

# EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA REGIONAL OFFICE

## REFUGEE AND MIGRANT RESPONSE IN EUROPE



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## Expression of Thanks

UNICEF is entirely funded by the voluntary contributions of millions of individuals worldwide, governments, intergovernmental organizations, foundations, and the private sector. Through these contributions, especially flexible thematic funds, UNICEF can deliver on its mandate to advocate for and protect the rights of children, help meet their basic needs, and expand their opportunities to reach their full potential. We take this opportunity to thank all our partners for their commitment and trust in UNICEF.

UNICEF would like to express its utmost appreciation to public and private partners, including the European Union, without whom it would not have been possible to deliver results for refugee and migrant children across Europe.

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Flexible humanitarian funding was particularly critical to respond to emergencies and urgent needs across health, nutrition, child protection, gender-based violence (GBV), education, adolescent and youth participation, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) in Greece, Italy, Bulgaria, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro as well as to sustain technical support, coordination, knowledge management and advocacy at the UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Regional Office (ECARO) level. The funding allowed UNICEF to respond quickly, and to effectively scale-up and adapt programming to address the increasing needs of children and families on the move in 2022. It further enabled strengthening of the linkages between humanitarian and development programming.

UNICEF is looking forward to continuing its strong collaboration with the European Union and its member states, United Nations agencies, civil society organizations (CSOs), Child Rights Ombudspersons and National Committees to ensure no child is left behind.

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## Abbreviations and Acronyms

CSO	Civil Society Organization
ECARO	UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Regional Office
ESTIA	Emergency Support to Integration and Accommodation
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
HAC	Humanitarian Action for Children
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
MHPSS	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OAS	Open Accommodation Sites
PSEA	Prevention of Sexual Abuse and Exploitation
TRC	Temporary Reception Center
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

## I.Executive Summary



In 2022, UNICEF worked in close collaboration with United Nations agencies and partners to provide continued support to governments to respond to the humanitarian needs of children on the move, and their families, in Greece, Italy, Bulgaria, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro, and beyond.

In the six countries mentioned, UNICEF reached 33,173 children with child protection services, while 80,991 women, girls and boys accessed GBV risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions. Around 25,089 children gained access to education, while 4,084 schoolteachers were trained on the inclusion of refugee/migrant children. 4,906 children and mothers accessed health and nutrition services and 263,488 people were reached with messaging on access to services.

In 2022, an estimated 321,918 refugees and migrants<sup>1</sup> arrived in Greece, Italy, Bulgaria,<sup>2</sup> Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro, mainly from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Syria, and North Africa. Overall, this presented a significant increase in arrivals of 86 per cent compared to 2021<sup>3</sup>. At the end of 2022, over 132,815 refugees and migrants were estimated to be present in five countries,<sup>4</sup> including 47,392 children and 21,145 unaccompanied and separated children.

Political and economic developments in host countries, such as a transitional government in Bulgaria, a new government in Italy, and high inflation rates impacted the situation of refugees and migrants. In many countries stricter migration policies were observed, restricting disembarkation in Italy, ending the state-sponsored housing programme in Greece, and imposing stricter visa regulations in Serbia. Other challenges to reaching refugees and migrants with services were high turnover rates at reception centres, the establishment of informal settlements, and the involvement of smugglers, particularly close to European Union borders.

The number of refugees and migrants coming to the region increased significantly due to a variety of factors, including conflict, climate change, and food insecurity. In particular, the war in Ukraine triggered an unprecedented increase of refugee arrivals across Europe<sup>5</sup> and continued to put pressure on national systems in hosting countries, stretching the capacities of governments at central and municipal levels for sustaining equal access to quality services for refugee and migrant as well as host communities. Gaps included overcrowded and inadequate reception facilities, especially for

<sup>1</sup> Estimations of arrivals are based on UNHCR, IOM, Greek Ministry of Migration and Asylum, Greek Ministry of Migration and Asylum, , Greek Special Secretariat for Unaccompanied Minors, Italian Ministry of Interior, Italian Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, Bulgarian Ministry of Interior and State Agency for Refugees, Serbian Commissariat for Refugees and Migration, Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Border Police and Ministry of Interior in Montenegro. The figures do not include Ukrainian refugees who arrived in the region.

