Highlights

- A total of 26,800 refugees and migrants (19% children) have arrived in Europe through the Mediterranean since January. With COVID-19, the number of arrivals decreased almost by a quarter, compared to the same period in 2019. This is the case in all countries except Italy where, arrivals have increased partly as a result of the fighting in Libya.

- 19,600 children in Greece, Italy, Bulgaria, Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Montenegro accessed mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), child protection case management and referral, while 13,850 attended formal and 4,425 non-formal education activities. Almost 5,270 women, girls, boys and men benefitted from gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response.

- The situation of the refugee and migrant population deteriorated further due to the pandemic. In several countries, the lockdown, border closures and pushbacks on international borders resulted in overcrowded reception facilities with limited access to services. While UNICEF and partners moved some activities online, in-person provision of health care, immunization, nutrition counselling, and training of frontline workers was affected. Access to asylum procedures and family reunifications were impacted.

- Refugees and migrants have been increasingly subject to stigma and discrimination. Children, including unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), have become more exposed to psychological distress, sexual abuse and violence. Emergency placements in cases of violence have been made more difficult with movement restrictions and the unavailability of statutory actors.

- At regional level, inter-agency advocacy to relocate 1,600 UASC from Greece to other EU Member States was initiated. The EC-led scheme aims at reducing health and protection risks in reception facilities while lessening the burden on the Greek child protection system. Swift actions of countries like Luxembourg, Germany, Ireland, Portugal and Finland, in relocating children despite the COVID-19 constraints, helped to inspire more relocation pledges.

UNICEF’s Response and Funding Status*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Gap</th>
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<tr>
<td>Children reached with quality child protection support</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Funding status</td>
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Situation in Numbers

- 26,800 Estimated # of arrivals in Europe through Italy, Greece, Spain, and Bulgaria in 2020**
- 5,100 Estimated # of children among all arrivals through Greece, Italy, Spain, and Bulgaria***
- 51,900 Estimated # of children present in Greece, Italy, Bulgaria, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro****
- 10,400 Estimated # of unaccompanied and separated children registered in Greece, Italy, Bulgaria, Serbia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina*****

UNICEF Appeal 2020

US$ 28,123,190

* Funding available includes funds received in the current year and carry-over from the previous year.

** UNHCR data for Italy, Greece and Spain as of 9 July 2020. For Bulgaria, the number as of 30 June and provided by the State Agency for Refugees.

*** UNICEF estimates based on the latest data available as of 10 July 2020 from UNHCR, the Ministry of Interior in Italy, the State Agency for Refugees in Bulgaria.

**** UNICEF estimates based on the latest data available as of 10 July 2020 from UNHCR, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy in Italy, the State Agency for Refugees in Bulgaria (first half of 2020 data), the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration in Serbia, the Ministry of Security in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Ministry of Interior in Montenegro, IOM, UNHCR, and non-governmental organisations.

***** Ibid
Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF is appealing for USD 28,123,190 to sustain the response to refugee and migrant children needs in Europe in 2020. Since January, the European Union, the US Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (BPRM), Education Cannot Wait, Council of Europe Development Bank, UNHCR, UNICEF National Committees in Sweden, Italy, US, Netherlands, Germany, France and Spain as well as Global Humanitarian Thematic funds have generously contributed to UNICEF 2020 HAC. UNICEF expresses its sincere gratitude to all public and private donors for the contributions received.

At mid-year however, the 2020 regional HAC still has an overall funding gap of 29%, with Bosnia-Herzegovina and Montenegro most underfunded, with a gap of 63% and 68% respectively. Over 51,900 children, of which more than 10,400 Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC), might not access the essential protection, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), education and health services they need, exposing them further to gender based violence (GBV), violence against children (VAC) and trafficking.

Given the fluid migration and public health context, UNICEF will require an additional USD 8,000,000 of flexible funding to allow for a timely and holistic response to support durable solutions and social inclusion for refugee and migrant children in Europe in 2020.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Following an initial decrease in the number of refugees’ and migrants’ arrivals in Europe, the easing of the COVID-19 related border control measures has resulted in an increase across the region in quarter two. Almost 20 per cent of the 26,800 refugees and migrants who have entered the region since January were children. Countries of origin are Afghanistan (12.7 per cent), Syria (10.9 per cent), Algeria (10.5 per cent), Tunisia (7.3 per cent), and Côte d’Ivoire (6.9 per cent)\(^1\). It is estimated a total of 220,350 refugees and migrants live in the six countries, 24 per cent children. Over 10,400 of these children are UASC. Fighting in Libya has led to an increase in the number of hazardous crossings to Italy compared to the same period in 2019 (7,330 versus 2,708).

