

Refugee and Migrant Children in Europe Accompanied, Unaccompanied and Separated

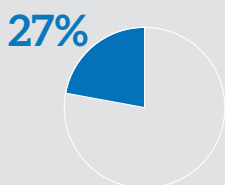
Overview of Trends
January to December 2019



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Some
33,200
children

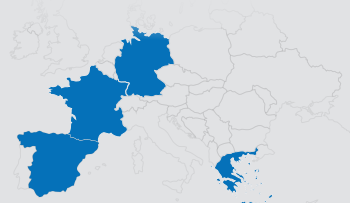


Some
9,000



Over
17,500
children

Out of the total
number of children (202,945)



arrived in Greece, Spain, Italy, Malta, Bulgaria and Cyprus between January and December 2019 (**38% girls and 62% boys**). Child arrivals in Greece, Spain, Italy and Bulgaria in 2019 increased by **7%** compared to child arrivals in 2018 (**30,085**).

of all children who arrived in Greece, Spain, Italy, Malta, Bulgaria and Cyprus in 2019 were **unaccompanied and separated**.

(**28% boys and 24% girls**) were under resettlement procedures to Europe in 2019.

who sought international protection in Europe between January and December 2019, **71%** were registered in just four countries: **Germany (35%), France (13%), Greece (12%) and Spain (11%)**.

Arrivals to Europe between January and December 2019¹

Between January and December 2019, some **33,200** children arrived in Greece, Italy, Spain, Bulgaria, Cyprus and Malta. Of them some **9,000** (27%) were unaccompanied or separated children (UASC)². Also, child arrivals in 2019 in Greece, Spain, Italy and Bulgaria increased by **7%** compared to arrivals registered in 2018 (**30,085**).

Greece

Between January and December 2019, some **25,443**³ children arrived in Greece by land and sea, including **3,852** (15%) UASC.⁴ Due to the high number of people arriving in 2019, the number of children also increased – nearly 50% higher compared to children arriving in 2018 (17,100). The number of children arriving unaccompanied or separated also increased – 63% higher compared to 2018 (2,369). Most children, including UASC, were from Afghanistan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Iraq and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Malta

Between January and December 2019, some **868**⁷ children, including **768** (88%) UASC arrived in Malta following search and rescue operations at sea. Most children, including UASC, originated from Sudan, Somalia and Eritrea.

Spain

Between January and December 2019, some **3,775**⁵ children were estimated to have arrived by sea, including some **2,147** (57%) UASC. This is half the number compared to 2018, when a total of 7,800 children arrived to Spain. Official statistics on the nationality of children arriving were not available, but based on estimates and observed trends, most children, including UASC, originated from Morocco, the Syrian Arab Republic, Algeria and Côte d'Ivoire.

Bulgaria

Between January and December 2019, **731** children lodged asylum applications in Bulgaria. Among them, **72%** (524) were UASC. Most asylum-seeking children originated from Afghanistan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq.⁸

Italy

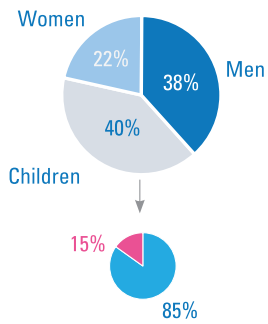
Among the **2,232** children who arrived in Italy between January and December 2019, **1,680** (75%) were unaccompanied or separated. This is a 48% decrease compared to 2018 (4,278) – in line with the sharp decrease in sea crossings since July 2017. Most children originated from Tunisia, Côte d'Ivoire, Pakistan, Iraq and Bangladesh.⁶

Cyprus

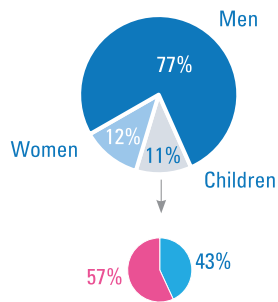
Between January and December 2019, some **160** children, including **74** UASC arrived by sea in Cyprus. Most of the children, including UASC, originated from the Syrian Arab Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Demographic of Arrivals, including Accompanied, Unaccompanied and Separated Children

