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for every child

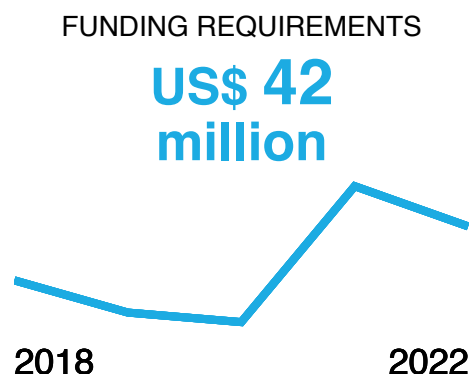
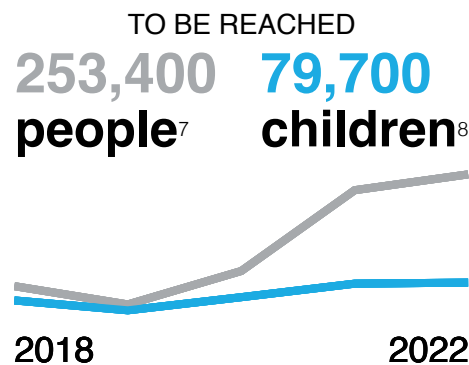
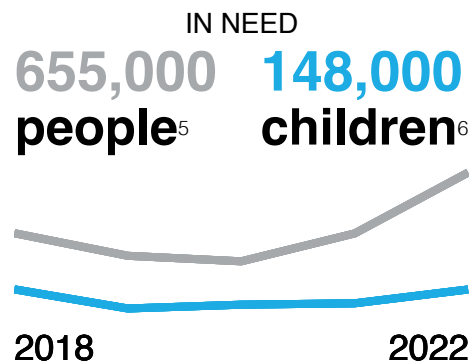
Humanitarian Action for Children

Women and girls attending UNICEF-supported psychosocial support workshops in Vranje, Serbia.

Refugee and Migrant Crisis in Europe


HIGHLIGHTS¹

- Between January and August 2021, an estimated 97,000² refugees and migrants arrived in Europe, a 95 per cent increase compared to the same period in 2020. This trend is likely to continue in 2022. The current number includes some 25,000³ children, among whom 9,300⁴ are unaccompanied or separated. Children on the move remain one of the most vulnerable groups requiring sustained and urgent care and protection in 2022.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has set back years of progress in advancing children's health, education and protection. These and other socioeconomic impacts have stretched country capacities to sustain and respond to the humanitarian needs of refugees and migrants.
- Now more than ever, UNICEF must continue to work with other United Nations agencies and partners to support host governments and communities to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 and protect the rights of children and families on the move.
- In 2022, UNICEF requires US\$42 million to support host governments in ensuring that refugee and migrant children and families arriving in Europe have access to health, nutrition, protection, water sanitation and hygiene, as well as education services.



KEY PLANNED TARGETS

 **35,201**
women and children accessing gender-based violence mitigation, prevention, response

 **5,885**
unaccompanied/separated children accessing family-based care or suitable alternative

 **33,490**
children accessing educational services

 **132,430**
people engaged in risk communication and community engagement actions

Figures are provisional and subject to change upon actual arrivals of refugees and migrants in Europe.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

In August 2021, European countries hosted more than 655,000 refugees and migrants (23 per cent children)⁹ in reception centres or other accommodation arrangements. In 2021, the easing of COVID-19 containment measures enabled international mobility to resume, and between January and August, over 97,000 refugees and migrants¹⁰ (25 per cent children, among whom 38 per cent are unaccompanied or separated)¹¹ arrived in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Montenegro and Serbia – a 95 per cent increase compared to the same period in 2020. It can be expected that the number of people fleeing from ongoing and rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situations in Afghanistan, Syria and other northern and sub-Saharan countries will continue to grow in 2022. In 2021, Italy registered nearly 40,000 new arrivals and currently hosts Europe's largest refugee and migrant caseload of 377,000 people, including 77,000 children (8,000 unaccompanied or separated).¹² Between January and August, 33,784 refugees and migrants arrived in Serbia, 11,492 in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 4,934 in Bulgaria, and 2,330 in Montenegro.¹³ Compared to the previous year, the net number of new arrivals in Greece decreased. However, the current caseload remains significant with 75,000 people, including 31,000 children (2,400 unaccompanied or separated)¹⁴ registered.

