Refugee and Migrant Crisis in Europe
Humanitarian Situation Report # 12

Highlights

- Since January 2015, more than 1,200,000 people crossed the Mediterranean. From late 2015 and onwards there has been a steady increase in the proportion of children among refugees and migrants not only on the Eastern Mediterranean, but also on the more dangerous and perilous Central Mediterranean migration route. Currently this proportion stands at 35 per cent of all arrivals in 2016. In addition, it is estimated that almost 500 children lost their lives in the Eastern and Central Mediterranean since the beginning of 2016.

- More than 7,000 refugee and migrant unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) have arrived in Italy between January and May 2016, representing a 129 per cent increase in comparison to the same period last year. To respond to the increasing needs of UASC arriving in Italy, on 27 May UNICEF and the Government of Italy signed a joint declaration for collaboration to improve the care and protection of refugee and migrant children.

- In May 2016, nearly 1,170 children were able to play, learn and receive psychosocial support in UNICEF child-friendly spaces and child and family support hubs in Greece, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia. These activities are complemented by broader capacity-building and technical assistance to Governments across Europe.

- UNICEF continues to work closely with national authorities and partners across south-east Europe and provide guidance and technical assistance on child nutrition and infant and young child feeding (IYCF). In addition, some 50 babies and infants, and nearly 85 mothers and pregnant women benefitted from infant and IYCF counselling and emotional and psychosocial support in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia.

- To adapt its response to the needs of refugee and migrant children in Greece Turkey and other countries in Europe, UNICEF has reviewed its Humanitarian Action for Children programmatic response and funding requirements, reflected in the revised Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan. The increasing use of dangerous illegal routes by children, whether travelling alone or with their families, coupled with placement of children in de-facto detention, multiplication of cases of abuse and violence in accommodation centres and tighter national migration policies are among the major challenges for UNICEF humanitarian action.
Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Since January 2015, more than 1,200,000 people crossed the Mediterranean. Yet, the refugee and migrant crisis has entered a new phase since the border closures in the Balkans and the EU-Turkey agreement in March. The number of people – mostly from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq – crossing the Mediterranean from Turkey to Greece has dropped dramatically. At the same time, vast numbers of refugees and migrants (largely from sub-Saharan Africa) are using the much more dangerous Central Mediterranean crossing from North Africa to Italy. As a result, only during the past two weeks, nearly 1,000 people lost their lives- one third of all deaths in the Mediterranean since the beginning of the year. The number of children among them is unknown as there is only partial data, but it is estimated that almost 500 children have lost their lives in the Eastern and Central Mediterranean since the beginning of 2016.

According to IOM, 3,000 refugee and migrant unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) have arrived in Italy in May 2016 alone. This makes the total number of UASC registered in Italy in 2016 more than 7,000- representing a 129 per cent increase compared to the same period in 2015. To respond to the increasing needs of UASC arriving in Italy, on 27 May UNICEF and the Government of Italy signed a joint declaration for collaboration to improve the care and protection of refugee and migrant children.

Children still make up an important proportion of the refugee and migrant population, remaining in south-eastern Europe. It is estimated that some 22,700 refugee and migrant children remain in Greece and the Western Balkans (22,000 in Greece, 170 in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 360 in Serbia, 67 in Croatia and 98 in Slovenia). While the EU-Turkey agreement seems to have slowed down sea crossings from Turkey to Greece, an increasing number of refugees and migrants (including children) try to continue their journey towards Western Europe with the help of smugglers and traffickers. This exposes children and their families to heightened risks of abuse and exploitation. Between January and May 2016, 76,169 new child asylum claims were registered in Germany- mostly from Syria, but also Iraq and Afghanistan. Nearly half of the new child asylum seekers are 0-5 years old, while 3,400 other were UASC.

