



# Regional Humanitarian Situation Report # 8

**16 FEBRUARY 2016: REFUGEE AND MIGRANT CRISIS IN EUROPE**

**SITUATION IN NUMBERS**

## Highlights

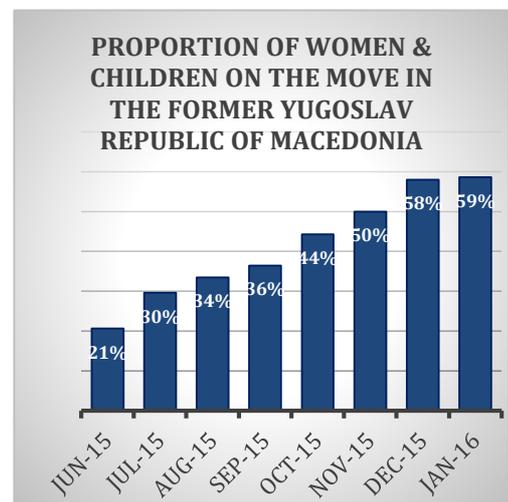
- *More than one million people arrived in Europe by sea in 2015. Since the beginning of 2016, almost 82,640 new arrivals were registered, 76,607 of them on Greek shores.*
- *Women and children are now 59 per cent of refugees and migrants crossing from Greece into the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and children make up 37 per cent.*
- *The Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan, on which UNICEF has partnered with UNHCR and IOM, was launched by UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, and IOM Director General, William Lacy Swing, during a high level event on 25 January in Geneva. UNICEF Special Coordinator for the refugee and migrant crisis, Marie-Pierre Poirier spoke on the rights and protection of refugee and migrant children in Europe.*
- *In January 2016, 32,191 children were able to rest and play in safe environment and received psycho-social support in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia.*
- *In January, 5,682 babies and infants, and 11,966 mothers benefitted from IYCF counselling and support in 6 MBSSs.*
- *Below zero temperatures, uncertainty due to fast evolving political situation, as well as limited time for the provision of services are the major operational challenges faced by UNICEF and partners.*

**82,636**

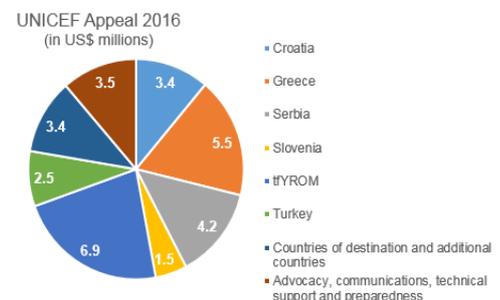
# of arrivals in Europe by sea in 2016 (UNHCR, 13 February 2016)

**76,607**

# of arrivals by sea through Greece in 2016 (UNHCR, 13 February 2016)



**UNICEF Appeal 2016**  
**US\$ 30,822,000**



## Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Between 1 January and 9 February 2016, 82,636 refugees and migrants arrived in Europe by sea, 76,607 of whom on Greek shores. Although there was a decrease in sea crossings from Turkey to Greece compared to the month of December 2015, when nearly 109,000 people undertook the journey, the number of arrivals in January 2016 is 35 times higher than in January 2015. Only since the beginning of the year, 76 children (or almost two every day) lost their lives while trying to reach safety and protection in Europe (IOM).

Although total number of refugees and migrants transiting through the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has dropped since December 2015, the proportion of children has increased from 24 per cent of all registered arrivals in September 2015 to 37 per cent in January 2016. The proportion of women and children has also continued to increase, and is now 59 per cent. In Germany, where

more than one million people sought protection last year, one third of all asylum seekers were children (BAMF, Germany). The large majority were accompanied children- half of whom under 5 years of age, and over two thirds younger than 10 years.