<sup>2</sup> For Bulgaria, this only includes the number of asylum seekers, the number of arrivals is not available but estimated to be much larger.

<sup>3</sup> This includes refugee and migrants from other countries and does not include refugees from Ukraine.

<sup>4</sup> This includes Ukrainian refugees in five countries. No data available for Montenegro.

<sup>5</sup> The response for the Ukrainian refugee populations was provisioned for and reported under the 2022 Ukraine and Refugee Receiving Countries HAC.



unaccompanied and separated children, women, and girls. Additional challenges were overstretched capacities to provide adequate sanitation and hygiene facilities and sufficient access to health and protection services and learning opportunities for children and families as well as insufficient measures to prevent and address GBV risks for women and girls. Insufficient mechanisms for identification and protection, case management and best interest determination of children as well as limited availability of alternative care and legal guardianship options, exacerbated the vulnerability of children, especially those who were unaccompanied and separated.

With arrivals in 2022 having increased beyond foreseen estimates, expanded efforts by countries to meet the immediate needs of refugee and migrant children led to an overachievement of most planned targets. Significant funding gaps however remained for child protection support in Greece and Italy, and consequently, expected results in these programmes were not fully achieved.

Over 2022, UNICEF delivered and sustained services, while adapting interventions towards need-based services, using in person as well as online approaches, such as use of social media platforms for messaging and engagement and use of digital platform for learning, to reach refugee and migrant children.

## II. Humanitarian Context



With continued, increased global humanitarian crises, including the war in Ukraine and a deteriorating humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, the socio-economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, inflation, political crises, and the impact of climate change, the region has seen an increase in refugees and migrant arrivals, requiring support to assure sustained access to basic services, including health, nutrition, protection, sanitation, hygiene, and education.

Between January and December 2022, an estimated 321,918 refugees and migrants<sup>6</sup> arrived in Greece, Italy, Bulgaria,<sup>7</sup> Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro, mainly from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Syria, and North Africa, including 47,392 children and 21,145 unaccompanied and separated children. This was in addition to the unprecedented arrivals of refugees from Ukraine in the region<sup>8</sup>. Overall, there was a significant, 86 per cent increase in arrivals compared to 2021, with a peak during the summer season starting from April. Although many of the newly arriving people moved

<sup>6</sup> Estimations of arrivals are based on UNHCR, IOM, Greek Ministry of Migration and Asylum, Greek Special Secretariat for Unaccompanied Minors, Italian Ministry of Interior, Italian Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, Bulgarian Ministry of Interior and State Agency for Refugees, Serbian Commissariat for Refugees and Migration, Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Border Police and Ministry of Interior in Montenegro.

<sup>7</sup> For Bulgaria, this only includes the number of asylum seekers, the number of arrivals is not available but estimated to be much larger.

<sup>8</sup> As of the end of 2022, there were almost 7.9 million Ukrainians recorded across Europe, spread across 44 countries according to [UNHCR Operational Data Portal](#) : Ukraine Refugee Situation, as of 03 January 2023.

on to other countries, especially those in the Western Balkan countries, they still required shelter and services for the first few hours or days to address their most urgent needs

Political and economic developments in host countries, such as a transitional government in Bulgaria, a new government in Italy, high inflation rates and the global food and energy crisis adversely impacted the situation of refugee and migrants. In many countries stricter migration policies were observed, including restrictions to disembarkation in Italy, ending of the state-sponsored housing programme in Greece, and the imposition of stricter visa regulations in Serbia. Other challenges to reaching refugees and migrants with services were high turnover rates at reception centres, the establishment of informal settlements, and the involvement of smugglers, particularly close to European Union borders.

The substantial increase of refugee and migrant arrivals in 2022 brought significant challenges for existing reception systems, facilities and services, including placing additional pressure on capacities for adequate identification, protection and integration and alternative care options for unaccompanied and separated children, leaving some children, young people and families in overcrowded and unsafe accommodation or unable to access protection and legal guardianship and exposing children, girls and women to psychosocial distress and risks related to GBV and sexual abuse.

