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## Abbreviations and acronyms

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<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tr>
<td>ANCI</td>
<td>National Association of Italian Municipalities</td>
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<td>BIA</td>
<td>Best Interests Assessment</td>
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<td>BID</td>
<td>Best Interests Determination</td>
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<td>BPRM</td>
<td>The Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration – United States</td>
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<td>CoE</td>
<td>Council of Europe</td>
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<td>CFSH</td>
<td>Child and Family Support Hubs</td>
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<td>CRC</td>
<td>Convention for the Rights of the Child</td>
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<td>EASO</td>
<td>European Asylum Support Office</td>
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<td>ECARO</td>
<td>UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Regional Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>EKKA</td>
<td>National Centre for Social Solidarity – Greece</td>
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<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>GBV</td>
<td>Gender-Based Violence</td>
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<td>GHTF</td>
<td>Global Humanitarian Thematic Funds</td>
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<td>GSGE</td>
<td>General Secretariat for Gender Equality – Greece</td>
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<td>HAC</td>
<td>Humanitarian Action for Children</td>
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<td>IBC</td>
<td>Issue-Based Coalition</td>
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<td>IOM</td>
<td>International Organization for Migration</td>
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<td>IYCF</td>
<td>Infant and Young Child Feeding</td>
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<td>LGBTI</td>
<td>Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex</td>
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<tr>
<td>LoU</td>
<td>Letter of Understanding</td>
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<td>MHPSS</td>
<td>Mental Health and Psychosocial Support</td>
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<td>MoU</td>
<td>Memorandum of Understanding</td>
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<td>SDGs</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goals</td>
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<td>SIL</td>
<td>Supported Independent Living</td>
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<tr>
<td>SIPROMI</td>
<td>Secondary Reception System for holder of international protection and unaccompanied children</td>
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<td>SMS</td>
<td>Site Management Support</td>
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<td>SOP</td>
<td>Standard Operating Procedures</td>
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<td>PSEA</td>
<td>Protection from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation</td>
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<td>RICs</td>
<td>Reception and Identification Centres</td>
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<td>UASC</td>
<td>Unaccompanied and Separated Children</td>
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<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>United Nations Population Fund</td>
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<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>United Nations Children’s Fund</td>
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<td>WASH</td>
<td>Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene</td>
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More than 25 per cent of the 120,600 refugees and migrants from South Asia, the Middle East, East and West Africa, who reached Europe through the Mediterranean in 2019 were children (some 31,700). This includes over 8,000 children who travelled alone or became separated from their families along the route, while fleeing violence, insecurity and/or lack of opportunities.

Overall, the influx of refugees and migrants arriving through the Central and Western Mediterranean routes continued to decline throughout 2019. However, Greece experienced the highest level of arrivals since 2016, with a total of 74,500 refugees and migrants (over 30 per cent of whom were children).

Despite the continuous onward movements towards northern and western Europe, at the end of the year some 51,200 refugee and migrant children (28 per cent of whom were unaccompanied) remained in need of humanitarian assistance and longer-term social inclusion pathways in Greece, Italy and the Balkans.

During the past year, the European Union (EU) Member States have made noticeable efforts to better respond to the challenges faced by refugee and migrant children through regional asylum and migration policy, and legislative reform. Yet, progress at national level is uneven and serious child rights concerns remain, especially in frontline countries.

For example, only 38 per cent of the 5,463 unaccompanied children in Greece benefit from adequate care arrangements. Without appropriate care and access to protection services, unaccompanied children may end up living in the streets or in other unsafe conditions, where they are at heightened risk of abuse, exploitation, negative coping strategies and even human trafficking. In Italy, 60,000 young people have turned 18 since 2014, thus losing access to the protection entitlements that unaccompanied children have.

Many children experienced traumatising events along their journey and faced poor reception conditions on arrival. They often have limited access to protection, healthcare and education services, and experience discrimination and hostility in host communities. Many girls and boys, especially those travelling alone, either experienced or are at risk of gender-based
violence (GBV) and other forms of abuse and exploitation. Such conditions seriously affect children’s mental health and psychosocial wellbeing, and longer-term development.

In addition to the immediate support and care children need to cope with trauma, stress and ordeal accumulated throughout the journey to and in Europe, they also require longer-term targeted support to foster their social inclusion and be able to contribute to their new societies in the long run.

In 2019, UNICEF continued to support governments in close collaboration with other UN agencies to respond to the needs of children and women on the move and seeking asylum in Greece, Italy, Bulgaria, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia and Germany. In 2019, UNICEF also launched a new response in Montenegro to respond to a spike in refugee and migrant arrivals during the second half of the year.

A total of 32,586 children (9,804 girls and 22,782 boys) benefitted from a comprehensive package of services in Greece, Italy, Bulgaria, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Of them, 19,480 children had improved access to psychosocial support, case management, legal counselling, referral to other services. 24,000 children were enrolled in formal and non-formal education, including early childhood education, and nearly 5,900 adolescents in Greece and Italy benefitted from enhanced participation and empowerment. Some 8,100 GBV survivors and at-risk boys, girls, women and men also accessed GBV prevention and response services.

Across countries, UNICEF was able to further optimize its response and mitigate the impact of funding gaps by investing in capacity building and national ownership of interventions, thus reaching or even exceeding most of its annual targets.

UNICEF supported interventions in child protection, GBV prevention and response, education, skills building, health and nutrition, and participation as part of strengthening national programmes. This allowed to continue bridging the humanitarian-development nexus, contribute to the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and support government commitments with the implementation of the Global Compacts on Migration and for Refugees.

The refugee and migrant situation in the region remains fluid, requiring flexible and agile response to the evolving short and longer-term needs of refugee and migrant children and families.
Since the peak of the refugees and migrant crisis in Europe in 2015-2016, when 1.5 million refugees and migrants from Middle East, South Asia, East and West Africa arrived, UNICEF has been supporting governments and civil society organizations in up to 12 European countries to respond to the needs of some of the most vulnerable children and families escaping conflict, violence and/or lack of opportunities.

While the gradual improvement of national capacities and the overall decreased caseload of refugees and migrants prompted UNICEF to scale down and optimize its humanitarian operations on the ground, 51,200 refugee and migrant children in southern and south-eastern Europe remain in need of humanitarian assistance and social inclusion.

In 2019, more than one in every four refugees and migrants reaching Europe through the Mediterranean was a child (some 31,700 children). This included over 8,000 children who travelled alone or became separated from their families along the route.

While refugee and migrant flows to Italy and Spain continued to decline, Greece experienced the highest level of arrivals since 2016, with a total of 74,500 refugees and migrants (over 30 per cent children) arriving by sea and land. As a result, despite continuous onward movement towards Western and Northern Europe, a total of 51,200 refugee and migrant children (of whom 28 per cent unaccompanied) remain in Greece, Italy and the Balkans.

Migration routes, both to and within Europe, can be particularly dangerous for adolescent girls, especially those who are unaccompanied or separated. They face a unique set of risks related to gender-based violence (GBV), abuse or trafficking in the absence of safe migration options. Nearly all women and adolescent girls who have taken the Central Mediterranean route have reportedly survived some form of sexual violence.

Besides, recent research showed that men and boys are also subjected to high levels of sexual violence during the journey, especially in Libya.

Such traumatising events, often compounded with psychological burden of worries about families left behind in the home country or major uncertainty in countries of destination, seriously affect children’s mental health and psychosocial
wellbeing. Poor reception conditions, loss of supportive social networks, lack of social integration opportunities and experiences of discrimination and hostility in host communities can further worsen their situation.

During the past year, the EU has made noticeable progress in better reflecting the needs and challenges faced by children in asylum and migration policies. The development of a EU guidance for Member States on the best interests of the child in asylum procedures, the capacity building for national authorities on reception conditions for unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), and the revision of the EU regulation on migration and asylum statistics, among others, marked important milestones. However, progress at national level remains uneven and serious child rights concerns remain, especially in frontline countries carrying the greatest burden of the response.

Children, either with their families or unaccompanied, continue to be pushed back and detained in several countries. They are frequently unable to access protection, healthcare and education. They face social exclusion due to limited resources and capacities at national and local levels, discriminatory legislation and growing anti-migrant sentiments.

Refugee and migrant children need immediate support and care to cope with trauma and stress accumulated throughout the journey to and within Europe. They also require longer-term targeted support that fosters their social inclusion and helps them rebuild their lives in countries of destination.

Indeed, out of the 200,000 children who sought international protection across Europe in 2019, the large majority were found in just four countries - Germany (36 per cent), Greece (13 per cent), France (12 per cent) and Spain (11 per cent). They need timely access to international protection or other durable solutions, social assistance and quality care, health and education.

In practice, the type, quality and duration of schooling offered to asylum seeking, refugee and migrant children depend more on where they are in the migrant/asylum process rather than on their educational needs. Children of pre-primary and upper secondary ages (3-5 years and 15+ years) are typically beyond the scope of national legislation on compulsory education and consequently often excluded from school integration programmes.

Refugee and migrant children are twice more likely to be at risk of poverty compared to native-born young people (49 per cent vs. 28 per cent). They also make up 30 to 59 per cent of children in Europe suffering from deprivation.

Access to and utilization of primary health care services by refugees and migrants, including children, is also reportedly significantly lower compared to the native-born population, often as a result of language and cultural barriers, as well as lack of information on entitlements among both service providers and potential users.

The absence of integrated approaches that link health, psychosocial and protection services and the persistent absence of appropriate coordination and communication between relevant authorities in most affected countries has meant that the most vulnerable children (i.e. those who have experienced trafficking, GBV and trauma) cannot access the support they need and are at heightened risk of abuse and exploitation.

UNICEF is committed to continue partnering with and supporting both European institutions and Member States to further advance age and gender-responsive multi-sectoral policies that protect and address the needs and vulnerabilities of accompanied and unaccompanied children, women and youth in a comprehensive manner, and advance their social inclusion through improved access to education, health and social welfare systems, promoting tolerance, diversity and inclusiveness.

