



Refugee and Migrant Crisis in Europe

Humanitarian Situation Report # 26

15 January 2018

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Highlights

- In 2017, more than 171,300 people entered Europe through the Mediterranean. Some 32,000 of them were children, including at least 17,500 unaccompanied and separated children.*
- By the end of 2017, UNICEF-supported outreach teams identified, referred and assisted some 17,900 children at risk in Turkey, Greece, Italy, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In addition, UNICEF reached close to 10,100 children with non-formal education activities and more than 6,300 frontline workers with training on protection standards, mental health and psychosocial support and other child protection-related topics.*
- The past year was marked by political commitments and milestone for the protection of refugee and migrant children- which included the adoption of the Legge Zampa in Italy and EU Communication on the protection of children in migration-, improved access to formal education for refugee and migrant children across the Balkans, and stronger engagement of independent Ombudspersons in child rights monitoring and advocacy.*
- Nevertheless, the situation of refugee and migrant children in Greece, Italy, Serbia, Bulgaria, Germany and other European countries remained concerning. Detention, psychosocial distress, risks of abuse and exploitation, limited access to services and slow asylum, family reunification and relocation procedures were among the most pressing issues, requiring urgent action by stakeholders at all levels to improve protection, care and support to refugee and migrant children and women.*

171,332

of arrivals in Europe through Italy, Greece and Spain in 2017
(UNHCR, 10 January 2018)

1 in 4

Of all arrivals in 2017 are children
(UNHCR, 10 January 2018)

158,215

of child asylum-seekers in Europe between January and November 2017
(Eurostat, 10 January 2018)

21,500

of estimated stranded children in Greece, Bulgaria, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia in December, 2017
(UNICEF, 10 January 2018)

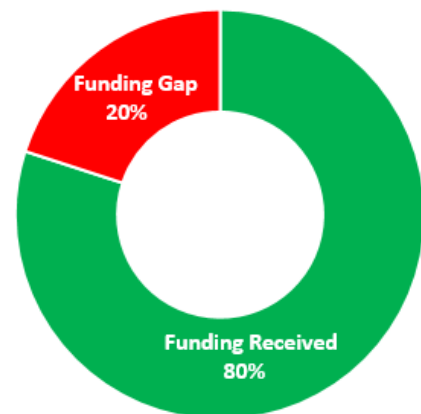
11,000

of children relocated from Greece and Italy under the EU relocation scheme by December 2017
(Greek Asylum Service, Italian Mol, 10 January 2018)

UNICEF RESULTS WITH PARTNERS (EXTRACTS)	UNICEF and Partners Response	
	Targets 2017	Total Results 2017
# of at-risk children (incl. UASC) identified through screening by outreach teams and child protection support centres*	10,350	17,917
# of children aged 6-17 including adolescents participating in structured education activities**	11,850	10,152
# of frontline workers trained on child protection standards/child protection in emergencies***	3,975	6,353

*Combines results in Turkey, Greece, Bulgaria, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Italy
 ** Combines results in Greece, Italy, Bulgaria, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
 *** Combines results for Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Greece, Italy, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

UNICEF Appeal 2017
US\$ 43,452,000



Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

In 2017, over 171,300 people, including some 32,000 children and at least 17,500 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), arrived in Europe through the Mediterranean Sea. This is almost two thirds less than in 2016, mainly as a result of reinforced border control and agreements between Libya and European countries aimed at stemming human smuggling and dangerous migrant crossings, particularly on the Central Mediterranean Route. Following the pattern from 2016, the majority of children arriving on the Eastern Mediterranean Route primarily to Greece were from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, while those on the move through the Central Mediterranean were mainly from West Africa (Guinea, Ivory Coast, The Gambia, Nigeria, Eritrea and Bangladesh).

Despite the relatively low number of children among sea arrivals, close to one third of all asylum seekers in Europe were under 18 years of age (over 158,000 child asylum seekers between January and November 2017¹). More than half of them were registered in Germany alone (74,446 accompanied children and 8,581 UASC, BAMF). Other countries that have received large numbers of child asylum seekers include Italy, Greece, France, Austria, Sweden, the UK, Spain and Switzerland.²

The past year saw a number of positive developments and political commitments to improve the protection of refugee and migrant children at both European and national level. These included the adoption of a new [law](#) in Italy (n.47, 7 April 2017) considered one of the most progressive pieces of legislation in this area, the EU [Communication on the Protection of Children in Migration](#), and the first national Safeguarding Strategy for unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children in the UK; the scale-up of independent child rights monitoring and advocacy by national Ombudspersons (Greece, Italy, Slovenia, etc.), improved access to formal education for refugee and migrant children in Greece and the Balkans; as well as EU commitment to expand resettlement and other safe legal pathways to Europe, including from Libya- with first humanitarian evacuation of 162 vulnerable refugees and migrants, including many children and women from Libya in December. These efforts are positive steps towards improved protection of refugee and migrant children in Europe. Yet a lot remains to be done to ensure all refugee and migrant children are safe and have access to quality services, which facilitate their social inclusion.

The situation of refugee and migrant children in Greece, Italy, Germany and other European countries remains concerning. Some of the gravest issues they faced included child fatalities at sea³; increasing risks of abuse and exploitation linked to debt repayment and dependence on smugglers along the migration routes to/across Europe; continuous immigration detention and push-backs of children along European borders in South-Eastern, Central and Western Europe. Lack of proper shelter, poor protection standards and limited reception capacity remain critical issues, particularly in Italy, Greece and Spain, where both accompanied and unaccompanied children are kept for extensively long periods in hotspots and first reception centres, often in detention-like conditions. Frequently they are unaware of their rights, opportunities and legal options, and are left to fend for themselves in centres without information or legal support. This has led to serious threats to their mental health, increased likelihood of absconding from the formal reception system, and risky behaviours and negative coping strategies (including transactional sex). Access to services such as education, health, and other social services remain challenging in many locations, thus hampering children's development and delaying their social inclusion. This is particularly true for children with or without families in first reception facilities, children from so called 'safe third countries' (e.g. in the Western Balkans) or countries with low asylum recognition rate. Children with disabilities and children who have experienced trauma and abuse often lack vital specialised services. UASC, who are close to adulthood, also face numerous barriers and challenges in accessing education (language and vocation training) and protection due to their adolescent age, slow asylum procedures or overstretched social welfare and guardianship systems. Return and repatriation of refugees and migrants is also high on the European political agenda, and it is the responsibility of governments to adopt and/or improve safeguards for children and carry out a full best interests determination during the assessment of decisions to return children to their country of origin.

