



Child-Centred Official Development Assistance (ODA)

Collaborative projects of
the Croatian Ministry of
Foreign and European
Affairs and UNICEF

How Croatia and UNICEF are making a difference for children through projects supported by Croatian Official Development Assistance (ODA)



REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
Ministry of Foreign and
European Affairs

unicef 
for every child

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Foreword



Regina M. Castillo
UNICEF Representative and United
Nations Designated Official for Croatia

The transfer of Official Development Assistance (ODA), an instrument of foreign policy, to the UNICEF Office for Croatia to attend to the needs of vulnerable children and their families especially during humanitarian emergencies highlights the transition of the Republic of Croatia from a recipient of donor aid to an international donor and its commitment to human development around the world.

From 2018 to 2023, the Government of the Republic of Croatia funded UNICEF in ten countries to implement separate programmes focused on different thematic areas, including learning environments for refugee children in Jordan and Lebanon, humanitarian aid for children in Yemen and Gaza, child and maternal health services for refugee families in Egypt, power generators to hospitals, schools and water companies in Moldova and Ukraine, schools in earthquake-affected areas in Türkiye, and life-transforming skills for girls in Kenya and Ethiopia.

By providing ODA, the Government of Croatia is ensuring that children in vulnerable situations are better able to exercise their rights, their right to health, nutrition, protection, education, leisure and participation. By partnering with UNICEF, the Government of Croatia is making the needs of the most vulnerable children visible and equating human rights with child rights.

We share these case studies to showcase the partnership between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and UNICEF to highlight the importance of utilizing ODA to fulfil the rights of children around the world and to provide an inspiration to other countries, especially high-income countries or those in transition to become high-income countries, to follow suit.



Gordan Grlić Radman, Ph.D.
Minister of Foreign and European
Affairs of the Republic of Croatia

Ensuring the rights of our children is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world. By translating this global commitment into action - both within Croatia and on the global stage - we are investing in our collective future, recognizing that the wellbeing of children is crucial to the future of our planet.

At the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, we are proud of the robust and meaningful partnership we have established with UNICEF, aimed at driving structural and long-term improvements for children, particularly in low-and middle-income countries. This collaboration is strategically directed towards enhancing the conditions for children and youth, with a strong emphasis on reaching the most vulnerable among them - a key part of our broader dedication to human rights.

Through our development cooperation and humanitarian assistance, Croatia takes an active role in creating solutions that protect children's lives, uphold their rights, and enable them to realize their potential, starting from early childhood and continuing into adolescence. Our efforts are centered on ensuring that every child has the opportunity to survive, thrive, receive an education, and have an equitable chance in life.

In collaboration with UNICEF, our efforts have spanned across multiple countries, including Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Yemen, Kenya, Moldova, Ethiopia, Türkiye, Ukraine and Gaza. Between 2018 and 2023, these initiatives have been instrumental in supporting children with disabilities, enhancing healthcare, protecting families and youth, facilitating access to quality education, assisting children without parental care, supporting children in the justice system, and promoting the empowerment of adolescents and young people.

Abbreviations and Acronyms

CWD	Children with Disabilities
HAC	Humanitarian Action for Children
KNBS	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
MENA	Middle East and North Africa Region
MFEA	Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs
MoHP	Ministry of Health and Population
ODA	Official Development Assistance
PHC	Primary Health Care
PSS	Psychosocial Support
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