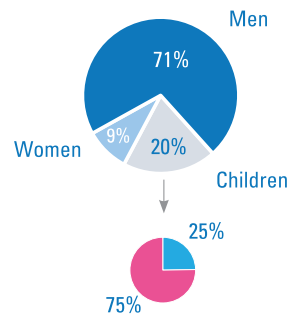
GREECE



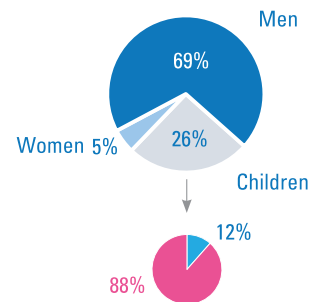
SPAIN



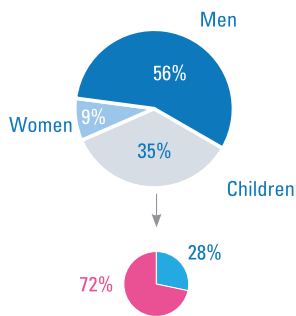
ITALY



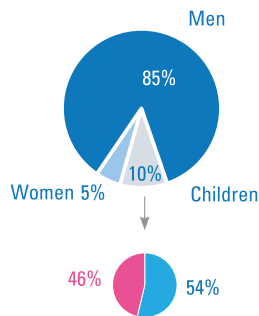
MALTA



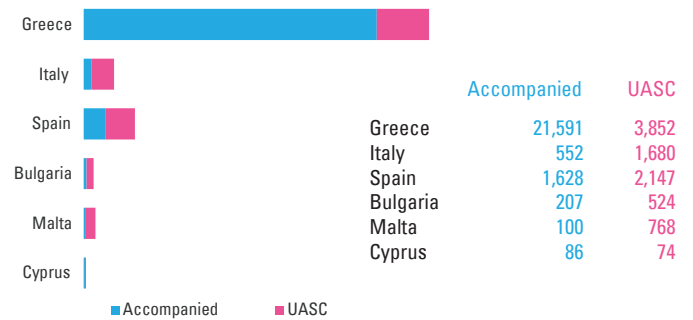
BULGARIA



CYPRUS



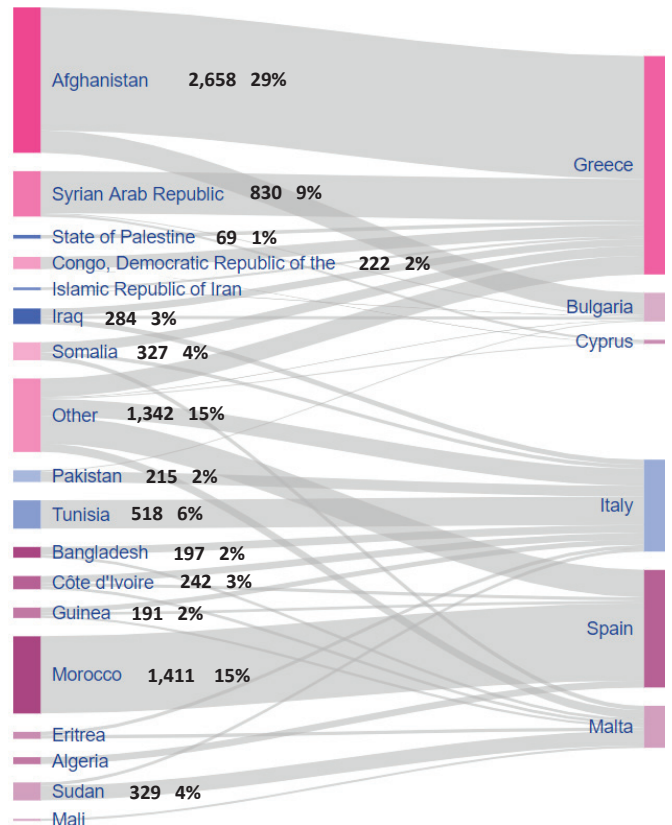
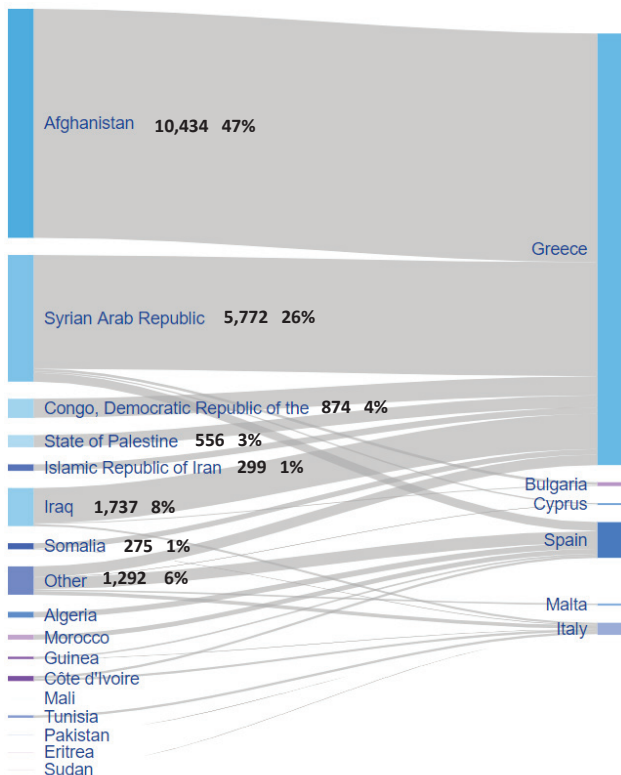
Accompanied, Unaccompanied and Separated Children by Country of Arrival



Nationality of Accompanied, Unaccompanied and Separated Children by Country of Arrival

