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Refugee and Migrant Response in Europe

Humanitarian Situation Report No. 37

unicef 
for every child

Situation in Numbers



58,850

Estimated # of arrivals in Europe through Italy, Greece, Spain, and Bulgaria in 2020*



14,770

Estimated # of children among all arrivals through Greece, Italy, Spain, and Bulgaria**



73,000

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



10,740

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

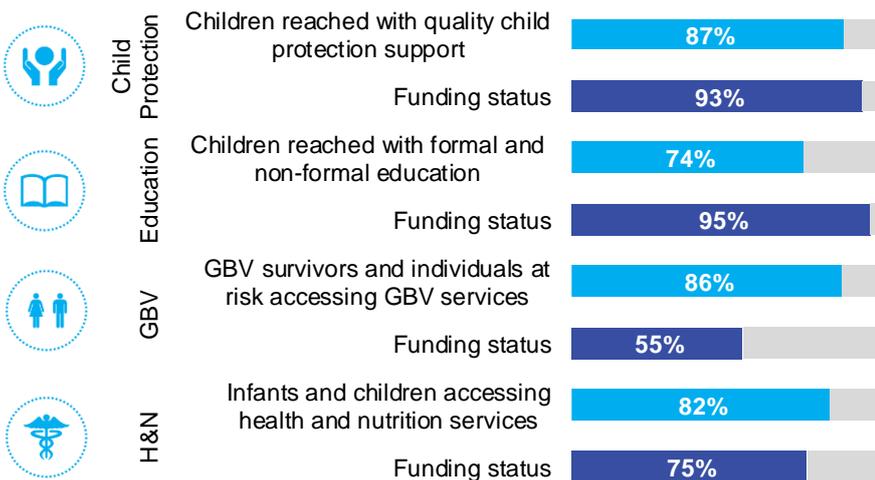
Reporting Period: 1 July to 30 September 2020

Highlights

- Between July and September 2020, 30,543 refugees and migrants (25% children) arrived in Europe. With the COVID-19 pandemic, all countries, except Italy, reported a decrease in arrivals, compared to the same period in 2019.
- In Greece, Italy, Bulgaria, Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, 7,900 children accessed child protection services including mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), case management and referral, while over 1,800 attended formal and non-formal education activities. Around 1,400 women, girls, boys, and men benefited from gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response.
- On 9 September, a fire at the Moria Reception and Identification Centre (RIC) left 12,000 refugees and migrants, including 4,200 children, homeless. Within 24 hours, all 406 previously identified unaccompanied and separated children were safely transferred to the mainland. The Government of Greece, supported by UNICEF and partners, has been leading efforts to ensure the provision of clean water, hygiene, shelter, protection and education.
- UNICEF welcomes the relocation to date of 1,000 asylum seekers (mostly unaccompanied and separated children) from Greece to other EU member states in 2020 and encourages further relocations.
- The COVID pandemic continues to acutely impact the health and wellbeing of the refugee and migrant populations, who suffer from limited access to basic services such as psychosocial support, education, healthcare and legal aid. There remains continued need to assure support for children, who represent almost a quarter of all refugee and migrant population, and who continue to be exposed to separation from their families/caregivers, psychological distress and sexual abuse and violence.

UNICEF's Response and Funding Status*****

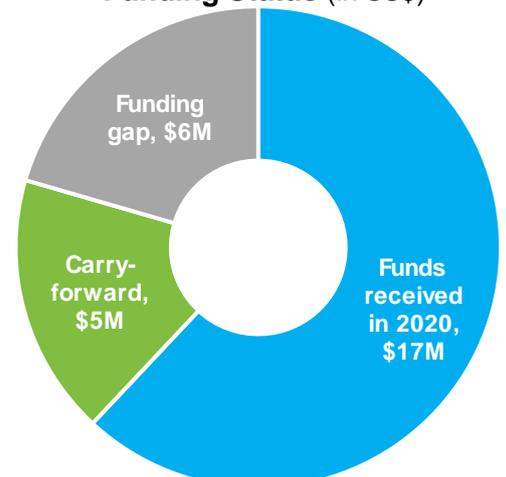
■ Results ■ Gap



UNICEF Appeal 2020

US\$ 28,123,190

Funding Status (in US\$)



*UNHCR data for Italy, Greece, Bulgaria, Spain as of September 2020. 'Operational Portal Refugee Situations: Mediterranean situation', <<https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/mediterranean>>.

**Ibid

***UNICEF estimates based on the latest data available as of September 2020 from the Greece National Centre for Social Solidarity (EKKA), the Italy Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the Bulgaria State Agency for Refugees, the Serbia Commissariat for Refugees and Migration, the Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministry of Security, the Montenegro Ministry of Interior, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and non-governmental organizations.

****Ibid

*****Funding available includes funds received in the current year and carry-over from the previous year. Funding availability for GBV and H&N has changed from reporting in the last sitrep (where both were reflected as 100%) as US \$ 1,392,503 received from BPRM has been reprogrammed to COVID-19 HAC, while US \$ 1,765,202 (out of total allocation US \$ 2,868,955) received from DG Health and US \$ 3,051,371 (out of total allocation of US \$ 5,632,463) received from DG Employment have been reprogrammed for 2021, in line with the donor allocations.

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. This funding requirement complements the Global Humanitarian Action for Children appeal for additional and related refugee and migrant population needs under the COVID-19 response in Europe and Central Asia.

