



A boy showing his journey on the map at Sedra temporary reception centre, Bosnia and Herzegovina  
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# Refugee and Migrant Crisis in Europe

## Humanitarian Situation Report No. 40

for every child

**Reporting period: 1 April to 30 June 2021**

**Situation in numbers\***

### Highlights

- Between April and June 2021, approximately 34,000 refugees and migrants arrived in Greece, Italy, Bulgaria, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro\*. Compared to the previous quarter, the number of arrivals increased drastically in Italy (+58%), Bosnia and Herzegovina (+48%), and Montenegro (+40%).
- During the reporting period, UNICEF in Greece, Italy, Bulgaria, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro reached 7,014 children (29% girls, 71% boys) with child protection services, including mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). 4,080 children (44% girls, 56% boys) accessed formal or non-formal education, including early learning services. 12,632 children and families (43% girls, 45% boys, 11% women) benefitted from services to address gender-based violence (GBV), including risk mitigation, prevention, and response.
- Following favourable weather conditions in spring and the relaxation of some COVID-19 travel restrictions, including at borders, the number of arrivals and transits significantly increased in some countries, a trend likely to persist for the rest of the summer and fall period. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its unprecedented consequences continue to severely impact the health, wellbeing, and opportunities of refugees and migrants. In addition, closures of reception centres and violence against refugees and migrants continue to be reported.
- As of June 2021, UNICEF had received US\$ 19.9 million out of a US\$ 36.4 million requested. With an additional US\$ 7.7 million of carry-forward funding, a funding gap of 24% remains. UNICEF acknowledges and appreciates the generous contributions from all public and private sector donors to support its response to the migrant and refugee crisis.

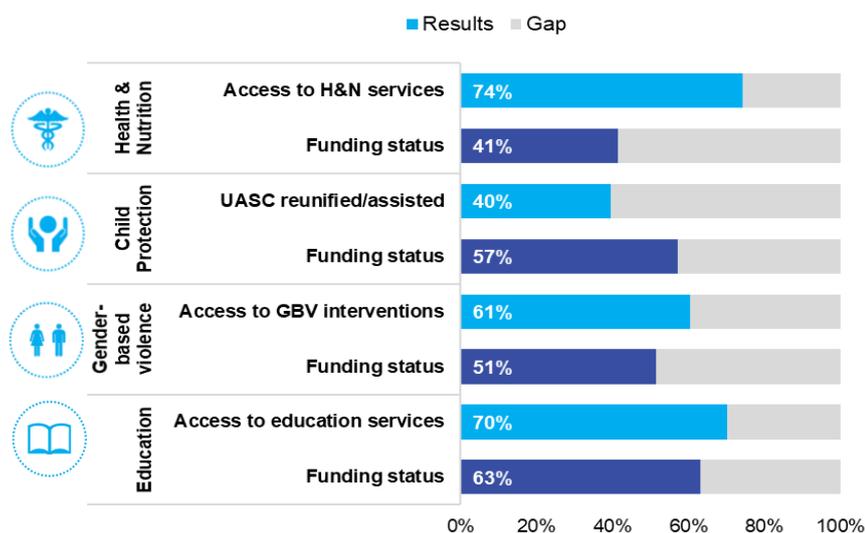
**34,000**  
Estimated # of arrivals in Greece, Italy, Bulgaria, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro in Q2 2021

**7,500**  
Estimated # of children among all arrivals Greece, Italy, Bulgaria, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro in Q2 2021

**58,500**  
Estimated # of children present in Greece, Italy, Bulgaria, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro

**11,250**  
Estimated # of unaccompanied and separated children registered in Greece, Italy, Bulgaria, Serbia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina

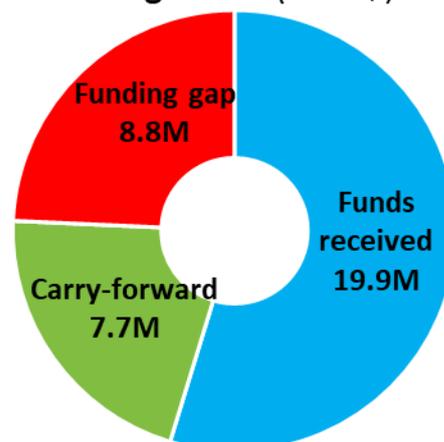
### UNICEF's response and funding status



### UNICEF appeal 2021

**\$ 36,447,000**

### Funding Status (in US\$)



\* UNICEF estimates based on the latest data available from the Bulgaria State Agency for Refugees, the Serbia Commissariat for Refugees and Migration, the Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministry of Security, the Greece National Centre for Social Solidarity (EKKA), the Italy Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the Montenegro Ministry of Interior, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and non-governmental organizations. The estimations regarding number of arrivals of children are based on UNHCR data for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Montenegro, and Serbia. For Greece and Italy, estimations are based on the Greece National Centre for Social Solidarity (EKKA) and the Italy Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, together with UNHCR statistics, respectively.

## Funding overview and partnerships

By the end of June, UNICEF's 2021 [Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal \(HAC\)](#) for the Refugee and Migrant Crisis in Europe was 76% funded (US\$ 27.5 million), including US\$ 7.7 million carry-forward from 2020 and US\$ 19.9 million received in 2021, of which US\$ 9.8 million were for the Moria WASH response in Greece.