Multi-sectoral advocacy, coordination and response remain critical at local, national and European Union levels to sustainably manage migration and allow children, young people, and families to recover and contribute to inclusive societies. UNICEF remained committed to partnering with and supporting European institutions and Member States to further advance age- and gender-responsive multi-sectoral policies that protected and addressed the needs of accompanied and unaccompanied children, women, and youth in a comprehensive manner, advancing their social inclusion through improved access to education, health and social welfare systems that promote tolerance and diversity.

## Greece



Greece maintained the heaviest refugee and migrant caseload among reporting countries. By the end of the year, over 64,950 refugees and asylum-seekers were recorded in Greece<sup>9</sup>. As of end September, UNICEF estimates that there were 22,000 children, of whom 41% girls and 2,612 unaccompanied and separated children (15 per cent girls) present in the country<sup>10</sup>. Between January to December 2022, 18,778 refugee and migrant new arrivals were recorded in Greece, of whom 4,500 estimated to be children- the majority of children reaching Greece arrived in the country by sea, originating mainly from Afghanistan, Somalia, the State of Palestine and Syria. This presented an increase of 134 per cent, compared to 2021.

Based on the data from the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, 37,362 persons applied for international protection in Greece in 2022, with 9,633 of these applications concerning children aged 0–13 years. As

<sup>9</sup> Total refugees and asylum-seekers is 86,600 of them, 25% are Ukrainian refugees ([UNHCR data](#)).

<sup>10</sup> This does not include children from Ukraine.

of December 2022, 7,622 children, including 981 unaccompanied children, were granted international protection (refugee status and subsidiary protection).

At the reception and identification centres on the islands, overcrowding – a persisting problem for many years – eased, with approximately 2,800 people, including 500 children, remaining housed there (compared to 4,500, including 1,300 children in 2021).

Changes in the migration policy and the provisions for asylum seekers and refugees, including accommodation, had significant impact. The closure of the Emergency Support to Integration and Accommodation (ESTIA) apartments programme in 2022 hampered integration efforts and access to education for children as families, including those most vulnerable, were forced to leave urban communities and move to camps in remote areas. The end of the ESTIA programme also resulted in an increase in the number of self-accommodated people in Greece (14,000 were estimated to be children versus 7,000 in 2021). With significant advocacy from UNICEF together with the Ministry of Education, the 2022–2023 school year saw the highest ever number of refugee children enrolled in formal education (17,500, up from 16,500 the previous year) thanks to the concerted efforts of Greek authorities, UNICEF and its partners.

## Italy



In 2022, Italy experienced a significant increase in arrivals with 105,140 new refugees and migrants arriving by sea, including 6,151 accompanied children and 12,687 unaccompanied and separated children, mainly from Egypt, Tunisia, Bangladesh, Syria and Afghanistan.<sup>11</sup> In addition, almost 13,500 new refugees and migrants arrived by land via south-east Europe, mainly originating from Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India and Nepal,<sup>12</sup> bringing the total arrivals in 2022 to 118,640 people. This presented an increase of 77 per cent compared to arrivals in 2021. At the end of 2022, an estimated 107,268 refugees and migrants, including 20,381 children<sup>13</sup> and 14,959 unaccompanied and separated children (15 per cent girls), remained present in Italy.<sup>14</sup>

Despite significant efforts by the government, gaps remained in the provision of equitable services and protection of refugee and migrant children. In particular, limited child safeguarding and GBV risk mitigation strategies in reception centres and challenges for many unaccompanied and separated children, children and women in accessing age, gender and culturally appropriate psychosocial support services, especially in the first phase of the reception system.<sup>15</sup>

Given concerns around overcrowded conditions, limited WASH facilities, delayed assistance in health and nutrition, and heightened child protection and GBV risks, including the deterioration in mental health at disembarkation and in first reception areas in Lampedusa, UNICEF ensured a continued monitoring

<sup>11</sup> Ministry of Interior and UNHCR Sea Arrivals Dashboard, as of December 2022 <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/98376>

<sup>12</sup> UNHCR Italy Factsheet 2022, <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/98377>

<sup>13</sup> Estimation of children based on 19 per cent of sea arrivals being children).