COVID-19 related lockdown and border closures in March-April translated into congested reception facilities making hygiene measures and physical distancing difficult. Refugee and migrant populations were included in COVID-19 response plans especially through risk communication and community engagement, leading to limited transmission of the virus. Despite the transition to online service delivery and training modalities, service provision has been affected. Access to asylum, education, MHPSS, case management, specialized care for unaccompanied children, health, immunization and nutrition counselling, have all been hindered, potentially leaving behind the most vulnerable, such as girls moving alone. In this context, refugees, migrants and frontline workers have reported increased cases of VAC and GBV.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

GREECE

Overall, there were 10,408 new arrivals during the first half of 2020, compared to 18,269 in 2019. Of these new arrivals, 30 per cent were children. As of May 2020, there were a total of 121,000 refugees and migrants living in Greece, of which 45,300 are children, including 4,684 UASC. Despite 16,900 refugees and migrants being transferred to mainland Greece by June, the hotspots (Reception and Identification Centers – RICs) on the islands remain overcrowded. The situation increases health and protection risks for children and other vulnerable groups while hampering access to basic services. As an immediate response, the Government of Greece and other European Union (EU) Member States have initiated the relocation of 1,600 unaccompanied children.

\(^1\) UNHCR data available as of July on the most common nationalities of Mediterranean sea and land arrivals in 2020.
Child protection

With the outbreak of COVID-19, child protection services were adapted to work remotely, with frontline workers benefitting from webinars on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), staff well-being and remote case management. IOM frontline staff working with UASC in temporary reception and transit facilities were provided with child protection coaching and clinical supervision. Over 5,700 UASC benefitted from UNICEF technical assistance on appropriate care arrangements and services. These include both children placed in UNICEF supported community-based care and those prioritized for placement, family reunification, and relocation. A new Child and Family Support Hub was established in a reception center on Samos.

UNICEF advocated across countries in the region to relocate 1,600 UASC from Greece to EU Member States. Technical expertise contributed to the EC-led development of Standard Operating Procedures for the relocation scheme, to the drafting of secondary legislation and the scale-up of the Supported Independent Living model of care for UASC by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

Gender-based violence

The provision of GBV prevention and response services in mainland reception facilities (open accommodation sites), in an urban community centre and in the vicinity of Lesvos hotspot were continued remotely. Ensuring refugees and migrants’ access to state-run GBV services, UNICEF expanded provision of interpretation, while initiating awareness-raising activities.

As part of an effort to strengthen information management and service delivery, an information management expert was seconded to the General Secretariat for Family Policy and Gender Equality (GSFPGE). A mapping of NGOs providing services to GBV survivors was also completed and guidelines for state-run shelters in the context of COVID-19 were developed.

Education

In the light of the COVID-19 related school closures, UNICEF’s programme assisted children living in reception facilities, in urban settings, and on the islands, in reaching non-formal education activities through e-learning tools, homework packages, and educational podcasts. UNICEF supported the translation of information material in 11 languages to facilitate enrolment on the Ministry of Education distance e-learning platform. Tablets were provided to UASC in shelters, in hotspots and mainland reception facilities (safe zones).

UNICEF learning material, such as ‘Ftou kai Vgaino’ toolkit for combined language learning, multilingual and social-emotional empowerment activities and Akelius digital language learning course, was made available to formal education teachers on the government Institute of Educational Policy (IIP) website.

Child Rights Monitoring

In coordination with the National Center for Social Solidarity (EKKA), UNICEF carried out data analysis on unaccompanied children\(^2\) while expanding the existing database towards a comprehensive national unaccompanied children registry. Child rights monitoring has continued in collaboration with the Deputy Ombudswoman for Children. Meanwhile, UNICEF field staff continued monitoring reception facilities during the epidemic, documenting issues and monitoring results. Together with other UN agencies, UNICEF has launched an assessment of refugee and migrant children’s access to remote learning to inform future programming.

Communications for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability

UNICEF has prioritized risk communication on COVID-19 aimed at increasing visibility and awareness among the refugee population. In addition, UNICEF ran multimedia missions in Lesvos and Samos, documenting through photos and stories refugee and migrant children’s dire living conditions with the aim of relocating children and families to the mainland.

