



Children at Sedra attending non-formal education activities, Bosnia and Herzegovina

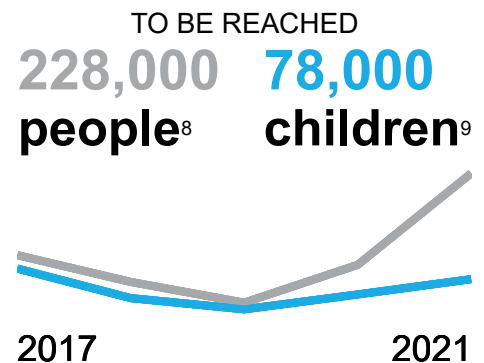
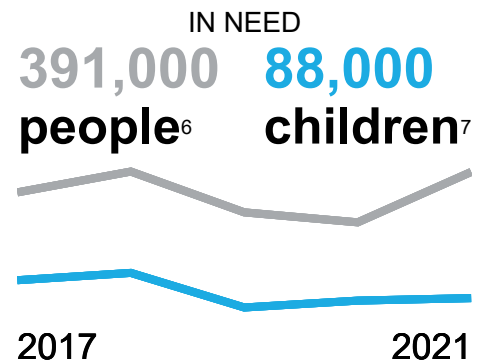
unicef   
for every child

## Humanitarian Action for Children

# Refugee and migrant crisis in Europe

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Between January-June 2021, over 55,000<sup>1</sup> refugees and migrants (24 per cent children)<sup>2</sup> arrived in Europe, a trend likely to continue for the rest of 2021. Italy registered over 20,000<sup>3</sup> new arrivals in the first half of 2021, overstretching the existing resources. Children remain highly vulnerable, with 88,000<sup>4</sup> children residing in camps and on the move requiring urgent care and protection in 2021.
- Despite the gains made in recent years, humanitarian needs remain significant and capacities to respond are inadequate due to COVID-19 pandemic. Access to quality, appropriate health, nutrition, protection and education services and basic supplies is critical.
- UNICEF requires US\$47.8 million to support the humanitarian needs of refugee and migrant population. This signifies an increase from the initial requirement of US\$36.4 million as costs related to UNICEF's lead role in WASH, child protection, and non-formal education increased, while the target remained the same<sup>5</sup>.



### KEY PLANNED TARGETS



**8,500**  
people reached with critical water, sanitation and hygiene supplies and services



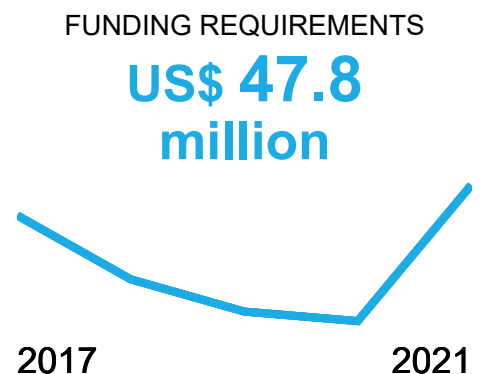
**8,100**  
unaccompanied/separated children reunified with family or provided with family-based care



**26,950**  
children accessing educational services



**183,200**  
people reached through messaging on access to services



## HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

While the COVID-19 pandemic initially curtailed arrivals in 2020, the easing of related border controls and onset of more favorable weather conditions in spring have prompted the arrival of increasing numbers of people into Europe in 2021, an upward trend likely to continue throughout the warmer periods (August - October). Over 55,000 refugees and migrants (24 per cent children) arrived between January and June 2021. Italy registered almost a three-fold increase in new arrivals with over 20,000 being recorded in the first half of 2021. Greece observed a decreasing trend with 3,606 by end of June but is currently hosting the largest caseload (120,000, including 42,000 children, 3,328 who are unaccompanied)<sup>10</sup>. In the first half of 2021 new arrivals were registered in Serbia (nearly 21,000)<sup>11</sup>, Bosnia and Herzegovina (nearly 7,500)<sup>12</sup>, Bulgaria (nearly 2,000)<sup>13</sup> and Montenegro (nearly 1,400).<sup>14</sup> With limited pathways to settling in destination countries, most will remain in tenuous conditions. In 2021, 88,000 children in camps and on the move need urgent care and protection.

