



Refugee and Migrant Crisis in Europe

Humanitarian Situation Report # 30

End of Year 2018

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Highlights

- In 2018, some 141,500 refugees and migrants arrived in Europe through the Mediterranean migration routes. On average one in every four was a child. This included an estimated 6,000 unaccompanied and separated children.
- In 2018, UNICEF-supported child protection activities in Greece, Italy, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Germany reached over 28,000 children, while another 18,900 children benefitted from UNICEF-supported formal and non-formal education activities.
- Some 4,550-people accessed gender-based violence prevention and response services, and close to 1,200 social workers and other frontline professionals benefitted from capacity-building on child protection standards and child protection in emergencies.
- Beyond life-saving services, UNICEF also engaged with governments and civil society to ensure sustainability through improved human resources capacities and more robust national child protection and education systems.
- While 2018 presented a major opportunity for the improved protection of children on the move and seeking asylum in European States with the adoption of the Global Compacts on Refugees and on Migration, many challenges remain. Hardening migration and asylum policies and legislation, rescue boats stranded at sea, push-backs at borders, long stays in sub-standard reception facilities, xenophobia and limited access to services and legal pathways towards durable solutions continue to affect refugee and migrant children.

141,500

of arrivals by sea and land in Europe through Greece, Bulgaria, Italy and Spain between January and December 2018 (UNHCR, 10 January 2019)

34,200

Estimated # of children among all arrivals by sea and land in Greece, Bulgaria, Italy and Spain in 2018 (UNHCR, 10 January 2019)

159,000

of child asylum-seekers in Europe between January and December 2018 (Eurostat, 10 January 2019)

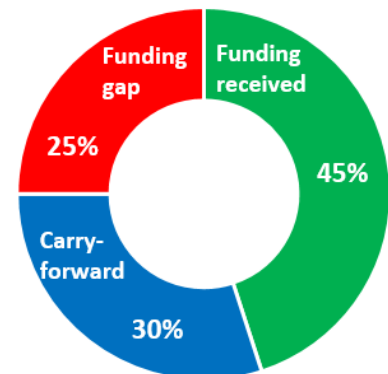
29,300

of estimated children present in Greece and the rest of the Balkans in December 2018 (UNICEF, 10 January 2019)

UNICEF Appeal 2018
US\$ 34,184 ,000

UNICEF RESULTS WITH PARTNERS (EXTRACTS)	UNICEF and Partners Response	
	Targets 2018	Total Results 2018
# of children reached with quality child protection support (MHPSS, legal counselling and case management) and protection standards*	22,600	27,935
# of children including adolescents participating in structured formal and non-formal education activities**	19,250	18,875
# of frontline workers trained on child protection standards/ child protection in emergencies*	4,500	3,167

*Combines results in Greece, Italy, Bulgaria, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Germany
 ** Combines results in Greece, Italy, Bulgaria, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina



Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

In 2018, some 141,500 refugees and migrants arrived in Europe through the Eastern, Central and Western Mediterranean migration routes. On average one in every four of them was a child (UNHCR). This included an estimated 6,000 unaccompanied and separated children. While overall sea arrivals have dropped by almost 20 per cent as compared to 2017 following measures to stop crossings through the Central Mediterranean route, other Mediterranean routes in the East and West saw increased influx. In fact, in 2018 half of all newly arrived refugee and migrant children in Europe were registered in Greece (some 17,200 children) with another 35 per cent in Spain. Most of them fled conflict, violence, insecurity and lack of opportunities in the Middle East, South Asia, East and West Africa.

2018 presented a major opportunity for the improved protection of children on the move and seeking asylum in Europe with the adoption of the Global Compact on Migration by 152 Member States, who made important commitments for upholding children's best interests in all situations, reaffirming the principle of family unity, and ensuring children have access to services such as health, education and case management. In many instances, local and national authorities have already been acting on improving legislation, strengthening protection standards (e.g. Germany, Greece, Italy) and making public schools more inclusive and welcoming to refugee and migrant children (Bulgaria, Greece and Serbia).

Nevertheless, migration has been high on the political agenda across Europe, leading to increased political division and hardening national migration and asylum policies (e.g. limited access to international protection, accelerated returns and criminalization of humanitarian assistance). This was coupled with ongoing restrictions to search and rescue operations in the Central Mediterranean resulting in refugees and migrants stranded at sea, as well as tightened border control and violent push-backs at borders in the Balkans and in Western Europe. Hate crimes and discrimination have also been on the rise.

Reception conditions, particularly for unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), remain a major concern, especially in countries of arrival, due to insufficient alternative care arrangements and increasing immigration detention, including as a "protective custody" measure. In Greece, for example, the number of refugee and migrant UASC in first reception and identification centres (RICs) and protective custody together has increased by close to 60 per cent compared to December 2017, reaching some 790 UASC. Similar practices have also been observed in Bulgaria and Spain.

Refugee and migrant children across Europe still have insufficient access to information, durable solutions and services such as legal aid, health, education, protection (mental health and psychosocial support, guardianship, case-management, foster care arrangements, etc.). Such situations deprive them of their entitlements and lead to long-term negative effects on children's development and wellbeing, and heighten the risks of violence, abuse and trafficking.

Humanitarian Strategy and Coordination

In line with its Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, throughout 2018, UNICEF responded to the needs of children and women on the move and seeking asylum in Europe using a two-pronged approach combining life-saving humanitarian service delivery with capacity building, policy reform and technical assistance to national authorities.

Throughout the year, UNICEF sustained psychosocial support and other protection services, as well as mobile outreach teams to identify and refer at-risk children, while scaling up GBV prevention and response across all response countries to ensure refugee and migrant girls, boys, women and men have access to critical life-saving services and referral pathways. Education, skills building, and participation were another major pillar of the response, where UNICEF worked with national and local education authorities, Ombudspersons and civil society to keep children learning, equip them with skills and advance their social inclusion in host communities.