ITALY

During the reporting period, the number of refugees and migrants’ arrivals increased significantly largely attributed to the conflict in Libya. 7,330 people (of whom 1,004 UASC) were registered, 2.5 times more than during the same period in 2019. By the end of June, there were almost 99,000 refugees and migrants hosted in the reception system, including 5,156 UASC. With Italy being among the European countries worst-hit by COVID-19, UNICEF re-directed its activities to address the emerging needs of children, both inside and outside the reception system.

Child Protection

Since January 2020, together with partners, UNICEF provided 980 refugee and migrant children with quality in-person child protection support, with 14,280 children reached through online modalities. Due to COVID-19, many in-person activities were re-programmed, shifting towards remote modalities and focusing on health.

\(^2\)http://www.ekka.org.gr/images/%CE%A3%CE%A4%CE%91%CE%A4%CE%99%CE%A3%CE%A4%CE%99%CE%9A%CE%91_2020/EKKA%20Dashboard%202020.pdf
Instead of group mental health and psychosocial activities (MHPSS), UNICEF worked to identify vulnerable individuals outside the formal reception system in Rome, providing them with hygiene items, information on early detection, and referrals to relevant services. Within formal reception facilities, refugees and migrants were able to access MHPSS and health support. Moreover, in partnership with Italian Recreational and Cultural Association (ARCI), UNICEF provided remote individual case management and counselling to requests coming from U-Reporters (see Youth Participation).

UNICEF continued promoting UASC family-based care alternatives to reception centres. Based on an initial 11 UASC placed in foster families, UNICEF agreed on a strategy with national authorities to expand foster care through the provision of technical assistance to municipalities. UNICEF continued to provide remote support to guardians, including training and facilitation of peer-to-peer groups.

In total, 536 frontline workers and caregivers improved their knowledge and skills on protection of refugee and migrant children.

**Gender-based violence**

Since January, 722 young refugees and migrants (79 boys, 52 girls, 286 women, 305 men) were reached with GBV prevention and response services, including case management and psychosocial support. People living in informal settlements and outside the reception system primarily in Rome received hygiene products as part of the COVID-19 response and GBV risk mitigation strategy. During the lockdown, UNICEF and its partners continued with their response, though much of the in-person support shifted to online modalities.

The COVID-19 situation heightened risks of GBV and caused additional difficulties for women and girls to access support. In response, UNICEF awareness-raising activities, targeting migrant and refugees, a population often challenged to access mainstream information, reached more than 11,000 individuals. To reach the target group, it was found essential to integrate GBV related issues within U-Report on the Move platform, which allows tailoring messages in multiple languages. UNICEF also undertook a partnership with an online editorial company to reach refugee and migrant women and girls with GBV messages and available support mechanisms. As a result of these initiatives, 78% of the planned 2020 target population were reached.

Moreover, UNICEF continued training frontline workers with a mix of in-person and remote training approaches, relevant materials and resources being adapted due to COVID-19.

**Education and Skills building**

Between January and June, more than 400 refugee and migrant adolescents saw their opportunities for social inclusion and employability enhanced in both Sicily and Latium regions through skills building programmes, such as UNICEF-supported Upshift, Active Citizenship, or Activate Talks. With the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and related lockdown, all activities were moved online.

UNICEF’s Upshift program also supported 10 start-up ideas generated by teams of refugees, migrants and Italian youth (Ideas in Action). During a final event in June, technical experts evaluated the projects and provided promising start-ups with an opportunity to develop their prototypes and turn them into businesses. In parallel, since April UNICEF held 66 online Upshift classes (six one-hour lessons per week) using the Google Hangouts Meet platform and each week engaging around 30 students and some teachers.

In collaboration with NGO INTERSOS, tablets and laptops were delivered to students in need of digital devices to attend online activities. Some have also been supported with access to a stable Internet connection. In addition, UNICEF further promoted the MYGRANTS app and helped refugee and migrant students to register for the Entrepreneurial Skills Pass (ESP) initiative.

