



Refugee and Migrant Crisis in Europe

Humanitarian Situation Report # 17

14 NOVEMBER 2016

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Highlights

- *Despite the deteriorating weather conditions and increasingly dangerous Mediterranean, October 2016 saw a spike in the number of refugees and migrants arriving on Italian shores. The 27,300 new arrivals, of whom an estimated 4,300 children, represent a three-fold increase compared to the same period last year.*
- *In October 2016, 2,753 children played, rested, learned and received psychosocial support in UNICEF-supported facilities in Greece, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia. At least 940 babies and children were reached with infant and young child feeding (IYCF) and nutrition support. More than 1,650 children received winter clothes, shoes and other basic supplies.*
- *October saw some commendable efforts to improve the situation of refugee and migrant children, including significant progress in the legislation process on refugee and migrant unaccompanied and separated children in Italy, and an enhanced enrolment of refugee and migrant children into Greek schools.*

275,010

of child asylum-seekers in Europe between January and September 2016 (Eurostat, 25 October 2016)

83,803

of child arrivals in Europe by sea between January and September 2016 (UNHCR, 11 November 2016)

700

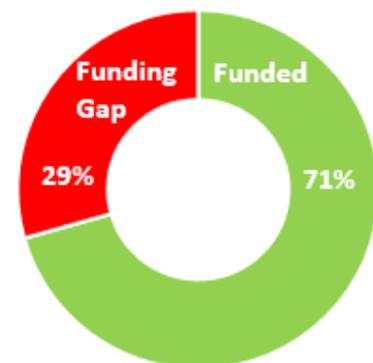
of estimated child fatalities at sea between January and November 2016 (IOM, 7 November 2016)

1,698

of children relocated from Greece and Italy under the EU relocation scheme (IOM, 15 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 ¹	90,500	89,525
Number of infants (under 2) accessed mother and baby care centre nutrition services ²	7,180	8,691
Number of children received basic supplies (including clothing and baby hygiene items) to protect them from weather conditions and keep good personal hygiene ³	90,160	123,700

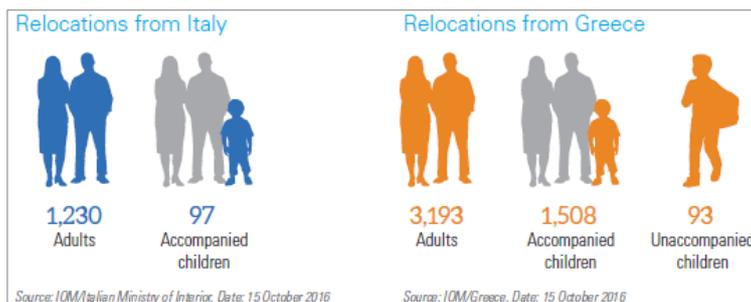
1. Results and targets aggregated from Croatia, Greece, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Slovenia.
 2. Results and targets aggregated from Croatia, Greece, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia
 3. Results and targets aggregated from Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia and Turkey.
 Please see additional footnotes on results in the body of the report.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Despite the deteriorating weather conditions and increasingly dangerous Mediterranean, October 2016 saw a spike in the number of refugees and migrants on Italian shores. The 27,300 new arrivals, of whom an estimated 4,300 children, represent a three-fold increase compared to the same period last year. Moreover, between January and the beginning of November 2016 the number of unaccompanied and separated children on the Central Mediterranean route reached 22,775- around 10,500 more than during all of 2015. Many of them are believed to have experienced different forms of violence, abuse or exploitation along their journey, which exposes them to further risks upon their arrival in Europe¹. Child fatalities at sea have also kept increasing, currently estimated at 700 in less than a year².

During the first nine months of 2016, more than 275,000 children claimed asylum in Europe. Many of them have been waiting for extended periods of time before authorities consider their asylum claims, or even register these claims (sometimes exceeding 2 to 3 times the maximum EU legal timeframe of 6 months³). Moreover, recently there has been a worrying trend of forced return of refused asylum seekers towards the Western Balkans, including families with children and unaccompanied and separated children (UASC).