The surge in the number of new arrivals has overstretched the capacity of countries to sustain support to refugee and migrant populations and respond to increased caseloads. Overcrowded reception facilities have generated additional challenges in providing adequate sanitation and hygiene facilities, sufficient access to health and protection services and learning opportunities for children and families. Insufficient measures to prevent and address gender-based violence (GBV) put women and girls at increased risk. Inadequate reception, identification, protection mechanisms and limited availability of alternative care and legal guardianship options exacerbate the vulnerability of unaccompanied and separated children. Strict COVID-19 quarantine measures imposed at under-resourced arrival and transit centres create additional psychosocial distress for families and further deprivations for children and adolescents. Social distancing, for example, has reduced spaces for in-person learning, and lack of digital devices and connectivity denied access to online education.

In light of the continuing deterioration of the humanitarian situation at the global level, it is expected that the number of people seeking refuge in Europe will continue to grow. To manage any additional influx of refugees and migrants and mitigate potential risks to already vulnerable populations in a sustainable manner, multi-sectoral advocacy, coordination and inclusive responses at local, national and European Union levels remain a priority.

SECTOR NEEDS



472,000
refugees and migrants in six countries¹⁵



110,000
refugees and migrant children in six countries¹⁶



25,000
refugees and migrant children arrived in 2021¹⁷



10,500
unaccompanied and separated children need care¹⁸

STORY FROM THE FIELD



Farid and Iman are asylum seekers from Iran and living in Sedra Temporary Reception Centre (TRC) in Bosnia and Herzegovina for more than two years. Their daughter, Azami, was born eight months ago.

“We are proud to be parents. We are aware of so many difficulties in our situation, but when we see our children and their smiles, we forget everything.”

Six-month-old Habib was born in Bihac and lives with his parents in Sedra Temporary Reception Centre (TRC). His mother recalls that as inexperienced parents living under challenging circumstances, they found it difficult to get the best care for their son. The Mother & Baby Corner (MBC), established in Sedra TRC with the support of UNICEF and partners, is helping new parents by providing diapers, hygiene products, counselling and advice on breastfeeding.

[Read more about this story here](#)

HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

UNICEF's refugee and migrant response in Europe will adapt to the evolving COVID-19 context and other crises. In 2022, UNICEF will continue to work with national authorities, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other United Nations agencies, as well as civil society organizations, to ensure rights of children and families on the move are protected. UNICEF will focus on evidence-based advocacy and support governments in aligning national policies with international norms. UNICEF will invest in strengthening national systems and capacities to address immediate and longer-term needs of refugee and migrant children, including those with disabilities. Actions include improving reception conditions and ensuring essential services in health, nutrition, education, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and child protection and gender-based violence. UNICEF will enhance capacities of health professionals, social workers and front-line responders to identify and mitigate health and protection risks, and accompany children and families through the asylum process. Access to legal aid and appropriate care and guardianship for unaccompanied children, preferably in communities, will be prioritized. Children will access education, including early learning, through formal and non-formal systems. Teachers will be trained to support inclusive education and blended learning. Mothers will be supported in accessing health and nutrition services, and children will benefit from health check-ups and life-saving vaccines. GBV survivors and at-risk groups will receive age and gender appropriate information, referrals and support. Unaccompanied and separated children and youth will have access to integrated mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and have opportunities to learn life skills and be given a platform to voice their concerns. Information on COVID-19 prevention and access to services will reach refugee and migrant population. UNICEF will continue to advocate for the integration of refugees and migrants in national COVID-19 vaccine roll-out plans, and will ensure children and families receive WASH supplies and winter clothing.

At regional level, UNICEF will support risk monitoring and coordination to enhance preparedness and support knowledge management. It will continue to provide technical and surge support on specialized protection services to refugee and migrant children, with a focus on unaccompanied and separated children in front-line countries hosting refugees and migrants. For example, the regional Child Protection Specialist deployed to Ceuta, Spain has been providing technical and coordination support, including conducting rapid Best Interest Assessments (BIA) and subsequent Best Interest Determinations (BID). UNICEF will support inter-agency advocacy to mainstream children's rights into the European Union Pact on Migration. UNICEF's advocacy efforts will focus on national and regional policy reforms that uphold children's right to safe migration and improve BID and age assessment procedures. UNICEF will advocate for an end to child immigration detention, for unhindered access to social services, as well as for the relocation of unaccompanied and separated children to other European Union Member States.

