



Humanitarian Action for Children

unicef 

Refugee and migrant crisis in Europe

Children on the move face a range of risks, lack protection and fall through the cracks during their desperate journeys through countries of origin, transit, arrival and return. Some 164,000 refugees and migrants, including 29,000 children, entered Europe in 2017, joining the 1.4 million people, including 360,000 children, who arrived in 2015-2016, and the 3.6 million people, including 1.2 million children, already hosted in Turkey.³ The Central Mediterranean was the most used route in 2017, with spikes of arrivals in the Eastern Mediterranean in the fall. Amid this fluid situation, additional routes through the Western Mediterranean and the Black Sea also re-emerged. Although protection systems have improved and social inclusion has progressed with increasing access to education, major gaps remain. Key challenges include the poor reception conditions, child migration detention and persistent discrimination against refugees and migrants. Many children are still unable to pursue education or access basic services. In Bulgaria, Greece and Serbia, more than 20,000 stranded children remain in limbo, and in Italy, 90 per cent of arriving children are unaccompanied and/or separated.⁴ A continuum of care and protection is needed for children on the move, throughout their journeys, given the long-term impact that this experience will have on their lives.

Humanitarian strategy

In 2018, UNICEF will respond to the needs of children and women on the move, stranded, pushed back⁵ and seeking asylum in Europe.⁶ A two-pronged approach will combine life-saving humanitarian service delivery with capacity building, policy reform and technical assistance. UNICEF will continue to use mobile outreach to identify and refer at-risk children to relevant services, including psychosocial support. Government institutions will be supported to ensure protective guardianship, foster care, alternatives to detention, and regular and safe passage opportunities. Programming focused on the prevention of and response to gender-based violence (GBV) will be scaled up. Education and life-skills development will remain a pillar of the response and a tool for advancing the social inclusion of children. UNICEF will also provide essential items and carry out activities in early childhood development, health, nutrition and child rights monitoring. Cross-sectoral contingency capacity will be maintained to facilitate an immediate response to any emerging situations.⁷ Using a multi-regional and inter-agency approach, UNICEF will increase coordination and programming with countries of origin, transit and return to promote and protect the rights of refugee and migrant children.

Results from 2017

By 31 October 2017, UNICEF had US\$34 million available against the US\$43 million appeal (78 per cent funded).⁸ Since the start of the response in 2015, UNICEF has provided 261,000 refugee and migrant children with a range of services. In 2017, UNICEF used outreach teams to increase the identification and referral of at-risk children, reaching more than 15,300 children. An additional 9,800 children benefitted from psychosocial and community-based child protection support. More than 4,600 front-line workers in temporary care facilities for unaccompanied and separated children and reception and asylum centres across the region received training on child protection standards.⁹ UNICEF, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and non-governmental organizations developed the roadmap 'The Way Forward to Strengthened Policies and Practices for Unaccompanied and Separated Children in Europe' to support Member States to reinforce related protection systems. More than 8,700 children aged 6 to 17 years participated in UNICEF-supported structured non-formal education activities. UNICEF policy support and technical assistance contributed to the inclusion of some 6,000 children in formal education. UNICEF and children ombudspersons mobilized partners to monitor the rights of refugee and migrant children. Joint communication and advocacy conducted with UNICEF National Committees raised awareness of the situation of refugee and migrant children and supported their social inclusion.

Total people in need:
387,000¹

Total children (<18) in need:
148,000²

Total people to be reached:
73,130

Total children to be reached:
50,500

2018 programme targets:

Greece

- 5,000 children benefitting from quality child protection services
- 2,580 people accessing GBV services, including referral, prevention and training
- 10,500 children enrolled in formal and non-formal education

Italy

- 6,800 children benefitting from quality child protection services
- 1,900 front-line workers trained on child protection and GBV
- 2,600 children participating in formal and non-formal educational activities

Serbia

- 3,000 children benefitting from quality child protection services
- 1,600 children participating in formal and non-formal educational activities
- 4,000 children received basic supplies (including clothing and baby hygiene items)
- 1,000 children under 5 accessing mother and baby care centres, including nutrition services