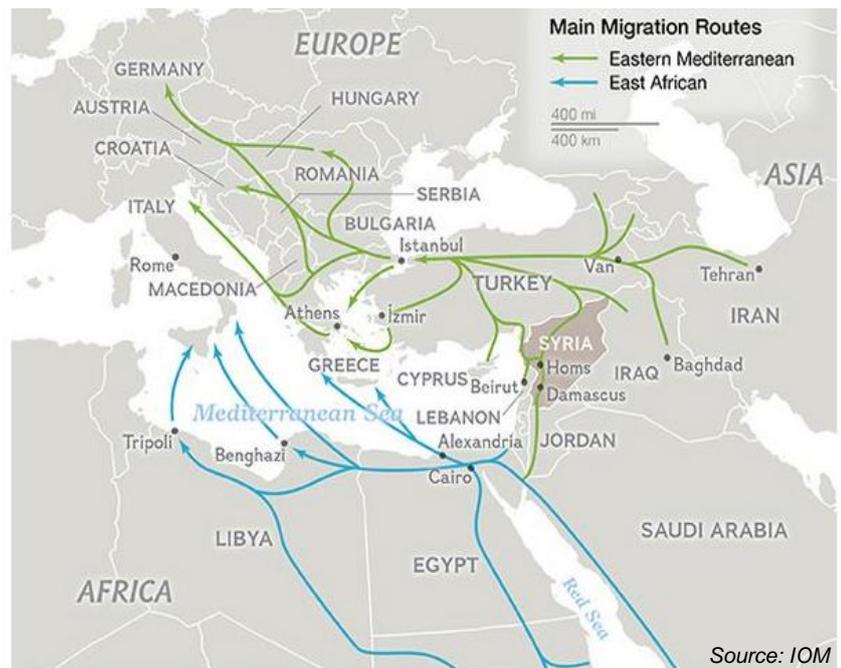
Since January, the European Commission, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, UNICEF National Committees in Italy, Germany, Sweden, Luxembourg, Norway, the Netherlands, Spain, and Portugal, as well as Global Humanitarian Thematic funds and Global Social Inclusion Thematic funds, have generously contributed to the UNICEF 2021 HAC. UNICEF expresses its sincere gratitude to all public and private donors for the contributions received. The funding has enabled UNICEF and partners to deliver direct services in the areas of health, nutrition, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), child protection, gender-based violence (GBV), education, youth empowerment and risk communications, as well as to support government-led COVID-19 response coordination mechanisms in all six countries.

The overall funding gap for the 2021 HAC stands at 24%, with specific needs in programming focused on adolescents and youth (61%), accountability to affected populations (AAP) and communication for development (C4D) (60%), health and nutrition (59%), as well as GBV (49%). Significant funding gaps persist for Montenegro (94%), Bulgaria (77%), Serbia (56%), Bosnia and Herzegovina (54%) and Italy (49%). Most notably, an unexpected increase of refugee and migrant arrivals in Italy in the second quarter of 2021 has stretched existing capacities, requiring resources to address the immediate needs on child protection, health, and nutrition and GBV. Following the Moria fire in Lesvos, Greece, in September 2020, WASH needs in Greece significantly increased in 2021, which required a revision of the originally requested funding from US\$ 19.5 million to US\$ 30.9 million for 2021. The 2021 HAC for the Refugee and Migrant Crisis in Europe is therefore being revised to reflect the increased appeal amount.

At the country level, UNICEF works closely with UN agencies, international organizations, civil society and faith-based organisations to advance the shared goals of supporting children on the move and addressing xenophobia and racism. Close cooperation with UNHCR and IOM for effective emergency response, relocation, and country-specific initiatives is ongoing. By working directly with Parliaments, Ministries and EU institutions, UNICEF and partners have been developing and delivering unified and coordinated messages and policy positions, while also advocating for key child rights issues faced by children on the move.

## Situation overview & humanitarian needs

New arrivals recorded from January to June 2021 in Greece, Italy, Bulgaria, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro are estimated at over 55,800, out of which more than 34,000 between April and June 2021 alone.<sup>1</sup> Approximately 23% of the 207,000 estimated refugees and migrants present in the six countries are children, including 11,250 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC).<sup>2</sup> Newly arrived populations are mainly from Tunisia, Algeria, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Côte d'Ivoire and Syria. Other declared countries of origin include Democratic Republic of Congo, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, and Egypt.<sup>3</sup> The arrival of summer and favourable weather conditions during the second quarter of 2021, coupled with the relaxation of COVID-19 measures, such as the opening of borders, prompted an increase in movements within and between countries, a trend likely to continue in the next few months. In many countries, increased arrivals of refugees and migrants in the first half of 2021 has



<sup>1</sup> UNICEF estimates based on the latest data available from the Bulgaria State Agency for Refugees, the Serbia Commissariat for Refugees and Migration, the Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministry of Security, the Greece National Centre for Social Solidarity (EKKA), the Italy Ministry of Labour and Social Policy the Montenegro Ministry of Interior, IOM, UNHCR and non-governmental organizations.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Data from UNHCR Mediterranean Situation and Southeastern Europe Situation. (2021). UNHCR. <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/>

overstretched capacities of countries, generating overcrowded conditions in reception facilities, with limited or no access to basic services such as health, protection, adequate sanitation, hygiene and education. Furthermore, COVID-19 preventive measures at arrival and transit centres, including restrictions on movement and strict quarantine measures without adequate facilities and services, continue to affect refugees and migrants. This leaves many of the families, including children and adolescents, more vulnerable to psychosocial distress, sexual abuse and violence.

## Summary analysis of programme response

### GREECE

The number of arrivals in Greece has decrease in the first half of 2021, compared to 2020, with 2,981 arrivals recorded between January and June, compared to 9,424 in the same period of 2020.<sup>4</sup> Out of the total new arrivals, 862 (29%) are children.<sup>5</sup> It is estimated that 119,700 refugees and migrants are present in Greece, among whom 42,000 are children, including 3,128 UASC.<sup>6</sup>

Between April and May, 3,594 refugees and migrants were transferred from Reception and Identification Centres (RICs) on the Greek islands to the second-line reception facilities on the mainland. As of June 2021, 6,473 refugees and migrants remained in the five RICs on the islands of Kos, Chios, Leros, Samos, and Lesbos, with the latter hosting the majority of arrivals (4,601).

In the second quarter of 2021, changes in the first and second-line reception framework led to the closure of five Open Accommodation Sites (OAS) and the termination of the emergency hotel accommodation programmes for refugees and migrants. The Ministry of Migration and Asylum (MoMA) amended the financial assistance scheme to be limited to those physically present within the OAS, RICs, and Emergency Support to Integration and Accommodation (ESTIA) programmes. This amendment came into effect on 1 July, leaving a considerable number of self-settled asylum seekers unable to access such assistance.

With the COVID-19 restrictions being eased across Greece, it was noted that the number of cases has been rising among the refugee and migrant population hosted in the RICs and OAS. COVID-19 vaccinations, however, have started and include the refugee and migrant population.

Although WASH programming is well funded for the response to the fire in Moria RIC in September 2020, significant funding gaps remain in health and nutrition (64%), GBV (53%), as well as C4D and AAP (76%).

### Health and nutrition

In the second quarter of 2021, UNICEF reached 1,078 children and women (181 girls, 204 boys, and 385 women) with health and nutrition services, including mother and baby care services. UNICEF continues to support mothers and their infants through Mother and Baby Care services provided in mainland Greece and on the islands. The support ranges from the promotion of breastfeeding practices and women's hygiene to the provision of health literacy materials. Additionally, infant and young child feeding (IYCF) trainings were delivered to frontline health workers and community engagement professionals in OAS.

