

REFUGEE AND MIGRANT  
CRISIS IN EUROPE  
CONSOLIDATED EMERGENCY  
REPORT 2018

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## Abbreviations and acronyms

BIA	Best Interests Assessment	PSEA	Protection from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation
BID	Best Interests Determination	UASC	Unaccompanied and Separated Children
CoE	Council of Europe	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
CFS	Child Friendly Spaces	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
CFSH	Child and Family Support Hubs	WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
CRC	Convention for the Rights of the Child		
EASO	European Asylum Support Office		
ECARO	UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Regional Office		
ECD	Early Childhood Development		
EKKA	National Centre for Social Solidarity - Greece		
EU	European Union		
EUROSTAT	European Statistical Office		
GBV	Gender-Based Violence		
GSGE	General Secretariat for Gender Equality - Greece		
IBC	Issue-Based Coalition		
IFRC	International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies		
IOM	International Organization for Migration		
ISS	International Social Service		
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding		
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding		
MBS	Mother and Baby Spaces		
MHPSS	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support		
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights		
PSSMH	Psychosocial support and mental health		
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals		
SIL	Supported Independent Living		
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures		

## I. Executive summary

In 2018, some 141,600 refugees and migrants undertook treacherous journeys from the Middle East, East and West Africa, as well as South Asia, to seek safety, protection and better opportunities in Europe. The majority took sea and land routes to reach Greece, Bulgaria, Italy and Spain. This included some 30,600 children, over a third of whom (12,000) were either making the journey alone or became separated from their families while en route. This is in addition to some 40,500 children already present in reception facilities in Greece, Italy and the Balkans as of early 2018.

While measures by Italian and EU authorities to stop sea crossings through the Central Mediterranean route contributed to an overall drop in arrivals by nearly 20 per cent as compared to 2017, Mediterranean routes in the East and West, saw arrivals on the rise, particularly for children. Many of them have gone through violent and abusive experiences, which have taken a toll on their psychological and physical wellbeing.

There has been notable progress made across Europe to improve conditions in government-run reception centres, enhance service provision and strengthen child protection systems. Nonetheless, refugee and migrant children face high risks in overcrowded first-line reception centres, increased migration detention, long asylum procedures and lack of information. Children are also confronted with social and cultural barriers, discrimination and insufficient access to health services and education. This may further aggravate their situation and expose them to various forms of violence and exploitation, including gender-based violence and trafficking.

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, adopted in December 2018 by a majority of Member States, represents a unique

opportunity for UNICEF and other partners to support governments to address many of these issues and find the right balance between migration management, child rights and the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

In 2018, UNICEF sustained critical service delivery and outreach for children and women at risk, while scaling up technical assistance and advocacy with national authorities, European institutions and civil society in eight countries—Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Republic of North Macedonia and Serbia. UNICEF focussed on improving national protection systems, making schools more inclusive, strengthening prevention and response to all forms of violence and building strong national child rights monitoring mechanisms.

By the end of 2018, over 28,000 children were reached with psychosocial support, case management and referral to specialized services, while 19,700 children benefitted from improved access to formal and non-formal education. Some 4,550 women, girls and boys were also able to access gender-based violence prevention and response services.

UNICEF worked with governments and partners to build the capacity of local social services and education authorities, develop national protection standards and advocate for the alignment of national legal and policy frameworks with international standards.

Investments were also made in piloting new models on guardianship and alternative care for unaccompanied children and in entrepreneurship and skills-building programmes for adolescent boys and girls. The scale-up of such

initiatives will improve the lives and future of thousands more vulnerable children beyond refugees and migrants.

Documentation of promising practices and lessons learned in these areas, including a more formal evaluation of UNICEF refugee and migrant response in countries without a programme presence, were also prioritised to inform policy reform and national and local ownership of services for refugee and migrant children.

As a result of the optimisation of UNICEF response, in 2018 operations in Austria and Germany were phased out, while direct service delivery in the Republic of North Macedonia and Serbia was scaled down due to reduced needs. This was coupled with the establishment of a new response in Bosnia and Herzegovina to address an emerging humanitarian situation following changes in the Western Balkans migration route and a 44-fold increase of arrivals in the country.

As of December 2018, UNICEF maintained active responses in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy and Serbia along with some capacity for regional coordination, policy, advocacy and knowledge generation. As refugee and migrant flows shift, UNICEF needs to remain flexible and agile enough to respond to children's needs with the sufficient resources irrespective of their pathway.



▲ A young girl in front of her tent outside the Reception and Identification Centre in Moria in Lesvos, on 15 December 2018. The area is known as “the jungle” or “the olive grove” and is where people, including children and families, began staying when there was no room left in the “official” part of the reception centre. © UNICEF/UN0274758/Haviv VII Photo

## II. Humanitarian Context

The peak of the refugees and migrant crisis in Europe was in 2015, when over a million refugees and migrants arrived in Europe from the Middle East, South Asia, East and West Africa to escape conflict, violence, economic upheaval, lack of opportunities and increasing negative effects of climate change.

Since then, UNICEF has supported governments and civil society organizations in responding to the crisis in up to twelve European countries. A key strength of the UNICEF response has been its flexibility to adapt to a fluid situation on the ground, while focusing on delivering sustainable results for some of the most vulnerable children.

Since 2017, UNICEF operations have been scaled down as the overall number of arrivals steadily declined and national capacities were strengthened to respond to the needs of refugee and migrant children. In 2018, nearly one in every four newly arrived refugees and migrants was a child<sup>1</sup>. This figure includes 12,000 children, some as young as four years old, travelling either unaccompanied or separated from their family. This is in addition to some 40,500 children already present in reception facilities in Greece, Italy and the Balkans as of early 2018.

Following measures by Italian and EU authorities to stop irregular sea crossings through the Central Mediterranean route, overall arrivals dropped by nearly 20 per cent (a total of 141,620 in 2018 as compared to 185,139 in 2017). The number of refugees and migrants arriving via Greece, however, rose from 36,310 in 2017 to 50,508 in 2018. Similarly, in Spain arrivals increased from 28,349 in 2017 to 65,383 in 2018.

In 2018, some 183,000 children claimed asylum across Europe. Nearly half – 79,300 children – were registered in Germany. Greece hosted the highest number of asylum seekers as proportion of its national population. Austria, Belgium, France, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom also received large numbers of child asylum seekers<sup>2</sup>.

During their journeys, children on the move continue to be exposed to violence, including gender-based violence, abuse, detention, extortion and exploitation. It is estimated that some 400 children also lost their lives while crossing the Mediterranean on crowded and unsafe boats in 2018 – levels comparable to 2017.

Arduous journeys drain resilience and undermine physical health, while the uncertainty and hardship of prolonged transit takes its psychological toll. The behavioural and emotional transformations that characterize adolescence is another compounding factor for the majority of children travelling unaccompanied.

Despite notable progress made across Europe to improve reception conditions, enhance service provision and strengthen child protection systems, refugee and migrant children still face high risks of violence and abuse in overcrowded first-line reception centres, increased migration detention and long asylum procedures that can take up to two years<sup>3</sup>. Some 19,800 UASC (mainly 15 to 17 years old boys) registered in Greece and Italy<sup>4</sup> still lack the continuum of care and protection, which results in serious gaps in their safety, legal representation, education and other basic rights.

These circumstances undermine the capacity of children – accompanied or unaccompanied – to recover from their ordeals, jeopardize their social inclusion and prevent the realization of their rights. When combined with loss of support networks and lack of information on their entitlements, children experience poor physical health<sup>5</sup> and psychosocial distress<sup>6</sup>.

For children who have missed months and years of school and suffered the consequences of war, violence or hardship, education is key to bring a sense of normalcy and hope. It can help them overcome trauma and effectively integrate into their new communities. Despite notable progress in Bulgaria, Germany, Greece and Serbia, where up to 65 per cent of refugee and migrant children were successfully enrolled in public schools, education remains an area of concern, particularly for pre-primary and secondary school-age children. In Serbia, for example, 90 per cent of all secondary school-age children remain out of school, and the situation is similar in other countries.

The ongoing reform of EU migration and asylum policy and legal frameworks has been an opportunity to strengthen the coherence of migration management across Member States. However, progress has been uneven and serious child rights concerns remain, especially when it comes to age assessment, migration detention and the concept of off-shore disembarkation. Moreover, migration has led to significant political divisions, visible not only in election processes, but also in shifting national policies and legislation.

An important trend in 2018, for example, was governments' increased refusal of access to territory for refugees and migrants. Reports on violent push-backs at land borders, also involving children, have multiplied in Croatia, France, Greece and Hungary.<sup>7</sup> Harder migration policies in Italy have meanwhile led to incidents of people, including accompanied and unaccompanied children, becoming stranded at sea. Refugees and migrants were forced to remain on rescue vessels, some for up to 18 days, unable to access urgent medical care or other essential services until they were eventually allowed to disembark.<sup>8</sup>

Migration detention is another worrying practice on the rise. In Greece, between 60 and 216 UASC were in protective custody each month in 2018. In Bulgaria, where migration detention of UASC was outlawed in 2017, the practice continued and over the past twelve months 230 UASC spent an average of 13 days in detention. Migration detention, including of children, was reportedly a wide-spread practice also in Croatia, France, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands and Spain.<sup>9</sup> Even in Belgium – a country long-praised for its progressive alternatives to detention – new legislative amendments have resulted in the detention of children with their families.

Other measures resulting from hardening national migration and asylum policies included reduced access to international protection, acceleration of returns and increased criminalization of humanitarian assistance. In Hungary, for example, new laws adopted in 2018 led to the introduction of criminal prosecutions for civil society organisations helping asylum-seekers, as well as a new tax on entities speaking up for refugees and migrant's rights. In Germany, a recently adopted asylum law is expected to lead to a considerable reduction of protection standards for refugee and migrant unaccompanied children and young adults.<sup>10</sup> Similar amendments in Italy (although without direct impact on UASC) will seriously affect adolescents turning 18, as well as accompanied children, who were refused international protection. This can potentially lead to a humanitarian and protection crisis as young refugees and migrants, concerned about their integration prospects, have started to abscond from dedicated child protection facilities.

Refugee and migrant children have a right to be safe and protected, to receive sufficient information on their rights and to access durable solutions and services such health, education, protection, mental health and psychosocial support. If unaddressed, such situations lead to long-term negative effects on their development and wellbeing, and heighten the risks of violence, abuse and even trafficking.

Despite a challenging political context, UNICEF is committed to support European States in developing age and gender-responsive policies that protect and address the particular needs and vulnerabilities of accompanied and



unaccompanied children, and uphold children’s best interests in all situations, reaffirming the principle of family unity, and ensuring children have access to basic services such as health, education and case management.