Bulgaria

- 300 children benefitting from quality child protection services
- 200 people accessing GBV services including referral, prevention and training
- 600 children participating in non-formal educational activities

Germany

- 10,000 children benefitting from quality child protection standards
- 2,500 front-line workers trained on child protection standards

Rapid reaction support

- 75 per cent of children receiving cross-sectoral rapid reaction support in contingency interventions to respond to sudden influxes

| | UNICEF 2017 targets | UNICEF 2017 results ⁱ |
|--|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| CHILD PROTECTION | | |
| Children (boys and girls) receiving psychosocial and other community-based child protection support in family support hubs, child-friendly spaces and mother-baby corners | | |
| Greece | 6,000 | 6,783 |
| Serbia | 4,800 | 3,073 |
| Front-line workers trained on child protection standards/child protection in emergencies | | |
| Austria | 500 | 120 |
| Bulgaria | 300 | 132 |
| Croatia | 50 | 43 |
| Germany | 775 | 1,375 |
| Greece | 500 | 476 |
| Italy | 1,000 | 1,472 |
| Serbia | 300 | 272 |
| Slovenia | 200 | 468 |
| The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | 150 | 164 |
| Turkey | 200 | 104 |
| At-risk children, including unaccompanied and separated children, identified through screening by outreach teams and child protection support centres | | |
| Greece | 2,000 | 1,982 |
| Italy | 4,700 | 6,515 |
| Serbia | 1,000 | 3,950 |
| The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | 150 | 254 |
| Turkey | 2,500 | 2,627 |
| Children provided with legal aid and/or counselling | | |
| Bulgaria | 2,000 | 200 |
| EDUCATION | | |
| Children aged 6 to 17, including adolescents, participating in structured education activities | | |
| Bulgaria | 2,000 | 867 |
| Greece | 5,000 | 4,176 |
| Italy | 700 | 1,612 |
| Serbia | 4,000 | 1,878 ⁱⁱ |
| The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | 150 | 217 |
| Children receiving school materials | | |
| Greece | 5,000 | 5,826 |
| Children aged 3 to 5 benefitting from early childhood activities | | |
| Greece | 5,000 | 969 |
| HEALTH AND NUTRITION | | |
| Infants under 2 who accessed mother and baby care centre services, including health services and nutrition services | | |
| Greece | 1,000 | 1,452 |
| Serbia | 1,600 | 1,340 |
| Mothers who benefitted from infant and young child feeding counselling at family support hubs, child-friendly spaces and mother-baby corners | | |
| Greece | 1,000 | 1,318 |
| Serbia | 1,000 | 878 |
| WASH AND BASIC SUPPLIES | | |
| Children receiving culturally appropriate non-food items | | |
| Italy | 1,000 | 1,145 |
| Serbia | 4,800 | 8,655 |
| Children receiving basic relief items | | |
| Turkey | 37,500 | 21,519 |

Results are through 31 October 2017 unless otherwise noted and do not include results from the last two months of the year.

ⁱ The refugee and migrant situation has significantly evolved during 2017, affecting the number of refugee and migrant children present in the countries targeted under the response. Achievement of results based on the targets developed at the beginning of the year should be read in light of the influx trends and fluidity of the situation, leading in certain specific cases to over-achievement or under-achievement of targets.

ⁱⁱ Since the beginning of 2017, 704 children have been reached directly through non-formal education, 654 children have been reached directly through formal education, and 520 children have been reached indirectly through technical assistance provided by UNICEF to civil society organizations running non-formal education programmes.