### Child protection

Through the integrated model of the Child and Family Support Hubs (CFSH), UNICEF is supporting child protection, GBV prevention and response services, and structured psychosocial support (PSS) activities across twelve sites on the mainland, as well as in Lesbos and Samos, reaching 5,018 children (1,515 girls and 3,505 boys) during the reporting period.

In Lesbos and Samos, movement restrictions for the population residing in the RICs continue to exist. UNICEF, with its partners, provided protection services in a hybrid model through remote activities and mobile teams inside the RICs. UNICEF collaborated with state authorities and the Hellenic National Public Health Organization (EODY) to coordinate self-testing for COVID-19 to gradually receive beneficiaries in Tapuat and Alki Zei CFSH.



<sup>4</sup> Hellenic Ministry of Migration and Asylum (2021) <https://migration.gov.gr/en/statistika/>

<sup>5</sup> National Coordination Center for Border Control, Immigration and Asylum (ESKESMA)

<sup>6</sup> Estimations based on data from UNHCR, UNICEF and the Greece National Centre for Social Solidarity (EKKA).

UNICEF provided child protection trainings to EODY staff, RIS camp managers, and new safe zone staff in the OAS. UNICEF also started piloting community-based child protection mechanisms in four OAS, the methodology for which will be disseminated to frontline workers.

### Gender-based violence (GBV)

During the reporting period, UNICEF reached 11,468 (5,922 female, 5,546 male) refugees and migrants and host communities with GBV risk mitigation, prevention, or response interventions. UNICEF, in partnership with the General Secretariat for Demographic and Family Policy and Gender Equality, launched a programmatic review of access to services for children residing in the shelters of the National Network tackling violence against women. The review will be carried out by the Institute of Child Health. UNICEF further provided capacity building and training activities on GBV prevention to newly recruited members of the Guardianship Network, interpreters, as well as intercultural mediators supporting GBV survivors.

UNICEF provided input on the draft Standing Operation Procedures (SOPs) on handling GBV incidents, developed by the Reception and Identification Service.

### Education and skills building

UNICEF continues to provide non-formal education services to refugee and migrant children aged 3 to 17 years old in 13 OAS and on Lesbos and Samos islands.

In partnership with the Ministry of Education (MoE), the first implementation of the Akelius language learning software took place in a public-school classroom for refugee and migrant children at the end of June 2021. This pilot initiative will be used as a model by the MoE to scale up the use of the platform, together with the donation of tablets in the classes of the Reception Facilities for Refugee Education during the next school year. In May, UNICEF signed an MoU with the MoMA on a three-year plan aiming for all refugees and migrant children to find a path to formal education, which has also been agreed on with the Ministry of Education. A letter of agreement was also signed with UNHCR on the handover of all non-formal education centres in the islands from UNHCR to UNICEF.

### WASH and basic needs

UNICEF continues to co-chair the WASH Sector Working Group. During this quarter, UNICEF reached 3,462 people (474 girls, 711 boys and 2,277 adults) with WASH supplies and services. In April, the management of temporary emergency WASH facilities provided by IOM in the RIC in Lesbos was handed over to UNICEF. UNICEF coordinated with WASH and protection actors to carry out a survey on safety issues, particularly for women and girls in the RIC, to underline the safety issues for women using the toilets at night. UNICEF is progressing with the installation of a more durable sewage system connected to containerised toilets and showers, which will further improve the sanitary conditions on the site.

### Youth empowerment and participation

E-portfolios have been developed for 68 unaccompanied migrants based on their knowledge, skills, and educational background to inform a training programme on Intercultural Mediation.

## ITALY

During the first half of 2021, Italy observed a drastic increase in the number of arrivals of refugees and migrants, with 20,359 arrivals, which is significantly higher compared to 6,949 (3,527 UASC) during the same period in 2020.<sup>7</sup> Out of the 12,931 arrivals in April-June 2021, 2,806 were UASC (22%).<sup>8</sup> Currently, the total number of UASC hosted in reception centres is 7,159, the majority being 16-17 years old. As of May 2021, unaccompanied and separated girls accounted for 3.4% of the total child population in reception centers, the majority of them coming from Côte d'Ivoire (21.1%), Albania (15.4%), Nigeria (9.3%), Guinea (8.9%). In the reporting period, the identification of unaccompanied and separated girls remained an unaddressed challenge in Italy: these girls are often not officially identified and registered, and therefore remain one of the most invisible populations, which results in inadequate attention and support.

The increasing number of arrivals has put additional pressure on the first reception system on the island of Lampedusa. Furthermore, in accordance with official regulations to control the spread of COVID-19, vulnerable migrants, including children, must adhere to a mandatory quarantine period before being permitted to mix with the general population either in reception centres or outside. For adults and families, this often means remaining confined to boats at sea. UASC and other vulnerable migrants and refugees must live in quarantine centres. The limited level and poor conditions of the services and facilities are aggravating the mental health conditions of

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<sup>7</sup> Italian Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Labour and Social Policy statistics.

<sup>8</sup> *ibid*

children, already negatively impacted by the difficulties of the journey, including violence and abuse they might have been subject to.

In the key entry and transit points, such as Lampedusa and Ventimiglia, GBV protection and support services remain inadequate for women and girls. Most of the reception facilities are saturated, with limited safe and confidential spaces where girls and women can receive information and disclose any vulnerability in an appropriate manner.

Following the implementation of COVID-19 prevention measures, education and professional training to young migrants continued in an online format, leading to significant demotivation and other difficulties, including language barriers. According to the findings of a recent poll, three out of 10 U-Reporters shared that, because of COVID-19, migrants and refugees are unable to find work or have lost their jobs.

Additional funding is urgently needed to cover gaps in the response to the immediate needs of refugee and migrants in Italy, particularly in child protection (82% funding gap), health and nutrition (51% gap) and GBV (30% gap).

## Health and nutrition

During the reporting period, UNICEF reached 415 people (63 female, 352 male) with critical health-related information, with a focus on immunization, through a short informational video as well as a Q&A post, which were shared on the [U-Report On the Move](#) platform. UNICEF provided services, including health screenings and triage, and distributed hygiene items in critical locations, such as reception facilities, informal settlements, and transit areas.

