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Refugee and Migrant Crisis in Europe Humanitarian Situation Report # 28



January-June 2018

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Highlights

- Between January and June 2018, 50,800 refugees and migrants, including some 11,200 children, arrived in Europe through the Mediterranean. While Italy has recorded an 85 per cent decrease in sea arrivals in 2018 compared to the same period last year, Greece and Spain have seen a spike of 50 and 90 per cent respectively.
- During the first half of 2018, 12,629 children benefitted from UNICEF specialized child protection support in Greece, Italy, Bulgaria, Serbia and Germany. 11,483 children were also reached with UNICEF-supported formal and non-formal education activities, while almost 1,435 frontline workers were trained on protection standards and other protection-related topics.
- Over 2,230 people also benefitted from GBV prevention and response services in Greece, Serbia and Bulgaria, and more than 630 frontline workers have been trained on GBV prevention, response and referral pathways in Greece, Italy and Bulgaria.
- Increasing reports of people stranded at sea, criminalization of humanitarian assistance to refugees and migrants and controversial migration policies over the past six months have added to already existing challenges refugee and migrant children and their families in Europe face on a daily basis. The highly political context represents the most important constraint in UNICEF and partners' efforts to respond to the needs and protect the rights of children on the move, stranded and seeking asylum across Europe.

50,800

of arrivals in Europe through Italy, Greece, Spain and Bulgaria between January and June 2018 (UNHCR, 10 July 2018)

11,200

Estimated # of children among all arrivals in 2018 (UNHCR, 10 July 2018)

56,200

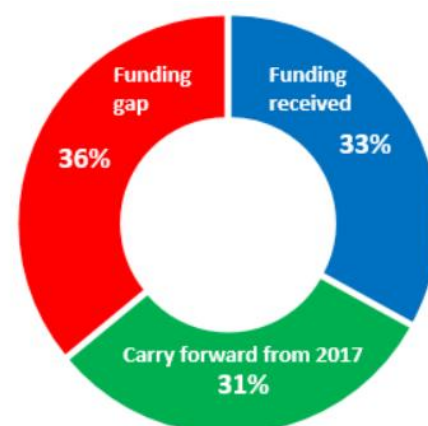
of child asylum-seekers in Europe between January and June 2018 (Eurostat, 7 July 2018)

24,500

of estimated stranded children in Greece, Bulgaria, and Serbia in 2018 (UNICEF, 30 June 2018)

UNICEF Appeal 2018

US\$ 33,144 ,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	12,629
# of children including adolescents participating in structured formal and non-formal education activities**	19,250	11,483
# of frontline workers trained on child protection standards/ child protection in emergencies*	4,500	1,435

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

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Between January and June 2018, some 50,800 refugees and migrants reached Europe through the Eastern, Central and Western Mediterranean routes. Among them around 11,200 were children. While Italy has recorded an 85 per cent decrease in sea arrivals during the first half of 2018 compared to the same period last year, Greece has seen the number of arrivals spike by almost 50 per cent. Spain has also recorded a 90 per cent increase in people crossing by sea – the majority of them arriving just in June¹.

Close to half of all child arrivals (5,001) were registered in Greece, where the proportion of children remains significantly higher than on other migration routes (37 per cent compared to 17 and 16 per cent in Italy and Spain respectively). Most children arriving in Greece come from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq, and are typically below 12 years old, with infants and small children (0 to 4 years old) making the largest age group. In Italy 2,600 unaccompanied adolescent children arrived by June 2018, adding to over 13,000 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) in the Italian reception system. Based on Eurostat figures, more than 31,000 UASC claimed asylum in Europe in 2017².

Despite continuous efforts by governments and partners to respond to the needs of refugee and migrant children in Europe, challenges remain in terms of family reunification, guardianship and foster care, as well as access to basic public services such as education, mental health and psychosocial support. Reception conditions are still sub-standard in many locations, particularly in Greece where first reception centres operate at 250 percent of their capacity, while 149 UASC remain in protective custody³. Similarly, in Spain, some centres reportedly host four times more children than places available. Gender-based violence (GBV) is also a wide-spread issue as prevention and response services and referral pathways remain scarce. A recent UNICEF assessment in southern Italy, for example, indicated the lack of a structured institutional framework and significant capacity gaps among frontline workers to respond to GBV incidents and related mental health issues, particularly when it comes to adolescent girls and boys.



Diane, a Nigerian girl who is pregnant with twins after being forced into prostitution following her arrival in Italy via the Mediterranean Sea route from Libya, stands in a home run by an Italian NGO where she is being sheltered in Piedmont region, Italy. © UNICEF/UN069364/Romenzi

Over the second quarter of 2018, the situation in the Western Balkans has also evolved with the emerging new Balkans migration route through Bosnia and Herzegovina, where close to 7,700 people, including 142 UASC, were recorded – a 35-fold increase compared to the same period in 2017. Despite efforts by the government to provide for the basic needs of new arrivals by establishing two government-led shelters, many people are reported sleeping in the open in precarious conditions in Sarajevo and on the northern border with Croatia. In this context, the situation of UASC is of particular concern.