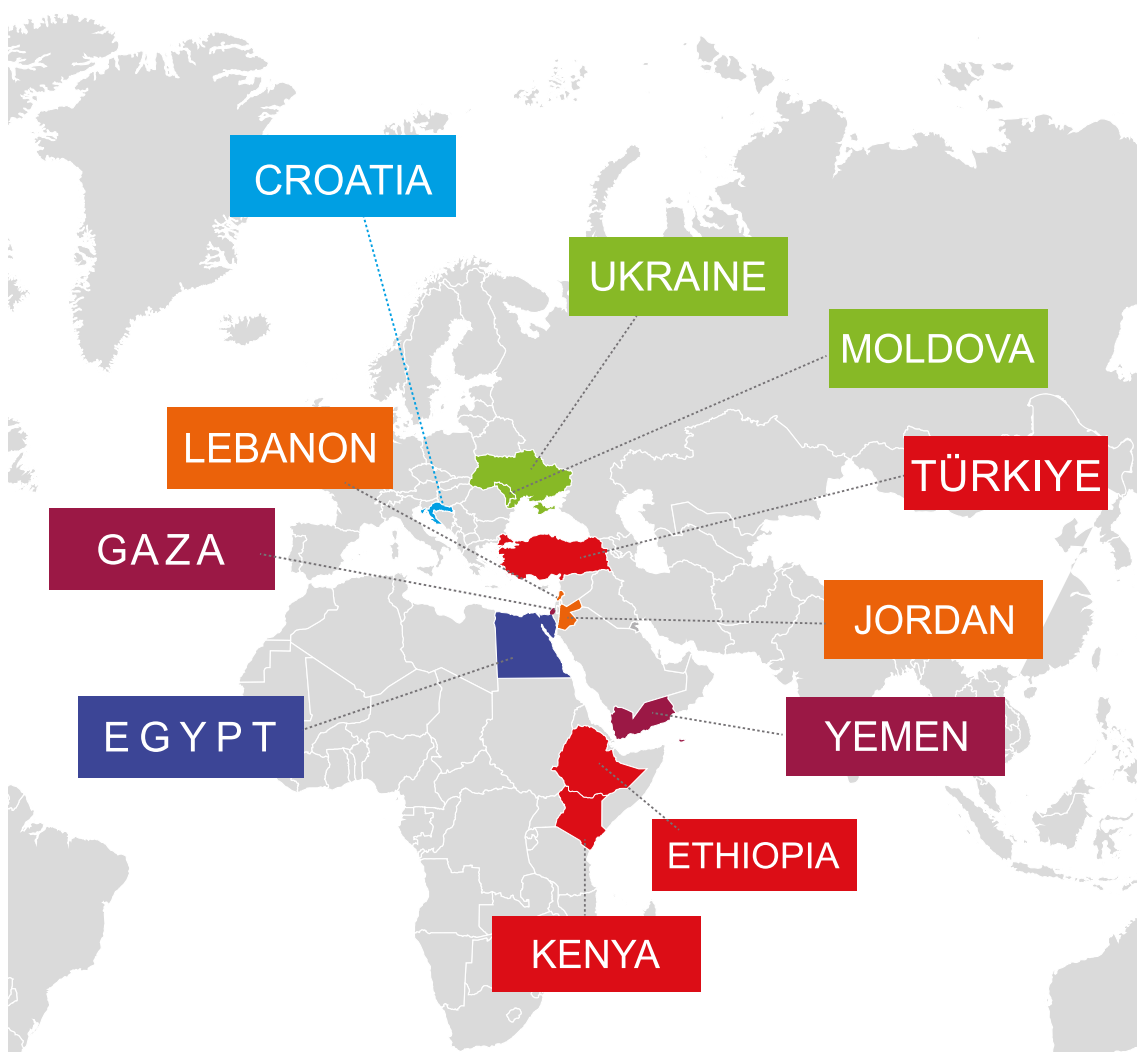
Executive Summary

UNICEF works with and for the world's most vulnerable children. This work depends on our partnerships. UNICEF is working with the Government of the Republic of Croatia through the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs to help reach some of the most vulnerable children in countries facing developmental and humanitarian issues, in line with proven best practices and norms in international development. UNICEF and the Croatian Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs have been working together since 2018 to reach some of the most vulnerable children in different countries through Official Development Assistance (ODA).

ODA includes contributions to international institutions and activities funded from the national government budget with a view to encouraging the development and progress of the beneficiaries of development assistance. The ODA resources of the Croatian Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs have proven to be a powerful tool for supporting children's health, education and protection so that they can reach their full potential. The ODA resources of the Croatian Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs to UNICEF projects have been increasing over the years. Since 2018, UNICEF has received a total of over \$3.5 million from the Croatian Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs to support humanitarian and development projects in different countries, with most of the funding provided in 2023.

Here are ten examples of UNICEF projects that emerged as a result of collaboration and generous support of the Croatian Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs. The model of leveraging ODA to support UNICEF projects beyond border is considered an example of best practice and can be replicated in other UNICEF country offices.

Map of the Countries Supported by Croatian Official Development Assistance



For every child, | **a childhood**



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Case# 1

Improvements to Refugee Camp Learning Environments in Jordan by Building Inclusive Playgrounds for Children (2018/2019)

In 2019, the Syria crisis continued unabated for its eighth consecutive year. As of December 2019, Jordan hosted 1.3 million refugees,¹ of whom 745,169² were Syrian refugees registered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which affected economic and social conditions in Jordan. While 85 per cent of refugees resided in host communities, 123,267 Syrian refugees were living in refugee camps where, as of 2019, 79 per cent were women and children.

The registered Syrian refugee population included over 230,900 school-age children. Jordan made significant progress in particular in providing access to formal education for Syrian refugee children in the Azraq and Za'atari camps. With the support of UNICEF, the Jordanian Ministry of Education began establishing learning spaces in the camps in 2012 and by the 2018-2019 academic year, twenty school complexes were established in the camps. However, schools in refugee camps still

had gaps in meeting educational standards and many schools lacked computer labs, libraries, science labs, resource centres for children with disabilities, and playgrounds.

The Government of Croatia's contribution to UNICEF supported improvements to refugee camp learning environments by building inclusive playgrounds for children.

Funding from Croatia supported the establishment and rehabilitation of five playgrounds within the compounds of five primary schools and kindergartens in the Azraq and Za'atari camps.