Capacities for reception, identification, protection and integration, particularly alternative care options for unaccompanied children, remain insufficient. Vulnerable children, young people and families are living in unsafe and overcrowded accommodations, unable to access protection, and legal guardianship. Furthermore, COVID-19-related lockdowns and movement restrictions have generated overcrowded reception facilities, disrupted provision of critical services, restricted asylum procedures and family reunification, and continue to create challenges in 2021 with resurgence cases, including new variants.

The fire in Moria Centre, Greece, in September 2020 left 12,000<sup>15</sup> refugees and migrants (4,200 children)<sup>16</sup> homeless, requiring UNICEF, in cooperation with the Greek authorities and relevant humanitarian actors, to lead a comprehensive WASH response on Lesbos island. On the mainland, while the Greek Government is positioning to take over ongoing services, there remains need for funding support to ensure critical child protection and non-formal education services in open accommodation sites.

In Italy, unprecedented surges in arrivals in 2021 have overstretched resources leaving refugees and migrants, including children, in overcrowded facilities with limited or no access to basic services in arrivals/transit centers in Apulia, Calabria, Lampedusa and Sicily and informal settlements in Rome. In accordance with official regulations to contain COVID-19, vulnerable migrants, including children, must adhere to mandatory quarantine with adults and families confined on boats at sea and vulnerable groups, including unaccompanied children, housed in quarantine centres.

## SECTOR NEEDS



### Refugee and migrant population

**303,000** refugees and migrants in six countries<sup>17</sup>



### Refugee and migrant population

**73,000** refugee and migrant children in six countries<sup>18</sup>



### Refugee and migrant population

**12,000** children arrived in Europe in 2020<sup>19</sup>



### Refugee and migrant population

**10,000** unaccompanied and separated children need care<sup>20</sup>

## STORY FROM THE FIELD



The UNICEF and Save the Children supported mobile team in Ventimiglia, plays a pivotal role in assisting transiting migrants and refugees, whose living conditions are dire; most do not have access to proper shelter, water and food, and many require protection and psychological support.

Abel (not his real name), an Eritrean 16-year old boy who faced a strenuous and painful path into Europe, being kidnapped and trafficked multiple times was assisted by the mobile team, providing him with information, including legal information, and delivered a backpack containing essential non-food items.

**[Read more about this story here](#)**

UNICEF and Save the Children's staff supporting migrant and refugees transiting through Ventimiglia, at the northern border

In 2021, UNICEF will work with United Nations sister agencies and civil society organizations to strengthen government systems and capacities and reinforce the linkages between humanitarian action and development programmes. This work will focus on improving reception conditions, protection and access to basic services for affected children. The response will complement the global compacts on migration and refugees and promote effective scale-up models.

Recognizing the vulnerabilities of migrants and refugees to COVID-19 and other crises, UNICEF interventions will adapt to evolving contexts and prioritize at-risk children. In Greece and Italy, UNICEF will support children in host communities affected by COVID-19 with access to information, health care, protection and psychosocial support<sup>21</sup>. In line with the Grand Bargain commitments<sup>22</sup>, UNICEF will support governments to align national policies with international norms and improve capacities to address the immediate and longer-term needs of refugee and migrant children, including those with disabilities. Social, health care and other front-line workers will be trained, including online, to identify and mitigate health and protection risks, accompany children and caregivers through asylum procedures, and ensure timely referrals to specialized services<sup>23</sup>. Teachers will be assisted to strengthen approaches to intercultural education, language instruction and life-skills training, including through online forums. Unaccompanied children and youth in reception facilities and urban areas will be enabled to access integrated mental health and psychosocial support.