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, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, France and Spain as well as Global Humanitarian Thematic funds have generously contributed to the UNICEF 2020 HAC. UNICEF expresses its sincere gratitude to all public and private donors for the contributions received.

Despite this, there is still an overall funding gap of 20%, with Montenegro (at 68%), Serbia (at 68%) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (at 42%) the most underfunded. With a significant number of additional arrivals of children over this period, around 73,000 children, including more than 10,740 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) require sustained support to access critical child protection, psychosocial support, education and health services, without which they remain exposed to increased risk of GBV, abuse and trafficking. Without sufficient funding, efforts to support their participation and skills building will also suffer, potentially jeopardizing the realization of their full potential.

As a result of the Moria fire in Greece, UNICEF issued an additional [appeal](#) of USD 3,000,000 to meet critical needs to support affected children and their families, both in the immediate and medium-term, until the end of the year.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

With the easing of COVID-related movement restrictions, the number of refugee and migrant arrivals in Europe increased significantly during the reporting period. New arrivals between July and September are estimated at 30,543, bringing the total number of arrivals in 2020 to 58,850¹. With almost a quarter of these new arrivals being children, the estimated number of children present in Greece, Italy, Bulgaria, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro is now 73,000, many of whom remain dependent on continued humanitarian assistance, including 10,740 UASC.

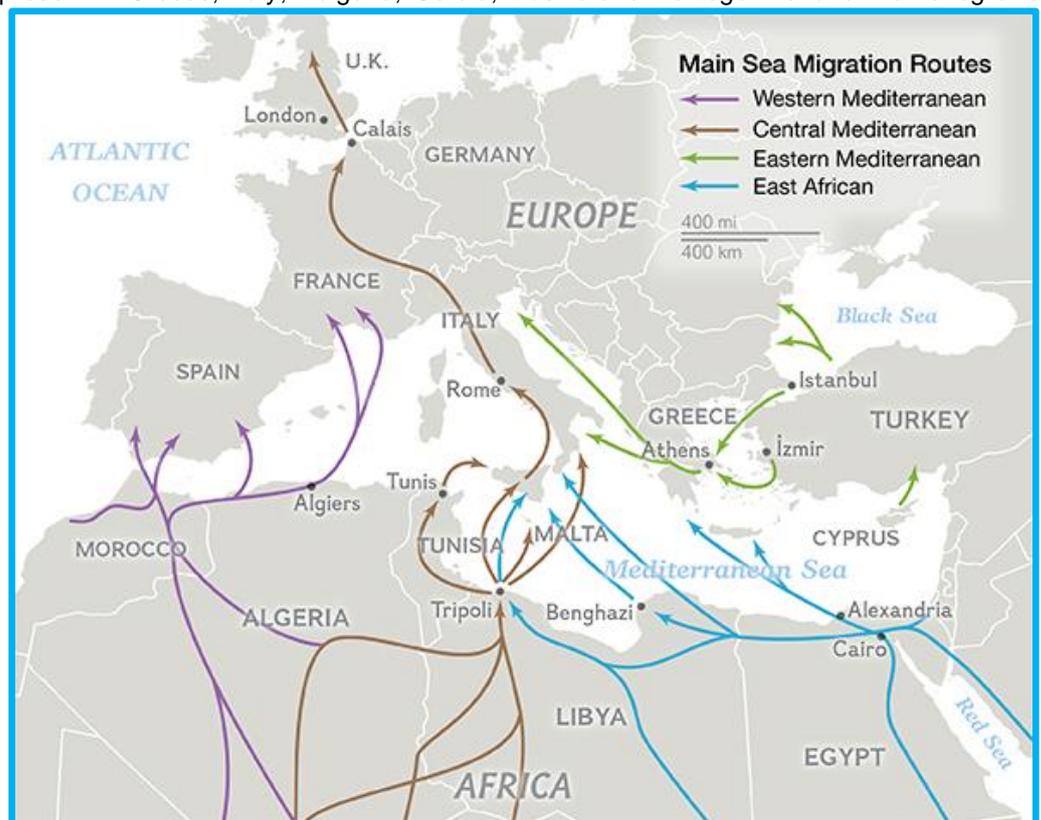
The main countries of origin are Tunisia (20,6%), Algeria (14%), Bangladesh (7%), Afghanistan (6.5%)², Syria (6,3%) and Morocco (6,1%)³. The map shows the active, extremely hazardous sea migration routes used by refugees and migrants to enter Europe.

The COVID pandemic continues to acutely impact the health and wellbeing of the refugee and migrant populations, who are disproportionately vulnerable to the fluid public health context, with limited access to basic services such as psychosocial support, education and healthcare.

There remains continued need to assure support for

children, who represent almost quarter of all refugee and migrant population, and who continue to be exposed to separation from their families/caregivers, psychological distress and sexual abuse and violence.

In early September, fires broke out at the Moria Reception & Identification Centre (RIC) located on the Greek island of Lesbos. The centre, home to approximately 12,000 refugees, migrants and asylum seekers, 4,200 of whom children including over 400 unaccompanied and separated children, was severely damaged, forcing people to flee for safety.



Source: International Organization for Migration (IOM)

¹ [UNHCR data](#) available as of September on the most common nationalities of Mediterranean Sea and land arrivals in 2020.