The playgrounds were equipped with safe play equipment for children, including accommodative equipment for children with disabilities, such as swings, trampolines, slides and seesaws. The Government of Croatia supported the most vulnerable children by increasing access to quality inclusive early and basic education in a child-friendly and protective environment, while also increasing retention in schools. Funds from this grant were also used to train 20 Syrian incentive-based volunteers to serve as playground minders who helped ensure the proper use of the equipment.



In December 2019, a delegation led by representatives of the Croatian Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, H.E. Mr. Tomislav Bošnjak, Ambassador of Croatia to Egypt covering also Jordan and several other countries, conducted a field visit to see the new and rehabilitated inclusive playgrounds, as well as to attend the opening ceremony of these playgrounds with accompanying communication activities.



The delegation was joined by the UNICEF Croatia Goodwill Ambassador Bojana Gregorić-Vejzović who helped raise awareness of the situation of children in Jordan refugee camps and of the support of the Government of Croatia nationally with her presence and with her interviews to different Croatian media.



Case# 2

Building Inclusive Playgrounds for Children with Disabilities in Lebanon (2022)

Since the onset of the Syrian crisis in 2011, Lebanon has borne the considerable weight of the refugee influx which has left a significant mark on its economy and infrastructure. Estimates from the government in 2022 indicated that Lebanon hosted around 1.5 million Syrians, 855,172 of them registered as refugees by UNHCR, and 257,000 Palestinian refugees, which is a significant burden for a country with a population of 4 million.³

Lebanon has not allowed for the establishment of formal camps in the country and Syrian refugees either live in informal settlements (non-permanent shelters) or among Lebanese host communities. Syrian refugees living among host communities are typically concentrated in densely populated urban, often underdeveloped, areas. Syrian refugee children's access to education in Lebanon is achieved either through integration in

the public education system or through NGO centres that have been established to provide non-formal education. There are no dedicated schools in the informal settlements for refugee children. With Lebanon's total children population projected at 2,307,692, the estimated number of children with disabilities aged 0–17 is 300,000. **Only 11 per cent of school-age children with disabilities are enrolled in mainstream public schools and 72 per cent of Syrian children with disabilities are not enrolled in school.**

To address the current gaps in inclusive learning and the socializing of children with disabilities, the Government of Croatia decided to contribute funds with the aim of building on UNICEF's disability and inclusion programming to create and promote a safe, inclusive, and positive environment for children, particularly Syrian refugee children with disabilities, through the rehabilitation of inclusive playgrounds.

By building inclusive playgrounds in locations with a high concentration of refugees, UNICEF will bring refugee and Lebanese children with and without disabilities to learn and play together in an inclusive setting, thus minimizing the social exclusion of refugees and children with disabilities and promoting social and behavioural change at the community level.

After a careful assessment of potential sites in eight governorates of Lebanon and based on predetermined criteria, three community public gardens and playgrounds were identified as locations to implement the project: Rachaya in the Bekaa Governorate, Abbasiyeh in the South Governorate and Mohammara in the Akkar Governorate.



In March 2023, a delegation led by representatives of the Croatian Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, including H.E. Mr. Tomislav Bošnjak, Ambassador of Croatia to Egypt covering also Lebanon and several other countries, conducted a field visit to Lebanon.



The criteria for selecting the locations of the playgrounds included safe and accessible sites with the potential to reach the host community, the refugee population, and children with disabilities, in addition to a commitment from the local municipalities to support the project and ensure that the activities continue in the long term.

The project covers 500 children with moderate and severe disabilities as direct beneficiaries and 3,000 indirect beneficiaries of children from the formal school system and non-formal education settings, which include both refugee and Lebanese children.

As of June 2023, the inclusive playground designs have been completed and verified by UNICEF and validated by the communities and municipalities. The handover and official launch ceremony are scheduled for 2024.

During the visit, Ambassador Bošnjak and the Croatian delegation met with the representatives of UNICEF Lebanon and visited the locations where the playgrounds would be built and rehabilitated.



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Inclusive playground in Mohamara, Lebanon, built by UNICEF utilising the funds donated by the Government of Croatia.

For every child, | **a fair chance**



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Case# 3

UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children in Yemen (2019)

Throughout 2019, Yemen remained the world's worst humanitarian crisis. Nearly five years into the conflict, the country continued to be heavily affected by violence, economic crisis and a continued decline in the availability, accessibility and quality of basic social services. As a result, 24.1 million people (80 per cent of the population) required humanitarian assistance. Children remained the primary victims of the crisis, with 12.3 million of them requiring some form of humanitarian aid or protection assistance. UNICEF appealed for \$536 million for the HAC of 2019 to address the

escalating humanitarian needs in Yemen together with over 220 partners, including governments, UN agencies, international and national NGOs.⁴ [The Government of Croatia decided to commit funds to help combat the humanitarian and children's crisis in Yemen and thus contributed to life-saving interventions in children's health, nutrition, WASH, education and child protection services.](#) These government funds were matched by the resources raised from individual Croatian donors by the UNICEF Country Office in Croatia for Yemen.

