



A paediatrician speaks with a young child during a mental health and psychosocial support session in Armenia, as part of UNICEF-supported efforts to strengthen early identification and care for children's wellbeing.

Highlights

- Between January and December 2025, mixed migration continued along the Mediterranean and Balkan routes, with 179,753 refugees and migrants arriving in the region, placing additional strain on national services.¹
- Armenia continued to host a large population of ethnic Armenian refugees, adding pressure on national systems already supporting previously displaced individuals.
- In Türkiye, hundreds of thousands of people remained in temporary settlements following the 2023 earthquakes, while in Tajikistan a 5.8 magnitude earthquake caused damage to schools, health facilities and essential infrastructure, affecting over 1,300 families.⁴
- Throughout 2025, UNICEF worked with governments and partners to strengthen child-centred emergency preparedness and response, combining service delivery with systems strengthening across health, nutrition, education, child protection, WASH and social protection. Efforts also focused on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation to mitigate the impact of recurrent shocks.
- As of December 2025, UNICEF had received US\$10.9 million against its US\$80.8 million funding requirement. This, in addition to US\$32.9 million carry-over funds, resulted in an overall funding gap of 48 per cent. UNICEF is grateful to all donors for their continued, generous, and important contributions.

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UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Region (ECAR)

Humanitarian Situation Report No. 2

1 January - 31 December 2025

Situation in Numbers (ECAR HAC 2025)



497,906 people of concern

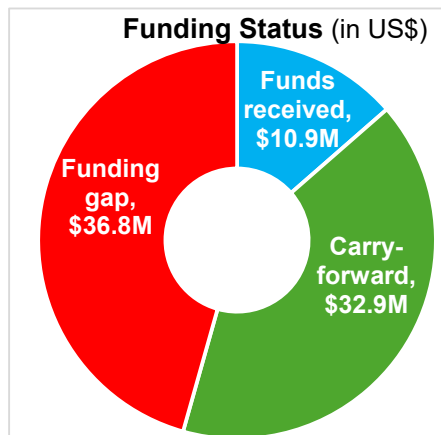


236,900 people in need in Armenia



732,000 people living in temporary settlements in Türkiye

UNICEF Appeal 2025 US\$80.8 million



¹Data sources for refugee and migrant figures: UNHCR, IOM, Italian Ministry of Interior, Bosnia and Herzegovinian Ministry of Security, Bulgarian State Agency for Refugees and Ministry of Interior, Serbian Commissariat for Refugees and Migration.

²Government of Armenia.

³Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye, Directorate of Communications, Reconstruction and Development Report, pg. 163-164. Available at [lhya-ve-lnsa.pdf](#) (retrieved on 9 July 2025).

⁴State Emergency Commission, Tajikistan.

Regional Funding Overview and Partnerships

As of the end of December 2025, UNICEF had received US\$10.9 million against the [2025 Europe and Central Asia Region \(ECAR\) HAC Appeal](#) ask of US\$80.8 million. This new funding, in addition to US\$32.9 million carry-over funds from 2024, resulted in an overall funding gap of 46 per cent against the total ask.

Generous and critical contributions were received from the European Commission (DG ECHO, DG HOME), the United Kingdom Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), the State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugee and Migration (BPRM), the Akelius Foundation, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI), Global Humanitarian Thematic Funding (GHTF) and UNICEF National Committees in Belgium, Germany, Italy, Spain, Norway and Sweden.

These contributions enabled UNICEF to deliver assistance to refugee and migrant children and families across the region, respond to sudden onset emergencies such as earthquakes and floods, and invest in preparedness and disaster risk reduction measures. Funding also supported initiatives to strengthen local, national, and regional emergency preparedness and disaster management capabilities, helping to mitigate risks and protect communities vulnerable to future shocks.

UNICEF's response in Ukraine and countries hosting refugees from Ukraine is covered under the [2025 Ukraine and Refugee Response HAC](#) and reported [here](#).

Regional Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

During the reporting period, mixed migration continued along the Mediterranean and Balkan routes, driven primarily by conflict, political instability and economic pressures, with more than 179,753 refugees and migrants arriving in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy and Serbia between January and December 2025.

In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, 14,000 refugees and migrants arrived in 2025, including 3,946 children, 3,116 of whom were unaccompanied and separated.⁵ While the number of child arrivals declined significantly compared with the previous year, the number of children with disabilities increased. UNICEF and partners continued efforts to strengthen services; however, gaps persisted in family-based care for younger unaccompanied children and in mental health

support, particularly for children affected by border pushbacks.

