz Children's Hospital.

## THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

**Child Protection:** UNICEF continues to support case management of registered refugee and migrant children, and supports the Ombudsman in assessing and providing recommendations on the mental health and psychosocial needs of refugee and migrant children and caregivers stranded or seeking asylum in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In addition, UNICEF is currently working with State authorities on the development of training on the implementation of SOPs for the protection of UASC and other vulnerable groups of people.

**Education:** With support from UNICEF, a new education programme for refugee and migrant children is under development and measures have been taken to strengthen structured non-formal education activities. German-language classes have been further reinforced in Tabanovce and Gevgelija with support from the Goethe Institute.

**Health and Nutrition:** UNICEF continues to support Early and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) activities in both Tabanovce and Gevgelija. In September, an assessment was conducted to strengthen the response to the current nutrition needs of refugee and migrant children, pregnant and breastfeeding mothers.

## SERBIA

**Child Protection:** UNICEF sustains child-friendly activities in Krjaka, Sid and Presevo. To respond to the capacity-building needs for partners implementing recreational activities in other Serbian asylum centres, UNICEF is currently developing minimum standards for quality child-friendly spaces in all concerned locations. This combines with ongoing support to strengthen the capacity of social workers in Presevo, Belgrade and Sid to provide follow-up support to UASC and other refugee and migrant children in these locations. In September, social workers identified 222 UASC and provided case management to 148 of them. In September, UNICEF supported the

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<sup>7</sup> More details can be found under UNICEF Situation Response to the Syrian Crisis, as well as UNICEF-Turkey Situation Report.

<sup>8</sup> More details can be found under UNICEF Situation Response to the Syrian Crisis, as well as UNICEF-Turkey Situation Report.



delivery of two trainings in collaboration with the national Association of Professionals in Social Work on the social protection system for 34 frontline workers in Zajecar and Sid. Another training, organized in collaboration with Save the Children increased the capacity of 18 frontline workers in Subotica, Sid, Principovac and Adasevci.

**Education:** As part of its ongoing support to the Government to integrate refugee and migrant children in the national Education system and improve the quality of non-formal learning opportunities, UNICEF has completed a 3W exercise and called for a coordinated meeting of all Education partners. In addition, UNICEF is identifying training needs for frontline workers in the Education sector and is supporting the development of a national Guide on the provision of structured education under the age of six. UNICEF will also support civic education activities for children 7-12 years old using the curricula of 1001 Nights from Big Bad Boo starting from October 2016.

**Health and Nutrition:** UNICEF continues supporting IYCF activities in mother and baby corners in Presevo and Sid, as well as the newly-established centre in Bujanovac. Mobile teams of nurses sustain outreach activities for pregnant and breastfeeding mothers at the northern border with Hungary, but due to the evolving situation, UNICEF is now looking into adjusting its strategy on health and nutrition. In addition to direct service provision, UNICEF in consultation with partners continues reviewing food rations and the provision of age-appropriate food.

**Basic Needs:** In September, UNICEF reached 830 children with basic supplies, including clothes and baby hygiene items.

## CROATIA

**Child Protection:** UNICEF in Croatia sustains monitoring and identification of children at risk, as well as case management and provision of structured activities for refugee and migrant UASC. UNICEF ongoing psychosocial, recreational and learning activities in the reception centres in Zagreb and Kutina reached 25-30 children on daily basis in September 2016.

**Health and Nutrition:** UNICEF continuously monitors and responds to the most pressing nutritional and health needs of children at the reception centers in Zagreb and Kutina.

## SLOVENIA

In September, UNICEF has focused on the improvement and diversification of services, provided in two reception centres in Ljubljana and Logatec with the aim to meet the needs of various age groups. As part of its support to the Government to strengthen the national child protection system, UNICEF is currently conducting a child protection mapping to assess capacities and identify gaps, which may require further support. On request from the Government, UNICEF will provide additional support to strengthen national protection standards in reception and accommodation centres, train border police, and build the capacity of the Ombudsman to monitor the situation of refugee and migrant children in the country.

## BULGARIA

In response to the needs of an increasing number of refugee and migrant children, accommodated in Bulgarian reception centres, UNICEF is now finalizing a technical guidance and minimum standards for the provision of child-friendly services. In August 200 unaccompanied refugee and migrant children benefitted from UNICEF-supported legal counselling. In addition, to raise awareness about their rights and options (claiming for international protection, family reunification, etc.) under Bulgarian legislation, UNICEF is currently developing child-friendly information materials and information sessions for UASC.

In September, UNICEF conducted a training on international child protection standards for national police officers and supported 3 cultural mediators to improve communication with refugee and migrant children in accommodation centres.