- According to the 2019 UNICEF Consolidated Emergency Report (CER) for Yemen, despite the challenging operational context, UNICEF, with global partners and donors, delivered an integrated response to millions of children and women affected by conflict, displacement, diseases and natural disasters throughout the year and across the country.
- In response to the malnutrition crisis, UNICEF continued to focus on community prevention and management of malnutrition. Nearly 4.4 million children under five were screened for malnutrition by using simple coloured plastic strips that are designed to measure mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC). As part of the preventive nutrition package, UNICEF provided **Vitamin A supplementation to 2.6 million children under five and micronutrient powder to 1.7 million children under five.**
- UNICEF's health strategy focused on improving access to primary health care, providing needed supplies, responding to communicable disease outbreaks, and overall preserving and strengthening health systems. To address the high rates of neonatal deaths in Yemen, UNICEF provided **free high-quality neonatal intensive care, pre-natal, post-natal, maternal health, and paediatric services.**
- UNICEF focused its WASH programme on the rehabilitation and sustainability of local water management systems to increase access to safe water. To prevent the transmission of cholera, focusing on high-risk districts, UNICEF and partners provided safe and clean water, improved sanitation access and raised community awareness of good hygiene practices. **Over 10 million people, including 4.5 million children in cholera-affected areas, were reached with preventive interventions against suspected cholera and other waterborne diseases.**
- UNICEF's Child Protection programme targeted the most vulnerable children in conflict-affected governorates. UNICEF provided **integrated interventions including victim assistance, family tracing and reunification, documentation of child rights violations, mine risk awareness, and psychosocial support (PSS).**
- Access to education for children continued to be severely constrained due to the ongoing conflict. An estimated two million children remained out of school, while teachers in 11 governorates were not paid for over two years. Numerous education facilities were unfit for use or had closed due to budget, payroll, and other conflict-related constraints. **To keep schools functioning with teachers and children in schools, a monthly cash incentive was disbursed to teachers and school-based staff.**





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Case # 4

Humanitarian Support for the Civil Population and Children of Gaza in Egypt, Jordan and Gaza (2023)

Since the start of hostilities between Israel and Palestine, more than 1.4 million people in Gaza have been internally displaced, with nearly 672,000 sheltering in UNRWA shelters, hospitals, public buildings, schools, and those residing with host families, according to the OCHA Appeal from October 29, 2023.⁵ Since the beginning of the escalation on 7 October 2023 large-scale grave violations against children have been reported in Israel and in the State of Palestine, including the killing and maiming

of children, abductions, and attacks on civilian infrastructure and essential public services such as schools, WASH, and health facilities, ambulances and health personnel.

During the hostilities, attacks on health-care facilities have caused over one-third of hospitals in the Gaza Strip and nearly two-thirds of primary health-care clinics to shut down due to damage or lack of fuel, increasing the pressure on the remaining health facilities that are still operational. Hospitals are facing an unprecedented

level of devastation, primarily driven by the overwhelming number of injuries, critical shortages of vital resources and concerns of being targeted by airstrikes. On 31 October 2023, 59 trucks carrying water, food and medical supplies entered Gaza through the Rafah crossing with Egypt which is the largest convoy since delivery of aid resumed on 21 October, bringing the total number of trucks that have entered to 217. The supply of fuel into Gaza, which is desperately needed to operate life-saving equipment, remains banned. In terms of electricity, Gaza has been under a full electricity blackout, which triggered the shutdown of Gaza's sole power plant from 11 October 2023.⁶

In the period, there were an estimated 3.1 million people requiring humanitarian assistance in the State of Palestine, with 2.2 million in the Gaza Strip and 900,000 in the West Bank.⁷

The Gaza Strip has tragically witnessed the loss of thousands of children and women. According to the Palestinian Water Authority, the current water production capacity has been reduced to 5 per cent of the normal daily production, limiting access to WASH services specifically for children and adolescent girls. Insufficient access to water compels the population to use unsafe water, potentially leading to additional health issues.

Following the deterioration of the humanitarian situation and the increase in the number of civilian victims in need of urgent humanitarian assistance in the Gaza area, as well as in the neighbouring countries of Egypt and Jordan, [the Government of Croatia decided to contribute with urgent humanitarian assistance and contribution to the civilian population of Gaza in Gaza, Egypt and Jordan.](#)



In close collaboration with partners, UNICEF provides urgent medical supplies and is building a broader response that meets children's lifesaving as per the core commitments to children in emergencies.

The contribution is proposed to focus on urgent humanitarian aid activities to civilian populations in Gaza and neighbouring countries.

UNICEF is working with partners to respond to the arrival of Palestinians evacuated from Gaza for urgent and complex medical response. Children are amongst those who require medical attention or will accompany those requiring medical attention.

UNICEF, under its mandate and the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action as a central policy to uphold the rights of children affected by humanitarian crisis, promotes predictable, effective and timely collective humanitarian action.

The Core Commitments clearly outline the areas in which UNICEF can best contribute to results. In close collaboration with partners, UNICEF is providing urgent medical supplies and is building a broader response that meets children's lifesaving and broader needs according to the core commitments to children in emergencies.

