



**Help
children
affected by
earthquakes
in Croatia**

unicef 
for every child

Donate at www.unicef.hr

Message from the UNICEF Representative in Croatia, Ms. Regina Castillo

Dear partners and friends,

At this moment, when we share our deepest sympathies for all the lives lost and the destroyed livelihoods, allow me to share my concern especially for the children affected by the earthquake and their families and [invite you to join our humanitarian efforts](#).

The most devastating earthquake that has hit Croatia in 140 years, has left the citizens of Petrinja, Sisak, Glina, Sisak-Moslavina County, Zagreb and numerous smaller cities and villages without homes, properties and lives. The earthquake has directly affected as many as 70,000 people, including **13,000 children**, devastating schools, kindergartens, social welfare institutions and the region's largest hospital.

SITUATION (ESTIMATES)

More than **13 thousand children** directly affected by the earthquakes

5000 pupils and students affected by the earthquakes

62 children in temporary accommodations

9 schools permanently and 11 schools temporary out of use

Most vulnerable children and families are facing difficulties in access to health and social welfare services



We know that **the needs of children will be long-term** and as UNICEF, we plan to be there to help children overcome the trauma by the provision of psychosocial support, help them find joy in playing by facilitating child friendly spaces and other interventions and make sure children are able to receive quality education and healthcare in support of the Government's and local authorities' efforts.

UNICEF Croatia has been working with the Government from the very beginning in overcoming this crisis and identifying the means to improve the protection of children and their families, especially the most vulnerable ones.

Immediately following the devastating earthquakes, the UNICEF Office in Croatia launched its humanitarian appeal [“Help Children in Croatia Affected by the Earthquakes”](#) to assist children and their families, especially the most vulnerable ones.

Thanks to our donors, “Childhood Guardians” and UNICEF’s international and flexible resources for humanitarian relief, [UNICEF was able to respond quickly](#) and secure the first shipment of equipment that allowed families whose homes had been affected by the earthquakes to protect their assets from further destruction from the rain and snow.

STORIES FROM THE FIELD



“We met Višnja, Mate and Mateo (3) in the accommodation provided in the barracks in Petrinja after the earthquake.” Mateo’s mom Višnja says it was scary, especially since she is now just about to give birth. Everything around them was falling apart, and they fled the house lightly dressed.

[Read their story](#)



“At that moment, I was sitting on the couch and watching something on the TV. I was completely relaxed. Stillness. Suddenly, everything started shaking, the house, everything”, Dario (15) shared with us. Dijana is accommodated with her sons, Dario and Dorian, in the school sports hall in Sisak.

[Read their story](#)

The value of the planned UNICEF activities is \$1,230,000 or HRK 7.347.202 for immediate assistance in the first few months of 2021.

Besides providing the [most urgent protective equipment](#), our immediate next steps will be delivering [notebook computers to the Welfare Centre in Glina](#) to enable safe continuation of social services to the most vulnerable children and their families and [deploying expert mobile teams](#) in collaboration with the Government of Croatia to provide psychological support to children for the next 8 weeks.

UNICEF's INTERVENTION

EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES



[UNICEF has provided 13.5 tons of protective tarpaulins](#) (2,400 pieces) or large water-resistant covers in the amount of \$55,000 or HRK 328.533 to protect damaged homes and buildings from the rain and snow. A shipment of [hygiene supplies](#) is being prepared and it will be distributed according to the most urgent needs. [Three sanitary containers](#) adapted for children and people with disabilities, donated by UNICEF to the Croatian Red Cross and the Civil Protection Headquarters after the floods in Slavonia, are ready, as well as large mobile illuminating poles.

CHILD PROTECTION



In cooperation with the Ministry of Labour, Pension System, Family and Social Policy and the Society for Psychological Assistance, UNICEF is organizing [expert mobile teams](#) to provide [psychosocial support to children and families](#) in the area of Glina, Petrinja and Sisak. In cooperation with the Croatian Red Cross, UNICEF will organize child friendly spaces and equip them with [special sets for early learning](#) and [recreation](#), each containing educational materials for up to 50 young children aged 0 to 8. Activities in these safe places with professionals restore children's sense of normality and enable learning and play.

LONG-TERM SUPPORT – EDUCATION, HEALTHCARE AND SOCIAL WELFARE



Aiming for the fastest possible normalization of life in the coming months, it will be necessary to help children, parents, families and communities through support to kindergartens, schools and healthcare and social welfare institutions. In cooperation with line ministries, UNICEF will support the safe continuation of education, the establishment of healthcare and social care for the most vulnerable children and youth in Sisak-Moslavina County.

On behalf of UNICEF, I would like to invite you, as well as all our partners, companies, media and citizens to join us and support our work to restore the hope in the children and their families affected by the earthquakes. For more details you can contact Lidija Gamulin, Head of Partnerships at lgamulin@unicef.org, follow us on social networks to learn more about our work or send your kind donation directly to [UNICEF's bank account: HR1723600001501092524, Reference nr: 2068-98, SWIFT: ZBAHR2X](#).

I would like to thank you in advance and wish you, all members of your team and your families lots of strength, optimism and good health.

On behalf of the UNICEF Office in Croatia, most respectfully,



Regina M. Castillo,
Representative
UNICEF Country Office in Croatia