Funding requirements

UNICEF is requesting US\$53,399,000 to meet the needs of refugee and migrant children in Europe in 2018-2019. Inadequate funding will hinder the effort to eradicate the abuse that children are exposed to, and undermine their inclusion and access to basic services. The response will focus on key interventions that support children in the most concerned 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,¹⁰ the West and Central Africa region, and the Middle East and North Africa region.

| Country | 2018 requirements (US\$) | 2019 requirements (US\$) |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Countries with children on the move, stranded children and/or children seeking asylum | 28,144,000 | 15,745,000 |
| Greece | 17,940,000 | 9,290,000 |
| Italy | 4,480,000 | 3,220,000 |
| Serbia | 4,050,000 | 2,835,000 |
| Bulgaria | 594,000 | 400,000 |
| Germany | 1,080,000 | |
| Regional coordination, technical support and rapid reaction support | 5,000,000 | 4,510,000 |
| Rapid reaction support | 1,500,000 | 1,500,000 |
| Regional coordination and technical support | 3,500,000 | 3,010,000 |
| Total | 33,144,000 | 20,255,000 |

| Sector | Greece | Italy | Serbia | Bulgaria | Germany | Regional coordination | 2018 Total requirement (US\$) |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Child protection | 10,915,000 | 2,960,000 | 2,268,000 | 270,000 | 432,000 | | 16,845,000 |
| Education | 7,025,000 | 1,140,000 | 324,000 | 324,000 | 216,000 | | 9,029,000 |
| Essential items | | | 378,000 | | | | 378,000 |
| Health and nutrition | | | 1,080,000 | | | | 1,080,000 |
| Cross-cutting and operational | | 380,000 | | | 432,000 | | 812,000 |
| Regional coordination support | | | | | | 5,000,000 | 5,000,000 |
| Total | 17,940,000 | 4,480,000 | 4,050,000 | 594,000 | 1,080,000 | 5,000,000 | 33,144,000 |

| Sector | Greece | Italy | Serbia | Bulgaria | Germany | Regional coordination | 2019 Total requirement (US\$) |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|---------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Child protection | 5,150,000 | 2,040,000 | 1,587,600 | 200,000 | | | 8,977,600 |
| Education | 4,140,000 | 800,000 | 226,800 | 200,000 | | | 5,366,800 |
| Essential items | | | 264,600 | | | | 264,600 |
| Health and nutrition | | | 756,000 | | | | 756,000 |
| Cross-cutting and operational | | 380,000 | | | | | 380,000 |
| Regional coordination support | | | | | | 4,510,000 | 4,510,000 |
| Total | 9,290,000 | 3,220,000 | 2,835,000 | 400,000 | | 4,510,000 | 20,255,000 |

¹ This aligns with the number of refugees and migrants to be provided with assistance in Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Italy and Serbia in 2018, prioritizing the most vulnerable new arrivals, as well as those already in Europe.

² This figure is based on the proportion of new child arrivals and the estimated number of children already in Europe.

³ These figures cover the first 10 months of 2017. Sources: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 'Operational Portal Refugee Situations – Mediterranean Situation', UNHCR, available at: <<https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/mediterranean>>, accessed 5 December 2017; United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 'UNHCR Turkey: Key Facts and Figures', UNHCR, October 2017, available at: <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNHCRTurkey-KeyFactsandFigures-October2017Snapshot_0.pdf>, accessed 5 December 2017.

⁴ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Children's Fund and International Organization for Migration, 'Refugee and Migrant Children in Europe: Accompanied, Unaccompanied and Separated Mid year Overview of Trends January-June 2017', UNHCR, UNICEF and IOM, October 2017, available at: <www.unicef.org/eca/inter_fact.pdf>, accessed 5 December 2017.

⁵ Push back occurs when refugees and migrants, including children, are sent back to the country of transit that they were trying to leave after they cross the border.

⁶ The response will focus on refugee and migrant children in Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Italy and Serbia.

⁷ Rapid reaction support comprises a 90-day comprehensive package of services in the following areas: child protection (psychosocial support, identification and referral of at-risk children and child-friendly spaces); GBV (identification, referral and training); non-formal education; provision of non-food items; health and nutrition (immunization, mother and baby corners and infant and young child feeding); hygiene and sanitation; child rights monitoring; communication and advocacy; and coordination (emergency human resources, coordination and information management). Technical support will also be provided and coordinated at the regional level.

⁸ Available funds include US\$17.9 million raised against the current appeal and US\$16.1 million carried forward from the previous year.

⁹ Front-line workers include reception centre managers, social workers, health professionals and border police forces, among others.

¹⁰ Through regional technical support, UNICEF efforts in Turkey will complement the response under the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan.

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