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1 Eurostat. Data extracted on 1 February 2020.
2 Eurostat, 2013
3 EU, Feasibility Study for a Child Guarantee, 2019
4 Ibid.
Greece – In 2019, Greece continued to be the primary entry point to Europe for refugees and migrants with nearly 75,000 arrivals, including 25,000 children. This represented an overall increase of over 80 per cent of children (including unaccompanied ones) compared to 2018. Most of them were from Afghanistan (52 per cent), Syria (27 per cent), and Iraq (7 per cent).

An estimated 42,500 refugee and migrant children, including approximately 5,300 unaccompanied or separated ones, were present in Greece as of 31 December 2019 – a 44 per cent increase compared to the same period in 2018. This led to severe overcrowding, especially in Reception and Identification Centres (RICs) on the islands, where conditions were highly inappropriate and services were scarce. As of December 2019, RICs operated at over six times their capacity and hosted close to 11,000 children.

Throughout the year, the Government of Greece continued to make commendable efforts to address the needs of refugees and migrants through the transfer of people from the islands to reception facilities on the mainland; the enrolment of 12,800 refugee and migrant children in formal education; the development of a national strategy for UASC, and the expansion of guardianship and alternative community-based care modalities for this vulnerable group of children.

Yet, the capacity to care and protect this group is largely insufficient. Three out of five unaccompanied children remain out of appropriate care. Accommodation and services for families with children are also insufficient.

Italy – In 2019, some 11,500 refugees and migrants, including 1,680 UASC, arrived in Italy through the Central Mediterranean route. This number is 60 per cent fewer compared to 2018, and a continuation of the overall trend of decreased arrivals during the last two years. The number of UASC in reception facilities also decreased (from 10,787 in 2018 to 6,054 in December 2019), mainly due to children turning 18 years old. In addition, some 5,400 UASC are known to be outside the formal system, lacking basic services. Since 2014, an estimated 60,000 UASC also reached adulthood and have therefore lost their entitlement to care and protection. Furthermore, unaccompanied and separated girls often remain invisible and difficult to reach by service providers. These three groups of young
people are at a particularly high risk of labour and sexual exploitation, trafficking, and involvement into criminal networks.

While Italy has a solid protection legal framework for children, including those who are unaccompanied, the governance of the child protection system is highly fragmented and significant disparities in the quality of services and care among regions persist. Frontline workers often lack capacity to manage complex cases of unaccompanied children who might be victims of violence.

Barely six per cent of the unaccompanied children in Italy were able to access foster care and many face challenges in accessing education and vocational training. Frequently, they lack information on their rights and legal entitlements, which hampers their transition to adulthood.

The adoption of two new immigration and security decrees in 2018-2019 has raised further concerns, as these decrees abolished the right to humanitarian protection and add to the uncertainty facing refugee and migrant to unaccompanied children turning 18 years old and children with families.

**Bulgaria** – In 2019, Bulgarian authorities recorded close to 2,200 refugees and migrants – a 30 per cent decrease compared to 2019. Of these, some 730 were children from Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria. In 2019, the proportion of children arriving alone exceeded 70 per cent (compared to 60 per cent in 2018 and 50 per cent in 2017).

While the Government of Bulgaria has made important progress in improving reception conditions and protection standards for refugee and migrant children, alternative care options for those arriving unaccompanied remain largely insufficient.

There are also gaps in the social workforce’s capacity and cultural mediation skills to respond to the specific needs of refugee and migrant children and families, including addressing trauma and providing legal counselling.

Further investments are also needed to ensure national ownership of services for children in reception facilities, including recreational activities, non-formal education and psychosocial support, and reduce dependence and reliance on civil society organisations.6

**Serbia** – Despite the continuous closure of the Western Balkans migration route since 2016, refugees and migrants continue to cross into Serbia – mainly through Bulgaria, North Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina – using smuggling and trafficking networks. This meant that despite onward movements, on average around 4,000 refugees and migrants were present in Serbia throughout 2019. Of them, one in every four was a child. 2019 saw a steady increase in the number of UASC, with 450 of them being still present in the country as of December.

Thanks to EU financial support, the Government of Serbia continued affirming its strong coordination role at national level and assuming responsibilities for the basic needs of refugees and migrants in reception centres.

Nevertheless, children in such facilities (some of whom have lived in Serbia for over a year) still have limited access to safe spaces to rest and thrive, and receive only irregular mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). Referral to specialized services, including for victims of sexual violence and abuse, is also limited.

The situation of adolescent girls and boys has been particularly challenging, as national capacities to ensure systematic best interests determination (BID), adequate care arrangements and case management for this vulnerable group are still insufficient. Very few were also able to go back to school or access technical or vocational training.7

**Bosnia and Herzegovina** – Some 29,200 refugees and migrants were registered by national authorities while entering the country in 2019 – a 21 per cent increase compared to 2018. Most

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2 Ministry of Interior, Migration Statistics as of 31 Dec. 2019
3 UNHCR Snapshot, Quantitive Annual Achievements 2019
came from Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Morocco, Syria, and Bangladesh.

While many of them have transited and continued their journey towards northern Europe, at the end of 2019 around 7,350 people, including some 540 accompanied and 640 unaccompanied children, remained in the country in need of humanitarian assistance.

All accommodation facilities operated above their capacity and a quarter of refugees and migrants remained outside formal accommodation. This highlighted important gaps in reception capacity, as well as overall protection measures, for both families and UASC.

In a country experiencing internal political, administrative and economic challenges, national authorities continued to face difficulties in effectively coordinating a timely response, relying on UN agencies, civil society organizations and volunteers to fill capacity gaps.

Montenegro – In 2019, national authorities registered over 8,200 refugees and migrants – almost double compared to 2018. Five to ten per cent were children, all of whom travelled with families. Most frequent countries of origin included: Morocco, Syria, Algeria, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

Although the average stay of refugees and migrants in the country is around 15 days, and the Government has made efforts to improve preparedness and response capacity, the situation in Montenegro remains challenging. Main concerns include insufficient availability of appropriate health, nutrition and child protection services, as well as weak coordination mechanisms between line ministries and sectors, financial constraints, insufficient accommodation space and the lack of trained frontline professionals to work with refugee and migrant children and families.

North Macedonia – In 2019, national authorities registered slightly over 1,500 refugees and migrants (mostly from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Iran and Syria), which is half the number of people recorded in 2018. Yet, according to field observations, many travel through irregular routes and transit the country without being registered. The highest presence of refugees and migrants in the country was recorded in December 2019, when nearly 300 people remained stranded due to winter conditions.

Germany – In 2019, Germany registered some 71,400 asylum claims by children, representing 36 per cent of all asylum-seeking children in Europe. Most common nationalities included Syria (38 per cent), Iraq (11 per cent) and Afghanistan (7 per cent). Although the financial burden of asylum seekers on the German State remained high, there was noticeable progress in the social inclusion of refugees, with many of them enrolling in university and integrating the labour market. Furthermore, the update of the Asylum Law in August 2019 marked a milestone for the protection of asylum seekers, with two direct references to the Minimum Standards developed under the National Initiative to protect refugees and migrants living in refugee accommodation centres.

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8 IOM Montenegro data source
In 2019, UNICEF continued to support governments in close collaboration with other UN agencies to respond to the needs of children and women on the move and seeking asylum in Europe. A total of 32,586 children (9,804 girls and 22,782 boys) were reached with a range of services in Greece, Italy, Bulgaria, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Among them, 19,480 children benefitted from improved access to psychosocial support, case management, legal counselling, referral and other protection services. 24,000 children benefitted from improved access to formal and non-formal education, including early childhood education, and nearly 5,900 adolescents in Greece and Italy benefitted from enhanced participation and empowerment. Some 8,100 GBV survivors and at-risk boys, girls, women and men also accessed GBV prevention and response services.

By investing in capacity building and national ownership of interventions, UNICEF was able to further optimize its response and mitigate the impact of funding gaps, thus reaching or exceeding most of its annual targets.

UNICEF maintained regular provision of protection services, with focus on MHPSS for all children, and worked with national authorities and partners to strengthen child protection systems’ capacity to protect and care for UASC on the move. National referral systems were also strengthened to respond to the needs of GBV survivors and at-risk people, while specific activities were rolled out to foster safe disclosure of GBV incidents and empower women and girls to protect themselves and their children.

Throughout the year, education remained an important pillar of UNICEF’s response, where investments were made in building the capacity of local and national education authorities to make schools more inclusive and effectively promote diversity and social inclusion through education. UNICEF also supported e-learning tools and programmes to help children catch up with education programmes and get ready to integrate public schools.

Response activities were further embedded into national development programmes, further bridging the humanitarian-development nexus, and contributing to the fulfillment of the SDGs as well as government commitments to the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Global Compacts on Migration and Refugees.

\(^5\) For more information on UNICEF implementing partners see p. 28.
In response to the increasing caseload of arrivals and associated needs in 2019, UNICEF focused on expanding direct service provision and increasing its technical support to the Government of Greece in the areas of child protection, child rights monitoring and education.

By the end of the year, through its partners, UNICEF ensured continuous provision of child protection, non-formal education, and GBV prevention and response activities in 14 open accommodation centres, urban Athens and Thessaloniki, as well as in proximity of the RIC in Lesbos. Overall, more than 19,500 people, including 15,200 children (5,930 girls and 9,280 boys), benefitted from a continuum of UNICEF-supported care and services in 2019.

In Lesbos, due to increasing demands and dramatic inflows, UNICEF began the expansion of the Child and Family Support Hub (CFSH), ‘Tapuat Centre’, which provides basic services, such as case management and psychosocial support, non-formal education, GBV prevention/response - to children and women from the Moria RIC. Actions were also taken to establish a new CFSH on the island of Samos.

Under a joint UNICEF-International Organization for Migration (IOM) project in open accommodation centres on the mainland, in 2019...
UNICEF piloted a "Child-Friendly Checklist" that served as a useful tool to systematically identify in real time, specific protection gaps affecting children and families. In response to some of the most common needs identified across pilot centres, UNICEF supported the development and delivery of a training for frontline workers and civil society on child protection and safeguarding.