With the slow pace of relocation from Greece and Italy many children are trying to continue their journey towards their intended country of destination with the help of smugglers. The relocation process thus far provided only 1,700 children⁴ with a safe legal pathway from both countries. In Greece, this represents less than 5 per cent of children in need and only around 10 per cent of children eligible for relocation. Slow relocation of people, coupled with tighter border control across south-eastern Europe, has resulted in an ever higher number of refugees and migrants stranded in Serbia and Bulgaria- the two currently hosting around 12,000 people⁵, including some 4,500 children.



October saw some commendable efforts to improve the situation of refugee and migrant children, including significant progress in the legislation process on refugee and migrant unaccompanied and separated children in Italy, and an enhanced enrolment of refugee and migrant children into Greek schools. The latest draft legislative changes in Italy propose to prohibit refusal of entry to UASC, and set the ground for scale-up of foster care modalities for refugee and migrant children and their access to more quality services. In Greece, on the other hand, the Government has stepped up integration of refugee and migrant children into the formal education system, with an initial phase in October benefitting 600 children from 6 accommodation sites.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

GREECE

Child Protection: UNICEF continued scaling up its child protection activities for children and caregivers from 5 sites in Attika and Epirus regions, as well as in the Victoria square Blue Dot, where children benefit from daily recreational activities, parenting and reproductive health counselling, as well as psychosocial support and legal counselling. In October, more than 700 children and care-givers, including 54 newly registered children, participated in UNICEF-supported activities in the Blue Dot in Victoria square. Due to the increased demand for services, UNICEF is expanding its case management and referral capacity in Athens. So far services in the five new locations have reached 324 children with psychosocial support, 48 people have been referred to medical services, 65 received legal counselling and 45 UASC and vulnerable adults have been referred to off-site accommodation. To increase the capacity and skills of frontline workers in newly-established Blue Dots, UNICEF organised a three-day training – a practice which will be replicated in other locations in Central Macedonia and Epirus regions.

As part of efforts to improve the mental and psychological wellbeing of refugees and migrants in the Attika region, during the reporting period, UNICEF conducted a detailed mapping of mental health services in camps across the Attika region and capacity-building and coaching sessions were organised for frontline workers to provide peer counselling.

¹ According to Italian authorities, on average 15 per cent of identified victims of trafficking in Italy are children.

² Based on IOM reported child fatalities in the Eastern Mediterranean and an estimation that around 16 per cent of all fatalities in the Central Mediterranean are of children.

³ Article 31, EU Asylum Procedures Directive

⁴ Source: IOM, as of mid-October 2016. For more information and statistics on children relocated from Greece and Italy please check UNICEF's latest [Dashboard on Asylum and Relocation](#).

⁵ UNICEF- Serbia and UNICEF-Bulgaria

UNICEF continues to support the Greek institutions in identifying appropriate accommodation solutions and alternatives to detention for UASC through a two-track approach- direct service provision and technical assistance. UNICEF is currently working on the replication in Athens of the small-scale temporary shelter for UASC on Lesbos, where 16 children are currently benefitting from individual counselling and activities to facilitate their social inclusion. In addition, with the aim to inform the Greek Government's efforts to better manage the caseload of UASC, UNICEF in close partnership with UNHCR and the Child Protection Working Group in Greece, supported the finalization of a rapid lessons learned assessment on UASC Safe Spaces.

Education: UNICEF is currently scaling up its education programme, expanding school capacity in Skaramangas camp and ten additional sites in the Attika, Epirus and Central Macedonia regions, targeting 2,850 children with quality education activities, including English and mother tongue classes, psychosocial support and early learning, as well as parenting advice and support for caregivers

Child Rights Monitoring: As part of efforts to strengthen the Greek system to monitor child rights violations and improve the care and protection for refugee, migrant and other vulnerable groups of children, the Greek Deputy Ombudsperson for children convened a first of a series of consultations with local civil society organisations in Thessaloniki to establish a civil society network for refugee and migrant children. The expected outcome is continuous real-time trends monitoring and joint advocacy for the rights of refugee and migrant children in Greece.

Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (WASH): UNICEF continues its work with partners to ensure the provision of safe drinking water, sanitary facilities and hygiene promotion in three locations in Northern Greece, along with regular water testing in Skaramangas camp. On the occasion of World Handwashing Day, UNICEF supported the organisation of two workshops for 120 children to explain and promote handwashing and other good hygiene practices.