Humanitarian Strategy and Coordination

In line with its Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, UNICEF continued responding in 2017 to the situation in Europe through a combination of advocacy, technical assistance to Governments, capacity-building of national and civil society actors and service delivery responses in Italy, Greece, Bulgaria, Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, Germany and Austria. In addition, through its network of National Committees, UNICEF continued to monitor, advocate and communicate on issues related to refugee and migrant children in several other European countries, including France, the UK, Spain, Sweden, the Netherlands, etc.

As part of the continuous humanitarian response and longer-term support to national child welfare systems, UNICEF continued to mobilise Member States, partners and duty-bearers to improve assistance and protection for refugee and migrant children and their families. UNICEF is closely coordinating its response with Governments, other UN agencies and international partners as well as civil

¹ Source: Eurostat. Data for the entire year is not yet available.

² The larger number of asylum claims compared to registered arrivals is due on one hand to frequent backlogs in asylum procedures, and on the other to continuous border crossings by land and air, which are not always captured by national arrival statistics.

³ Based on IOM Missing Migrants Project data, and overall proportion of children along Mediterranean Routes, it is estimated that at least 460 children have lost their lives trying to cross the treacherous Mediterranean waters in 2017.

society organisations within existing coordination mechanisms and working groups at the national level. At the regional level, UNICEF is closely coordinating with UNHCR and IOM at multiple levels, including sectoral response activities, contingency planning, information management and response monitoring within the framework of the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan.

In light of the multi-regional nature of migration routes undertaken by children on the move, particularly on the Central Mediterranean Route, sustained continuous preparedness in relevant country offices and developed a multi-sectoral Rapid Reaction Support package to be implemented in case of new emergency situation involving large numbers of children on the move.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

GREECE

By the end of 2017, UNICEF achieved nearly all planned results for its programme in Greece, both in the area of child protection and education.

Child Protection In 2017, UNICEF child protection interventions reached close to 8,200 children in 22 UNICEF-supported Child and Family Support Hubs (CFSH/ Blue Dots) in Attica, Central Greece, Eastern and Central Macedonia regions. With the ongoing transfer of people from camps to apartments, hotels and other types of accommodation throughout 2017, UNICEF has been adapting its response and increasingly shifting activities to urban areas. In addition, in an effort to streamline services within CFSH, non-formal education activities and homework support have recently been integrated as part of the package of minimum services.

The increased population influx (following efforts to decongest overcrowded Reception and Identification Centres on the islands and transfer people to open sites on mainland Greece ahead of winter), including some of the most vulnerable women and children from the islands, recently putting a strain on the child protection and gender-based violence teams at Thiva and Drama sites with a growing need for psychosocial and legal support. Following a needs assessment in Lesbos (October 2017), which revealed a range of child rights issues, particularly in the overcrowded facility of Moria, UNICEF is planning to renew its presence on the islands and establish a CFSH in early 2018.

UNICEF is currently supporting the Greek government in improving its child protection services for refugee and migrant children through a Child Protection Systems Mapping. A first meeting of the Steering Committee took place in October 2017, and the final results of the mapping are expected during the in 2018.

UNICEF has also been supporting Greek authorities in addressing the specific needs of UASC, namely in the areas of guardianship and accommodation. By December 2017, the Public Prosecutor had appointed the responsibility of 145 UASC to UNICEF-supported guardians, while 5 UNICEF-supported Safe Zones (in the sites of Schisto, Thiva, Diavata, Lagadikia and Agia Eleni) continue ensuring safe accommodation, as well as food provision to UASC outside safe zones. UNICEF also partnered with the Institute of Child Health to carry out an assessment on the mental health needs and services for unaccompanied children. Key findings and recommendations can be found in the full report [here](#).

Following extensive advocacy and with UNICEF and UNHCR support, a new independent living scheme for UASC is expected to be piloted under the leadership of the Public Prosecutor starting January 2018. To facilitate this process, UNICEF together with national authorities and partners have now developed a procedural framework and Minimum Standards, which are currently under review by the Public Prosecutor.

Over the past year, UNICEF supported the National Centre for Social Solidarity (EKKA) in processing a total of 5,446 accommodation requests by UASC (including 357 requests during Q3 2017) and reviewing eligible cases for relocation to the UK.⁴ UNICEF also ensured regular monitoring of the situation of UASC on the mainland and islands, ensured prompt liaison with relevant national authorities on key child rights concerns, coordinated efforts to identify and refer UASC from protective custody into suitable accommodation facilities, and supported the development of policies on the protection of UASC in Greece as well as new models of alternative care.

To enhance youth participation and promote social inclusion and cultural exchange, UNICEF supported the release of three editions of the youth-produced newspaper “Migratory Birds” in five languages (Greek, Farsi, Arabic, Urdu and English). The project is increasingly receiving widespread recognition and has been featured on various online media outlets. Additionally, as a prelude to the ENOC meeting of Children on the Move (November 2017), UNICEF collaborated with the Office of the Ombudsman for Children and the Youth Stage of the National Theatre of Greece to support a theatre performance of refugee and Greek youth. The play drew on some of the children’s experience of displacement, as well as on their arrival to Greece.

⁴ Three children were transferred in December and another 13 are expected to be relocated gradually during January 2018.