The situation in many accommodation and reception centres in Europe remains sub-standard and often inadequate to cater for basic needs of refugee and migrant children. This couples with increased tensions and reports of violence and abuse, which often affect children. In addition, in many locations UASC continue to be placed in “protective custody” or de-facto detention. This is of great concern to UNICEF and further highlights the need to not only improve accommodation conditions and alternatives to detention for children, but also to strengthen protection standards in accommodation facilities and to provide information and services to refugee and migrant children and their families, wherever they are.

Humanitarian Strategy and Coordination

In line with its Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, UNICEF is responding to the crisis through a combination of advocacy, technical assistance to Governments, capacity-building and service delivery responses in Turkey, Greece, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, Germany, Bulgaria and is now extending support to children and women in Italy and Austria. UNICEF interventions are tailored to national contexts and needs expressed by Governments, and focus on Child Protection, Education, Health, Nutrition, WASH, Child Rights Monitoring, SGBV, Social Policy and Cash/Voucher programmes as part of a broader protection response.

UNICEF continues to mobilize Member States, partners and duty-bearers to improve assistance and protection for refugee and migrant children and their families, both as part of the immediate humanitarian response and through longer-term support to national child protection systems. UNICEF is closely coordinating its response with Governments, agencies and civil society within relevant coordination mechanisms and working groups, as well as UNHCR and IOM as part of the revised Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan. UNICEF is actively participating in national Protection, Child Protection and SGBV working groups and has been defining its role the Education task force in Greece. In Germany, the Ministry of Family and UNICEF organized a ‘coordination workshop’ with...
coordinators, managers and service providers from the 25 model accommodation centres on 9 May, to review key concepts, tools and tasks related to the protection of refugee and migrant women and children. This has laid the ground for continued inter-agency engagement, technical support and capacity-building in Germany.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Child Protection

In May, UNICEF continued providing support to static populations and stranded children and families, moving from reception and transit centres to asylum centres. UNICEF is currently present in 14 locations: Izmir, Ankara, Istanbul, Adana and Kayseri in Turkey; Athens and Piraeus, Greece; Gevgelija and Tabanovce, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Presevo and Knjaca, Serbia; Porin, Croatia; Ljubljana and Logatec, Slovenia. During the second half of May, UNICEF started activities for refugee and migrant children in Viktoria square, Athens (through a drop-in centre) and a mobile “Blue Dot” service in Piraeus port. In addition, UNICEF-supported outreach teams are expected to be soon deployed to 12 new sites in Northern Greece and Attika region to identify and assess children at risk.

In May 2016, nearly 1,170 children had continuous access to recreational and learning activities, as well as much needed psychological support, in safe environment in UNICEF child friendly spaces in Greece, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia. In addition to the above-mentioned activities. In Turkey, seven UNICEF-supported mobile border teams, conducted needs assessments in Ankara, Izmir, Kayseri and Istanbul provinces, and identified 1,104 children at risk (35 cases of child marriage; 27 UASC; and 32 victims of gender-based violence). Outreach teams supported by social workers and child protection specialists are following up on these cases through individualized case management in cooperation with their parents, and 33 children were referred to specialized services.

Significant work has been undertaken in Greece to improve the protection and care of refugee and migrant UASC. A UNICEF-supported staff, seconded to the National Centre for Social solidarity (EKKA), has been supporting the management of the high caseload of referrals and placement of UASC, including through the development of a web-based case management system. Within the Child Protection Working Group in Greece, UNICEF led the development of minimum standards to create safe spaces for UASC inside open accommodation centres, which upon approval by the Government will become part of the national standards for care. UNICEF is also supporting the Greek Government to develop a plan to identify alternatives to detention for UASC, while a new partnership with the Ministry of Justice will build the capacity of public prosecutors in their new role as legal guardians for refugee and migrant UASC. In addition, UNICEF is defining collaboration with the Greek Council for Refugees to provide legal services to unaccompanied refugee and migrant children, with additional staff in key open facilities. In Turkey, UNICEF sustains mobile teams in coastal areas to support case management of UASC and other children at risk. In the Western Balkans, UNICEF continues to support Governments in adapting their national systems and improve access to alternative care, including foster care, for refugee and migrant UASC, who became stranded or claimed asylum on their territories.