UNICEF programmatic interventions in high and upper middle-income countries continued to be optimized- scaling down direct service delivery while building national capacities and strengthening education and child protection systems to ensure sustainability. This also implied the closure of operations in Austria in April, followed by Germany in December 2018, in agreement with government authorities, National Committees for UNICEF and other partners. Support with regard to coordination, policy advice and knowledge generation continue to be provide remotely from the Regional Office.

UNICEF will continue to communicate and build strong partnerships and advocacy alliances with governments, the European Union, the Council of Europe, Ombudspersons for children and civil society actors to fulfil the rights of refugee and migrant children, as well as children affected by migration more broadly. Within the UN, UNICEF remains committed to close coordination on programming, advocacy and knowledge generation with key agencies such as UNHCR and IOM.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

GREECE

Over 50,000 refugees and migrants arrived in Greece by land and sea, including an estimated 17,000 children and a total of 2,369 UASC (32 per cent more compared to 2017). Despite multiple challenges, including overcrowding and protection risks in Reception and Identification Centres (RICs), 2018 was marked by improved legislation on guardianship and alternative care arrangements for UASC, as well as the expansion of afternoon reception classes in public schools for refugee and migrant children ahead of the new school year.

Child protection: UNICEF's Child and Family Support Hubs (CFSH) in four sites and six urban centres on the mainland, as well as on Lesbos Island, remained operational throughout 2018, providing critical psychosocial, protection and recreational services to some 10,400 refugee and migrant children and their caregivers. Through MoUs with the Municipality of Thessaloniki and Athens, UNICEF further enhanced local ownership of such services and standards across child protection, education and overall coordination.

Appropriate accommodation for refugee and migrant UASC, particularly for those who turn 18, remains an issue, as in December 2018 nearly 2,000 UASC remained on waiting lists for accommodation. In this context, UNICEF continued to support accommodation and services for UASC in five Safe Zones in the sites of Schisto, Thiva, Diavata, Lagadikia and Agia Eleni, and launched the pilot initiative, *Supported Independent Living*, targeting older adolescent unaccompanied children (16-17 years old) with the development of their independent living skills and eventual ageing out of care. Throughout the year, four apartments were providing accommodation for 12 unaccompanied children in total (including 2 girls). The success of this pilot is now being considered a viable model of alternative long-term accommodation and care opportunity by relevant government institutions in Greece.

To monitor needs in view of continuous arrivals, increasing levels of homelessness and growing numbers of children in protective custody, UNICEF also established monitoring and social services outreach in Northern Greece (including the Evros region).

Throughout the year, UNICEF continued to build the capacity of frontline practitioners on a range of child protection issues. To assess progress in these efforts and identify remaining structural bottlenecks facing shelters, a rapid impact assessment was also conducted. Findings were presented to EKKA and other relevant authorities in October 2018 to identify solutions and way forward.

Gender-Based Violence: UNICEF's gender-based violence programming continued to develop throughout 2018 with the establishment of a MoU with the General Secretariat for Gender Equality (GSGE) in June 2018 and new partnerships to carry out targeted GBV trainings with multi-disciplinary teams, educators and frontline workers, as well as GBV research on service accessibility.



*Art Exhibition on Gender-Based Violence, with artworks created by refugee and migrant children and adolescents, Thessaloniki, Greece
@UNICEF Greece/2018/Mintsidou*

In August UNICEF and the GSGE jointly organized an exhibit on GBV with artwork produced by refugees and migrants from across the country. Key messages were translated into English, Greek, Farsi and Arabic to reach both local and refugee/migrant communities. Following the exhibit, posters and postcards from selected drawings were produced for further distribution in conjunction with GSGE counterparts. The exhibit was re-launched in late November in Athens and Thessaloniki as part of celebrations around the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. The overall turnout was around 200 people.

Female Friendly Spaces within seven CFSHs saw increased attendance from the refugee/migrant women communities with a growing sense of ownership around the activities and events. Prevention and empowerment activities were held on a regular basis, reaching 2,858 women and girls with sessions on parenting skills, safety seminars, group discussions, art and music classes, cooking, drama therapy, etc.

Education: With the new school year starting in September, some 10,100 children aged 4-17 years old (with more in the process) were successfully enrolled in Greek public schools, especially in urban areas, where school enrolment reached 65 per cent. UNICEF contributed to this effort through advocacy with relevant authorities, sensitization with parents, support to school readiness through non-formal education activities over the summer, as well as interpretation for teachers and children in 12 languages in over 200 schools.

A number of teacher trainings were also organised to build capacity in schools around intercultural education and welcoming students from diverse backgrounds, benefitting over 450 teachers and trainers. In partnership with Greek universities and the Ministry of Education's regional departments, UNICEF also helped train over 800 formal and non-formal teachers on Greek as a second language, targeting primary and secondary teachers who are teaching reception classes as well as regular classes.

To take stock of various initiatives, in June UNICEF organized a 2-day lessons learned workshop with 80 representatives from the Ministry of Education. Some of the outcomes included more cultural initiatives to facilitate integration, the set-up of door-to-door outreach and mobile units (involving psychologists, social workers and interpreter) to facilitate communication between students, teachers, and principals to address some of the remaining issues around school access, attendance and quality learning.

In parallel, UNICEF maintained non-formal education activities to ensure children continue learning and get ready for public schools. Since the beginning of the year, some 4,800 children benefitted from UNICEF-supported non-formal education in Athens, Central and Northern Greece, as well as Lesbos Island. Great progress has been made in linking formal and non-formal education programmes in sites by facilitating meetings with formal school teachers and creating coherent homework support classes.

To support Greek-learning for refugee and migrant children, in February 2018, UNICEF started a pilot digital learning project, which is being tested with the aim to scale up in 2019.

Health: Following a request by the Government of Greece, UNICEF procured and delivered 23,000 doses of MMR vaccines for refugee and migrant children. Since June 2018, over 15,000 doses were dispatched to health service providers across Greece and 10,675 vaccinations were given to children as of the end of November.

Youth Participation: Through a new partnership with the National Theatre of Greece, UNICEF supported workshops with some 100 refugee and migrant children and produced a youth theatre piece which was presented to the public several times throughout the year.