**Youth empowerment/participation**

In 2020, the total number of U-Reporters reached over 5,600, with more than 2,400 new users since January. While the U-Blog on the Move platform opened to young Italians, becoming U-Blogger, a new partnership with ARCI enabled UNICEF to provide individual legal aid through the U-Partner platform. Since January, a total of 789 cases have been managed and closed. Refugees and migrants also participated in U-Partner’s live chats, reaching up to 6,000 users per session.
As part of the overall COVID-19 response, polls and youth engagement through U-Report have largely focused on risk mitigation and available services. UNICEF disseminated COVID-19 risk communication infographics, prevention measures materials and youth-produced content, such as peer-to-peer videos, spreading positive messages during the lockdown period.

Run since March, the “I stay Home With U-Report” initiative allowed refugees and migrants to participate in online skills building activities, such as yoga, dancing class, capoeira and photography. UNICEF produced and disseminated a total of 64 videos (including live sessions), reaching an average of 400 unique viewers per session. Another collaboration with the social media platform SCUOLAZOO allowed to reach over 2.3 million audience with videos, Instagram and Tik Tok stories produced and disseminated in support to the Uprooted campaign and general positive messaging on migration.

In collaboration with INTERSOS and municipal Ombudsperson, UNICEF continued with online sessions through the active citizenship programme U-Topia. In addition, a podcast series was launched to respond to the emerging needs during COVID-19, while 400 young Italians, refugees and migrants were consulted on their experience of the pandemic.

**Communications for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability**

UNICEF, together with IOM and UNHCR, pursued its advocacy with the Minister of Interior to align the national legal framework with refugees and migrants rights (approval of the pending implementation decrees of Law 47-2017, revision of two security and immigration decrees passed by the previous Government), to address the situation of young migrants and refugees at risk of losing protection when turning 18 as well as vulnerabilities caused by the pandemic. The three UN agencies also reached out to the National Ombudsperson and Ministry of Health with similar demands. To ensure that communication efforts feed into the response to COVID-19, UNICEF updated its communication plan. The Italian National Committee for UNICEF has launched a dedicated page on UNICEF’s refugee and migrant response in-country, making it easier to disseminate information with Italian public and partners.

**BULGARIA**

*Between January and June 2020, the number of applicants for international protection reached 390, a 44 per cent drop compared to the same period in 2019. Children accounted for 26 per cent of the applicants and half of these UASC. Restrictions related to COVID-19 made it challenging to reunite children with family members elsewhere in Europe and to ensure service provision in reception facilities. Furthermore, there is a concerning trend with more refugees becoming unemployed, higher risks of homelessness and increased reports of violence, including SGBV.*

**Child Protection and Gender-based violence**

Faced with increased reports of GBV and VAC, UNICEF partners delivered direct and online consultations to refugees and migrants, placement and referral to specialized services, including Mother and Baby Units and Crisis Centers, via social media and telephone. In total, 1,098 persons were reached, a considerable upsurge compared to the initial target. Frontline workers’ knowledge and skills were further expanded through a 2.5 days face-to-face training for cultural mediators on GBV at the end of January and a webinar in May on stress management during the pandemic with a focus on GBV, in partnership with the Women’s Refugee Commission.

The NGO Bulgarian Helsinki Committee, a UNICEF partner identified 81% of all unaccompanied children who arrived during the first half of 2020 and provided legal assistance, family reunification, and referrals to other child protection services. The remaining children were identified by the Government Child Protection Departments and directly referred to the State Agency for Refugees (SAR).

**Education**

Due to the pandemic, schools in Bulgaria remained closed until the end of the academic year, and all students had to complete their studies online. UNICEF facilitated refugee and migrant children’s access to remote learning through the distribution of Early Childhood Development (ECD) kits, tablets and the procurement of internet connection for four reception facilities in Harmanli and Sofia, in collaboration with the SAR.

**Health and Nutrition**

Raising awareness among refugees and migrants on COVID-19 health risks, UNICEF partners developed information leaflets in Arabic and Farsi and disseminated 1,000 copies in Sofia and Harmanli. Frontline workers received personal protective equipment (PPE), while other public health measures were implemented in premises (physical distancing, disinfection). UNICEF coordinated with the Agency for Social Assistance to secure food assistance for 536 refugees and migrants from the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD).

**SERBIA**

*In the first half of 2020, the number of refugees and migrants accommodated in 17 reception centers in Serbia increased dramatically, reaching a record high in mid-April of 9,100 persons, including 1,200 children. More than half of the children were UASC, who benefitted from UNICEF’s technical assistance to government on standards of care. Due to limited capacities, centers were overcrowded which increased health protection risks, while COVID-19 related lockdown caused...*
further psychological strains and significantly impeded access to services. UNICEF has supported the government response, prioritising risk prevention communication and ensuring continuity of child protection and GBV services.