By the end of 2025, an estimated 4,000 refugees and migrants had arrived in **Bulgaria**, while more than 15,000 attempted to enter during the year according to the Ministry of Interior.⁶ Registered arrivals declined sharply (70 per cent decrease) compared with 2024, largely due to Bulgaria's full accession to the EU Schengen Area on 1 January 2025. Among those who entered the territory, 3,895 applied for asylum (25 per cent children). Underreported departures and protection concerns remained, especially for unaccompanied and separated children, with persistent gaps in access to education, health care, interpretation and child-sensitive procedures as well as insufficient identification and alternative care arrangements.

As of November 2025, 42,900 refugees and migrants reached **Greece**, primarily by sea, with most arrivals recorded in Crete (16,773).⁷ Children accounted for 20.5 per cent and women 12.3 per cent of arrivals by sea⁸. Land border crossings also continued during the year, albeit in much lower numbers (6,351⁹). By the end of 2025, Greece continued to host 1,716 unaccompanied and separated children, the vast majority boys (92 per cent).

By the end of 2025, **Italy** recorded 66,296 refugee and migrant arrivals, including 12,142 unaccompanied children.¹⁰ While overall arrivals remained broadly stable compared to 2024, the number of unaccompanied and separated children increased by roughly 50 per cent. Data remained incomplete, as figures did not capture arrivals through land borders. The reception system continued to host unaccompanied and separated children (17,504), often placed in first-line facilities that lacked adequate and specialized services. In 2025, UNICEF's U-Report¹¹ 'On The Move' in Italy registered 1,400 unaccompanied and separated children, young migrants and refugees on the platform through social mobilization sessions, reaching a total of 19,600 U-Reporters. Findings from targeted polls highlighted persistent challenges, including experiences of stereotyping, delays in school registration, gaps in emotional and psychological support, limited access to practical guidance on job orientation, and low awareness of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and available services.

Serbia registered 9,757 refugee and migrant arrivals in the 2025, compared with 19,603 in 2024. Despite low overall numbers, the proportion of children increased – from 17 per cent to 24 per cent – highlighting the need for targeted child protection measures.¹² Many refugees and migrants, including unaccompanied and separated children, avoided state-run facilities and instead opted for private accommodation, reducing their visibility to service providers, hampering access to essential services like information, psychosocial

⁵ Total arrival estimates based on Ministry of Security BiH data, total number of children estimates based on UNICEF data.

⁶ Ministry of Labour data.

⁷ Ministry of Migration and Asylum data, November 2025.

⁸ UNHCR data, January 2026.

⁹ Ministry of Migration and Asylum data, November 2025

¹⁰ According to the Italian Ministry of Interior.

¹¹ U-Report is a social messaging tool and data collection system developed by UNICEF to improve citizen engagement, inform leaders, and foster positive change.

¹² Based on data from the Serbian Commissariat for Refugees and Migration (SCRM) and UNHCR.

support and legal aid while increasing their protection risks.

Across all of these countries, vulnerable refugees and migrants faced similar challenges, including limited access to essential services, heightened risks of exploitation and violence, and inadequate support systems. Coordinated action among government and non-government partners remained critical to addressing these risks and strengthening protection for children and families.

As of December 2025, **Armenia** hosted a large population of 115,388 ethnic Armenian refugees, including 36,000 children, placing additional strain on national systems already supporting previously displaced individuals. Two years into the response, UNICEF prioritized addressing the residual needs and supporting national systems to facilitate the integration of refugees.

Two years after the **Türkiye** earthquake, many people still live in accommodation centres, especially in Hatay which houses the largest displaced population. Despite progress, humanitarian needs persist in temporary settlements, including access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene items, and essential health services, especially for women and children. Risks for children remain high, including trauma-related mental health needs, child labour, early marriage, and weak case management. Planned closure of container settlements also threatened education continuity, particularly for refugee children impacted by registration barriers linked to relocation.

In April 2025, a 5.8 magnitude earthquake struck Rasht and Tojikobod districts in **Tajikistan**, causing widespread damage and humanitarian needs. The quake destroyed or damaged homes, schools, health facilities and critical infrastructure. Over 1,300 families were affected by displacement and disrupted access to education, health care, and basic services, with direct losses estimated at around TJS 17.8 million (approximately US\$1.6 million).

Against a backdrop of rising risks and hazards, recurrent emergencies and growing fragility in the region, sustained investment in emergency preparedness, response and risk mitigation remains essential to protect children, families and communities.