## Child Protection

UNICEF and its partners reached 555 children (121 girls, 434 boys), with child protection services, including psychosocial support (PSS), legal counselling, guardianship, and mentorship. UNICEF, in partnership with Médecins du Monde (MdM), provided training on child protection principles and standards to frontline workers, who delivered psychosocial activities to 59 children in RICs in Rome and Calabria. 145 refugee and migrant children and youth outside of the formal reception system in Rome were provided with information on their rights, available services, and referral through the partnership with INTERSOS.

The foster care programme for unaccompanied children is part of the pilot phase of the EU Child Guarantee programme and has been extended to reach vulnerable migrant and refugee families. This led to the placement of 36 children in foster families in Sicily, Lombardy, Veneto and Latium. 179 potential foster parents and social workers were also trained on the foster care system for UASC.

UNICEF continues to support the guardianship system in Sicily, Abruzzo, Basilicata and Molise with trainings and assistance to 243 guardians. The piloting of the mentorship programme has expanded its geographical scope, and now includes Rome and Ravenna, together with Refugees Welcome. A total of 48 mentors and 48 mentees were matched and are receiving support through the programme.

In partnership with Save the Children, emergency support to children and families at the borders in Lampedusa and Ventimiglia reached a total of 821 children and young migrants and refugees with information, first psychological aid, and referral.

The online service provision of legal counselling and PSS continues and is integrated into U-Report on the Move through a partnership with Associazione Ricreativa Culturale Italiana (ARCI). 223 U-reporters were reached with legal support and orientation and/or mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), including case management. UNICEF and UNHCR have started a collaboration to produce a set of live chats on international protection through 2021. In line with this collaboration, video materials on mental health and PSS online services were shared, reaching 4,188 people.

Preliminary findings of the ongoing research on the impacts of COVID-19 on the wellbeing of adolescent migrant and refugees, which is conducted in partnership with Washington University, emphasised the gaps and fragmentation of the current MHPSS system and its limited capacity to include the migrant population.



## Gender-based violence

Mobile outreach teams operating in the border areas, referred 168 GBV survivors and individuals at risk to relevant service or provided key individualized information. As a part of risk mitigation activities at border areas, UNICEF provided case management, psychological and legal support in face-to-face and remote modalities to 298 GBV survivors and individuals at risk in Rome and Palermo.

During the reporting period, 14 trainings on GBV core concepts were delivered to university students, u-bloggers and frontline workers, such as cultural mediators, medical staff, reception centres staff and psycho-social staff working at the borders. UNICEF published the Italian version of the training curriculum '[Supporting survivors of violence: the role of linguistic and cultural mediators](#)' developed in partnership with the Women Refugee Commission, which was extensively tested in Italy.

UNICEF supported prevention from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) activities with nine partners operating in different areas of Italy. As of June 2021, five implementing partners completed their PSEA assessments with positive results, while the others are ongoing.

Preliminary results of the research on the impact of COVID-19 on the safety and well-being of migrant and refugee women and girls indicate a significant negative impact of the pandemic on the economic conditions, psycho-social well-being, and safety of migrant and refugee women and girls in Italy. In line with the findings, a note to inform the new anti-violence strategic plan was developed and submitted to the Department of Equal opportunities, while work on the new plan on the trafficking of human beings is underway.

In the context of the UN GBV interagency collaboration, UNICEF, IOM and UNHCR are developing an open online course (MOOC) on the [GBV Pocket Guide](#).

## Education and skills building

Although the COVID-19 preventative measures deterred learning activities and resulted in the hybrid delivery of the modules, nearly 1,100 adolescents and young people, including refugees and migrants, benefitted from skills building programmes during the reporting period. 2,195 people were reached since the beginning of the year through the implementing partners.

Of the 1,100 young people reached, a total of 623 students within secondary schools in disadvantaged areas completed the phase II of "Ideas in Action for UPSHIFT", a youth social entrepreneurship programme in Milan, Palermo, and Rome. An Innovation & Creativity Camp was held in a reception facility in Milan, reaching 40 unaccompanied minors. On the accelerated and alternative learning, 760 young migrants and refugees (66% girls) completed modules on technical and soft skills, as well as digital skills on the [Mygrants platform](#). More than 25 young people, including refugees and migrants, participated in the active citizenship workshops through the UTOPIA programme in Sicily.

At the national level, 47 young people successfully completed three public speaking online training sessions and have been actively involved in the production of videos and podcast series as part of the Reimagine education campaign.

## Youth empowerment and participation

Thanks to social mobilization sessions held in reception centres in Friuli Venezia Giulia and Sicily, 191 additional young migrants and refugees (121 of whom are UASC) registered on the U-Report on the Move platform. This brings the total number of U-Reporters registered on the platform to 6,356.

Online activities continued throughout the reporting period, including through a contest on addressing racism and xenophobia, online polls, as well as video polls providing information on mental health and access to jobs. These were translated in various languages, reaching an average of 46 U-Reporters. Another channel of information has been [U-Pod](#), which developed weekly episodes during which U-Report on The Move Ambassador, together with experts on legal or psychological-related topics, provided information and support to the listeners.

In line with UNICEF's Global Reimagine Education campaign, an Activate Talk in June brought together adolescents from diverse backgrounds to showcase innovative and inclusive education approaches and share key messages with institutional stakeholders. A total of 4,700 people were connected during the live online event, which generated 381,000 views on [the Vimeo platform](#) and 5 million views via a media partnership with ANSA, Italy's main press agency.

## C4D, community engagement and AAP

During the second quarter, around 11,500 people were reached through online messaging on prevention and access to services. This included live chats on mental health, access to job opportunities, overall well-being, and

several legal issues. Out of these, 5,848 individuals were also reached via interpersonal communication by UNICEF implementing partners.

14,295 individuals participated in engagement actions. 13,451 of these participated in COVID-19-related engagement actions and 844 in the promotion of positive messages for the social inclusion of young migrants and refugees.

With regard to feedback mechanisms, with the support of U-Partner, numerous users shared their concerns and asked questions/clarifications on legal and psychosocial matters via Messenger on U-Report on the Move, of which 223 are closed cases and 31 are open cases.

Furthermore, specific tools on vaccines and communications were disseminated through the website and social media channels of UNICEF's National Committee for Italy.