As part of the development and eventual roll-out of the minimum protection standards, including Child Friendly Spaces (CFS), which UNICEF developed for accommodation centres in Germany, UNICEF, in collaboration with the German Ministry of Family, convened three roundtable discussions with key partners on: i) the protection of children and women in reception centres; ii) CFS concept, principles, approaches; and iii) CFS services, including play and early learning, parenting groups, and engagement with adolescents. As a result, partners identified key knowledge areas, capacity needs and skills required to implement the minimum protection standards and CFS services, and laid the foundations for developing contextualized capacity-building packages to be tested in the two model sites in Berlin. Following these meetings, the Ministry of Family has adopted the minimum standards together with the welfare organisations and other partners, and their publication is under way. In the meantime, UNICEF is closely working with the German Red Cross in two accommodation centres in Berlin to implement the pilots and train frontline workers and staff.
Following an education needs assessment in Greece, UNICEF has supported the Greek Ministry of Education in developing short-term strategy to provide education opportunities in accommodation centres during the summer, along with medium-term strategies to support the inclusion of refugee children into the Greek national school system. Planned learning activities include English and Greek language courses, as well as literacy and numeracy in mother tongue. UNICEF is now working on the expansion of partnerships with NGOs and academia to support the implementation of developed plans. In addition, UNICEF has been supporting communication and coordination between Greek Ministry of Education and NGO partners on the ground, providing or planning to provide information education, to help standardise education programmes and avoid duplications.

Education materials, including Early Childhood Development (ECD) books, in Arabic, Farsi/Dari and Pashto, identified and made available with support from UNICEF’s Middle East and North Africa Regional Office and Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan Country Offices are already in use in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Croatia. In addition, in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, laptops have been procured to serve for the purposes of ICT classes. In Slovenia, UNICEF-supported activities have been expanded with an ECD programme for young children (3-6 years old), after-school support for school-age children (7-14 years old) and language courses, cultural sensitivity programmes and youth empowerment activities for adolescents, which can stimulate their integration.

UNICEF continues increasing focus on education through introduction of structured learning activities for children in accommodation and asylum centres, as well as technical assistance to Governments to develop strategies and plans for the integration of refugee and migrant children in national education system.

In all countries, where refugee and migrant children became stranded over the past months, UNICEF continues providing advice to authorities and partners on the optimal food basket for infants and young children, breastfeeding and use of breastmilk substitutes. Within the Health and Nutrition Working Group in Greece, for example, UNICEF is providing technical assistance on the improvement of complementary feeding for young children, as well as the nutrition intake for pregnant and lactating women. In addition, UNICEF is leading the efforts of the working group to issue a joint statement with the Greek Ministry of Health on the importance of minimizing the uncontrolled distribution of breastmilk substitutes. Finally, UNICEF is advocating for “nutrition-sensitive” cash/vouchers in order to meet the nutritional needs of children and women. Another important development is the establishment of close cooperation and collaboration between UNICEF-Serbia and Hungarian NGO partners, who provide IYCF services to refugee and migrant children, coming from Serbia. The aim is on one hand to provide guidance to partners on relevant international standards and safe use of breastmilk substitutes, and raise awareness on these topics among mothers through materials in Arabic and Farsi/Dari. In Croatia, UNICEF continues to advocate and provide technical support for development and adoption of national guidelines for breastfeeding/IYCF and is leading the efforts of the working group to issue a joint statement with the Greek Ministry of Health on the importance of minimizing the uncontrolled distribution of breastmilk substitutes. In Tabanovce, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the kitchen in UNICEF-supported CFS is now being used for preparing additional semi-solid food for children, which is delivered to mothers directly according to their needs. In addition, UNICEF procured 2,500 boxes of micro nutrient food to improve nutritional status of small children and lactating women.