In November, UNICEF in partnership with the Ombudsman for Children co-hosted a [regional meeting of the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children](#) entitled, “Safeguarding and Protecting the Rights of Children on the Move: The Challenge of Social Inclusion”. Representatives from over 23 national child rights institutions, along with relevant government representatives, international organisations and civil society discussed key obstacles – such as legal barriers, access to education and accommodation which stand in the way of the social inclusion of refugee and migrant children, and adopted a set of [joint recommendations](#).

Education: In 2017, UNICEF scaled up its Education response in Greece, following a two-track approach: strengthening the capacity of national authorities to integrate refugee and migrant children into formal education and direct provision of non-formal education to children not yet going to school.

In November, UNICEF and the Ministry of Education signed a joint work plan formalising and further strengthening their relationship as well as outlining shared priorities around coordination, communication, training and interpretation. According to Ministry of Education, approximately 4,700 children aged 5-17 years old were enrolled in formal education by the end of December 2017- this is an important increase of 34 percent compared to 2016-2017 school year. For the first time, during the last months of 2017 national kindergartens also started operating in selected sites, including Eleonas and Kara Tepe, benefiting children aged 4-5 years old. UNICEF supported this initiative through the procurement of kindergarten furniture and other supplies. Activities are expected to be expanded to several additional sites in January 2018.

In 2017, UNICEF expanded the reach of its non-formal education, benefitting a total of 5,826 children in ten locations in urban Athens, three centres in urban Thessaloniki and seven open accommodation sites.

Child Rights Monitoring: UNICEF has made a substantial contribution to the work of the Deputy Ombudsman on monitoring the situation of children on the move and gathering evidence for advocacy with the objective of establishing a long term, comprehensive child rights monitoring mechanism. For example, UNICEF supported the Deputy Ombudsman to establish and chair the NGO Network for the Rights of Children on the Move – consisting of over 20 child protection actors with operations around Greece.

Partnering with EKKA, UNICEF helped produce regular situation analyses on unaccompanied children and supported the design of a new national online referral database expected to become operational in 2018.

UNICEF/REACH-IMPACT partnership on qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis on refugee and migrant children in urban areas and open sites in Greece shed further light on [refugee and migrant children’s perceptions of access to services in accommodation sites](#) and [outside accommodation sites; access to education of refugee and migrant children outside accommodation \(open\) sites; a situation overview of children’s perception of access to basic services outside accommodation sites](#); a [map of the refugee and migrant child population by region](#) and an analysis of the [refugee and migrant child population outside accommodation sites in Thessaloniki](#). All findings were part of the overall report [Children on the Move in Italy and Greece](#).

Through these partnerships, UNICEF has contributed to increasing evidence on the situation of refugee and migrant children and making a stronger advocacy case for their access to international protection, non-detention, family reunification, relocation and access to services- particularly education.

ITALY

In 2017, UNICEF provided support to more than 7,000 children (particularly UASC) who were identified and assisted with information and referral to child protection support centres by outreach teams (including on Italian coastguard rescue boats and mobile teams in Sicily, Calabria, Roma, Ventimiglia and Como). Another 2,100 refugee and migrant adolescents received support in accessing services, and particularly structured education activities. UNICEF also trained 1,600 frontline workers on child protection standards/child protection in emergencies; supported the delivery of some 1,200 dignity/comfort kits on rescue boats of the Italian coast guard; and promoted the voice of more than 500 adolescents through the establishment of U-Report on the move, which gives all stakeholders information on the situation of children in order to improve their conditions and set up actionable responses.

Child Protection: UNICEF provided technical assistance to the Italian local, regional and national authorities to build the capacity of service providers to protect children through different stages of the reception process, identify harmonised quality protection and gender-sensitive standards that can be implemented across the country; and strengthen the guardianship and foster care system. Between October and December 2017, UNICEF rolled out the standards in 64 centres in Sicily and Reggio Calabria through a two-pronged approach including staff coaching and support to children in accessing legal information, education and specialised services.

To address gaps in the guardianship system, during the past few months UNICEF partnered the Ombudsperson of Sicily, as well as the national Ombudsperson’s Office to train a total of 320 guardians in Sicily, Tuscany, Sardinia and Abruzzo. As a result of UNICEF advocacy and support for more cross sectoral collaboration and support to volunteer guardians, a MoU was signed between the Palermo and Regional Ombudspersons, the President of the Court for Minors of Palermo and the Social Services, establishing a coordination mechanism.

UNICEF also finalised the first phase of the Programme Cooperation Agreement with CNCA (Coordinamento Nazionale Comunità di Accoglienza), laying the basis for the provision of alternative care within the wider child care system in Italy.

In relation to the increased arrivals to Sardinia over the past months, UNICEF conducted an assessment mission in the region in December 2017, resulting in the identification of needs and opportunities for further strengthening of the reception system for UASC.

Social inclusion: During the past year, UNICEF supported the social inclusion of refugee and migrant UASC through the establishment of individual pathways participation, namely through the development of tools such as Young Pass, the Orientation Guide, the Vocational training handbook (reaching some 1,200 UASC), and the roll-out of the U-Report on the Move, with more than 500 U-Reporters registered in 2017. Over the past one year, a total of 21 U-report polls (including 7 over the last quarter) were run in three languages (English, French and Italian), engaging a total of 520 UASC. In addition, four participatory workshops were held with U-Reporters to discuss the results of the polls and define actionable responses and inform advocacy. U-report has helped inform UNICEF advocacy with national stakeholders and strengthen the accountability of reception centres management and improving the overall conditions in reception facilities.

During the last quarter of the year, UNICEF also supported vocational and apprenticeship paths for UASC through a mapping of vocational opportunities in Palermo, Agrigento and Trapani provinces and the design of the *Vocational, Education and Training Handbook* for dissemination in reception centres. UNICEF also supported the Ministry of Labour in improving the national apprenticeship programme through a pilot exercise in Palermo involving 15 UASC.