The past few months have also been marked by significant political developments across Europe aiming to strengthen migration management. Such efforts may represent an opportunity to speed-up asylum and family reunification procedures and strengthen the overall reception and protection systems for newly arrived children and families. Yet, the increasing reports of families and children stranded at sea, subject to violent push-backs at European borders and detained for migration control purposes raise significant concerns over the protection of extremely vulnerable refugee and migrant children and women. Recent acts of criminalization of individuals' and civil society organisations' humanitarian assistance to refugees and migrants in Hungary also raised concerns over children's increased exposure to risks of violence, abuse and exploitation, even human trafficking.

Humanitarian Strategy and Coordination

In line with its Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, UNICEF continues in 2018 to respond to the needs of children and women on the move, stranded, pushed back and seeking asylum in Europe through a two-pronged approach combining life-saving humanitarian service delivery with capacity building, policy reform and technical assistance. UNICEF sustains psychosocial support and other protection services, as well as mobile outreach teams to identify and refer at-risk children, while also supporting governments in improving the quality and timeliness of guardianship, foster care, alternatives to detention, and regular and safe passage opportunities. In 2018, GBV prevention and response have also been scaled up across all response countries to ensure refugee and migrant girls, boys, women and men have access to critical services and referral pathways. Education and life-skills development remain a critical pillar of the

¹ Out of the 17,900 arrivals in 2018, 7,300 were recorded in June alone. UNHCR

² According to Eurostat, in 2017 some 31,400 UASC claimed asylum in EU Member States. This was nearly half the number recorded in 2016 (63 200 unaccompanied minors registered) and almost one-third of the peak registered in 2015 (95 200), but over two and a half times higher than the annual average during the period 2008-2013 (around 12 000 per year).

³ <https://www.unicef.org/eca/sites/unicef.org/eca/files/EKKA-UNICEF%2031%20May%202018.pdf>

response and UNICEF is working with national and local education authorities and partners to keep children learning, equip them with skills and advance their social inclusion in host communities. Child rights monitoring, evidence generation and policy support also remain a priority in a middle and high-income operation context and UNICEF.

UNICEF programmatic interventions in high-income countries continues to be optimized. Concretely, this implies the closure of operational activities in Austria in April 2018 and the scale-down of the UNICEF programme in Germany in June 2018, while minimal regional capacity is sustained to support national responses, generate evidence and document promising practices and lessons learned on key issues such as guardianship and alternative care for UASC. UNICEF continues 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. Moreover, UNICEF is currently expanding the scope of its work to respond to a broader range of issues related to children affected by migration across Europe and Central Asia, including children left behind.

Cross-sectoral contingency capacity has been strengthened to facilitate an immediate response to any emerging situations. This has made it possible to quickly mobilize regional resources and initiate a refugee and migrant humanitarian response in May 2018 in Bosnia and Herzegovina in response to the increased influx of refugees and migrants, including families with children and UASC.

Although no formal inter-agency refugee and migrant response plan was developed for 2018, UNICEF continues to closely coordinate both response activities and contingency planning with key partners including UNHCR and IOM, as well as international and national civil society organisations. UNICEF continues strengthening partnerships with Governments to build national capacities and improve national protection, education and social welfare systems based on good practices to ensure sustainability of interventions and ultimately facilitate the social inclusion of refugee and migrant children in Europe.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

GREECE

Since the beginning of 2018, the number of refugees and migrants on the islands continues to exceed current reception capacity. As of 29 June, occupancy at the Moria Reception and Identification Centre on the island of Lesbos was over 7,200 in a facility built for 3,000⁴. There was also a reported rise in refugees and migrants entering through the land border with Turkey, with over 8,200 people registered between January and May 2018. The increase of arrivals has also resulted in an increased number of unaccompanied children in protective custody, currently standing at 149 with a peak in May reaching 200, based on data from the National Centre for Social Solidarity (EKKA). It is estimated that 23,500 children are currently present in Greece.

Child protection: In April, UNICEF officially launched its new Child and Family Support Hub (CFSH) in Lesbos (a.k.a “Tapuat Center”) for refugee and migrant children and women of the Moria Reception and Identification Centre, who now benefit from structured child protection and non-formal education activities, counseling and referral to specialized services. This comes to complement another six UNICEF-supported CFSH in sites and urban centres on the mainland, where attendance remained relatively stable over the past months, providing support to over 5,500 children. Female Friendly Spaces (FFS) in these Hubs, as well as the Melissa Network Community Center in central Athens, also ensured the provision of GBV prevention, protection, awareness raising, and skills building activities for some 1,670 women and children.