UNICEF’s health response also gained prominence with reduced population flow and people being stranded in South East Europe, and countries are now extending their national routine immunization programmes to refugee and migrant children in line with WHO-UNHCR-UNICEF Joint Technical Guidance on Vaccination of Refugees and Migrants. At the request of the Greek government, UNICEF supports the national working group to operationalize the plan on routine immunization of refugee children and adults in the mainland and the islands, and has leveraged access to affordable vaccines through its Supply Division. UNICEF has also alerted WHO and the EU on the remaining vaccine needs in Greece, and is ready to provide technical assistance as needed in collaboration with all stakeholders.
After the provision of polio vaccines by the Government of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, UNICEF is now working with the Macedonian Ministry of Health to identify remaining vaccine needs and potential support to procure supplies.

Child Rights Monitoring
Under its regional child rights monitoring framework, UNICEF has increased its capacity to monitor child rights violations against refugee and migrant children, and collect more accurate data on refugee and migrant children in south-eastern Europe. While in most countries UNICEF is collaborating with NGO partners, such as the Helsinki Committee, in Greece UNICEF will work directly with the Office of the Ombudsman for children to strengthen national system on child rights monitoring and improve awareness and coordination of NGO partners working with refugee and migrant children on child rights. This approach will also imply the establishment of a mechanism for direct communication and consultation with refugee and migrant children. In addition, UNICEF is working with the Greek Council for Refugees to put in place a mechanism to monitor the situation of children in detention, which will address gaps on qualitative and quantitative data on children in closed facilities in Greece.

Non-food items
UNICEF continued to support distribution of clothes, shoes, underwear, sanitary products and baby care items. Supply plans and procurement has been adapted to the needs of refugee and migrant children during the coming summer.

In May, UNICEF reached more than 11,880 children with WASH and basic supplies in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia and Turkey. In addition, in May UNICEF in Turkey distributed cash voucher cards to 175 vulnerable families in Izmir and Istanbul, benefitting an estimated 632 children. Under this programme, each eligible household receives a voucher valued at 300 Turkish Lira (approximately USD $100) from which they can purchase food and essential supplies. Since January 2016, a total of 7,500 voucher cards have been distributed, reaching a total of 11,919 children.

SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME RESULTS - as of 1 June 2016
Note: For the period 1 January to 7 March prior to border closures, services were provided in several locations for children on the move. As a result a child may be reported as being reached in multiple locations along the way. Since 7 March and border closures, refugee and migrant women and children have been stranded across these different locations in south-eastern Europe. In March, UNICEF therefore reached children for the period they were on the move and then continued to provide services after border closures as women and children became stranded in the different locations on the route. For the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia, results reported here represent women and children reached while on the move prior to 7 March, and women and children who received continued/repeated services when remaining in transit/reception centres after 7 March. The numbers for May 2016 correspond to the number of children and women reached during this month, which may imply some double counting of stranded people, who received services during previous months.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUMMARIZED RESULTS</th>
<th>UNICEF and Implementing Partners Response</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Targets 2016</td>
<td>Total Results</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHILD PROTECTION</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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Number of children (boys and girls) received psychosocial support in family support hubs, child friendly spaces and mother-baby corners

- Croatia: 18,100, 17,318, 40
- Greece: 6,000, 36, 36
- Serbia: 30,200, 25,773, 551
- Slovenia: 3,200, 3,166, 419
- The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: 33,000, 32,517, 122

Number of frontline workers trained on child protection standards/child protection in emergencies

- Croatia: 200, 111, 0
- Germany: 2,000, 0, 0
- Greece: 200, 0, 0
- Serbia: 200, 40, 0
- Slovenia: 500, 30, 0
- The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: 150, 69, 46
- Turkey: 60, 79, 0

Number of children at-risk (including UASC) identified and referred to specialized care/services