Meanwhile, the Network for Children's Rights continued publishing editions of the youth-produced newspaper "Migratory Birds" in five languages (Greek, Farsi, Arabic, Urdu and English), with contributions from 188 refugee and migrant adolescents. The project has gained popularity and recognition and has been featured on various online media outlets.

During the summer, a football camp was also organised- primarily for 247 unaccompanied children, boys and girls, from shelters in urban Athens. The camp ran from June to August 2018 taught children important skills such as respect, teamwork and discipline.

Child Rights Monitoring: In 2018, UNICEF signed a MoU with the newly appointed Greek Deputy Ombudswoman for Children's Rights and continued joint efforts around child rights monitoring and advocacy in Greece. With UNICEF support, the Ombudswoman further strengthened cooperation with civil society on the use of official complaint mechanisms and concerted advocacy efforts (e.g. around harmonizing age assessment practices, monitoring UASC shelters and access to formal education). In 2018, the Network for the Rights of Children on the Move counted 27 members.

In June, UNICEF and the National Centre for Social Solidarity (EKKA) finalized the establishment of a national online database, which led to a faster prioritization and placement of unaccompanied children, as well as real-time monitoring of the availability of places, ensuring children are swiftly assigned and places. In 2018, EKKA processed 6,962 referrals- a 25 per cent increase compared to 2017.

ITALY

As a result of the shift in Italian policy and legislation on migration, aiming to stop irregular sea crossings, arrivals in Italy dropped by over 80 per cent as compared to 2017. Some 23,400 refugees and migrants were registered in 2018, including around 4,300 children (18 per cent), of whom 3,536 unaccompanied. Meanwhile, the number of UASC hosted in the reception system in Italy continued to decrease, reaching 11,339 in November 2018 (44 per cent drop compared to December 2017), mainly because many children have turned 18, or have left reception facilities and became untraceable¹. Over the past year, refugee and migrant children faced increasing stand-off at sea, instances of xenophobia and discrimination, and long asylum procedures. This coupled with



A scene from 'The Journey'- a youth theatre piece bringing together adolescent refugees, Greek teenagers and actors from the Greek National Theatre. @National Theatre Greece

¹ According to the Italian Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, as of November 2018, over 5,300 UASC were registered as missing from reception facilities where they were registered.

budgetary cuts on social inclusion and a new immigration law 132/2018 that has raised concerns over the protection of young refugees and migrants that turn 18.

Child Protection: In 2018, a major priority in UNICEF work in Italy was the improvement of child protection standards and access to services in reception facilities for UASC, which as of December benefitted a total of 22,191 children. Another 1,520 UASC who had dropped from the formal reception system, were identified in transiting areas and assisted with information and referral.

Moreover, UNICEF capacity building and technical support on child protection resulted in some 1,400 social workers and frontline practitioners trained, the development of a manual on the implementation of psycho-social activities and a practical tool for the identification and referral of vulnerable cases, as well as the set-up of new “help desks” for social workers from reception centres in Palermo, Agrigento and Marsala. Relations between frontline workers and UASC were also fostered through focus group discussions on their needs, existing gaps and solutions that could be proposed to national authorities for the improvement of conditions in shelters.

Additionally, UNICEF helped establish a guardianship model for refugee and migrant children, and promoted a framework for support and monitoring of guardians, currently catering for 243 UASC. In collaboration with the Regional Ombudsperson for Children and Adolescence Sicily and Calabria, a total of 228 volunteer guardians were identified, trained and supported in 2018. Documentation of this model is being finalised to allow replication across the country.

Work on alternative care arrangements, and foster care in particular, was also prioritised with the development of guidelines and a pilot model on foster care for UASC that could be brought to national scale. A total of 310 families (102 in Lombardia and 208 in Valento) already received training to become foster families, and the first unaccompanied child reached his new foster parents in September 2018.

GBV: In October 2018, the response in Italy was further strengthened with the inclusion of a new programme on GBV prevention and response. Planned activities include psycho-social support in selected locations, with a specific focus on boys and young men, trainings to frontline workers, a national mapping of services for GBV survivors, and the development of a practical manual to help frontline workers identify and refer GBV cases.

Education: UNICEF continued to deliver critical life skills interventions for UASC hosted in first and secondary reception centres, thus foster their social inclusion. Throughout 2018, close to 1,600 UASC were involved in recreational activities outside reception centres and a further 1,500 participated in orientation sessions.

In 2018, UNICEF also piloted an e-learning tool with 320 UASC to support them with Italian lessons and preparation for compulsory middle school exams, and supported a total of 112 UASC in Rome (including children in conflict with the law) with social inclusion through job orientation and definition of training and education plans. Of them 88 successfully completed vocational training courses, while 18 received study or work grants.

During the second half of the year, a new skills-building programme was launched in Sicily with the aim of strengthening entrepreneurship and employability skills for young migrants and refugees (Upshift). Around 120 students from five secondary schools (30 per cent refugee/migrant and 70 per cent Italian adolescents) participated in 11 workshops held in the 3 locations- Palermo, Catania and Naro (Agrigento province). The curriculum for the first phase of Upshift included introduction to key concepts such as SDGs, entrepreneurship and start-ups, as well as the development of ideas for start-up ventures to address community-based issues. The latter were presented during the Demo Day on 19 December, in Palermo. All 20 projects successfully passed on to Phase II of Upshift.

Participation: In 2018, significant strides were made for young migrants and refugees’ participation and engagement through [U-Report on the Move](#). Now available in six languages and counting more than 1,100 U-Reporters, polls were regularly run and results shared through an increasing number of public and media channels. The platform has also helped young migrants and refugees link with their peers, learn about their rights and engage in digital and face-to-face conversations on the challenges they are facing.

The level of engagement of U-Reporters has been maintained throughout the year with U-Reporters producing audio-visual material for digital storytelling purposes and U-Ambassadors (27 in total). In November, a [U-Blog on the Move](#) platform was launched, building on UNICEF’s global Voices of Youth initiative, while U-Reporter’s concerns were increasingly highlighted at high level fora, including the Youth Summit for the Global Compact on Migration and the High Commissioner’s Dialogue on protection.