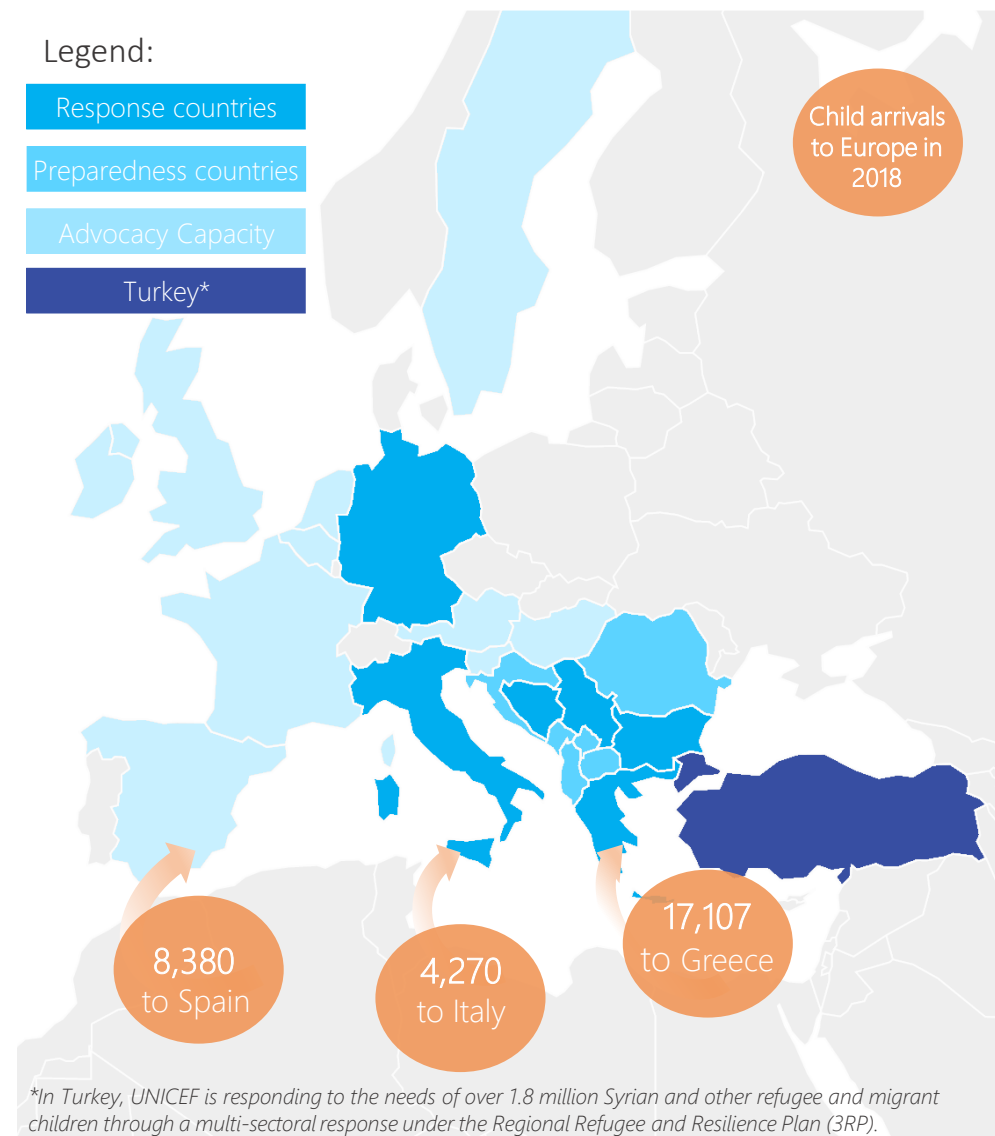


**Greece** – In 2018, more than 50,000 refugees and migrants, over 17,100 of whom children, arrived in Greece by land and sea. This also included 2,400 UASC- a 32 per cent increase compared to 2017. It is estimated that as of December 2018, 27,000 children (of whom 3,800 UASC), were present in the country- in both reception centres and urban areas.

2018 was marked by an improved legislation on guardianship and alternative care arrangements for UASC, and the expansion of afternoon reception classes in public schools for refugee and migrant children ahead of the new school year. By the end of the year, over 10,900<sup>11</sup> children were enrolled in public schools – more than double the numbers enrolled in 2017.

While living conditions and access to basic services continued improving on the mainland, reception capacity and service provision on the islands remained limited. When combined with increased arrivals over the summer, this led to appalling conditions in Reception and Identification Centres (RICs), characterized by overcrowding and high risks of violence and abuse, including gender-based violence, for boys, girls and women. In October 2018, over 7,500 refugees and migrants (a third of whom children) were present in Moria RIC, while the facility was designed for up to 3,000 people.

Another challenge relates to the capacity to provide care and protection for unaccompanied children, despite significant progress made in setting up emergency accommodation and piloting a new Supported Independent Living (SIL) scheme for older unaccompanied children. As of December 2018, over 50 per cent (nearly 2,000) UASC remained in need of long-term accommodation.



**Italy** – Some 23,400 newly arrived refugees and migrants were registered in 2018, including around 4,300 children. 80 per cent of them (3,500) were UASC.

The number of UASC hosted in the reception system in Italy decreased, reaching 10,800 in December 2018 - down from 18,300 in 2017. Main reasons include closure of many government reception centres, as well as children reaching adulthood or leaving the reception system with the intention to continue their journey in the absence of durable solutions and a dramatic hardening of the Italian migration policy.

In 2018, refugee and migrant children faced multiple stand-offs at sea and increased xenophobia and discrimination by the local population. The asylum procedures were lengthy, and children's wellbeing eroded by budgetary cuts to social inclusion and a new immigration law 132/2018 that weakens protection for young refugees and migrants when they turn 18, as well as accompanied children who were denied international protection.

Despite notable efforts over the past years, the national child protection system for refugee and migrant children remained highly fragmented, with limited accountability and high disparities in quality of services. This means the most vulnerable children continued to fall through the cracks. The new volunteer guardianship system, introduced in 2017, continues to face many difficulties in its implementation. Community-based care arrangements remained scarce and nearly 87 per cent of UASC are placed in shelters. Referral mechanisms to health and legal services are strained.

**Bulgaria** – In 2018, Bulgarian authorities recorded close to 3,000 refugees and migrants - a number comparable to 2017. Of them, 750 were children (60 per cent UASC) from Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Pakistan. By December, only a third of these children were still present in reception centres.

Over the past year, significant progress was made in expanding access to formal education for refugee and asylum-seeking children. Yet, the government is still relying on support from UN Agencies and non-governmental organizations to meet children's needs in terms of recreational

activities and psychosocial support in reception centres, as well as technical capacity building for service providers.

While migration detention of UASC remains a major concern, a draft law amendment developed with UNICEF and partner agencies brought some hope for the improved protection of UASC in Bulgaria. It foresees the provision of temporary residence until children reach the age of 18, and guarantees for their access to entitlements and services, as well as prevention from migration detention and forced return.

**Serbia** – An estimated 12,000 refugees and migrants are believed to have transited through Serbia in 2018. The average occupancy of reception and asylum centres, however, remained around 3,800 people a month. There was a peak in December 2018 with 4,500 persons in the asylum centres. Among them there were 1,140 children (880 boys and 260 girls), including 500 UASC.<sup>12</sup>

Following advocacy by UNICEF, UNHCR and civil society organisations, new legislation on migration and asylum was adopted, bringing the Serbian legal framework, including on the protection of foreign UASC, in line with international and EU standards. Another important achievement was the higher enrolment of refugee and migrant children – especially those under 15 years old – into a second year of public education.

Despite commendable efforts by authorities in improving reception conditions and access to services, major challenges relate to the care and protection of UASC, who still have limited access to appropriate accommodation, guardianship, case management and services. Sexual and gender-based violence, among both girls and boys, is another critical issue of concern that requires a comprehensive inter-institutional, gender and culturally-sensitive response.

**Bosnia and Herzegovina** – In 2018, border authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina registered over 24,000 refugees and migrants, mostly from Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria, entering from Serbia and Montenegro. This represents a 44-fold increase compared to 2017, when barely 540 arrivals were registered.

While Bosnia and Herzegovina is largely considered a transit country, it is estimated that around 5,000 people, including some 860 children (31 per cent unaccompanied), were still present as of December 2018.

In a country faced by its own political, administrative and economic difficulties, national authorities faced challenges in mounting a coordinated and timely response and required significant support by UN agencies and civil society organisations to fill gaps. Urgent needs included reception facilities, humanitarian assistance and support to address key challenges in public systems across health, child protection and education.

**Republic of North Macedonia** – Despite continuous border closures, the number of people crossing the country saw a six-fold increase compared to 2017. In 2018, national authorities registered some 3,100 refugees and migrants, including around 600 children. It is believed that the actual number is much higher as many people transited the country via irregular routes without formally registering.

Five reception centres remained operational across the country. Between January and September 2018, some 600 women and 570 children (of whom 47

UASC) benefitted from short-term accommodation and services in these facilities.

**Germany** – Some 162,000 people sought asylum in Germany in 2018, including 79,300 children. This is 17 per cent decrease compared to 2017. Although a recent survey<sup>13</sup> showed German citizens were overall in favour of accepting more refugees, migration remained a key topic in domestic political debates.

This resulted in a number of policy and legal changes, namely agreements with Greece and Spain over speedier Dublin transfers of asylum seekers from Germany, and the transformation of former reception and transit centres into so-called 'Anchor Centres' - large one-stop facilities for arrival, decision-making, distribution and return of asylum-seekers. While accelerated procedures for status determination may be considered a positive development, it remains unclear whether safeguards for children's best interests assessment and determination (BIA/BID) are systematically applied.

Family reunification for subsidiary protection beneficiaries was another concern as the monthly quota set in a recent law have created significant backlogs, negatively impacting children.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Nearly two-thirds of the 30,587 child arrivals in 2018 were boys.

<sup>2</sup> Based on Eurostat database consulted in February 2019, this includes 21,601 child asylum seekers in Greece; 20,910 in France; 11,035 in Spain; 8,140 in the UK; 6,329 in Sweden; 6,325 in Austria and 5,855 in Belgium.

<sup>3</sup> EU FRA, Migration: Key Fundamental Rights Concerns, February 2019

<sup>4</sup> Based on EKKA-Greece and Italian Ministry of Social Affairs, this includes some 3,800 in Greece and 16,000 in Italy, as of December 2018.

<sup>5</sup> WHO, Health of Refugees and Migrants, 2018

<sup>6</sup> Institute of Child Health, 'Rapid Assessment of Mental Health, Psychosocial Needs and Services for Unaccompanied Children in Greece', 2017

<sup>7</sup> EU FRA, Migration: Key Fundamental Rights Concerns, February 2019

<sup>8</sup> UNICEF, Vital protection for refugee and migrant children making perilous journeys to Europe, January 2019

<sup>9</sup> EU FRA, Migration: Key Fundamental Rights Concerns, February 2019

<sup>10</sup> idem

<sup>11</sup> Based on UNICEF estimates

<sup>12</sup> UNHCR Serbia Update, December 2018

<sup>13</sup> Pew Research Centre

<sup>14</sup> EU FRA, Migration: Key Fundamental Rights Concerns, February 2019

### III. Humanitarian Results

In line with its Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action and its Global Strategic Plan 2018-2021, UNICEF continued to respond to the needs of children and women on the move and seeking asylum in Europe throughout 2018, using a two-pronged approach combining life-saving humanitarian service delivery with capacity-building, policy reform and technical assistance to national authorities and partners, in close collaboration with other UN agencies, IOM and UNHCR more specifically

In 2018, UNICEF child protection activities reached over 28,000 children with psychosocial support, case management, referral and other services, while 19,700 children benefitted from improved access to formal and non-formal education. Some 4,550 people also accessed gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response services. This meant annual regional targets in these key areas were significantly exceeded.

