



Refugee and migrant crisis in Europe

Some 350,000 refugees and migrants⁵ arrived in Europe in 2016 despite border closures and the European Union-Turkey agreement in March. Such trends are expected to continue in 2017.⁶ Close to half of all arrivals by sea to Greece and Italy continue to be women and children, predominately from the Syrian Arab Republic and Afghanistan. On the Balkan route, women and children make up close to 60 per cent of all arrivals. In Italy, there was a sharp rise in the proportion of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) among all children that arrived in 2016. The situation in Greece and the Balkans remains equally challenging, with nearly 30,000⁷ children living in overcrowded reception centres. Many children have experienced violence, abuse or exploitation. Children who are stranded and on the move need protection and families need to be kept together to protect and safeguard children. All children need access to learning, health and other quality services and it is imperative to end the detention of children seeking refugee status or migrating. As many children continue on to their intended destination countries using different informal pathways, responses need to be nimble and integrated across the region. UASC need specific support as they await the outcome of lengthy status determination and relocation processes, and more efforts are needed in countries of destination, where children have been living in temporary centres in sub-standard conditions for more than a year.

Humanitarian strategy

In 2017, UNICEF will respond to the needs of children who are on the move, stranded or seeking asylum in Europe. Efforts will be made to expand and tailor UNICEF's response to the specific needs of children in different country contexts. UNICEF will meet the immediate needs of women and children on the ground, strengthen protective systems for children and build the capacity of relevant institutions to deliver on their mandates for children. UNICEF will expand and significantly scale up its programme in Greece where most children are stranded, and will continue to deliver integrated packages of child protection, nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), both in Greece and across the Balkans through child and family support hubs in locations where children are accommodated. UNICEF teams will simultaneously continue to conduct outreach to meet children's needs in contexts of shifting routes and heightened vulnerability to smuggling and trafficking networks. In Greece and Italy, UNICEF will continue to expand operations to support government efforts to improve reunification and better protect children by providing state institutions with technical assistance on reception, accommodation, safeguarding and alternative care and foster family options.

In countries of destination, support will focus on improving standards for care and the reception of refugee and migrant children, and promoting social inclusion, access to education and other basic services. In all countries, special attention will be given to UASC and children in detention. UNICEF will also explore new modalities to reach adolescents, including through cash programming and youth engagement. Enhanced monitoring and coordination will inform continued preparedness and contingency planning in Balkan countries. The UNICEF response strategy in 2017 will be aligned with the interagency Refugee and Migrant Response Plan 2017 and implemented in collaboration with governments and key partners.⁹ UNICEF efforts in Turkey will complement responses under the 2017 Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP).¹⁰

Results from 2016

By 31 October 2016, UNICEF had received US\$22.1 million against the revised US\$31 million appeal (71 per cent funded).¹¹ Since the start of the response in late 2015, UNICEF provided 182,500¹² refugee and migrant children with a wide range of services. Following the significant reduction in the large-scale movement of refugees

Humanitarian Action for Children

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Total people in need:

342,000¹

Total children (<18) in need:

131,000²

Total people to be reached in 2017:

112,000³

Total children to be reached in 2017:

93,000⁴

2017 programme targets

Greece

- 6,000 children accessing psychosocial support
- 5,000 children, including adolescents, participating in structured education activities
- 2,000 at-risk children, including UASC, identified and referred to appropriate care and services
- 500 social workers trained in protection standards in emergencies

Turkey

- 37,500 children received basic supplies to protect them from weather conditions and maintain good hygiene
- 2,500 at-risk children, including UASC, identified and referred to appropriate care and services

West Balkan countries (Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)

- 5,300 children accessing psychosocial support
- 1,100 at-risk children, including UASC, identified and referred to appropriate care and services
- 700 social workers trained in protection standards in emergencies

Countries of destination and other countries (Austria, Germany and Italy)