UNICEF also stepped up efforts to protect UASC, who still lacked care and appropriate accommodation. In close collaboration with other UN agencies and local civil society organizations, UNICEF expanded the Supported Independent Living (SIL) scheme which, by December, had the capacity to prepare 96 older adolescents for independent adult life. In coordination with IOM, UNICEF also helped transfer 80 unaccompanied children from the islands to short-term care on the mainland, while working to identify more sustainable solutions.

Additionally, the National Centre for Social Solidarity (EKKA) and the Ministry of Labour received technical assistance to develop relevant secondary legislation, policies, operational plans and national strategies towards the operationalization of the new laws on guardianship and alternative community-based care for UASC.

Through a partnership with the General Secretariat for Family Policy and Gender Equality, UNICEF also strengthened the national referral mechanisms for GBV cases, promoting systematic data collection and analysis of GBV trends, and facilitating joint advocacy with other relevant authorities. Interpretation services for refugee and migrant survivors were maintained throughout the year to improve access to state-run shelters and relevant services.

These efforts were linked with the publication of teen fiction (collection of short stories in four languages), which helped raise awareness about violence against women and girls, as well as the Istanbul Convention (ratified by Greece in 2018), beyond the refugee and migrant response.

To facilitate refugee and migrant children’s social inclusion, UNICEF also made significant investments in the education sector. At the beginning of the new school year in September, UNICEF intensified support to public school enrolment procedures, including reception education classes. UNICEF coordinated with local education authorities to identify spaces for new kindergartens, and facilitated school transportation for children from remote areas.

As a result of UNICEF’s ongoing partnership with the Ministry of Education, some 12,800 refugee and migrant children were enrolled in formal education in 2019. Two rounds of teacher training were also conducted in cooperation with the Institute of Educational Policy and five universities. They were complemented by the development of a new tool kit with experiential learning material for Greek language teachers.

UNICEF also expanded the Akelius digital language learning platform targeting mainly younger children with basic Greek language skills. By the end of 2019, non-formal education classes using the platform’s blended learning approach covered 12 open accommodation centres.

Lessons learned from Greece show how continuous investments into the development of adequate legislation and policies are now resulting into the launch of a national strategy to improve the conditions of unaccompanied children through the establishment of additional community-based care capacity on the mainland, under the leadership of national authorities.

In 2019, UNICEF response in Greece was 77 per cent funded. See more details below:
In 2019, UNICEF continued to support direct provision of humanitarian services in partnership with local authorities and civil society organisations, and build the capacity of key national and local stakeholders. UNICEF focused on the promotion of policy reform and modelling of alternative solutions for the protection and social inclusion of vulnerable refugee and migrant UASC, families with small children and young adults.

In addition, UNICEF stepped up advocacy for the full implementation of the Law 47/2017 for the improved care and protection of refugee and migrant unaccompanied children, and the mitigation of the negative impact of the two recently adopted Decree Laws on Immigration.

Overall, UNICEF reached about 6,150 refugee and migrant children and youth with a range of child protection activities (guardianship, alternative care, legal counselling, case management, referral to specialised services, including GBV prevention and response).

Throughout 2019, UNICEF supported targeted municipalities in southern Italy to improve the protection and care for unaccompanied refugee and migrant children and reached close to 1,400 frontline workers with improved knowledge and skills on child protection, and GBV prevention and response. Additional strides were also made in strengthening the national guardianship system.

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**1,292 (112% of target)**
- of children reached with quality child protection support (MHPSS, legal counselling and case management) and protection standard

**289 (96% of target)**
- of unaccompanied and separated children benefiting from appropriate care arrangements and/or services

**733 (33% of target)**
- of frontline workers and caregivers with improved knowledge and skills on child protection

**574 (230% of target)**
- of GBV survivors and individuals at risk accessing GBV prevention and response services

**660 (189% of target)**
- of frontline workers with improved knowledge and skills on GBV prevention and response

**746 (36% of target)**
- of school-age children, including adolescents, participating in structured non-formal education activities

**390 (78% of target)**
- of school-age children benefitting from a strengthened and more inclusive formal education system

**3,245 (108% of target)**
- of adolescent boys and girls benefitting from enhanced participation and empowerment through U-Report on the Move

*GBV programme targets were overachieved due to the high training needs on the ground and UNICEF’s ability to offer professional categories’ learning credits and to make notable progress in expanding the network of GBV prevention and response services.
UNICEF’s pilot model of the volunteer guardianship support units in municipalities was documented for further dissemination in other regions through the collaboration with the National Ombudsperson for Children and Adolescents, who has taken up national responsibilities on guardianship under Law 47/2017.

UNICEF advocacy for the expansion of foster care for unaccompanied children led to the successful adoption of a Decree, which recognised foster care as an eligible measure for UASC within the Protection System for Beneficiaries of International Protection and Unaccompanied Foreign Children (SIPROIMI). This is expected to facilitate and accelerate the use of foster care modalities for refugee and migrant children over the coming years.

In response to the high number of unaccompanied children outside the formal reception system and the multiple risks facing them, UNICEF maintained outreach capacity to provide immediate care and referral to vulnerable migrants identified in transit and in informal settlements.

To help refugee and migrant adolescents and youth with their social inclusion and equip them with much-needed skills as they enter the labour market, in 2019 UNICEF further expanded skills building interventions, reaching some 1,140 adolescents through innovative entrepreneurial and civic engagement activities.

Nearly 3,250 refugee and migrant adolescents and youth also actively participated through the U-Report platform, which gave them a voice and empowered them with information on their rights, legal entitlements and enhanced protection. In 2019, UNICEF also used U-Report to offer legal counselling, thus addressing the uncertainty faced by refugee and migrant children caused by the adoption of the new Decrees on international protection. It also allowed to scale up youth-led evidence generation and advocacy in support to the social inclusion of all refugee and migrant adolescents and youth.

The engagement with the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Universal Periodic Review process represented important milestones for UNICEF and partners’ advocacy to address the challenges facing refugee and migrant children in Italy at intergovernmental level.

These efforts were further complemented by joint evidence generation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and IOM, which shed light on the situation of children’s transition into adulthood, and highlighted the need for continuous support to some 60,000 refugee and migrant youth who turned 18 since their arrival in Italy in 2014.

A key lesson learned emerging from UNICEF response in Italy in 2019 showed how bringing refugees, migrants and Italian citizens together through skills building and civic engagement initiatives, as well as the volunteer guardians scheme for unaccompanied children, can be a powerful tool to foster cohesion and social inclusion.

In 2019, UNICEF response in Italy was nearly fully funded (99 per cent). See more details below:
In 2019, UNICEF continued to strengthen the child protection system and enhance the capacity of national stakeholders to mainstream the best interests of the child in all procedures.

Between January and August 2019, UNICEF also maintained recreational and non-formal educational activities for asylum-seeking children in 12 safe and child-friendly spaces across three reception facilities in Sofia, as well as one in Harmanli, close to the border with Turkey. This helped fill an important gap in national capacities, allowing 407 children (120 girls and 287 boys) to learn Bulgarian and English, and take part in science, art, music and sports activities. Children’s school readiness gradually increased and as of the fall of 2019, 65 per cent of all school-age children in reception centres were successfully enrolled in Bulgarian public schools.\(^\text{10}\)

Although UNICEF had to discontinue its direct support to recreational and non-formal education services due to lack of funding, civil society partners were able to sustain activities until the end of the year thanks to EU internal funding mechanisms.

Throughout the year, UNICEF ensured continuous monitoring of the situation of UASC in

\(^\text{10}\) Information is relevant for the asylum-seeking children, accommodated at SAR centres.
immigration detention to ensure compliance with the 2018 law banning this practice, as well as the subsequent regulations aimed at enhancing the safeguards for refugee and migrant unaccompanied children within the country.11

As a result, more than 250 children benefitted from free legal counselling, strategic litigation12 and support with family reunification. Furthermore, UNICEF advocacy and support to the Ministry of Interior helped further advance national policies on age assessment and BID, and limit the period of unlawful detention of UASC due to wrong recording of age and family status13.

UNICEF continued investments in the integration of GBV prevention and response activities within the national child protection system through operational mappings of services, capacity-building for practitioners and front-line workers, and awareness-raising campaigns. These efforts resulted in an increased demand for and improved access to social services for GBV survivors and enhanced national capacity to mitigate risks, foster safe disclosure of GBV and refer survivors to specialised care.

Building on experiences from other countries, such as Greece, UNICEF partnered with IOM and UNHCR to develop a joint GBV referral pathway for frontline workers, complementing the internal rules of the Bulgarian State Agency for Refugees.

Lessons learned from UNICEF response in 2019 show that despite a relatively manageable caseload and significant advancements at legal and policy level, operationalizing reforms in the national child protection system require further investments, continuous advocacy and technical assistance to ensure national social services can fully assume their responsibilities for refugee and migrant unaccompanied and other at-risk children.

In 2019, UNICEF response in Bulgaria was 65 per cent funded. All funding available was from USA (State Department BPRM).

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11 Leave to remain - ensuring access to recognised entitlements and services, protection from forced return and resolving the legal situation of unaccompanied children who have not applied for international protection or whose applications have been rejected.

12 As part of their work in immigration detention facilities, UNICEF’s partner the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee is bringing to court cases of unaccompanied children in immigration detention to court to obtain judicial decision for their immediate release.

13 According to the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee, the period of unlawful detention was reduced from more than 3 months in 2016 to an annual average of 9 days in 2019.
Serbia

In 2019, UNICEF progressively handed over most direct service provision activities for refugee and migrant children to relevant national authorities. Overall, a total of 4,800 people, including 3,219 children (988 girls and 2,231 boys) benefitted from a wide range of protection, education and empowerment activities with UNICEF direct and in-direct support.

In terms of direct services delivery, in 2019 UNICEF maintained only a few key strategic interventions in remote and/or particularly challenging areas, where national services were not available or insufficient to meet the needs of children and women on the move.

These included a Mother and Baby Corner for caregivers and their young children in Belgrade, as well as two Women and Girls Safe Spaces, which provided women and their children with a safe space to rest, thrive and disclose potential protection issues. UNICEF also supported the identification and case management for UASC, with specific focus on unaccompanied girls, child victims of sexual violence, and children in weak guardianship arrangements.