BULGARIA

Since the beginning of the year, some 3,000 refugees and migrants were intercepted by border police authorities- a third were children. Overall, some 750 asylum seeking children are currently present in Bulgaria- close to 60 per cent of whom UASC-, mostly

from Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Pakistan. The last quarter of the year was marked by an important milestone for the protection of unaccompanied children with the development of a draft law amendment to regularize the situation of UASC in Bulgaria through temporary residence until the age of 18, ensuring their access to entitlements and services, as well as prevention from immigration detention and forced return.

In this context, UNICEF continued to advocate and work closely with authorities and partners in identifying UASC in detention, and provide legal services to such children. Overall in 2018, some 250 UASC in detention benefitted from legal aid, counselling and strategic litigation. Some 50 children were also supported with family reunification.

In response to the new practice of medical age assessment, the Ministry of Interior was supported in identifying samples of non-invasive and non-medical age assessment methods. Additionally, to ensure the effective implementation of legislation that shifts responsibilities for UASC towards Child Protection Departments, UNICEF in cooperation with UNHCR, IOM and other institutions and organizations have also supported the establishment and implementation of identification procedures for UASC and undertaking child protection safeguards in accordance with their best interests.

UNICEF continued to provide recreational and structured non-formal learning activities in reception facilities in Sofia and Harmanli, which since the beginning of 2018 have reached a total of 497 children and 126 women. Additionally, UNICEF worked hand in hand with national local education authorities, UNHCR and partners to ensure refugee and migrant children have continuous access to public schools, combining advocacy, technical assistance and financial support for school materials.

As part of efforts to enhance availability and accessibility of GBV prevention and response services, UNICEF supported nine specialized trainings for social and other frontline workers, including one on prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation (PSEA), as well as a total of 48 GBV community awareness raising sessions with refugees and migrants.

UNICEF also supported practitioners' capacity building on adolescent girls' empowerment through a joint project in both Bulgaria and Serbia that resulted in the development of the [Adolescent Girls' Safety and Resilience Pocket Guide](#), which is a simple tool to help establish, carry out and evaluate empowerment programmes for adolescent girls.



@UNICEF Bulgaria /2018

In 2018, some 26 people at risk or identified survivors of GBV received psychological support and specialized care. Lessons learned on working on GBV prevention and response have now been documented and shared with authorities and partners to ensure improvement of services and overall response in the future.

SERBIA

The number of refugees and migrants in Serbia continued to increase over the last quarter of the year, reaching nearly 4,500 people, including 1,140 children (260 girls and 880 boys)- a slight increase compared to the third quarter of 2018, but comparable to the December 2017. Unaccompanied children made up 42 per cent of all children in reception facilities. While 16 reception facilities across the country remained open, it is estimated that around 10 per cent of refugees and migrants remain in makeshift camps in Belgrade or along borders with Croatia, Hungary and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Following UNICEF and partners' advocacy, a major positive development over 2018 was the adoption of new legislation on migration and asylum, bringing Serbian legal framework in line with international and EU standards, including with regards to the protection of UASC.

Child Protection: UNICEF continued to respond to the protection needs of refugee and migrant children, and a total of 1,089 children benefitted from UNICEF-supported quality child protection and recreational services, while another 2,222 children at risk were identified and referred to specialised services during 2018. Nevertheless, since the second half of the year, UNICEF has been scaling down direct service delivery and increasingly focusing on technical assistance, coordination and quality assistance roles.

Capacity-building efforts focused on the identification of vulnerable children and quality case management in line with the national Child Protection Standard Operating Procedures. A total of 174 outreach and social workers saw their skills improved through UNICEF-supported trainings in these areas.

On request by national authorities, during the last quarter of the year, UNICEF also supported a Youth Club in Sjenica, where 149 UASC (all boys) were supported with Serbian language classes, emergency psychosocial support and structured no-formal education activities. In November, UNICEF and UNHCR conducted a joint fact-finding mission to facilities hosting UASC and provided

recommendations for their improved assistance and care. In 2019 UNICEF is planning to scale up work on care arrangements for UASC to include cultural mediation.

Gender-Based Violence: UNICEF established GBV prevention and response services across the country, which benefitted some 1,090 refugees and migrants during the past 12 months. As of December, four safe spaces for women and girls remain operational in key area of Belgrade, providing gender empowerment workshops, vocational training, as well as legal and psychological counselling, lifesaving information and referral to specialised health and protection services. Such spaces have been instrumental in reaching mothers and young children with early child development, as well as UASC with protection services. Work in this area will continue in 2019.

Education: In 2018, UNICEF supported national authorities in scaling up enrolment of newly arriving children, while also improving attendance and learning outcomes for refugee and migrant children already in school.

At the end of the 2017-2018 school year, 91 per cent of all primary school-age and 11 per cent of secondary school-age refugee and migrant children successfully completed their grades. During 2018-2019 school year, children's enrolment increased slightly reaching 92 and 16 per cent respectively. A total of 171 children (about 28 per cent) were enrolled in school for first time.

Throughout the year, UNICEF provided technical support was provided to preschool institutions and schools to ensure inclusive and welcoming environment. This also included the development of a website with resources for teachers and school personnel to act as a national knowledge hub.

Additionally, some 390 refugee and migrant children enrolled in public Serbian schools benefitted from UNICEF-supported Serbian language classes in 10 locations, while another 1,170 children benefitted from quality non-formal education. A competency-based learning approach was adopted with this regard, allowing children with diverse learning and educational backgrounds to gain skills and assets that they could use in their daily life.

Health and Nutrition: UNICEF continued to support Mother and Baby Corners (MBCs) in Belgrade, Bujanovac, Vranje, Krnjača, Kikinda, Principovac and Adaševci, which in 2018 reached a total of 296 children and 305 mothers with breastfeeding counseling and infant and young child feeding.