In 2017, UNICEF in partnership with REACH-IMPACT, also improved the availability of [qualitative and quantitative data on refugee and migrant UASC in Italy](#) resulting in a better understanding of children's profiles, their motivation, their journey to Europe, why they [leave the primary reception system](#), the phenomenon of [Eritrean children](#) dropping from the system, as well as those [stranded in Ventimiglia](#) at the border with France. Thematic factsheets were also developed for some of the top nationalities present in the centres in Sicily: [Egyptians](#), [Nigerians](#), [Guineans](#) and [Gambians](#). This is complemented by a review of [monitoring practices in reception facilities for UASC](#) in Sicily.

BULGARIA

Child protection: In 2017, the main priorities of the UNICEF response in Bulgaria related to improving the child protection system, addressing the immediate gaps in service provision to refugee and migrant children and women, and enhancing the capacity of the main stakeholders to mainstream the best interests of the child in all relevant procedures.

To address the child rights issues related to detention, UNICEF continued to monitor detention centres across the country and support the identification of children at risk. In 2017, around 500 children, of whom 200 UASC, were identified in detention. All UASC were provided with interpretation, legal aid and counselling on their rights, legal situation, risks on the journey to and through Europe, and family reunification options. UNICEF also supported family tracing and reunification to protect the UASC from smuggling or trafficking, and initiated a total of 42 cases of family tracing in 2017.



Refugee and migrant children participated in non-formal education activities in Bulgaria. © UNICEF Bulgaria

As a result of strong advocacy by UNICEF and other human rights organisations, a legislative change was adopted in December 2017, explicitly stipulating that UASC shall not be detained, and should instead be referred to the Child Protection Departments for implementation of child protection measures. The Child Protection Departments shall also represent refugee and migrant children in all legal procedures.

In 2017, UNICEF strengthened the capacity of Border Police, Migration Directorate and the local Child Protection Departments to work with refugee and migrant children and contributed for improved cooperation among stakeholders. UNICEF conducted a training for judges on international protection and care standards relevant to UASC. Frontline workers in centres were also trained on child rights and child safeguarding.

Education: In 2017, UNICEF reached 940 children with a wide range of structured education activities in safe child-friendly spaces in reception and accommodation centres in Sofia and Harmanli, where positive socialisation and non-formal learning was promoted.

UNICEF also worked with UNHCR and the Ministry of Education in promoting school enrolment. With the start of the new school year, a total of 140 children were enrolled in public school- this is a sharp increase compared to the 2016-2017 school year, when only nine children were enrolled in formal education in Bulgaria. With UNICEF support, all children received school materials, books and backpacks. More recently, UNICEF also started providing homework support to children, who attend school.

TURKEY⁵

Child protection: In 2017, UNICEF and partners focused on strengthening the child protection system to expand coverage and improve the quality of services for refugee and migrant children across the continuum of care, reaching almost 150,000 children with essential psychosocial support and other child protection services via a comprehensive network of 55 safe spaces in 17 provinces – including 12 newly established spaces in 2017.

In addition, UNICEF significantly scaled up outreach services in host communities and in coastal areas to strengthen the identification and referral of at-risk children on the move, and began work on developing minimum child protection standards for children temporarily placed in national reception and removal centres. During 2017, some 3,000 refugee and migrant children on the move were identified by UNICEF-supported outreach teams and referred to specialised services.

UNICEF initiated new strategies to increase refugee and migrant children's access to legal aid, address child marriage and increase social cohesion through youth engagement, empowerment and life skills education in host communities across the country.

Education: As a result of UNICEF support to quality formal and non-formal education for refugee and migrant children in Turkey, more than 610,500 refugee children⁶ were reached with education by December 2017 – a nearly 25 per cent increase compared to the previous school year.

In addition, UNICEF expanded early childhood education for refugee and Turkish children aged 3-5, which benefitted over 37,400 young children in 2017.

Basic Needs: UNICEF distributed a total of 22,470 hygiene kits to vulnerable children and families on the move, benefitting almost 33,500 children.

Health: During 2017, UNICEF provided technical and communication for development support to the Ministry of Health for three rounds of a national vaccination campaign for all refugee and migrant children under five. The campaign aimed to protect children against a variety of communicable diseases including polio, influenza, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus (via the pentavalent vaccine), measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) and Hepatitis B. Over 376,000 children were screened in 20 provinces by more than 2,500 vaccination teams. Following these assessments, over 121,600 children received missing pentavalent vaccine doses and more than 142,000 received missing vaccinations for MMR.

THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

In 2017, a total of 280 children, including 85 UASC, benefitted from psychosocial support and referral in UNICEF-supported Child and Family Support Hubs (Blue Dots) in Gevgelija and Tabanovce. In addition, 207 school-age children attended UNICEF-supported structured non-formal education activities and 305 young children and their mothers received early and young child feeding assistance in UNICEF mother-and-baby corners. A total of 541 children in the transit and asylum centres, as well as children on the move, received season-appropriate clothes and other essential items. UNICEF also trained 164 social workers on topics related to child protection and work with adolescents in emergencies, thus ensuring preparedness and sustainability of services for similar future situations.

To address the pressing mental health issues experienced by refugee and migrant children and families stranded for extended periods of time in the Transit Centres, UNICEF prioritised mental health in its programming in 2017. For the most vulnerable cases this translated into early interventions, conducted by experienced psychologists identified in collaboration with the Macedonian Chamber of Psychologists. A first of its kind national Manual for promoting the mental health of children, which can be adapted to all emergency settings, was also developed.

UNICEF supported the government in analysing the legal and practical barriers related to the integration of refugee and migrant children into the formal education system, and provided recommendations for future improvement.

SERBIA

Child Protection: In 2017, UNICEF supported Child and Family Support Hubs (Blue Dots) in 11 different locations - Preševo, Bujanovac, Šid (closed in May), Dimitrovgrad, Belgrade, Kikinda, Adaševci, Principovac, Divljana, Obrenovac, Sjenica - benefitting a total of 3,558 children (including 790 newly registered children during the last quarter of the year).