Throughout the year, UNICEF sustained psychosocial support and other protection services, as well as mobile outreach teams to identify and refer at-risk children. GBV programmes across all response countries were also scaled up to ensure refugee and migrant girls, boys and women have access to critical life-saving services and referral pathways.

Education and youth participation were another major pillar of the response. UNICEF worked with national and local education authorities, Ombudspersons and civil society to keep children learning, equip them with skills and advance their social inclusion in host communities.

UNICEF's focus on capacity building amongst social workers and teachers, along with establishing models of guardianship, resulted in improved human

resources capacity, greater municipality ownership of services and strengthened national child protection and education systems. Results in these areas were most visible in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Italy and Serbia.

These activities bridge humanitarian and development initiatives in middle and high-income contexts and contribute to the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially 10.7 (Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration) and 16.2. (End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence).

Throughout the year, UNICEF adjusted its response based on resources and children's needs, and as of December 2018, active responses were maintained in Greece, Italy, Bulgaria, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, along with some capacity for regional coordination, policy, advocacy and knowledge generation. A summary of results by country follows.

## Greece

**10,435** children (boys and girls) received quality community-based child protection support (mental health and psychosocial support, legal counselling and case management) | Target: 5,000 (208%)

**559** frontline workers trained on child protection standards / child protection in emergencies | Target: 400 (139%)

**2,302** of UASC benefitting from protective care and services (temporary accommodation, case management, referrals, legal aid, etc.) | Target: 450 (511%)

**3,282** people (girls, boys, women and men) accessed GBV prevention and response services | Target: 2,200 (149%)

**291** frontline workers trained on GBV prevention and response | Target: 380 (77%)

**4,788** children aged 6-17 including adolescents participated in structured education activities | Target: 2,000 (239%)

**10,900** children enrolled in mainstream formal education | Target: 6,000 (182%)

**965** children (3-5 years old) benefited from early childhood activities | Target: 900 (107%)

**6,654** children receiving education materials | Target: 6,000 (111%)

In Greece, several factors contributed to UNICEF interventions to exceed most of its targets. 2018 saw an increase in the number of child arrivals compared to the previous year, calling for all actors to scale up programmes. The authorities' commitment and ownership of the response, together with the synergies established between UN and civil society organizations have resulted in a better coverage and improved efficiencies. The UNICEF response followed a two-pronged approach combining technical assistance to the Greek

government for overall system strengthening along with service delivery to address the immediate needs of refugee and migrant children in the areas of child protection, education and child rights monitoring. This has meant that by using national systems more children received services at a lower cost.

In 2018, UNICEF continued to provide a package of child protection services including case management, psychosocial support, GBV prevention and response, and legal aid, reaching over 10,400 children in need through Child and Family Support Hubs (CFSH) across mainland Greece and the island of Lesbos. CFSHs also helped identify and refer those in need to specialised services, such as GBV clinical response, mental health care and counselling.

A Memorandum of Understanding signed between UNICEF and the General Secretariat for Gender Equality (GSGE) resulted in an improved sector-wide protocol for identification, management and referrals of people survivors and at risk of GBV. The protocol was subsequently rolled out through the training of approximately 300 frontline workers. An operational research on service accessibility was carried out to identify gaps and further improve supply, while a traveling exhibition with artwork produced by refugees and migrants contributed to better awareness on GBV and available support.

Care and protection for the most vulnerable and at-risk children, including UASC, remained another priority. By December 2018, UNICEF supported safe zones, which provided emergency accommodation and 24/7 care to 433 UASC and piloted a Supported Independent Living (SIL) scheme for older unaccompanied children (16-17 years old) - the first of its kind in Greece. The model has been recognised by State actors as a viable long-term accommodation and care modality and will be scaled up by government authorities.

Strides were also made around guardianship for UASC with the adoption of a [new law on the issue](#). It foresees the establishment of a body of professional guardians under the responsibility of the National Centre for Social Solidarity (EKKA) to ensure unaccompanied children's care and protection. UNICEF has been working closely with national authorities towards its implementation.

With UNICEF support, EKKA, made progress in strengthening the national referral system through the launch of an online database, which has led to faster prioritization and placement of unaccompanied children. In 2018, EKKA processed close to 7,000 referrals - a 25 per cent increase compared to 2017.

UNICEF continued to provide essential learning opportunities for refugee and migrant children in both reception centres and urban areas, while working closely with the Ministry of Education to promote access to formal education, monitor school enrolment and facilitate communication through interpretation in schools.

Strategic investments were made in increasing the quality of education, as well as retention rates through technical assistance and capacity building. A comprehensive teacher training programme, developed in partnership with Greek universities, was launched and already benefitted 720 formal school teachers, who improved their knowledge and skills on intercultural education, teaching Greek as a second language and classroom management.

In 2018, UNICEF non-formal education activities in Athens, in Central and Northern Greece, as well as in Lesbos, reached a total of 4,788 refugee and migrant children, enhancing children's readiness to enter public schools. Meanwhile, nearly 11,000 school age children have been integrated in public schools. At the request of the government, UNICEF supported the procurement of 23,000 doses of vaccines to meet compulsory immunization prior to refugee and migrant children's enrolment. The new digital language learning programme piloted in 2018 and the extensive engagement with municipalities through the Cities Integration Network are expected to further facilitate children's integration into local communities.

In support to social inclusion of adolescents, UNICEF also launched activities around journalism, drama, and sports. Through a partnership with the National Theatre of Greece, over 100 Greek and refugee children performed on stage together conveying to a wider audience first-hand accounts of migration and its benefits to communities. Meanwhile, the Network for Children's Rights' journalism project 'Migratory Birds' engaged another 188 Greek and refugee children around their own monthly newspaper, translated in six languages, as well as a radio show with national coverage. A summer football camp was



▲ (Centre) Mariam, 13, in class in Tapuat centre in Lesbos, Greece. It took her family 2 months to travel from Afghanistan to Greece. Mariam says, "When I'm in Tapuat I forget about being in Moria. I want to be a doctor when I grow up. I hope someday I can go outside of Moria and Moria is memory. My favourite subject is Greek". © UNICEF/UN0274799/Haviv VII Photo

organized for 240 refugee and migrant boys and girls (mostly unaccompanied) in urban Athens. While they proved to have a very positive effect on children's social inclusion, their sustainability is subject to funding availability.

Finally, UNICEF investments in data collection, child rights monitoring, and analysis allowed for more evidence-based decision making and advocacy for the rights of refugee and migrant children in Greece. The MoU between UNICEF and the Greek Deputy Ombudswoman for Children's Rights was

instrumental with this regard, allowing her to fully assume her child rights monitoring, advocacy and convening role. In 2018, the Network for the Rights of Children on the Move further expanded, reaching 27 members.

Some of the most important lessons learned in 2018 relate to the higher impact achieved, when innovative approaches are used to strengthen national authorities' capacities (e.g. national online database for speedier referral and more effective placement of UASC in care), and to enhance synergies and linkages between services and stakeholders (e.g. the provision of non-formal education in support to public school enrolment, retention and learning outcomes for refugee and migrant children at all ages). Close collaboration between UN agencies around care and protection for UASC has allowed for a better coverage at national level and a more effective engagement with government counterparts, while building on each entity's added value.



Art Exhibition on Gender-Based Violence, with artworks created by refugee and migrant children and adolescents, Thessaloniki, Greece @UNICEF Greece/2018/Mintsidou ▲

## Italy

**2,191** children (boys and girls) received quality community-based child protection support (mental health and psychosocial support, legal counselling and case management) | Target: 4,300 (51%)

**1,436** frontline workers trained on child protection standards / child protection in emergencies | Target: 1,300 (110%)

**1,520** at-risk children (incl. UASC) identified through screening by outreach teams and child protection support centres | Target: 2,500 (61%)

**796** frontline workers trained on GBV prevention and response | Target: 600 (133%)

**208** children aged 6-17 including adolescents participated in structured education activities | Target: 1,100 (19%)

**320** children enrolled in mainstream formal education | Target: 1,500 (21%)

**241** children received culturally appropriate non-food items | Target: 1,000 (24%)

The overall political and operational context in Italy has been challenging, resulting in UNICEF not meeting some of its targets, while exceeding others in 2018. The shift in government approach led to a significant decrease in arrivals and a smaller caseload of refugee and migrant UASC in the reception system than originally anticipated. The new immigration law resulted in closed or re-qualified reception facilities, pushing some of the children out of the system and reducing the number of frontline personnel. This had a direct impact on UNICEF's capacity to scale up its intervention towards adolescents.

The limited access to alternative care and protection for UASC in Italy required UNICEF and partners to swiftly adapt their response, prioritising the early

identification of children at risk and targeted activities to strengthen national and sub-national capacities to effectively support their social inclusion. UNICEF also explored opportunities to institutionalise good practices, advocated for legislative changes, and helped increase awareness among Italian local and national authorities and general public of children's concerns, needs and hopes.

UNICEF focused on regions with a high concentration of UASC, where about 7,000 refugee and migrant UASC were reached. Of these, 2,191 benefited from improved services and reception conditions, while 1,520 received immediate care and information on services and legal options in transit areas. Additionally, about 243 unaccompanied children were assigned guardians supported by UNICEF. More than 1,500 were reached with socio-recreational activities and around 500 participated in skills development programmes. 600 young migrants and refugees were engaged through the U-Report on the Move platform in 2018, bringing overall youth participation levels to 1,100 adolescents.

Building on significant work in developing protection standards for reception facilities for UASC, in 2018 UNICEF focused on their implementation in close partnership with national and local authorities, as well as civil society organizations. As part of this effort, over 1,400 frontline workers in Sicily and Calabria were trained on case management, identification of vulnerable cases, psychosocial support and referral mechanisms. 800 of them also saw their skills improved on GBV prevention and response.

In partnership with the National and Regional Ombudspersons, UNICEF continued to support the guardianship system reform through the establishment of a model for support and monitoring of guardians in Palermo and gradually expanding to Catania and Messina. This mechanism proved to be key for the success of the implementation of the new volunteer guardianship system.

In 2018, UNICEF also supported national authorities in modelling an alternative care arrangement that links UASC in Palermo with foster families in the North of Italy. UNICEF helped develop guidelines for foster care and trained 310



▲ Marie Ahikpa (15), left, Maria Letizia Barone (centre) and Kadiatou Camara (16) pose for a photo in Palermo, Italy. Marie is from the Ivory Coast and Kadiatou is from Guinea Bissau. Marie left her country with her mother, through Tunisia, eventually coming to Italy on her own. Kadiatou left home when she was 12 years old, fleeing a forced marriage. They met in Palermo, through a Facebook group for young migrants. They've been inseparable ever since. Their bond is so strong that Maria Letizia, Marie's legal guardian, is now becoming Kadiatou's guardian as well. © UNICEF/UN0264457/DeLuigi

foster families, in close collaboration with the relevant authorities, who have now committed to bring this initiative to scale.

Significant strides were also made towards young migrants and refugees' participation through U-Report on the Move. Available in six languages and



counting more than 1,100 U-Reporters, regular polls in 2018 captured U-Reporters' concerns, needs and aspirations, while results were disseminated through a range of public and media channels. The platform also helped young migrants and refugees connect with their peers, learn about their rights and enhance their digital story-telling skills. U-Reporter's involvement in high-level fora such as the Youth Summit for the Global Compact on Migration and High Commissioner for Refugees' Dialogue on Protection were also important opportunities to step up advocacy efforts for the rights of young migrants and refugees in Italy and beyond.