Accompanied Children by Country of Origin and Arrival

UASC by Country of Origin and Arrival

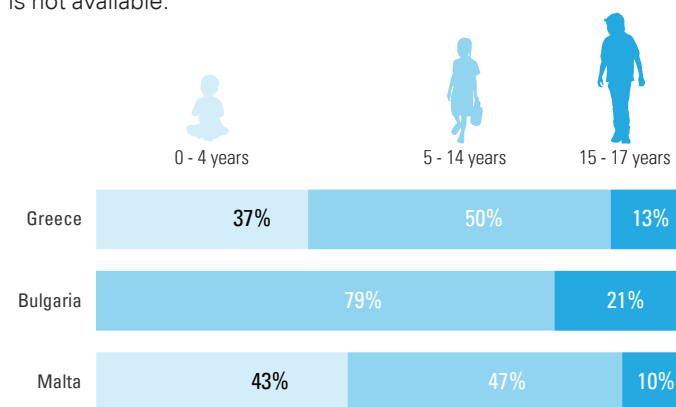


Source: Hellenic Police, EKKA; Italian Ministry of Interior; Bulgaria State Agency for Refugees; Spanish Ministry of Interior; Malta Immigration Police; and Ministry for Home Affairs, National Security and Law Enforcement, Malta (MHAS).

Age and sex breakdown of all Children by Country of Arrival

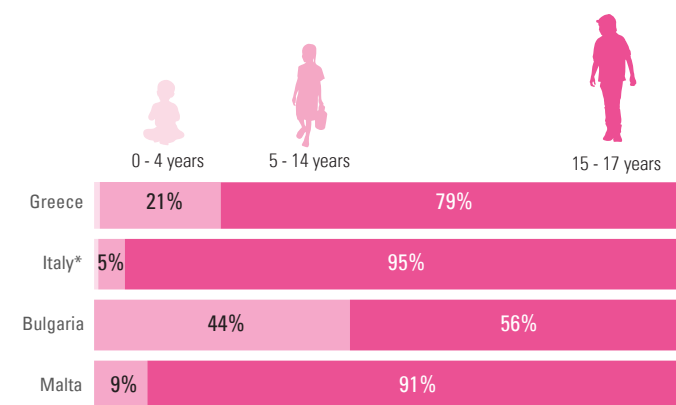
Accompanied Children - Age Breakdown

Among the 21,898 accompanied children who arrived in Greece, Bulgaria and Malta, 36% were 0 to 4 years old, 52% were 5 to 14 years old and 16% were 15 to 17 years old. An age breakdown for accompanied children in Italy, Spain and Cyprus is not available.



Unaccompanied Children - Age Breakdown

The majority of UASC who arrived in Italy, Greece, Bulgaria and Malta between January and December 2019 were between 15 and 17 years old (80% overall). Age disaggregated data on UASC arriving to Spain and Cyprus is not available.

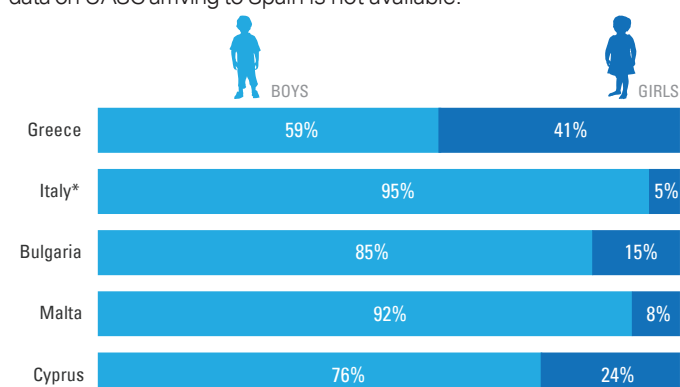


Source: Hellenic Police, EKKA, Italian Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs on UASC in reception, Spanish Ministry of Interior and Social Policy, Bulgarian State Agency for Refugees, Maltese Ministry for Home Affairs, National Security and Law Enforcement (MHAS).

Note: Due to the limited disaggregation or inconsistency of data by age and sex across countries, these graphs refer to estimates.

Sex Breakdown of Children by Country of Arrival

Overall, the proportion of boys among arrivals remains high - nearly two-thirds of children who arrived through various Mediterranean routes in 2019 were boys. Yet, the proportion of girls arriving to Greece in the same period was significant - 41% of all child arrivals. This relates to the much higher proportion of girls among accompanied children as compared to children that travel unaccompanied. Sex disaggregated data on UASC arriving to Spain is not available.



*For Italy, the calculation is based on the estimated 6,054 UASC registered in reception in 2019 according to the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies.

Reception on arrival as of December 2019

Greece

- An estimated 42,500 children were present in Greece as of 31 December 2019, up from 27,000 in December 2018.
- Of all children present in Greece, 48% were living in urban areas (apartments, hotels, shelters for UASC, self-settled, etc.); 25% were in accommodation sites and 1% were in safe zones for UASC.
- A further 26% of all children were found in Reception and Identification Centres - twice as many when compared to December 2018. This included 1,809 unaccompanied children (nearly three times more when compared to December 2018).
- Out of the 4,815 unaccompanied children present in Greece, 42% (2,034) were in appropriate accommodation for UASC (1,286 in long-term accommodation and another 748 in temporary accommodation for UASC. This represented an increase of 14% compared to December 2018 following the creation of additional accommodation for UASC in Greece. Yet, the increased overall caseload meant that as of December 2019 more than half of all UASC in Greece (2,781) remained outside appropriate accommodation, including 1,045 UASC living in informal/insecure housing conditions. Another 195 UASC (double compared to December 2018) also remained in protective custody/detention due to lack of alternatives.