UNICEF will prioritize the provision of appropriate care to unaccompanied children, preferably in communities, as well as legal aid and guardianship. Pregnant and lactating women will be supported to care for their children and access immunization. Gender-based violence survivors and at-risk groups will receive age- and gender-appropriate information, referrals and support. Empowerment and skills-building for young people will be scaled up to boost youth resilience and provide opportunities to participate in social and behavioural change. Messaging campaigns, including on social media platforms, will include information on COVID-19, access to services and reducing stigma.

At the regional level, UNICEF will coordinate risk monitoring, strengthen knowledge and support preparedness. Advocacy will focus on national and regional policy reforms that uphold the child's right to safe migration, improve best-interests determination and age assessment, end child immigration detention and secure unhindered access to basic social services, including health care and education. This will include continued inter-agency advocacy to mainstream children's rights into the European Union Pact on Migration and relocate unaccompanied and separated children to other European Union Member States.

Progress against the 2020 programme targets is available in the humanitarian situation reports: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/refugee-migrant-response-europe/situation-reports>



## Health and nutrition

- **17,500** children benefiting from increased access to general health checks and referrals, including access to life-saving vaccines
- **4,650** infants, children and mothers accessing health and nutrition services, including in mother and baby care centres
- **5,750** women, girls, men and boys benefiting from increased health literacy



## Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **8,500** people reached with critical water, sanitation and hygiene supplies (including hygiene items) and services
- **4,765** children receiving culturally-appropriate basic supplies, including clothes, baby hygiene items and dignity kits



## Child protection, GBViE and PSEA<sup>25</sup>

- **8,100** unaccompanied and separated children reunified with their primary caregiver or provided with family-based care/alternative care services
- **44,450** children reached with quality child protection support (mental health and psychosocial support, legal counselling and case management) and protection standards
- **2,530** front-line workers and caregivers with improved knowledge and skills on child protection



## Gender-based violence in emergencies

- **25,570** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions
- **31,500** women, girls, men and boys (including refugees, migrants and host communities) receiving information on available gender-based violence services and how to access them
- **1,655** front-line workers with improved knowledge and skills on gender-based violence prevention and response



## Education

- **26,950** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning



## C4D, community engagement and AAP

- **183,200** people reached with messages on access to services<sup>26</sup>



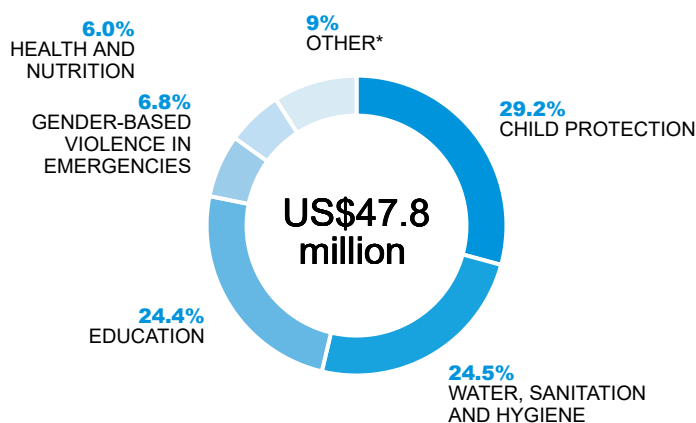
## Adolescents/youth

- **14,800** adolescent boys and girls benefiting from enhanced participation, social inclusion and empowerment<sup>27</sup>



## FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2021

UNICEF requires US\$47.8 million to support immediate and longer-term humanitarian needs of refugee and migrant children, adolescents, and their families. This request has increased from the initial requirement of US\$36.4 million to cover the significant costs related to UNICEF's lead role in providing WASH support in Lesvos, child protection, and non-formal education in open accommodation sites in Greece. This funding will enable UNICEF to maintain basic services in health, education, WASH, gender-based violence (GBV), adolescent empowerment and respond to urgent needs. UNICEF will prioritize implementing risk communication activities to raise awareness on containing coronavirus. Funds allocated to gender-specific responses will support female-friendly spaces, capacity-building to prevent and identify GBV cases and trainings to overcome cultural and linguistic barriers. Investments in youth engagement will foster skills-building for independence and integration into destination societies.<sup>28</sup> Given the extreme vulnerability of refugee and migrant children, if their needs go unaddressed, they are at risk of ending up in the hands of criminals, including traffickers. COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these vulnerabilities and increased dependence on provision of basic services. UNICEF is requesting flexible funding to reach people in need comprehensively. Without sufficient funding, UNICEF will be unable to support the national response to continuing crisis.<sup>29</sup>



\*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Regional office technical capacity (4.1%), Adolescents/youth (3.6%), C4D, community engagement and AAP (1.4%).

Appeal sector	Original 2021 HAC requirement (US\$)	Revised 2021 HAC requirement (US\$)	Funds available (US\$)	Funding gap (US\$)	2021 funding gap (%)
Health and nutrition	2,880,000	2,880,000	1,191,966	1,688,034	58.6%
WASH <sup>30</sup>	2,920,000	11,720,000	9,930,171	1,789,829	15.3%
Child protection <sup>31</sup>	13,073,800	13,983,800	7,489,662	6,494,138	46.4%
Gender-based violence in emergencies	3,245,000	3,245,000	1,668,497	1,576,503	48.6%
Education <sup>32</sup>	10,000,000	11,690,000	6,330,833	5,359,167	45.8%
C4D	668,200	668,200	269,761	398,439	59.6%
Adolescents/youth	1,710,000	1,710,000	662,899	1,047,101	61.2%
Regional office technical capacity	1,950,000	1,950,000	54,352	955,648	94.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,447,000</b>	<b>47,847,000</b>	<b>27,598,141</b>	<b>20,248,859</b>	<b>42.3%</b>

Sectors	Greece	Italy	Bulgaria	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Serbia	Montenegro	ECARO	2021 total requirement (US\$)
Health and nutrition	700,000	1,030,000	180,000	700,000	230,000	40,000	-	2,880,000
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	11,100,000	-	200,000	200,000	220,000	-	-	11,720,000
Child protection	6,880,000	2,980,000	280,000	3,300,000	450,000	93,800	-	13,983,800
Gender-based violence in emergencies	1,470,000	995,000	200,000	200,000	350,000	30,000	-	3,245,000
Education	9,690,000	1,020,000	230,000	600,000	100,000	50,000	-	11,690,000
C4D, community engagement and AAP	360,000	300,000	5,000	-	-	3,200	-	668,200
Regional office technical capacity	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,950,000	1,950,000
Adolescents/youth	700,000	610,000	50,000	150,000	200,000	-	-	1,710,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,900,000</b>	<b>6,935,000</b>	<b>1,145,000</b>	<b>5,150,000</b>	<b>1,550,000</b>	<b>217,000</b>	<b>1,950,000</b>	<b>47,847,000</b>