UNICEF continued to support the social inclusion of unaccompanied refugee and migrant adolescents through activities combining critical life skills, non-formal education and job orientation. In 2018, more than 1,500 UASC participated in recreational activities outside reception centres and another 1,500 were involved in professional orientation sessions. In Rome, vocational training and apprenticeship programmes also targeted 112 UASC in contact with the law in order to support their social reinsertion.

During the second half of 2018, UNICEF launched an innovative skill building programme (UPSHIFT) in Sicily, bringing together refugee and migrant adolescents and their Italian peers, with the aim to enhance their entrepreneurship and employability skills and promote social inclusion. An e-learning tool was also piloted with 320 UASC to support them with Italian language learning and preparation for compulsory national middle-school exams.

An important lesson from UNICEF response in Italy during the past year relates to the importance of the government commitment to a child rights approach to the care and protection of vulnerable children on its territory. Indeed, the national administration at all levels needs to be mobilized to ensure that promising practices and successful pilots become the norm, while gains made over the past years with support from donors, UN agencies, Ombudspersons and civil society, notably around the social inclusion of young refugees and migrants, are sustained. The use of U-report and UPSHIFT proved to be powerful innovative tools fostering youth engagement and empowerment that ultimately benefits both refugee/migrant and Italian youth from disadvantaged areas.

## Bulgaria

**248** children (boys and girls) received quality community-based child protection support (mental health and psychosocial support, legal counselling and case management) | Target: 300 (83%)

**38** frontline workers trained on child protection standards/child protection in emergencies | Target: 100 (38%)

**178** people (girls, boys, women and men) accessed GBV prevention and response services | Target: 150 (119%)

**90** frontline workers trained on GBV prevention and response | Target: 50 (180%)

**497** children aged 6-17 including adolescents participated in structured education activities | Target: 600 (83%)

The UNICEF response in Bulgaria aimed at addressing some of the most critical gaps in the national child protection system with a focus on services for UASC, child-sensitive procedures and empowerment of refugee and migrant children and women.

In 2018, UNICEF continued to support recreational and non-formal education activities for asylum seeking children and adolescents through child-friendly spaces in three reception centres in Sofia and one in Harmanli, benefitting close to 500 children. To support their social inclusion and exchange with host communities, children also participated in various cultural events, international celebrations and trips to places of interest.

Thanks to enhanced cooperation between state institutions, UN Agencies and national non-governmental organizations, as of December 2018, some 340 children (38 per cent of all asylum-seeking children) were enrolled in Bulgarian public schools. UNICEF contributed to these results through continuous advocacy, technical support to school authorities, procurement of school materials, awareness raising and homework support to children enrolled.

UNICEF further strengthened GBV prevention and response services through protection system mapping, capacity-building for practitioners on GBV and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) in the work with refugees and migrants, awareness raising and direct support to GBV survivors and refugees and migrants at risk. UNICEF also contributed to the development of guidelines on GBV case management, as well as the [Adolescent Girls' Safety and Resilience Pocket Guide](#), which is a key resource for frontline workers in establishing, carrying out and evaluating empowerment programmes for adolescent girls.

Due to the persisting placement of UASC in migration detention, UNICEF sustained monitoring and identification capacity in such facilities. Some 250 unaccompanied children (mostly adolescents) were identified and supported with legal aid, as well as strategic litigation for their immediate release from detention. UNICEF also worked with partners to support national authorities in developing a draft law amendment, which is expected to discontinue migration detention and ensure UASC have access to the services and care they require.

Lessons learned from this experience show that even when national legislation is in line with international standards, e.g. regarding the non-detention of UASC for migration control purposes, its implementation may be hampered by insufficient linkages between migration and child protection authorities, weak monitoring systems and medical age assessment procedures that keep children in detention until these are concluded.



Asylum-seeking children celebrating International Children's Day on 1 June 2018 in the Ovcha Kupel reception centre in Sofia, Bulgaria. © Caritas/Bewar Mossa

## Serbia

**1,089** children (boys and girls) received quality community-based child protection support (mental health and psychosocial support, legal counselling and case management) | Target: 3,000 (36%)

**174** frontline workers trained on child protection standards/child protection in emergencies | Target: 200 (87%)

**2,222** at-risk children (incl. UASC) identified through screening by outreach teams and child protection support centres | Target: 1,500 (148%)

**1,087** people (girls, boys, women and men) accessed GBV prevention and response services | Target: 350 (311%)

**1,172** children aged 6-17 including adolescents participated in structured non-formal education activities | Target: 1,000 (117%)

**390** children enrolled in mainstream formal education | Target: 600 (65%)

**296** infants (under 2) accessed mother and baby care centre services, including health services and nutrition services | Target: 1,000 (30%)

**305** mothers benefited from infant and young child feeding counselling at CFSH, CFS and MBS | Target: 700 (44%)

**1,726** children received culturally appropriate non-food items | Target: 4,000 (43%)

In Serbia, available results only reflect newly registered children (leaving out those already in-country at the start of the year), and hence do not fully capture the actual attendance of babies, mothers and older children in community-based services. Furthermore, targets in health and nutrition, as well as WASH, were not met due to a shift in the profile of refugee and migrant children arriving in the country and significant funding gaps. The increase in the number of adolescents and the decrease in the number of babies and young children

led to the re-prioritisation of activities and the closure of Mother and Baby Spaces in reception facilities with smaller caseload.

UNICEF continued to play an important role in improving access to protection, education, nutrition and other services for refugee and migrant children and women. Nevertheless, by the end of 2018 most direct service delivery was gradually handed over to national authorities, UN agencies and other partners, allowing UNICEF to focus on coordination, technical assistance and quality assurance, thereby addressing the structural and system-related flaws that hamper service delivery. Only a few strategic services were sustained in key parts of the country to address critical needs.

Through a wide network of Child and Family Support Hubs (CFSH), close to 70 per cent of children in reception facilities across Serbia were able to access psychosocial support and recreational activities. In view of the increased proportion of adolescents coming to Serbia<sup>1</sup> (many of whom UASC), Youth Corners were supported to address their specific needs. Some 530 adolescents benefitted from these services in 2018.

Outreach and identification of at-risk children, including UASC, were also scaled up, reaching over 2,200 children. As the country was not prepared for such a caseload, UNICEF worked closely with line ministries, local social services and civil society organisations to improve care arrangements and access to services for UASC in particular.

In 2018, UNICEF scaled up activities around GBV prevention and response through the establishment of four safe spaces for women and girls, the development of guidance and tools for safe referral of GBV survivors, as well as the [Girls Adolescents Safety and Resilience Pocket Guide](#), and the documentation of the benefits of mentorship programmes for girls and women. UNICEF invested in improving frontline workers' competencies on GBV and PSEA as part of an integrated child protection approach. Civil society

<sup>1</sup> As of December 2018, 43 per cent of children present in Serbia were 15 to 17 years old.

partners were also supported in aligning their internal policies with international standards on PSEA.

Through continuous support to the Ministry of Education, school administrations and parents, by December 2018, 45 per cent of pre-school-age, 90 per cent of primary school-age and 10 per cent of secondary school-age refugee and migrant children in the country were successfully enrolled in Serbian public schools. In parallel, UNICEF sustained non-formal education activities to support children's smooth school integration and prevent drop-out. Upcoming priorities of the national education strategy include improving learning outcomes, school retention and expanding access to upper-secondary education, especially for UASC and girls.

Despite the significant decrease of breastfeeding mothers, babies and infants in 2018, Mother and Baby Spaces (MBS) remained operational to ensure availability of key health and nutrition services in at least half of all reception facilities. UNICEF also continued to provide technical support to national authorities on overall health and nutrition standards for refugee and migrant children and women. However, health authorities have yet to fully cover the immunization needs of the younger children.

Lessons learned from the response in Serbia have shown that by providing integrated services, not only is it possible to optimize the response and reduce costs in the context of funding shortages, but this also leads to greater impact in terms of beneficiaries' wellbeing, inter-agency coordination and frontline workers' abilities to identify and mitigate risks. This was particularly visible from the strong linkages and synergies established between the child protection, GBV and PSEA interventions over the past year.



Refugee and migrant children play with their mothers in UNICEF-supported Mother-and-Baby Space in Serbia. ©UNICEF Serbia/Panic

## Bosnia and Herzegovina

**972** children (boys and girls) received quality community-based child protection support (mental health and psychosocial support, legal counselling and case management) | Target: 600 (162%)

**367** children aged 6-17 including adolescents participated in structured education activities | Target: 250 (147%)

Of the 24,000 persons who arrived in 2018 (a 44-fold increase compared to 2017), close to 20 per cent were children, prompting UNICEF to mount a humanitarian intervention over the summer of 2018.

Activities combined direct service delivery and technical assistance to address key bottlenecks in national child protection, health and education systems, which prevent quality services provision for all vulnerable children in the country.

Based on an [inter-agency child protection assessment](#) in 2018, UNICEF set up Child and Family Support Hubs (CFSH) in four locations (Salakovac, Borici, Bira and Sedra), thus reaching over 970 children (355 girls and 617 boys) with child protection services, including psychosocial support and recreational activities. Another 225 children and 225 caregivers received psychosocial counselling.

The protection and care of UASC was a major priority for UNICEF. Investments were therefore made to deploy multi-sectoral outreach teams, improve the capacity of some 120 social workers and frontline workers on safeguarding and case management, and establish referral and support mechanisms.

An important breakthrough was the establishment of the first safe zones for UASC in Usivak and Bira transit centres in December 2018, where child protection teams ensured 24h/7-day care and support to over 330 unaccompanied and separated boys). UNICEF, in collaboration with national authorities, also developed federal guidelines and SOPs for the management and referral of protection cases.



▲ Migrant/refugee children start first day at school and get acquainted with their new surroundings. ©UNICEF Bosnia and Herzegovina

An Education in Emergency Rapid Assessment and extensive advocacy at national and local levels led to the enrolment of a first group of refugee and migrant children in primary school in Sarajevo as of December 2018. It is expected that by March 2019, all other refugee and migrant children in the country will be back to school. In the meantime, UNICEF continued to provide non-formal education three times a week for some 380 children and adolescents.

More than 200 mothers accessed Mother and Baby Spaces, where they benefitted from safe space for breastfeeding, infant and young child feeding counselling, psychosocial support, as well as essential food and hygiene

products for their babies and young children. These spaces also allowed to refer children and women to specialized health services.

Additionally, in collaboration with Una-Sana Cantonal Ministry of Health, UNICEF supported the public health centres in Cazin and Bihać to conduct laboratory tests and medical checks for some 100 children, as part of school enrolment procedures.

Towards the end of 2018, UNICEF conducted a WASH assessment in all temporary reception centres in Una-Sana and Sarajevo cantons. It helped identify and address essential gaps in the quantity and quality of sanitary facilities, as well as hygiene practices in these centres.

To protect children from the cold winter weather in Bosnia and Herzegovina, UNICEF procured and distributed winter clothes and shoes for some 1,000 refugee and migrant children. Additional furniture, beds and other basic supplies were also procured to support the opening of a new reception centre in Salakovac.