## GERMANY

UNICEF is currently finalizing the training packages for the Training of Trainers (ToT) on the minimum protection standards and child-friendly services (November 2016), as well as the organisation of 7 regional conferences with authorities on the same topic (October-December). In addition, UNICEF has developed a survey to assess the implementation status of the minimum standards at the 25



*Ahmad Abdul-Halim, 16, a refugee from Balabak, Lebanon with his teacher, Lisa Schweer, 31, at his integrated school he attends with other refugees and German children in the Peine District of Germany  
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pre-selected consultation centres, and identify training needs. Results from this assessment will inform a training and capacity-building roadmap to support managers and coordinators in identifying centre-specific protection strategies.

UNICEF is currently piloting a monitoring assessment tool, which will help pre-selected consultation centres identify and share information on good practices, challenges and practical solutions to strengthen monitoring systems in accommodation and reception centres.

## ITALY

In collaboration with the Health Coordination Institute in Lampedusa, in September UNICEF has identified and referred 61 UASC, including cases of sexual violence, post-traumatic stress and conflict-related injuries.

Under a pilot initiative, three first line reception centers in Palermo (Araba Fenice, Casa Marconi and La Violetta) received guidance and support to run education and psychosocial support activities towards the social inclusion of UASC. As part of this initiative, UNICEF undertook an assessment of existing services and organised workshops with social coordinators, educators and UASC, to improve the quality of service provision. Recommendations from the workshop (including on the need of a more coordinated and predictable approach to services in various centres) are being endorsed with a technical protocol by the Department of Social Services of Palermo.

## Communications and Advocacy

Following the high-level summits on refugees and migrants in September, UNICEF continued to advocate on its global asks for refugee and migrant children, including with the Council of Europe Member State during a meeting of the ad hoc Committee on the Rights of the Child, where UNICEF committed to provide technical assistance on guardianship and age assessment.

In September, National Committees for UNICEF across Europe continued advocating and raising awareness about the rights and needs of refugee and migrant children. Extensive external communication and advocacy efforts by UNICEF National Committees in the UK and France, amplified at the regional level, led to a breakthrough with the announcement by the UK Home Office to bring several hundred unaccompanied children (eligible for family reunification) from Calais to the UK just days before the demolition of the so-called 'jungle' camp in Calais. UNICEF Special Coordinator for the Refugee and Migrant Crisis Marie-Pierre Poirier felicitated French and UK authorities with a [public statement](#) on 12 October and called for greater commitment by all stakeholders in their moral obligation to protect all those uprooted.

Efforts to raise the attention around the right to education for refugee and migrant children in Greece, including through a joint statement by the Greek government, UNICEF, UNHCR and other partners, was echoed by a number of international media, including *Reuters* and *the New York Times*. In addition, a Facebook Live panel discussion with volunteer refugee teachers in Skaramangas camp (Greece), broadcasted live by Al Jazeera and other media outlets, reached more than 30,000 viewers around the world with messages around the crucial importance of education for refugee and migrant children.

This has also been the topic of a new campaign "School for All- the Right to Education knows no exception" in Germany, launched by the refugee councils of the Federal States, the BumF and Youth without Border, aiming to raise awareness and advocate for better access to learning opportunities for refugee and migrant children in Germany. In addition, as a result of advocacy efforts by UNICEF and the German National Committee for UNICEF, the state of Berlin is now considering the integration of binding provisions on child protection in all contracts for service providers in reception and accommodation centres.

## SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME RESULTS - as of 1 October 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 |       |
| <b>CHILD PROTECTION</b>   |   |               |                          |       |
| Number of children (boys and girls) received psychosocial support in family support hubs, child friendly spaces and mother-baby corners | Croatia                                   | 18,100        | 17,376 <sup>1</sup>      | 30    |
|   | Greece                                    | 6000          | 1,054                    | 150   |
|   | Serbia                                    | 30,200        | 31,620                   | 2,090 |

|   |   |        |        |       |
|---|---|--------|--------|-------|
|   |   |        |        |       |
|   | Slovenia                                  | 3,200  | 3,529  | 46    |
|   | The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | 33,000 | 33,193 | 88    |
| Number of frontline workers trained on child protection standards/child protection in emergencies | Croatia                                   | 200    | 129    | 0     |
|   | Germany <sup>2</sup>                      | 2,000  | 50     | 0     |
|   | Greece                                    | 200    | 47     | 0     |
|   | Serbia <sup>3</sup>                       | 200    | 358    | 52    |
|   | Slovenia                                  | 500    | 83     | 0     |
|   | 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   | 251    | 38    |
|   | Turkey                                    | 6000   | 9,488  | 1,906 |

