



# Humanitarian Action for Children

unicef 

## Refugee migrant response in Europe

Mostly from the Middle East, South Asia, East and West Africa, children on the move in Europe have fled conflict, insecurity and deprivation. In 2019, over 35,000 refugees and migrants, a quarter of them children, entered Europe.<sup>1</sup> They added to the 2 million refugees and migrants, including 464,000 children who arrived between 2014 and 2018. Turkey continues to host to some 3.9 million people, including 1.7 million children.<sup>2</sup> While arrivals through the Central Mediterranean route have decreased, there is a sharp increase on the Eastern and Western Mediterranean routes, significantly worsening the situations on the Greek islands, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as in southern Spain. Approximately 42,000 children were living in Greece, Italy and the Western Balkans as of June 2019. Despite progress, refugee and migrant children continue to face heightened risks of violence, including gender-based violence, in countries of arrival, transit and destination. This is largely due to insufficient and sub-standard reception capacities. Access to health and education services remains inadequate, and the shortage of resources threatens gains achieved in enrolling children on the move in public schools, especially in Greece and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Government's capacity to cater for families with children in Montenegro is also being challenged. Asylum and child protection systems across the region remain ill-equipped and the rising anti-migrant discourse translates into push-backs at the borders. Over 16,500 unaccompanied or separated children registered in Greece, Italy and the Balkans still lack the necessary continuum of care and protection, as national legislation, policies and resource allocation have yet to align with international best practices. These circumstances undermine the capacities of children—accompanied or unaccompanied—to recover from their ordeals, jeopardize their social inclusion, and compromise child rights.

### Humanitarian strategy

In 2019, UNICEF will continue to prioritize the needs of children and women on the move in Europe. At the country level, adjustments will be made to UNICEF's response, highlighting the need to improve the reception capacities, which have resulted in child migration detention, and challenges integrating older children into schooling. Combining humanitarian interventions with technical assistance, UNICEF will partner with governments and civil society organizations to address remaining challenges. In camp and urban reception facilities, UNICEF will offer mental health and psycho-social support, case management, referrals and legal aid. Mothers with young children will benefit from dedicated early childhood development, health, nutrition and vaccination programs. Priorities will include the care and protection of unaccompanied children, as well as preventing and responding to gender-based violence. Statutory agencies and civil society organizations will be supported to ensure that unaccompanied and separated children are identified on time, provided with the care and protection required, and that community-based alternatives, guardianship and durable solutions are developed. UNICEF will enhance services for at-risk and survivor women, girls, boys and men through knowledge generation, evidence-based advocacy and capacity development of front-line workers and national actors. Children's access to education and adolescent skills development, which are critical to social inclusion, will be central to the response.

Through intercultural education and mediation, UNICEF and education authorities will fast track refugee and migrant children's school enrollment. Non-formal education will complement these efforts, offering accelerated learning and addressing the specific needs of children outside of compulsory education. Young people's engagement will be promoted through life-skills and empowerment programmes. Age- and culturally-appropriate information on children's rights and entitlements in countries of arrival, transit and destination will be disseminated through platforms such as U-report. Regional capacity to bolster country preparedness and response will be enhanced in a fluctuating environment. Contingency partnership agreements will be established in selected countries to facilitate the delivery of child protection, non-formal education, mother and child health services and child rights monitoring. Earlier investments in the human resources roster will permit fast deployments to most-affected countries. UNICEF will foster coordination around child rights monitoring and case management capacity, including best interest determination procedures, across regions and United Nations agencies. Regardless of their immigration status, the rights of refugee and migrant children will be further promoted through strategic advocacy efforts at the country and regional levels, together with relevant civil society organizations, ombudspersons and governments.

**Total people in need**  
294,000<sup>4</sup>

**Total children (<18) in need**  
65,500<sup>5</sup>

**Total people to be reached**  
44,630<sup>6</sup>

**Total children to be reached**  
35,230

### 2019 programme targets

#### Greece<sup>7</sup>

- 10,000 children benefiting from quality child protection services
- 5,000 people accessing gender-based violence prevention and response services
- 17,450 children enrolled in formal and non-formal education, including early childhood education
- 1,800 adolescent boys and girls reached with participation and empowerment

#### Italy

- 1,150 unaccompanied and separated children benefiting from quality child protection services
- 2,250 frontline workers and caregivers trained on child protection and alternative care
- 2,100 adolescents participating in skills development programmes
- 3,000 adolescent boys and girls benefitting from enhanced participation

#### Bulgaria

- 300 children benefiting from quality child protection services
- 200 people accessing gender-based violence prevention and response services
- 600 children participating in non-formal education, including early childhood education