TURKEY⁶

Child protection: In October, UNICEF strengthened the referral pathways and improved the quality of primary services available for children at risk. As part of these efforts, UNICEF and UNHCR led a consultative process with civil society organisations to identify and address existing gaps in the national child protection referral system, with the aim of strengthening case management practices for refugee and migrant children. Meanwhile, UNICEF-supported outreach teams working along the western coast of Turkey identified and referred 3,111 refugee and migrant children (including 72 UASC) to appropriate services such as legal counselling, psychosocial support and medical assistance.

In addition, nearly 8,300 Syrian refugee children (4246 girls, 4029 boys) benefitted from psychosocial support and recreational activities in child and adolescent-friendly spaces in camps and host communities across the country.

Education: In October, UNICEF and the Ministry of National Education concluded an intensive country-wide Back to School campaign for Syrian and Turkish children, which has resulted in over 470,000 refugee children enrolled in temporary education centres and Turkish state schools across the country.

Basic Needs: In preparation for the upcoming winter season, UNICEF is planning to provide cash-based assistance to approximately 31,200 vulnerable families and children, aiming to cover expenses on much-needed items and clothing.

THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Child Protection: UNICEF continues to support case management of refugee and migrant children in coordination with other child protection actors on the ground. To improve the quality of psycho-social service provision, UNICEF is supporting a new capacity-building project of the State chamber of psychologists for frontline workers (psychologists and social workers). In addition, UNICEF supported training sessions for border police and other state authorities in contact with refugee and migrant children, sensitizing them on existing standard operating procedures for UASC and other vulnerable groups of children.

Education: In October, all refugee and migrant children in transit centres in Tabanovce and Gevgelija had access to UNICEF-supported structured education activities, along



*Children and families from Tabanovce Transit Centre visit the Skopje ZOO- their first outing of the centre in seven months.
@La Strada- the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*

⁶ More about UNICEF child protection response in Turkey can be found in the Turkey single situation report and the situation report on the response to the Syrian crisis.

with extracurricular opportunities such as sports, music, dance, etc. In parallel, UNICEF is providing technical assistance to Government institutions to access to the national education system for refugee and migrant children.

SERBIA

Child Protection: UNICEF and partners continue with organization of psycho-social support, recreational and other child-friendly activities in Krnjača, Šid and Preševo, as well as in the newly-opened accommodation centre in Bujanovac. UNICEF developed Minimum Standards for child-friendly Spaces, adapted to the Serbian context, as a guidance for its partners on the ground. In addition, in partnership with the Keeping Children Safe Network and the International Federation of the Red Cross, UNICEF is supporting the organisation of orientation sessions on child safeguarding policies for management and senior staff of child protection organisations in Serbia (November-December 2016).

As part of efforts to ensure timely and adequate care for refugee and migrant children, including UASC, UNICEF continues to support social welfare centres in Preševo, Belgrade, Subotica, Šid and Bujanovac. As a result of increased collaboration with local social welfare actors, in October 291 UASC have been identified, referred and provided with assistance.

Education: To improve the quality of learning activities and respond to the capacity needs of frontline workers in the education sector, UNICEF developed and conducted training on the implementation of structured non-formal education programmes for State authorities, UN agencies and civil society organisations. Due to the high interest, additional capacity-building initiatives are being planned. In addition, a training package is being developed for education institutions and regional school administrations to facilitate the inclusion of refugee and migrant children into the national education system.

Health and Nutrition: UNICEF keeps supporting mother-and-baby corners in Preševo, Bujanovac and Šid, while outreach nurses from the local Primary Health Centers in Subotica and Kanjiža are providing support to mothers and their infants at the northern border with Hungary. UNICEF is also working on expanding capacity to support breastfeeding and IYCF for refugee and migrant children in Belgrade.



Smiling children wait to receive new winter clothes by UNICEF partners in Adaševci, Serbia. ©UNICEF Serbia/2016/Emil Vas

Continuous consultations with the National Institute of Public Health aim to adapt national recommendations for nutrition of children under 5 to the specific needs of refugee and migrant children across the country.

Basic needs and supplies: In October, 1,117 refugee and migrant children in Preševo, Bujanovac, Šid, Belgrade, Banja Koviljača, Sjenica, Tutin, Krnjača, Adaševci and Principovac, as well as at the northern border with Hungary received winter clothes, boots and other winter supplies.