Additionally, during the reporting period UNICEF supported the capacity-building of some 400 frontline workers, signed an MoU with the General Secretariat for Gender Equality in Greece and a new cooperation with the Research Centre for Gender Equality (KETHI) providing technical support and interpretation services to counselling centres, shelters and hospitals. UNICEF and partners also established referral pathways for GBV survivors and their children in the cities of Lesbos, Thessaloniki and Kavala.

UNICEF continues to support 5 Safe Zones for unaccompanied children in the sites of Schisto, Thiva, Diavata, Lagadikia and Agia Eleni. Yet the situation has become increasingly challenging with daily new arrivals, particularly in Thiva, as well as the increasing number of children in protective custody in very poor conditions. In June alone, EKKA received 653 new referrals of UASC, mainly from Afghanistan (197), Pakistan (193) and Syria (80). In this context, UNICEF and partners have worked closely with authorities to identify appropriate solutions for children in protective custody and speed up relocations under the Dubs Scheme, which has already resulted in 18 being transferred to the UK.

Through the Supported Independent Living pilot for UASC, UNICEF continued to support seven children living in two apartments. Identification of a third apartment is underway. The pilot aims to provide adolescent UASC aged 16-17 years old with small scale housing where they can learn independent living skills and prepare for their transition to adulthood. Each child is supported by a multi-disciplinary team (social worker, carers, legal representative) who facilitates their access to a range of services (health, education, legal, psychosocial) and has access to a 24/7 emergency support as needed.

⁴ [National Situational Picture Regarding the Islands at Eastern Aegean Sea](#), Hellenic Police, 29 June 2018

Education: Based on a national assessment by the Education Working Group with the support of the Ministry of Education, 62 per cent of children aged 5-17 years old living in urban areas were enrolled in Greek public schools as of June 2018 – an increase of seven percentage points since December 2017. Girls' enrolment (particularly pre-primary school age and adolescents) was higher than that of boys (65 per cent vs. 59 per cent respectively). While overall enrolment has significantly improved, gaps remain, particularly on the islands and in urban Athens. To address some of these gaps and facilitate children's enrolment during the upcoming school year, UNICEF supported non-formal education for 2,800 children in Athens, Thessaloniki, Thiva, Serres, Drama and Lesbos.

Throughout the first half of the year, UNICEF also supported communication in the enrolment process through web articles on enrolment on [Refugee.Info](#), translated into nine languages (English, Greek, Arabic, Farsi, Urdu, French, Sorani, Kurmanji and Turkish) and the establishment of an interpretation call centre for school principals.

In June, UNICEF supported the organization of a 2-day lessons learned workshop with the participation of approximately 80 representatives of the Ministry of Education, including 68 Refugee Education Coordinators across Greece. This has created a conducive environment for further strengthening the education response in Greece.

Child Rights Monitoring: During the first half of 2018, UNICEF continued to support the national child rights monitoring network for children on the move, led by the Office of the Greek Ombudsperson. An MoU with the new Deputy Ombudswoman for Children's Rights has now been successfully finalized to monitor and protect the rights of children on the move.

UNICEF also supported the development and launch of an on-line national referral system for UASC in May. Capacity-building sessions and individual coaching for frontline workers and EKKA staff are currently ongoing.

ITALY

During the first half of 2018, some 2,600 newly arrived UASC were registered in Italy. Yet, the number of UASC hosted in the reception system in Italy has decreased from 18,508 in December 2017 to 13,318 in May 2018 due to many children having turned 18. This has resulted in the closure of some centres for UASC, and the placement of children and youth in reception facilities for adults. Scarcity of appropriate accommodation and services for UASC are coupled with increased negative perceptions and discrimination in host communities. Results from recent U-report polls show that 1 in every 3 UASC participating has experienced or witnessed discrimination since their arrival in Italy. Main causes reported included skin colour (40 per cent), religion (19 per cent) and nationality (19 per cent).

Child Protection: In this context, the UNICEF response continued to focus on technical support to national authorities in improving protection standards and access to services in reception facilities, and direct service delivery to respond to the immediate needs of refugee and migrant children through identification and referral of children at risk, provision of learning opportunities and youth empowerment and participation.

Since the beginning of the year a total of 1,394 UASC have benefitted from improved reception conditions and services in Sicily and Calabria, including 940 newly reached children in April-June 2018. Among them, 788 UASC also participated in socio-recreational activities aiming at facilitating their social inclusion.

UNICEF sustained outreach activities resulting in the identification and referral of 568 UASC during search and rescue operations in partnership with the Italian Coastguard, as well as 1,040 children who had dropped out from the reception system were identified and were found in transit in Rome and Ventimiglia, at the border with France.