2022 PROGRAMME TARGETS



Health and nutrition

- **3,795** infants, children and mothers accessing health and nutrition services, including in mother and baby care centres
- **6,386** children and caregivers benefitting from increased access to general health checks and referrals, including access to life-saving vaccines



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **7,260** children and women receiving culturally appropriate basic supplies, including clothes, baby hygiene items, dignity kits



Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **35,201** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions
- **5,885** unaccompanied and separated children accessing family-based care or a suitable alternative
- **27,770** children reached with quality child protection support (MHPSS, legal counselling and case management) and protection standards
- **2,745** frontline workers and caregivers with improved knowledge and skills on child protection
- **11,165** women, girls, men and boys (including refugees, migrants and host communities) receiving information on GBV, available services and how to access them
- **1,295** frontline workers with improved knowledge and skills on GBV prevention and response



Education

- **33,490** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- **2,712** formal school teachers trained on at least one key theme on inclusion of refugee and migrant children



Adolescents/youth

- **13,350** adolescent boys and girls benefitting from enhanced participation, social inclusion and empowerment



Cross-sectoral (HCT, C4D, RCCE and AAP)

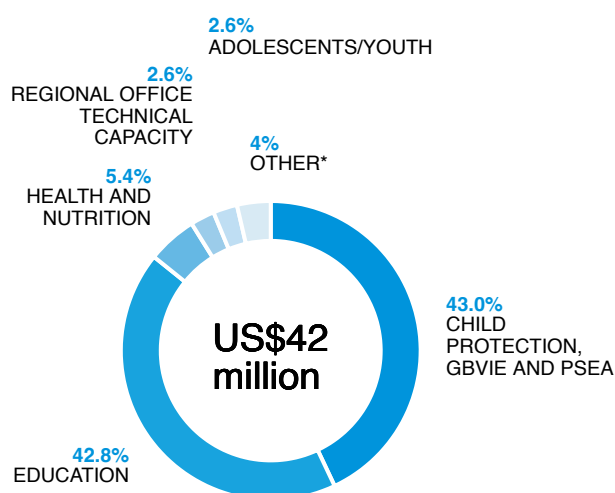
- **50,250** people reached through messaging on prevention and access to services
- **132,430** people engaged in risk communication and community engagement actions

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2022

In 2022, UNICEF requires US\$42 million to address the immediate and longer-term humanitarian needs of refugee and migrant children, adolescents and families in six countries¹⁹ in Europe. Funding requirements have decreased in 2022 due to WASH services being handed over to local authorities in Greece as agreed with the Government.²⁰ While the overall number of people in need will increase in 2022, UNICEF's response is delivered alongside Government efforts, with a focus on filling critical gaps in key services in health, nutrition, WASH, education, child protection, GBV, and in addressing emerging needs from the COVID-19 pandemic.

UNICEF will prioritize child protection services for unaccompanied and separated children and support them with alternative care and family reunification. The provision of MHPSS and capacity building of front-line responders will be rolled out. Funds allocated to education will help the scaling-up of inclusive formal education and structured non-formal education activities, including the "All Children in School" programme in Greece.

The situation of refugee and migrant children in Europe is even more precarious in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its socioeconomic impacts. Flexible and timely funding will enable UNICEF to support evidence-based national responses that address immediate needs and mitigate longer-term impacts.



Sectors	2022 total requirement (US\$)
Health and nutrition	2,252,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	804,000
Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA	18,062,100
Education	17,980,000
Adolescents/youth	1,095,000
Regional office technical capacity	1,100,000
Cross-sectoral (HCT, C4D, RCCE and AAP)	719,000
Total	42,012,100

*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Water, sanitation and hygiene (1.9%), Cross-sectoral (HCT, C4D, RCCE and AAP) (1.7%).

Sectors	Greece	Italy	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Serbia	Bulgaria	Montenegro	ECARO	2022 total requirement (US\$)
Health and nutrition	418,000	420,000	924,000	200,000	240,000	50,000	-	2,252,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	-	-	240,000	264,000	300,000	-	-	804,000
Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA	6,878,500	5,313,600	4,020,000	1,020,000	720,000	110,000	-	18,062,100
Education	14,200,000	1,600,000	1,500,000	360,000	240,000	80,000	-	17,980,000
Adolescents/youth	200,000	655,000	-	180,000	60,000	-	-	1,095,000
Regional office technical capacity	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,100,000	1,100,000
Cross-sectoral (HCT, C4D, RCCE and AAP)	300,000	385,000	-	24,000	-	10,000	-	719,000
Total	21,996,500	8,373,600	6,684,000	2,048,000	1,560,000	250,000	1,100,000	42,012,100