#### Serbia

- 1,500 children benefiting from quality child protection services
- 200 people accessing gender-based violence prevention and response services
- 500 children enrolled in formal education activities

#### Bosnia and Herzegovina<sup>8</sup>

- 6,000 children benefiting from quality child protection services
- 1,500 children enrolled in formal and non-formal education
- 600 children vaccinated

#### Montenegro

- 50 frontline workers and caregivers with improved knowledge and skills on child protection and child health

#### Regional technical support

- 9 countries with enhanced preparedness and response capacities related to children on the move<sup>9</sup>

## Results from 2019

As of 30 June 2019, UNICEF had US\$ 5.5 million available against the revised US\$29.5 million appeal (19 per cent funded).<sup>3</sup> Another US\$ 5.8 million were received from non-emergency funding. Through a national system strengthening approach, UNICEF has reached 310,000 refugee and migrant children with a comprehensive package of services since the start of the response in 2015. In 2019 alone, 7,900 children benefited from mental health and psycho-social support. More than 2,600 of the vulnerable children, including unaccompanied and separated children, were identified and received case management and referrals. UNICEF reached some 2,900 people with gender-based violence prevention and response services, and supported the capacity building of 440 front-line workers. In addition, 1,140 staff in care facilities for unaccompanied children and reception centers across the region were trained on child protection standards. Drawing on UNICEF technical assistance, government partners have amended their child protection legal and policy frameworks and increased their capacities for reception and service provision. This resulted in a national strategy to scale up community-based care for unaccompanied children in Greece and stronger protection safeguards in reception centers across the region. Promoting integration into the public education system, UNICEF helped nearly 18,000 children go back to school and benefit from quality formal and structured non-formal education programs, including early childhood education activities. UNICEF worked with education authorities to make public schools more inclusive and equipped teachers with the required knowledge, skills and technology solutions. Joint monitoring, communication and advocacy work with civil society, ombudspersons and UNICEF National Committees, continue to raise the profile of refugee and migrant children in relevant technical and political forums to advance the realization of their rights.

	UNICEF 2019 targets	UNICEF 2019 results <sup>1</sup>
<b>HEALTH AND NUTRITION</b>		
<b>Infants and children accessing health and nutrition services, including in mother and baby care centres</b>		
Greece	450	178
Serbia	250	270
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1,400	836
<b>Mothers accessing mother and baby care services</b>		
Greece	600	429
Serbia	150	107
Bosnia and Herzegovina	800	505
<b>Infants and young children benefitting from life-saving vaccines</b>		
Bosnia and Herzegovina	600	262
<b>WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE AND BASIC SUPPLIES</b>		
<b>Children receiving culturally-appropriate basic supplies, including clothes, baby hygiene items and dignity kits for women and girls</b>		
Serbia	1,000	534
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1,000	1,200
<b>CHILD PROTECTION</b>		
<b>Children reached with quality child protection support (MHPSS, legal counselling and case management) and protection standard</b>		
Greece	10,000	2,380
Italy	1,150	606
Bulgaria	300	56
Serbia	1,500	1,078
Bosnia and Herzegovina	6,000	3,806
<b>Unaccompanied and separated children benefitting from appropriate care arrangements and/or services</b>		
Greece	1,200	229
Italy	300	127
Serbia	600	803
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2,500	1,450
<b>Frontline workers and caregivers with improved knowledge and skills on child protection</b>		
Greece	500	395
Italy	2,250	457
Bulgaria	50	38
Bosnia and Herzegovina	300	253
Montenegro	50	0
<b>EDUCATION</b>		
<b>School-age children, including adolescents, participating in structured non-formal education activities</b>		
Greece	7,500	3,790
Italy	2,100	149
Bulgaria	500	221
Bosnia and Herzegovina	500	498
<b>School-age children benefitting from a strengthened and more inclusive formal education system</b>		
Greece	13,000	11,500
Italy	500	350
Serbia	500	549
Bosnia and Herzegovina	350	326
<b>Children (3-5 years old) benefitting from early childhood education activities</b>		
Greece	1,400	564
Bulgaria	100	55
<b>Formal school teachers trained on at least one key theme on inclusion of refugee and migrant children</b>		
Greece	700	493
Bosnia and Herzegovina	50	100

## GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

### GBV survivors and individuals at risk accessing GBV prevention and response services

Greece	5,000	1,950
Italy	250	211
Bulgaria	200	191
Serbia	200	565

### Frontline workers with improved knowledge and skills on GBV prevention and response

Greece	350	88
Italy	350	223
Bulgaria	70	74
Serbia	66	56

## PARTICIPATION

### Adolescent boys and girls participating in skills development programmes for learning, personal empowerment, active citizenship and/or employability

Greece	1,800	837
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### Adolescent boys and girls benefitting from enhanced participation and empowerment through U-Report on the Move

Italy	3,000	2,788
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Results are through 30 June 2019.