- 4,700 at-risk children in Italy, including UASC, identified and referred to appropriate care and services
- 2,175 front-line workers and centre managers/coordinators trained in protection standards in emergencies to serve 48,000⁸ children and women residing in accommodation centres

and migrants in March 2016, which led to an increased number of people stranded in Greece and the Balkans, more than 89,500 refugee and migrant children across Croatia, Greece, Serbia, Slovenia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia benefited from integrated psychosocial and case management services. UNICEF increased outreach teams' coverage in Turkey and Greece, identifying and referring more than 9,800 at-risk children. Through a combination of advocacy and technical assistance, UNICEF supported national authorities to put children at the centre of their national responses and adopt operational protection standards that are being applied in reception and asylum centres in Germany and to temporary care for UASC in Greece. UNICEF and partners provided training and capacity development for more than 1,000 social workers in countries throughout the region. At the policy level, UNICEF worked to identify alternatives to UASC detention in Greece; advocated against migration detention of children in Bulgaria and in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The number of refugee and migrant children detained in Greece declined in 2016, but additional efforts are needed to end child migration detention. UNICEF's efforts allowed for the integration of refugee and migrant children into national education systems in Greece and the Western Balkans. Partnerships with national ombudspersons and civil society organizations increased local capacities for monitoring the situation of refugee and migrant children, and joint communication efforts with UNICEF National Committees across Europe helped to bring a more positive and child-centred narrative to public discourse on the crisis.

		UNICEF 2016 targets	UNICEF total results
CHILD PROTECTION			
Children (boys and girls) who received psychosocial support in family support hubs, child-friendly spaces and mother-baby corners	Croatia	18,100	17,471
	Greece	6,000	2,327
	Serbia	30,200	35,703
	Slovenia	3,200	3,709
	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	33,000	33,405
Front-line workers trained on child protection standards/child protection in emergencies	Croatia	200	179
	Germany	2,000	50
	Greece	200	76
	Serbia	200	400
	Slovenia	500	124
	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	150	229
At-risk children, including UASC, identified and referred to specialized care/services	Turkey	60	128
	Greece	2,000	366
	Turkey	6,000	9,726
HEALTH AND NUTRITION			
Infants under 2 who accessed mother and baby care centre nutrition services	Croatia	1,600	1,572
	Greece	600	268
	Serbia	3,400	5,775
	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	1,580	1,600
Women accessing infant and young child feeding counselling at family support hubs, child-friendly spaces and mother-baby corners	Croatia	1,900	1,704
	Greece	1,200	377
	Serbia	3,500	4,557
	Slovenia	150	83
	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	110	127
Children vaccinated against vaccine-preventable diseases (i.e. measles, diphtheria and polio)	Greece	25,000	12,000
WASH AND BASIC SUPPLIES			
Children who received basic supplies (including clothing and baby hygiene items) to protect them from weather conditions and keep good personal hygiene	Croatia	17,600	16,619
	Greece	10,000	1,191
	Serbia	21,200	24,865
	Slovenia	400	83
	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	20,960	21,185
	Turkey	30,000	60,591
Children and women with access to safe drinking water	Greece	10,000	1,351
Children and women with access to appropriate sanitation facilities/toilets	Greece	10,000	4,494
Children and women reached with hygiene promotion and awareness activities	Greece	10,000	6,747
EDUCATION			
Children, including adolescents, participating in structured education activities	Greece	5,000	1,981
Children, including adolescents, participating in life-skills education	Greece	3,000	792

Note: Results are through 30 November 2016. For the period January–March, prior to border closures, services were provided in several locations for children on the move. As a result, a child may have been reported as reached in multiple locations as UNICEF cared for them all along their migratory route. After March, when refugee and migrant children became stranded, UNICEF continued to provide services in locations where people were stranded, while also expanding activities in Greece and other countries (e.g. countries of destination such as Germany). For Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia results reported here represent women and children reached before March and women and children who received continued/repeated services when remaining in transit/reception centres after March. Meanwhile, results in Greece and Germany accelerated once the response teams were deployed at mid-year for the implementation of activities, which reached targeted populations on a significant scale as of September 2016 in Greece.