Regional Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

In 2025, UNICEF strengthened humanitarian leadership, coordination, and emergency preparedness across the region through close collaboration with governments, country offices, and regional and national partners. Efforts were scaled up for both sudden- and slow-onset emergencies, including mixed migration, climate- and natural-hazard-related shocks, conflict-related displacement, and public health risks.

UNICEF worked with regional, sub-regional, and national partners — including the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for Southeastern Europe (DPPI-SEE), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and National Red Crescent Societies — to strengthen national and local capacities for emergency preparedness and disaster risk reduction. This collaboration contributed to the resilience of communities, families, and children, including through the regional Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative.

Across the region, UNICEF prioritized life-saving assistance and protection across health, nutrition, education, WASH, child protection, social protection, Social and Behaviour Change (SBC), and Adolescent Development and Participation (ADAP). In Central Asia, UNICEF supported authorities and communities to advance disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation measures. In countries affected by mixed migration, UNICEF provided technical assistance to strengthen child protection systems and safeguard the rights of refugee and migrant girls, boys, and women in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, and Serbia, with a focus on preventing exploitation and violence, including GBV, preventing child immigration detention, promoting family unity, and ensuring access to quality services.

UNICEF worked closely with UNHCR and International Organization for Migration under joint Strategic Collaboration Frameworks to complement the Global Compacts on Refugees and Migration, enhance scale-up models, and strengthen linkages between humanitarian and development programming. Engagement with regional bodies, including the European Union Agency for Asylum and the Fundamental Rights Agency, supported child-sensitive approaches to migration governance and protection systems.

At the regional level, UNICEF supported emergency preparedness and contingency planning with a strong cross-regional lens to ensure continuity of protection and care for children on the move. A cross-regional forum between UNICEF Regional Offices in Europe and Central Asia and the Middle East and North Africa strengthened information sharing and coordination along Mediterranean migration routes. Outputs included identification of shared programmatic priorities, joint advocacy on migration risks, development of a joint investment case, and collaboration on research and evidence generation.

UNICEF remains engaged at regional and country levels to support child-sensitive implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum by Member States, while strengthening child protection capacities in non-EU countries at external borders to promote more predictable and rights-based migration and asylum systems.

Regional Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Refugee and Migrant Response

Health and Nutrition: In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, UNICEF supported access to health and nutrition services for refugee and migrant children and caregivers through Mother and Baby Corners (MBCs) in Temporary Reception Centres (TRCs) until mid-2025. Support included breastfeeding and infant and young child feeding (IYCF) counselling as well as Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS). UNICEF and partners reached over 500 children and caregivers, including 197 children (half girls). In parallel, UNICEF strengthened the capacities of health professionals in Una-Sana Canton and supported the transition and handover of nutrition and related services to state authorities, aligning them with national health systems.

In **Serbia**, the Institute of Public Health of Serbia (IPHS) finalized and shared the publication of national Guidelines for Preventing Infectious Diseases in Refugee and Migrant Populations (available in Serbian language). These guidelines aim to establish effective disease surveillance systems and ensure consistent hygiene standards across reception and asylum centres. The guidelines also aim to close gaps in infection prevention and control while improving coordination among health institutions, social services, and humanitarian actors.

Child Protection, GBV, and prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA): In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, UNICEF and partners supported nearly 4,000 refugee and migrant children, including over 3,000 unaccompanied children, with child protection services in TRCs, including 24/7 care, case management, MHPSS, GBV risk mitigation, and access to child-friendly spaces. Additionally, 940 children benefited from case management and close to 800 participated in psychosocial or recreational activities.

UNICEF strengthened national systems for best interest assessment, child safeguarding and trafficking through trainings of over 120 professionals from social welfare and migration sectors, while advancing government ownership of a child-centred transition plan for child protection services. In partnership with implementing partners, UNICEF supported institutions to replicate the support system, primarily 24/7 support and legal guardianship for unaccompanied children, as well as strength child safeguarding, prevention and mitigation measures. UNICEF also contributed to inter-agency PSEA efforts by delivering information sessions for unaccompanied children in reception centres and introducing an enhanced electronic system for Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP).

In **Bulgaria**, the Safe Zone in Harmanli, established with UNICEF support, was formally handed over to IOM for management after providing protection for over 1,000 unaccompanied and separated children between 2024 and August 2025. UNICEF strengthened child protection and PSEA capacity through targeted trainings for social services, legal aid providers, implementing partners and child helpline staff. These efforts enhanced child-friendly legal aid, safeguarding practices and PSEA reporting across national and partner systems, including joint engagement with UNHCR on protection for unaccompanied and separated children.