UNICEF also focused on the identification and protection of UASC and other vulnerable children on the move through support to centres for social work in Šid, Kanjiža, Kikinda, Subotica, Belgrade, Preševo, Bujanovac and Sjenica, and the deployment of outreach social workers who can refer children to the police (to obtain documents to seek asylum), health and accommodation services in relevant facilities,

⁵ More about UNICEF response in Turkey can be found in the Turkey country situation report and the situation report on the Regional Refugee and Resilience to the Syrian crisis.

⁶ 573,104 Syrian and 37,411 Iraqis

including children's homes. UNICEF has also provided support to guardians of identified UASC. Overall in 2017, more than 4,700 at-risk children were identified, referred and assisted by UNICEF-supported mobile teams.

As a result of UNICEF advocacy and technical assistance to Serbian authorities, the Child Protection Standard Operating Procedures, developed in 2016, were mainstreamed and fully integrated into the mandatory *Instruction for Social Welfare Institutions* issued by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.



Refugee and migrant children participated in a football tournament together with Serbian children in Bujanovac, Serbia. The score wasn't important because everyone was a winner. © UNICEF Serbia/2017/Banic

UNICEF took steps to further strengthen its protection response through the integration of a range of Gender-Based Violence prevention, mitigation and response services, which will start being implemented in early 2018.

Education: In 2017, with UNICEF support, the Serbian Ministry of Education developed a national strategy on the education of refugee and migrant children based on a review of international good practices. As part of this effort, UNICEF provided technical assistance to national authorities to enhance refugee and migrant children's access to both formal and non-formal education, through support to coordination and system development at the national level, capacity building of schools and civil society organisations, as well as the development of a framework to monitor the inclusion of refugee and migrant children into the education system.

Overall in 2017, a total of 2,035 children, including adolescents, participated in structured education activities, out of which 835 children benefitted from UNICEF-supported non-formal education. 680 children were successfully enrolled within the formal education system, while another 520 children

were indirectly reached through capacity-building interventions targeting civil society organisations, which implement non-formal education programmes.

All refugee and migrant children enrolled in formal education received backpacks and school materials. The same support was also provided to Serbian children from vulnerable families, enrolled in the same schools as refugee and migrant children.

Health and Nutrition: Throughout 2017, UNICEF supported age-appropriate nutrition for refugee and migrant children in reception and asylum centres- primarily Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies (IYCF-E) and counselling to pregnant and breastfeeding women. Activities were further strengthened to also stimulate Early Childhood Development.

Health and nutrition activities were implemented in 10 Mother-and-Baby corners, four of which were opened during 2017 (Kikinda, Sjenica, Divljana, and Vranje), benefitting some 1,540 infants and 1,000 mothers with IYCF support and counselling.

As a result of continuous UNICEF advocacy throughout the year, national recommendations for an IYCF-E food basket were amended to reflect the nutritional needs of refugee and migrant infants and children aged 2 to 6 years.

CROATIA

Throughout 2017, UNICEF has been monitoring the situation of refugee and migrant children in Croatia and supporting the provision of psychosocial and recreational activities in the Reception Centre in Zagreb. Between 30 and 40 children have been attending these services on daily basis.

Together with partners, UNICEF supported the provision of health services to women and children at the reception centers in Zagreb and Kutina. Monthly, more than 200 health consultations were provided.

In parallel, UNICEF continued to support capacity-building activities in six primary schools and 3 kindergartens for the integration of refugee and migrant children into the formal education system, so far benefitting 43 teachers. Additionally, training of trainers in child protection for Croatian Red Cross has been organised and 47 front line workers have been trained by the end of 2017.

Social inclusion has been high in UNICEF priorities, and on the occasion of the UN Day (24 October), UNICEF and the UN Country Team organised a special theatre play 'Invisible', focusing on the topic of diversity and integration of refugees and migrants.

SLOVENIA

In 2017, UNICEF in Slovenia focused on providing technical assistance to the government, supporting the follow-up of the child protection system mapping, and strengthening the capacity of national social and child protection practitioners.

Overall, a total of 580 professionals were trained on child protection standards and child protection in emergencies (topics included provision of psychosocial support, child rights in asylum procedures, child best interests assessment and determination, etc.). A training was also provided to local journalists on ethics considerations when reporting on refugee and migrant children.

To reinforce these capacity-building activities UNICEF supported the development and publishing of several publications, including a *Handbook on the Provision of Psychosocial Assistance to Refugee and Migrant Children*; a *Practical Guide on Migrant Children's Rights for Legal and Para-legal Professionals*, *Manuals on Child-Friendly Court Procedures* targeting children and parents/caregivers, etc.

In collaboration with the University of Ljubljana and the University of Maribor, UNICEF also supported the development of a first of its kind interdisciplinary Lifelong Learning Course on Child Protection, bringing together academics from Faculties of Social Work, Law, Education, Medicine, Criminal Justice and Security around the topic of refugee and migrant children. The course is now fully embedded into the academic programme and students will be able to enrol starting from 2018.

As part of its broader support on child rights in Slovenia, by end of 2017 UNICEF supported the development and finalisation of a national child wellbeing index. It contains 42 indicators in six areas (material well-being, health and safety, education, child participation, behaviours and risks, housing and environmental aspects of child well-being), and is complemented by a web tool with visualized data of the index.

UNICEF also supported the development of inter-agency *Child Protection Standard Operating Procedures* and the identification of possibilities for diversification of foster care for refugee and migrant children.

Due to the decreased number of refugees and migrants in the country and change in situation, UNICEF concluded its international programmatic presence in Slovenia as of 31 December 2017. Nevertheless, it will continue supporting the government of Slovenia to advance child rights and improve the protection of refugee and migrant children on its territory through the National Committee for UNICEF in Slovenia with technical support from UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia.

AUSTRIA

UNICEF response in Austria, which was established during the spring of 2017, focused mainly on the development of Minimum Protection Standards, capacity-building of frontline workers and child rights monitoring.