The fast-evolving refugee and migrant situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina underlined the importance of inter-agency coordination, preparedness and contingency planning as a key to a timely and effective multisectoral humanitarian response, that addresses the needs of all vulnerable groups, including children and women.

## Republic of North Macedonia

Due to the reduced needs in the country, UNICEF significantly scaled down its response, handing over service provision in reception facilities to civil society organisations and focusing primarily on outreach activities for children and women on the move. By December 2018, some 898 children (582 boys and 316 girls) on the move, as well as another 433 children (262 boys and 171 girls) in reception centres, benefitted from UNICEF basic supplies and other emergency support.

Meanwhile, UNICEF continued to support system reforms to improve the protection of all vulnerable children in the country, including refugees and migrants. Investments were therefore made in establishing stronger community-based services and alternative care mechanisms.

Although education needs for refugee and migrant children, particularly small children, have decreased, their situation highlighted overall lack of early childhood education (ECD) for children in the country. UNICEF therefore supported the establishment of ECD centres in vulnerable communities and promoted legislative change towards the removal of all barriers to refugee and migrant children's access to education and recognition of previous learning.

UNICEF also developed a contingency plan to allow for prompt response in the case of a new large-scale influx of refugees and migrants through North Macedonia.

## Germany

**13,000** children (boys and girls) received quality community-based child protection support (mental health and psychosocial support, legal counselling and case management) | Target: 10,000 (130%)

**960** frontline workers trained on child protection standards / child protection in emergencies | Target: 2,500 (38%)

UNICEF, together with the Ministry of Family Affairs, continued to co-lead the Federal Initiative for the Protection of Refugees and Migrants in Refugee Accommodation Centres, ensuring coordination with major welfare organisations and other partners. While UNICEF did not provide direct services in refugee centres, 13,000 refugee and migrant children benefitted from increased protection through the development and roll-out of improved reception standards.

The approach adopted in 2018 prioritized the capacitation of a team of trainers over frontline workers, allowing to enhance protection in over one hundred facilities. In 2018, only 1,000 persons had their skills and knowledge strengthened, largely due to the downsizing of the UNICEF response in Germany. Nevertheless, a total of 2,757 frontline workers, protection coordinators and centre managers have been sensitized to and trained on implementing child protection standards in refugee accommodation centres since the start of the Initiative in 2016. The training package on the Minimum Standards was made publicly available so as to continue benefitting government and civil society partners.

A key achievement of the Initiative was the consensus achieved nationwide around the [Minimum Standards for the Protection of Refugees and Migrants in Refugee Accommodation Centres](#). The Minimum Standards cover the following six areas: facility-specific protection (physical and constructional),



▲ Ahmad Abdul-Halim, 16, left, speaks with a teammate as he sits on the pitch during a training session with his football team JSG Rosenthal-Schwicheldt in Peine, Germany.  
© UNICEF/UN043773/Gilbertson VII Photo

personnel and human resources management, internal structures and external cooperation, dealing with situations of violence and risk management, decent, protective and supportive environments (including child-friendly spaces and services) and monitoring and evaluation of protection plans.

In 2018, UNICEF disseminated the Minimum Standards at state level through six regional technical workshops across Germany, organised by the Family Ministry with support from the DKJS (Deutsche Kinder und Jugend Stiftung).

UNICEF also supported their implementation through networking and webinars, the development of practical guidelines, Standard Operating

Procedures and referral pathways on violence prevention, linking asylum centres with public services.

With UNICEF support, real-time monitoring systems were piloted in two sites, allowing centres to develop theories of change based on their protection plans. These were documented and used as examples that could be replicated in other centres. They will also inform the upcoming implementation guide related to monitoring and evaluation, expected to be published in 2019 with support from the German government.

In November 2018, the Ministry of Family and UNICEF held an event in Berlin to take stock of the last three years (2016-2018) of collaboration, discussing results achieved, ongoing and new challenges, lessons learned and promising practices. The key outcome of the meeting was the commitment by national authorities to ensure sustainability of gains through legislative reforms, as well as additional resources and investment. This will have a significant impact for the entire reception and protection systems for refugee and migrant children and women in Germany.

A key lesson learned from UNICEF experience in Germany is linked to the relevance of the alignment of national practice with regards to reception conditions with international standards, the importance of coordination and enhanced synergies between national and local authorities, major welfare organisations and other key stakeholders, whose buy-in and commitment is essential to ensure sustainability of gains and impact over time.

## Austria

In view of the reduced arrivals of refugee and migrant children in Austria, combined with accelerated progress in fulfilling its commitment vis-à-vis the Austrian government, UNICEF completed its programmatic intervention in April 2018. Activities therefore focused on the implementation of national Minimum Protection Standards for asylum centres, initiated in 2017.

Following an extensive consultation process, including workshops with partners and governmental authorities, as well as focus group discussions with unaccompanied refugee and migrant children, a final draft of the Minimum Protection Standards were produced during the first quarter of 2018.

They were presented at the Conference of Refugee Administrators at Federal State Level during the autumn of 2018, with support from the Austrian National Committee for UNICEF, and an agreement was reached for their roll-out at province level during the course of 2019.

The initial child protection sensitisation and capacity building workshops benefited some 550 government employees and front-line workers in reception and accommodation centres during 2017. In parallel, UNICEF equipped a team of national trainers in Vorarlberg with the knowledge and skills required to ensure the sustainability of the initiative after the closure of UNICEF programme intervention in Austria at the end of April 2018.

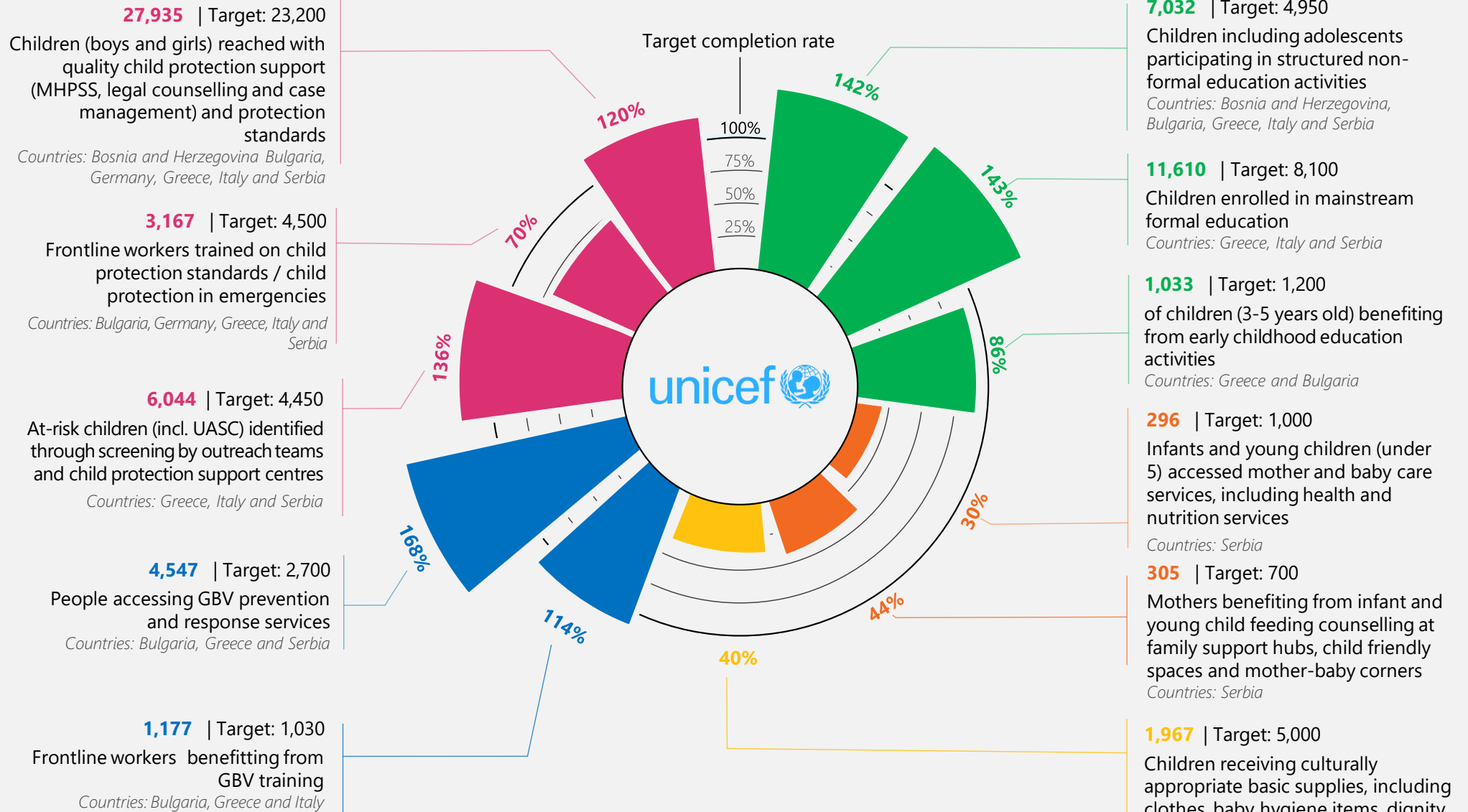
By building on the experience in Germany, UNICEF was able to strengthen the national system, adapting relevant materials to the Austrian context and deploying relevant technical expertise.



Key

- Child protection
- Gender-Based Violence
- Education
- Health and nutrition
- WASH and basic supplies

# Summary programme results 2018



In Serbia, targets in Health and Nutrition, as well as WASH, were not met due to significant finding gaps in this area, coupled with a shift in the profile of refugee and migrant children arriving in the country (fewer babies and young children and more adolescents), which led to re-prioritisation of activities and closure of Mother and Baby Spaces in reception facilities with smaller caseload. Similarly, in Italy achieving WASH targets was largely affected by the shift in political context, which led to sharp drop of arrivals and search and rescue operations at sea, during which WASH supplies were distributed.

## IV. Results achieved from humanitarian thematic funding

In 2018, flexible thematic funds enabled UNICEF to respond effectively and efficiently to the needs of refugee and migrant children and their caregivers in high- and middle-income European context, directly benefitting at least 9,000 children.

The UNICEF humanitarian appeal for the refugee and migrant crisis in Europe in 2018 called for USD 34,184,000. Of the USD 25,553,053 available against this appeal during the year (including both newly received funds and carry-over from 2017), around a quarter – USD 6,409,542 – were humanitarian thematic funds. The flexibility of these funds enabled UNICEF to timely respond to the situation of refugee and migrant children across six countries in Europe – Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy and Serbia.

Thematic funds were essential in responding to the time-critical needs of a rapidly increasing number of children on the Greek island of Lesbos, as well as in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Through the prompt establishment of Child and Family Support Hubs (CFSH) in these locations, UNICEF was able to reach some 3,170 children with an integrated set of quality services, providing them with safe spaces to rest, play and learn, receive much needed psychosocial support and referral to specialised support.

These flexible funds were also catalytic in improving child protection standards, guardianship and outreach activities for over 4,000 at-risk UASC in Italy and Greece. They also allowed to sustain critical non-formal education for some 1,670 children in Serbia and Bulgaria, who were not able to benefit from public school enrolment either due to limited capacities of schools or because they were beyond compulsory school age.