In 2025, UNICEF advanced Bulgaria's alignment with the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum by signing an Action Plan with the State Agency for Refugees (SAR) and engaging with government and EU institutions through high-level Pact and Schengen dialogues, as well as coordination with EU agencies, to strengthen child safeguards in border and reception procedures. This also included work on procedural guarantees for children and proposals for guardianship reform.

In **Greece**, UNICEF strengthened the capacity of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum providing expert technical support, including to the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Populations and Institutional Protection for the implementation and monitoring of the national guardianship scheme for unaccompanied children. UNICEF also conducted targeted assessments to inform strategies for improving guardianship, protection and integration of unaccompanied children, and supported the development of a training package to help staff in reception facilities apply harmonized child protection standards. UNICEF also conducted targeted assessments¹³ to inform strategies for improving guardianship, protection and integration of unaccompanied children, and supported the development of a training package to help staff in reception facilities apply harmonized child protection standards.

As chair of the PSEA Working Group, UNICEF coordinated the launch of a digital feedback mechanism to strengthen SEA prevention and reporting in collaboration with UN agencies and national NGOs, and supported the training of ministry staff to expand PSEA capacity at site level.

In **Italy**, UNICEF strengthened child protection and GBV prevention and response by supporting access to MHPSS for more than 13,500 children and caregivers through reception-based and digital platforms (Here4U, U-Report). UNICEF case managers worked with local authorities to address vulnerable cases, including unaccompanied children and GBV survivors, strengthening referral pathways and coordination across child protection, health, social services and the justice system. For example, five municipalities received training on a UNICEF-developed costing tool to support more efficient planning and scale-up of family-based care.

¹³ Findings of the first participatory assessment of the guardianship implementation scheme can be found [here](#).

UNICEF and partners expanded GBV prevention and response through targeted outreach, safe spaces and frontline capacity-building, while advancing PSEA by aligning partner policies with UN standards and supporting the adoption of PSEA frameworks across the majority of targeted reception centres. Approximately 1,200 frontline workers were trained on GBV in-person and over 1,800 through e-learning. UNICEF also promoted prevention of online and technology-facilitated GBV through national partnerships and youth-focused awareness initiatives such as the [Play Safe](#) app that was integrated into a training programme for IED (Istituto Europeo di Design) students.

In 2025, in **Serbia**, refugee and migrant girls, boys and women accessed GBV prevention, risk-mitigation and response services through safe spaces in Belgrade and selected asylum centres. Together with partners, UNICEF reached nearly 2,000 children, youth and caregivers with child protection and MHPSS activities along while another 850 were reached with GBV interventions. UNICEF also ensured people in need had access to a safe and accessible channel to report SEA. UNICEF strengthened national and volunteer capacity by supporting training on child protection and GBV in emergencies, psychological first aid and volunteer management, and by establishing a cadre of trained trainers to cascade child-sensitive and gender-responsive approaches within the migration sector. In partnership with the Serbian Commissariat for Refugees and Migration, UNICEF also supported the development of an online safeguarding and PSEA course for migration-sector personnel, planned for rollout in 2026.

Education: In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, UNICEF and partner World Vision provided non-formal education for over 1,500 children on the move, including foreign language learning through the Akelius Language Course. UNICEF also leveraged partnerships with local education authorities, complemented by national funding, to offer vocational training to unaccompanied boys in fields such as culinary arts, barbering, IT, and electrical work. Preparatory classes continued in two primary schools and TRC Ušivak, benefitting 102 children on the move, and distributed school backpacks with supplies to children in reception centres. In 2025, joint workshops co-convened by the Ministry of Civil Affairs and UNICEF advanced the transition of formal and non-formal education services to state authorities, resulting in an education transition plan integrated into the consolidated transition framework.

In **Bulgaria**, UNICEF continued advocating for legislative reforms to improve refugee and migrant children's access to Bulgarian language education. In line with EU Directive 2024/1346 and the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, UNICEF emphasized the need for structured language support both prior to and during school enrolment, integrating Bulgarian as a foreign language into national standards, enhancing teacher training, and ensuring equitable access to quality education for all children.

In **Greece**, UNICEF employed digital solutions to improve the education prospects of 555 refugee and migrant children, in coordination with the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports through the Akelius Digital Language Course.