<sup>14</sup> Estimations based on data from the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, and UNHCR. Number of unaccompanied and separated children as of 31 August 2022.

<sup>15</sup> The first phase of the reception model provides first aid and identification, implemented in the crisis points present at the main disembarkation places.



presence in this hotspot in the last quarter. UNICEF also scaled up its first response interventions in Calabria, to address the protection risks for children, particularly in the main disembarkation points (Roccella Jonica and Crotone). In coordination with UNHCR, Save the Children and other actors, UNICEF shared the findings and recommended courses of action to the central and local presences of the Ministry of Interior.

UNICEF also started assessing the needs of the population on the move in the Italy's north-eastern region of Friuli Venezia Giulia due to an increase in the number of people in transit through the Balkan route.

## Bulgaria



In 2022, there were 19,094 applications for asylum: 17,590 men, 1,504 women, including 3,985 boys, 608 girls, out of which 3,337 were unaccompanied and separated (3,271 boys, 66 girls).<sup>16</sup> The main countries of origin were Syria, Afghanistan, and Morocco. This marked a 74 per cent increase in arrivals compared to 2021 and presented the highest number of refugees and migrants recorded in Bulgaria to date.

The increased number of refugee and migrant population in the country strained the capacity of the relevant authorities, limiting the availability of services in the reception centres. Many arriving refugees and migrants faced inadequate access to health, education and protection services. The situation was further challenged by the increased number of unaccompanied and separated children, with only two available safe zones in the reception centres, with a limited capacity of 230 unaccompanied and separated children, and with a lack of inclusive and appropriate alternative care and social services. Refugees and asylum seekers living outside the reception centres and persons with international protection in Bulgaria also faced problems finding a job and meeting their basic needs.

Limited capacities of state authorities, including police, justice structures/bodies, and social service providers, challenged the provision of integrated protection services to refugee and migrant children, including best interest assessment and best interest determination identification, assistance and referral of unaccompanied and separated children, GBV response and prevention services. UNICEF addressed these challenges through targeted support to essential services and by building the capacities of the social workforce to better address and respond to the needs of the refugee and migrant children and their families/caregivers.

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<sup>16</sup> Bulgarian State Agency for Refugees as of 31 December 2022.

## Serbia



In 2022, 129,679 refugees and migrants arrived in Serbia.<sup>17</sup> This marked a sharp increase of 115 per cent compared to arrivals in 2021. By the end of December, 4,853 refugees and migrants (4,689 male, 164 female) were present in the country, mainly from Morocco, Afghanistan, Syria, and Burundi. They included 208 children (173 boys, 35 girls) and 75 unaccompanied and separated children.<sup>18</sup> The increased number of arrivals in 2022 resulted in the re-opening of two previously closed reception centres close to the entry point in eastern Serbia.

## Bosnia and Herzegovina



In 2022, 27,429 refugee and migrant arrivals were reported, including 3,840 children (3,379 boys, 461 girls) and 2,194 unaccompanied and separated children (2,065 boys, 129 girls), an increase of 74 per cent compared to arrivals in 2021. The main countries of origin were Afghanistan, Morocco, and

<sup>17</sup> Based on UNHCR data.

<sup>18</sup> Commissariat for Refugees and Migration

Pakistan.<sup>19</sup> By the end of 2022, between 1,400 and 1,600 refugees and migrants remained present, including 210 (184 boys, 26 girls) and 162 unaccompanied and separated children (155 boys, 7 girls).<sup>20</sup>

High turnover rates of the migrant population – with stays in temporary reception centres ranging between 4 to 11 days, challenged the continuous provision of services. Short stays of families as well as low levels of literacy, primarily among unaccompanied children and unaccompanied children led to disruptions in learning. Access to tailored and inclusive education programmes remained heavily reliant on support from international actors, even though progress has been made in ensuring budgetary allocations by the authorities. UNICEF continued advocating for access to vocational training for secondary school-aged children, mainly unaccompanied and separated children.