Italy

- A total of 6,054 children (95% boys and 5% girls) were present and registered in different types of accommodation at the end of December 2019. This is a 44% decrease compared to December 2018 – mainly due to the decrease in sea arrivals, as well as adolescents reaching adulthood.
- Most of all registered UASC at the end of December 2019 were in shelters run by State authorities and non-profit entities (85% of the total in second-level reception centres and 9% in first-level reception centres), while 6% were in private accommodation (family care arrangements).
- Additionally, 5,383 previously registered UASC were considered to be out of the reception system but still under 18 at the end of December 2019 (in December 2018, this number stood at 5,230).

Spain

- At the end of December 2019, there were 12,417 UASC accommodated in specialized government-run reception centres across the 17 Autonomous communities and the 2 autonomous cities of Ceuta and Melilla. This is a 10% decrease compared to December 2018, when 13,796 UASC were in reception centres.
- The regions hosting the vast majority of UASC are Andalusia (37%), Catalonia (16%), Melilla (11%), Ceuta and Basque country (6% each). Out of the total UASC in reception, 91% were male and 9% were female. Main nationalities of accommodated UASC (including EU and non-EU nationals) were Morocco (67%), Guinea Conakry (8%), Algeria (5%), Mali (5%) and Côte d'Ivoire (4%).

Bulgaria

- As of the end of December 2019, nearly 140 children, including 33 UASC were accommodated in reception facilities in Sofia and southern Bulgaria. This represents a 36% decrease in the number of children present in the country compared to December 2018. Most children came from Afghanistan, Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic.
- In 2019, with the financial support provided by the EU, IOM established one safety zone for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in Sofia. During the year, 196 children were accommodated in the facility: most of them (191) were aged 14 or older, and only 5 were below 14 years of age. Most of them originated from Afghanistan and a small number from Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Serbia

- A total of 947 children (19% girls and 81% boys) were present in the country as of December 2019, 17% less compared to December 2018, but slightly more compared to the caseload in June 2019.
- With 465 UASC present in December 2019, the proportion of UASC among all refugee and migrant children in Serbia increased to 49%, up from 42% in December 2018.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- As of December 2019, 1,182 children (15% girls and 86% boys) were present in different accommodation centres in Bosnia and Herzegovina (state-run facilities, IOM-managed reception centres, shelters run by NGOs) or awaiting the registration of their asylum claim in a registered private accommodation – a 100% increase compared to December 2018. Of them, 640 (40%) were UASC, all of whom boys. No data is available on the number of children among the estimated 3,550 people privately accommodated or squatting in other areas of the country.
- Of the 749 children accommodated in the five IOM-managed reception centres, 176 (23%) are girls and 573 (77%) are boys. Of them, 267 (36%) are UASC, all boys.
- Meanwhile, just over 80 children had applied for asylum in the country (43% girls and 57% boys).

Montenegro

- Since the beginning of 2019, there has been a steady increase in refugees and migrants transiting through and staying in Montenegro. As of 31 December 2019, 417 children were present in the country. This included 407 accompanied children (66% boys and 34% girls) and 10 unaccompanied children. Children represent 5% of the total number of refugees and migrants who were present in reception facilities in the country.
- While the numbers remain relatively low, there is a lack of appropriate accommodation and limited access to basic services for children and families.

Croatia

- As of December 2019, 210 children, predominately boys (63%) including UASC (51), were present in Croatia. During 2019, 355 UASC were identified by the Croatian border police, 92% increase compared to the previous year when 184 UASC were identified.
- In October 2019, the Croatian government designated two facilities for children in Zagreb and in Split for the initial reception of UASC during which best interests procedures would be undertaken. The procedures should be completed within 3 months to determine appropriate solutions, including on accommodation and care. The children, irrespective of their legal status, are largely entitled to the same protection and care as Croatian children.

Hungary

- As of December 2019, a total of 198 children were held in the Roszke and Tompa transit zones (118 boys and 80 girls), which was 54% of the total number of the asylum-seeker population. 20% of them were held there for more than a year, 43% of them were held there for more than 9 months. They do not have access to regular education in the transit zones and access to various support services, including psychosocial care, is limited and inadequate to address special needs.
- As of October 2019, 13 UASC (below the age of 14⁹) were accommodated in a designated child care facility and a total of 32 young adults were in aftercare.

Poland

- In 2019, a total of 1,807 children, including 105 UASC, applied for asylum in Poland. 70% of the children were below 14 years.
- Asylum-seeking children have the same right to education as national children. In addition, they have access to additional language classes and support from bilingual teaching assistants. Moreover, schools may offer more targeted support in case of specific needs.
- As of Dec 2019, 757 children were accommodated in 10 facilities with their parents and/or relatives. 4 UASC were placed in the national child care facilities with Polish children, where some challenges with language, cultural differences and legal issues were observed.
- In 2019, a total of 131 children (with families as well as UASC above 15 years) were placed in detention.