Country	2017 requirements (US\$)
Countries with children on the move and stranded	
Western Balkan countries ⁱ	6,544,800
Greece	17,920,000
Turkey ⁱⁱ	2,500,000
Countries of destination and additional countries	
Italy	5,165,000
Germany	3,249,000
Other countries of destination and planned additional countries and territories ⁱⁱⁱ	2,396,000
Regional and global	
Coordination, advocacy, communications, technical support and preparedness	5,677,200
Total	43,452,000

- (i) Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.
(ii) For Turkey, targets and budget requirements should be understood as complementary to and enhancing the child protection strategy and targets in the 2017 3RP for Syrian refugees. In this regard, UNICEF's activities within the Humanitarian Action for Children 2017 appeal for the refugee and migrant crisis in Europe will focus on providing targeted, immediate child protection and basic needs support to vulnerable children (including UASC) and families on the move toward Europe.
(iii) Other countries of destination include Austria, and others may be added, while other countries and territories in the Balkans with children on the move or stranded are planned depending on shifts in the situation.

	Balkans				Greece	Turkey	Countries of destination		Planned new countries, regional and global	2017 requirements (US\$)
	Croatia	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Serbia	Slovenia			Italy	Germany		
Child protection ⁱ	209,500	720,000	2,100,000	984,200	10,630,000	2,000,000	3,115,000	1,373,500	-	21,132,200
Education	125,500	150,000	325,000	103,600	7,090,000	-	250,000	1,332,500	-	9,376,600
Essential items	-	80,000	450,000	-	-	500,000	-	-	-	1,030,000
Health and nutrition	5,000	123,000	600,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	728,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	33,000	40,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	73,000
Social inclusion	-	-	-	-	-	-	504,000	-	-	504,000
Cross-cutting and operational support ⁱⁱ	36,000	127,000	-	333,000	200,000	-	1,296,000	543,000	-	2,535,000
Regional and global	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,677,200	5,677,200
Other and planned new countries	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,396,000	2,396,000
Total	409,000	1,240,000	3,475,000	1,420,800	17,920,000	2,500,000	5,165,000	3,249,000	8,073,200	43,452,000

- (i) The child protection requirement in Greece and Turkey includes gender-based violence.
(ii) Cross-cutting and operational includes components such as communications, child rights monitoring, coordination and operational costs.

Funding requirements

UNICEF is requesting US\$43,452,000 for 2017 to meet the needs of children and women who represent up to 60 per cent of all people affected on the eastern Mediterranean and Balkan routes. This appeal is aligned with the 2017 Refugee and Migrant Response Plan. Given the highly fluid situation of children on the move, UNICEF is requesting donors to provide the funding as flexibly as possible to allow UNICEF to respond immediately, allowing countries to mount flexible and mobile responses, considering the volatile context, while keeping a strong focus on building up systems, including capacity building for front-line workers and maintaining strong policy, advocacy and technical assistance support for governments and partners. These requirements are complementary to the *Humanitarian Action for Children 2017* appeals for the [Syrian Arab Republic](#) and [Syrian refugees](#).

¹ This aligns with the refugees and migrants to be provided assistance by all Refugee and Migrant Response Plan partners in 2017, prioritizing the most vulnerable new arrivals, as well as those already in Europe.

² This is based on the proportion of new child arrivals as well as the estimated number of stranded children in Bulgaria, Greece and the Western Balkans.

³ The total target is calculated across a combination of interventions simultaneously targeting people and affected children. Figures are rounded.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Data from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 'Refugees/Migrants Response – Mediterranean', UNHCR, <<http://data.unhcr.org/mediterranean/regional.php>>, accessed 14 December 2016.

⁶ According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees/International Organization for Migration Refugee and Migrant Response Plan 2017.

⁷ Data aggregated from United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees figures on children stranded in Greece and the Balkan countries (Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia).

⁸ This is an indirect target to be reached through training and therefore is not included in the total number of children to be reached by UNICEF.

⁹ The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and non-governmental organization partners.

¹⁰ The 3RP is the inter-agency plan to coordinate the response to assist Syrian refugees in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey.

¹¹ Available funds included funding received against the current appeal of US\$10.2 million and US\$11.1 million carried forward from the previous year, with the 2015 appeal launched at the end of the third quarter of 2015.

¹² This figure represents the total number of children reached in child-friendly spaces, mother-baby corners and child and family support hubs since the start of the response and the initial appeal launched at the end of the third quarter of 2015.

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