UNICEF is acting swiftly to procure and distribute lifesaving supplies to the children of Gaza.



UNICEF is heavily engaged in the emergency response with high volumes of supplies procured offshore, regionally and locally to support lifesaving WASH and healthcare services as well as child protection, nutrition and when possible, return to education and learning.

For every child, | **health**



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Case# 5

Bringing Essential Child and Maternal Health Services to Syrian Refugee Families in Egypt (2021)

Egypt is a destination country and country of transit for refugees and asylum seekers, with over 294,000 registered refugees and asylum seekers as of May 2023, including 145,000 Syrians. Syrian refugees live in urban areas, mainly concentrated in Greater Cairo, Alexandria and Damietta. There are approximately 60,500 Syrian refugee children across Egypt. Syrian refugees

enjoy the same right to health services as Egyptians. However, vulnerability amongst Syrian refugees in Egypt is higher than that of the host community, mostly due to limited livelihood opportunities and lack of social protection mechanisms.

One of the main challenges that Syrian women and children face is accessing quality public primary health-care services

as the quality of care at these facilities is often poor, leading to low utilization and reduced health benefits. In response to this challenge, the Egyptian Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) and UNICEF shifted focus towards improving the quality and continuity of essential health and nutrition services at the primary health care level, combined with improving outreach to Syrian communities.



The Government of Croatia decided to contribute funds to improve essential child and maternal health services to Syrian refugee families in Egypt, with special focus on improving the management and quality of services at Primary Health Centres (PHC), capacity building of PHC workforces, as well as the engagement of communities. The districts with the highest concentration of refugees were carefully chosen for this intervention. At the same time, the intervention supported the host community, focusing on the poorest families with young children.



In August 2022 H.E Mr. Tomislav Bošnjak, Ambassador of Croatia to Egypt met with the UNICEF Representative to Egypt Mr. Jeremy Hopkins to officially commence the project.

The intervention resulted in providing high-quality primary health care to Syrian refugee families, in particular women and children in 115 primary health units in 11 governorates. Through this fund, UNICEF and the MoHP were able to:⁸

- **Provide 22,685 refugee children under 5 years of age, out of whom 18,160 Syrian, with integrated primary health-care services** in public primary health-care centres.
- **Conduct 100,774 primary health-care consultations for children under 5 years of age, out of which 60,088 were for Syrian children.** The consultations included receiving routine immunization and growth monitoring services.
- **200 Syrian community health workers were appointed to conduct household-level outreach to Syrian families** regarding key health messages (particularly COVID-19 prevention and vaccination), as well as to encourage caregivers to vaccinate their children during polio National Immunization Days (NID).
- As wild polio virus type 2 was detected in the environmental samples nationwide, UNICEF and partners supported MoHP in **conducting two rounds of polio NIDs, targeting 16.2 million Egyptian and non-Egyptian children under 5 years of age with 20.8 million doses of the advanced Oral Polio Vaccine type 2 (OPV2).**
- **NIDs achieved 98 per cent coverage where 15.9 million children under 5 years of age were vaccinated,** of whom 33,277 were non-Egyptian.



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For every child, | **hope**



Case# 6

Procurement and Delivery of Generators to Hospitals and Education Institutions in Moldova (2023)

Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine, nearly 800,000 people have fled to the Republic of Moldova from Ukraine. Out of this total, approximately 110,000 refugees, representing 4 per cent of the entire population of Moldova, have remained in the country, states the Ukrainian Emergency Response for Moldova from February 2023. The refugee population in Moldova is comprised mainly of women (59 per cent, including all age groups) and children (45 per cent). Most of the displaced

people from Ukraine are residing in private accommodation within host communities, including 41 per cent in the country's capital Chisinau.⁹ Ukrainian refugees in Moldova continue to require humanitarian assistance and protection, being able to access quality services provided through the national systems of the Government of the Republic of Moldova with support from international partners, including the UN, and civil society organizations. From the onset of the Ukrainian refugee crisis, UNICEF Moldova

established itself as a trusted partner to deliver critical humanitarian support and protection for refugee children and their caregivers, as well as vulnerable people within host communities. Since the start of the response, UNICEF has worked closely with national, regional and local authorities to expand services in child protection, education, health and nutrition, WASH, and social protection.¹⁰

In addition to the influx of refugees, Moldova has been facing a serious energy crisis, especially since October 2022, when, as a result of constant attacks on the Ukrainian electricity infrastructure, the substations that provided almost a third of Moldova's electricity imports were destroyed. The health and social welfare sectors are most threatened by power outages, followed by the education and civil protection systems, as well as the security sector and care for refugees. Moldova's

urgent energy needs include generators of different power, heaters, transformers, cables, and different types of fuel.

The Government of Croatia decided to contribute funds to support UNICEF to procure and deliver eight generators, two of which are destined for hospitals and six for education institutions in need, with special emphasis on the care and assistance of women and children.