Romania

- In 2019, a total of 532 children, including 239 UASC, applied for asylum in Romania. Families with children, who do not have sufficient resources for private accommodation, are hosted in one of the six existing reception facilities. As of December 2019, approximately 69 children, including 21 UASC, were accommodated in government-run reception centres.
- Those under the age of 16 are usually referred to national child protection services, while older adolescents typically remain in government-run reception facilities for asylum seekers and refugees of all ages.

Slovenia

- In 2019, a total of 835 children, including 676 UASC, applied for asylum in Slovenia. Currently, most unaccompanied children are accommodated in a designated part of a dormitory for high-school students.

Malta

- All children are subject to limitations to their freedom of movement upon arrival at the Initial Reception Centre and the Safi detention centre for an initial period of several weeks to months, where health checks take place before children can be transferred to open centres. Delays in transfer to open centres occur mostly as a result of lack of reception space in open centres/centres devoted to UASC. In December 2019, only around 50 children were residing in an open centre dedicated specifically to unaccompanied children where their freedom of movements was not subject to constraints. Some 186 UASC, or 24% of all UASC who arrived in Malta by sea in 2019, remained in the Safi detention facility in December 2019, while another 82 UASC, or 11% of UASC sea arrivals in 2019 were accommodated in the Initial Reception Centre, a reception facility where health checks, age and vulnerability assessments normally take place.
- Throughout 2019, due to the increase in the number of UASC arriving by sea, UASC who were age assessed as 16 years old or above also started being accommodated in an open centre for adults, which hosts over 1,000 persons. A 'buffer zone' to separate UASC from adults was created in this open centre in late 2019, but separation was possible only to a limited extent, with children still sharing common facilities with adults and insufficient physical barriers to isolate the children's area. Open centres require enhanced reception facilities for UASC - both in terms of support provided and space to ensure that children are separated from adults and protected as needed.

Reception systems for UASC vary greatly across and within countries, and can pose protection risks if not appropriate for the needs of children, particularly unaccompanied and separated children. A significant number of unaccompanied children are not hosted in formal shelters or family-based care arrangements. While official information is unavailable, reports suggest these children have moved onwards, residing in informal accommodation or on the streets.

Refugee and Migrant Children's Journey to Europe

Between July and December 2019, IOM interviewed 100 children (aged 14 to 17 years) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italy and North Macedonia. They represented 3.5% of all Flow Monitoring Surveys (FMS)¹⁰ collected in Europe (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italy and North Macedonia and Spain) with migrant adults and children in 2019. No children were interviewed in Spain.

Profile

Only 4 out of 100 children interviewed were female. More than half (56%) of the children were interviewed along the Central Mediterranean route (Italy), while the rest were interviewed along the Eastern Mediterranean route (Bosnia and Herzegovina and North Macedonia). Almost two thirds (62%) of all child respondents were 17 years old at the time of the survey. Tunisia (from the provinces of Sidi Bouzid, Mednine, Sfax, Monastir), Pakistan (mostly from Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces) and Afghanistan (mostly from Nangarhar and Kabul) were the main countries of origin of child respondents in 2019 (27%, 20% and 11% respectively), followed by children from other 12 different countries.

Almost half of them (41%) reported to have completed lower secondary education, and more than one third (36%) to have completed primary school. 53% reported to have left school more than 2 years prior to the interview while 9% reported to have never gone to school.

Journey

Most children (71%) travelled alone, while 12% traveled with one or more family members.

All interviewed children from Tunisia reported to have crossed the Mediterranean directly into Southern Italy from Tunisia. Among other nationalities, two-thirds of children reported to have spent more than three months in transit. Moreover, 28 per cent of children reported to have stayed in a transit country for more than 1 year before leaving for Europe (mostly in Libya).

Reasons and intentions

Economic reasons were reported as one reason to undertake the migration journey by 41% of all children interviewed, followed by war and conflict (22%), violence against them (16%), limited access to basic services (11%) and education (8%). Children also referred to reasons related to safety and protection issues within their families, as well as their desire for a better future and opportunities for education and work.

At the time of departure, most common intended destinations included Italy (37%), France (26%) and Europe in general (13%).

Source: DTM Europe — Flow Monitoring Surveys — Children & Migration (2019)