ENDNOTES

1. UNICEF's public health and socioeconomic COVID-19 response, including programme targets and funding requirements, is integrated into the standalone country, multi-country and regional Humanitarian Action for Children appeals. All interventions related to accelerating equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines fall under the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) global appeal.
2. The estimations are based on the Bulgaria State Agency for Refugees, the Greece National Center for Social Solidarity, Greece Ministry of Migration and Asylum, Italy Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, International Organization for Migration (IOM) and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) data as of August 2021.
3. UNICEF's estimate of the number of refugee and migrant children who arrived in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Montenegro and Serbia between January and August 2021 is based on the Bulgaria State Agency for Refugees, the Greece National Center for Social Solidarity, Greece Ministry of Migration and Asylum, Italy Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, UNHCR and IOM data as of August 2021.
4. UNICEF's estimate of the number of refugee and migrant unaccompanied children who arrived in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Montenegro and Serbia between January and August 2021 is based on the Bulgaria State Agency for Refugees, the Greece National Center for Social Solidarity, Greece Ministry of Migration and Asylum, Italy Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, UNHCR and IOM data as of August 2021.
5. Present population in Greece, Italy, Bulgaria, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro and estimated arrivals for September-December 2021 and in 2022. Estimations are based on statistics from the Greece National Centre for Social Solidarity (EKKA), Greece Ministry of Migration and Asylum, Italy Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Bulgarian State Agency for Refugees, Bulgaria Ministry of Interior, Serbia Commissariat for Refugees and Migration, Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministry of Security, Montenegro Ministry of Interior, International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).
6. Ibid.
7. Estimated total population to be reached in Greece (44,410), Italy (187,860), Bulgaria (8,580), Serbia (4,600), Bosnia and Herzegovina (7,700) and Montenegro (230). The total figure includes men, women, boys, girls, people with disabilities and children with disabilities. The total people to be reached includes an estimated 35 per cent women/girls and 0.8 per cent people with disabilities. 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.
8. This includes 36,400 children in Greece, 29,000 children in Italy, 7,000 children in Bulgaria, 4,500 children in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2,800 children in Serbia and 65 children in Montenegro. The total figure includes an estimated 31,000 girls and 48,800 boys. Disability data on children is estimated at 0.8 per cent of total children reached.
9. UNICEF's estimation of refugee and migrant children present in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Montenegro and Serbia based on the data from the Bulgaria State Agency for Refugees, Bulgaria Ministry of Interior Affairs, the Greece National Center for Social Solidarity, Greece Ministry of Migration and Asylum, the Italy Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and UNHCR.
10. UNICEF estimation of refugee and migrant children present in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Montenegro and Serbia based on the data from the Bulgaria State Agency for Refugees, Bulgaria Ministry of Interior Affairs, the Greece National Center for Social Solidarity, Greece Ministry of Migration and Asylum, the Italy Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and UNHCR.
11. UNICEF estimation of refugee and migrant children present in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Montenegro and Serbia based on the data from the Bulgaria State Agency for Refugees, Bulgaria Ministry of Interior Affairs, the Greece National Center for Social Solidarity, Greece Ministry of Migration and Asylum, the Italy Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and UNHCR.
12. Data from UNHCR, Italy Ministry of Interior, Italy Ministry of Labour, Statistical Institutes (ISTAT/ISMU) and Italian Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI), August 2021.
13. Data from UNHCR, Serbian Governmental statistics and Bulgaria State Agency for Refugees data for August 2021.
14. UNICEF estimation based on the Greece Ministry of Migration and Asylum and Greece National Center for Social Solidarity statistics for August 2021.
15. Estimated number of refugees and migrants present in Greece, Italy, Bulgaria, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro based on Greece Ministry of Migration and Asylum, Italy Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Bulgaria State Agency for Refugees, UNHCR and IOM data as of August 2021.
16. Estimated number of refugees and migrants present in Greece, Italy, Bulgaria, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro based on Greece Ministry of Migration and Asylum, Italy Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Bulgaria State Agency for Refugees, UNHCR and IOM data as of August 2021.
17. UNICEF's estimation of number of refugees and migrant children arrived in 2021.
18. Number of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) present in Greece, Italy, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro by the end of August 2021 based on statistics from Greece National Centre for Social Solidarity (EKKA), Greece Ministry of Migration and Asylum, Italy Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Bulgarian State Agency for Refugees, Bulgaria Ministry of Interior, Serbia Commissariat for Refugees and Migration, Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministry of Security, Montenegro Ministry of Interior, International Organization for Migration (IOM) and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).
19. Greece, Italy, Bulgaria, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro.
20. Funding need for Greece decreased to US\$21.9 million in 2022 from US\$36.4 million in 2021. After the Moria fire, as agreed with the government, UNICEF is responsible for the provision of WASH services for one year, including installation of critical WASH infrastructure and, after this period, handover to the government for operation and management of all facilities.