Germany is currently host to some 60,000<sup>1</sup> unaccompanied children primarily from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq. Of them, 14,439 sought asylum in 2015 (BUMF-Germany). In Sweden, 35,369 unaccompanied children sought asylum in 2015, mostly young Afghans (Migrationsverket, Sweden). This amounts to one and half times the number of all unaccompanied children registered in the entire EU in 2014. Yet, there is a large difference between the number of asylum applications submitted in countries of final destination and registrations in countries, where children are on the move. According to IOM, only 11 unaccompanied and separated children were registered in Greece during the period 28 January – 3 February. In Italy, unaccompanied and separated children in represent 4 per cent of all arrivals in January. It is estimated that many unaccompanied and separated children on the move do not register, often due to fear of being prevented to continue their journey to countries of final destination. This, however, places them at risk of becoming victims of trafficking, exploitation and abuse.



*On 26 January 2016, a young boy is carrying a large bundle of warm blankets on his shoulders. He is in the Miratovac winter refugee aid point, where, along with his family members, he can access support services and have an opportunity to rest before continuing his journey. @UNICEF Serbia/Emil Vas*

UNICEF is particularly concerned about the humanitarian conditions of refugee and migrant children, especially infants, battling cold and snow across the Western Balkans, as temperatures can reach -20°C during the night. Cases of children with signs of hypothermia have also been recorded in Gevgelija, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Shelter, warm clothes and baby blankets are currently among the most pressing needs for refugee and migrant children and their families across the Western Balkans.

UNICEF has also observed the increasing uncertainty among refugees and migrants as Governments undertake different measures to stem flows of people through their territories. The increased cross-border communication and coordination between the countries on the Western Balkans route has accelerated the registration process for the populations on the move, and has also led to tighter border control, stricter nationality verification,

selective processing and quotas. The newly introduced legislation on accelerated procedures for persons from safe countries in Germany is another factor, which influences political decision-making along the Western Balkans migration route. This complex political situation exposes refugees and migrants to the risk of getting stranded or being pushed back, and raises further concerns about potential exacerbation of smuggling and human trafficking, exposing children and families to greater protection risks.

With increasing sporadic border closures between the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Greece, the emergence of alternative migration routes has become highly probable. In January, around 200 refugees and migrants, many of them children, undertook mountainous routes from Greece to Bulgaria, and UNICEF is closely following the situation.

## Humanitarian Strategy and Coordination

In line with the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, UNICEF is responding to the crisis in Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Croatia, Slovenia and Germany through a combination of advocacy, technical assistance to the Government, capacity building and service delivery response. UNICEF is working to extend support to children and women throughout their journey in Greece, Austria and Italy.

In view of the fast evolving situation on the ground, contingency plans for stranded populations in the Western Balkans and alternative migration routes are now being developed in Croatia, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Bulgaria, Albania and Kosovo (UNSCR 1244). Preparedness efforts are also being scaled up in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Romania and Montenegro.

UNICEF is actively engaged in regular Government and UN country team coordination mechanisms on the refugee and migrant crisis in Europe, and is mobilising European stakeholders to improve assistance and protection to refugee and migrant children and their

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<sup>1</sup> 60,162 is the number of unaccompanied and separated children cared for by the German Child and Youth Care System as at the end of January 2016.

families, both as part of the immediate humanitarian response and through longer term support to national child protection systems. UNICEF continues to be the lead of child protection coordination mechanisms in Croatia and Serbia. In Croatia, UNICEF is also the lead for inter-agency coordination related to infant and young child feeding and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in the reception centre in Slavonski Brod.

## Summary Analysis of Programme Response

The Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan, on which UNICEF has partnered with UNHCR and IOM, was launched by UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, and IOM Director General, William Lacy Swing, during a high level event on 25 January in Geneva. UNICEF Special Coordinator for the refugee and migrant crisis, Marie-Pierre Poirier spoke on the rights and protection of refugee and migrant children in Europe, along their journey from Turkey, through Greece, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia.