UNICEF’s priority in 2019 focused on the provision of technical assistance to the Government and the improvement of inter-

*The higher reach of refugee and migrant children in Serbia is due mainly to the increased onward movement and turn-over of children present in the country, as well as additional resources made available directly to Serbian authorities. Results against GBV targets are the outcome of three year of investments in targeted GBV programing and stronger capacity of service providers to identify and assist survivors and at-risk population.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Achieved</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of children reached with quality child protection support</td>
<td>1,078</td>
<td>(72% of target)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of unaccompanied and separated children benefitting from appropriate care arrangements and/or services</td>
<td>1,144</td>
<td>(191% of target)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of GBV survivors and individuals at risk accessing GBV prevention and response services</td>
<td>1,645</td>
<td>(823% of target)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of frontline workers with improved knowledge and skills on GBV prevention and response</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>(150% of target)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of school-age children benefitting from a strengthened and more inclusive formal education system</td>
<td>459</td>
<td>(92% of target)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of infants and children accessing health and nutrition services, including in mother and baby care centres</td>
<td>408</td>
<td>(163% of target)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of mothers accessing mother and baby care services</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>(163% of target)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of children receiving culturally appropriate basic supplies, including clothes, baby hygiene items, dignity kits for women and girls</td>
<td>1,454</td>
<td>(145% of target)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of mothers accessing mother and baby care services</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>(150% of target)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of frontline workers with improved knowledge and skills on GBV prevention and response</td>
<td>1,884</td>
<td>(150% of target)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
agency coordination to build national capacity to ensure the protection of refugee and migrant children is at the centre of the national response. This included the implementation of comprehensive capacity building programme for national stakeholders, and continuous advocacy to secure EU funds allocation for child protection related issues.

Additional investments were also made to build the capacity of outreach teams and social workers in direct contact with refugee and migrant children and families to apply international good practices and available tools in the areas of child protection, GBV, as well as general cultural orientation and mediation. A total of 79 frontline practitioners took part in trainings organized in close coordination with the Ministry of Social Affairs, IOM, UNHCR, and different municipal centres for social welfare.

UNICEF also supported the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration, as well as all operational civil society partners, to further improve their safeguarding policies and procedures. This represents a cornerstone for the national child protection and mixed migrations systems, as in the long term it will ensure appropriate reporting and investigation procedures to file complaints and protect beneficiaries from abuse and exploitation.

Throughout the year, UNICEF also continued to co-coordinate the Child Protection Working Group together with the Ministry of Social Affairs - the only remaining active forum to discuss and take action on child protection-related issues. In 2019, the Working Group completed a mapping of all services per location, and ensured continuous coordination of trainings, service provision and other relevant activities.

As a result in 2019, national authorities gradually scaled up their child protection competences and fully assumed their coordination role in managing child-friendly and safe spaces for refugee and migrant children and women. However, this long-term sustainability strategy aiming at enhancing the national protection system provided UNICEF with some key lessons learnt for 2020.

This includes the importance of institutionalising capacity building on child protection into accredited pre- and in-service trainings to ensure that all frontline professionals working with refugee and migrant children have the right skills and knowledge over time in a sustainable manner; the significant added value of strong inter-agency collaboration to leverage resources and build sustainability; as well as the criticality of child and youth participation and community mobilisation for foster resilience and social inclusion.

In 2019, UNICEF refugee and migrant response in Serbia was 57 per cent funded. For more details on donors, who funded UNICEF programme in Serbia, see graph below:

![Graph showing funding received by donor]
In response to the rapidly evolving humanitarian situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, UNICEF maintained a strong two-track approach throughout 2019, combining immediate humanitarian assistance and protection to refugee and migrant children, especially UASC, with technical assistance to government authorities at all levels. As a result of UNICEF support, a total of 9,170 people, including 8,182 children (2,436 girls and 5,746 boys) benefitted from a range of critical services in child protection, health, nutrition and education.

During 2019, UNICEF maintained mobile outreach capacity across Una Sana and Sarajevo Cantons, and enhanced the capacity of local centres for social welfare to identify, refer and support UASC. In 2019, a total of 733 UASC were identified in urban areas and 1,750 UASC were assisted with timely appointment of a legal guardian. A total of 2,740 UASC also benefitted from appropriate care and 24/7 services.

UNICEF also ensured continuous support to CFSH with dedicated Mother and Baby Corners in four locations, where children and their caregivers could access psychosocial support, case management, recreational activities, as well as other health and nutrition support, including on

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statistic</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Achieved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of children reached with quality child protection support (MHPSS, legal counselling and case management) and protection standard</td>
<td>8,209</td>
<td>137 % of target</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of unaccompanied and separated children benefitting from appropriate care arrangements and/or services</td>
<td>2,740</td>
<td>110 % of target</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of frontline workers and caregivers with improved knowledge and skills on child protection</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>93 % of target</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of school-age children, including adolescents, participating in structured non-formal education activities</td>
<td>2,183</td>
<td>44 % of target</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of school-age children benefitting from a strengthened and more inclusive formal education system</td>
<td>486</td>
<td>139 % of target</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of formal school teachers trained on at least one key theme on inclusion of refugee and migrant children</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>200 % of target</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of infants and children accessing health and nutrition services, including in mother and baby care centres</td>
<td>2,308</td>
<td>165 % of target</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of mothers accessing mother and baby care services</td>
<td>988</td>
<td>124 % of target</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># infants and young children benefitting from life-saving vaccines</td>
<td>518</td>
<td>86 % of target</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of children receiving culturally appropriate basic supplies, including clothes, baby hygiene items, dignity kits for women and girls</td>
<td>3,456</td>
<td>192 % of target</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Most of UNICEF over-achieved most of its targets due to the high turn-over of refugees and migrants benefitting from services in the country, as well as thanks to the availability of regular resources and internal loan modalities, which allowed to bridge some of the most critical funding gaps.
infant and young child feeding. This was combined with capacity-building for frontline workers from the social welfare system to enhance their knowledge and skills in case management, best interests assessment (BIA), BID and child safeguarding.

UNICEF continued to strengthen partnerships with the Ministry of Education and other relevant authorities to facilitate refugee and migrant children’s access to formal education as part of broader social inclusion measures.

This included support to the development of a national manual on inclusion of children in schools, as well as more detailed school plans, the roll-out of teacher trainings on inclusive education, psychosocial support and other relevant topics, and continuous assistance to assess children’s level of education.

While more than 500 school-age refugee and migrant children were successfully enrolled across seven public schools in Una Sana and Sarajevo Cantons in 2019, this represented less than 20 per cent of the caseload of children in need of education. UNICEF, therefore, expanded quality non-formal education activities for some 2,500 children accommodated in reception facilities. Classes included English and local language courses, mathematics, science, and overall support to school readiness, combined with psychosocial support to help children overcome trauma and distress.

Amid a measles outbreak among the local population in Bosnia and Herzegovina, UNICEF procured over 5,000 doses of measles and other vaccines to ensure refugee and migrant children are protected from vaccine-preventable diseases.

To facilitate timely vaccination of children in reception facilities, a paediatric infirmary was established in Una Sana Canton. A total of 957 children and 940 parents received vaccines and other health checks through this service, while over 600 children also obtained medical certificate, required prior school enrolment.

UNICEF also helped address some of the most critical gaps related to the procurement of basic supplies such as winter clothes, shoes, underwear, blankets and hygiene items for mothers and infants, as well as child-appropriate food, dried fruits and high-energy biscuits for families with children and UASC during outreach activities.

Learning from the response in 2019, inter-agency coordination in Bosnia and Herzegovina should envisage short, mid, and longer-term strategic response planning and joint advocacy to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication of activities and budgetary allocations. This should also include the development of a capacity-building strategy for the social service workforce, as well as frontline professionals, to provide them with the necessary skills to respond to the needs of refugee and migrant children.

In 2019, UNICEF response in Bosnia and Herzegovina was only 29 per cent funded. For more details on donors, who funded UNICEF programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina, see graph below:

![Funding received by donor](image)

Key
- **Global Humanitarian Thematic Funds**
- Non-Thematic Funds from UNICEF National Committees
- EU
- Funding gap
In response to the increased influx of refugees and migrants transiting through Montenegro, during the late summer of 2019 UNICEF initiated a refugee and migrant response within a cooperation framework with the Ministry of Interior and in close coordination with other UN agencies.

To help national authorities identify most effective and efficient measures to protect refugee and migrant children and women in Montenegro, during the last quarter of 2019, UNICEF conducted a rapid multi-sectoral assessment of the needs of refugee and migrant children and families in close coordination with the Ministry of Interior and other national stakeholders. The assessment covered needs and institutional capacities across child protection, including child safeguarding, GBV prevention and response, health, nutrition and education.

Preliminary findings highlighted important challenges in national coordination at both strategic and operational level, gaps in frontline workers’ skills to provide psychosocial support, referral to immunisation and support for survivors of GBV, violence, sexual exploitation and abuse, along with broader issues related to the reception and registration of refugee and migrant children and families.

To address the most pressing needs emerging from the assessment, UNICEF conducted an initial training for a cross-sectoral group of 50 national frontline professionals. Topics included the provision of health and child protection services in line with international standards, the identification and mitigation of child protection risks, as well as the improvement of BID, age assessment and other child safeguarding procedures.

Key lessons learned from UNICEF response in Montenegro relate to the importance of linking the humanitarian response with addressing key gaps in national systems and the inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms, which hamper the government’s ability to respond to the needs of even a small caseload of refugee and migrant children.

UNICEF was able to launch its refugee and migrant response in Montenegro entirely thanks to timely availability of global humanitarian thematic funding, which fully covered funding requirements for 2019.
In 2019, UNICEF further scaled down its response and handed over all service provision activities to partners, notably IOM. Nevertheless, UNICEF continued to provide technical assistance to the Government to address system-related gaps identified during the larger-scale refugee and migrant response in 2015-2017. A contingency plan was also developed in case of a new surge of refugees and migrants to North Macedonia.

During the first half of 2019, UNICEF maintained limited operational capacity through outreach teams to ensure vulnerable children and families on the move have access to information, psychosocial support and basic supplies. Nearly 880 children on the move benefitted from this support.