In addition, flexible thematic funds were essential in linking emergency activities with longer-term national child protection and education system strengthening, thus contributing to a broader equity agenda and the humanitarian-development nexus.

This was particularly visible in the areas of guardianship and alternative care arrangements for UASC, where small-scale pilots helped inform and contribute to national child protection reforms in both Italy and Greece. Once implemented such reforms will benefit thousands more refugee and migrant and other vulnerable groups of children.

Similarly, UNICEF teacher trainings and support through online knowledge hubs and support platforms, such as in Serbia, were essential in building more inclusive school environment, strengthening national education capacity to effectively integrate refugee and migrant children and keep them learning.

Given that no other source of financial support was available for activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italy and Austria during the year, thematic funds were critical for launching and/or expanding key child protection and education services such as early identification and referral, case management, psychosocial support, non-formal education and skills building, while also addressing system-related gaps that prevent refugee and migrant children from accessing the protection and mainstream services in these countries.

In Greece, Bulgaria and Serbia, thematic funds were pooled with earmarked humanitarian funding, maximizing impact of different activities, both in terms of direct service provision and technical assistance to respond to the immediate needs of refugee and migrant children in the areas of child protection, education and health and nutrition.

## Case Study I. Strengthened guardianship systems in Italy and Greece

### Top level results

Global thematic funds were crucial in advancing the child protection agenda for refugee and migrant children in Europe, paving the way towards more efficient and robust national guardianship systems. More specifically, in 2018 flexible thematic funding helped 243 unaccompanied children in Italy and 431 unaccompanied children in Greece benefit from individualized support by guardians, who facilitated their access to services (incl. health and education) and played an important legal representation role in relevant asylum and migration procedures. In Palermo, Italy, a system was established to support and strengthen the role of volunteer guardians, while the new Greek law on guardianship, adopted in 2018, foresees the establishment of a professional body of guardians managed by EKKA, which will safeguard the care and rights of all UASC in Greece.

### Issue and background

Between 2015 and 2018, some 78,000 UASC arrived in Italy and Greece. As of December 2018, close to 20,000 UASC were believed to be still in those two countries (16,000 in Italy<sup>2</sup> and 4,000 in Greece).

Nether Italian nor Greek national protection systems were prepared for such caseloads. Moreover, this new situation surfaced overall system gaps around guardianship- a critical role of a responsible adult that should help UASC navigate through administrative procedures, including family reunification, age assessment, care arrangements and school enrolment. This role was often played by a single professional guardian or public prosecutor responsible for dozens (sometimes hundreds) of children, resulting in the absence of a case

management approach, dramatic delays in asylum and other procedures, sometimes even conflict of interests.

### Resources required and allocated

In 2018, UNICEF requirement for child protection activities increased to US\$ 3 million in Italy and US\$ 10.9 million in Greece. Although guardianship system strengthening represented a small proportion of the overall child protection budget, fundraising for this element proved particularly challenging. Thematic funding was therefore instrumental in providing guardians to unaccompanied children. Global thematic funds expenditure on guardianship was US\$ 384,583 in Greece, and US\$ 83,028 in Italy.

### Progress and results

In Italy, thematic funds supported the establishment of the Palermo Volunteer Guardians Monitoring and Support Unit- a technical resource centre and a knowledge hub, which provides ongoing support to volunteer guardians. The Unit has also become central in fostering effective linkages between all relevant actors and services that make guardianship successful. The experience has been documented for replication and two new Units were activated in Catania and Messina (Sicily).

In order that activities are sustainable, initiatives have been implemented in close collaboration with local authorities, the municipal and regional Ombudspersons, the social services and the Juvenile Courts.

In 2018, the Unit supported 137 volunteer guardians, who cared for 243 unaccompanied children (mostly boys). Although initial numbers are small, it is estimated that as a result of the next round of training and appointments, in 2019 most UASC in Palermo could benefit from a guardian. Moreover, while an estimated 4,000 volunteer guardians were identified and accredited across Italy, the system still faces challenges in terms of support and monitoring.

<sup>2</sup> According to the Italian Ministry of Social Affairs, as of December 2018, a total of 10,787 UASC were present in reception centres, while another 5,229 were recorded as unaccounted for.

In Greece, a new law on guardianship was passed in mid-2018, following extensive advocacy and technical input from child rights actors including UNICEF. Among other things, the law broadens EKKA's mandate around care for unaccompanied children through the establishment of a new Division on Guardianship, which will oversee the identification, recruitment, training and management of a body of professional guardians for UASC.

In light of the gap in care prior to the new law, UNICEF had invested thematic funds in supporting six members of the Guardianship Network for Unaccompanied Minors (GNUM) in Athens, Thessaloniki and the island of Chios, who cared for 431 unaccompanied children (386 boys and 45 girls) in 2018. The GNUM project was initiated by civil society partners in 2015 to address the rapidly increasing caseload of UASC through prompt identification and registration of newly arrived UASC. They undertook legal safeguarding and case management of UASC, supported their immediate and medium-term needs and identified suitable legal pathways in line with each child's best interests (i.e. foster family placement, family reunification, relocation or asylum in Greece).

### Criticality and value addition

The volunteer guardianship system in Italy has been widely acknowledged at both national and EU level as a promising practice, which is more flexible and less costly than traditional guardianship systems. Moreover, it actively engages local communities, thus facilitating social inclusion.

In Greece, the adoption of the new law on guardianship is a breakthrough. It lays the ground for an improved national child protection system, enhanced national ownership and sustainability, while the interim guardianship system plays a critical role in addressing urgent needs until the new system is fully operational.

### Challenges and lessons learned

Policy shifts and system strengthening, including in EU Member States like Greece and Italy, is often a lengthy process that requires structural changes at

multiple levels. This makes such initiatives difficult to achieve within the annual humanitarian planning cycle and requires a longer-term strategy and support. Moreover, even when there is high-level commitment for scale-up of initiatives, such as the volunteer guardianship in Italy, there are potential risks that require careful consideration- particularly related to capacity for managing, supporting and overseeing a high number of volunteer guardians. Similarly, in Greece, the implementation of the new law will require significant efforts around capacity building, monitoring and coordination.

### Moving forward

UNICEF remains committed to work with national and local authorities, Ombudspersons and civil society to respond to the protection needs of refugee and migrant unaccompanied children in Greece and Italy, and make child protection systems fit for all vulnerable children on their territory. More specifically, in Italy UNICEF will continue to work in close collaboration with the national Ombudsperson and the local authorities in Sicily to integrate the model developed in Palermo into the nation-wide programme for the strengthening of the guardianship system.

## Case Study II. Empowerment through child participation and skills building in Italy

### Top level results

Thanks to the availability of global thematic funds, in 2018 significant strides were made for young migrants and refugees' participation and engagement in Italy, through [U-Report on the Move](#) and UPSHIFT- a flagship entrepreneurial skills-building programme. Available in six different languages, U-report engaged over 1,100 U-Reporters and 27 U-report Ambassadors, while results from polls have informed advocacy and policy efforts at all levels- local, regional and national. U-Reporter's concerns were voiced at high-level fora, allowing to step up advocacy by young migrants and refugees. Meanwhile, UPSHIFT paired 120 refugee/migrant and Italian adolescents, building their collaboration and entrepreneurial skills, with the aim to facilitate their social inclusion and integration into the labour market.

### Issue and background

At the end of 2018, there were some 11,000 unaccompanied children in the Italian reception system- mostly adolescent boys (15-17 years old) - with another 5,200 unaccounted for. Without access to information and appropriate care and protection, they are particularly vulnerable to violence, neglect, abuse and exploitation, including forced labour or sex work. Young people need to be informed of the risks and their rights. They also need to be able to voice their concerns and aspirations to stakeholders, who can respond to their protection and social inclusion needs.

Meaningful engagement and empowerment are also critical to the social inclusion of adolescent refugee and migrant children, as many are close to adulthood and want to work. Essential life and entrepreneurial skills can help these children navigate the complex labour market and avoid falling into exploitation.

### Resources required and allocated

In 2018, UNICEF requirements for participation and skills building in Italy was US\$ 1.1 million, which remained largely under-funded. Thematic funding totalling US\$ 152,692.69 was allocated for U-report on the Move, and another US\$ 70,107.77 for UPSHIFT programmes.

### Progress and results

U-Report on the Move is a user-friendly and cost-effective tool, which allows for real-time monitoring of refugee and migrant children's living conditions and access to services. It helped validate UNICEF and partners' programmatic interventions (e.g. around guardianship and reception conditions) and informed advocacy with national authorities and partners.

Children's voices generated through regular polls were broadly disseminated in the public space, including through monthly newsletters of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy. The platform helped children connect with their peers and learn about their rights. U-report was further expanded to support legal advice and case management through a specific U-Partner platform, generating over 300 messages from U-Reporters on their specific cases. U-report Ambassadors also took part various events, voicing children's concerns and aspirations.

In late 2018 UNICEF also launched a new skills-building programme UPSHIFT with the aim of strengthening entrepreneurship and employability skills for both migrant/refugee and Italian youth from disadvantaged areas. Around 120 students from five secondary schools in Sicily (30 per cent refugee/migrant and 70 per cent Italian adolescents) participated in 11 workshops held in three locations- Palermo, Catania and Naro (Agrigento province). The curriculum for the first phase of UPSHIFT included introduction to key concepts such as SDGs, entrepreneurship and social impact projects, with the aim of developing solutions to problems identified by the community. All 15 projects successfully passed on to Phase II of UPSHIFT, which will be implemented in 2019.

### Criticality and value addition

In the absence of any formal feedback mechanisms from young people, U-report on the Move remains a critical tool for reality check of UNICEF, government and partners' interventions across child protection, education and beyond. It also allows to give voice to some of the most 'invisible' children in Italian society, engage them in a meaningful way and empower them with skills and information that may be critical in preventing risks of violence, abuse and exploitation.

By providing young migrants/refugees and Italian adolescents with much needed XXI century skills, UPSHIFT complements their formal education and professional training paths, supports them in getting ready for their new lives and careers and lays the foundations for more inclusive societies.

### Challenges and lessons learned

Scarcity of funding for the overall response in Italy, combined with ongoing restructuring of the reception system, have posed challenges in recruitment of new U-reporters. Sensitive issues, such as GBV, have remained unaddressed in U-report to date. However, this is an emerging priority.

As for UPSHIFT, retention of students, partly affected by hardening of asylum and migration policies in Italy and related loss of motivation by UASC to move forward with the programme, was a major concern. School commitment and peer-to-peer support also remain critical success factors.

### Moving forward

In 2019, UNICEF is planning a strategic expansion of U-report on the Move nation-wide. Efforts will be stepped to also promote the platform online, and the target group will be broadened to cover youth 16 to 24 years old. In the first half of 2019, UNICEF will run U-report polls to assess UASC's awareness on GBV, share relevant information and address questions around sexual violence, but also sexual and reproductive health.

UPSHIFT will continue to enhance school commitment and capacity through delivery of entrepreneurial skills and career orientation classes for up to 1,000 migrant, refugee and Italian adolescent girls and boys. The 15 social impact projects will move on to the incubation phase which foresees provision of seed funding, prototyping and business plan development through, amongst others, enhancement of peer to peer support and follow-up with reception centres. 2019 budget requirements include US\$ 352,000 for U-report, and US\$ 283,500 for UPSHIFT.