Support to the guardianship system in Italy is also expanding. An important milestone has been achieved with the signature of new protocols with the National Ombudsperson and the Ombudsperson in Sicily and Calabria, which will allow to replicate the Palermo guardianship model in other municipalities during the summer.

Education: During the reporting period, UNICEF launched an e-learning tool aimed to support 800 UASC in Italian language learning and preparation for compulsory middle school exams. So far 168 UASC have benefitted from this tool, while 76 staff of Adult Learning Centres, educators from reception centres and volunteers received training on the platform.

Participation: Through [U-Report on the Move](#), UNICEF supported the engagement and empowerment of over 700 adolescents by June 2018. The information collected was also used for advocacy and programme design to improve protection standards in centres for UASC and strengthen access to quality services (guardianship, education, etc.). Results from U-report polls are published on the official site of the Italian Ministry of Social Affairs and articles with poll analyses included in monthly ministerial newsletters reaching social workforce nation-wide.

Between April and June 2018, six polls were carried out in six different languages (Arabic, Bengali and Tigrinya were added to the three languages already used – Italian, English and French). To mark the anniversary of U-report and increase engagement of UASC on the platform, a 'Happy birthday' creative contest was launched in April, reaching some 6,800 people. Following the signature of a new partnership with the national Ombudsman for Children and Adolescents, U-report is expected to soon be scaled up at the national level.

BULGARIA

Since the beginning of the year, 610 refugees and migrants were intercepted by the border police – a 52 per cent decrease compared to the same period last year. Despite legislative changes in December 2017 banning the detention of UASC for migration control purposes, 28 UASC have been identified in detention as of May 2018. UNICEF monitored the situation of 114 migrant children and reached 31 UASC with legal counselling and strategic litigation. Another 8 children benefitted from family reunification support.

Since the beginning of the year, a total of 259 children and 53 women were reached with UNICEF-supported recreational and non-formal learning activities in four reception centres in Sofia and Harmanli. As of June 2018, activities have been enriched with classes on child rights and life-skills as part of a more comprehensive approach to safeguarding child rights and facilitating social inclusion.

Between April to June 2018, UNICEF supported eight specialized GBV training sessions for 85 frontline workers from the State Agency for Refugees, Migration Directorate at the Ministry of the Interior, Agency for Social Assistance, Regional Police Departments, public prosecutors, civil society organisations and other service providers (psychologists and lawyers). These capacity-building efforts have helped strengthen referral pathways and improve the quality of services available to children and women at risk.

GBV programming has been further strengthened through community awareness raising sessions with the participation of 93 asylum seekers and refugees, tailored to their age, gender and cultural background. Audience-sensitive information and materials on GBV prevention and available services were also shared via social media and other Internet channels. So far, 10 potential or identified survivors of GBV were supported in accessing psychosocial support and medical services.

SERBIA

As of 1 July, close to 3,000 refugees and migrants, including 700 children (292 girls and 408 boys) were present in Serbia. The majority are accommodated in 18 government reception centres across the country, while refugees and migrants continue transiting the country trying to reach other intended destinations in Europe.

Child Protection: UNICEF continues to support child-friendly spaces in Krnjača, Bujanovac, Preševo, Vranje and Dimitrovgrad asylum and reception centres in partnership with Danish Refugee Council (DRC), as well as in Kikinda, Adaševci, Principovac and Divljana Reception Centres in partnership with SOS Children's Villages (SOS-CV). Activities include identification and referral of child protection concerns, as well as the organisation of structured non-formal education and recreational activities. Technical support is also provided to ensure the specific needs of girls are addressed.



A mother and her one-year old daughter get support from a social worker in a UNICEF-supported mother-and-baby space in Presevo, Serbia.
© UNICEF/UN0202826/Pancic

In view of ongoing funding constraints, UNICEF supported an assessment of child-related needs in reception/transit/asylum centres, and is now chairing a Task Force which oversees this transition to government-provided services to ensure sustainability of child-friendly services in 2018 and beyond.

While UNICEF is no longer providing direct financial support to the Centres for Social Work (CSW), sustainability of their work has been ensured by the government with support from the EU. Following significant joint IOM, UNHCR and UNICEF advocacy, social workers from the CSWs are now operational throughout the country and UNICEF partners continue to identify, assess and refer UASC and other children at risk. In line with international standards and national regulations, IOM, UNHCR and UNICEF have also successfully advocated for the development of adequate care and accommodation options for UASC in line with their best interests. As a result, three homes (two in the Belgrade area and one in Nis) have been supported in providing UASC with protective environment and services.

Gender-Based Violence: GBV capacity was strengthened in 7 out of 18 reception centres to ensure women and girls can access safe spaces, as well as sexual and reproductive health and legal services. Since the beginning of the year, a total of 453 women and girls have benefitted from these services.