Nevertheless, direct service delivery has been gradually handed over to partners, while UNICEF ensures support to national authorities in coordinating and monitoring the quality of health and nutrition service provided.

Throughout 2018, UNICEF also supported the Food Consortium and its implementing partners to meet national standards on nutrition in transit, reception and asylum centres for refugee and migrant children 7 to 17 years of age, pregnant and breastfeeding women, and people with diabetes (including children), which were developed in cooperation with the Institute of Public Health of Serbia. This included regular monitoring visits and ad hoc advocacy on nutrition-related topics concerning babies and young children.

Despite strong advocacy efforts, the issue of immunisation for all refugee and migrant children remains unsolved. Currently, only new-born refugee and migrant children benefit from lifesaving vaccines.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

In 2018, border authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina registered over 23,700 refugees and migrants (mostly from Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria), entering from Serbia and Montenegro. While Bosnia and Herzegovina continues to be considered a transit country, it is estimated that around 5,000 people, including some 860 children (31 per cent unaccompanied), remain in the country. Although reception conditions and service provision have significantly improved during the year, restrictions on freedom of movement in Una-Sana canton, where most refugees and migrants are accommodated, remain a major concern as it prevents people from accessing available services.

Child protection: Since June 2018, when UNICEF started its response in Bosnia and Herzegovina, a total of 972 children (355 girls and 612 boys) benefitted from recreational and informal learning activities in four different sites (Salakovac, Borici, Bira and Sedra),



Nine-year old Lina from Afghanistan, now at the Krnjaca Asylum Centre in Serbia, with a red-and-grey dress her grandmother gave her as a gift - the only connection to her childhood. ©UNICEF Serbia/2018/Vas

while another 252 children (112 girls and 113 boys) and 225 parents (218 mothers and 7 fathers) were reached with psychosocial counselling.

To improve the protection and care of UASC in Bosnia and Herzegovina, UNICEF deployed multi-sectoral mobile outreach teams to identify children at risk and strengthened the capacity of centres for social welfare through the establishment of referral and support services and trainings for 120 frontline professionals.

The first safe zones for UASC (in Usivak and Bira) opened doors in December. On-site child protection teams are present 24h/7 ensuring timely and effective case management, psychosocial support and referral to other support services. More than 330 UASC (all boys) have benefitted so far from this child protection support.

In partnership with federal authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, UNICEF also supported the development of inter-agency guidelines on child protection referral pathways for refugee and migrant children in Una-Sana Canton, as well as SOPs on the protection and care of vulnerable refugee and migrant children across the federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Both documents are expected to be approved in mid-February 2019.

Education: Following the completion of the Education in Emergency Rapid Assessment in Bosnia and Herzegovina in October 2018, key findings and recommendations were discussed with relevant stakeholders in November. Extensive groundwork with national education authorities made it possible for the first group of 17 refugee and migrant children to be enrolled in primary school in Canton Sarajevo as of December, where they will follow the regular curriculum along with their national peers. Enrolment of all other refugee and migrant children currently present in the country is expected during the first quarter of 2019.

In the meantime, UNICEF ensured the provision of non-formal education three times a week through child-friendly spaces. A total of 367 children and adolescents attended these classes as of December 2018.

Health and Nutrition: To respond to the increased needs of vaccines for refugee and migrant children, UNICEF and the Public Health Institute have procured additional doses of vaccines² for refugee and migrant children, and these are expected to be available at all sites by February 2019.

In Una-Sana Canton, medical check-up has also been initiated in collaboration with public health authorities targeting primary and secondary school-age children prior to their enrolment into school. So far, more than 100 children have undergone such medical check-ups.

WASH and Basic Needs: During the last quarter of 2018, UNICEF conducted a WASH assessment in all temporary reception centres in Una-Sana and Sarajevo cantons. This was followed by sessions with some 90 refugees and migrants on improved hygiene practices, as well as training of 42 frontline workers on protection from communicable diseases.

UNICEF also supported the procurement and distribution of winter clothes, shoes and blankets for 1,000 refugee and migrant children. This has been essential in protecting children from the cold winter weather in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the last months of 2018.

GERMANY

In 2018, some 152,000 people sought asylum in German, including 73,400 children.³ This is 17 per cent decrease compared to 2017. Since August 2018, several former reception and transit centres in Bavaria in particular have been converted into "Anchor" centres - large 'one-stop-facilities' for the arrival, decision-making, distribution and return of asylum-seekers. While accelerated procedures for status determination may be considered a positive development, it is still unclear whether and how safeguards for children's best interests assessment and determination are systematically being applied.

Following the completion of the Joint Initiative between UNICEF and the German Ministry of Family Affairs to improve the protection, care and support of children, adolescents and women living in refugee accommodation centres, as well as other vulnerable population groups, UNICEF concluded its programmatic presence in Germany as of December 2018. The Initiative was implemented in close cooperation with Germany's major welfare organisations and many other critical partners and supported over 100 refugee accommodation centres nationwide.

² These include vaccines against Hepatitis B; Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Polio (DTaP-IPV-Hib); Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) and Pneumococcal Vaccines (PPSV23)

³ Since 2014 Germany has taken close to 600,000 asylum seeking children, including 74,000 unaccompanied children. (Eurostat)

As a result of UNICEF support through networking, regular exchanges and joint advocacy efforts, the protective environment in many of these facilities was significantly enhanced over the past three years. It is estimated that in 2018, at least 13,000 asylum-seeking children benefitted from improved protection and quality services.

Over the past three years, UNICEF's technical assistance focused on strengthening protection of refugees and migrants in refugee accommodation facilities, namely through the development of standards and practical guidance; training and mentorship so that refugee accommodations are more child-friendly and gender-sensitive; support to learning and play opportunities through the set-up of child-friendly spaces and services, early learning and other needs-based activities in and outside the accommodations in cooperation with a network of local partners; and sharing technical know-how on monitoring children's rights and strengthening systems for the generation of timely, disaggregated protection data. Ongoing advocacy, awareness-raising and communication activities advocating for the rights and inclusion of refugee and migrant children complemented these activities.