▲ A local Sicilian restaurant owner delivers a presentation at a UNICEF UPSHIFT class in the village of Naro, in Sicily, Italy. © UNICEF/UN0264451/De Luigi VII

## V. Cross-cutting

### Strategic Partnerships

Inter-agency coordination and strong partnerships with governments, the EU and civil society at both regional and country level remain a major priority for UNICEF to streamline programming, strengthen synergies, and develop joint advocacy and communication despite the absence of an inter-agency results framework for the refugee and migrant response in Europe.

UNICEF expanded coordination and collaboration with UNHCR and IOM through formal mechanisms such as the regional Issue-Based Coalition (IBC) for Large Movements of People, Displacement and Resilience and the Regional Inter-Agency Information Management Working Group, as well as informal thematic collaboration in child protection and education. At country level, UNICEF continued playing a leading role in national and sub-national working groups in education, child protection and GBV.

This resulted in enhanced joint programmatic action, knowledge generation, advocacy and communication with the launch of new joint initiatives around care arrangements for UASC, child statelessness and access to education for refugee and migrant children.

UNICEF also focused on strengthening UN and civil society partners' capacity in child protection (case management and provision of psychosocial support for refugee and migrant children), GBV and PSEA, as well as ethical approaches to sensitive data collection and interviews with children. Technical contribution was also provided to the development of the first of its kind global online open-source training course for frontline practitioners on [Children on the Move](#), which is expected to be launched in May 2019- an effort undertaken together with UNHCR, IOM, IFRC, ISS and many other partners.

UNICEF also engaged with the EU and the Council of Europe (CoE), influencing key regional policies and normative tools affecting refugee and migrant children. More specifically, in 2018 UNICEF supported the CoE ad-hoc Committee for the Rights of the Child in developing Europe-wide standards on guardianship and age assessment, and joined efforts with UNHCR to advocate with the EU for [strengthened data on children in migration at EU-level](#) as part of overall efforts to improve their protection.

Furthermore, EU financial and programmatic support through various funding instruments (DG ECHO, DG Justice, DG Home, IPA special measures) was key in addressing some of the most pressing needs of refugee and migrant children in the region, especially in Greece and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

At country level, partnerships with national authorities remained instrumental in creating more inclusive societies through policy and system reform. In 2018, this was particularly visible in the areas of child protection and education.

In Greece, for example, UNICEF engagement with line ministries resulted in the adoption of new laws on guardianship and foster care. In Serbia, UNICEF and UNHCR support to the government led to more child-friendly asylum legislation and procedures. In Germany, the partnership with the Ministry of Family Affairs helped ensure sustainability of the Minimum Protection Standards beyond UNICEF programmatic presence in the country.

National buy-in has also allowed for an increased promotion of alternative care arrangements for UASC, such as Supported Independent Living, small group homes, foster care and temporary safe zones in reception centres. There has also been an important shift towards increased access to quality education for

refugee and migrant children in public schools, through dedicated national strategies, teacher trainings and outreach campaigns.

In the context of increasing scarcity of resources for migration programming in Europe, an important achievement in 2018 was the signature of a UN-to-UN Agency agreement between UNICEF and IOM in Greece, allowing for joint activities to support refugee and migrant children, including unaccompanied, in open accommodation sites and temporary accommodation (such as Safe Zones and Hotels) in Greece. Similar collaboration modalities are being envisaged in other countries.

Engagement with local authorities and Ombudspersons was key to support refugee and migrant children's social inclusion and access to services at community level. Following the formalization of the partnership with the municipalities of Athens and Thessaloniki in Greece, on the occasion of the World Children's Day the local administration hosted a series of creative, interactive activities and educational games, which reached over 300 Greek and refugee/migrant children with information on their rights, the SDGs and safe schools.

As part of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, both municipalities also supported awareness raising about GBV, opening their doors for a GBV-focused art exhibition with artworks from refugee and migrant children and adults, which was viewed by more than 200 people. Partnerships with local authorities will continue to be strengthened to make cities more child-friendly and welcoming.

Within the framework of UNICEF's partnership with the European Commission's Directorate General on Justice and Consumers (DG JUST), a high-level meeting on 'Evidence Generation and Safeguarding the Rights of Children on the Move' took place in Greece towards the end of 2018. It helped convene government authorities, UN Agencies and civil society around the importance of coordination, evidence generation and child rights monitoring for more informed decision making and planning.

In Italy and Germany, the close partnership with UNICEF National Committees continued to be essential particularly in advocating and communicating on refugee and migrant child rights issues in these countries.

## Advocacy and communication

Across all countries, UNICEF played a key role in bringing issues facing refugee and migrant children into both traditional and social media, advocating for policy and legislative changes, identifying good practices and promoting solutions for the enhanced protection of children in migration across Europe.

In view of the increased number of stand-offs at sea and the concerning situation in first reception and identification centres, issues such as access to safe territory and scale-up of durable solutions and basic services were also prioritised in UNICEF advocacy and communication. In response to the increase of child arrivals on Greek islands during the summer of 2018, UNICEF briefed media and called for their speedy transfer to the mainland to make sure children have adequate accommodation, protection, health care and other basic services.

In the aftermath of the adoption of a new Hungarian [legislation](#) criminalizing the provision of basic support to refugee and migrant children and their families, UNICEF highlighted the vital role of civil society in protecting the rights of all children, including the most vulnerable, and [urged](#) EU leaders to take concerted and timely actions to save the lives of refugee and migrant children before they reach Europe, address the uncertainty and insecurity they endure on arrival, and ensure that new measures do not result in child detention for migration control.

UNICEF supported these initiatives through evidence-based advocacy, one example of which is the UNICEF [study](#) *Protected on paper? An analysis of Nordic country responses to asylum-seeking children*, which informed a constructive dialogue with Nordic Governments and national authorities to address remaining gaps in policy implementation, reaffirm commitments to obligations under the CRC and promote good practices on the protection of refugee and migrant UASC.



Documentation of promising practices also supported policy reforms in the areas of guardianship in Italy, alternative care arrangements in Greece and government's commitment to ensure sustainability of Minimum Protection Standards in Germany.

Furthermore, UNICEF mobilised young people, governments and stakeholders around the Global Compacts on Refugees and Migration to trigger commitments for children on the move or otherwise affected by migration. Different initiatives, such as the global thematic workshop on Children and Youth on the Move in Agadir, the global Youth Poll and the Youth Forum in Marrakesh are just a few examples of initiatives supported by UNICEF at country, regional and global levels, empowering young refugees and migrants from Europe, but also other parts of the world, to speak up and ask global leaders to improve access to basic services, recognize diplomas and facilitate safe passage and social inclusions for all children affected by migration, including children left behind and second-generation migrants.

On numerous occasions, including the World Children's Day, the World Refugee Day and the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign, UNICEF and National Committees in Europe organised various public advocacy and awareness raising activities, convening local authorities, civil society organisations and artists around child rights and SDGs, promoting social inclusion and cohesion.



▲ Refugee, migrant and Greek youth participate in play 'The Journey', created in collaboration with the National Theatre of Greece. @UNICEF/Greece2018/NT

## Assessment, monitoring and evaluation

Child rights monitoring and evidence generation remained a critical part of UNICEF work in Europe to inform programmatic responses, advocacy and contingency planning in the region. UNICEF therefore continued to work with national statistical offices, EUROSTAT, United Nations agencies, Ombudspersons and civil society to increase availability of quality data on refugee and migrant children through administrative data systems, research and needs assessments.

The rapidly evolving political situation across the EU, especially in Italy and Hungary, was also closely monitored and analysed to assess implications for the rights of children on the move.

Through the regional inter-agency Information Management Working Group, UNICEF, UNHCR and IOM, [sustained inter-agency data analysis](#) on children on the move and guided joint evidence generation initiatives (including a study on care arrangements for refugee and migrant UASC in Europe and a research on children reaching adulthood in Italy). UNICEF also supported the improvement of regional migration data collection tools such as the IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix as related to children arriving through the Mediterranean.

The regional inter-agency partnership also strengthened country-level coordination and collaboration through a [regional workshop](#) (November 2018), which allowed UNHCR, UNICEF and IOM staff working in Turkey, Greece, Italy, Spain, Bulgaria and the Western Balkans to take stock of information management practices, discuss challenges, identify good practices and define joint priorities for further collaboration in 2019.

In Greece, strategic partnerships on child rights monitoring with the Deputy Ombudswoman for Child Rights and EKKK, among others, led to improved regularity and quality of data analyses and information management products

on refugee and migrant children, as well as faster case management and referral of UASC due to the set-up of a new online national database.

In Bulgaria, continuous partnership with the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee helped identify key bottlenecks in the implementation of new legislation, which outlawed the immigration detention of UASC, and provide critical support to children identified in detention. A similar partnership with the Hungarian Helsinki Committee allowed UNICEF to monitor the situation of refugee and migrant children in Hungary.

To inform programmatic response and advocacy, UNICEF also carried out, in collaboration with partners, needs assessments and operational research in the areas of child protection, GBV prevention and response as well as education. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, this included: an inter-agency child-focused rapid assessment, followed by an assessment of child safeguarding policies and practices in all reception centres, a rapid education needs assessment and a rapid water, sanitation and hygiene assessment.

In parallel, UNICEF continued to monitor its own response through robust humanitarian performance monitoring frameworks capturing results for children against annual targets, formal evaluations of capacity-building activities and documentation of lessons learned and good practices.

The latter includes stock-taking on the volunteer guardianship system in Italy, the implementation of the Minimum Protection Standards in Germany, Supported Independent Living scheme for UASC in Greece, the improved integration of refugee and migrant children in public schools in Serbia, as well as the integration of GBV programming into regular child protection interventions and systems across countries.

In 2018, UNICEF also completed an [independent evaluation](#) of the response to the refugee and migrant crisis in Austria, Germany, Greece, Italy and Slovenia to take stock and draw lessons learned. The outcome of the evaluation informed forthcoming work on migration response to date.

## VI. Financial Analysis

In 2018, efficiency and effectiveness remained a central priority for UNICEF in responding to the needs of refugee and migrant women and children in Europe. Programmatic activities are costlier compared to other regions and funding availability is increasingly scarce.

UNICEF therefore prioritised critical interventions that were not covered by other partners, fostered synergies (e.g. linking formal with non-formal education and integrating GBV into child protection programmes) and increasingly focused on sustainability. This included handing over to national authorities, addressing bottlenecks and investing in system reforms in child protection and education to ensure children and women access government-owned mainstream services.

Value for money strategies also included scaling up capacity-building for national social workers and school teachers, and empowering regional and national Ombudspersons to play a stronger advocacy role in protecting the rights of all vulnerable children, including refugees and migrants. Collaboration with national and local authorities also aimed towards legal and policy reforms, expanded access to services and social inclusion.

Despite strides in improving efficiency and effectiveness of UNICEF programmes, the US\$ 8.6 million funding gap combined with an increasingly challenged political context and reduced influx of refugees and migrants occasionally affected UNICEF's capacity to fully meet its targets in high-income contexts, such as Italy.