UNICEF continues to support GBV capacity-building and 108 frontline workers, including cultural mediators and health first responders, received specialized training during the past six months. UNICEF together with partners is now developing a mentorship programme to enhance work with girls in particular. Partners are also being sensitized on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), to make sure they have safeguarding policies in place, in line with international standards.

Education: As a result of continuous support to Serbian authorities in including refugee and migrant children in the education system, by the end of the school year in June 2018, a total of 265 (91 per cent) primary school-age children and 15 (10 per cent) secondary school-age children graduated from 43 public schools. Yet, attendance has varied greatly throughout the year due to continuous attempts of families to leave the country towards other intended destinations.

To help scale up enrolment during the upcoming school year, UNICEF, in partnership with UNHCR and the Crisis Response and Policy Centre (CPRC), organized round tables on *Cultural and Educational characteristics of countries of origin of migrant children* in five cities, and supported a Ministry of Education-led mapping of institutions, their capacities and conditions. In the upcoming months, UNICEF will also focus on the enrolment of refugee and migrant children in the mandatory one-year preschool program, as well as on expanding enrolment in secondary schools, while continuing to support quality education at primary school level.

Health and Nutrition: UNICEF sustained Mother and Baby Corners (MBCs) in Belgrade city centre, Preševo, Bujanovac, Vranje, Krnjača, Kikinda, Principovac, Adaševci and Divljana, where trained nurses help mothers and their children maintain everyday hygiene care, health and nutrition. UNICEF also facilitated the development of recommendations for *Nutrition in transit, reception and asylum centres for refugee and migrant children, pregnant and lactating women*.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Between January and June 2018, there have been over 7,600 detected refugee and migrant arrivals, including 147 UASC, compared to 218 in 2017. The majority arrived over land from Serbia and some from Montenegro in an irregular manner (i.e. at non-official border crossings). It is estimated that 3,500 people are currently hosted in reception and asylum centres in Trnovo and Salakovac, both operating at high capacity levels.

To respond to this rapidly evolving situation, UNICEF with several child rights organisations conducted in May a rapid assessment of the situation of children on the move in the country, including UASC. The assessment, which built on the Multi-cluster/sector Initial Rapid Assessment (March-April 2018) by the United Nations Country Team, determined the scale of needs risks facing refugee and migrant children and helped identify priorities for immediate response. These included safe accommodation, nutrition, hygiene supplies and clothes, as well as access to healthcare and psychosocial counselling. For UASC, the major issue identified related to the timely appointment of legal guardians.

As a follow-up to the assessment, UNICEF supported the equipment of the newly opened Refugee Reception Centre in Salakovac, as well as the establishment of three child-friendly spaces (one in the reception centre in Salakovac and two mobile ones in Bihac), reaching 240 children. Four additional child-friendly spaces are in the process of being established, and a training for frontline workers on child protection in emergencies planned for roll-out in July.

UNICEF intends to complement child-friendly services for refugee and migrant children with the establishment of three Mother and Baby Corners, where mothers and infants can benefit from Infant and Young Child Feeding services, and conduct an education needs assessments in anticipation of education needs during the upcoming school year.

GERMANY

Between January and May 2018, some 63,400 people sought asylum in Germany. Among them around 46% (31,600) were children – an increase compared to 2017 and 2016 when children made up 41% and 36% of asylum seekers respectively. The majority of child asylum seekers were below 5 years old (61%), which is consistent with previous years.

Together with the Ministry of Family Affairs, UNICEF continued to co-lead the National Initiative for the Protection of Refugees and Migrants in Refugee Accommodation Centres. This included the dissemination of the revised Minimum Protection Standards at federal state level with the first of six regional technical workshops in Rostock (5 July 2018), which focused on the specific needs of refugee and migrant children, young men/fathers and LGBTIQ⁵.

In the meantime, partners under the Initiative finalized a third addition to the Minimum Protection Standards focusing on addressing trauma in the refugee and migrant context. The document has now been submitted to the Federal Ministry of Health for endorsement.



Children play in front of the newly established child-friendly space in the Refugee Reception Centre in Salakovac, June 2018 @UNICEF BiH/2018/Goran Djemidzic

⁵ lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex

UNICEF is also supporting the development of two implementation guides: on (i) standardized procedures for prevention and response to violence in refugee centres and (ii) monitoring and evaluating protection concepts.

In 2018, 22 in-house trainings were conducted, reaching 423 frontline workers from 75 refugee centres. UNICEF also conducted an orientation training for 12 protection coordinators and managers of nine centres who joined the Initiative more recently or had changes in protection coordinator. Training materials and other relevant resources are available [here](#).