## BULGARIA

During the reporting period, the number of migrant and refugee arrivals to Bulgaria reached 838, marking a 34% increase compared to the 289 arrivals in the same period of 2020.<sup>9</sup> Out of all the asylum-seekers in 2021 (1,698), 624 were children (aged 0-17 years), marking an increased trend of around 37 % of all applicants. In 2021, of all the children who applied for protection (624), UASC accounted for 78 % (487 children).

Asylum seekers accommodated at state centres have been included in the vaccination process via mobile teams, in close cooperation with the Bulgarian Red Cross. However, the plan for the inclusion of asylum seekers living at external addresses, as well as of migrants hosted in detention centres and other type of closed facilities, remains unclear.

Bulgaria has a funding gap of 77%, with significant underfunding in health and nutrition (94%), GBV (55%) and child protection (43%).

### Health and nutrition

UNICEF and partners continue to disseminate information on health risks (including COVID-19) for children, parents, and health specialists.

Under the DG Health project "Strengthening refugee and migrant children's health status in Southern and South-Eastern Europe", UNICEF reached 322 infants, children, and mothers, by ensuring their access to health and nutrition services. 72 people were provided with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services, while 249 people (57 girls, 54 boys under 18; 100 women, 38 men) benefitted from increased health literacy. Together with Caritas, 38 women were reached via group sessions dedicated to providing information and techniques for addressing their children's and their own mental health needs.



Frontline social workers guide refugee mother and daughter through the vaccination process, Bulgaria  
©UNICEF/L.Yotova/2021

### Child protection

During the reporting period, UNICEF and partners reached a total of 495 persons with GBV prevention and response services (including COVID-19 related services), case management, social assessments and plans of action. 100 UASC benefited from legal aid and assistance for family reunification. UNICEF reached a total of 15 women in vulnerable situations (including eight mothers, one of whom aged below 18 years) and 14 children via Animus led Mother and Baby unit in Sofia. Other services included crisis centre support with access to health services, psycho-social consultations, support for the improvement of parenting skills, employment consultations, and Bulgarian language learning opportunities.

### Gender-based violence

A joint training with IOM and Animus Association on GBV prevention, first psychological aid and PSEA reached 19 representatives of NGOs and social service providers in Sofia and Harmanli. An additional 51 frontline workers were reached with sessions on the improvement of knowledge and skills on GBV prevention and response.

<sup>9</sup> Bulgarian Ministry of Interior and State Agency for Refugees data, 2021.

## Education and skills building

UNICEF, through Caritas, reached a total of 32 children (four UASC) with life skills sessions. The overall school enrolment rate among asylum-seeking children remained low during the second quarter, with 123 children enrolled (47 of them attending schools), out of a total of 371 asylum-seeking children.

## C4D, community engagement and AAP

Through its implementing partners, UNICEF continued to disseminate information materials among refugees and migrants to raise awareness on health-related topics, as part of the DG Health project.

## SERBIA

Between April and June 2021, the transit of the people in Serbia intensified with the improving weather conditions, resulting in 11,457 arrivals, three times as many as during same period in 2020 (3,030).<sup>10</sup> The average monthly arrivals for the spring period were 3,800, which marks a 40% increase compared to the monthly average for winter 2021.

Due to the limited number of donors, resources for the refugee and migrant response are shrinking, resulting in critical gaps, particularly in child protection, to ensure protection/guardianship services for UASC, as well as the provision of basic facilities to children who are most at risk. In addition, insufficiently regulated age assessment procedures continue to impede proper identification and full reach of UASC transiting through Serbia.

Access to education for adolescents has been significantly challenged by COVID-19, due to the lack of tailored solutions for adolescents and sufficient translators.

Education and WASH programming remain 100% unfunded, while significant funding gaps remain in the adolescent and youth (92% unfunded), health and nutrition (76%), and GBV (42%) programmes.

## Health and nutrition

During the reporting period, UNICEF reached 289 people (71 girls, 289 boys) with access to health services. UNICEF continues to support access to Mother Baby Corners (MBC)-related services in safe spaces at two locations and reached 37 women during the reporting period. The services include the provision of information on good hygiene practices, breastfeeding and early child feeding, as well as referrals to specialized health services as needed.

## Child protection

UNICEF is implementing child protection programming for refugee and migrant children with partners in five locations in Serbia. The programme includes group and individual psychosocial support, non-formal education and identification and referral to specialised services for the most vulnerable children and adolescents.

During the reporting period, UNICEF reached 325 children (83 girls, 242 boys) with child protection services, including MHPSS, legal counselling and case management.

A series of webinars focused on strengthening the technical quality of child protection professionals from the social welfare system were delivered in May and June, engaging the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs, and groups working with refugee/migrant children, such as the outreach workers, case managers, guardians. The webinars covered three thematic areas: working with vulnerable groups of children, with an emphasis on gender-based violence survivors; coordination of actors in the integrated system of protection of unaccompanied refugee and migrant children; identifying and preventing the burnout syndrome among protection staff.



## Gender-based violence

UNICEF and partners continue to implement GBV prevention and response services in four reception centres, as well as two additional locations in the greater Belgrade area – including remote and in-person prevention and MHPSS for women and girls who experienced or are at risk of GBV. These services also include safe referrals

<sup>10</sup> UNHCR, Serbia Snapshot June 2021,

<https://reporting.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/Serbia%20statistical%20snapshot%20June%202021.pdf>.

and support to case management in GBV cases, which were delivered through workshops and information sessions, or individually via a hotline. During the reporting period, 376 people (52 girls, 58 boys under 18 and 266 women) accessed the services.

While the funding support received from the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration – United States (BPRM) within the regional GBV project came to an end at the end of June, UNICEF Serbia is committed to supporting continued needs through its core GBV prevention and response programme to ensure critical support until the end of the year.

### Education and skills building

In cooperation with the Ministry of Education (MoE) and the Commissariat for Refugees, UNICEF supported projects focused on access to non-formal education opportunities (via the online language learning platform Akelius and the provision of digital equipment) and formal education (additional learning support of mentors to children enrolled in formal education) in three reception and asylum centres, reaching 187 children by the end of May 2021. The second phase is planned to start in August.

### WASH and basic needs

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and increased arrival of refugees and migrants, additional gaps have emerged in the provision of basic hygiene and non-food items. 351 women, girls and boys were provided with hygiene and dignity kits during the second quarter.

### Youth empowerment and participation

UNICEF delivered sewing courses for girls and young women in the asylum centre in Belgrade during the second quarter of 2021. The skill building programme for youth on the move is integrated into the existing GBV programme.

## BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Between April and June 2021, 5,063 new arrivals were registered in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including 69 UASC.<sup>11</sup> The number of arrivals increased by more than double compared to the same period of 2020 (2,346) and the first quarter of 2021 (2,462). Over 6,000 refugees and migrants are present both in and out of Temporary Reception Centres (TRCs) in the country, including 384 children (280 boys, 104 girls) and over 250 UASC.

The Ministry of Security (MoS) and the Service for Foreigners' Affairs (SFA) have taken the lead in the humanitarian response and management of TRCs. While SFA has established a constant presence in TRCs, the MoS has also taken over outreach activities and tasked the Red Cross to coordinate with all agencies involved in assisting the refugee, migrant and asylum-seeking population residing outside of the facilities.

Following a decision by the public authorities, TRC Sedra, a camp where children, including unaccompanied children were accommodated within the approved capacity of 430, closed in June. The number of refugees and migrants was gradually reduced until the final closure, leading to an increased number of families and UASC sleeping rough. While some families have been moved to TRC Borici, most of them settled outside or in the abandoned buildings, in poor sanitary and hygiene conditions. Furthermore, the authorities decided to reduce the capacity of TRC Miral for UASC - which is the only possible accommodation of UAC in Una-Sana Canton - from 62 to 20. UNICEF is advocating with relevant stakeholders for alternative options, including a possible small-scale facility/emergency care centre, supported independent living or family-based care that better responds to their needs.

UNICEF leads the Education and Child Protection Area of Responsibility within the Protection sector (led and coordinated by UNHCR). Due to funding gaps, there are significant challenges in responding to the needs of most vulnerable UASC under 15 years of age, who are at risk of or have experienced abuse and exploitation, and require targeted MHPSS services.

With increasing humanitarian needs, the existing funding gaps in WASH (100%), youth empowerment (100%), education (77%), health and nutrition (47%) and child protection (43%), pose challenges to addressing immediate needs.

### Health and nutrition

UNICEF and partners continue to provide health and nutrition support, which benefits over 1,000 children as of June. Paediatric healthcare services, including health check-ups, pre-school medical examinations, and individual counselling on health and immunization were provided in Borici and Sedra. During the reporting period, 191 children (58 girls, 133 boys) were reached with general health services and 153 children were provided with vaccines. Four MBC provided parents and pregnant women with IYCF counselling, information

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<sup>11</sup> The Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina statistics.

and awareness raising on hygiene and prevention of COVID-19, psychosocial counselling, and supported the provision of food and critical hygiene packages. A total of 103 parents and 114 children benefitted from MBC services during the second quarter.

### Child protection

UNICEF and partners continued to operate Child-friendly Spaces (CFS) and 24/7 child protection teams in four TRCs, including in designated zones for UASC. Between April and June, 659 children (79 girls, 580 boys) on the move benefitted from child protection support and 505 UASC (one girl, 504 boys) benefitted from care and protection in designated zones for UASC in TRCs. In partnership with MDM, UNICEF ensured access to MHPSS for children and their caregivers in all TRCs in Una-Sana Canton, as well as the capacity building of frontline workers through six information sessions.

### Education and skills building

UNICEF continued to support the education authorities in the Una-Sana Canton. Together with Save the Children and World Vision, it provided daily non-formal education activities in TRCs, including Bosnian language classes, IT classes, creative and sports activities to 341 children (136 girls, 205 boys). English language classes through the Akelius Digital Language course, using a blended learning method, reached 641 children. UNICEF continued to disseminate positive stories and advocacy messages about the importance of education for all children.



## MONTENEGRO

In the second quarter of 2021, Montenegro recorded 988 new arrivals, including 399 children.<sup>12</sup> The last days of June were marked by a significant increase, with 33 and 37 new arrivals per day, while the highest number for the previous month was 19 arrivals in a day. As a part of the transitory movements along the Western Balkans route, the number of arrivals doubled compared to the first quarter of 2021. The trend of families transiting, whereby families come and leave the accommodation together in groups of three or four, continued in the second quarter of 2021. The average stay of migrants and refugees is up to five days before continuing their journey towards Bosnia and Herzegovina. As a result, they opt out on their right to accommodation to carry on with their journey.

In line with the easing of COVID-19 restrictions in Montenegro, the reception centre in Bozaj issued a new measure following refugees and migrants to be able to return into the facility within three days after leaving the Reception Centre, which was prohibited before.

Due to the change of government after three decades, Montenegro is currently going through a transition period. The limited capacity of the new government impedes the strategical coordination of the refugee and migrant crisis response at the national level. The systemic lack of capacities of cross-sectoral professionals dealing with migrants and refugees further challenges the response.

So far, only 6% of funding has been received for the refugee and migrant response, which leaves significant gaps in all sectors.

### Health, nutrition and gender-based violence

In coordination with the Ministry of Interior, UNICEF supported the strengthening of institutional capacities through two online trainings on GBV prevention, including topics related to child friendly policies, provision of health services etc. The first training aimed to enhance the capacities of cross-sectoral professionals from social, law enforcement and health sectors, including representatives from civil society organisations. The second training aimed to increase capacities of health service providers and institutions connected to migration to improve their knowledge in health care. The topics discussed in the meeting included the implementation of child-friendly standards in the health care services provision, a holistic and individual approach to assessing the health conditions and needs of children and women, early childhood development, mental health and care, support in breastfeeding, immunization and hygiene for families and mothers of refugee and migrant children.

<sup>12</sup> Montenegro authorities and UNHCR statistics.

The training resulted in joint follow up recommendations from UNICEF, IOM and UNHCR for each sector to strengthen cross-sectoral cooperation in the provision of health care to migrants and refugees, including the improvement of existing legislation which restricts the access of migrants and refugees to some of their rights.

## Humanitarian leadership, coordination and strategy

In 2021, UNICEF continued to work with other United Nations agencies and civil society organizations to strengthen government systems and capacities to respond to the needs of refugees and migrants in Greece, Italy, Bulgaria, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro. In Serbia, to enhance existing coordination between UNICEF and UNHCR, collaboration opportunities were identified in education, child protection and birth registration. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, UNICEF leads the Education and child protection area of responsibility within the protection sector, coordinated by UNHCR as a part of the UN humanitarian response, and convenes coordination meetings in Una-Sana, Sarajevo, and Tuzla Cantons. In Montenegro, together with IOM and UNHCR, UNICEF is coordinating with the Ministry of Interior on monitoring the reception centres. Furthermore, UNICEF is involved in different working groups together with UNHCR and IOM in Italy, Bulgaria, and Serbia.