In **Italy**, 481 refugee and migrant children (nearly half girls) aged 6-12 years accessed the Akelius Digital Language Course to support their Italian language acquisition. A total of 75 tablets were distributed and 176 new teachers trained to use the Akelius application with a blended learning approach. A total of 71 comprehensive schools (23 old/advanced and 48 new) applied for and joined Akelius for the 2025-26 school year. In October, a [new evaluation report](#) was launched by UNICEF and the ISMU Foundation, showing that over 78 per cent of participating students achieved or exceeded their Italian L2 learning goals. Moreover, teachers highlighted that the blended learning approach not only strengthened linguistic skills but also promoted peer-to-peer interaction and digital skills building.

In **Serbia**, UNICEF continued to strengthen systems for the rapid and inclusive enrolment of refugee and migrant children into formal education, working closely with the Institute for the Improvement of Education and its new Department for National Minorities. UNICEF-supported online training on inclusive education reached hundreds of teachers nationwide, strengthening school capacity to support inclusive learning for 29,000 children, including those in schools hosting refugee and migrant students.

Targeted training on teaching Serbian as a foreign language further strengthened school-level inclusion, while support to regional education offices helped scale these approaches nationally. A teachers' manual and methodological guidelines for teaching Serbian as a foreign language were developed, aligned with EU good practices and designed for use in diverse classroom settings. UNICEF also supported the establishment of a Community of Practice for teachers, enhancing peer learning and professional development around the inclusion of refugee and migrant children. Collectively, these interventions improved teaching capacity and learning outcomes for thousands of children.

WASH/NFI: In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, UNICEF provided winter clothes and shoes for 650 children in TRCs. In **Serbia**, over 1,000 new individuals received dignity and hygiene kits within broader UNICEF WASH interventions. Information brochures on child protection, GBV, MHPSS, health, and education were distributed alongside the kits to minimize protection risks and address basic needs.

Social protection including humanitarian cash transfer (HCT): In **Serbia**, UNICEF strengthened the Serbian Red Cross's capacity to deliver HCTs during emergencies by training practitioners from municipal branches on core HCT processes. The training also integrated key cross-cutting priorities, including child protection, gender equality and inclusion, AAP, and data protection.

SBC and AAP: In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, UNICEF strengthened AAP through continued engagement in the UNICARE initiative¹⁴ and roll-out of a national digital feedback channel, 'Slusamo te' (We hear you), available in local languages, English, Arabic, and Farsi. UNICEF piloted the system with partners in humanitarian settings and schools and progressively integrated it across UNICEF-supported programmes, establishing it as a core feedback mechanism in the country.

UNICEF also strengthened AAP integration through staff training and oversight by a Country Office AAP Committee, while transitional digital feedback channels remained operational during system rollout. In 2025, hundreds of individuals provided feedback through online and offline channels, supporting more responsive and accountable programming.

In **Serbia**, UNICEF updated health communication materials to reflect changes to the national vaccination calendar and support informed access for refugee and migrant communities. Materials are being translated into multiple languages. Additionally, the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration received a breastfeeding communication package to promote breastfeeding and ensure compliance with standards on the use of breastmilk substitutes across reception and asylum centres.

ADAP: In **Serbia**, UNICEF and the Psychosocial Intervention Network (PIN) delivered MHPSS services and non-formal education to nearly 500 refugees and migrants, the majority children and adolescents. UNICEF also strengthened national systems by improving referral pathways, developing localized standard operating procedures, and reviewing the national MHPSS policy framework to inform longer-term improvements. UNICEF further expanded youth and volunteer engagement by supporting peer-led initiatives in reception centres and strengthening coordination among Local Volunteer Services, Youth Offices and the Red Cross across multiple municipalities, enhancing preparedness, child safeguarding and emergency response capacity.

Refugee Response in Armenia

Child Protection, GBV, and PSEA: During the reporting period, UNICEF and partners provided mental health and psychosocial support to nearly 10,000 children, adolescents and caregivers, including through child-friendly spaces and protection hubs. GBV prevention, risk mitigation and response services reached almost 9,700 women, girls and boys, while safe reporting channels for sexual exploitation and abuse were made available to more than 10,800 people. Nearly 1,000 children received case management support, and parenting programmes strengthened caregiving capacities for more than 800 parents and caregivers.

Education: UNICEF, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports, supported education for thousands refugee and migrant children whose schooling was disrupted, more than 2,100 school-age children (including 1,155 refugees) benefitted from remedial support and 829 children participated in catch-up classes, alongside school preparedness programmes for preschool-aged children. Nearly 600 teachers were trained in social-emotional learning and inclusive practices,



Two girls participate in the opening of new classrooms in two preschools at Vagharshapat, Armavir region in Armenia, expanded access to learning for refugee and host community children.

strengthening learning environments for tens of thousands of children. UNICEF also provided learning materials and early childhood development kits to nearly 3,500 girls and boys and supported emergency preparedness activities in disaster-prone regions.