As part of national system strengthening efforts, a major achievement resulting from UNICEF supported the national authorities in 2019 related to the establishment of family-based alternative care and support services for all children deprived of parental care in the country, which also reflect the specific protection needs of refugee and migrant children.

Key lessons learned from UNICEF experience in North Macedonia relate to the need for the development of longer-term strategies and programmatic interventions to respond to the needs of all children affected by migration (including children left behind by migrating parents), and their full integration into the regular child protection programme.

North Macedonia was not part of UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal in 2019 but had a small amount of carry-forward of Global Humanitarian Thematic Funds which were used to support interventions during the first half of 2019.
In 2019, UNICEF maintained a light footprint in Germany, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Family Affairs and the German National Committee for UNICEF. The focus was on capacity building of frontline workers in different reception facilities, including the so-called ANKER closed centres, where refugee and migrant families with children might be kept upon arrival or prior to return to their countries of origin, as well as open facilities funded by the Ministry of Family under the National Initiative to protect refugees and migrants living in refugee accommodation centres (hereafter, “the Initiative”).

The Family Ministry continued funding protection coordinators in 100 refugee accommodation centres to implement the Minimum Standards, while UNICEF ensured coordination, joint advocacy, capacity-building and exchange between coordinators and other frontline practitioners. This also included coordination of the “buddy system”, which teams up professionals to strengthen their support to one another in planning and delivering services.

Further to the National Initiative, the Bavarian Ministry of Internal Affairs created 16 two-year full-time posts for protection coordinators to develop and implement centre-specific protection concepts in line with federal legal framework and the Minimum Standards. Similar commitments were also made in Hesse and Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania and Thuringia.

UNICEF supported these regions with onboarding of new staff and capacity building to effectively implement the Minimum Protection Standards, developed through the Initiative.

In 2019, over 80 frontline professionals were able to improve their skills and knowledge on protection issues with UNICEF support, benefitting some 4,700 refugees and migrants, including 1,850 children, in reception facilities across Germany.

During the third quarter of 2019, UNICEF also completed the translation from German into English of Annex 3 on Implementation of the Minimum Standards for Refugees and Migrants Suffering from Post-Traumatic Disorders of the Minimum Standards. This can be found soon on www.gewaltschutz-gu.de.

The main lesson learned from the experience in Germany relates to the importance of national and regional commitments to ensure sustainability of gains from the National Initiative, including through appropriate funds allocation and continuous capacity building.

Germany was not part of UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal in 2019. All activities undertaken in 2019 were funded through the generous contributions by UNICEF National Committee for Germany.
Summary programme results 2019

**Child protection**
- 19,480 Children reached with quality child protection support (MHPSS, legal counselling and case management) and protection standard
  - Greece, Italy, Bulgaria, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 5,378 Unaccompanied and separated children benefitting from appropriate care arrangements and/or services
  - Greece, Italy, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 1,756 Forefront workers and caregivers with improved knowledge and skills on child protection
  - Greece, Italy, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 8,096 School-age children, including adolescents, participating in structured non-formal education activities
  - Greece, Italy, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro
- 1,303 School-age children benefitting from enhanced participation and empowerment through U-Report on the Move
  - Greece, Italy, Bulgaria, Serbia

**Gender-based violence**
- 8,970 Frontline workers with improved knowledge and skills on GBV prevention and response
  - Greece, Italy, Bulgaria, Serbia
- 14,135 Women and girls benefiting from enhanced participation in political processes and policy making
  - Greece, Italy, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 904 Mothers accessing mother and baby care services
  - Greece
- 1,276 Forefront workers with improved knowledge and skills on GBV prevention and response
  - Greece, Bulgaria
- 3,649 Infants and young children benefitting from life-saving vaccines
  - Greece, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 4,910 Children receiving culturally appropriate basic supplies, including clothes, baby hygiene items, dignity kits for women and girls
  - Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 2,613 Infants and children accessing health and nutrition services, including in mother and baby care centres
  - Greece
- 518 Adolescent boys and girls participating in skills development programmes for learning, personal empowerment, active citizenship and/or employability
  - Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Education**
- 8,970 Frontline workers with improved knowledge and skills on GBV prevention and response
  - Greece, Italy, Bulgaria, Serbia
- 14,135 School-age children participating in structured non-formal education activities
  - Greece, Italy, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 904 Formal school teachers trained on at least one key theme on inclusion of refugee and migrant children
  - Greece, Bulgaria
- 1,276 School-age children benefitting from enhanced participation and empowerment through U-Report on the Move
  - Greece, Bulgaria
- 3,649 Infants and young children benefitting from life-saving vaccines
  - Greece, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 4,910 Children receiving culturally appropriate basic supplies, including clothes, baby hygiene items, dignity kits for women and girls
  - Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 2,613 Infants and children accessing health and nutrition services, including in mother and baby care centres
  - Greece
- 518 Adolescent boys and girls participating in skills development programmes for learning, personal empowerment, active citizenship and/or employability
  - Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Health and nutrition**
- 8,970 Children benefitting from early childhood education activities
  - Greece, Italy, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 3,649 School-age children, including adolescents, participating in structured non-formal education activities
  - Greece, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 2,488 School-age children benefitting from a strengthened and more inclusive formal education system
  - Greece, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 518 Infants and children accessing health and nutrition services, including in mother and baby care centres
  - Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 4,910 Mothers accessing mother and baby care services
  - Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 2,613 Infants and young children benefitting from life-saving vaccines
  - Children receiving culturally appropriate basic supplies, including clothes, baby hygiene items, dignity kits for women and girls
- 518 Adolescent boys and girls participating in skills development programmes for learning, personal empowerment, active citizenship and/or employability
  - Adolescents boys and girls benefitting from enhanced participation and empowerment through U-Report on the Move

For more information on UNICEF implementing partners see p. 27.
### UNICEF Refugee and Migrant Response Partners in Europe

**Updated December 2019**

#### Child protection and/or GBV prevention and response
- **Greece**: Iliaktida, Melissa, Merimna, METAdrasi, Solidarity Now, Syneirmos, KETHI, CRWI DIOTIMA, Melissa Network
- **Bulgaria**: Bulgarian Helsinki Committee, Animus Association Foundation, Mission Wings Foundation, Alliance Protection from Gender-Based Violence, Council of Refugee Women in Bulgaria
- **Italy**: Médecins du Monde, Intersos, CNCA, Centro Penc, Refugees Welcome
- **Serbia**: Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy,
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina**: Save the Children, World Vision, SOS Children’s Villages, Danish Refugee Council, Zene sa Une, Centres for Social Welfare in Bihac, Cazin, Velika Kladusa, Klijuc, and Hadzici
- **Montenegro**: Ministries for Social Welfare, Education and Health
- **North Macedonia**: Red Cross of The Republic of North Macedonia

#### Education
- **Greece**: National Centre for Social Solidarity, Deputy Ombudsperson for Children’s Right, Ministry of Education, Municipality of Athens, Municipality of Thessaloniki
- **Bulgaria**: Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy,
- **Italy**: Ministry of Interior, local authorities, national and local Ombudspersons
- **Montenegro**: Ministries for Social Welfare, Education and Health
- **Germany**: Stiftung Sozialpaedagogisches Institut ‘Walter May’ (SPI)

#### Health and nutrition
- **Greece**: National Centre for Social Solidarity, Deputy Ombudsperson for Children’s Right, Ministry of Education, Municipality of Athens, Municipality of Thessaloniki
- **Bulgaria**: Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy,
- **Italy**: Ministry of Interior, local authorities, national and local Ombudspersons
- **Germany**: Ministry of Family Affairs

#### Basic supplies
- **Greece**: National Centre for Social Solidarity, Deputy Ombudsperson for Children’s Right, Ministry of Education, Municipality of Athens, Municipality of Thessaloniki
- **Bulgaria**: Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy,
- **Montenegro**: Ministries for Social Welfare, Education and Health
- **Germany**: Stiftung Sozialpaedagogisches Institut ‘Walter May’ (SPI)

#### Technical assistance
- **Greece**: National Centre for Social Solidarity, Deputy Ombudsperson for Children’s Right, Ministry of Education, Municipality of Athens, Municipality of Thessaloniki
- **Bulgaria**: Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy,
- **Montenegro**: Ministries for Social Welfare, Education and Health
- **Germany**: Stiftung Sozialpaedagogisches Institut ‘Walter May’ (SPI)
IV. Results achieved from humanitarian thematic funding

In 2019, flexible thematic funds from UNICEF National Committees in Italy, France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, as well as Global Humanitarian Thematic Funds donors, were an important added value to UNICEF refugee and migrant response in high- and middle-income European context, where they helped link service provision with longer-term national child protection and education system strengthening. Overall, they helped reach nearly 4,100 children (13 per cent of all children reached) with protection, education and health services, as well as warm winter clothes and other basic supplies in Greece, Italy, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Out of the $29.5 million Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) Appeal for 2019, UNICEF received 70 per cent, or a total of $20.6 million (including both newly received humanitarian and non-humanitarian funds and carry-over from 2018). This included $2.4 million (12 per cent) of humanitarian thematic funds. The flexibility of these funds enabled UNICEF to complement and timely adapt responses to the situation of refugee and migrant children across five countries in Europe – Greece, Italy, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro – most notably in child protection, education and child rights monitoring.

In Greece, thematic funds allowed UNICEF to continue providing critical technical support to municipalities of Athens and Thessaloniki, as well as the Ministry of Education to further efforts in enrolling refugee and migrant children in Greek public schools. Key achievements included strengthening the capacity of the Refugee Education Coordinators in Open Accommodation Sites and training educators and volunteers within the Cities Integration Network on teaching refugee and migrant children Greek and English as part of municipal education programmes in Thessaloniki, Karditsa, and Trikala. These funds also allowed for the production of education, communication, and awareness raising materials linked to education, as well as a new child-friendly publication by the Deputy Ombudswoman for Children aiming to raise awareness in schools about children’s rights and the challenges faced by children on the move.