CROATIA

Child Protection: In partnership with the Croatian Government, UNICEF hosted an international conference “*On the move and alone: How to respond effectively to the needs of unaccompanied and separated children in Southeast Europe?*” (13-14 October 2016). The event gathered representatives from 9 countries in the region and created a platform to build on lessons learned and identify good practices for the protection of refugee and migrant UASC. The conference reminded stakeholders of the risks faced by [hundreds of UASC across Southeast Europe](#) and calling for greater attention to their plight.

UNICEF continues monitoring and responding to the needs of refugee and migrant children through an integrated package of activities in the “asylum centre in Zagreb, including regular counselling on health and protection issues. On average, between 30 and 40 children participate on a daily basis.

SLOVENIA

UNICEF ensures continuous age-appropriate activities for children and caregivers in asylum centres in Ljubljana and Logatec. New activities for refugee and migrant children in Slovenia include enrolment in different sports activities in collaboration with the Olympic Committee of Slovenia and workshops on developing cartoons, which will be featured during the 9th national Festival of Culture and Art.

UNICEF-supported extra-curricular and after-school activities for refugee and migrant children have successfully contributed to their integration into the national education system, while work with parents, and especially mothers, have had a positive impact and motivation, facilitating their inclusion into Slovenian society.

BULGARIA

In October 2016, UNICEF signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the State Agency for Refugees aiming to ensure adequate and safe accommodation for refugee and migrant women and children and establish monitoring systems to follow the application of international protection standards for children and women in Bulgarian asylum centres. In addition, UNICEF conducted training on 6-7 October on child rights and child protection concerns for the Border Police, the Migration Departments of the National Migration Directorate and the Social Service Departments along the borders with Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Romania, as well as other relevant State authorities.

UNICEF continued to respond to the needs of UASC in closed facilities through a combination of provision of legal counselling, public advocacy and technical assistance to the government. In September, all monitored children were informed about their legal situation, the risks of irregular movement and family tracing options, 79 children received legal aid and 1 new case was brought to justice requesting immediate release from detention. These efforts are followed by continuous advocacy to end detention of refugee and migrant children and provision of technical assistance to national authorities to identify community-based alternatives to detention, such as interim care facilities.

GERMANY

In collaboration with the Family Ministry and the German Foundation for Youth, UNICEF organised two out of seven planned regional conferences aiming to familiarize State and local authorities with the Minimum Standards for the Protection of Children, Adolescents and Women in Asylum Centres. This activity generated increased interest amongst the practitioners prompting UNICEF to plan to accommodate requests for additional guidance and training opportunities related to development and implementation of protection strategies (i.e. beyond the facilitator's guide and toolbox).

UNICEF has initiated an assessment of child rights monitoring systems in place and implementation of minimum protection standards in 25 asylum and reception centres throughout Germany. This is complemented by a survey to assess implementation of the minimum protection standards and identification of training needs. The results will feed into a coaching strategy to help centers develop and operationalize their own protection concepts.

ITALY

UNICEF continued to support cultural mediation and health services in Lampedusa for women and children, who have experienced abuse during their journey to Italy, and in October 11 children travelling with their families, 5 women and 4 UASC were assisted and referred to specialized services. In early November, the One UNICEF Response team discussed strategic areas of engagement with the Ministry of Interior which expressed appreciation and support for UNICEF's continued engagement. UNICEF is also building a partnership with CNCA (Coordinamento Nazionale delle Comunita d'Accoglienza) to promote alternative care for refugee and migrant UASC in emergency shelters, such as foster care, which will also positively affect their social inclusion.

In addition, based on the assessment of the pilot project aiming to strengthen minimum protection standards in first reception centres, a protocol has been developed with the Municipality of Palermo to define next steps in cooperation with UNICEF's such as implementation of relevant legal provisions, capacity-building, reinforcement of the local network of services, operationalization of minimum standards, and piloting of support family, as well as adolescent's participation.