A key achievement of the Initiative was building consensus around nationwide uniform standards, the "[Minimum standards for the protection of refugees and migrants in refugee accommodation centres](#)". Updated on a few occasions, they now cover the following six areas: facility-specific protection (physical and constructional), personnel and human resources management, internal structures and external cooperation, dealing with situations of violence and risk management, decent, protective and supportive environments (including child-friendly spaces and services) and monitoring and evaluation of the protection plan.

To support their implementation, SOPs on violence prevention and referral pathways articulating the complementarity between the refugee accommodation facilities' teams and external services providers (e.g. the youth welfare service, the police, health care etc.) were established in all refugee accommodation facilities supported by the Initiative.

Overall throughout the year, a total of 960 frontline workers received formal training and on-the-job support, bringing the total number of frontline workers trained since 2017 to 1,500. Based on formal training evaluation conducted in 2017, UNICEF has now completed the revision of the training package, which can be found on the [website](#) of the Initiative.

Real-time monitoring systems have also been piloted in two sites (Osnabruck, Lower Saxony and Schwerin, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania), where theories of change were developed based on their state and centre-specific protection plans. These were documented and used as examples that could be replicated in other centres.

In November 2018, the Ministry of Family and UNICEF held an [event in Berlin](#) to take stock of the last three years (2016-2018) of the Initiative, including results achieved, ongoing and new challenges, lessons learnt and promising practices. It was also an opportunity to leverage commitments to ensure sustainability of gains through legislative reforms, as well as additional human and financial resources.

Communications and Advocacy

In 2018, UNICEF pursued its advocacy, calling on governments to uphold refugee and migrant children's rights, to ensure [access to safe territory](#), speed up relocation and transfers from sub-standard [reception facilities](#) and provide durable solutions and basic services.

In the aftermath of the adoption of a new Hungarian [legislation](#) making it illegal for organizations and individuals to provide basic support to refugee and migrant children and their families, UNICEF reminded the vital role of civil society in protecting the rights of all children including the most vulnerable and [urged](#) EU leaders to take concerted and timely actions to save the lives of refugee and migrant children before they reach Europe, address the uncertainty and insecurity they endure on arrival, and ensure that new measures do not result in child detention for migration control purposes. In response to the increase of child arrivals on Greek islands during the summer, UNICEF also [briefed](#) media and [called](#) for their speedy transfer to the mainland where they can have adequate accommodation, protection, health care and other basic services (covered in [Reuters](#), [VOA](#), [Euro News](#), [EFE](#), [Europa Press](#), [Xinhua](#)).



Kader, 19 years old, from Ivory Coast, now in Italy, addressing world leaders during Global Summit on Migration in Marrakesh, December 2018 ©UNICEF Italy

This was complemented through evidence-based advocacy that builds on promising practices and research, such as the UNICEF [study](#) *Protected on paper? An analysis of Nordic country responses to asylum-seeking children*. The study informed a constructive

dialogue with Nordic Governments national authorities to address existing gaps in policy implementation, reaffirm commitments to the CRC and promote good practices on the protection of refugee and migrant UASC.

UNICEF also [mobilised young people](#), governments and stakeholders around the Global Compacts on Refugees and Migration to trigger commitments for children on the move or otherwise affected by migration. Different initiatives, such as the global thematic workshop on Children and Youth on the Move in Agadir, the global [Youth Poll](#) and the [Youth Forum](#) in Marrakesh are just a few examples of initiatives supported by UNICEF at country, regional and global levels, helping young migrants from Europe, but also other parts of the world, raise their voices and address global leaders on topics that concern them- access to basic services, recognition of diplomas, safe passage and social inclusion, as well as challenges of children left behind and second generation migrants.

The World Children’s Day, 18 November, was an opportunity to raise awareness and mobilise various stakeholders around the rights of all children, including refugees and migrants, in Europe and beyond. On this occasion, UNICEF in Greece, for example, partnered with the Municipalities of Athens and Thessaloniki to organize a series of creative, interactive events and educational games that aimed to inform children about their rights and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and help them create a safe learning environment in their schools. Similar initiatives took place in many other European capitals and cities. In Serbia, UNICEF teamed up with street artists TKV and JUNK who [painted murals](#) in the primary school "Branko Pesic" in Zemun in support of children in Serbia and around the world.

Another important common theme for advocacy and communication in the last quarter of the year was the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign. In this context, UNICEF in Serbia organised a roundtable with partners and state institutions to secure commitments and identify actions needed to support girls’ empowerment and equal access to education, and supported a two-week Facebook campaign with videos on women and girls' rights and self-defence. In Greece, the campaign was celebrated with an art exhibition on GBV at the foyer of the municipality of Thessaloniki, with artworks from refugee and migrant children, adolescents and adults. Participants have included representatives of international organizations, foreign governments and local NGOs, refugee and migrant children and their families, as well as general audience and walk-ins.

SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME RESULTS - as of 31 December 2018

SUMMARY OF RESULTS		UNICEF and Implementing Partners Response		
		Targets 2018	Total Results	Change since last report
CHILD PROTECTION				
# of children reached with quality child protection support (MHPSS, legal counselling and case management) and protection standards	Greece	5,000	10,435	2,275
	Italy	4,300	2,191	220
	Serbia***	3,000	1,089	105
	Bulgaria	300	248	153
	Germany**	10,000	13,000	220
	Bosnia and Herzegovina****	600	972	502
# of at-risk children (incl. UASC) identified and referred through screening by outreach teams and child protection support centres	Greece*****	450	2,302	518
	Italy	2,500	1,520	179
	Serbia	1,500	2,222	435
# of frontline workers trained on child protection standards/ child protection in emergencies*	Greece	400	559	139
	Italy	1,300	1,436	496
	Serbia	200	174	33
	Bulgaria	100	38	6
	Germany	2,500	960	500
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE				
# of people accessing GBV prevention and response services	Greece	2,200	3,282	720
	Serbia	350	1,087	234
	Bulgaria	150	178	0
# of frontline workers benefitting from GBV training	Greece	380	291	40