In Italy, thematic funds constituted 77 per cent of all funds available. They were instrumental in implementing the entire child protection programme, directly benefitting over 1,290 children with quality child protection support (MHPSS, legal counselling and case management) and protection standard. Thematic funds also allowed a total of 289 UASC to access
community-based care, including foster care, and/or benefit from timely appointment of trained volunteer guardians. More than 730 frontline professionals, including guardians and caregivers were also equipped with knowledge and skills on child protection. Finally, thematic funds made a tremendous contribution to the scale-up of the U-Report on the Move platform, which by the end of 2019 counted a total of 3,245 users. Adolescent boys and girls were engaged in a meaningful way to tell their stories, empowered with information on their rights and options, and/or supported with legal counselling.

In Serbia, thematic funds allowed to provide some 400 children (0-14 years old) with winter clothes to protect them from the harsh weather conditions, and maintain child rights monitoring through field monitoring missions and secondary data review from administrative sources and research to better adapt UNICEF programmes.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina thematic funds represented over 70 per cent of funding available, making a critical contribution across child protection, education, health and nutrition and WASH amidst an important funding gap (69 per cent). More specifically, these flexible funds helped ensure continuous outreach to children at risk, including UASC outside reception facilities, improve child protection standards for some 2,700 UASC in temporary reception centres, and strengthen existing Referral Pathways for the Protection of Children on the Move in Una Sana, Sarajevo, and Herzegovina-Neretva Canton, indirectly benefitting some 4,700 children. These funds also allowed a total of 486 children to successfully integrate classrooms across six primary schools in Una Sana and Sarajevo Cantons, while also ensuring another 2,200 children (35 per cent girls and 65 per cent boys) in reception facilities have regular access to quality non-formal education. Thanks to thematic funds, some 1,000 children in Una-Sana Canton were also able to receive warm winter clothes and access pediatric services, including general health check-ups, as well as immunization and infant and young child feeding counselling.

In Montenegro, all activities undertaken in 2019 were possible thanks to the availability of global thematic funding. This included a first training for some 50 frontline professionals on child protection (including Protection from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (PSEA) and GBV) and health needs, and the completion of a multi-sectoral needs assessment on the ground.

In North Macedonia, thematic funds allowed for the gradual absorption from emergency to longer-term development programming, ensuring an effective, integrated and ethical response to the needs of refugee and migrant children in the areas of protection and education.

At the regional level, thematic funds were instrumental in ensuring continuous child rights monitoring in collaboration with UNHCR, IOM and other relevant partners. Concrete outputs included the compilation of regional factsheets on the situation of refugee and migrant children in Europe, a regional brief on access to education, as well as a regional research on care arrangements for UASC.
Criticality and value addition

Foster care and community-based care is critical for the effective protection of children without parental care from violence, abuse and exploitation, ensuring their right to grow in a family environment and better prepare them for their independent life. The expansion of such services to refugee and migrant unaccompanied children is equally critical as it means children can recover from the trauma and stress accumulated along the migration routes and integrate into their new communities more effectively.

Top level results

Global thematic funds were crucial in advancing the child protection agenda for refugee and migrant children in Italy. More specifically, they have been instrumental in strengthening the national foster care system to include refugee and migrant unaccompanied children. During 2019, more than 1,000 potential foster parents were reached with awareness raising to foster social inclusion, while 400 parents and social workers were trained on protection and foster care services for refugee and migrant children. As a result of multi-sectoral efforts, 11 unaccompanied children were successfully placed in foster families and benefitted from continuous support and monitoring. Though limited, this result represents an important breakthrough with potential for national scale-up in 2020.

Issue and background

Since 2014 more than 70,000 UASC arrived in Italy from West, East and North Africa, as well as South-East Europe. While some 60,000 have since reached adulthood, as of December 2019, 6,400 UASC were still hosted in reception facilities in Italy (94 per cent boys and 6 per cent girls).

Barely six per cent of UASC who arrived in Italy since 2014 have been able to access foster care, and best practices in terms of community-based care remain limited and project-based. The foster care system for unaccompanied children in Italy is particularly complex due to numerous institutional actors involved, including the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, the Municipal Social Services and the Juvenile Courts.

While some UASC in reception centres demonstrate resilience and strong motivation, many face emotional difficulties and feelings of
apathy, anxiety, frustration and disconnectedness. These difficulties are further exacerbated by their long stay in the reception centres and lack of social inclusion opportunities.

Resources required and allocated

In 2019, UNICEF requirement for child protection activities in Italy, namely alternative care solutions for unaccompanied children, amounted at $2 million, of which requirements for foster care amounted at $112,000. Fundraising for implementation and the scale-up of foster care proved particularly challenging and thematic funds were therefore instrumental in providing unaccompanied children with family-based care.

Progress and results

In Italy, thematic funds supported the implementation of the foster care programme for unaccompanied children hosted in the reception centres in Palermo and placed in foster families in two northern regions, Lombardia and Veneto. This included the deployment of a support network to facilitate communication between foster families, unaccompanied children and social services.

Thematic funds also allowed for the development of first-ever national Standard Operating Procedures, endorsed by a Steering Committee composed by representatives from the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, National Authority for Childhood and Adolescence, SIPROIMI, National Association of Italian Municipalities (ANCI) and the Italian Association of Family and Child Judges. They defined the process of including unaccompanied children in the current foster care system, defined roles and responsibilities of all actors involved, and outlined the cost and follow-up support required by both children and families. The experience is now being documented to inform the scale up of the foster care programme.

Challenges and lessons learned

The implementation of the foster care reform for unaccompanied children in Italy requires a multi-level and multi-sectoral approach. Indeed, the governance of the national child protection system is highly fragmented and social services are frequently overwhelmed due to insufficient financial, human and technical resources. Foster care for refugee and migrant unaccompanied children should be embedded in the SIPROIMI reception system to be sustainable. This is the only way Municipalities can access EU funding and leverage additional human resources to support the families and children, including those turned 18.

The experience with the support network for foster families, unaccompanied children and social services showed that support should be extended to adolescents and youth up to the age of 21 in certain cases. The programme also highlighted the need to strengthen the capacity of families with social, psychological or pedagogical skills, to help them cope with cultural diversity, complex legal procedures and psychosocial distress faced by survivors of torture or GBV.

Moving forward

In 2020, UNICEF will focus on the implementation of a joint strategy with the Ministry of Interior and SIPROIMI/ANCI to provide technical support to municipalities on how to promote the foster care, find available foster families and implement the programme in coordination with other stakeholders. This will include continuous monitoring and follow-up support to unaccompanied children and foster families. Support will be provided both in person and online, through the development of dedicated e-learning tools for municipalities.
Criticality and value addition

Social services play a key role in ensuring a protective environment for all vulnerable children in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including refugees and migrants. Strengthening their knowledge and skills in the areas of guardianship, case management and referral of child protection incidences, is therefore expected to benefit not only children on the move but also other vulnerable children in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Top level results

Global thematic funds were crucial in advancing the child protection agenda for refugee and migrant children in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In 2019, they helped build frontline professionals’ capacity, improve child protection standards for some 2,700 UASC (all boys) in five temporary reception centres, and ensured another 1,751 children benefit from timely appointment of legal guardians. While field professionals provide 24/7 care and protection including access to services, legal guardians play a crucial role in children’s legal representation in asylum and migration procedures.

Issue and background

Despite the significant progress in improving the national reception system in Bosnia and Herzegovina, children on the move continue to face heightened risks of violence and abuse. At the end of 2019, more than half of the 1,000 refugee and migrant children remaining in Bosnia and Herzegovina were unaccompanied or separated (primarily boys). National authorities responsible for their identification, registration, referral and care have been overstretched, resulting in many children remaining outside care, and experiencing inadequate age assessment, delays in assigning legal guardians, and inadequate case management of identified unaccompanied children.

Resources required and allocated

Due to increased influx of unaccompanied children in 2019, UNICEF requirements for child protection activities increased to $3 million. Although capacity-building and technical assistance on child protection for national authorities and local social workforce represented only two per cent of the overall child protection requirements, mobilizing resources for this specific piece of work proved particularly challenging. Thematic funds were therefore instrumental in filling this critical gap and ensuring that social workers have improved skills and knowledge on child protection in emergencies, and that referral mechanisms and
Protection standards are in place in all locations experiencing refugee and migrant flows.

**Progress and results**

Thanks to thematic funds, in 2019 UNICEF in coordination with local authorities supported the establishment of child protection referral pathways across three cantons (Mostar, Sarajevo, Una-Sana) and reached 280 social workers and other frontline professionals with capacity-building on child protection to ensure improved guardianship, case management, BIA and BID, psychosocial first aid, child safeguarding and appropriate referral of cases of violence, abuse and exploitation to relevant support services. This contributed to strengthening child protection standards across all three cantons, benefitting some 2,700 UASC.

**Challenges and lessons learned**

Due to the emergency nature of the national response, there is little Government commitment to introduce changes in the child protection system to better respond to the needs of refugee and migrant unaccompanied children. Furthermore, national response budget allocations focus primarily on the provision of shelter, food and security. This rarely includes child protection, and even less so capacity-building for frontline workers interacting with UASC. This means there is a need for a stronger nexus between the humanitarian response and country development programme, to ensure that policy dialogue and technical support benefit all vulnerable children in Bosnia and Herzegovina, regardless of their migration status.

**Moving forward**

UNICEF with partners will continue to support guardians and provide in-service child protection training to address critical gaps in the national child protection system. Further investments will also be made for the amendment of relevant regulatory frameworks in the area of child protection that will help improve the care and protection of all vulnerable children in the short, medium and long term.
At both country and regional level, UNICEF continued to strengthen synergies and complementarity with national authorities, UN Agencies and civil society to improve the protection and social inclusion of refugee and migrant children.

Through regional networks, such as the Issue-Based Coalition (IBC) for Large Movements of People, Displacement and Resilience and the Regional Inter-Agency Information Management Working Group, as well as national thematic working groups, UNICEF was able to foster joint programmatic actions, knowledge generation, advocacy and communication with governments and partners across child protection, GBV prevention and response, education and child rights monitoring.