#### HEALTH AND NUTRITION

|  |   |        |       |     |
|--|---|--------|-------|-----|
| Number of infants (under 2) accessed mother and baby care centre nutrition services  | Croatia                                   | 1,600  | 1,549 | 3   |
|  | Greece                                    | 600    | 163   | 150 |
|  | Serbia <sup>4</sup>                       | 3,400  | 4,451 | 450 |
|  | The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | 1,580  | 1,584 | 4   |
| Number of women accessing infant and young child feeding counselling at family support hubs, child friendly spaces and mother-baby corners | Croatia                                   | 1,900  | 1,649 | 5   |
|  | Greece                                    | 1,200  | 273   | 260 |
|  | Serbia <sup>5</sup>                       | 3,500  | 3,951 | 276 |
|  | Slovenia                                  | 150    | 83    | -   |
|  | The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | 110    | 119   | 5   |
| 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 | 16,579 | 5     |
|   | Serbia                                    | 21,200 | 23,319 | 813   |
|   | Slovenia                                  | 400    | 83     | -     |
|   | The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | 20,960 | 21,123 | 28    |
|   | Turkey                                    | 30,000 | 60,204 | 4,800 |
| Number of children and women with access to safe water as per Sphere standards  | Greece                                    | 10,000 | 750    | 750   |
| Number of children and women with access to appropriate sanitation facilities   | Greece                                    | 10,000 | 3,280  | 3,280 |
| Number of children and women reached with hygiene promotion and awareness raising   | Greece                                    | 10,000 | 2,800  | 2,800 |

#### EDUCATION

|   |        |       |     |   |
|---|--------|-------|-----|---|
| Number of children including adolescents participating in structured education activities | Greece | 5,000 | 650 | - |
| Number of children including adolescents participating in life-skills education           | Greece | 3,000 | 650 | - |

#### Notes:

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. Results also include activities where infants above 2 also receive support based on needs identified on the ground.
4. 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.

**\*UNICEF partners on the ground include:** ASAM in Turkey; the Deputy Ombudsman for Children, the National Center for Social Solidarity (EKKA), Solidarity Now, FAROS, Babel, IRC, SOS Village, ILIAKTIDA, IMC, DRC and British Council in Greece; la Strada/Open Gate the Red Cross, Macedonian Nurses and Midwives Association (MANM) and SOS Village, Save the Children in the former Yugoslav, Republic of Macedonia; DRC and Save the Children in Serbia; Society for Psychological Support and Roda in Croatia; Slovenska Philantropia and WAHA in Slovenia;

## Funding Update

| Country  | 2016 requirements (US\$) | Revised 2016 requirements (US\$) | Funds available* (US\$) |
|--|--------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Countries with on the move and stranded children             |                          |                                  |                         |
| West Balkan Countries**                                      | 15,972,000               | 6,757,957                        | 6,428,078               |
| Greece   | 5,462,000                | 10,000,000                       | 6,343,730               |
| Turkey   | 2,500,000                | 7,020,000                        | 1,498,485               |
| Countries of destination and additional countries            |                          |                                  |                         |
| Countries of destination and planned additional countries*** | 3,400,000                | 3,403,996                        | 3,382,142               |
| Regional and global  |                          |                                  |                         |
| Advocacy, communications, technical support and preparedness | 3,488,000                | 4,193,275                        | 3,920,160               |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>\$30,822,000</b>      | <b>\$31,375,228</b>              | <b>\$21,572,595</b>     |

## Next SitRep: 14/11/2016

### Who to contact for further information:

**Marie-Pierre Poirier**  
Special Coordinator  
Regional Director  
UNICEF Regional Office for CEE/CIS  
Switzerland  
Tel: +41 22 90 95 502  
Email: mppoirier@unicef.org

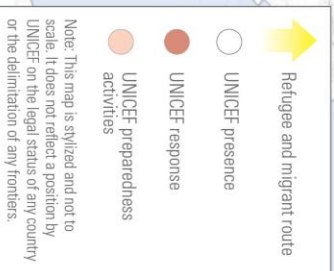
**Lucio Melandri**  
Manager, Geneva Crisis Coordination Cell  
UNICEF Regional Office for CEE/CIS  
Switzerland  
Tel: +41 79 332 5174  
Email: lmelandri@unicef.org

**Tsvetomira Bidart**  
Information Management and Reporting Specialist  
UNICEF Regional Office for CEE/CIS  
Switzerland  
Tel: +41 22 90 95 536  
Email: tbidart@unicef.org



631,075  
child asylum applications  
registered  
in Europe between January 2015 and August 2016\*

345,980  
child arrivals in Europe  
by sea  
between January 2015 and August 2016\*\*



\* Source: Eurostat, as of 3 October 2016  
\*\* Source: UNHCR

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