Asylum Applications and Decisions¹¹

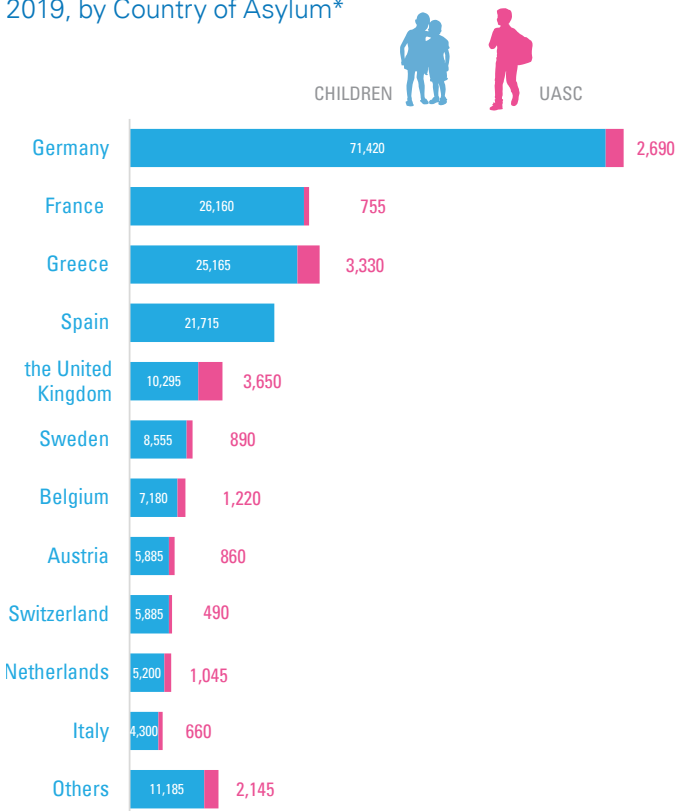
In 2019, European countries¹² recorded 672,935 new asylum seekers. Nearly a third of them (202,945) were children. This represents a slight increase of 6% compared to the same period in 2018 (191,800). Among children, 17,735 were considered UASC while claiming asylum in Europe – 13% less compared to 2018 (20,440).

In 2019, the **Syrian Arab Republic** continues to be most common country of origin among child asylum seekers, yet it currently represents only 21% of child asylum seekers (compared to 24% in 2018). Other common countries of origin among child asylum seekers include **Afghanistan** (11%), **Iraq** (7%), **Venezuela** (4%), Eritrea (4%), followed by Nigeria, Turkey, Colombia and Albania (3% each). Most UASC came from Afghanistan (28%), Pakistan (8%), Syrian Arab Republic (8%), Iraq and Eritrea (6% each).

In general, **45%** of all child asylum seekers in 2019 were female, and most of them originated from Syrian Arab Republic (22%), Afghanistan (9%), Iraq (7%), Venezuela (5%), Nigeria, Eritrea and Turkey (4% each). Significantly less UASC asylum-seekers were girls (14%).

Similarly to previous years, **Germany** remained the top destination for refugee and migrant children, registering 35% of all child asylum applications lodged in Europe between January and December 2019 (71,420 children). Other European countries that recorded large numbers of child asylum seekers include **France** (26,160 children, 13%), **Greece** (25,165 children, 12%), **Spain** (21,715 children, 11%), and the **United Kingdom** (10,295 children, 5%). Greece remains the country with the highest number of first-time applicants relative to its population. Rather a different trend was observed among UASC asylum seekers, whose top destinations were the United Kingdom (3,650 children, 21%), Greece (3,330 children, 19%) and Germany (2,690, 15%).

First-time Asylum Applications Lodged by Children, and Asylum Applicants considered to be Unaccompanied and Separated Children, between January and December 2019, by Country of Asylum*



*The difference in numbers of arrivals and asylum applications can be explained by the long waiting times before people can claim asylum, backlogs in national asylum systems, as well as the fact that applications can be submitted by persons who have arrived previously or did not necessarily come through the Mediterranean Routes.

In 2019, a total of **171,125** decisions were issued on child asylum claims by national authorities across Europe. Yet, due to accumulated backlogs in national asylum systems, over 233,405 asylum applications by children were still registered as pending in December 2019.

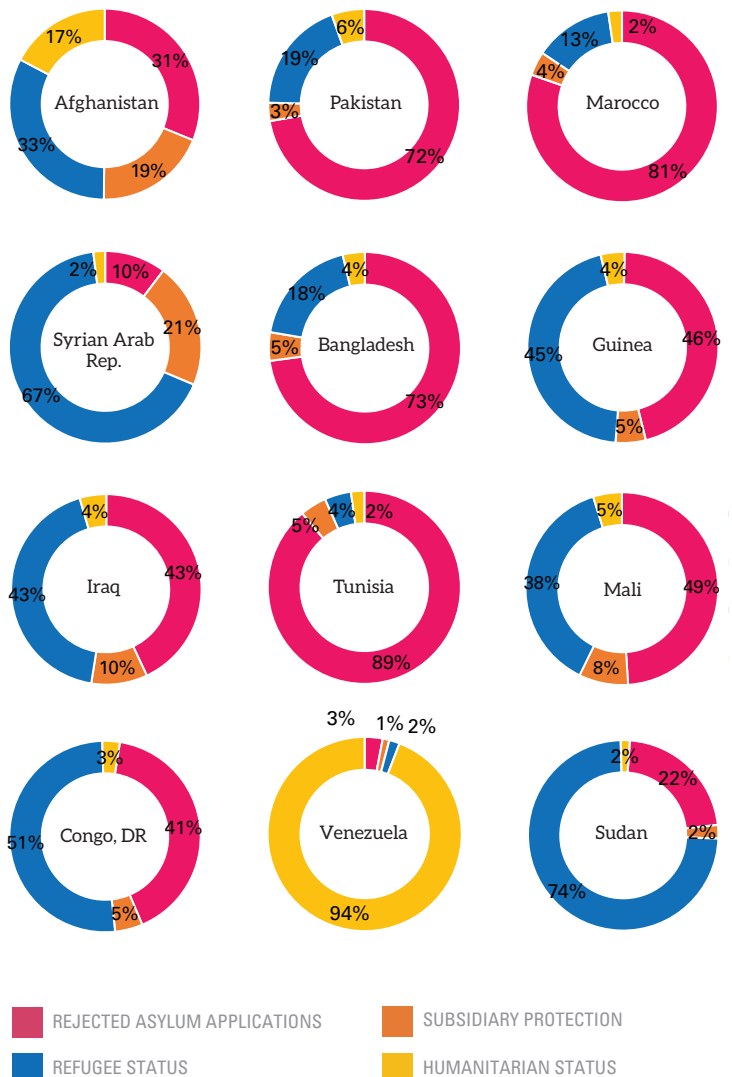
Of all decisions issued in 2019, **59% (101,725)** were positive – a slight increase compared to 2018 when 56% were positive, yet significantly lower as compared to 2017 and 2016, when respectively 63% and 67% of children received positive asylum decisions.