At the national level, UNICEF strengthened cooperation with relevant ministries, specialised state agencies and municipalities (e.g., Palermo in Italy, Athens and Thessaloniki in Greece) with the aim of expanding the availability of services and strengthen national policies and practices to better integrate refugee and migrant children into national protection and education systems. Efforts focused on the development and/or expansion of national referral pathways for GBV survivors and at-risk populations, and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the protection of UASC. Additional investments were also made to build the capacity of local social workers and school teachers on inclusive education, psychosocial support, and other relevant topics.

The collaboration with UN Agencies, including UNHCR and IOM, in 2019 remained pivotal. It helped generate evidence, amplify advocacy efforts and leverage resources for refugee and migrant children on the ground. More concretely, it resulted in the signature of a regional Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IOM, a Letter of Understanding (LoU) with UNHCR to support UASC on the move in Spain, three new UN to UN partnership agreements in Greece to cover critical needs on both mainland Greece and Lesbos island; the roll-out a UNICEF-United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) skills building programme for adolescents in Italy; and the establishment of safe zones for UASC and the development of a national methodology on age assessment in Bulgaria.

UNICEF also engaged with the EU and other regional organisations to influence key regional policies and normative frameworks affecting refugee and migrant children. More specifically, UNICEF contributed to European Asylum Support Office (EASO)-led policy dialogue on age assessment and technical efforts to strengthen GBV risks mitigation and improve reception conditions for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons. UNICEF also contributed to the Council of Europe’s (CoE’s) compilation of promising practices to promote alternatives to detention and child-friendly approaches in the area of migration.
At both regional and country level, UNICEF continued to use traditional and social media, as well as other strategic engagement forums to generate public attention on the situation of refugee and migrant children in vulnerable situations, promote social inclusion and advocate for policy and legislative reforms to advance the rights of refugee and migrant children and reaffirm commitments to obligations under the CRC.

UNICEF backed its advocacy with evidence and fostered the promotion of promising practices for the protection of refugee and migrant children in the European context, including on the Palermo Model of Volunteer Guardianship in Italy, the independent living model for older unaccompanied adolescents in Greece, as well as the integration of refugee and migrant children into the public education system in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, captured in the CoE’s publications, “Promoting child-friendly approaches in the area of migration - Standards, guidance and current practices” and the “Action for Refugee Children” showcased at the Global Refugee Forum.

Key advocacy opportunities included sessions of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Universal Periodic Review processes (for Italy), the 141st Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (Belgrade, Serbia), the National Conference on Foster Care in Greece, as well as key commemoration days such as the World Refugee Day, World Children’s Day, International Day of Education, World Radio Day and the International Day of the Girl Child. They allowed to convene the general public, local authorities, technical experts and civil society around specific child rights issues affecting refugee and migrant children and promote social inclusion and cohesion.

On the occasion of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence and to commemorate the International Day Against Violence on Women and Human Rights Day, UNICEF issued a video, featuring girls on the move in Greece, Italy, Bulgaria and Serbia, as well as “The World Anew” - a collection of stories in four languages to raise awareness among young people on how to prevent and combat GBV.

To mark the CRC@30 anniversary, UNICEF supported a lighting ceremony on the hill of the Acropolis, under the auspices of the Greek Ministry of Culture and the City of Athens. The event brought together the Greek Government, partners and children to celebrate the Parthenon, illuminated in UNICEF blue for the first time in history. In Italy, to mark 30 years since the signing of the CRC, U-Reporters met with the President of the Italian Republic, Sergio Mattarella, and children took over the Italian parliament.
Throughout 2019, UNICEF continued to monitor the situation of refugee and migrant children across Europe to inform and adapt its programmatic responses, advocacy and contingency planning at both country and regional level. In doing so, UNICEF also mobilized strategic partners such as UN Agencies, EU institutions, Ombudspersons and civil society in Greece, Italy, Bulgaria, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro to enhance and sustain availability of quality data on refugee and migrant children through administrative data systems, research and inter-agency assessments on child protection, GBV prevention and response, education, and health and nutrition.

In Greece, UNICEF was also an active member of the inter-agency monitoring committee for the Site Management Support (SMS) project in open accommodation centres on the mainland, and together with IOM developed a set of monitoring and reporting tools and frameworks to assist in the implementation of the programme and assess protection standards in accommodation facilities across the country.

At the regional level, UNICEF actively engaged in the Regional Inter-Agency Information Management Working Group, sustaining joint evidence generation on the situation of refugee and migrant children, enhancing knowledge on refugee and migrant children’s access to education, and strengthening national inter-agency collaboration and capacity on protection-related data analysis.

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.

UNICEF also strengthened regional preparedness efforts through the set-up of a regional risk monitoring framework and the development of country-specific contingency plans in Greece, Bulgaria and Croatia, outlining criteria and response in case of a dramatic increase in arrivals.
In 2019, UNICEF raised $20.6 million (70 per cent) against its $29.5 million Refugee and Migrant HAC Appeal.

Throughout 2019, UNICEF continued to enhance cost-efficiency and effectiveness in responding to the needs of refugee and migrant children and women across European countries, especially in situations where funding availability remained scarce.

Further strategic investments were made in interventions with strong focus on sustainability, building national capacities and strengthening national protection and education systems to ensure children and women can access government-owned mainstream services, accelerating their social inclusion. UNICEF also advocated for further Government involvement and empowerment in managing the national responses, including through advocacy for funds allocation directly benefitting national authorities. In Serbia, for example, UNICEF leveraged $2.5 million through EU funding mechanisms for refugee and migrant children’s needs, which directly benefitted Serbian authorities.

Wherever UNICEF sustained direct service provision, this was done in consultation with national authorities and other partners on the ground to avoid duplication.

UNICEF also carefully selected its implementing partners, focusing on strategic partnerships with well-established civil society organizations with extensive expertise, experience and resources to maximise the investment for children. In Italy, for example, UNICEF implemented its skills building programme in partnership with Junior Achievement - the world’s largest organization delivering financial literacy, work readiness and entrepreneurship skills reaching over 10 million children a year in more than 100 countries.

This allowed UNICEF to meet most of its annual targets, despite the challenging operational context and the $10 million overall funding gap, which particularly affected Bulgaria, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.
## Table 1 · Funding status against the appeal by country

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country/Office</th>
<th>2019 Requirements (US $)</th>
<th>Funds Available against Appeal as of 31 December</th>
<th>2019 Funds Received 2019 (US $)</th>
<th>Carry-Over (US $)</th>
<th>% Funding Gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Countries with children on the move</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>16,838,232</td>
<td>9,187,552</td>
<td>952,449</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>3,850,000</td>
<td>553,097</td>
<td>950,092</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>630,000</td>
<td>194,400</td>
<td>212,323</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serbia</td>
<td>1,300,000</td>
<td>393,120</td>
<td>343,961</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bosnia-Herzegovina</td>
<td>4,850,000</td>
<td>709,328</td>
<td>45,331</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montenegro</td>
<td>42,269</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Regional support</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contingency partnership agreements*</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
<td>773,020</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deployment of technical expertise and coordination</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>176,000</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>29,510,501</td>
<td>6,684,752</td>
<td>10,449,977</td>
<td>3,453,176</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Including USD 23,918 carry over for response in North Macedonia

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recipient Office</th>
<th>Donor</th>
<th>Grant</th>
<th>Overall Amount (US $)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>I. Humanitarian Funds received in 2019</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Thematic Humanitarian Funds – See details in Table 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Thematic Humanitarian Funds</td>
<td>SM 189910</td>
<td>2,836,413</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
<td>Spanish Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>SM 190395</td>
<td>219,780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECARO, Switzerland</td>
<td>French Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>SM 190378</td>
<td>110,619</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECARO, Switzerland</td>
<td>Swedish Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>SM 180022</td>
<td>1,150,239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECARO, Switzerland</td>
<td>United States Fund for UNICEF</td>
<td>SM 190296</td>
<td>259,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECARO, Switzerland</td>
<td>USA (State) BPRM</td>
<td>SM 190401</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECARO, Switzerland</td>
<td>UNHCR HQ</td>
<td>SM 190557</td>
<td>108,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3,848,339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>c. Pooled Funding</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>d. Other Types of Humanitarian Funds</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Other Types of Humanitarian Funds</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Humanitarian Funds received in 2019 (a+b+c+d)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6,684,752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>II. Carry-over of Humanitarian Funds available in 2019</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Carry-over of Thematic Humanitarian Funds</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 3 - Thematic humanitarian contributions received in 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donor</th>
<th>Grant</th>
<th>Programmable Amount (US $)</th>
<th>Overall Amount (US $)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Italian National Committee</td>
<td>SM1899100207</td>
<td>1,600,531</td>
<td>1,680,557</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>SM1899100642</td>
<td>263,380</td>
<td>276,549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>SM1899100667</td>
<td>104,199</td>
<td>109,409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>SM1899100144</td>
<td>15,926</td>
<td>16,722</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>SM1899100330</td>
<td>29,322</td>
<td>30,788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Thematic Humanitarian</td>
<td>SM189910</td>
<td>650,000</td>
<td>650,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,732,299</td>
<td>2,836,413</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In 2020, UNICEF will continue to support national reception, child protection, education and health systems to respond to the immediate and longer-term needs of refugee and migrant boys, girls and women in six European countries – Greece, Italy, Bulgaria, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro.

To achieve regional targets and ensure sustainability of gains at system level, UNICEF Humanitarian Appeal for Children for 2020-2021 is calling for $53.21 million, including $27.32 million for 2020 and $25.89 million for 2021. Most significant needs for 2020 are in child protection ($11.3 million), education ($7.1 million), GBV prevention and response ($2.3 million) and health and nutrition ($1.5 million).

This funding will allow UNICEF to sustain critical services while further optimizing sectoral responses, addressing major gaps in national approaches and building local capacity to avoid refugee and migrant boys and girls risk fall through the cracks of national systems and end up in the hands of criminals and traffickers.

UNICEF will further streamline its response, in close collaboration with national and local authorities and civil society organizations. This will ensure an integrated approach, which addresses the needs for protection and basic services of all vulnerable children, and fosters tolerance, diversity and social cohesion in above-mentioned countries.

UNICEF will support governments to align their national policies with regional and international norms and remove barriers to refugee and migrant children's access to public health, education, protection and social welfare services.