Child Protection

During the first half of 2020, together with the University of Belgrade, UNICEF developed an in-person accredited training course in Serbian on the protection of children on the move. The package includes eight modules, 24 hours of lectures, 12 hours of homework and 90 hours of internship in a relevant institution or civil society organization. Although the piloting has been postponed due to COVID-19, it is now scheduled for October-December 2020. In 2021, the course will become an elective at the Faculty of Political Sciences for both students and practitioners.

UNICEF further strengthened child safeguarding and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) in collaboration with the Commissariat of Refugees and Migration (SCRM). SCRM’s internal procedures were revised, a guidebook was published and trainers have been coached to roll-out the new procedures with reception personnel.


Gender-based violence

UNICEF has prioritized the provision of technical assistance on GBV response to partners and institutions, through sharing resources and guidance on service provision and referral pathways. Throughout the emergency situation, UNICEF and partners have continued to implement direct GBV services, expanded to an additional 2 reception centers and adjusted due to COVID-19 infection risks. This has included remote modalities aside from continued in-person prevention and psychosocial support activities for women and girls (survivors/in risk of GBV), ensuring safe referral, supporting case management in GBV cases, and distributing dignity kits.

Education

While access to formal and informal education was impeded due to COVID-19, UNICEF and SCRM undertook an assessment to identify gaps in equipment and services. The outcomes informed advocacy which resulted in additional funding for 12 months to roll-out the online language learning platform Akelius in three reception facilities and purchase digital equipment where needed.

Additionally, the U-Report channel was used to provide migrant and refugee youth with information on COVID-19 prevention measures and equip them with knowledge on the subsequent mental health challenges they could face.

Health and Nutrition

In view of raising awareness and protecting refugees and migrants from COVID-19, UNICEF ensured their access to remote and in-person counselling. Informational materials on prevention of infection, coping with stress, positive parenting and breastfeeding were produced, translated and circulated, while recreational kits for children were distributed in reception facilities. UNICEF Serbia participated in the monthly Mental Health and Psychosocial Support working group meetings and launched an assessment on substance abuse among refugee and migrant children and youth.

NFI and Basic needs

As part of the COVID-19 response for women and girls, UNICEF has provided dignity kits, distributed through partners since March.

Communications for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability

UNICEF used key commemoration days to bring attention to issues refugee and migrant children face. On the International Women’s Day, UNICEF launched a publication on social media, promoting the strength and resilience of adolescent girls, including refugees and migrants.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

As of June 2020, some 9,000 refugees and migrants were present in the country. There were 893 children amongst them, almost half of whom UASC. While arrivals decreased significantly in April and May 2020, they increased again in
June. Key reasons for this decrease were the COVID-19 outbreak and subsequent Government measures such as border closures, restriction of movement and limited possibilities to claim asylum. These led to the exacerbation of the situation in Una-Sana Canton reception facilities and increased protection risks for children, such as an increasing number of UASC sleeping rough, not having a legal guardian appointed, and therefore not being able to access basic services. At the same time tensions in the reception facilities rose, with increased alcohol abuse and fights involving UASC.

Child Protection
UNICEF continued outreach activities to ensure monitoring within and outside of reception facilities (temporary reception centres), referral to accommodation and humanitarian assistance for UASC and families with children. In reception facilities, including in UASC designated zones, children received 24/7 care and support services, with MHPSS and recreational activities being limited to individuals and small groups of up three to allow for physical distancing.

While the capacity to accommodate UASC in one of the Una Sana reception facilities (Bira) was reduced by the authorities attempting to close the center, a new designated zone was established in Sedra reception facility (Una-Sana Canton) and the capacity of Ušivak reception facility (Šarajevo Canton) doubled.

Education
In response to COVID-19, UNICEF partners and Government counterparts have adapted their approach to the provision of non-formal and formal education, allowing the program to reach respectively 701 and 552 refugee and migrant children.

In reception facilities, education personnel worked with small groups, used PPE, and, whenever possible moved activities outdoors. Formal education has moved online with support from teachers and cultural mediators, allowing newly arrived children to start faster, as medical certificates are not required for online education. Upon completion of the academic year, schools have issued documents proving children’s achievements and competencies acquired. However, due to enrolment obstacles and funding gaps, children older than 15 are not enrolled in secondary education.