### Child Protection



Child-friendly activities are currently ongoing in nine locations: Gevgelija and Tabanovce in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Miratovac, Preševo, Adaševci and Šid in Serbia; Slavonski Brod in Croatia; and Dobova and Shentijl in Slovenia. UNICEF is also expecting to become operational very soon Dimitrovgrad, Serbia (at the border with Bulgaria), while three Child Protection Support Centers in Izmir, Istanbul and Ankara, Turkey will provide services to refugee and migrant children on the move as of early March.

In January 2016, 32,191 children were able to rest and play in safe environment and receive psychological first aid in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia. Among them, 132 children with disabilities and 114 unaccompanied and separated children benefitted from child-friendly and other specialised services. In addition, in Turkey, more than 200 children with disabilities identified by UNICEF-supported outreach teams in Izmir in December 2015, are currently being evaluated to determine their eligibility to receive case management for specialized services, as well as any other additional emergency assistance.

In Slovenia, the new child-friendly space in Dobova Transit Centre opened doors on 14 January in partnership with the NGO Slovenian Philanthropy, while activities in Shentijl started on 12 February. In Slovenia, UNICEF has observed that previous exposure to UNICEF's assistance during their journey has enabled children to be familiar with the CFS activities and parents to feel comfortable allowing their children to play in the CFS in Dobova. This illustrates the added value of having a standard set of services along the entire migration route in Europe, which is being put in place through the Child and Family Support Hubs.

Child and Family Support Hubs (CFSH) aim to improve predictability, availability and quality of services along the migration route in South-Eastern Europe. The services available in the Hubs include: restoring family links, family reunification, information and advice desk, child-friendly spaces, dedicated mother-and-baby/toddler spaces, complemented by counselling, referral services, medical and psychological first aid, safe areas to sleep and specific non-food items for persons with specific needs. As part of the RRRMP, UNICEF has already started the establishment of CFSH, building on current CFSs.

In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, UNICEF has finalized an agreement with La Strada, to increase the number of interpreters in the CFSH to minimize stress factors for parents and children, and improve mobile recreational activities and outreach activities. In addition, UNICEF and Save the Children have started improving and formalizing cross-border coordination and assistance to children at risk, travelling from Greece to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia.

Following training of new social workers and support from UNICEF, the Centre for Social Work in Preševo, Serbia, now has 24/7 presence of outreach workers in the reception centre, with particular attention to unaccompanied and separated children. In addition, a new partnership with the

Association of Social Work Professionals in Serbia is being developed to strengthen the Child Protection System and its capacity to respond to the needs of refugee and migrant children and families. On 28-29 January, UNICEF organised two trainings on Child Protection in Emergencies and Psychological First Aid to strengthen the capacity of 40 front-line workers from partner agencies operating in Preševo and Miratovac, Serbia.



*Children enjoy recreational activities in recently open child-friendly space in Dobova, Slovenia. @UNICEF/Slovenia*

Protection of unaccompanied and separated children continues to be a priority for UNICEF. As part of CFSH, UNICEF in Serbia is working with UNHCR on the establishment of family reunification points in Miratovac and Preševo. In Croatia, UNICEF continues to provide structured daily educational and recreational activities for unaccompanied and separated children in institutional care, ensuring access to an interpreter and a qualified psychologist, and supporting

## Health and Nutrition

Specialized mother-and-baby spaces (MBS) in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Croatia – 6 in total at present – are supporting Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices for children on the move 24/7. In addition, UNICEF in Serbia is in the process of establishing a MBS in Dimitrovgrad, on the border with Bulgaria.