Social workers and other frontline personnel will be trained to identify and mitigate risks associated with health and protection, accompany children and caregivers through asylum and other relevant procedures, and ensure timely referrals to specialized services.

Teachers will be assisted to strengthen their approaches to intercultural education, teaching in a foreign language and life-skills education.

Direct service provision will be maintained in selected locations with greatest needs to ensure highly vulnerable and at risk accompanied and unaccompanied children and youth can access integrated MHPSS, case management, legal
counselling and guardianship. School-aged children and adolescents will benefit from after-school support and catch-up classes to promote their inclusion in public schools.

Pregnant and breastfeeding women will be supported to care for their children, including by accessing immunization. Gender-based violence survivors and at-risk groups will receive age and gender-appropriate information, referrals and support.

Youth participation and engagement through empowerment and skills building programmes will be scaled up across the region to boost youth resilience and provide young people with opportunities to share their voices and views.

At the regional level, in close collaboration with other United Nations Agencies and civil society, UNICEF will monitor and analyse risks, strengthen evidence-based advocacy on national and regional policy reforms that uphold refugee and migrant children’s rights and support preparedness and response, including through the mobilization of technical expertise and resources.

▪ ▪ ▪

**Greece** – UNICEF will build on and consolidate gains across child protection, education and child rights monitoring, as well as continue to support the Government of Greece in promoting legislation, policies and strategies to enhance the care and protection for refugee and migrant children, particularly those who are unaccompanied. Multi-sectoral services within CFSH, including GBV prevention and response, will be maintained in mainland Greece and further expanded on the Greek islands. UNICEF will also continue supporting and building national capacity in knowledge generation, evidence-based advocacy, public awareness raising and national systems strengthening. In light of the establishment of the UNICEF Partnership Office, UNICEF will also initiate steps towards expanding its mandate to include all children in Greece while continuing the vital work supporting refugee and migrant children. UNICEF funding requirements for 2020 in Greece amount to $12,450,000.

**Italy** – UNICEF will continue to collaborate with government and civil society partners to improve child protection standards in reception facilities, strengthen the guardianship system and promote alternative care, building on lessons learned from the previous years. UNICEF will also seek to ensure sustainability and national ownership of programmes in adolescent participation and life skills development, in partnership with the national Ombudsman for Children and Adolescents and local education and vocational training institutions. This will be complemented by sustained outreach and case management for the most vulnerable UASC outside the reception system, and enhanced GBV prevention and response services. To meet urgent needs of refugee and migrant children in Italy, UNICEF requires $5,080,000.

**Bulgaria** – UNICEF will sustain a strong child rights monitoring, advocacy and technical assistance role to support the effective implementation of relevant policy and legal framework, including the ban on child migration detention and age assessment, and strengthen national coordination mechanism for unaccompanied refugee and migrant children, as well as the national GBV referral pathway scheme. Support will be also provided to the State Agency for Refugees and national civil society partners to improve reception conditions, care and protection services for refugee and migrant children in line with international standards. To implement these activities, in 2020 UNICEF requires $1,015,000.

**Serbia** – UNICEF will sustain its active role in advocacy, technical assistance and child rights monitoring. Government authorities and civil society partners will be supported to ensure unaccompanied and separated children and GBV survivors and at-risks are identified, protected and supported in a timely and effective manner. UNICEF will also ensure continuous oversight and technical support to national authorities and frontline professionals in education, health and nutrition. In 2020, UNICEF will therefore need $1,350,000.
Bosnia and Herzegovina – UNICEF will further strengthen the national child protection, education and health and nutrition responses to ensure all refugee and migrant children in Bosnia and Herzegovina have access to quality child protection support (psychosocial support, case management and referral), school-age children benefit from inclusive formal education, and infants and young children receive the health and nutrition support they need. UNICEF will also build the capacity of national authorities and frontline workers to care for UASC, and support inter-agency coordination, preparedness and contingency planning. UNICEF funding requirements for the response in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2020 elevate to $5,150,000.

Montenegro – Based on the rapid needs assessment, in 2020 UNICEF will continue to support national authorities in strengthening the child protection and health systems to better respond to the needs of children and families on the move and seeking asylum, especially the most vulnerable ones. This will include the development and implementation of limited targeted programmes access child protection, education and life skills development programmes. For this purpose, in 2020 UNICEF Montenegro is seeking $228,190.

North Macedonia – UNICEF will continue to monitor the situation of refugee and migrant children in close collaboration with national authorities and partners, while expanding longer-term programmatic interventions for all children affected by migration.

Germany – In 2020, UNICEF will complete initiatives started in 2018-2019 and finalize capacity-building initiatives on the Minimum Protection Standards in targeted regions, in close collaboration with the German Ministry of Family Affairs, the German National Committee for UNICEF and partner organisations.
UNICEF would like to express its utmost appreciation to public and private partners, including the European Union, the US BPRM, the Council of Europe and National Committees for UNICEF without whom UNICEF would have not been able to deliver results for refugee and migrant children across Europe.

UNICEF extends its gratitude to UNICEF National Committees in Italy, France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, as well as all other donors who contributed to UNICEF’s Global Humanitarian Thematic Fund, for their flexible thematic contributions.

Flexible emergency funding was particularly critical to respond to some of the most acute needs across child protection, education, participation and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) in Greece, Italy, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia and especially Montenegro. It allowed to promptly mount or expand responses, adapt to the evolving situation on the ground and strengthen linkages between the humanitarian and development nexus by empowering authorities and civil society actors to monitor the situation of children in migration.

UNICEF looks forward to continuing collaboration with 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.
Annex 1. Communication and media outreach

Greece
- “Together, for all children”: a campaign calling for a better future for refugee and migrant children in Greece (UNICEF, Press release)
- Osama's Journey from Yemen to Greece (UNICEF, Video Essay)
- Sirin, 9 years old: inspired by school to become a teacher (UNICEF, Article)
- Over 40,000 refugee and migrant children and women in Greece supported by UNICEF with European Union funding (UNICEF, Press release)
- Unaccompanied refugee children share their dreams and despair as they await an uncertain future (UNICEF, Video)
- More than 1,100 unaccompanied refugee and migrant children in Greece need urgent shelter and protection (UNICEF, Article)
- Acropolis of Athens to be lit in colour, for first time ever, as reminder to protect children’s rights (UNICEF, Media Advisory)

Italy
- In this sleepy Italian village, young migrants are starting to integrate (UNICEF, Photo Essay)
- Recipes for success (UNICEF, Article)
- One beat at a time (UNICEF, Blog post)
- In Rome, a decent night's sleep is not a given (UNICEF, Article)
- A new kind of 21st century family (UNICEF, Article)
- A guardian's tale from Sicily (UNICEF, Photo Essay)
- Young Italians, migrants and refugees at the second Activate Talks meeting (UNICEF Italy, Article, In Italian)
- How young people in Sicily are changing the migration narrative (UNICEF, Article)
- Halima Aden Visits UNICEF Programming in Italy (UNICEF, Press release)
- For every child, every right: Ibrahim Kondeh, advocate for migrant youth in Italy (UNICEF, Article)
- U-topia, a path of social inclusion for young Italians, migrants and refugees from Palermo (UNICEF Italy, Article, In Italian)
- New mentorship programme for young unaccompanied refugees and migrants launches in Italy (UNICEF, Press release)
- 60,000 young refugees and migrants who arrived in Italy alone need ongoing support through transition to adulthood (UNICEF, Press release)
- More than 6,100 unaccompanied refugee and migrant children in Italy in need of community and family-based care (UNICEF, Press release)
- More resources for family custody of migrant minors: a UNICEF "Activate Talk" in Rome (UNICEF Italy, Article, In Italian)
- Guardians provide hope and support to young refugees and migrants arriving in Italy alone (UNICEF, Article)
- Migrant Rights Day 2019, UNICEF: more attention for the 6,300 foreign minors alone in Italy (UNICEF Italy, Article, In Italian)

Bulgaria
- From Iraq to Sofia with hope (UNICEF, Article)
- Putting smiles on every child’s face (UNICEF, Article)
Serbia
- A lesson in hope (UNICEF, Article)
- A headscarf and a photograph as the only precious things (UNICEF, Article)
- The book you don't leave behind (UNICEF, Article)
- Jewellery made of memories (UNICEF, Article)
- Parliamentarians from around the world Recommit to Child Rights at the 141st IPU Assembly (UNICEF, Article)
- It's important to get to know each other (UNICEF, Article)
- We are all the same - just human (UNICEF, Blog post)

Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Getting ready for first day of school (UNICEF, Article)
- Finally, at school again (UNICEF, Article)
- Unaccompanied Boys in Refuge (UNICEF, Article)
- Bosnian schools open doors for children of refugees and migrants with the help of UNICEF (UNICEF, Article)
- Geeta Narayan: We at UNICEF believe that children are children. (UNICEF, Article)
- Bridges of Knowledge (UNICEF, Article)
- Unaccompanied children on the move: far from home, far from their destination (UNICEF, Article)
- The teenager Noman from Afghanistan discovered his artistic talent in Bihać (UNICEF, Article)
- Mother & Baby Corners offer necessary support to parents in struggle (UNICEF, Article)
- "I am happy because I can change and bathe my child" (UNICEF, Article)
- Farial and Sadaish are doing great in school (UNICEF, Article)
- "Both my girls were breastfed, as is little Amar now; it’s the natural and best way to feed babies." (UNICEF, Article)
- UNICEF Representative in her first visit to Una-Sana Canton (UNICEF, Article)
- "Youth Corner" in the Temporary Reception Center “Sedra” (UNICEF, Article)
- Children from refugee, migrant and asylum seeking families are back in school (UNICEF, Article)
- UNICEF provides winter clothes and footwear for refugee/migrant children in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNICEF, Press release)

Germany
- To be or not to be (UNICEF, Blog post)

Regional
- Vital protection for refugee and migrant children making perilous sea journeys to Europe urgently needed (UNICEF, Press release)
- UNHCR, UNICEF, and IOM urge European states to boost education for refugee and migrant children
- Girls on the move (UNICEF, Video)
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