## Montenegro



Between January and December 2022, Montenegro registered 8,298 arrivals, including 463 children (285 boys, 178 girls) mainly from Afghanistan, Iran, and Bangladesh. This presented an increase of 161 per cent compared to arrivals in 2021. The main needs included access to registration and documents, and linked to this, access to health care, the labour market, rent money for accommodation, and assistance for children in schools.

<sup>19</sup> Information based on Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina, IOM, UNHCR, and the Danish Refugee Council.

<sup>20</sup> This includes estimated people living in estimates which range between 85 reporting by DRC and 245 reported by IOM.



### III. Humanitarian Results

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In line with the [Global Programme Framework on Children on the Move](#), UNICEF's response to the needs of refugee and migrant children and women in 2022 prioritized their protection, the end of child immigration detention, family unity, unhindered access to health care and education, including the provision of information through risk communication, improved reception conditions, and the fight against xenophobia and discrimination. The response complements the Global Compact on Migration and Refugees and promotes effective scale-up models.

UNICEF's interventions in Greece, Italy, Bulgaria, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro reached 33,173 children with child protection services, while 80,991 women, girls and boys accessed GBV risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions. Around 25,089 children gained access to education, while 4,084 schoolteachers were trained on the inclusion of refugee/migrant children. A total of 4,906 children and mothers accessed health and nutrition services, 72,065 people participated in engagement actions for social and behaviour change and 263,488 people were reached with messaging on access to services. In addition, 1,436 adolescents benefitted from youth empowerment and participation activities, which amplified their voices to influence policies.

UNICEF worked with national and local authorities, United Nations agencies, NGOs, and CSOs to strengthen government systems and capacities. Together with its partners, UNICEF worked to improve reception conditions and access to services in health, nutrition, WASH, education, child protection, GBV prevention and response, adolescent engagement, and social behaviour change. Furthermore, UNICEF delivered technical assistance and expertise to enhance child protection systems and safeguard the rights of refugee and migrant children. UNICEF continued advocacy and support to governments in aligning national policies with international norms and improve best interest determination of the child and age assessment procedures.



## Greece

In 2022, UNICEF reached 850 infants and young children and 2,072 mothers with age-appropriate nutrition counselling, mainly through mother baby corners at asylum centres. UNICEF and the national NGO GIVMED continued outreach activities to communicate on access points for medical supplies and medicines. By the end of December, the distribution of 3,300 health products to organizations supporting refugee and migrant children and their families was facilitated, reaching more than 1,126 children in 2022.

UNICEF reached 13,167 children with quality child protection support, including mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), while frontline workers and caregivers were supported to improve their knowledge and skills on child protection. UNICEF, in collaboration with the NGO ELIZA, organized interactive workshops against children's sexual exploitation for frontline professionals. UNICEF also provided quality GBV prevention services to women and adolescent girls in 12 open accommodation sites (OAS) on the mainland and the island of Lesbos, through women and girls safe spaces. To help survivors of GBV and children exposed to violence, UNICEF offered interpretation services, including at police stations. In 2022, UNICEF continued to support the adaptation of the GBV Pocket Guide into the Greek context and finalized the [6<sup>th</sup> Newsletter on Violence Against Women](#). UNICEF also supported a range of activities on the prevention and response to trafficking in human beings, including participation in the [MEDUSA](#) simulation organized by the Ministry of Migration and Asylum and delivery of an induction session on UNICEF's work on preventing and responding to child trafficking, within a workshop organized by the Thessaloniki Police Directorate, targeting 68 police officers. In the first quarter of 2022, a final Community-Based Child Protection Mechanism training for state and non-state professionals working in the OAS took place, reaching over 190 professionals since the beginning of the project. UNICEF also contributed to establishing a complaints and feedback mechanism for unaccompanied children in the framework of the new Guardianship Law, by providing technical expertise to the Special Secretary for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors, and jointly with the Secretariat, launched a guide on working with refugee unaccompanied children for educators and social workers. In cooperation with the Reception and Identification Service, UNICEF organized the roll out of the fourth Child Friendly Site Checklist across 22 OAS to ensure adequate offers of services for children.