In 2015, some 18,000 babies and infants benefitted from services provided by the MBSs across the region. In January, 5,682 babies and infants accessed health and nutrition services in mother-and-baby spaces in Southeastern Europe, and 11,966 mothers benefitted from IYCF counselling, including breastfeeding counselling and nutrition related counselling. According to disaggregated data from Croatia, half of all young children were girls, 72 per cent were infants below 2 years of age. Sixty-three per cent of all children were Syrian, followed by Afghans (25 per cent) and Iraqis (12 per cent)

To uphold international IYCF standards, a senior nurse visits MBSs in Presevo and Miratovac, to mentor and support the provision of services. Partners in Serbia are working closely with the Primary Health Centre in Preševo and Šid and the relevant regional Institutes of Public Health to ensure quality support to mothers, implementation of national standards and linkages with the public system. During the second half of January, UNICEF facilitated a session on measurement and identification of acute malnourishment (with focus on mid upper arm circumference), as well as four IYCF in emergency sessions for 43 front-line workers and nurses in Preševo and Adaševci. In addition, UNICEF in Serbia has finalised the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on IYCF in Emergencies, highlighting operating principles, key steps and standards for establishing and operating mother and baby spaces in transit centres in Serbia. The SOPs are based on international standards and are being adapted to the current response.

## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)



UNICEF continues to support WASH infrastructure, procuring hygiene kits and promoting good hygiene practices among refugee and migrant children and their families. In January 2016, 7,687 babies and young children received diapers and other hygiene items in UNICEF MBSs. In addition, to respond to the immediate needs of people on the move in Western Turkey, UNICEF, distributed through its national partners, 315 family and baby hygiene kits benefitting 591 children in the provinces of İzmir, Çanakkale, Kırklareli, Muğla and Edirne.

issuance of documents and permissions to find appropriate and safe solutions for their onward journey and family reunification. Following a number of consultations with the Bulgarian Government, several conflicting legislative acts were identified with regard to the protection of unaccompanied and separated refugee and migrant children, and UNICEF will provide in-depth analysis recommendations to establish a working protection mechanism for children arriving in Bulgaria.



*On 7 January 2016, a woman dresses a child in warm clothes received at the UNICEF distribution point in the Winter Reception Transit Center in Slavonski Brod Croatia. Many children arrive with acute respiratory infections due to winter conditions. Almost 3000 refugees transit the Center daily. After registration and receiving basic services and supplies, refugees and migrants are boarded back to trains which take them to Slovenia. © UNICEF/UN07723/Kliaio*

In Croatia, UNICEF is leading the IYCF working group in implementing specific recommendations developed with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), such as implementation of the infection control protocol, placing bilingual hygiene and care-practices signage and food labelling for beneficiaries, coordination surrounding required procurements, and ongoing training of staff.

On 8 January, UNICEF delivered a submersible pump and pressure vessel to Tabanovce, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, to provide a back-up water supply to the transit centre, as the borehole and submersible pump is the only water supply to the centre. Meanwhile, construction of the UNICEF-funded toilet block and septic tank system in Gevgelija is moving forward. UNICEF's expert on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene continues assessing the situation in Preševo, Miratovac, Šid, Principovac, Adaševci and Dimitrovgrad, Serbia.

## Winterization



To address the needs of children on the move in harsh winter conditions, UNICEF continues to support the provision of heated shelter capacity and distribution of winter clothes and shoes. In January 2016, 20,138 children received winter clothes and shoes in the former Yugoslav Republic of

Macedonia, Serbia and Croatia. Due to low temperatures, UNICEF in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has procured winter items to cover the needs of further 9,000 refugee and migrant babies and children during the first three months of the year.

## Data Collection and Innovation



In December 2015, UNICEF conducted a survey in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to analyse the situation of children on the move in South-Eastern Europe, and has now published and shared the results with the Macedonian Government and partners on the ground. Although not representative, the findings from the survey indicate that: Main stress factor for children on the move is the fear of violence and being attacked during their journey; Children arriving in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia lack appropriate clothing, which requires particular attention in view of the low temperatures; Few children on the move receive fruits and meat, and age-

appropriate nutrition is a serious concern; Children have little access to health services, and girls are less likely to seek health support; Children, who travel alone often do not have any family in the country of final destination, which raises concerns about their protection.