Communications and Advocacy

With an official [Statement from 12 October](#), UNICEF's Special Coordinator for the Refugee and Migrant Crisis in Europe Marie-Pierre Poirier welcomed the commitment in France and the UK to find solutions for refugee and migrant children living in the Calais "Jungle" and called for even greater commitment by all the authorities, not only as part of their legal duty to children, but of their moral obligation to protect all children who have been uprooted. On the occasion of the European Anti-Trafficking Day (18 October) and throughout the past month, UNICEF's advocacy focused on the protection of refugee and migrant children against risks of exploitation, smuggling, trafficking and other forms of abuse and violence. A new [Advocacy Brief on Exploitation, Trafficking and Smuggling](#) analyses the risks faced by refugee and migrant children on the move and in Europe, and calls for their protection through enhanced child protection systems and transnational collaboration, efficient legal pathways (family reunification, resettlement, relocation), guardianship, legal assistance, etc. In parallel, UNICEF together with UNHCR and IRC, has been leading a process of consultations on UASC with experts from European countries of arrival, transit and destination, aiming to define a roadmap for the improved protection of refugee and migrant UASC. The outcome document will be shared with all concerned Governments and will contribute to the discussions during the High Commissioner's Dialog on Protection Challenges (8-9 December 2016). In addition, UNICEF strongly advocated on the protection of refugee and migrant children during a high-level Conference called by the Estonian Government.

UNICEF advocacy asks for Europe translated into specific country asks, including for the protection of refugee and migrant children in Calais, for the adoption of new legislation on UASC in Italy and the non-detention of children in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. As a result of joint UNICEF and UNHCR advocacy in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, in partnership with the Ombudsman and the Red Cross, all children in Tabanovce Transit centre are now allowed to go out of the centre 3 times per month. Continued advocacy efforts will aim to further improve this and include children in all other locations accommodating refugees and migrants.

In line with the advocacy asks, UNICEF external communication raised a strong voice for children across Europe, focusing on the [recent loss of children's lives in the Central Mediterranean](#), the [record number of refugee and migrant UASC in Italy](#) in 2016, the [call to the Italian Parliament to pass a bill providing support for record number of UASC](#), and the [call to the European Council to address the plight of refugee and migrant children](#), reiterating UNICEF's 6 advocacy asks.

SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME RESULTS - as of 1 November 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 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	17,421	45
	Greece	6000	1476	422
	Serbia	30,200	33,738	2,118
	Slovenia	3,200	3,606	77
	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	33,000	33,284	91
Number of frontline workers trained on child protection standards/child protection in emergencies	Croatia	200	179	50
	Germany ¹	2,000	50	-
	Greece	200	51	4
	Serbia	200	376	18
	Slovenia	500	83	
	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	150	229	-
	Turkey	60	128	49
Number of children at-risk (including UASC) identified and referred to specialised care/services	Greece	2000	284	33
	Turkey	6000	9,560	3,111
HEALTH AND NUTRITION				
Number of infants (under 2) accessed mother and baby care centre nutrition services	Croatia	1,600	1,558	9
	Greece	600	185	22
	Serbia ²	3,400	5,356	901
	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	1,580	1,592	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	1673	24
	Greece	1,200	280	7
	Serbia ⁴	3,500	4,322	371
	Slovenia	150	83	

	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	110	123	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	16,599	30
	Greece	10,000	779	779
	Serbia	21,200	24496	813
	Slovenia	400	83	0
	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	20,960	21,152	29
	Turkey	30,000	60,591	387
Children and women with access to safe drinking water	Greece	10,000	1,046	296
Children and women with access to appropriate sanitation facilities/ toilets	Greece	10,000	3,683	403
Children and women reached with hygiene promotion and awareness activities	Greece	10,000	3,799	999

EDUCATION

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

Notes:

1. In Germany UNICEF is providing training to all staff in asylum and accommodation centres, including coordinators and managers.
2. Results also include activities where infants above 2 also receive support based on needs identified on the ground. Results for Serbia under the first Nutrition and Health indicator include children reached in September, who were not reflected in last month's situation report
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.
5. In Greece, 650 children have continuous access to education activities. This number will increase as coverage of UNICEF-supported education activities is expanded.

**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, British Council, ELIX, Apostoli and Finn Church Aid 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, WAHA and PIC in Slovenia;*

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	6,830,397	3,169,603	32%
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	3,382,142	21,854	1%
Regional and global					
Advocacy, communications, technical support and preparedness	3,488,000	4,193,275	4,020,160	173,115	4%
Total	\$30,822,000	\$31,375,228	\$22,159,262	\$9,215,966	29%