A total of 21,147 children accessed formal or non-formal education, including early learning through the All Children in Education (ACE) programme. Non-formal education continued in over 40 centres for Homework and Creative Activities (HCACs) and service points across Greece to children 4–17-year-old. In coordination with the authorities, 4,053 formal schoolteachers were trained on the inclusion of refugee and migrant children, mainly through the launch of the second round of the Teach4Integration programme in December 2022. In addition, workshops on inclusive education were organized for regional and local officials and education authorities, refugee education coordinators, and ACE partners, in collaboration with Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs. UNICEF and the Ministry

### 2,922 (266% of target)\*

# of infants, children and mothers accessing health and nutrition services, including in mother and baby care centres

### 1,129 (34% of target)\*\*

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

### 13,167 (75% of target)

# of children reached with quality child protection support (MHPSS, legal counselling and case management) and protection standards

### 86 (26% of target)\*\*

# of frontline workers and caregivers with improved knowledge and skills on child protection

### 871 (15% of target)\*\*

# women, girls and boys accessing GBV risk mitigation, prevention or response intervention

### 68 (15% of target)\*\*

# of frontline workers with improved knowledge and skills on GBV prevention and response

### 905 (10% of target)\*\*

# of women, girls, men and boys (including refugee, migrants and host community) receiving information on GBV, available services and how to access them

### 21,147 (77% of target)

# children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning

### 4,053 (159% of target)\*

# of formal school teachers trained on at least one key theme on inclusion of refugee and migrant children

### 513 (17% of target)\*\*

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

### 2,713 (10% of target)\*\*

# of people reached through messaging on access to services

\*Significant increase in results are due to increase in arrivals in 2022 and/or online, more cost effective modality of interventions.

\*\*Underachieved results are due to the need to prioritise certain activities and resources over others based on funding availability.

created a variety of information material on education, translated into different languages and disseminated to refugee families. In addition, UNICEF, along with ACE partners, participated in a series of trainings for ACEMON, a platform developed by the Ministry of Migration and Asylum. ACEMON monitors the learning progress of ACE students participating in Greek, English language and Mathematics. UNICEF designed and developed assessment tools for the monitoring exercise starting in September 2022.

The Akelius Language Learning Course was implemented in 20 public schools hosting refugee and migrant children, with the goal to support their language learning and digital skills.

In 2022, 513 adolescent girls and boys benefitted from enhanced participation, social inclusion, and empowerment. Empowerment activities included a series of face-to-face workshops on the right to be heard and participate in civic and political life. The voices of young refugees were also amplified through their participation in U-Report polls about the use of digital tools and protection from cyber-bullying, the protection of children's rights, and the impact of global crises on the mental health of young people. In addition, UNICEF organized two panel discussions with the active participation of young refugees and policymakers, including representatives from the Ministry of Asylum and Migration, the Ombudsperson for Children, and the Ministry of Education.

In 2022, UNICEF's response in Greece was approximately 70% funded. This included generous contributions from the European Union for education, which exceeded the funding target for education in the refugee and migrant context. At the same time, UNICEF's interventions in child protection, health and nutrition, C4D/AAP as well as activities for adolescent and youth empowerment remained largely unfunded with only one fourth of the requirements secured for the year.

## Italy

UNICEF reached 9,449 children with child protection support, including MHPSS, legal counselling, and case management. This included new arrivals in border areas (Friuli, Sicily, Lampedusa, Calabria, and Ventimiglia) where the needs were particularly high. In addition, 279 unaccompanied and separated children accessed family-base care or a suitable alternative. 1,604 frontline workers and caregivers improved their knowledge and skills on child protection through tailored capacity building activities.

With online and in-person activities, 76,664 women, girls, and boys were reached with GBV risk mitigation, prevention, or response interventions. A total of 543 frontline workers improved their knowledge and skills on GBV prevention and response through capacity building activities. UNICEF continued to support prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) activities, including carrying out a training for implementing partners on the new United Nations PSEA assessment harmonized tool and a refresher training for UNICEF staff. A joint meeting between UNICEF and UNHCR was held in December 2022 to maximize coordination and synergy between agencies on the PSEA assessment of common partners. The online service provision of legal counselling and psychosocial support (Here4U) continued, in partnership with Associazione Ricreativa Culturale Italiana (ARCI). The service is integrated into the U-Report on The Move, and a total of 381 cases were followed in 2022.