Following a series of consultations between April and December 2017, the UNICEF-led alliance of major non-governmental stakeholders in Austria developed a first draft of Minimum Child Protection Standards for reception and accommodation centres for refugee and migrant children, with the intention to promulgate the standards through the Ministry of Family and Youth.

Over the last quarter of 2017 UNICEF scaled up capacity-building activities, reaching 470 frontline workers and service providers in reception facilities. Trainings also involved 50 staff of the Austrian Ministry of Interior.

GERMANY

After the launch of the [revised Minimum Protection Standards](#), which now include two annexes on implementing the Standards with a particular focus on LGBTIQ persons and persons with disabilities (20 June 2017), UNICEF has been actively working with the German Ministry of Family on their dissemination. During the second half of the year, a total of six conferences were organised in Schwerin, Mainz, Essen, Hannover, Frankfurt and Potsdam, providing a platform for federal states to discuss and exchange experiences concerning the protection of refugees and migrants.

The revised Minimum Standards continue to be presented as a good practice example for other countries, and have been profiled in UNICEF's Beyond Borders global report (November 2017).

On 11 December, UNICEF in close collaboration with the German Ministry of Family and Save the Children-Germany, conducted the first of a series of webinars for protection coordinators, with focus on how to conduct a risk analysis in refugee centres. The second webinar focusing on the right to participation of children, adolescents, women and men living in refugee centres is planned for the first quarter of 2018 and will be carried out in close collaboration with the German Ministry of Family and Plan Germany.

To ensure effective implementation and monitoring of the Standards, UNICEF developed a comprehensive, inter-disciplinary Training Package (including key modules on child rights, prevention and response to violence, diversity, psycho-social support, child-friendly spaces and services, and ECE/ECD) and a [Toolbox](#) (including tools for a risk analysis, assessments, protection plan development, checklists, etc.) to build capacity in the refugee centres. A [website](#) to support knowledge exchange and management, has also been launched.

Through a pool of 50 trainers, UNICEF has so far helped strengthen the capacity of over 2,100 refugee centre managers, protection coordinators and staff in 100 refugee centres across Germany. This includes some 1,300 refugee centre staff trained between August and December 2017. Formal evaluations of the trainings demonstrated consistent positive feedback on content, relevance and delivery.

UNICEF continues to provide regular on-the-job support to managers, protection coordinators and staff in 100 refugee centres across Germany and to collect emerging and good practices. With the expansion of the Initiative from 25 to 100 refugee centres, UNICEF created a 'buddy system', which aims to strengthen cooperation and knowledge exchange among protection coordinators through sustainable cooperation mechanism at local level.

Throughout 2017, UNICEF continued to support evidence generation on refugee and migrant children in Germany. This research initiatives, such as the *Childhood on Hold* study, which highlighted the limited access to services and/or long waiting periods in accessing education and other essential services; and the latest technical handouts: [Strengthening child and youth welfare services in refugee centres](#) and *Children need their families: simplifying family reunification*.

UNICEF also engaged with the National CRC Coalition, the CRC Monitoring Centre of Germany, the German Youth Institute, key governmental stakeholders and the members of the national monitoring working group on developing specific child rights monitoring indicators for refugee and migrant children in Germany.

Last but not least, UNICEF undertook an assessment of complaint mechanisms for refugee and migrant children in Germany and engaged with Ombudspersons for refugees in Hamburg, North-Rhine-Westphalia, Baden-Württemberg and Bavaria to assess their capacity to monitor the situation of refugee and migrant children and respond to complains on child rights violations.

Communications and Advocacy

Throughout 2017, UNICEF played a key role in bringing issues facing refugee and migrant children into both traditional and social media, advocating for policy and legislative challenges across Europe and identifying good practice and solutions for the improved protection of children in migration.

In 2017, UNICEF advocacy messages across Europe focused on improvements of the reception conditions, guardianship and access to services, family reunification, protection against trafficking and exploitation, ending child immigration detention, etc. Many of these messages were echoed by European States, other UN agencies and civil society organisations in the Global Compact discussions.

Two highlights of communication and advocacy work in 2017 were the G7 in Taormina, Sicily and G20 in Hamburg, Germany, where regional communications was central in triggering high level media engagement and maximising social platforms with live videos on Facebook and Twitter (with Good Will Ambassador Muzoon and Deputy Executive Director Justin Forsyth) and using [YouTube](#) channel as a platform to highlight what works such as story on Guardianship in [Italy](#). This was carried out under the umbrella of the Children Uprooted campaign, and led to the engagement of a total of 5.4 million people around the two summits.



Refugees and migrants plays drums at a jam held at Porco Rosso, a Palermo cafe in Sicily, Italy.
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A number of advocacy and communication products were developed in conjunction with other regions– such as *Child Alert on Libya*⁷ and *Harrowing Journeys*, bringing attention on the dire situation facing refugee and migrant children on the Central Mediterranean route, even once they arrive in Europe. The *Way Forward* – a Roadmap for refugee and migrant unaccompanied and separated children in Europe (a joint report with UNHCR and IRC) – provided additional analysis, evidence and recommendations from a child rights perspective and guidance to countries on the rights and needs for refugee and migrant children.

To stimulate a constructive regional dialogue on ending child immigration detention, UNICEF co-hosted a roundtable discussion together with other UN Agencies and civil society organisations in December, promoting “solutions”, including alternatives to detentions - in line with the UNICEF [Beyond Borders](#) report.

In Slovenia, UNICEF advocacy was successful in preventing a legislative proposal which would have put in place a lower reception and protection regime for refugee and migrant children above 14 years old. In the case of Hungary UNICEF released a [statement](#) expressing alarm on the negative impact of a similar law on detaining children based on their migration status.

⁷ The Child Alert triggered 8,500 mentions of UNICEF on social media, potentially reaching 355.9 million people and engaging 128,300 people.