UNICEF's response prioritizes protection of children and women, prevention of child immigration detention, family unity, unhindered access to health and education services, improving reception conditions and addressing xenophobia and discrimination, in line with the Global Programme Framework on Children on the Move. The response complements the Global Compacts on Migration and Refugees and promotes effective scale-up models.

In all countries, UNICEF works with partners to deliver services in the areas of health, nutrition, WASH, education, child protection, GBV and risk communication, while engaging in government-led COVID-19 response coordination mechanisms. Furthermore, UNICEF provides technical assistance and expertise to relevant stakeholders to strengthen child protection systems and safeguard the rights of refugee and migrant children. In this context, UNICEF supports advocacy with governments and partners to strengthen capacities to integrate refugee and migrant children into national systems.

## Human Interest Stories and External Media

- UNICEF ECA article: [Two mothers, two children and two safe spaces](#)
- UNICEF Greece article: [Armita, 10 years old, loves going to school against all odds](#)
- UNICEF Bulgaria article: [When you're young, alone and scared in a foreign country](#)
- UNICEF Serbia article: [Education in the time of a pandemic is every child's right](#)
- UNICEF Serbia article: [Mental health is also important: You're not alone](#)
- UNICEF Bosnia and Herzegovina article: [UNICEF Representative Dr. Khan visits Una-Sana Canton](#)
- UNICEF Bosnia and Herzegovina article: [A boy determined to succeed and fulfil his dreams](#)
- UNICEF Bosnia and Herzegovina article: [Born on the Move](#)
- [UNICEF Greece Representative interview with TheirWorld President on Refugee Education in Greece](#)
- [UNICEF BiH: A boy determined to succeed and fulfil his dreams - My plan for the future is to have a good life](#)

## Next SitRep: 30 September 2021

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## Annex A

### SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME RESULTS - as of 30 July 2021

SUMMARY OF RESULTS		Target 2021	Total Results	Change in Q2	
<b>HEALTH AND NUTRITION</b>					
# of infants, children and mothers accessing health and nutrition services, including in mother and baby care centres	Greece	3,000	2,150	▲	1,078
	Serbia	450	144	▲	58
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	1,200	1,159	▲	232
# children benefitting from increased access to general health checks and referrals, incl. access to life-saving vaccines	Greece	15,000	7,496	▲	7,496
	Italy	1,500	73	▲	38
	Bulgaria	350	128	▲	25
	Serbia	300	289	▲	289
	Bosnia and Herzegovina <sup>13</sup>	300	928	▲	191
	Montenegro <sup>14</sup>	50	1,279	▲	732
# women, girls, men and boys benefiting from increased health literacy	Italy	5,000	1,861	▲	415
	Serbia <sup>15</sup>	500	1,094	▲	0
	Bulgaria	250	431	▲	249
# of parents/caregivers of children under 5 receiving ECD counselling and/or parenting support	Serbia	200	141	▲	87
	Montenegro	50	10		0
# of caregivers and frontline professionals (healthcare, social workers, teachers) provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	Serbia <sup>16</sup>	100	0		0
<b>WASH and BASIC SUPPLIES</b>					
# of children receiving culturally appropriate basic supplies, including clothes, baby hygiene items, dignity kits	Bulgaria	1,265	276	▲	72
	Serbia	2,000	943	▲	142
	Bosnia and Herzegovina <sup>17</sup>	1,500	2,342	▲	794
# of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services	Greece	8,500	6,484	▲	3,462
<b>CHILD PROTECTION</b>					
# of children reached with quality child protection support (MHPSS, legal counselling and case management) and protection standards	Greece (R/M)	31,000	8,467	▲	5,018
	Greece (Host)	5,000	0		0
	Italy	2,000	1,039	▲	555
	Serbia	1,100	631	▲	325
	Montenegro	150	423	▲	339
	Bulgaria	200	210	▲	118
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	5,000	1,727	▲	659
# of unaccompanied and separated children reunified with their primary caregiver or provided with family-based care/alternative care services	Greece	5,000	2,031	▲	1,004
	Italy	500	26	▲	9
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	2,000	1,023	▲	505
	Serbia	600	124	▲	1

<sup>13</sup> No of beneficiaries increased due to lock down of three TRCs because of COID 19 cases in the centres in quarter 1

<sup>14</sup> Result overachieved due to increased number of arrivals and longer duration of stay in Q1 and Q2

<sup>15</sup> Target overreached due to additional health literacy materials developed to address the gap

<sup>16</sup> No PPE procurement was undertaken as other UN agencies addressed the needs sufficiently during quarter 1&2

<sup>17</sup> Target overachieved as increased need arises in 2021

SUMMARY OF RESULTS		Target 2021	Total Results	Change in Q2	
# of frontline workers and caregivers with improved knowledge and skills on child protection	Greece	650	570	▲	185
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	300	46	▲	46
	Italy	1,500	534	▲	280
	Bulgaria	50	45	▲	39
	Montenegro	30	24		0
<b>GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE</b>					
# women, girls and boys accessing GBV risk mitigation, prevention or response intervention	Greece (R/M)	11,800	3,206	▲	1,258
	Greece (Host)	10,000	10,210	▲	10,210
	Italy	1,000	588	▲	192
	Serbia	1,500	762	▲	376
	Montenegro <sup>18</sup>	70	500	▲	500
	Bosnia and Herzegovina <sup>19</sup>	1,000	6	▲	5
	Bulgaria	200	206	▲	91
# of frontline workers with improved knowledge and skills on GBV prevention and response	Greece	850	356	▲	146
	Italy	600	227	▲	92
	Serbia <sup>20</sup>	100	164	▲	142
	Bulgaria	75	61	▲	39
	Montenegro	30	35	▲	35
# of women, girls, men and boys (including refugee, migrants and host community) receiving information on GBV, available services and how to access them	Greece	6,000	637	▲	471
	Montenegro	1,000	988	▲	988
	Serbia	4,000	1,649		0
	Bulgaria <sup>21</sup>	500	726	▲	404
	Italy	20,000	15,098	▲	14,497
<b>EDUCATION</b>					
# children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning	Greece	22,000	16,288	▲	2,936
	Italy	2,750	1,613	▲	736
	Bulgaria	300	113	▲	32
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	1,050	758	▲	341
	Serbia	800	170	▲	10
	Montenegro	50	0		0
# of formal schoolteachers trained on at least one key theme on inclusion of refugee and migrant children	Greece	1,500	752	▲	81
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	50	19	▲	19
<b>YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND PARTICIPATION</b>					
# of adolescent boys and girls benefitting from enhanced participation, social inclusion and empowerment	Greece	5,000	677	▲	9
	Italy <sup>22</sup>	8,000	283	▲	121
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	1,000	495	▲	279
	Bulgaria	500	54	▲	42
	Serbia	300	29	▲	6

<sup>18</sup> Target overachieved with increased number of arrivals in Q2, 2021.