With support from the Kosovo (UNSCR 1244) Innovation Unit, UNICEF in Serbia has conceptualized and tested solutions for real-time monitoring and gathering more reliable information on children to support response planning to the needs of children on the move. The application is expected to be ready to use in MBSs by the end of February, followed by separate applications for CFS and distribution.

## Education



UNICEF has developed a work plan to provide early learning and childhood development within CFS in at least 100 temporary accommodation centres, as part of an integrated response to the refugee and migrant crisis in Germany. UNICEF is working with the German Red Cross to jointly develop model CFS in two temporary accommodation centres identified in Berlin with a focus on early learning and

play, which will be documented and scaled up to five priority states in April and May.

In addition, UNICEF has made available a resource package of educational and recreational materials (on paper, TV, online) in languages of origin of refugee and migrant children in Serbia and Croatia. The materials can be used in Children, schools or other spaces for learning and recreation.

## Other Developments

In Germany, UNICEF is working closely with the Ministry of Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth and other partners to define detailed plans for the scope and geographic focus of UNICEF's technical support. Initial intervention will focus on capacity building and mentoring to strengthen the protection of children and women; training and support for the establishment of Child Friendly Spaces; and support with materials and training to offer structured learning and play programmes for young children. On request from the German Government, UNICEF developed guidance on child protection and gender-sensitive minimum standards for new centres for refugees or renovation of existing structures at commune level, funded by a KfW financing programme. UNICEF also provided a FAQ on mainstreaming child protection standards in designing, planning and management of accommodation centres that will help the German authorities to better understand how to enhance the protection of children and women in the accommodations centres.



*Children walk around the refugee shelter at Templehof Airfield in Berlin. Templehof Airfield is a former airport dating back to the 1920s, and was used during the Berlin Airlift in 1948. The hangers are today are housing 2,000 refugees, and while designed for transiting within two weeks, many families living there have been there since the shelter opened 6 weeks ago. © UNICEF/UN04020/Gilbertson VII Photo*

## SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME RESULTS

the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia					
PERFORMANCE MONITORING INDICATORS	2016 TARGETS	Cumulative Results Since Jan. 2016		Change since last Update	
<b>CHILD PROTECTION</b>					
# of children (boys and girls) received psychosocial support in family support hubs, child friendly spaces and mother-baby corner	100,000	14,300 (incl. 98 children with disabilities)		14,300 (incl. 98 children with disabilities)	
		Boys 6,880	Girls 7,420	Boys 6,880	Girls 7,420
# of frontline workers trained on child protection standards/child protection in emergencies	150	0		0	
<b>HEALTH &amp; NUTRITION</b>					
# of babies/small children accessed mother and baby centre nutrition services	21,200	Partners not yet reporting			
<b>WASH and NFIs</b>					
# of children received NFIs to protect them from weather conditions and assisted with other Non-Food Items	54,000	8,897		8,897	
		Boys 4,171	Girls 4,726	Boys 4,171	Girls 4,726
<b>Serbia</b>					
PERFORMANCE MONITORING INDICATORS	2016 TARGETS	Cumulative Results Since Jan. 2016		Change since last Update	
<b>CHILD PROTECTION</b>					
# of children (boys and girls) received psychosocial support in family support hubs, child friendly spaces and mother-baby corner	100,000	8,647 children (incl. 29 children with disabilities)		8,647 children (incl. 29 children with disabilities)	
		Boys 4,405	Girls 4,242	Boys 4,405	Girls 4,242
# of frontline workers trained on child protection standards/child protection in emergencies	200	40		40	
<b>HEALTH &amp; NUTRITION</b>					
# of babies/small children accessed mother and baby centre nutrition services	21,800	727		727	
# of women benefited from infant and young child feeding counselling and awareness sessions at family support hubs, child friendly spaces and mother-baby corners	10,800	687		687	
# of children provided referrals from child-friendly spaces and mother-baby corners to health and medical services	Not applicable	203		203	
# of women provided referrals from child-friendly spaces and mother-baby corners to health and medical services	Not applicable	80		80	
<b>WASH and NFIs</b>					
# of children received NFIs to protect them from weather conditions and assisted with other Non-Food Items	54,000	4,541		4,541	
# of babies received baby hygiene items through CFS, MBCs and other distributions	16,200	1,166		1,166	
<b>Croatia</b>					
PERFORMANCE MONITORING INDICATORS	2016 TARGETS	Cumulative Results Since Jan. 2016		Change since last Update	
<b>CHILD PROTECTION</b>					
# of children (boys and girls) received psychosocial support in family support hubs, child friendly spaces and mother-baby corner	100,000	8,688		8,688 (incl. 7 children with disabilities**)	