In addition, UNICEF continues its direct field support to protection coordinators in 100 refugee centres supported by the Initiative, including through field visits in Cologne, Bergisch Gladbach, Berlin, Stuttgart, Karlsruhe, Donauwoerth and Bad Saarow. Protection coordinators from neighbouring centres joined those visits to provide on-the-job support as part of the 'buddy system'.

UNICEF continues to test a prototype of the monitoring tool for refugee centers in two pilot sites (Osnabruck/Lower Saxony and Schwerin/Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania), and is now supporting both sites in developing theories of change based on the federal state and centre-specific protection concepts including monitoring indicators.

AUSTRIA

In April 2018, UNICEF concluded its programmatic intervention in Austria, which focused on the enhancement of child protection standards in reception, distribution and accommodation centres and on building national capacity to effectively respond to the needs of refugee and migrant children.

In 2018, UNICEF supported the finalization of the national standards for the protection of children in refugee, asylum and accommodation facilities in a participatory approach with all relevant major NGOs in the country. The Standards were validated by key civil society organisations and state administration in four Federal States (Vorarlberg, Tyrol, Oberoesterreich and Vienna).

Some 500 staff working with refugees and migrants in accommodation facilities participated in UNICEF-supported trainings on child protection and child rights. This included 60 staff of the Ministry of Interior. UNICEF also supported the development of a training manual and the establishment of a pool of trainers to sustain capacity-building efforts over time.

Communications and Advocacy

In 2018, migration is high on the political agenda across Europe, polarizing public opinions and leading to controversial political and legislative stances. In such a highly sensitive context, UNICEF continued raising a strong voice for the rights of refugee and migrant children at both regional and country levels, focusing on [access to safe territory](#) for extremely vulnerable children and women rescued at sea, overcrowded and under-standard [reception conditions](#), detention for migration control purposes, best interest determination, age assessment and family reunification.

Ahead of World Refugee Day on 19 June, UNICEF launched the 'What Excites Us, Unites Us' initiative. It aimed at demonstrating the power of football to galvanize support for refugee and migrant children around the world. The campaign was led by a [two-minute film](#) telling the story of Santi, an 8-year-old who migrated from Bolivia to Spain, had trouble finding friends, and ultimately found acceptance in his new home country through a shared love of football. Coinciding with the film, the "longest goal challenge" was also launched on social media with a first hit by Sergio Ramos as a way to show support for migrant and refugee children using #LongestGoal and #WorldCup.

On 20 June 2018, UNICEF issued a [statement](#) on the adoption of a new Hungarian legislation that makes it illegal for organizations and individuals to provide basic support and protection to refugee and migrant children and their families. On that occasion, UNICEF reminded that civil society plays a vital role in protecting the rights of all children including the most vulnerable, and restricting this role would cause further harm to children who have already been forced to leave their homes, often experiencing traumatic journeys, and will perpetuate dangerous misconceptions rooted in racism and discrimination. This was followed by a [reminder](#) to the EU that any new migration policy must consider the critical need to provide safe passages and legal pathways for refugee and migrant children and their families, as well as timely access to asylum and resettlement processes. As EU leaders gathered to discuss a new common European migration policy, UNICEF [urged](#) them to take concerted, united and timely action 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 collaboration with Headquarters, the UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia and the UNICEF team in Italy also helped shape the global thematic workshop on Children and Youth on the Move, held in Agadir, Morocco (21-22 June). This was an opportunity for refugee and migrant children, including two young Gambian migrants from Italy, to contribute to discussions around the Global Compact on Migration, on issues such as basic services, recognition of diplomas, safe passage and social inclusions, as well as challenges of children left behind and second generation migrants. The young delegates' participation culminated in a youth-led session on 'Being a Young Migrant – from Object to Subject. Why and How Should You Invest in Us?' where the young people took over the entire stage for 90 minutes.

In Germany, the UNICEF National Committee's advocacy focused on the new law on family reunification, engaging with members of the parliament and the government. As part of this effort, the National Committee collected first-hand testimonies from professionals, national authorities as well as mothers and children seeking to unite with their fathers, children, and siblings in Germany. These were shared broadly through [UNICEF website](#), [blogs](#) and [situation updates](#). On 8 May the National Committee also [published a press release](#) commenting on the draft legislation and continued its '[Twiplomacy](#)' activities on Twitter.

In support to evidence-based advocacy for the improvement of the situation of refugee and migrant children in the Netherlands, in June UNICEF National Committee in the Netherlands launched the report on a research conducted in asylum centres across the country. Its findings and policy recommendations have been shared with key government counterparts.

In Slovenia, the focus of advocacy efforts by the National Committee for UNICEF was on follow-up to programmatic activities undertaken by the UNICEF refugee and migrant response in the country, which concluded in December 2017. This included the establishment of a national child wellbeing index for all children in the country, including refugees and migrants, the improvement of the guardianship system and alternative care arrangements for UASC, as well as justice for children.