Social protection (including HCT): UNICEF supported the Government of Armenia to deliver needs-based cash assistance to more than 1,300 vulnerable refugee and host community households, reaching over 5,500 individuals, through the country's first use of an electronic cash delivery system (e-cards). All recipients also received useful information on MHPSS through UNICEF's [babycef.am](https://www.babycef.am) website. UNICEF also strengthened national systems by supporting the roll-out of a government-led, multi-sector needs assessment tool and building the capacity of social workers nationwide to identify, assess and refer vulnerable families to appropriate services. Accountability was reinforced through feedback mechanisms and awareness activities.

To improve access to information, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs to launch an innovative Telegram chatbot, enabling refugees to navigate social protection programmes more easily and reducing pressure on government hotlines. Post distribution monitoring found that 97 per cent of recipients stated that their household needs had been assessed by social workers.

¹⁴ UNICARE is a UNICEF-led solution that appropriately addresses all types of feedback and complaints from anyone, anywhere, to build a more accountable world for children.

Humanitarian Response in Türkiye

Health and Nutrition: UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health (MoH) strengthen access to health, nutrition and ECD services in earthquake-affected provinces, including eight neonatal care training equipment sets and eight containers, as well as capacity building of health and municipal staff.

Community outreach and home-visiting services reached pregnant women, young children and caregivers with counselling on nutrition, infant and young child feeding (IYCF), early development and vaccination. Overall, UNICEF supported more than 73,000 children to access immunization services. Two breastfeeding spaces were created in the Şanlıurfa Data Verification Centre, which serves 300 to 500 newborns daily in ID registration. Nutrition systems were strengthened through assessments, revision of emergency nutrition guidelines with the Turkish Red Crescent, and system-level preparedness for future emergencies.

Child Protection, GBV, and PSEA: UNICEF sustained lifesaving child protection and GBV services through mobile teams, centres and Birlikte Hubs¹⁵, reaching over 43,000 people with MHPSS, including more than 33,000 children. Nearly 12,000 children (half girls) at risk or survivors of GBV received case management, while GBV risk mitigation activities reached more than 109,000 people. PSEA remained a priority, with complaint channels and awareness activities reaching more than 116,000 people. UNICEF strengthened national systems through training, e-learning platforms and the handover of community hubs to local authorities, ensuring continuity and sustainability of services.¹⁶

Education: UNICEF, with municipal authorities and NGO partners, supported access to education and early learning for children affected by displacement and disruption, including re-enrolment and retention support for out-of-school children and expansion of ECD through centre-, home- and community-based models. Nearly 15,000 young children accessed early learning support, complemented by the distribution of learning materials and community engagement activities. Capacity development for educators and parental engagement initiatives strengthened service quality, inclusion and sustainability, while academic support and social cohesion activities improved learning outcomes in affected provinces.

Social protection (including HCT): UNICEF strengthened Türkiye's shock-responsive social protection (SRSP) system by enhancing its shock-readiness, emergency cash preparedness, and child-focused DRR capacity. In collaboration with the Ministry of Family and Social Services, UNICEF conducted

preparedness and lessons-learned exercises, generating actionable recommendations to improve preparedness and future emergency cash responses. UNICEF also supported 45 municipalities to integrate child-sensitive DRR into local planning and worked with the private sector to strengthen safe vocational training for youth in emergency-affected areas. This included the development of a disaster risk map and a child-centred DRR action plan for Gaziantep and Adana Metropolitan Municipalities.

WASH: UNICEF improved access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene through rehabilitation of water networks, upgrades to wastewater infrastructure and hygiene promotion. Innovative approaches, including AI-supported leak detection, enhanced system efficiency. By the end of 2025, UNICEF reached over 910,000 people with improved water access, nearly 493,000 with improved sanitation, and over 10,000 people with hygiene services, contributing to public health protection and longer-term system sustainability.

SBC and AAP: UNICEF integrated SBC approaches across sectors to remove barriers to increase access to and use of services among earthquake-affected populations. More than 350,000 people participated in awareness-raising activities on child protection, emotional well-being and gender. Feedback mechanisms enabled communities to share concerns and inform programme adaptation with more than 150,000 engaged in reflective dialogue, more than half women. Behavioural insights directly shaped programme strategies in multiple provinces, strengthening accountability to affected populations.

ADAP: Through youth spaces and partnerships with national and local actors, UNICEF reached tens of thousands of adolescents and young people with skills development and engagement opportunities, supporting recovery, resilience and inclusive development in earthquake-affected provinces.