The generators for education institutions benefit over 1,200 children and adolescents with severe and moderate disabilities, including severe learning disabilities and special education needs, while the health facilities that received the generators provide services for children with disabilities, and are based in the capital Chisinau and in the smaller community of Ceadir Lunga in the south of the country.



In July 2023, the Ambassador of Croatia to Romania, covering also the Republic of Moldova, H.E. Ms. Marija Kapitanović, visited the institutions in Chisinau where power generators were provided and installed as part of the development and humanitarian assistance of the Government of Croatia in cooperation with the UNICEF Office for Croatia.



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Case# 7

Procurement and Delivery of Generators to Hospitals, Schools, Water Utilities and other Institutions in Ukraine (2023)

The continued war in Ukraine has intensified humanitarian needs. Children are paying an extraordinary price in lives lost and upended. In areas affected by intense fighting, services have been decimated, and protection mechanisms can no longer support vulnerable children and families. More than 1,000 health facilities have been impacted by the attacks. The war has also displaced more than 6.5 million people, of whom 18 per cent are children aged 5–17 years. It has heightened children’s risk of disease, violence, family separation, child trafficking, unexploded ordinances and disrupted schooling. Access to vulnerable

families in areas under active fighting remains challenging.¹¹

According to the UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC), an estimated 17.6 million people, including 3.2 million children, require humanitarian support, including health assistance for more than 14.6 million people (2.8 million children) and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) support for 11 million people. The lives and futures of the country’s 5.7 million school-aged children have been severely affected – with 3.6 million impacted by school closures as of September 2022.

In October 2022, a new wave of attacks on the energy and civil infrastructure of Ukraine began. More than 50 per cent of Ukraine's critical infrastructure was damaged, and around 6 million people were left without electricity. Continued attacks on critical energy infrastructure in Ukraine have caused power, water and heating outages, affecting services like health care and education and further exposing families to harsh winter conditions, impacting livelihoods and increasing the likelihood of additional large population movements. Without electricity, children face extreme cold and are unable to continue online learning, while health facilities are unable to provide critical services, and water systems cannot function.

The European Union Member States and international donors have joined efforts to provide emergency and humanitarian aid to the Ukrainian population since the beginning of the war. Many facilities and installations have been damaged or destroyed in the attacks, so the most urgent needs are in the energy sector – generators of different power, high-voltage equipment and autotransformers, cables, mobile thermal power plants and heaters.

Given this, [the Government of Croatia decided to contribute funds to UNICEF for the urgent need of restoring the energy infrastructure of Ukraine.](#)

With the donation, hospitals, schools and water utility companies in Ukraine were supplied with 50 generators of 100KW power, thus enabling the continuous operation of key facilities and uninterrupted education and medical care for children even during power outages. Many medical devices require a constant power supply on maternity wards, including ultrasound scanners, incubators for premature babies, anaesthesia machines and heaters for newborns. The generator has automatic controls and regulates the voltage level in the hospital power grid. If the voltage drops, it automatically turns on.

In July 2023, as part of an official visit to Ukraine, Mr. Gordan Grlić Radman, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, visited one of the locations in the Bucha district, including the kindergarten Veselka, with power generators in place, provided as part of the development and humanitarian assistance of the Government of Croatia. During the visit, Minister Grlić Radman and Murat Sahin, Representative of the UNICEF Office in Ukraine, discussed the humanitarian crisis that threatens the health and education systems, and the future of children in Ukraine.



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Case# 8:

Building of Prefabricated Schools in Earthquake-affected Areas in Türkiye (2023)

Two weeks after the devastating earthquakes of a magnitude of 7.7 and 7.6 in South-East Türkiye, another 6.4 magnitude earthquake struck Hatay Province, causing renewed fear and further destruction to the fragile infrastructure that remained standing after the 6 February earthquakes. As of 21 February 2023, 42,310 deaths have been confirmed. The Government of Türkiye declared a three-month state of emergency in the 10 worst-affected provinces and requested international support as it leads the national response effort.¹²

Children comprise over a third of 13.4 million citizens and 1.7 million registered refugees in the 10 affected provinces. Thousands of homes have been destroyed, injuring and displacing children and their families and exposing them to harsh

conditions, including family separation, injury, extremely cold temperatures and limited access to shelter, WASH services, food and other basic needs. Almost four million children, including over 350,000 refugee and migrant children, and around 218,000 teachers have been impacted by the earthquake.

The Türkiye Recovery and Reconstruction Assessment revealed that 576 schools have been destroyed or damaged beyond use in the affected provinces.

The Government of Croatia decided to support UNICEF and the Turkish Ministry of National Education in creating access to education for children in earthquake-affected areas through the establishment of three prefabricated schools.

The prefabricated schools will likely support the return of over 1,000 children to education. However, based on the needs the Ministry of National Education identifies, over 2,100 children can be supported if the schools are run in two shifts.