In Greece, UNICEF supported public advocacy initiatives aiming at strengthening cross-cultural dialogue through a World Voice concert in Athens (May 2018), bringing together 60 refugee and migrant and Greek children, and theatre play "The Journey" produced during a two-week theatre festival by and with refugee and migrant children, including unaccompanied adolescents. The production is the outcome of a broader partnership between UNICEF and the National Theatre, which aims to provide hundreds of young people (including newcomers and Greek-born children) with the opportunity to share their stories, express themselves, learn new skills in creative expression and communication, and promote inter-cultural consciousness.



Young refugee and migrants take over the global thematic workshop on Children and Youth on the Move in Agadir, Morocco (21-22 June 2018).
@UNICEF/ECARO

SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME RESULTS - as of 30 June 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	5,540	2478
	Italy	4,300	1,394	940
	Serbia***	3,000	660	258
	Bulgaria	300	35	24
	Germany**	10,000	5,000	–
# of at-risk children (incl. UASC) identified and referred through screening by outreach teams and child protection support centres	Greece	450	1,146	641
	Italy	2,500	1,040	475
	Serbia	1,500	558	312

# of frontline workers trained on child protection standards/ child protection in emergencies	Greece	400	405	82
	Italy*	1,300	457	402
	Serbia	200	131	131
	Bulgaria	100	19	–
	Germany	2,500	423	173
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE				
# of people accessing GBV prevention and response services	Greece	2,200	1,671	1,354
	Serbia	350	453	453
	Bulgaria	150	110	110
# of frontline workers benefitting from GBV training	Greece	380	230	123
	Italy	600	316	316
	Bulgaria	50	85	85
EDUCATION				
# of children including adolescents participating in structured non-formal education activities	Greece	2,000	2,768	935
	Italy	5,000	50	12
	Serbia***	4,000	753	214
	Bulgaria	150	282	61
# of children enrolled in mainstream formal education	Greece	6,000	7,300	1,315
	Italy	1,500	168	168
	Serbia***	600	162	46
# of children (3-5 years old) benefiting from early childhood education activities	Greece	900	593	244
	Bulgaria	300	54	13
# of children receiving education materials	Greece	6,000	755	15
HEALTH AND NUTRITION				
# of children (under 5) accessing mother and baby care services, including nutrition services	Serbia***	1,000	151	90
# of mothers benefiting from infant and young child feeding counselling at family support hubs, child friendly spaces and mother-baby corners	Serbia***	700	163	86
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	215	205
	Serbia	4,000	932	748

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.

Funding Update

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	\$ 9,576,335	53%	\$ 6,275,115	35%	\$ 2,088,550	12%
Italy	\$ 4,480,000	\$ 540,056	12%	\$ 894,066	20%	\$ 3,045,878	68%
Serbia	\$ 4,050,000	\$ 200,000	5%	\$ 771,226	19%	\$ 3,078,774	76%
Bulgaria	\$ 594,000	-	0%	\$ 125,403	21%	\$ 468,597	79%
Germany	\$ 1,080,000	\$ 107,479	10%	\$ 545,333	58%	\$ 427,188	40%
Regional coordination, technical support, and rapid reaction support							

Rapid reaction support*	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 100,000	7%	-	0%	\$ 1,400,000	93%
Regional coordination and technical support	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 331,789	10%	\$ 1,679,545	48%	\$ 1,488,666	43%
Total	\$ 33,144,000	\$ 10,855,660	33%	\$ 10,290,688	31%	\$ 11,997,652	36%

*Funding under Rapid reaction support has been made available to initiative a humanitarian response to the refugee and migrant situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Next SitRep: 17/10/2018