<sup>i</sup> Activities in Montenegro were initiated during the summer of 2019 and will be reported at the end of the year.

### Funding requirements

UNICEF is requesting US\$ 29,510,501 million to meet the needs of refugee and migrant children in Europe in 2019. The initial funding requirements were revised in July 2019 to reflect the deteriorating situation for children on the move and the increased needs in Greece, Bosnia and Herzegovina and most recently Montenegro. Inadequate funding will hinder the effort to eradicate violence against children and undermine their social inclusion and access to basic services. The response will focus on key interventions that support the integration of children in the most affected countries. To adapt to evolving and emerging situations, UNICEF is requesting flexible funding and including rapid reaction support. In line with UNICEF's multi-regional approach, these requirements complement those outlined in the Humanitarian Action for Children appeals for Syrian refugees and the Middle East and North Africa, West and Central Africa and Europe and Central Asia regions.

Country <sup>10</sup>	2019 original Requirements (US\$)	Revised 2019 Requirements (US\$)	Funds Available (US\$)	Funding Gap (US\$)	Funding Gap (%)
<b>Countries with children on the move</b>	<b>25,503,082</b>	<b>27,510,501</b>	<b>4,542,052</b>	<b>22,968,449</b>	<b>83%</b>
Greece <sup>11</sup>	15,103,232	16,838,232	2,362,388	14,475,844	86%
Italy	3,850,000	3,850,000	1,578,049	2,271,951	59%
Bulgaria	630,000	630,000	212,323	417,677	66%
Serbia	1,300,000	1,300,000	343,961	956,039	74%
Bosnia and Herzegovina <sup>12</sup>	4,619,850	4,850,000	45,331	4,804,669	99%
Montenegro	0	42,269	0	42,269	100%
<b>Regional support</b>	<b>2,000,000</b>	<b>2,000,000</b>	<b>938,361</b>	<b>1,061,639</b>	<b>53%</b>
Contingency partnership agreements	1,500,000	1,500,000	749,102	750,898	50%
Deployment of technical expertise and coordination	500,000	500,000	189,259	310,741	62%
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,503,082</b>	<b>29,510,501</b>	<b>5,480,413</b>	<b>24,030,088</b>	<b>81%<sup>13</sup></b>

Sector	Greece	Italy	Bulgaria	Serbia	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Montenegro	2019 Revised requirement (US\$)
Health and nutrition				150,000	700,000	20,022	870,022
Water, sanitation and hygiene and basic needs				100,000	200,000		300,000
Child protection	7,800,000	1,800,000	200,000	500,000	650,000	22,247	10,972,247
Gender-based violence	1,000,000	450,000	230,000	300,000			1,980,000
Education	7,800,000	1,220,000	200,000	250,000	3,000,000		12,470,000
Adolescents/youth	238,232						238,232
Cross-cutting		380,000			300,000		680,000
Regional support							2,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,838,232</b>	<b>3,850,000</b>	<b>630,000</b>	<b>1,300,000</b>	<b>4,850,000</b>	<b>42,269</b>	<b>29,510,501</b>

<sup>1</sup> United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Mediterranean Situation Operational Portal, June 2019.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Turkey, June 2019.

<sup>3</sup> Available funds include US\$2.1 million received against the current appeal and US\$ 3.4 million carried forward from the previous year.

<sup>4</sup> This figure is based on the refugee and migrant population present in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Serbia as of November 2018, as well as an estimation of new arrivals in 2019 in these countries. UNHCR, November 2018.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> UNICEF interventions in affected countries mainly target children and women in the areas of child protection, gender-based violence, education, health and nutrition.

<sup>7</sup> Annual targets were revised to reflect increased caseload and needs of refugee and migrant children.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Countries to be provided with regional technical preparedness and response assistance and capacity building include Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Italy, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey.

<sup>10</sup> UNICEF has concluded its programmatic presence in Germany as of December 2018, in coordination with the Government of Germany and the German National Committee.

<sup>11</sup> Increased funding requirements are due to the increase in arrivals in 2019, coupled with the continuous need to support the Government's capacity to respond to the refugee and migrant situation in the country.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> Funding gap does not reflect non-emergency funds received from the EU to support legal and policy reform, service provision and capacity building.

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