67% of all children who received positive decisions were granted **refugee status**, while the remaining were granted subsidiary protection (19%) and humanitarian status (14%). This represents a positive trend over the past years – as refugee status was granted in 63% of positive decisions in 2018, 50% in 2017 and 53% in 2016.

This is particularly visible among Syrian children, for whom refugee status decisions increased to 74% in 2019 up from 62% in 2018, while subsidiary protection decisions dropped from 27% to 23%.

Many child asylum seekers received negative decisions, notably among those coming from North African countries (90% on average), as well as children from Georgia (95%), Albania (89%) and Russian Federation (72%).

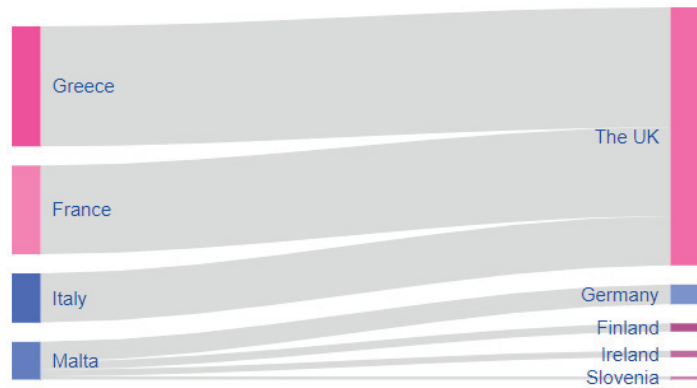
Decisions on Child Asylum Applications between January and December 2019



Source: Eurostat 2019

Relocation

After the official closure of the EU emergency relocation scheme in 2018¹³, IOM has continued to support national authorities to relocate migrants and refugees arriving by sea to other EU Member States through bilateral agreements between countries involved. Between January and December 2019, a total of 23 unaccompanied children were relocated to Germany (12), Finland (5), Ireland (4) and Slovenia (2), from Malta. Additionally, 157 unaccompanied children were transferred to the United Kingdom within the framework of the DUBS scheme, from Greece (73) France (54) and Italy (30).



[source]

Returns from Greece to Turkey

Of all returnees from Greece to Turkey under the EU-Turkey Statement between 2016 and December 2019 (2,001), 96 (5%) were children. All of them were returned with their families.

[source]

Assisted with Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) to Children and UASC

Between January and December 2019, IOM provided AVRR support to **78,898** migrants globally (24% more than the same period in 2018). 18% of them were children, including **2,364** unaccompanied and separated children.

Overall, **28,252** AVRR beneficiaries were assisted to return from the European Economic Area and Switzerland, with **46%** (13,092) assisted to return from Germany. **23%** (6,523) of AVRR beneficiaries from the European Economic Area and Switzerland were children, including 130 unaccompanied and separated. Over half of the beneficiaries assisted to return from the European Economic Area and Switzerland (51% or 14,589) returned to South-eastern and Eastern Europe. Another 18% (5,139) returned to the Middle East and Northern Africa and 17% (4,900) went back to Asia and Pacific region.

Children Resettled to Europe

Of the total **33,900** people in resettlement procedures to Europe as of December 2019, **52%** were children (28% boys and 24% girls). Children's resettlement cases in Europe were most commonly being considered by Germany, Sweden, Norway, France and the United Kingdom. The most common countries of origin of children whose cases were being considered by European states for resettlement included the Syrian Arab Republic, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia and Eritrea.

Source: Hellenic Police, Greek National Centre for Social Solidarity (EKKA), Italian Ministry of Interior, Bulgarian State Agency for Refugees, Spanish Ministry of Interior, Eurostat, BAMF-Germany, IOM, UNHCR resettlement portal and UNICEF



Definitions:

A **"separated child"** is a child separated from both parents or from his/her previous legal or customary primary care-giver, but not necessarily from other relatives. This may, therefore, mean that the child is accompanied by other adult family members.

An **"unaccompanied child"** is a child separated from both parents and other relatives and are not being cared for by any other adult who, by law or custom, is responsible for doing so. [\[source\]](#)

A **"refugee"** is a person who owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country (Article 1 A 1951 Refugee Convention).

