



# Humanitarian Action for Children

unicef 

## Refugee and Migrant Crisis in Europe: Children on the move

**UNICEF is appealing for US\$14 million to respond to the refugee and migrant crisis in Europe, with US\$6.5 urgently needed for the immediate response in the next 6 months.**

### Humanitarian Situation

Refugee and migrant flows in Europe are at an unprecedented high. In 2015, over 80 per cent of people arriving in Europe across the Mediterranean and on route through Greece and the West Balkans, are escaping the conflict in Syria. As of September 2015, UNHCR estimates that over 440,000 refugees and migrants have arrived in Europe and an additional 450,000 are estimated for 2016. One in every four asylum seekers is a child. A total of 133,000 children sought asylum in the European Union between January and July 2015 with an average of 19,000 children every month, according to the latest available Eurostat data.

Many Syrian refugees arrive in neighboring countries and Europe having gone months without access to basic services and traumatized by the violence they have experienced or witnessed. Over the course of their journey to Europe, refugees and migrants endure tremendous hardship. Many face ill-treatment and abuse by smugglers and local gangs. Furthermore, the approaching winter is likely to affect routes used for onward movement to and within Europe.

UNICEF's immediate appeal focuses on countries with the greatest number of children on the move, with scaled up interventions in Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and identifying entry points for support in Greece, Italy, Hungary, Croatia, Slovenia and Austria. The appeal also includes UNICEF's support in countries of eventual destination such as Germany, where there may be significant relocation and resettlement of refugees, and countries where new refugee and migrant movements could appear. UNICEF will also continue to support programme interventions in Syria and in neighboring countries, addressing the immediate needs of children there, thus enabling an integrated and coherent approach to families on the move seeking protection in Europe. With the fast moving and fluid situation, this appeal will be revised in the coming 3-6 months to more accurately reflect the evolving humanitarian situation.

### Humanitarian Strategy

While extending protection to children and their families all along their journey, UNICEF's main focus is on supporting Governments and partners where the number of children on the move is the greatest.

Through its existing network of country offices and in collaboration with National Committees and other partners, UNICEF will enhance advocacy efforts, awareness raising and child rights education in host communities, and support capacity building to improve the quality and reach of protection interventions as well as

**At risk:** Over 900,000 refugees and migrants

**Children in need of assistance:** 225,000 children

### Priority Areas of Intervention:

- Technical assistance to strengthen family tracing and reunification efforts and implementation of best interest determinations.
- Establishment of child friendly spaces for refugee and migrant children.
- Advocacy and awareness raising.
- Technical assistance to strengthen the capacity of front line workers, including health workers, social workers and NGO staff.
- Provision of water and sanitation in reception centres or holding areas and public health information.
- Provision of dignity and baby kits, supplementary feeding and other supplies for populations on the move.
- Distribution of winterization goods such as blankets and winter clothes.

service delivery when needed. UNICEF will also provide technical support where requested by host countries.

**In countries with the greatest number of children on the move including** Greece, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Hungary, Croatia, Austria, Slovenia, Turkey and Italy and potentially Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria and Romania, UNICEF will work with Governments and partners to support their efforts to safeguard the rights of children on the move.

UNICEF will engage in continued policy dialogue so that the rights of children are respected and provide technical assistance to Governments and partners on the implementation of Best Interests Determination, the establishment of Child Friendly Spaces, including psychosocial support for distressed children, family tracing and reunification for children who are unaccompanied or separated, and infant and young child feeding. UNICEF will also support the provision of water and sanitation facilities at reception centers and the distribution of winterization goods such as blankets and winter clothes. UNICEF will also disseminate critical information to refugee and migrant populations on protection services and contacts for assistance.

**In countries of final destination,** UNICEF will provide technical assistance at the request of the government, support advocacy and awareness raising on the situation of refugee and migrant children. UNICEF will also continue, in partnership with sister UN agencies, to engage in policy dialogue and advocacy with the institutions of the European Union in order to represent the interests of children and families in regional policy processes undertaken in response to the present crisis.

In all instances, UNICEF will work closely with Governments, National Committees, UN agencies, NGOs and other partners who are providing frontline assistance such as UNHCR, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, Save the Children, IOM, and the European Asylum Support Office (ESAO), among others.

Establishing a stronger evidence base on children on the move in countries of origin, passage and destination is urgently required for policy and programmatic action. In order to address this gap and to inform its global advocacy, UNICEF will a) make data available on children on the move, b) conduct reviews of legal frameworks related to international child refugees and migrants, and c) strengthen policy research and knowledge exchange on what works.

UNICEF will continue to adapt its response, taking into account the specific situation of children in different countries and areas of operation, tailoring the response strategies and interventions to meet the specific needs in each of these countries.

**Finally, if we do not address the root causes of the crisis in Syria and in neighboring countries,** the situation will only worsen. UNICEF continues to support programmes inside Syria and in neighboring countries. Parents say that they risk the dangerous journey to Europe because they have no other options, and see no future for their children. So as we address immediate needs of children for protection, healthcare, safe water and adequate nutrition, UNICEF will continue investing in the future of children and adolescents for example through the No Lost Generation initiative, expanding access to learning and psychosocial support, strengthening social cohesion and peacebuilding efforts, and restoring hope to millions of children for a better future. UNICEF will also continue to make every effort to address the situations in other countries of origin such as Nigeria, Afghanistan and

Eritrea, where conflicts have pushed so many children to be on the move.