Health and Nutrition
Restricted access to health facilities and services in the light of COVID-19, has made it difficult for a period of time for UNICEF to provide refugee and migrant children with general health checks and referrals to immunization. However, parents, including pregnant women, were supported through Mother-Baby Corners in Borići and Sedra (Una-Sana Canton), in Ušivak (Šarajevo Canton), and in Salakovac (Herzegovina-Neretva Canton). UNICEF continued providing them with infant and young child feeding (IYCF) and psychosocial counselling, information on breastfeeding and hygiene, as well as infant food and hygiene products.

Communications for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability
Together with the Delegation of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Helen O’Grady Academy in Sarajevo, UNICEF produced 15 short videos, based on personal stories and testimonies of refugees and migrants both in Bosnia and Herzegovina and along migration routes. They were launched on social media, reaching up to 72,771 people on Facebook and 43,899 on Instagram.

MONTENEGRO
Due to COVID-19, the admission of migrants and refugees was suspended between March and May 2020. Nevertheless, during the first half of 2020, some 873 people registered by national authorities, which is almost four times less when compared to arrivals in the same period in 2019. Children make up only 9 per cent of the caseload. With government-imposed movement restrictions and other public health measures, Montenegro postponed the implementation of in-person trainings on child protection and GBV.

Education
UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education in delivering online classes across the country through its regular program, which benefitted children staying in Spuz reception facility.

Health and Nutrition
In cooperation with the Ministry of Interior, the Border Police and IOM, UNICEF is establishing a Child-Friendly Space and a Mother and Baby Corner in the new reception facility to be opened in Božaj. As refugee and migrant families tend
to cross the country within less than a day, UNICEF’s ability to provide them with health support services has been limited.

**Child rights monitoring**

In March 2020, UNICEF, together with the Ministry of Interior, UNHCR and IOM, completed a rapid needs assessment of the situation of refugee and migrant children and families, and of the response offered. The assessment revealed a focus on basic and urgent needs, as well as gaps regarding more complex issues and sustainability. UNICEF will therefore prioritize capacity building and improving system response in the areas of health, protection, breastfeeding, immunization, and GBV.

**Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy**

UNICEF’s strategy to respond to the needs of refugee and migrant children and women is informed by the Global Programme Framework on Children on the Move². The framework prioritises their protection, the end of child immigration detention, family unity, unhindered access to health and education services, addressing the root causes of migration and the fight against xenophobia and discrimination.

In all six countries, UNICEF joined government-led COVID-19 response coordination mechanisms. Building on its universal child rights agenda, and its access to line ministries, UNICEF either leads or is an active member of the child protection, MHPSS, education, health (including COVID-19 response), nutrition and GBV forums in all six countries. In Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia, UNICEF carried out assessments with other UN agencies and civil society organizations on reception conditions, MHPSS, and education respectively. In Serbia, UNICEF has joined an IOM-UNHCR led UN Migration Network set up within the UNCT in view of coordinating UN support to the authorities towards the implementation of the Global Compact on Migration. In 2020, Greece, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Italy reviewed their contingency plans, incorporating the latest migration trends and COVID-19 elements.

Considering the COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF’s work has focused on the inclusion of refugee and migrant children into national responses. Particular attention has been given to access to testing, healthcare and other services, such as social protection, regardless of migration status, the provision of culturally and age appropriate information on COVID-19, reception conditions that allow appropriate hygiene practices, physical distancing, and advocacy against pushbacks. UNICEF engages with governments to strengthen national systems’ capacity to absorb and integrate refugee and migrant children.

These efforts are complemented with targeted interventions and service delivery where relevant. Promoting a multi-country approach to GBV programming, UNICEF published “Making the Invisible Visible: the identification of unaccompanied and separated girls in Bulgaria, Greece, Italy and Serbia”. The analysis outlines the hidden protection issues that girls moving alone face and calls for strengthened gender responsive identification and reception systems. At country level, the note was launched on the International Women’s Day in Italy, and on World Refugee Day in Bulgaria, Greece and Serbia. As to UASC, regional efforts focused on the relocation of unaccompanied children from Greece to other EU Member States through policy advocacy and technical assistance in selected countries. Together with IOM and UNHCR, UNICEF produced a guidance note⁴ for EU Member States informing the identification of the children to be prioritized through the EC-led scheme as per their best interests.