Aya's youngest sister sometimes joins her at the vocational centre in Türkiye and takes part in activities. Aya dreams of opening her own hair salon one day.

¹⁵ Birlikte hub is an integrated service hubs established during earthquake response at the affected provinces to provide child protection and GBV prevention and response services as well as

education and early childhood development services for those affected by the EQ.

¹⁶ Four of the hubs were part of the eight hubs operated in 2025. The remaining two out of six hubs were not operational during 2025.

Regional Emergency Preparedness and Response

In 2025, UNICEF continued engaging with national and local governments and other partners in Europe and Central Asia to strengthen emergency preparedness, response, DRR and CCA.

Preparedness and DRR: Building on the Memorandum of Understanding signed in September 2024, UNICEF and the DPPI-SEE launched a sequence of regional initiatives to strengthen child-sensitive emergency preparedness and response across Southeastern Europe. The first DPPI-SEE regional workshop, hosted by Romania's Department for Emergency Situations (DSU) in Bucharest, convened civil protection authorities from across the region and UNICEF experts to explore how child-focused and inclusive considerations can be more systematically integrated into disaster risk management policies, institutional arrangements and operational practices, establishing a shared regional baseline. In 2025, in coordination with DSU, UNICEF supported Romania to conduct a foresight-based stress test of the national child-sensitive emergency preparedness and response system, aimed at identifying systemic gaps and enhancing readiness for future emergencies.

These efforts were subsequently reinforced through a second regional workshop held in Podgorica from 16–17 December 2025, convened by UNICEF in partnership with DPPI-SEE and the Ministry of Interior of Montenegro¹⁷, which focused on risk analysis and rapid needs assessment, advancing practical, child-sensitive approaches to risk analysis and needs assessments, strengthening their integration into national preparedness and emergency response systems and sector related policies and plans.

In 2025, UNICEF commissioned a mapping and feasibility study to scale up Anticipatory Action (AA) in Europe and Central Asia to strengthen child-sensitive early warning and shock-responsive systems. The study identified pathways for strengthening early warning and shock-responsive systems, including government engagement on trigger design and pre-arranged response options. It also highlighted a strategic entry point for UNICEF to advocate for national financing of child-sensitive AA, ensuring children are prioritized in disaster risk financing. The study assessed the feasibility of advancing AA in Central Asia and the Western Balkans, identified practical entry points for UNICEF country offices in **Tajikistan, Kosovo¹⁸, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Bosnia and Herzegovina** to embed child-sensitive AA into programming through systems strengthening with national governments.

In **Tajikistan** and **Kosovo**, UNICEF is advancing child-sensitive Anticipatory Action (AA) through strengthened government partnerships and systems-level

preparedness. In **Tajikistan**, a mapping and feasibility mission identified entry points for early action, trigger design, and pre-arranged financing, leading to the implementation of an AA action plan. UNICEF worked with Hydromet, the Committee of Emergency Situations (CoES), and the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population (MoHSPP) to develop multi-agency SOPs for extreme temperatures and to strengthen early warning, trigger-to-action protocols and shock-responsive systems, enabling faster support to vulnerable households with children.

In **Kosovo**, UNICEF initiated discussions with the Agency for Emergency Management and the Ministry of Finance, Labour and Transfers to jointly plan AA interventions. Early engagement focuses on operational SOPs, contingency planning with agreed early-action triggers, and policy and legislative reforms to enable anticipatory approaches. In parallel, UNICEF has finalized and published the SRSP Guideline for Kosovo, which will inform legislative reform and guide joint planning and implementation with government counterparts.

In 2025, UNICEF strengthened emergency preparedness across **Armenia, Türkiye and Turkmenistan**, prioritizing operational readiness and localization in line with UNICEF's Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action. Thanks to flexible funding from the Global Humanitarian Thematic Fund, UNICEF advanced preparedness efforts through the strategic positioning of emergency supplies, strengthening the capacities of UNICEF staff, development of contingency plans, and capacity building of national and local actors in protection and WASH, while also contributing to inter-agency planning for potential refugee movements.

Response: In early 2025, UNICEF leveraged humanitarian thematic funding to advance shock-responsive and anticipatory social protection in **Bosnia and Herzegovina**. UNICEF co-organized a [high-level conference](#) co-organized with the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Policy which validated a national SRSP Roadmap, while ministries committed to introducing contingency budget lines within 2025 cycles. A key milestone was the launch of the country's first municipal SRSP emergency cash transfer scheme in Bihać, enabling rapid, locally funded support to flood-affected households. UNICEF further strengthened SRSP policies through expanded simulations, coordination via the Cash Working Group, and engagement with financial and postal service providers to enable direct cash delivery, to be incorporated into the revised 2026 Cash Preparedness Plan.