- Greece: 2000, 23, 23
- Turkey: 6000, 4,710, 1,104

2 These services also include the provision of informal education and other learning opportunities.
### HEALTH AND NUTRITION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Croatia</th>
<th>Greece</th>
<th>Serbia</th>
<th>The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of infants (under 2) accessed mother and baby care centre nutrition services</td>
<td>1,600</td>
<td>1,544</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>600</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3,400</td>
<td>3,038</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1,580</td>
<td>1,564</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<th></th>
<th>Croatia</th>
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<th>Serbia</th>
<th>Slovenia</th>
<th>The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of women accessing infant and young child feeding counselling at family support hubs, child friendly spaces and mother-baby corners</td>
<td>1,900</td>
<td>1,637</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3,500</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>78</td>
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<td></td>
<td>110</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>20,960</td>
<td>20,940</td>
<td>101</td>
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### WASH and Basic Supplies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Croatia</th>
<th>Serbia</th>
<th>Slovenia</th>
<th>The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</th>
<th>Turkey</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of children received basic supplies (including clothing and baby hygiene items) to protect them from weather conditions and keep good personal hygiene</td>
<td>17,600</td>
<td>17,449</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>20,960</td>
<td>30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16,574</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20,940</td>
<td>19,776</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2,980</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>101</td>
<td>8,800</td>
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</table>

### Communications and Advocacy

UNICEF continues to mobilize partners and stakeholders at both national and international level to protect the rights of refugee and migrant children. More specifically, UNICEF has been continuously advocating for alternatives to detention, effective asylum procedures for children, access to services, including education, at all time, reunification opportunities for children with family members in Europe, as well as systematic best interests determination when making decisions related to children. Some of the achievements of UNICEF advocacy during the past month include the request by the Greek government to support the development of a plan for alternatives to “protective custody” for UASC in Greece and the reflection of UNICEF recommendations on family reunification in the proposed revision of the so-called Dublin regulations. The UK Government has also committed to invest more in ensuring timely reunification of UASC with family members in UK, when in the child’s best interests. However, such statements need to be followed by more concrete measures for children.


As part of the Child Alert and to create content for the #Act of Humanity initiative, multimedia materials from Greece and Germany were produced to document the stories of refugee and migrant children, who made the long journey from Turkey to Germany, from north Africa to Italy as well as those who are currently stranded in Greece. In Greece, the mission documented field visits by the UNICEF Special...
Coordinator for the Refugee and Migrant Crisis in Europe and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Nana Mouskouri to Athens and Lesvos with media coverage primarily in the Greek media. The main aim of the visit was to show solidarity with the Greek people, Government and civil society, scale up UNICEF’s efforts in Greece and create visibility for children through the #actofhumanity initiative. Stories capturing the plight of refugee and migrant children were gathered along with those of a number of Greek citizens who volunteered their time, skills and resources towards helping refugees and migrants.

Funding Update

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>2016 requirements (US$)</th>
<th>Revised requirements (US$)</th>
<th>Funds available* (US$)</th>
<th>Funding gap $</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Countries with on the move and stranded children</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Balkan Countries</td>
<td>15,972,000</td>
<td>6,757,957</td>
<td>6,428,078</td>
<td>329,879</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>5,462,000</td>
<td>10,000,000</td>
<td>5,466,252</td>
<td>4,533,748</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>2,500,000</td>
<td>7,020,000</td>
<td>1,498,485</td>
<td>5,521,515</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Countries of destination and additional countries</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Countries of destination and planned additional countries</td>
<td>3,400,000</td>
<td>3,403,996</td>
<td>2,500,000</td>
<td>903,996</td>
<td>27%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regional and global</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocacy, communications, technical support and preparedness</td>
<td>3,488,000</td>
<td>4,193,275</td>
<td>3,520,160</td>
<td>673,115</td>
<td>16%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>30,822,000</td>
<td>31,375,228</td>
<td>19,412,976</td>
<td>11,962,252</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Funds available includes funding received against current appeal as well as carry-forward of $11,130,914

Next SitRep: 12/07/2016

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