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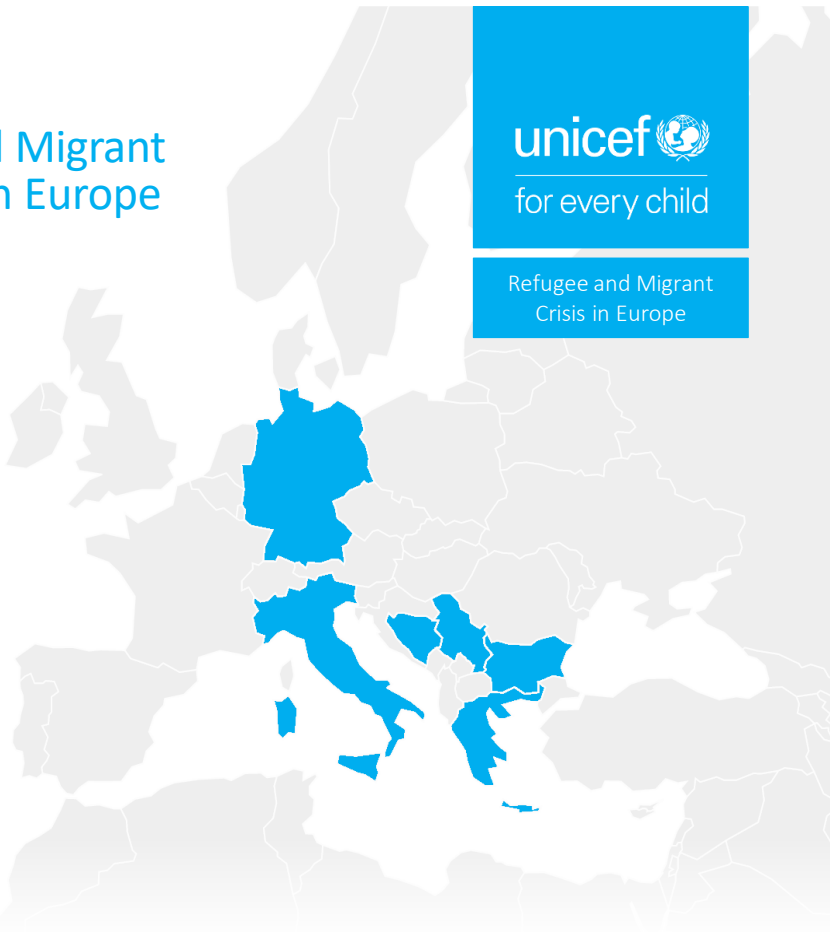
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UNICEF Refugee and Migrant Response Partners in Europe

Updated June 2018



- 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

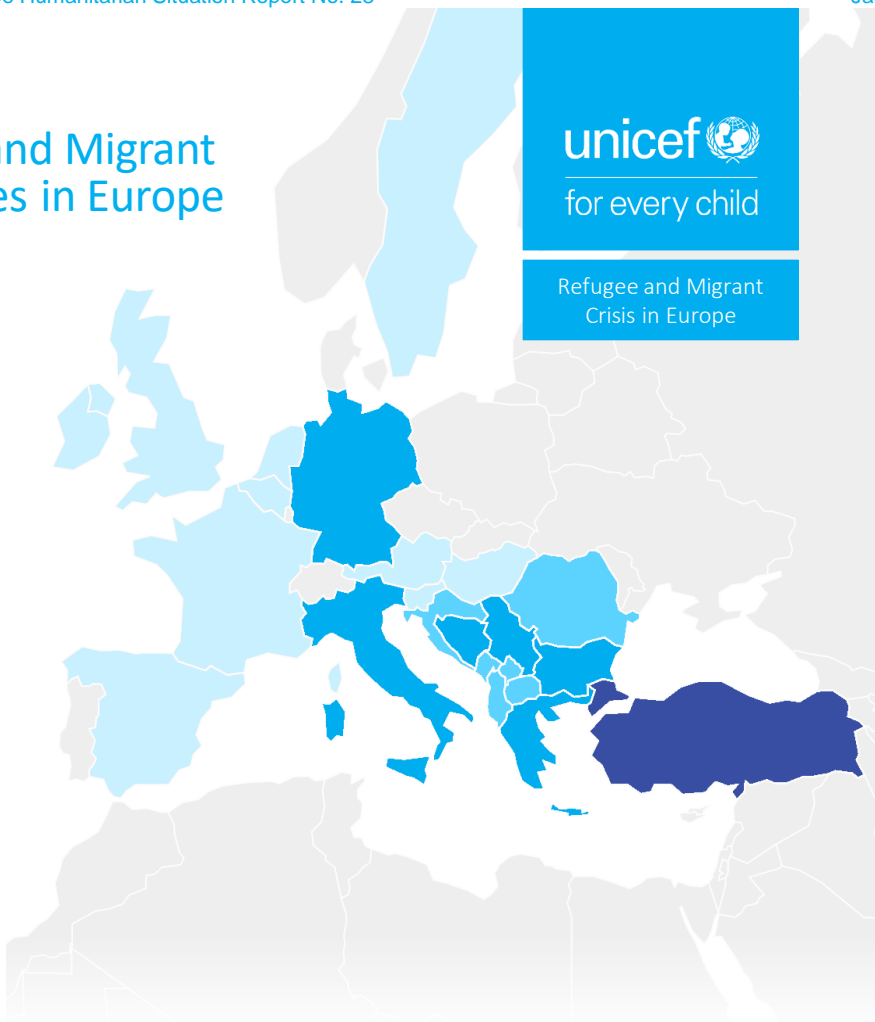
Bosnia and Herzegovina

- World Vision

UNICEF Refugee and Migrant Response Activities in Europe

Updated June 2018

- 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 1.2 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.