At the regional level, UNICEF and IOM strengthened joint advocacy on migration and child protection, highlighting lessons from Serbia to promote more institutionalized, sustainable child protection responses beyond donor-funded initiatives.

¹⁷ The workshop convened representatives from the following member states: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Türkiye.

¹⁸ All references to Kosovo should be understood in the context of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).

In **Tajikistan**, UNICEF supported the multi-sectoral earthquake response, reaching more than 13,000 affected people, the majority children, with MHPSS, education and WASH services. This included psychosocial support delivered across affected villages, learning continuity through the distribution of education and ECD kits, and hygiene assistance for displaced families. To reinforce government-led emergency response capacity, UNICEF also pre-positioned family hygiene and dignity kits in the national reserve, enabling faster, child-focused response within the first 24–48 hours of future emergencies.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

- UNICEF Armenia: [UNICEF and Partners Expand Inclusive Preschool Education Across Armenia](#)
- UNICEF Armenia: [Launch of one-time needs-based cash assistance through seven different e-cards](#)
- UNICEF Armenia: [UNICEF works with healthcare professionals to strengthen mental health services in Armenia](#)
- UNICEF Armenia: [Cash assistance helps Gayane and her family navigate the winter months in their new home](#)

- UNICEF Bosnia and Herzegovina: [When an Accident Strikes, Help Cannot Wait](#)
- UNICEF Bosnia and Herzegovina: [Vouchers of great help to families affected by floods](#)
- UNICEF Bosnia and Herzegovina: [Persistence Pays Off](#)
- UNICEF Bosnia and Herzegovina: [Every Child Has the Right to 24/7 Protection](#)
- UNICEF Bulgaria: [Children of War](#)
- UNICEF Bulgaria: [‘Innocence unbound’, a photo exhibition on refugee children](#)
- UNICEF Bulgaria: [State Agency of Refugees Marks World Refugee Day with “Healthy Together” Football Tournament](#)
- UNICEF Greece: [An important step for the protection of unaccompanied minors in Greece](#)
- UNICEF Italy: [My voice can become the voice of all](#)
- UNICEF Italy: [“The day I decided to leave”](#)
- UNICEF Italy: [“Prioritizing foster care over residential facilities”](#)
- UNICEF Serbia: [Stronger Together](#)
- UNICEF Serbia: [A Stop Along the Way That Brings Safety and Hope | UNICEF Serbia](#)
- UNICEF Türkiye: [Abdurrahman’s Journey Towards Mobility | UNICEF Türkiye](#)
- UNICEF Türkiye: [Girls Who Chose Life and Refused to Give Up | UNICEF Türkiye](#)

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Table 1: Funding status by Sector

Sector	2025 Requirements	Funds Available		Funding Gap	
		ORE Funding Received in 2025	Resources Available from 2024 (Carry-over)	\$	%
Health & Nutrition	3,117,900	698,323	1,519,607	899,970	29%
WASH	15,625,000	-	10,676,869	4,948,131	32%
CP, GBViE and PSEA	21,672,870	3,112,355	7,081,803	11,478,712	53%
Education	14,317,010	2,485,633	8,546,387	3,284,990	23%
ADAP	5,081,130	199,793	1,607,404	3,273,933	64%
Cross-sectoral	2,376,220	572,540	1,565,996	237,684	10%
Social Protection	1,690,000	555,491	171,650	962,859	57%
Regional Preparedness	5,839,000	1,014,275	697,977	4,126,748	71%
Regional Response	11,083,600	2,334,275	1,098,718	7,650,607	69%
Funds received 2025	80,802,730	10,972,685	32,966,411	36,863,634	46%

Table 2: Funding status by Response

Appeal Area	2025 Requirements	Funds Available		Funding Gap	
		ORE Funding Received	Carry Forward	\$	%
Regional Preparedness and Response	16,922,600	2,658,443	1,796,695	12,467,462	74%
Refugee and Migrant Response	18,303,130	2,778,398	1,388,729	14,136,003	77%
Türkiye Earthquake Response	39,817,000	246,088	29,780,987	9,789,925	25%
Armenia Refugee Response	5,760,000	5,289,756		470,244	8%
Funds received 2025	80,802,730	10,972,685	32,966,411	36,863,634	46%