# of frontline workers trained on child protection standards/child protection in emergencies	150	0	0
<b>HEALTH &amp; NUTRITION</b>			
# of babies/small children accessed mother and baby centre nutrition services	15,000	323	323
# of women benefited from infant and young child feeding counselling and awareness sessions at family support hubs, child friendly spaces and mother-baby corners	9,000	728	728
<b>WASH and NFIs</b>			
# of children received NFIs to protect them from weather conditions and assisted with other Non-Food Items	54,000	6,771	6,771
# of babies received baby hygiene items through CFS, MBCs and other distributions	14,000	1,891	1,891

Notes: In the current set-up, child-friendly spaces operate within the sectors in the WRTC. These sectors however are only open and operate in case authorities managing the WRTC require refugees and migrants to remain on-site longer than the average time needed for registration and movement onward to Slovenia. As a result, the non-mobile Child Friendly Spaces operate only on days when the sectors are open for the time that they remain open, which happened only for one day in January. The Child and Family Support Hub in Slavonski Brod encompasses the whole facility with different services points, with the MBCF in Slavonski Brod working 24/7 as a part of the processing/registration part of the WRTC.

\*\* The number of CwD refers only to number of children attended in the MBCF

## Slovenia

PERFORMANCE MONITORING INDICATORS	2016 TARGETS	Cumulative Result Since Jan. 2016		Change since last Update	
<b>CHILD PROTECTION</b>					
# of children (boys and girls) received psychosocial support in family support hubs, child friendly spaces and mother-baby corner	100,000	556		556	
		Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
		280	276	280	276

## Turkey

PERFORMANCE MONITORING INDICATORS	2016 TARGETS	Cumulative Result Since Jan. 2016		Change since last Update	
<b>CHILD PROTECTION</b>					
# of frontline workers trained on child protection standards/child protection in emergencies	60	0		0	
# of at-risk children identified through screening by outreach teams and child protection support centres	2,000	200		200	
<b>NFIs</b>					
# of children receiving non-food items	20,000	591		591	

## Communications and Advocacy



UNICEF made the news in the past month across major agenda-setting media - from The Guardian to The New York Times, El Periodico, RFI, to Frankfurter Rundschau, SVT Swedish radio and Newsweek - with news notes, briefings and interviews with key spokespeople in several languages on: positioning around Europol's 'missing children'; new data showing more children and women on the move than men; and UNICEF warning about impact of a harsh winter at a time of the World Meteorological Organisation's alert on extreme conditions for South-Eastern Europe.

"The implications of this surge in the proportion of children and women on the move are enormous — it means more are at risk at sea, especially now in the winter, and more need protection on land," warned Marie-Pierre Poirier, UNICEF's

special coordinator for the refugee and migrant crisis in Europe. (New York Times)

Children now more than one third of all refugees, UNICEF says (CNN)

On 15 January the Palermo Call - highlighting ten priorities for governments to protect the rights of refugee and migrant children in Europe – was tabled at an event convened by UNICEF National Committee in Italy, the Italian Government and the EU Parliament in Palermo, Italy. The Palermo document will be part of UNICEF's Advocacy and Communication work on the refugee and migrant crisis in 2016.