**Human Interest Stories and External Media**

- UNICEF article: How organizations and advocates use the law to help refugee children in Bulgaria find a future
- UNICEF article: Using social media to reach thousands of young refugees and migrants with free legal advice
- UNICEF article: “When I grow up, I want to be a doctor!” Even while on the move, a girl plans her future
- UNICEF article: After long dangerous journeys alone, refugee and migrant children in Bosnia determined to succeed
- UNICEF statement: Protecting children must be top priority, in latest refugee surge response
- UNICEF article: Refugee and migrant communities brace for COVID-19 in already dire conditions on the Greek islands
- UNICEF-IOM-UNHCR statement: UN agencies welcome first relocation of unaccompanied children from Greece
- UNICEF blog post: “This is a common problem and it requires common solutions”
- UNICEF article: U-Reporters mobilize to fight COVID-19
- UNICEF article: UPSHIFT: Shifting gear in response to COVID-19
- UNICEF photo essay: In Pictures: UNICEF continues support for critical frontline care during COVID-19 pandemic in Italy
- UNICEF blog post: “It’s our duty to be there in the frontline, doing something for the community”
- UNICEF press release: With financial support from the European Union UNICEF launches the ‘RM Child-Health’ project to strengthen vulnerable refugee and migrant children’s health

¹ https://www.unicef.org/media/62986/file
• UNICEF article: “For me it is important to have someone I can rely on, supporting me, even from a distance.”
• UNICEF article: “For young people like me living in a reception centre, this is not just about ‘staying at home’.”

Next SitRep: 19/10/2020

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## Annex A
### SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME RESULTS - as of 30 June 2020

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Targets 2020</th>
<th>Total Result</th>
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<td><strong>CHILD PROTECTION</strong></td>
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<td># of children reached with quality child protection support (MHPSS, legal counselling and case management) and protection standards</td>
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<td>Greece</td>
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<td>979</td>
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<td>228</td>
<td>▲ 135</td>
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<td>5,000</td>
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<td># of unaccompanied and separated children benefiting from appropriate care arrangements and/or services</td>
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<td>5,500</td>
<td>5,712</td>
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<td>715</td>
<td>312</td>
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<td>2,000</td>
<td>1,722</td>
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<td>Serbia</td>
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<td>617</td>
<td>▲ 74</td>
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<tr>
<td># of frontline workers and caregivers with improved knowledge and skills on child protection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>▲ 61</td>
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<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>2,150</td>
<td>536</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montenegro</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td># of GBV survivors and individuals at risk accessing GBV prevention and response services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>2,511</td>
<td>▲ 676</td>
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<tr>
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<td>722</td>
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<td>Bulgaria</td>
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<tr>
<td># of frontline workers with improved knowledge and skills on GBV prevention and response</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Bulgaria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Montenegro</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td># of women, girls, men and boys (including refugee, migrants and host community) who receive information on GBV, available services and how to access them</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
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<td>1,168</td>
<td>▲ 92</td>
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<td>Italy</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>11,622</td>
<td>▲ 3,984</td>
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<td><strong>EDUCATION</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td># of school-age children, including adolescents, participating in structured non-formal education activities</td>
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<td>Greece</td>
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<td>3,317</td>
<td>▲ 769</td>
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<td>Italy</td>
<td>1,800</td>
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<td>▲ 142</td>
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<td>Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>701</td>
<td>▲ 300</td>
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<tr>
<td># of school-age children benefitting from a strengthened and more inclusive formal education system</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>13,000</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Serbia</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>299</td>
<td>▲ 167</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>552</td>
<td>▲ 402</td>
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<tr>
<td># of children (3-5 years old) benefiting from early childhood education activities</td>
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<td>Greece</td>
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<td>143</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>▲ 15</td>
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<tr>
<td># of formal school teachers trained on at least one key theme on inclusion of refugee and migrant children</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>575</td>
<td>▲ 222</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HEALTH AND NUTRITION</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
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<td>831</td>
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<tr>
<td>Serbia</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>▲ 12</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Funding

Anne

virtual classes, allowing new arrivals to have faster access to non

increased significantly, leading to an overachievement against the planned target. 