**Table 1 · Funding status against the appeal by sector\***

Country/Office	2018 Requirements (US \$)	Funds Received in 2018 (US \$)	Funds Carried over from 2017 (US \$)	% Funding Gap
Countries with children on the move, children stranded, and/or seeking asylum				
Greece	17,940,000	11,032,960	6,567,483	2%
Italy	4,480,000	2,223,632	1,294,960	21%
Serbia	4,050,000	678,335	771,226	64%
Bulgaria	594,000	250,000	125,403	37%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1,040,000	50,000	-	95%
Germany	1,080,000	107,479	545,333	40%
Regional coordination, technical support, and rapid reaction support				
Rapid reaction support (Western Balkans)	1,500,000	43,439	350,000	73%
Regional coordination and technical support	3,500,000	496,913	1,015,890	57%
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,184,000</b>	<b>14,882,758</b>	<b>10,670,295</b>	<b>24%</b>

**Table 2 · Funding received and available by donor and funding type**

Recipient Office	Donor	Grant	Programmable Amount (US \$)
I. Humanitarian Funds received in 2018			
a. Thematic Humanitarian Funds – <i>See details in Table 3</i>			
<b>Total Thematic Humanitarian Funds</b>		<b>SM 189910</b>	<b>2,587,799</b>
b. Non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds			
ECARO, Switzerland	French Committee for UNICEF	SM 180238	57,156
ECARO, Switzerland	Swedish Committee for UNICEF	SM 180022	298,889
ECARO, Switzerland	German Committee for UNICEF	SM 180213	107,479
ECARO, Switzerland	USA (State) BPRM	SM 180413	1,851,852
ECARO, Switzerland	European Commission / ECHO	SM 160578	9,029,753
ECARO, Switzerland	European Commission / EC	SC 181063*	735,495
Serbia	Spanish Committee for UNICEF	SM 180316	214,335
<b>Total Non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds</b>			<b>12,294,959</b>
c. Pooled Funding			
<b>Total Pooled Funding</b>			<b>-</b>
d. Other Types of Humanitarian Funds			
<b>Total Other Types of Humanitarian Funds</b>			<b>-</b>
<b>Total Humanitarian Funds received in 2018 (a+b+c+d)</b>			<b>14,882,758</b>
II. Carry-over of Humanitarian Funds available in 2018			
e. Carry-over of Thematic Humanitarian Funds			
<b>Total carry-over of Thematic Humanitarian Funds</b>		<b>SM 149910</b>	<b>3,821,743</b>
f. Carry-over of Non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds			
ECARO, Switzerland	German Committee for UNICEF	SM 160351	82,370
ECARO, Switzerland	German Committee for UNICEF	SM 170512	462,963
ECARO, Switzerland	European Commission / ECHO	SM 160578	5,065,026

ECARO, Switzerland	USA (State) BPRM	SM 170403	688,742
Serbia	USA (State) BPRM	SM 170403	157,241
Serbia	European Commission / ECHO	SM 170215	283,840
Bulgaria	USA (State) BPRM	SM 170403	108,370
<b>Total carry-over of Non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds</b>			<b>6,848,552</b>
<b>Total carry-over of Humanitarian Funds available in 2018 (e+f)</b>			<b>10,670,295</b>

### III. Other Sources

#### Total Other Sources

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*\*Grant received for Greece in December 2018 are planned for 2019 activities.*

**Table 3 · Thematic humanitarian contributions received in 2018**

Donor	Grant	Programmable Amount (US \$)	Overall Amount (US \$)
Italian National Committee	SM1899100207	2,027,111	2,128,466
Spanish Committee for UNICEF	SM1899100144	20,582	21,611
United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF	SM1899100330	14,845	15,587
United States Fund for UNICEF	SM1899100068	246,667	259,000
Danish Committee for UNICEF	SM1899100236	28,594	30,024
Allocation from global Thematic Humanitarian	SM189910	250,000	250,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,587,799</b>	<b>2,704,688</b>

## VII. Future workplan

In 2019, UNICEF will continue to prioritize the needs of children and women on the move and seeking asylum in Europe. The response will be maintained in key countries of arrival – Greece, Italy and Bulgaria– and transit – Serbia as well as Bosnia and Herzegovina–, where adjustments will be made, drawing on lessons learned regarding the steady influx of children on the move, the slow improvement of reception capacities, as well as challenges in integrating older children into school. Plans to support children arriving in Spain are under review.

In order to achieve its regional targets under the Humanitarian Appeal for Children for 2019, UNICEF will need to raise a total of US\$ 27.5 million, of which US\$ 12.4 million are required for child protection and another US\$ 9.4 million for education activities.

UNICEF will pursue with its two-pronged approach combining humanitarian service delivery with capacity-building, child rights monitoring and policy reform. UNICEF will partner with governments and civil society organizations to adapt to the needs of children in a constantly evolving migration context, while supporting system strengthening to ensure all vulnerable children have access to protection and basic services.

In reception centres and urban areas, UNICEF will offer mental health and psychosocial support, case management, referrals and legal aid. Mothers with young children will benefit from dedicated early childhood development, health, nutrition and vaccination support.

Statutory agencies and civil society organizations will be supported to ensure that UASC are identified on time and provided with the care and protection they need. Specific focus will be paid on the development of community-based alternatives, guardianship and durable solutions.

UNICEF will continue enhancing services for GBV survivors and at-risk women, girls, boys and men through knowledge generation, evidence-based advocacy and capacity development of frontline 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 during the upcoming year. UNICEF and education authorities will speed up refugee and migrant children's enrolment in schools, while non-formal education will offer accelerated learning and address the specific needs of children outside of compulsory school-age.

Participation 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, while contingency partnership agreements in selected countries will facilitate prompt responses to emerging situations. Earlier investments in the human resources roster will permit fast deployments of highly qualified and skilled staff to countries in the region that may require technical support.

At the regional level, UNICEF will foster partnerships with the EU and the Council of Europe to promote child rights compliant policy frameworks in the context of age assessment procedures, reception conditions and durable solutions, including returns.

UNICEF will further enhance collaboration around child rights monitoring and case management capacity, including BIA/BID procedures, across countries and United Nations agencies. The IBC for Large Movements of People, Displacement and Resilience, will play a key role in supporting the

operationalization of the Global Compact for Migration child rights commitments.

Regardless of their migration status, the rights of refugee and migrant children will be further promoted through strategic advocacy efforts at country and regional levels, together with relevant civil society organizations, ombudspersons and governments.



**Greece** – UNICEF will continue focusing on strengthening programmes in the areas of child protection, education and child rights monitoring. Investments will be made to support the operationalization of new legislation, policies, strategies, and standards to enhance the care and protection for UASC, while scaling up multi-sectoral services in Child and Family Support Hubs and GBV prevention and response. UNICEF will continue supporting public education authorities on expanding access to education for refugee and migrant children, while building teachers' capacity and supporting quality learning and retention through complementary non-formal education activities. These efforts will be complemented by interpretation in schools and the establishment of accelerated learning programmes for secondary school-age children. UNICEF will also support knowledge generation, evidence-based advocacy, awareness raising and national data systems strengthening. UNICEF funding requirements for 2019 in Greece amount to US\$ 15,103,232.

**Italy** – UNICEF will work closely with government and civil society partners to improve child protection standards in reception facilities, strengthen the guardianship system and promote alternative care. UNICEF will also promote participation of adolescent refugees and migrants and scale up life skills development opportunities, including through e-learning platforms, to favour their social inclusion. This will be complemented by outreach and case management for the most vulnerable UASC outside the reception system. GBV prevention and response services, with focus on adolescent boys and girls, will

also be prioritised. To meet urgent needs of refugee and migrant children in Italy, UNICEF requires US\$ 3,850,000.

**Bulgaria** – UNICEF will monitor the situation of refugee and migrant children and provide technical assistance towards improved care arrangements for UASC and ending child migration detention. Investments will be made in strengthening the provision of legal assistance, BIA/BID and family reunification procedures. CFS will remain operational, providing child-friendly services, including non-formal education and ECD, while GBV prevention and response services continue expanding. To sustain these activities during the upcoming year, UNICEF requires US\$ 630,000.

**Serbia** – UNICEF will maintain an active role in advocacy, technical assistance and child rights monitoring, supporting government and civil society partners in ensuring child protection and GBV risks are identified and addressed in a timely and effective manner. Oversight and technical support will also be provided in the education, health and nutrition sectors. Strategic emergency partnerships will be maintained to ensure essential services for the most vulnerable and difficult to reach refugee and migrant children and women in critical areas. For this purpose, UNICEF needs USD\$ 1,300,000 in 2019.

**Bosnia and Herzegovina** – UNICEF will further strengthen its child protection, education and health and nutrition responses to ensure refugee and migrant children benefit from quality psychosocial support, case management and protection standards; school-age children go back to school; and infants and small children access health and infant and young child feeding services. UNICEF will also focus on capacity-building for frontline workers and care arrangements and services for UASC. UNICEF funding requirements for the response in Bosnia and Herzegovina elevate to US\$ 4,619,850.

**Germany** – UNICEF will complete initiatives started in 2018 and finalize the roll-out of the Minimum Protection Standards in targeted regions. This will be done through UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia in close collaboration with the German Ministry of Family Affairs, the German National Committee for UNICEF and partner organisations.

## VIII. Expression of thanks

UNICEF's refugee and migrant response would not have been possible without the continuous support of public and private partners throughout 2018. UNICEF wishes to express its gratitude and utmost appreciation to all donors for their critical support, flexible contributions and commitment to protect the most vulnerable children and create more inclusive European societies.

In 2018, flexible emergency funding was key to reach some of the most 'invisible' refugee and migrant children with critical services, strengthen national protection and education systems, and empower authorities and civil society actors to monitor the situation of children in migration.

UNICEF looks forward to continuing working with partners – Member States, the European Union, United Nations agencies, civil society organizations, Child Rights Ombudspersons and National Committees – to ensure every child has their rights protected and fulfilled.



▲ @UNICEF/Greece2018/Solomon Athanatos



# Communication and media outreach

- [How education is helping refugee children continue their dreams in Greece](#)
- [Letters of frustration and hope from Syrian refugee children now in Europe](#)
- [Rasha's passionate plea to be reunited with her son in Germany](#)
- [Interpretation4Education: Getting children back to school with the help of translators](#)
- [Refugee and migrant children create mural to promote unity, peace and friendship in Greece](#)
- [In their words: Children and young refugees living in camps on Greek islands](#)
- [National Theatre of Greece... "The Journey"](#)
- [National Theatre of Greece... "The Journey" GR](#)
- [Refugee and migrant children create mural to promote unity, peace and friendship in Greece](#)
- [How education is helping refugee children to continue to pursue their dreams in Greece](#)
- ["Learning for Integration" project](#)
- [Together, for all children. Aziz, the dreamer | UNICEF](#)
- [Together, for all children. Negar, the creative | UNICEF](#)
- [Together, for all children. Nour, the talented | UNICEF](#)
- [Together, for all children. Samir, the charismatic | UNICEF](#)
- [A headscarf and a photograph as the only precious things](#)
- [Wool dress – the warmest memory](#)
- [Space for children, knowledge and skills for mothers](#)
- [The colourful world of the child friendly space](#)
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- [Freedom, safety and trust in the Women's Centre](#)
- [A headscarf and a photograph as the only precious things](#)

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