² Data for Afghanistan only available as of July, actual percentage might be higher.

³ UNHCR, *ibid*.

The refugee and migrant centre in Moria had long been a concern due to the overcrowding, unhygienic conditions, and lack of services, as it continued to operate with a population many times its designed maximum capacity of 2,757 people.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

GREECE

During the reporting period (July-September), 2,415 refugees and migrants arrived in Greece (via sea and land borders), of which approximately 36% were children and 9% UASC. This has brought the estimated total number of refugee and migrant children in Greece to 45,000, compared to 42,500 in 2019. Following the recent fire in the Moria Reception and Identification Centre (RIC) in September, more than 12,000 refugees and migrants were displaced, and an estimated 7,600 persons are now in the new RIC site in Lesvos. In addition, some 9,800 refugees and migrants, including an estimated 2,800 children (120 UASC) remain in overcrowded RICs on the islands of Samos, Kos, Leros and Chios. A total of 226 UASC (with 104 in the process of being placed in shelters) remain in protective custody throughout Greece.

Following the Moria RIC fire, UNICEF in coordination with the local authorities and partners, launched emergency response activities and services to reach affected children and women. UNICEF transformed its existing Tapuat Center, a Child and Family Support Hub in Lesvos, into an emergency shelter for vulnerable women and children. Over 400 unaccompanied children were immediately sheltered in this space before being transferred to the mainland. UNICEF also supported interventions to provide access to basic services, including shelter, WASH facilities and psychosocial support.

Child Protection

UNICEF remains actively engaged in national and regional efforts to relocate unaccompanied children from Greece to other EU Member States. In addition to supporting the 'best interest assessment' process in Lesvos, UNICEF helped support frontline staff in transit facilities through training and coaching.

In response to the Moria fire, UNICEF and its partners sent mobile teams to the newly established RIC site to identify unaccompanied children and highly vulnerable children and families and refer them to specialized services. UNICEF is delivering structured recreational and PSS activities on the site through "mobile" child friendly spaces, while construction of dedicated spaces for children is in process. UNICEF, along with other UN agencies and the European Commission, supported national efforts to transfer 724 UASC from the islands to the mainland, in preparation of their relocation to other EU member states⁴.

Unaccompanied children who have been placed in temporary accommodation will require specialized support and UNICEF is working closely with humanitarian actors and government counterparts to ensure their needs are being met, including through capacity building of frontline workers.

Gender-Based Violence

In light of the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions, UNICEF partners focused on preparedness for a potential next lockdown. This included organizing tutorials, information sessions and helpdesks to assist women and girls to set up email accounts and profiles in different platforms and to become familiar with the use of help facilitated online or through remote communication.

Following the devastating Moria fire, UNICEF's Tapuat Child and Family Support Hub was turned into an emergency accommodation shelter for over 200 single headed households, many of them GBV survivors. UNICEF also continued supporting refugee survivors' access to state-run GBV counseling centers and shelters through the provision of interpretation services, supporting over 20 different service delivery points. UNICEF supported the General Secretariat for Family Policy and Gender Equality to finalize a second newsletter providing an analysis of GBV state response services covering the period of May-June 2020. This has been used both for public information purposes and for informing state planning on GBV response.

Education and Skills Building

In response to the Moria fire and to provide access to education to school-age children, UNICEF's partner ELIX deployed a mobile team to deliver non-formal education activities inside the new temporary site, reaching approximately 250 children per day.



© UNICEF/Canaj Magnum. Children participate in recreational activities at the new temporary accommodation facility on the Greek island of Lesvos

⁴ UN News, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/09/1074372>

The Ministry of Education extended the registration period for the new school year for one week until 14 September. However, most of the Open Accommodation Sites have experienced delays in enrolment and attendance of refugee and migrant children for various reasons, including COVID-19 lockdowns, delayed enrolment process, and lack of transport. UNICEF is calling for immediate action to improve the situation and is working closely with the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Migration to find a solution.

Child Rights Monitoring

During the reporting period, UNICEF continued to provide technical support to the Deputy Ombudswoman for Children's Rights for stronger analysis of the situation unaccompanied children in Greece. UNICEF recruited a technical expert to strengthen the capacities of the Office of the Special Secretary for Unaccompanied Children in the area of information management and monitoring. An assessment was undertaken on the effectiveness and reach of distance learning tools and materials for children residing in Open Accommodation Sites.

ITALY

The number of refugees and migrants making the hazardous Mediterranean Sea crossing to Italy continued to grow between July and September 2020, with a more than three times increase of arrivals compared to the same period in 2019 (4,854 to 16,770). As of September, the total number of asylum seekers and refugees hosted in the reception system is 82,072. According to the government, 3,369 people entered Italy through the Balkan route (against the 2,745 of the same period in 2019). NGOs report continued push back and several protection gaps for children and families in Ventimiglia at the border with France.

Between July and September 2020, 1,974 UASC arrived in Italy, compared to 576 for the same period in 2019. In total, 5,540 UASC are hosted in the reception system. In Italy unaccompanied girls account for around 5% of the total number of UASC, which only includes those officially registered. Various bottlenecks in the education and vocational training/apprenticeship paths, as well as lack of or poor knowledge and information on rights, responsibilities and other opportunities, undermine the likelihood of UASC to build successful paths of autonomy in their transition to adulthood.