Additionally, UNICEF reached 1,938 children and adolescents through skills development programmes. This included in-school UPSHIFT activities which reached 1,161 students in disadvantaged situations,

### 9,449 (390% of target)\*

# of children reached with quality child protection support (MHPSS, legal counselling and case management) and protection standards

### 279 (101% of target)

# of unaccompanied and separated children accessing family-based care or a suitable alternative

### 1,604 (86% of target)

# of frontline workers and caregivers with improved knowledge and skills on child protection

### 76,664 (302% of target)\*

# women, girls and boys accessing GBV risk mitigation, prevention or response intervention

### 543 (71% of target)

# of frontline workers with improved knowledge and skills on GBV prevention and response

### 1,938 (70% of target)

# children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning

### 8,080 (85% of target)\*\*

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

### 255,995 (1,164% of target)\*

# people reached through messaging on access to services

### 52,802 (40% of target)\*\*

# people participating in engagement actions (for social and behavioural change)

\*Significant increase in results are due to increase in arrivals in 2022 and/or online, more cost effective modality of interventions.

\*\*Underachieved results are due to the need to prioritise certain activities and resources over others based on funding availability.

among them students with a migration background. The Akelius digital language learning courses for Italian and English was further expanded in public schools in Bologna and Rome, reaching 616 students with a migration background and their Italian peers.

A total of 8,080 U-Reporters newly registered in 2022. The OPS! 2.0 - Your Opinion, beyond Stereotypes, against Prejudices! campaign, aimed at informing and engaging adolescents and youth in countering unconscious racial biases, started in September 2022 and included an online skills-building programme for young aspiring activists aged 14–24 years. 143 unaccompanied and separated children and young migrants and refugees engaged in advocacy actions on environment issues and child well-being, including a joint campaign with the European Union and African Union.

To ensure refugee and migrant children and families have access to information and services, online and in-person activities were prioritized reaching, 255,995 people with messages on prevention and access to services and 52,802 people engaged in the promotion of positive messages for the social inclusion of young migrants and refugees. Life-supporting and life-saving messages were disseminated via U-Report, Facebook, and Instagram, in coordination with UNHCR and national partners. An average of 17,664 U-Report followers were reached and online activities were shared with 323 frontline workers in reception centres via bi-monthly newsletters. The podcast GRIOT, run by two young U-Reporters and focused on young migrants and refugees in Italy, published 13 episodes on skills building, MHPSS, and GBV. During the 16 days of activism against GBV, several videos, podcasts and information materials calling for the prevention and elimination of GBV were published on U-Report in multiple languages, reaching 7,278 followers.

In 2022, UNICEF's response in Italy was fully funded. This included the generous contributions from the European Union for child protection and adolescent engagement, which increased initially foreseen funding by 8 per cent received at the end of the 2022.

## Bulgaria

In 2022, UNICEF reached a total of 228 children and 367 women and men with support for access to health care and increased health literacy.

1,605 children, 396 women, and 455 men were reached with child protection support, including MHPSS. UNICEF, IOM, and UNHCR carried out joint trainings, roundtable and workshops for frontline workers on GBV response and prevention, on the legal framework and coordination mechanisms for working with unaccompanied and separated children.