## Proposed Interventions and Expected Results

The objectives of UNICEF's interventions are: 1) to ensure safe and healthy passage for refugee and migrant children while on the move and 2) to support social protection and integration in destination countries based on the best interests of the child.

Due to the rapidly evolving situation on the ground, UNICEF will adapt its interventions on a country by country basis.

In countries with the greatest number of children on the move, UNICEF is conducting needs and capacity gap assessments to frame its country actions plans. In these countries, UNICEF will aim to reach 90,000 children on the move with a set of interventions in the coming 6 months, and at least 225,000 children by the end of 2016, engaging specifically in:

1. Technical assistance, which will be provided on request by host governments to: i) train practitioners/front line workers on child rights and child protection, psychosocial support, prevention and response to violence, including gender-based violence, and protection against trafficking; ii) provide training, advice and capacity building for government decision makers, local authorities, service providers, NGOs and civil society; and iii) support the development of child rights based policies to protect children on the move.
2. Service delivery, which will fill gaps as needed and establish child friendly/safe spaces at reception centres and in areas of temporary population concentration; and provide psychosocial support; opportunities for continued learning while on the move; support services for family tracing and reunification; water and sanitation; support to mothers for infant feeding and public health messaging.
3. With winter approaching, UNICEF will also procure and distribute winter clothes and other non-food items for children and new-born babies, in collaboration with partners on the ground.
4. Education support for children and youth focusing on development of relevant materials to support teachers in schools receiving refugee and migrant children, promoting integration, preventing racial discrimination and fostering social cohesion; education curriculum support for continuity of learning and providing examples of best practice.
5. Policy dialogue and advocacy with key decision makers and providing best practice examples of policies and legal instruments in favor of child rights and the best interests of the child, including the prevention of child detention.
6. Communication and awareness raising, which includes conducting public information campaigns on the situation of refugee and migrant children; promoting refugee and migrant children's meaningful participation in all decisions affecting them as well as their access to critical information and vital services.

In countries of destination, UNICEF, in collaboration with National Committees and partners, will support public dialogue and advocacy efforts, awareness raising and child rights education. Based on needs and capacity gap assessments and dialogue with Governments, UNICEF will provide technical assistance on the identification of unaccompanied and separated children and implementation of best interest determination (BID). Technical assistance may also be provided to family

tracing and reunification services, as well as temporary care, and measures for maintaining family unity, working together with partners. UNICEF will also engage in policy dialogue and advocacy and provide technical assistance to governments on the relocation and resettlement of unaccompanied and separated children.

UNICEF operations will be supported by a Technical Response Capacity (TRC). The TRC is designed to offer additional capacity to support national and local authorities

and other partners and local NGOs. The TRC will provide specialised support in areas such as child protection, water, sanitation, education, social protection, nutrition, health, HIV, communication and emergency coordination. The TRC will be made available at the request of the host country and in consultation with key partners.

Furthermore, UNICEF will establish a dedicated Crisis Cell in its CEE/CIS Regional Office in Geneva to coordinate the UNICEF overall response.

## Funding Requirements

UNICEF is appealing for **US\$14 million** to support the needs of children and women affected by the refugee and migrant crisis in Europe until end 2016. Immediate UNICEF funding needs for the first six months of the response are estimated at **US\$6.5 million**.

This appeal also presents the remaining funding gaps for the response to humanitarian and protection needs of children and women in the countries of origin including Syria and its neighbouring countries hosting refugees. As of 15 September 2015, the existing funding gap stands at **US\$457.5 million**.

Total funding Requirements (USD)	Immediate funding requirements (Sept 2015 – Feb 2016)	Funding Requirements (Mar – Dec 2016)	TOTAL
<b>Countries with greatest number of children on the move</b>			
Assessments and monitoring of the situation of children	270,000	260,000	530,000
Advocacy and awareness raising	500,000	570,000	1,070,000
Technical assistance	265,000	350,000	615,000
Service Delivery	2,695,000	3,200,000	5,895,000
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>3,730,000</b>	<b>4,380,000</b>	<b>8,110,000</b>
<b>Countries of destination</b>			
Assessments and monitoring of the situation of children	20,000	0	20,000
Advocacy and awareness raising	45,000	45,000	90,000
Technical assistance on national and local policies	200,000	190,000	390,000
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>265,000</b>	<b>235,000</b>	<b>500,000</b>
<b>Global Advocacy, Communication and Technical Response</b>			
Global Advocacy and Communication	640,000	560,000	1,200,000
Technical response capacity team and UNICEF coordination	1,909,239	2,299,896	4,209,135
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>2,549,239</b>	<b>2,859,896</b>	<b>5,409,135</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,544,239</b>	<b>7,474,896</b>	<b>14,019,135</b>
<b>Financial requirements for ongoing appeal</b>			
Syria Crisis – funding gap			457,500,000
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>471,519,135</b>

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