Despite a lack of systematic data, the impact of COVID-19 on migrant and refugee children and young people is believed to have been wide ranging, from lack of immediate prevention and control measures to secondary impact in terms of access to services, mental health and psychosocial and socio-economic repercussion, highlighting that migrants and refugees are likely to suffer the long term consequences of the pandemic.

Child Protection

UNICEF, in partnership with INTERSOS, Médecins du Monde, CNCA, Refugees Welcome and Italian Recreational and Cultural Association (ARCI), reached 1,760 children and young migrants and refugees⁵ with quality child protection support. The COVID-19 outbreak impacted many in-person activities, requiring a re-programming and re-prioritization, as well as a focus on health activities.

INTERsos outreach team reached 144 children and young migrants and refugees with psychosocial activities outside the formal reception system in Rome, both on the streets or living in informal settlements with their parents. Psycho-social group activities, which had been suspended due to the COVID-19 outbreak, restarted in September. Vulnerable individuals were provided with hygiene items and information and screening sessions aimed at early detection of symptomatic cases.

UNICEF continued to promote the development of family-based alternatives to reception centers. A strategy for 2020 was agreed with the MoI and SIPROIMI (National Response System), to pilot diversified typologies of foster care settings, expand geographical coverage and provide technical support to Municipalities.

In partnership with ARCI UNICEF continued to provide case management and counselling to requests coming from U-Reporters, reaching a total of 713 persons with information and referral. Live chats and video clips on key topics, including COVID prevention, were organized for children and caregivers. The current partnership is being expanded to strengthen ongoing activities and include provision of remote psychosocial support to migrant children. UNICEF



© UNICEF/Romenzi. Abdoul, from UNICEF-supported health outreach team, providing children and families living in vulnerable conditions with vital health screenings during Covid-19 pandemic in Italy

⁵ Targets and results for refugee and migrant children overlap and therefore appear in both R/M and Global covid-19 HACs

provided support to 159 UASC and 159 guardians through online sessions. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, matching activities between UASC and guardians are temporarily suspended.

In partnership with MDM, 181 individuals (80% males and 25% females) were reached with psychosocial activities inside formal reception facilities. Capacity building activities continued, through remote and in-person modalities, reaching a total of 127 individuals.

Gender-Based Violence

Since July, an additional 223 young refugees and migrants (around 36% boys, 8% girls, 37% women, 19% men) were reached with GBV prevention and response activities, in partnership with INTERSOS, MDM and Penc Center, marking a 79% progress towards the planned target for 2020.

In response to the heightened risks of GBV and the additional challenges faced by migrant and refugee women and girls in accessing support, UNICEF continued to disseminate key information on Sexual and Reproductive Health rights and existing services through the platform U-Report on the Move, reaching over 14,700 individuals - recording a 98% progress towards the planned target.

UNICEF continued to increase the quality and coverage of GBV related services, including strengthening service providers' competencies through trainings, ensuring delivery points meet GBV minimum standards and providing technical support on strengthening referral pathways. In the context of COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF and partners adapted a mix of in-person and remote training approaches. Since July, an additional 26 frontline workers have been trained, marking a progress of 56.6% towards the 2020 planned target and reaching PSS, reception site, medical staff and other professionals (39% males, 61% females).

Education and Skills Building

The skills building programme was successfully completed in Sicily and the Latium regions. A key outcome was the development of the Skills for Development (S4D) toolkit which will be rolled out in other regions.

The evaluation of the Upshift programme revealed that 91.2% of the participants demonstrated an increase in motivation and perseverance competencies, while 88.3% demonstrated an increase in mobilizing others' skills and communicating their ideas clearly. 85.3% increased their personal empowerment skills and competencies in identifying new opportunities, while nearly 70% showed increased employability skills, in terms of planning and management skills, self-awareness and self-efficacy skills. A toolkit for teachers on the implementation of the 'Ideas in action' phase was developed based on established methodologies and tools.

Following an online survey on the post-COVID-19 future, a [Manifesto](#) (10-point agenda written by adolescents) was produced and launched on 7 July. The launch included a video produced by a group of adolescents and a live forum broadcasting the results of the survey and their recommendations to the institutions and civil society.

Youth Empowerment/Participation

The number of U-Reporters reached a total of 5,703, even though the scaling up of activities was slower due to Facebook policy challenges⁶. U-Report on the Move continued to run polls and disseminate key information to young migrants and refugees, including a Facebook live chat in collaboration with UNFPA and the GBV team on sexual and reproductive health, and launch of five polls in support of the African Union/ European Union Leaders Summit. Engagement on Facebook live was significant with up to 2,800 participants, while the polls response rate ranged from 5 to 8%. In addition, four U-Ambassadors of U-Report on the Move were selected to participate in international online events with policy makers, the first held on September 29. Blogging activities have also been successful, with a total of 11 articles published on [www.ublogger.org](#) focusing on the Future We Want, life after COVID-19 and the African European Leaders Summit.

BULGARIA

During the reporting period, the number of new arrivals of migrants saw a sharp increase, with 536 recorded in September, 545 in August and 404 in July (compared to 140 in June). Similarly, the number of people seeking asylum in Bulgaria steadily grew over the last three months, with 1,489 registered as of September, compared to 390 as of June 2020. The proportion of children among all applicants for international protection stayed at 20 – 30 %. Out of all asylum-seeking children, the share of UASC children remained stable at around 60%.

Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence

The Mother and Baby Units in Sofia and Stara Zagora and Crisis Center in Sofia continued to provide support to vulnerable mothers of children aged up to 3 years, including access to health services, psycho-social consultations, improvement of parenting skills, employment consultations and Bulgarian language studies. To develop child protection

⁶ Facebook now only allows user-initiated engagement, within a 24-hour timeframe.

network in the country, UNICEF supported three child advocacy centres to provide PSS consultations for children and parents/caregivers as well as support crisis interventions and child friendly hearings.

UNICEF entered a new partnership with a local NGO Center Nadja Foundation to respond to the increasing violence against women and children in the country, by mobilizing technical expertise and human capacity to improve refugee and migrant children's health status in Bulgaria. These efforts are targeting national health authorities and practitioners to remove the main barriers for refugee and migrant children's access to care and protection and are part of a broader strategy for social inclusion. UNICEF partners have reached 1,636 persons, through GBV prevention and response services, case management, social evaluations and plans of action.

Education and Skills Building

UNICEF extended its partnership with the Bulgarian Red Cross (BRC) to support the State Agency for Refugees (SAR) to provide access to educational and recreational activities for asylum-seeking children accommodated at the registration and reception centers. Of 253 children, 134 were enrolled in school in September. As part of the agreement with BRC and SAR, UNICEF is securing the provision of internet connection at four of the registration and reception centers' facilities in Sofia and Harmanli.

Health and Nutrition

UNICEF expanded its partnership with Mission Wings Foundation to provide additional resources to address the COVID-19-specific needs of the beneficiaries in terms of referral to state-led health services and implementation of health literacy activities.

A new partnership was established with Caritas Sofia to provide support to refugee and migrant children and pregnant women and mothers of young children through initial individual needs assessment and referral to appropriate state-led health services. In addition, non-formal group or individual sessions for children and women are organized to enhance emotional, mental and physical health, social and personal development, coping mechanisms, life skills and problem-solving techniques. An added value is the focus on children with special needs and various degrees of physical and/or learning disability who will be timely identified and supported through referrals and/or specialized services.

UNICEF and partners completed 110 individual assessments and 44 referrals to health specialists and supported 22 families to receive vaccinations. UNICEF partners Council of Refugee Women in Bulgaria and Mission Wings Foundation continued to hold face-to-face groups sessions to provide health information to refugees and asylum-seekers and to refer them to state-led services, while also helping strengthen skills and awareness among health specialists working with refugee and migrants.

UNICEF partners continued to provide direct social service support and essential supplies (psychosocial, GBV, health checks, referral), consultations (face-to-face, online) on cases of violence (including GBV, sexual violence) and referral to specialized services (via social media, telephone) to refugees and migrants. Additionally, information and communication materials on health risks (including COVID-19) have been provided to children, parents and health specialists.

SERBIA

The number of refugees and migrants continually increased since August 2019, including of UASC, and reached a record of 9,000 between January and March 2020. With the ban on leaving reception/asylum centers lifted between April and June, many refugees/migrants have rushed to the borders to continue their journey and the number of people in centers dropped to 4,753 currently present in 16 centers (4,043 men, 207 women, 377 boys – including 171 UASC, and 126 girls). However, state and civil sector actors increasingly report violent pushbacks at the borders. The number of new arrivals in the past three months has been as follows: July (3,197), August (4,146) and September (2,730).

The situation of refugee and migrant children remains difficult. Protection of the most vulnerable cases through placement in dedicated child protection institutions remains a challenge due to the COVID-related 14-day quarantine rule and the movement restrictions, thereby disincentivizing children from staying in these institutions. An increase in anti-migrant sentiments among the host communities has also been recorded, while a fence is being erected at the border between Serbia and North Macedonia to prevent the irregular movement into the country.

Child Protection

UNICEF, in partnership with the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), initiated direct child protection services dedicated to UASC at key locations in the Sjenica asylum centre. Among the services provided are psychosocial support, non-formal education and identification and referral to specialised services for the most vulnerable children and adolescents.

Gender-Based Violence

UNICEF continued to prioritise providing technical assistance to partners and institutions on GBV response, sharing relevant technical resources and guidance to inform adjustment of service provision and referral pathways. UNICEF and partners continued to implement direct GBV prevention and response services in four reception centres and two additional locations in the greater Belgrade area through safe spaces for women and girls. This includes provision of

remote and in-person prevention and psychosocial support for women and girls who are at risk or survivors of GBV through workshops, information-sessions, hotlines. Safe referral and case management is also provided to GBV survivors.

In order to address the bottlenecks in identification and access to services for unaccompanied and separated girls, UNICEF continued to roll out the identification toolkit to multiple actors across the country via in-person and online information sessions. During the reporting period, 53 participants including staff of reception centres, outreach workers, social workers, guardians, etc. were trained on identification and protection of this group of girls.

Education and Skills Building

UNICEF initiated a 12-month project, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the Commissariat for Refugees, focused on ensuring access to informal education, via online language learning platform Akelius and purchase of digital equipment, and formal education, including support of mentors with homework and catch-up classes, in three centers.