UASC country during the first half of 2020

access to services, including child protection

result indicated in the HPM table only include children reached

# of children receiving culturally appropriate basic supplies, including clothes, baby hygiene items, dignity kits for women and girls

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND PARTICIPATION

# of adolescent boys and girls benefitting from enhanced participation, social inclusion and empowerment

Bulgaria

Bosnia and Herzegovina

# of mothers accessing mother and baby care services

Greece

Serbia

Bosnia and Herzegovina

# of infants and young children benefitting from increased access to general health checks and referrals, incl. access to life-saving vaccines

Bulgaria

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Montenegro

# children and women benefiting from increased health literacy

Bulgaria

Notes:

1 Italy. An additional 14,280 children were reached with online support as a result of the adaptation of child protection activities in the context of COVID-19. The result indicated in the HPM table only include children reached through in-person activities.

2 Serbia. The significant increase in the number of refugees and migrants accommodated in the 17 reception centres due to the COVID-19 related lockdown impeded access to services, including child protection, health and nutrition, and mother-baby care.

3 Montenegro. Activity implementation and results in Montenegro have been constrained by the substantial reduction of refugees and migrants arriving in the country during the first half of 2020, the smaller number of children present than anticipated, as well as the restricted access to facilities in relation to COVID-19.

4 Greece and Serbia. With an increase in the number of UASC present in the country compared to the same period in 2019 and COVID-19 related lockdown, more UASC than initially planned benefitted from UNICEF technical assistance to government.

5 The rapid spread of COVID-19 has severely impacted the implementation of in-person trainings across all countries with planned activities being postponed for later half of the year.

6 Bulgaria. Due to COVID-19, the number of asylum seekers and refugee and migrant persons seeking and receiving GBV prevention and response services has increased significantly, leading to an overachievement against the planned target.

7 Bosnia and Herzegovina. Targets have been exceeded owing to enhanced partner capacities and increased participation of Refugee and Migrant children in online virtual classes, allowing new arrivals to have faster access to non-formal and formal education.

8 Greece. Educational access was impacted by nation-wide school closures from 11 March to 18 May 2020 due to COVID-19.

9 Bosnia and Herzegovina. Results have been constrained due to restricted access to health facilities and services in relation to COVID-19.

Annex B

Funding Status*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Funds available</th>
<th>Funding gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Humanitarian resources received in 2020</td>
<td>Other resources used in 2020</td>
<td>Resources available from 2019 (Carry-over)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Countries with children on the move</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>13,250,000</td>
<td>1,514,849</td>
<td>7,489,061</td>
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<td>436,681</td>
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<td>Bulgaria</td>
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<td>530,851</td>
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<td>Serbia</td>
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<td>162,756</td>
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<td>1,383,171</td>
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<td>Montenegro</td>
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<td>Regional Support</td>
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<td>89,726</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>28,123,190</td>
<td>4,323,809</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
UNICEF Refugee and Migrant Response Activities in Europe

Updated July 2020

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

In Turkey, UNICEF is responding to the needs of over 1.8 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 2020

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

#### Greece
- Solidarity Now, Arsis Thessaloniki, Arsis, CRWI DIOTIMA, Elix, Ilaktida, IRC Hellas, Lesvos Solidarity, Melissa, Merimna, METAdrasi, Syn-irmos, Terre de Homme Hellas, KETHI
- Solidarity Now, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Arsis, Elix, Hellenic Adult Education Association, Ilaktida, METAdrasi, National & Kapodistrian University of Athens, University of Thessaly
- 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

#### Bulgaria
- Bulgarian Helsinki Committee, Anims Association Foundation, Mission Wings Foundation, Alliance for Protection from Gender-Based Violence, Council of Refugee Women in Bulgaria, Caritas, Nadja Center Foundation
- Bulgarian Red Cross
- Bulgarian Red Cross
- State Agency for Refugees

#### Italy
- Médecins du Monde, INTERSOS, CNCA, Centro Penc, Refugees Welcome, ARCI
- INTERSOS, Junior Achievement-Italy, CNR-ITD, ARCI
- Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the National Ombudsperson, SIPROIMI, local authorities

#### Serbia
- Info Park, University of Belgrade
- Info Park
- ARDA
- Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Commissariat for Refugees and Migration

#### Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Save the Children, World Vision, Centres for Social Welfare in Bihac, Cazin, Velika Kladusa, Kljuc, Hadzici
- Médecins du Monde
- Fenix, Danish Refugee Council
- Fenix
- Government authorities at all levels

#### Montenegro
- Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Education