In all countries where children are on the move, as well as countries of destination, such as Germany, UNICEF is

advocating through its Country Offices and National Committees for the protection of the rights of refugee and migrant children, their access to services and aligning asylum procedures with their best interests of the child. A result of

successful advocacy by UNICEF National Committee in Germany was the development of a strategy by the Ministry of Family in response to the refugee and migrant crisis.

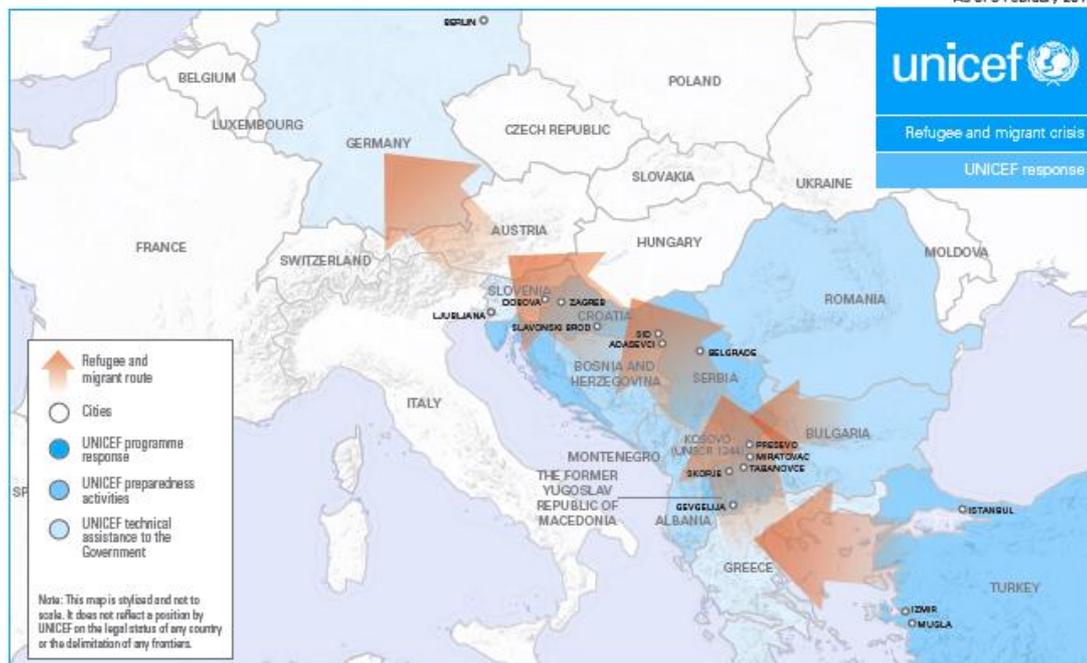
## UNICEF response to the refugee and migrant crisis in Europe

as of 9 February 2016

**433,203**  
child asylum applications  
were registered  
in the EU between January and  
November 2015\*

**37%**  
of refugees and migrants  
registered in the former  
Yugoslav Republic of  
Macedonia in January  
2016 were children

\* Source Eurostat, as of 9 February 2016



Refugee and migrant route  
 Cities  
 UNICEF programme response  
 UNICEF preparedness activities  
 UNICEF technical assistance to the Government  
  
 Note: This map is stylized and not to scale. It does not reflect a position by UNICEF on the legal status of any country or the delimitation of any frontiers.

TURKEY	THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA	SERBIA	CROATIA	SLOVENIA	GERMANY
<p>Legend of UNICEF response activities:</p> ADVOCACY AWARENESS RAISING CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES CHILD PROTECTION COMMUNICATION DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS ON CHILDREN HEALTH INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES (ICT) NUTRITION POLICY AND TECHNICAL ADVICE PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT WASH WINTER NON-FOOD ITEMS NFI					

## Next SitRep: 16/03/2016

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