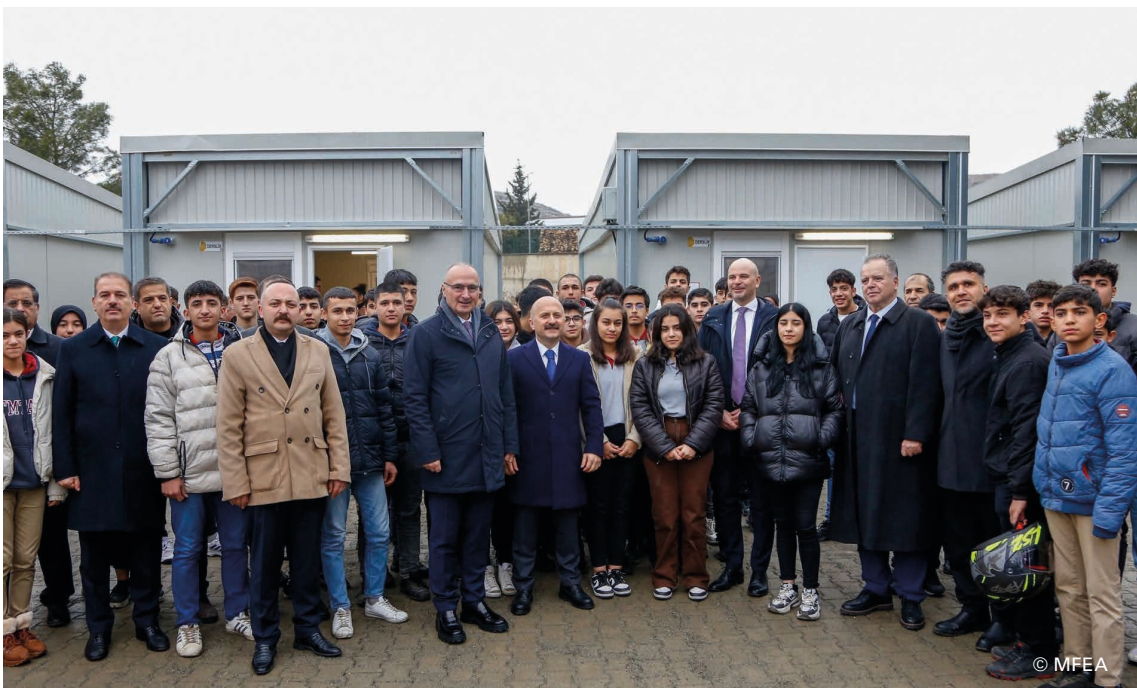
The schools are located in Adiyaman and Hatay provinces. Each school has classrooms, teacher spaces, ateliers

(workshops catering to Technical and Vocational High School students), water, and sanitary facilities, including those specially adapted for children with disabilities.

This infrastructure facilitates the continuation of classroom education and underscores the commitment to inclusive and accessible learning environments.

With the funding support from the Republic of Croatia, UNICEF aimed to ensure that:

- A conducive learning environment is created for vulnerable children and teachers in the areas affected by the earthquakes.
- Children and adolescents have equitable access to safe, inclusive and quality learning opportunities in the target areas.



In January 2024 Croatian delegation, led by Minister Goran Grlić Radman, opened the Adiyaman Trade Vocational and Technical High School, one of the three prefabricated schools built with the support of the Croatian Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs.



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Case# 9:

Empowering Girls in Kenya to Access Relevant, Quality Education and Skills Building (2023)

Kenya's population is very young, with close to 50 per cent being 19 years and below, and 59 per cent 24 years and below (KNBS, 2019). Despite recent improvements in the country, there are still challenges for young people to have access to relevant foundational and transferable skills and employment. According to the Kenya Population and Housing Census 2019, there are 11.6 million adolescents (10–19 years of age) making up 24 per cent of the

total Kenyan population, out of whom 49 per cent are girls. These girls are future leaders and change agents; however, they continue to miss out on critical education and skills-building opportunities.

Throughout their life course, girls and young women experience a series of gendered risks and barriers that limit their opportunities. Unequal access to education limits girls' opportunities to build

their foundational and transferable skills. When girls are in school, gender bias from teachers, families, and male and female peers drive girls away from pursuing STEM subjects and from building the digital skills necessary to be competitive in the 21st century job market. This exclusion limits girls' opportunities, threatens their successful transition to adulthood, adversely impacts their long-term health and well-being, and robs the world of their potential contributions.

Investment in skills-building initiatives is a critical pathway to building girls' and young women's self-confidence and resilience, increasing their access to opportunities, ensuring their equal participation in the labour force, and promoting their empowerment.

To address some of these challenges, UNICEF through this proposed programme and with the support of the Government of Croatia intends to improve the learning and skills for 2,000 girls (aged 10–19 years) in Kenya, both in and out of school. This includes support to the Government of Kenya to establish an enabling environment for the fulfilment of girls' rights and to contribute to gender equality in education.