Health and Nutrition

In response to COVID-19, UNICEF continued to ensure access to remote and in-person psychosocial support services for the refugee and migrant population. Dissemination of information on prevention and mitigation of infection and other health risks continues through provision of posters, pamphlets, and live and online information sessions, targeting children and their families in the centers. UNICEF, through its implementing partners, also distributed critical supplies, including dignity/hygiene kits, to support infection prevention among women, girls and boys.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

At the end of September, the total number of irregular arrivals registered in the country for 2020 was 13,470. In July 2020, there were 2,194 registered arrivals (compared to 4,465 in July 2019), in August 2,618 (2,913 in August 2019) and in September 1,889 (4,557 in September 2019). Among the 6,701 Persons of Concern who arrived in BiH between July and September of 2020, 6,385 expressed the intention to seek asylum and 46 asylum claims were registered. Among those arriving in between July and September 2020, 95 were UASC.

The recent closure of Temporary Reception Center (TRC) in Bira has increased the number of refugees and migrants outside of the TRCs, thereby further constraining their access to shelter and basic services. The situation is further complicated by the negative attitudes and rhetoric towards the refugees and migrants, which are increasingly pursued by many politicians as part of their campaigning for the upcoming local elections in mid-November.

Child Protection

UNICEF further invested in child protection monitoring within and outside of reception centres to ensure timely identification and registration of UASC and thereafter the appointment of guardians and referral to designated zones in reception centres. The numbers of guardians deployed to centres for social welfare has significantly increased in an effort to ensure a maximum of 25 UASC per guardian. In partnership with Save the Children, World Vision, and the local NGO Learning Activity Network (LAN), UNICEF continued to operate Child-Friendly Spaces and 24/7 child protection teams in five temporary reception centres, including in designated zones for UASC. UNICEF and Medecins du Monde conducted a rapid assessment of MHPSS needs and gaps in service provision in Una-Sana Canton and engaged in a partnership to ensure better access to individual and group psychosocial counselling.

Education and Skills Building

Non-formal education activities in TRCs are organised daily for all children, covering language classes, catch-up with school curricula, and sport and creative workshops, reaching 983 children in this reporting period. A blended learning approach is applied to English language learning, whereby a teacher prepares classes using also a digital platform, namely Akelius language learning course, reaching 348 children. Since August 2020, UNICEF, partners and the Ministry of Education facilitated the enrollment of refugee/migrant children in formal education in the Una-Sana Canton (USC). In September 2020, a total of 92 children were enrolled in five local schools in USC.

Health and Nutrition

At least 1,068 children (778 boys, 290 girls) and 465 parents benefited from health and nutrition support provided by UNICEF and partners Fenix, World Vision International and the Danish Refugee Council. UNICEF continued providing pediatric healthcare services, including immunization, dental and ophthalmological services in TRCs. The pediatric team provided 578 specialized pediatric health care services for children and vaccinated 176 children, including UASC. Four Mother-Baby Corners (MBCs) provided parents, including pregnant women, with Infant and Young Child Feeding counselling, information/awareness raising on breastfeeding and hygiene, psychosocial counselling, and supported the provision of food and hygiene packages. A total of 210 parents and 597 children were reached.



© UNICEF/ Balić. Ferhat at the paediatric clinic of the Sedra Reception Center supported by UNICEF

MONTENEGRO

In early 2020, mixed migration flows to Montenegro decreased considerably since the COVID-19 pandemic started when the Government closed its borders to new arrivals. For the last three months, however, there has been an increase in numbers of new arrivals - with an increased share of families with children - the authorities registered 860 new arrivals (expression of intentions), out of which 284 were children (171 boys and 113 girls). The average stay of refugees and migrants is only 3-4 days, which clearly indicates that Montenegro is not a country of destination for most refugees and migrants. The most common countries of declared origin were, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Morocco, Syria, Algeria.

Education and Skills Building

During the reporting period, the Ministry of Education introduced a distance learning programme, #UciDoma – (Learn at Home) through TV broadcasting and video materials - www.ucidoma.me. As part of this effort, UNICEF provided laptops for children residing in Asylum Centre to support online classes. UNHCR also supported asylum seekers with digital equipment.

Health and Nutrition

To prevent the spread of COVID-19, the state-run asylum center and alternative accommodations continued to apply relevant measures issued by the National Coordination Body which has helped in keep the spread of the virus to a minimum.

UNICEF purchased a container for a Child Friendly Space and Mother Baby Corner in the new Reception Centre in Božaj, which is being equipped. UNICEF also purchased equipment for basic medical screening and immediate health care of children and families on the move for use in the Božaj Centre. All activities have been implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior, Border Police and IOM. UNICEF is also working with partners to establish a training programme for health workers on health protection, breastfeeding, immunization, and other issues.

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 Move⁷. 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 delivers direct services in the areas of education, child protection and GBV. Furthermore, UNICEF provides technical support and expertise to relevant stakeholders to strengthen the child protection system and safeguard the rights of refugee and migrant children.

Considering the COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF's work has focused on refugee and migrant children inclusion into national responses. Particular attention is 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.