In the UK, family reunification and the protection of refugee and migrant children, particularly UASC, in the context of 'Brexit' were high in UNICEF National Committee's advocacy and policy agenda. To bring the voice of children in support to its messaging, the UK National Committee launched two publications- [Family Reunification and Failing Protection – a Study of the Situation of Unaccompanied Children in Dunkirk](#) (a joint report with UNICEF-France) in April 2017, and [The Refuge of Family – Making the Case for Extending the Refugee Family Reunion Rules](#) in September 2017. The close engagement with the Home Office has resulted in the publication of the first national [Safeguarding Strategy for unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children](#) between the Home Office and Department for Education and a revised [Statutory Guidance on the Care of Unaccompanied Migrant Children and Child Victims of Modern Slavery](#), which expands provisions on healthcare and education, family reunification and pathway planning, as well as stronger guidance on the social workers' role. Remaining advocacy priorities in the UK remain age assessments and child detention (for children with families).

In France, the National Committee for UNICEF in close coordination with UNICEF at the regional level closely followed discussions with local authorities regarding roles and responsibilities related to the protection of UASC, as well as on the new draft bill on asylum and migratory issues. It also engaged with relevant stakeholders to ensure new regulations meet international standards, reflect specific needs of refugee and migrant children and include effective best interests determination procedures.

In Germany, UNICEF advocacy in 2017 focused on access to services with the *Childhood on Hold* report, protection in asylum centres, family reunification and best interest determination with latest statement and policy paper [Every child needs their family](#). The Family reunification study was also used as an advocacy tool on the rights of migrant and refugee children.

In Spain, UNICEF advocacy on the protection of refugee and migrant children gathered momentum with the Consultations on the *Joint General Comment on Children in the Context of International Migration*, held in Madrid in May 2017 in collaboration with the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Spanish government. As a result of extensive engagement of UNICEF National Committee, the Spanish government has addressed obstacles to the relocation and resettlement of refugee and migrant children, committed to improve the situation of refugee and migrant children in the existing reception system, and increased funding for the regional protection system in Melilla.

In the Netherlands, UNICEF evidence generation, policy and advocacy work informed the discussion on the migration chapter of the new government coalition agreement, specifically around best interests determination in return procedures, the protection of UASC and addressing root causes through investment in countries of origin. From August to November 2017, the UNICEF National Committee engaged foreign UASC and Dutch youth under the UNICEF Write of Unite (blogging) project, which allowed them to exchange blogs about their lives, dreams and hopes for the future.

The [International Migrants Day](#) (18 December) was among the last advocacy milestones for 2017. It was marked by active engagement of youth, civil society, policy-makers and [media](#) on issues relevant to refugee and migrant children. In Greece, for example, UNICEF marked the event by organizing a visit for 20 UASC from the safe zones of Schisto and Elaionas to the Hellenic Parliament, where they could speak with the President of the Hellenic Republic, as well as the President of the Hellenic Parliament.

SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME RESULTS - as of 31 December 2017

SUMMARY OF RESULTS	UNICEF and Implementing Partners* Response			
	Targets 2017	Total Results	Change since last report	
CHILD PROTECTION				
# of children (boys and girls) received psychosocial and other community-based child protection support in family support hubs, child friendly spaces and mother-baby corners	Greece	6,000	8188	2320
	Serbia	4,800	3,558	789
# of frontline workers trained on child protection standards/child protection in emergencies	Austria	500	570	450
	Bulgaria	300	212	80
	Croatia	50	47	47
	Germany	775	2100	1300
	Greece	500	556	211
	Italy	1,000	1,660	188
	Serbia	300	272	0
	Slovenia	200	580	201
	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	150	164	0
	Turkey	200	192	102
	Greece	2,000	2853	1134

# of at-risk children (incl. UASC) identified through screening by outreach teams and child protection support centres	Italy	4,700	7,033	774
	Serbia*	1,000	4,717	1,516
	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	150	280	32
	Turkey	2,500	3,034	714
# of children provided with legal aid and/or counselling	Bulgaria	2,000	245	61
EDUCATION				
# of children aged 6-17 including adolescents participating in structured education activities	Bulgaria	2,000	940	116
	Greece	5,000	4884	1216
	Italy	700	2,106	494
	Serbia	4,000	2,035	300
	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	150	187	10
# of children receiving school materials	Greece	5,000	7232	1406
# of children (3-5 years old) benefiting from early childhood activities	Greece	1,500	1,164	278
HEALTH AND NUTRITION				
# of infants (under 2) accessed mother and baby care centre services, including health services and nutrition services	Greece	1,000	1782	549
	Serbia	1,600	1,540	349
# of mothers benefited from infant and young child feeding counselling at family support hubs, child friendly spaces and mother-baby corners	Greece	1,000	1,561	518
	Serbia	1,000	1,000	219
WASH and BASIC SUPPLIES				
# of children receiving culturally appropriate non-food items	Italy	1,000	1,195	170
	Serbia	4,800	9,473	1,008
# of children receiving basic relief items	Turkey	37,500	33,470	22,372

Notes: *For the full list of UNICEF partners per country, please see map on page 13.

** Results in Italy have been revised to eliminate double counting and accurately reflect UNICEF support.

Funding Update

Country	2017 Requirements	Funds Received	Funding gap	
	(US\$)	(US\$)	\$	%
Countries with children on the move and children stranded – Eastern Mediterranean				
Western Balkans	6,544,800	5,706,590	838,210	13%
Greece	17,920,000	20,001,269	-2,081,269**	0%
Turkey*	2,500,000	-	2,500,000	100%
Countries of destination and additional countries				
Italy	5,165,000	3,227,022	1,937,978	38%
Germany	3,249,000	2,113,265	1,135,735	35%
Other countries of destination and planned additional countries	2,396,000	988,200	1,407,800	59%
Regional and Global Support				
Coordination, Advocacy, Communications, Technical support and preparedness**	5,677,200	2,702,316	2,974,884	52%
Total	43,452,000	34,738,662	8,713,338	20%

*Activities in Turkey are funded in large part through the 3RP and are complimented through regional support, under the RMRP, to ensure all children are receiving needed support.