The project's main objectives are to achieve equitable access to inclusive and quality learning opportunities for adolescent girls, as well as to enhance access to and development of transferrable and digital skills for girls. With this project, more adolescent girls will access equitable education opportunities and will develop transferable digital skills for the 21st century.



With the funding support from the Government of Croatia, UNICEF will conduct the following activities:

- Provision of school-level teaching and learning materials
- Implementation of remedial and catch-up classes/Accelerated Education programmes for over-age adolescent girls
- Support for adolescent girls in schools to pursue STEM studies through career guidance, mentorship and remedial classes, laboratory equipment
- Implementation of integrated skills-building programmes to enhance innovations in schools (coding, social innovation, science fairs, CSL)
- Implementation of integrated skills-building programmes to enhance innovations out of school (social innovation and entrepreneurship, life skills, digital skills trainings)



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Case# 10:

Improving Digital Skills Development Linked to Employability of Girls in Ethiopia (2023)

Ethiopia has the second largest youth population in Africa. Unfortunately, these young people, women, and the under-educated face significant disadvantages in Ethiopia's labour markets. A defining challenge for Ethiopia will be to enhance the skills and employability of the fast-growing youth population.

Ethiopia is also facing multiple access challenges across all regions of the country as a result of conflict, insecurity and for other logistical and geographical reasons. For

health workers in remote areas and regions with complex geography, transportation challenges can disrupt the provision of quality care to children and pose constraints on early diagnosis. Transport efficiencies are also essential to supply chain management, particularly for moving temperature-sensitive cargo, restocking essential medicines and supplies, and delivering life-saving emergency items in humanitarian contexts. In these complex contexts, however, unmanned aerial vehicles, or 'drone-based' technologies and services, are able to

deliver life-saving materials, and, in so doing, generate substantial social benefits.

Drones are a multipurpose and innovative technology for development and present an efficient tool for commodity delivery in access-constrained situations or during emergencies.¹³ This revolutionary technology can also enable organizations and governments to quickly collect aerial data for emergency preparedness and response. Drones have also been successfully used within the agriculture sector, infrastructure inspection, mapping and the delivery of critical products such as blood, food aid and medical supplies. Drones have been able to reduce a journey of several hours to just 25 minutes to safely transport vaccines and other medical supplies from distribution centres to rural vaccination posts.

With the drone industry growing rapidly, the addition of thousands of new technology and drone-related jobs to the global economy presents a unique growth opportunity for youth. UNICEF will therefore assist the Government of Ethiopia and relevant academia to establish courses on drone technology to prepare young people with

the skills that will be needed to join the new technology workforce and contribute to their communities' economic and social development. **Through the Africa Drone and Data Academy (ADDA) under the Ethiopian Ministry of Peace, UNICEF will support the scaling up of ADDA in Ethiopia to provide youth employment opportunities.** The initiative will be supported by the international partner – Virginia Tech – to implement the Drone and Data Academy curriculum and train the staff of the national partner to deliver the programme in the future.

The Government of Croatia decided to contribute to this initiative and address the assessed need for training on the use of drone technology for 35,000 young Ethiopians who could directly benefit from receiving training at ADDA in the following areas: in the agricultural sector, such as forest and wildlife monitoring, in disaster and risk management in areas such as firefighting, earthquake disaster assessment, flood prevention and monitoring, as well as blood, medical, and food delivery and infrastructure inspection.



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Conclusion

UNICEF and the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia have had long-term partnership in promoting the rights of children globally. They have been collaborating since 2018 to reach some of the most vulnerable children around the world by implementing programmes of cooperation through the use of Official Development Assistance. UNICEF's global presence and in-house expertise provide a platform to swiftly design and undertake programmes that meet the Ministry's strategic objectives and priorities.

The aim of both the Government of Croatia and UNICEF is to accelerate countries' progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and towards specific targets in areas of children's health, education and child protection.

Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of children.

Endnotes

- 1 Jordan Response Plan for the Syrian Crisis 2019, JRSPSC, 2019.
- 2 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 'Jordan: Statistics for Registered Refugees (as of 31 December 2019)', UNHCR, 6 January 2020.
- 3 UNICEF Lebanon: Inclusive Playgrounds for Children with Disabilities Project Proposal, October 2022.
- 4 UNICEF Yemen Humanitarian Situation Report, May 2019.
- 5 OCHA - Flash Appeal Update #25 for the Occupied Palestinian Territory as of 29 October 2023.
- 6 UNICEF Egypt – Humanitarian Emergency Gaza Immediate Needs Appeal November 2023.
- 7 Humanitarian Action for Children in the State of the Palestine, November 2023 (revised).
- 8 Syrian Refugees Consolidated Emergency Report, Including Two-Pager, 2022.
- 9 Background and context_Ukraine emergency_UNICEF Moldova, 2023.
- 10 Moldova Humanitarian Response for Children and Refugee Families outside of Ukraine factsheet – 24 Feb 2023.
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- 12 UNICEF Türkiye Humanitarian Situation Report No. 2, February 2023.
- 13 <https://www.unicef.org/innovation/drones>



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