⁷ <https://www.unicef.org/media/62986/file>

Human Interest Stories and External Media

- UNICEF article: [Snapshot from Bulgaria: An Afghan family overcomes one stumbling block, only to find another](#)
- UNICEF article: [Precious support in the game of life - UNICEF BIH ensures that all refugee and displaced children have access to primary health care](#)
- UNICEF article: [A boy and his father from Iraq found shelter in Bosnia and Herzegovina](#)
- UNICEF photo essay: [Refugees and migrants face new challenges in Bulgaria during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- UNICEF video: [Digital learning empowering teenage refugee girls in Greece](#)
- UNICEF statement: [UNICEF statement on fire at Moria Camp in Lesvos, Greece](#)
- UNICEF-IOM-UNHCR statement: [UN agencies hail milestone as over 1000 asylum seekers relocated from Greece so far this year through EU initiative](#)

Next SitRep: 22 January 2021

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Annex A - SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME RESULTS - as of 30 September 2020

SUMMARY OF RESULTS		Targets 2020 ⁸	Total Result	Change in Q3	
CHILD PROTECTION					
# of children reached with quality child protection support (MHPSS, legal counselling and case management) and protection standards	Greece	24,000	19,501	▲	5,307
	Italy ^I	1,330	1,369	▲	390
	Serbia	1,000	214	▲	53
	Bulgaria ^{II}	300	461	▲	233
	Bosnia and Herzegovina ^{II}	5,000	5,822	▲	1,879
	Montenegro ^{II}	150	254	▲	170
# of unaccompanied and separated children benefitting from appropriate care arrangements and/or services	Greece ^{II}	5,500	5,764	▲	52
	Italy	715	398	▲	86
	Bosnia and Herzegovina ^{II}	2,000	3,817	▲	2,905
	Serbia ^{III}	500	617		-
# of frontline workers and caregivers with improved knowledge and skills on child protection	Greece	400	278	▲	12
	Italy	2,150	573	▲	37
	Bulgaria ^{IV}	50	74	▲	51
	Montenegro ^V	30	-		-
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE					
# of GBV survivors and individuals at risk accessing GBV prevention and response services	Greece	5,000	3,081	▲	570
	Italy	1,200	945	▲	223
	Serbia ^{VI}	1,300	1,457	▲	521
	Bulgaria ^{VI}	200	1,157	▲	63
# of frontline workers with improved knowledge and skills on GBV prevention and response	Greece	350	179	▲	50
	Italy ^{VII}	2,100	198	▲	26
	Serbia	80	119	▲	53

⁸ Targets for certain indicators have been exceeded, due to changing population movement patterns, increased arrivals in Q3, increased needs and vulnerabilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic and shifting programme priorities.

	Bulgaria	50	74	▲	51
	Montenegro ^V	30	-		-
# of women, girls, men, and boys (including refugee, migrants, and host community) who receive information on GBV, available services and how to access them	Greece	2,500	1,705	▲	537
	Italy	15,000	14,730	▲	3,108
EDUCATION					
# of school-age children, including adolescents, participating in structured non-formal education activities	Greece	7,500	4,047	▲	730
	Italy	1,800	407		-
	Bosnia and Herzegovina ^{VIII}	500	1,680	▲	979
# of school-age children benefitting from a strengthened and more inclusive formal education system	Greece ^X	16,000	13,000		-
	Serbia ^X	500	299		-
	Bosnia and Herzegovina ^X	300	494		-
# of children (3-5 years old) benefitting from early childhood education activities	Greece	500	181	▲	38
	Bulgaria	50	35		-
# of formal schoolteachers trained on at least one key theme on inclusion of refugee and migrant children	Greece	800	646	▲	71
	Bosnia and Herzegovina ^{VII}	50	4	▲	4
HEALTH AND NUTRITION					
# of infants and children accessing health and nutrition services, including in mother and baby care centres	Greece	1,200	1,182	▲	351
	Serbia	200	26	▲	2
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	1,400	1,099	▲	519
# of mothers accessing mother and baby care services	Greece ^{IX}	1,800	2,190	▲	631
	Serbia	150	32	▲	3
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	800	326	▲	66
# infants and young children benefitting from increased access to general health checks and referrals, incl. access to life-saving vaccines	Bulgaria	350	125	▲	57
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	600	281	▲	281
	Montenegro ^V	50	-		-
# children and women benefitting from increased health literacy	Bulgaria ^{IX}	250	632	▲	410
YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND PARTICIPATION					
# of adolescent boys and girls benefitting from enhanced participation, social inclusion, and empowerment	Greece	10,000	3,179	▲	133
	Italy	6,000	5,703	▲	81
	Bulgaria	500	118	▲	12
	Serbia	150	114		-
WASH and BASIC SUPPLIES					
# of children receiving culturally appropriate basic supplies, including clothes, baby hygiene items, dignity kits for women and girls	Bulgaria	1,265	432	▲	210
	Serbia	1,500	1,288	▲	474
	Bosnia and Herzegovina ^{XI}	1,000	1,290	▲	946

Notes:

I An additional 14,281 children were reached with online support due to the adaptation of child protection activities towards the online provision of services and support to children in 2020 in the context of COVID-19. The result indicated in the HPM table only include children reached with in-person activities.

II Targets have been exceeded due to a significant increase in the number of new refugee and migrant arrivals with the easing of COVID-related movement restrictions in quarter 3, a highly transient R/M population (especially in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Bulgaria) requiring support at multiple service delivery points and an increased need for child protection support including legal counselling, MHPSS and case management services, due to COVID-19.

III No change in result as the overall number of children benefitting from appropriate care services in government run institutions has remained stable over the course of the last quarter.

IV More frontline workers were reached as part of UNICEF cooperation with IOM, UNHCR and state authorities.