	Italy	600	796	218
	Bulgaria	50	90	0

EDUCATION

# of children including adolescents participating in structured non-formal education activities	Greece	2,000	4,788	847
	Italy	1,100	208	158
	Serbia	1,000	1,172	30
	Bulgaria	600	497	142
	Bosnia and Herzegovina****	250	367	367
# of children enrolled in mainstream formal education	Greece	6,000	10,100	2,084
	Italy	1,500	320	0
	Serbia***	600	390	17
# of children (3-5 years old) benefiting from early childhood education activities	Greece	900	965	136
	Bulgaria	300	68	6
# of children receiving education materials	Greece	6,000	6,654	3,520

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

# of children (under 5) accessing mother and baby care services, including nutrition services	Serbia***	1,000	296	54
# of mothers benefiting from infant and young child feeding counselling at family support hubs, child friendly spaces and mother-baby corners	Serbia***	700	305	40

WASH and BASIC SUPPLIES

# of children receiving culturally appropriate basic supplies, including clothes, baby hygiene items, dignity kits for women and girls	Italy	1,000	241	0
	Serbia	4,000	1,726	397

Notes:

*In Italy trainings also cover guardianship, while in Germany trainings may cover protection coordinators and refugee centres managers.

**In Germany, UNICEF is not providing direct services to refugee and migrant children in reception centres, and the standards are binding only for the 100

*** In Serbia, results reflect only newly registered children, and hence do not fully reflect actual attendance of children benefitting of continuous service provision since 2017. The average attendance of services in January 2018 is 402 children reached with quality child protection support; 502 children attending non-formal education and 680 children in mainstream education; 196 children and 150 mothers accessing mother and baby care services and benefitting from IYCF. Moreover, since January 2018, the number of children enrolled in mainstream education has been 456.

****Targets for Bosnia and Herzegovina refer to the period July-December 2018, following the activation of the response in the country in May 2018.

*****In Greece, this indicator refers to migrant and refugee unaccompanied children benefitting from protective care and services (temporary accommodation, case management, referrals, legal aid, etc.).

Funding Update

As of December 2018, UNICEF Humanitarian Appeal for Refugee and Migrant Children in Europe had only been 75 per cent funded. This has led to shortfalls limiting UNICEF capacity to scale up community-based modalities for unaccompanied and separated refugee and migrant children, strengthen service delivery at municipality level in Greece, and expand education and skills building initiatives in Italy. This also resulted in accelerated hand-over of direct service provision in Serbia to national authorities and partners, where UNICEF continues to play an important capacity building and quality assurance role.

Country/Region	2018 Requirements	Funds Received 2018		Funds Carried over to 2018		Funding gap	
	(US\$)	(US\$)	%	(US\$)	%	\$	%
Countries with children on the move, children stranded, and/or seeking asylum							
Greece	17,940,000	11,143,633.59	62%	6,275,115	35%	521,251.41	3%
Italy	4,480,000	2,269,173.90	51%	894,066	20%	1,316,760.10	29%
Serbia	4,050,000	876,962.96	22%	771,226	19%	2,401,811.04	59%
Bulgaria	594,000	250,000.00	42%	125,403	21%	218,597.00	37%
Germany	1,040,000	107,479.00	10%	545,333	58%	427,188.00	81%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1,080,000	200,000.00	19%	-	-	840,000.00	40%
Regional coordination, technical support, and rapid reaction support							
Rapid reaction support*	1,500,000	162,220.14	11%	-	-	1,337,779.86	89%
Regional coordination and technical support	3,500,000	504,641.43	14%	1,679,545	38%	1,315,813.57	38%
Total	34,184,000	15,514,111.02	45%	10,290,688	30%	8,379,200.98	25%

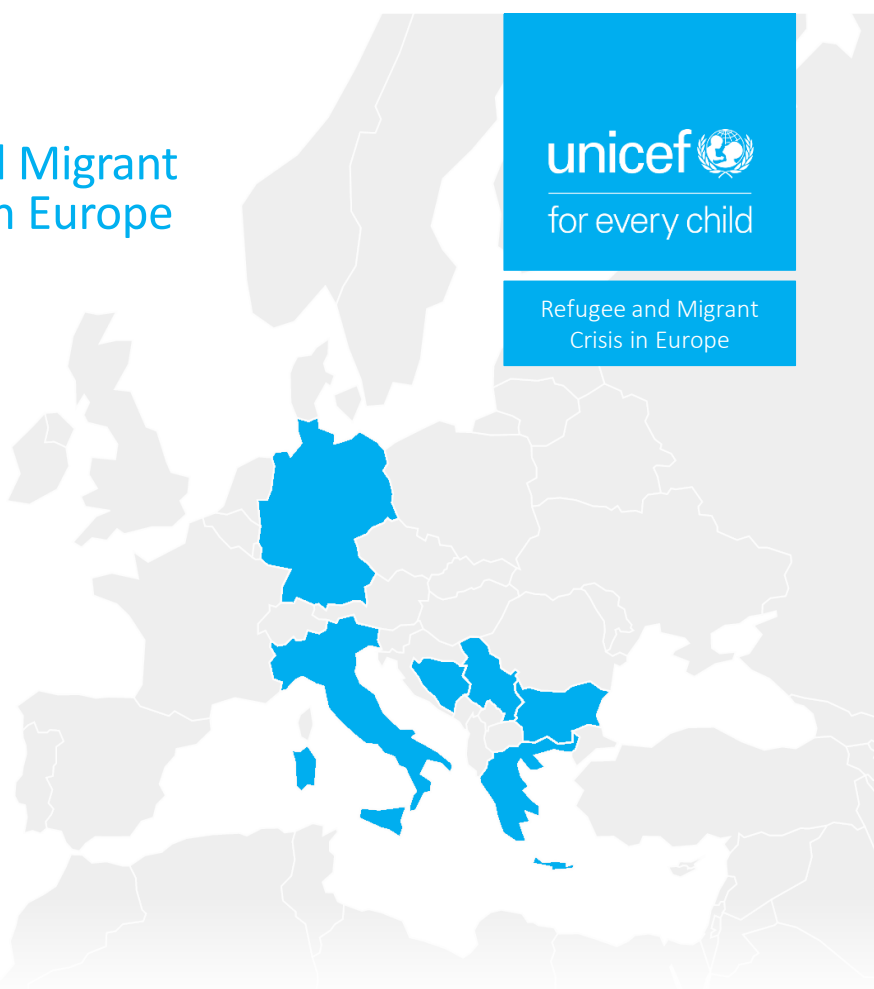
UNICEF Refugee and Migrant Response Partners in Europe