** Response in Greece appears as overfunded due to funding received to cover activities during the first quarter of 2018.

***Line includes thematic funding received for the response and is allocated to countries based on urgent needs and priorities.

Next SitRep: 16/04/2018

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UNICEF Response Activities

Updated September 2017

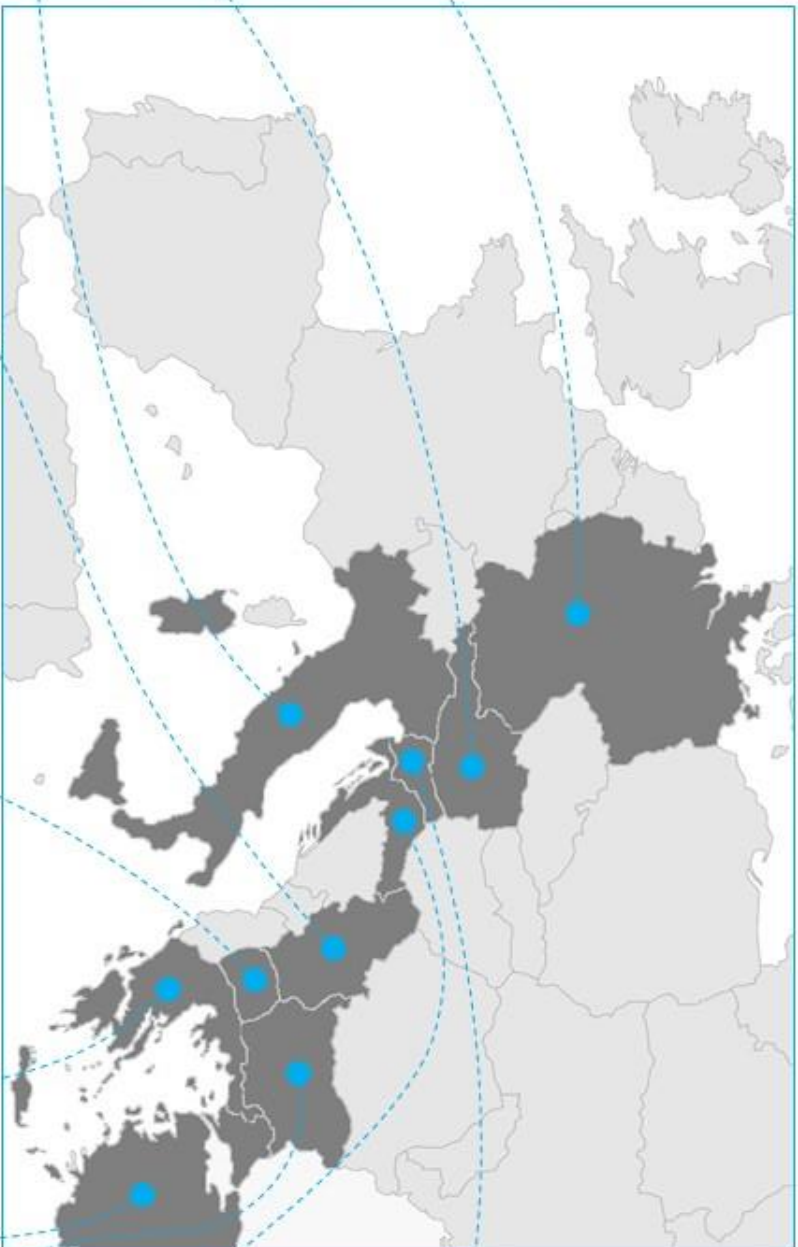
- Advocacy
- Communication
- Training and Capacity Building
- Outreach of Children at Risk
- Psycho-Social Support
- Education
- Health and Nutrition
- WASH
- Activities with Adolescents
- Child Rights Monitoring
- Basic Supplies
- Technical Assistance
- Legal Counselling



GREECE	ITALY	BULGARIA	TURKEY	THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA	SERBIA	CROATIA	SLOVENIA	AUSTRIA	GERMANY	FRANCE	UNITED KINGDOM

UNICEF Response Partners

Updated September 2017





for every child

Refugee and Migrant Crisis

GERMANY

- Ministry of Family Affairs and over 30 partners in the National Initiative for the Protection of Persons Living in Refugee Centres
- DGPI*

AUSTRIA

- Asylkoordination
- Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Integration and Foreign Affairs

ITALY

- Coordinamento Nazionale Comunità di Accoglienza, Inferos, Médecins du Monde, Ospizio Salesiano Sacro Cuore
- Ministry of Interior, Local authorities, Coast Guard, Ombudspersons of Palermo and Calabria

KEY

- Child Protection
- Education
- Health and Nutrition
- Basic Supplies
- Technical Assistance

SERBIA

- Centres for Social Work, 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
- 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, Sciences and Technological Development, Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs, Commissariat for Refugees and Migration, National Institute of Public Health

THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

- La Strada/Open Gate, SOS Children's Village
- Macedonian Association of Nurses, Red Cross
- Red Cross
- Macedonian Chamber of Psychologists, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy

GREECE

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

SLOVENIA

- Legal Information Centre, Slovene Philanthropy, Social Chamber
- Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Social Affairs, Office for the Support and Integration of Migrants, University of Ljubljana, Institute for Social Protection/Child Observation, Judicial Training Centre

CROATIA

- Jesuit Refugee Service
- Open Academy Step By Step
- Médecins du Monde
- Ministry of Interior

BULGARIA

- Bulgarian Helsinki Committee
- Cartas
- Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, State Agency for Refugees, Agency for Social Assistance, Ombudsperson

TURKEY

- Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants
- Ministry of National Education, Ombudsperson

* DGPI: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Prävention und Intervention bei Kindesmisshandlung und -vernachlässigung e.V.