V Activity implementation and results in Montenegro have been constrained due to the spread of COVID-19 which has impacted the implementation of in-person trainings with planned activities being postponed to the last quarter of the year as well as restricted access to health facilities in relation to COVID-19.

VI COVID-19 has led to an increased vulnerability to GBV and therefore the number of asylum seekers and refugee and migrant persons seeking GBV prevention and response services have increased significantly, thus resulting in higher reach than originally anticipated.

VII The rapid spread of COVID-19 has severely impacted the implementation of in-person trainings in several countries, with planned activities being postponed to the last quarter of the year.

VIII Target has 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.

IX Target has been exceeded due to the overall increase in R/M presence and the increased need of R/M population to access health related information, related services, and referral to specialized care, in the context of COVID-19. The figure for Bulgaria also includes people provided with support via telephone and online consultations, in addition to face-to-face activities.

X No change in result owing to the closure of schools in Quarter 3. Moreover, in Greece the number is updated twice a year based on Education Working Group assessment and the next update is expected in the end of the year situation report.

XI Target has been exceeded due to a significant increase in the number of new arrivals requiring culturally appropriate basic supplies.

Annex B - Funding Status

Sector	Requirements	Funds available			Funding gap		Funds available 2021/2022
		Humanitarian resources received in 2020	Other resources used in 2020	Resources available from 2019 (Carry-over)	\$	%	
Countries with children on the move							
Greece	13,250,000	1,736,572	9,442,094	1,982,903	88,430	1%	2,087,475
Italy	5,080,000	1,283,026	1,197,029	1,977,985	621,960	12%	1,488,620
Bulgaria	1,015,000	350,000	131,967	161,211	371,822	37%	211,051
Serbia	1,350,000	0	153,962	277,709	918,329	68%	246,227
Bosnia-Herzegovina	5,150,000	502,055	2,384,532	100,456	2,162,957	42%	422,103
Montenegro	228,190	0	0	72,341	155,849	68%	0
Regional Support	2,050,000	20,390	225,788	359,732	1,444,091	70%	361,096
Total	28,123,190	3,892,043	13,535,372	4,932,337	5,763,438	20%	4,816,573

UNICEF Refugee and Migrant Response Activities in Europe

Updated September 2020

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for every child

Refugee and Migrant Response in Europe

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



Greece

Italy

Bulgaria

Serbia

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Montenegro

Preparedness countries*

National Committee countries

Turkey

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

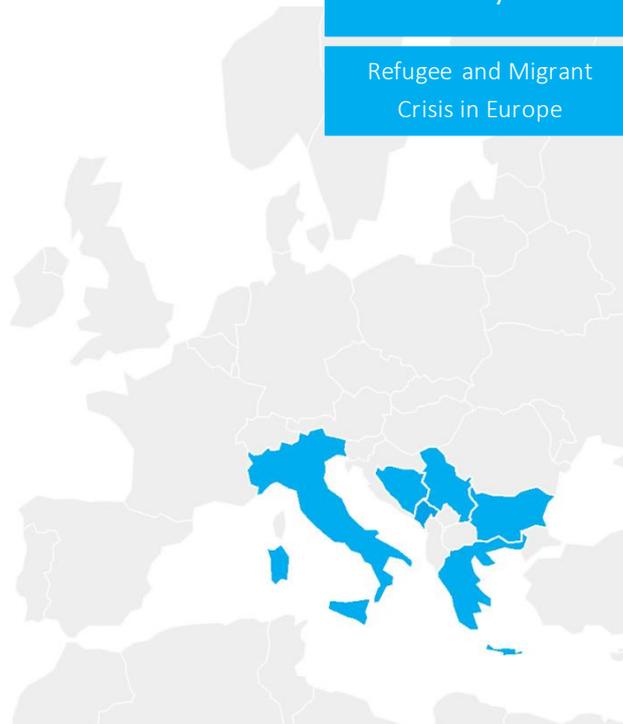
* In some countries, UNICEF may be supporting service provision on needs basis as part of the regular country programme.

UNICEF Refugee and Migrant Response Partners in Europe

Updated September 2020

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for every child

Refugee and Migrant
Crisis in Europe



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

Greece	Bulgaria
<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Solidarity Now, Arsis Thessaloniki, Arsis, CRWI DIOTIMA, Elix, Iliaktida, IRC Hellas, Lesvos Solidarity, Melissa, Merimna, METAdrasi, Syn-eirmos, Terre de Homme Hellas, KETHI  Solidarity Now, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Arsis, Elix, Hellenic Adult Education Association, Iliaktida, 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Bulgarian Helsinki Committee, Animus Association Foundation, Alliance for Protection from Gender-Based Violence, Nadja Center Foundation, Mission Wings Foundation, Council of Refugee Women in Bulgaria, Caritas, Bulgarian Red Cross,  Bulgarian Red Cross  State Agency for Refugees
Italy	Serbia
<ul style="list-style-type: none">  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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Info Park, University of Belgrade, DRC  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	Montenegro
<ul style="list-style-type: none">   Save the Children, World Vision, LAN, Centres for Social Welfare in Bihac, Cazin, Velika Kladusa, Kljuc, Hadzici  Médecins du Monde, Church World Service  Fenix, Danish Refugee Council  Fenix  Government authorities at all levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Education