An **"asylum seeker"** is a person who has applied for asylum and is waiting for a decision as to whether or not they are a refugee. Determination of refugee status can only be of a declaratory nature. Indeed, any person is a refugee within the framework of a given instrument if he meets the criteria of the refugee definition in that instrument, whether he is formally recognized as a refugee or not (UNHCR Note on Determination of Refugee Status under International Instruments) [\[source\]](#)

A **"migrant"** refers to any person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a State away from his/her habitual place of residence, regardless of (1) the person's legal status; (2) whether the movement is voluntary or involuntary; (3) what the causes for the movement are; or (4) what the length of the stay is. [\[source\]](#)

About the factsheet

This factsheet is jointly produced by UNHCR, UNICEF and IOM with the aim to support evidence-based decision-making and advocacy on issues related to refugee and migrant children.

The document provides an overview of the situation in Europe with regards to refugee and migrant children (accompanied and UASC). It compiles key child-related data based on available official sources: arrival, reception, asylum applications, asylum decisions, profiling of arrivals, relocation within Europe, resettlement to European countries, as well as returns from Greece to Turkey under the EU-Turkey statement and assisted voluntary returns from European countries.

The present factsheet covers the period January to December 2019. The factsheet is produced every six months to provide up-to-date information on refugee and migrant children, including unaccompanied and separated children.

Endnotes

1. Data on arrivals in Italy does not include land arrivals. Data for Spain includes both sea and land arrivals and is based on UNHCR estimates, pending provision of final figures by Spanish authorities. Figures for UASC are only available for arrivals by sea (not for Ceuta or Melilla).
2. Separated children are children separated from both parents, or from their previous legal or customary primary caregiver, but not necessarily from other relatives. These may, therefore, include children accompanied by other adult family members. Unaccompanied children are children who have been separated from both parents and other relatives and are not being cared for by an adult who, by law or custom, is responsible for doing so (IASC).
3. Arrival figures for Greece are collected in the framework of UNHCR border activities and are provided by Hellenic Police and the National Coordination Centre for Border Control, Immigration and Asylum Service.
4. During the same period of time, a total of 9,816 referrals were made to the Greek National Centre for Social Solidarity (EKKA) based on children identified on islands and mainland Greece, including near the land border with Turkey in January-December 2019.
5. UNHCR estimated figures pending provision of final figures by the government. Figures on UASC arrivals to Ceuta and Melilla are not included. Children arriving in Canary Islands from West Africa are included.
6. Data on arrivals and demographic of refugees and migrants registered in Italy is based on information received from the Italian Ministry of Interior.
7. Estimate on data provided by the Immigration Police and the Ministry for Home Affairs, National Security and Law Enforcement (MHAS), Malta. UASC figures are based on age declared by the refugees and migrants upon arrival. Not all the persons who make such a declaration are recognised to be UASC by the authorities after the age assessment is conducted.
8. For 2019, asylum application data is used to provide an estimate of child arrivals in 2019. Data on arrivals in Bulgaria comprising apprehensions upon irregular entry, exit or inside the country is not disaggregated by age. The vast majority of children arriving in Bulgaria apply for asylum.
9. Under emergency regulations adopted by the Hungarian government in 2017, unaccompanied and separated asylum-seeking children of and above the age of 14 years are confined to the transit zones for the duration of the asylum procedure.
10. The Flow Monitoring Surveys (FMS) are part of the IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) activities in the Mediterranean region, started in October 2015 and conducted within the framework of IOM's research on populations on the move through the Mediterranean and Western Balkan Routes to Europe. Surveys are analysed to provide information on profiles, transit routes and vulnerabilities of respondents. Below are summary findings based on the analysis of different nationality groups.
11. Data on asylum applications and decisions are from Eurostat [migr_asyappctza, migr_asyunaa, migr_asydcfsta, migr_asyencntzm], last checked on April 29 2020. Data for Spain and Cyprus on asylum applicants considered to be UASC were not available at the time of closing the report; all data are constantly subject to revisions/adjustments.
12. European Union Member States plus the United Kingdom, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.
13. The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights released the lessons learned report on the unaccompanied children relocation schemes: <https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2020/relocation-unaccompanied-children>

Limitation of available data on Children and UASC:

There is no comprehensive data on arrivals (both adults and children) in Europe, especially by land and air, as such movements are largely irregular and involve smuggling networks, which are difficult to track. If collected, data is rarely disaggregated by nationalities, risk category, gender or age.

Reliable data on the number of UASC either arriving to, or currently residing in, different European countries is often unavailable. The number of asylum applications filed by UASC is used to provide an indication of trends but does not necessarily provide an accurate picture of the caseload due to backlogs in national asylum systems, onward irregular movements or children not applying for asylum at all. In addition, due to different definitions and national procedures and practices, collecting accurate data on separated children specifically is very challenging (e.g. separated children being registered as either accompanied or unaccompanied). It should also be noted that complete data for the period January to December 2019 on UASC asylum applications were not available or final for all EU member states on Eurostat website at the time when this factsheet was released.

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