<sup>19</sup> GBV activities in 2021 were covered by UNFPA, who provides trainings and education session for staff in the field. UNICEF is part of the response interventions through development of referral mechanisms and SoPs. In addition, GBV victims are reluctant to report due to lack of trust to local authorities and it is challenging to identify new cases.

<sup>20</sup> Target overreached due to the online mode of additional online trainings/webinar to social welfare system professionals.

<sup>21</sup> Target overreached with scaled up GBV intervention and beneficiaries were reached via the mother and baby units, social media and telephone.

<sup>22</sup> COVID19 restrictions in reception centres slowed down mobilization & Facebook policy hampering online promotions and also reduced opportunities for socio-recreational activities.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS		Target 2021	Total Results	Change in Q2
<b>COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ACCOUNTABILITY</b>				
# of people reached through messaging on access to services	Greece (R/M)	30,000	0	0
	Greece (Host)	15,000	0	0
	Italy	135,000	15,326	▲ 11,492
	Bulgaria	2,200	450	▲ 150
	Montenegro	1,000	0	0
# people participating in engagement actions (for social and behavioural change)	Italy	140,000	57,000	▲ 14,295
# people sharing their concerns and asking questions/clarifications to address their needs through established feedback mechanisms	Italy	1,000	223	▲ 85

## Annex B

### FUNDING STATUS

Countries with children on the move	Requirements	Funds available			Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received in 2021	Other resources used in 2021	Resources available from 2020 (Carry-over) <sup>23</sup>	US\$	%
<b>Greece</b>	<b>19 500 000</b>	2 628 951	13 578 511	4 442 711	(1 150 173)	-6%
<b>Italy</b>	<b>6 935 000</b>	1 588 645	40 000	1 930 786	3 375 569	49%
<b>Bulgaria</b>	<b>1 145 000</b>	100 000	-	159 792	885 208	77%
<b>Bosnia-Herzegovina</b>	<b>5 150 000</b>	709 459	962 789	715 217	2 762 536	54%
<b>Serbia</b>	<b>1 550 000</b>	328 155	-	346 274	875 571	56%
<b>Montenegro</b>	<b>217 000</b>	-	-	12 489	204 511	94%
<b>Regional Support</b>	<b>1 950 000</b>			54 352	1 895 648	97%
<b>Total</b>	<b>36 447 000</b>	<b>5 355 210</b>	<b>14 581 300</b>	<b>7 661 621</b>	<b>8 848 869</b>	<b>24%</b>

<sup>23</sup> Carryforward amount adjusted from \$10.5 million to \$7.9 in quarter two

# UNICEF Refugee and Migrant Response Activities in Europe

Updated June 2021

unicef   
for every child

Refugee and Migrant  
Response in Europe

-  Advocacy
-  Communication
-  Training and capacity building
-  Outreach to children at risk
-  Psycho-social support
-  Gender-based violence
-  Education
-  Health and nutrition
-  Water, hygiene and sanitation
-  Adolescents
-  Child rights monitoring
-  Basic supplies
-  Technical assistance
-  Coordination and preparedness



**Greece**

**Italy**

**Bulgaria**

**Serbia**

**Bosnia and Herzegovina**

**Montenegro**

**Preparedness Countries\***

**National Committee countries**

**Turkey**

In Turkey, UNICEF is responding to the needs of over 1.7 million Syrian and other refugee and migrant children through a multi-sectoral response under the Regional Response and Resilience Plan (3RP).

\* In some countries, UNICEF may be supporting service provision on needs basis as part of the regular country programme.

# UNICEF Refugee and Migrant Response Partners in Europe

Updated July 2021



- Child protection and/or GBV prevention and response
- Education and/or Adolescent development and participation
- Health and nutrition
- WASH and basic supplies
- Technical assistance

Greece	Italy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> ARSIS, CRWI DIOTIMA, Institute of Child Health, IRC Hellas, Junior Achievement, KETHI, Lesvos Solidarity, METAdrasi, OAED, Social Administration Research Lab – University of West Attica, Solidarity Now, SOS Children’s Villages Greece, Terre de Homme Hellas</li> <li> ARSIS, Elix, METAdrasi, University of Thessaly</li> <li> Merimna, METAdrasi, Solidarity Now</li> <li> Watershed</li> <li> EKKA, Ministries for Labour, Migration, Education, Deputy Ombudswoman for Children, General Secretariat for Gender Equality, Institute of Educational Policy, Public Prosecutor’s Office, national authorities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> INTERSOS, Medecins du Monde, Coordinamento Nazionale Comunita Di Accoglienza (CNCA), Save the Children Italia, Refugees Welcome Italia, ARCI APS, Borgo Ragazzi Don Bosco, Centro Penc Antropologia E Psicolog Geoclinica, Clinica Legale Per I Diritti Umani Cledu Aps</li> <li> Junior Achievement-Italy, Arciragazzi Nazionale</li> <li> Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the National Ombudsperson, SIPROIMI, local authorities</li> </ul>
Bulgaria	Serbia
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Bulgarian Helsinki Committee, Animus Association Foundation, Mission Wings Foundation, Council of Refugee Women in Bulgaria, Caritas, Bulgarian Red Cross</li> <li> Nadja Center Foundation, Caritas</li> <li> State Agency for Refugees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Info Park, ADRA, University of Belgrade Faculty of Political Sciences, Danish Refugee Council</li> <li> Indigo</li> <li> Info Park, ADRA</li> <li> Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Commissariat for Refugees and Migration</li> </ul>
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Montenegro
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Save the Children, World Vision, Learning Activity Network, Centres for Social Welfare</li> <li> Save the Children, World Vision</li> <li> Fenix, Danish Refugee Council, Médecins du Monde</li> <li> Government authorities at all levels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Education</li> </ul>