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## ENDNOTES

1. Arrival data available 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 Serbia, the Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministry of Security, the Montenegro Ministry of Interior, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).
2. UNICEF estimation based on data monthly available from Government sources, IOM and UNHCR.
3. Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Italy
4. ibid
5. Additional funding needs for Greece do not impact the HAC targets, as they relate to provision of services (WASH, Education and Child protection) to the same number of refugee and migrant population UNICEF had planned to reach.
6. UNHCR data on current refugee and migrant populations present in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Montenegro and Serbia, as well as estimates of new arrivals in 2021.
7. Ibid
8. This includes 135,000 people in Italy; 80,000 people in Greece; 5,400 people in Bosnia and Herzegovina; 4,300 people in Serbia; 2,200 people in Bulgaria; and 1,000 people in Montenegro. For Greece and Italy, this includes complementary COVID-19 support for the most vulnerable people in host communities. The total figure includes an estimated 95,405 women/girls and 132,495 boys/men. UNICEF is committed to needs-based targeting, which means covering the unmet needs of children; and will serve as the provider of last resort where it has cluster coordination responsibilities.
9. This includes 48,000 children in Greece; 21,600 children in Italy; 5,000 children in Bosnia and Herzegovina; 2,500 children in Serbia; 880 children in Bulgaria; and 200 children in Montenegro. For Greece and Italy, this includes complementary COVID-19 support for the most vulnerable children in host communities. The total figure includes an estimated 31,115 girls and 47,065 boys.
10. For Greece data from National Centre for Social Solidarity (EKKA) for Jan – May and UNHCR data for June 2021.
11. For Serbia data from Commissariat for Serbia for Jan – May and UNHCR data for June 2021.
12. For Bosnia and Herzegovina, UNHCR data for Jan – June 2021.
13. For Bulgaria data from the State Agency of Bulgaria for Jan – May and IOM data for June 2021.
14. For Montenegro data from Ministry of Interior for Jan – May and UNHCR data for June 2021.
15. UNHCR
16. UNICEF Greece
17. This is a UNICEF estimate of the number of refugee and migrant people present in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Montenegro and Serbia based on the Bosnia and Herzegovina United Nations Country Team, the Bulgaria State Agency for Refugees, the Greece National Center for Social Solidarity, the Italy Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, UNHCR Montenegro and UNHCR Serbia.
18. Ibid.
19. This is a UNICEF estimate of the number of children among new arrivals that entered Europe through Bulgaria, Greece, Italy and Spain in 2020. This figure is included in the total number of children currently present in the six countries. 'Operational Portal Refugee Situations: Mediterranean situation'.
20. Ibid.
21. This appeal incorporates the COVID-19 response for refugee and migrant children in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Montenegro and Serbia. Given the significant response in Greece and Italy, the every child approach and related strong integration of interventions with the immediate host communities, the response in these countries includes complementary COVID-19 support for the most vulnerable children in host communities. The more direct support requirements for COVID-19 for children in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Montenegro and Serbia are incorporated in the 2021 regional appeal for Europe and Central Asia.
22. The Grand Bargain is a unique agreement between some of the largest donors and humanitarian organizations, who have committed to getting more means into the hands of people in need and improving the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian action.
23. This will entail removing barriers to public health, education protection and social welfare services, particularly in the context of COVID-19, and improving reception conditions to allow for appropriate hygiene practices and physical distancing
24. Additional funding needs for Greece do not impact the HAC targets, as they relate to provision of services (WASH, Education and Child protection) to the same number of refugee and migrant population UNICEF had planned to reach. The WASH target covers entire population accommodated in Lesvos and RICs as the WASH response does not cover other populations in government run camps.
25. Due to space constraints, the following acronyms appear in the appeal: GBViE (Gender Based Violence in Emergencies); PSEA (Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse); C4D (Communication for Development); and AAP (Accountability to Affected Populations).
26. In addition to messaging on access to services, this includes messaging on COVID-19 and child protection-related issues.
27. These gender sensitive activities focus on skills building and learning opportunities, access to information, improved health literacy, youth led online platforms and communication channels to ensure participation, peer to peer exchange and empowerment for more independence and better integration into destination societies.
28. These gender sensitive activities focus on skills building and learning opportunities, access to information, improved health literacy, youth led online platforms and communication channels to ensure participation, peer to peer exchange and empowerment for more independence and better integration into destination societies.
29. The response will be delivered in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Montenegro and Serbia.
30. Funding requirements have increased due to the Moria fire and the provision of WASH services which raised the cost of WASH interventions to reach the targeted population.
31. Slight increase in funding requirement due to prolonged timeframe for the handover of services to the government, particularly for the child protection services in the mainland, as well as due to increased child protection needs in Lesvos island.
32. Slight increase in funding requirement due to the handover of education interventions in the islands from UNHCR to UNICEF, as well as due to the increased challenges in accessing education as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.