Updated December 2018




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Refugee and Migrant
Crisis in Europe



-  Child protection
-  Education
-  Health and nutrition
-  Basic supplies
-  Technical assistance






Greece

-  Arsis, Faros, Iliaktida, Melissa, Merimna, METAdrasi, Solidarity Now, SOS Children's Village, Syneirmos
-  Apostoli, British Council, ELIX, Finn Church Aid
-  National Centre for Social Solidarity, Deputy Ombudsperson for Children's Right, Ministry of Education, Municipality of Athens

Italy

-  Coordinamento Nazionale Comunità di Accoglienza, Intersos, Médecins du Monde, Ospizio Salesiano Sacro Cuore, Borgo, Itastra
-  Ministry of Interior, local authorities, Coast Guard, national and local Ombudspersons



Bulgaria

-  Bulgarian Helsinki Committee, Council of Refugee Women in Bulgaria
-  Caritas
-  Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, State Agency for Refugees


Serbia

-  Crisis Response and Policy Centre, Danish Refugee Council, Divac Foundation, SOS Children's Village
-  Danish Refugee Council, SOS Children's Village, Centre for Education Policy, Indigo, Center for Education Policy
-  Danish Refugee Council, Humanitarian Centre for Integration and Tolerance, SOS Children's Village, Novi Sad Humanitarian Centre, Balkan Centre for Migration
-  Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labour, Commissariat for Refugees and Migration, National Institute of Public Health

Germany

-  Deutsche Gesellschaft für Prävention und Intervention bei Kindesmisshandlung und -vernachlässigung e.V., Deutscher KinderSchutz Bund
-  Ministry of Family Affairs and over 30 partners in the National Initiative for the Protection of Persons Living in Refugee Centres

Bosnia and Herzegovina

-  Save the Children, World Vision, SOS Kinderdorf, Zene sa Une, Danish Refugee Council

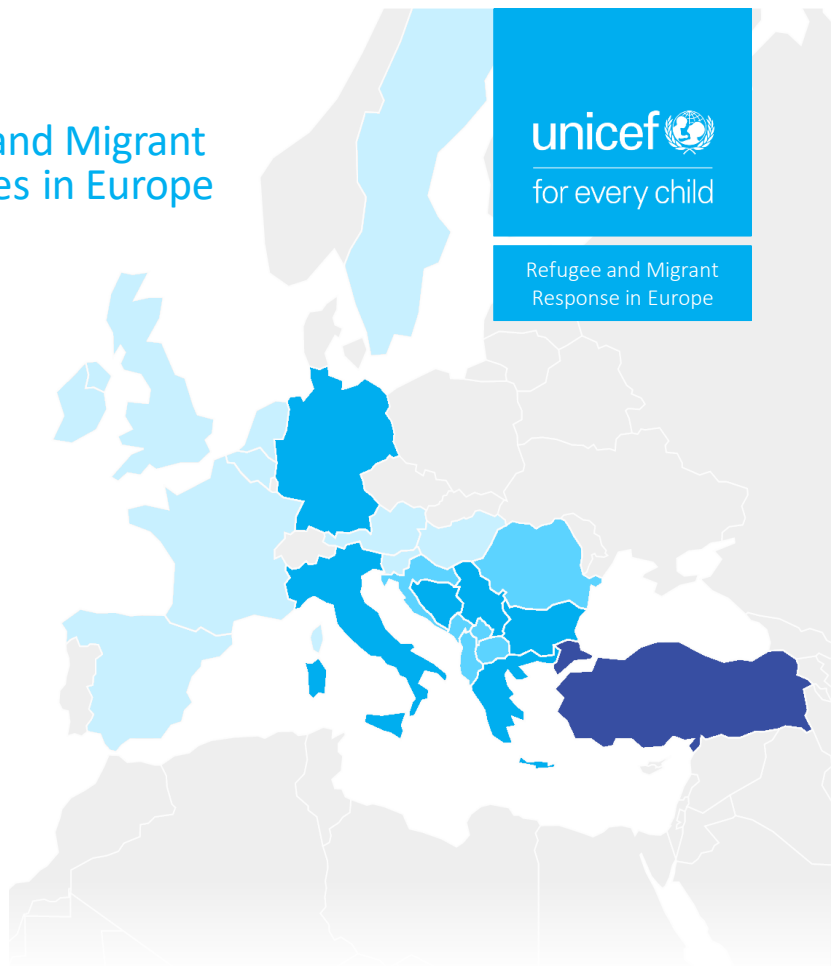
UNICEF Refugee and Migrant Response Activities in Europe









Updated December 2018

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Refugee and Migrant
Response in Europe

-  Advocacy
-  Communication
-  Training and capacity building
-  Outreach to children at risk
-  Psycho-social support
-  Gender-based violence
-  Education
-  Health and nutrition
-  Water, hygiene and sanitation
-  Adolescents
-  Child rights monitoring
-  Basic supplies
-  Technical assistance
-  Coordination and preparedness



Greece	Italy	Turkey
		<p>In Turkey, UNICEF is responding to the needs of over 1.8 million Syrian and other refugee and migrant children through a multi-sectoral response under the Regional Response and Resilience Plan (3RP).</p>
Bulgaria	Serbia	Preparedness countries*
		
Germany	Bosnia and Herzegovina	National Committee countries
		

* In some countries, UNICEF may be supporting service provision on needs basis as part of the regular country programme.

Next SitRep: 15/04/2019

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