With UNICEF support, 152 frontline workers and caregivers improved their knowledge and skills on child protection and an additional 436 on GBV prevention and response. Moreover, 343 women, girls, and boys accessed GBV risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions. UNICEF and the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee monitored, identified and assisted a total of 870 unaccompanied and separated children or 26 per cent of all unaccompanied children registered in 2022; out of them, 864 were identified in detention centres, 202 unaccompanied children were monitored on their well-being and access to services and 108 children were monitored with respect to the quality of their legal representation. UNICEF also supported the government to improve the quality of legal representation for unaccompanied and separated children. UNICEF contributed to the development of

### 126 (33% of target)\*\*

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

### 102 (37% of target)\*\*

# women, girls, men and boys benefitting from increased health literacy

### 1,001 (46% of target)\*\*

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

### 1,605 (292% of target)\*

# of children reached with quality child protection support (MHPSS, legal counselling and case management) and protection standards

### 152 (276% of target)\*

# of frontline workers and caregivers with improved knowledge and skills on child protection

### 343 (45% of target)\*\*

# women, girls and boys accessing GBV risk mitigation, prevention or response intervention

### 436 (793% of target)\*

# of frontline workers with improved knowledge and skills on GBV prevention and response

### 43 (8% of target)\*

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

### 4,780 (869% of target)\*\*

# of people reached through messaging on access to services

\*Significant increase in results are due to increase in arrivals in 2022 and/or online, more cost effective modality of interventions.

\*\*Underachieved results are due to the need to prioritise certain activities and resources over others based on funding availability.

the National Programme for Prevention of Violence Against Children 2023-2026, the National programme for prevention and protection against domestic violence, and the 2021-2027 national programme and priorities under the Asylum and Migration Fund. A GBV training curriculum was adapted to the Bulgarian context to support sustainable capacity building of frontline workers and stakeholders, and integrated in six courses at the Sofia and Plovdiv Universities. UNICEF has also co-ordinated and led the translation and dissemination of the joint UNHCR, IOM and UNICEF's advocacy report on "Safety and dignity for refugee and migrant children: Recommendations on alternatives to detention and appropriate forms of care in Europe". The findings of the report and its recommendations will be further discussed with key Ministries, Agencies and partners at a joint round table planned in 2023.

As part of the winter response to the population on the move, through the State Agency for Refugees with the Council of Ministers, UNICEF provided 4,000 blankets and 7,000 sets of winter clothes for children, 3,200 hygiene kits and 284 educational kits, reaching 1,001 children, 599 women and 603 men. Additionally, 556 LEGO boxes and over 6,000 UNICEF toys were provided reaching more than 530 children accommodated in five reception centres.

Through online and in-person activities, 4,780 people were reached with messages on access to available services. UNICEF provided information on access to rights and services and specialized information for unaccompanied and separated children on social media and in a multi-lingual video on access to social services.

In 2022, UNICEF's response in Bulgaria was 61 percent funded. With a 39 percent underfunded response, UNICEF was able to overachieve on a number of important indicators and reach children and women in need.

## Serbia

In 2022, 529 infants, children, and mothers accessed health and nutrition services, including in mother and baby care centres. 234 parents and caregivers of children under the age of 5 received UNICEF-supported early childhood development (ECD) counselling and/or parenting support, with a focus on responsive and gender-balanced caregiving, responsive play and talk with children, and stress coping strategies for parents. In response, UNICEF and the NGO Danish Refugee Council developed an ECD Emergency Training Package for frontline workers and service providers.

UNICEF continues provision of child protection services and reached 3,504 children with child protection support, including MHPSS. In addition, 814 unaccompanied and separated children benefitted from appropriate care arrangements and/or services. A specialized programme for unaccompanied and separated boys focused on building their resilience, life skills and integration in local communities. UNICEF and the Republic Institute for Social Protection developed three trainings for social protection workforce on working with unaccompanied and separated children and best interests of the child determination. In total, 134 professionals benefitted from technical assistance and capacity building activities. In response to the winter, UNICEF provided culturally

### 529 (107% of target)

# of infants, children and mothers accessing health and nutrition services, including in mother and baby care centres

### 234 (213% of target)\*

# of parents/caregivers of children under 5 receiving ECD counselling and/or parenting support

### 2,662 (97% of target)

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

### 3,504 (212% of target)\*

# of children reached with quality child protection support (MHPSS, legal counselling and case management) and protection standards

### 814 (123% of target)\*

# of unaccompanied and separated children accessing family-based care or a suitable alternative

### 134 (122% of target)\*

# of frontline workers and caregivers with improved knowledge and skills on child protection

### 1,837 (67% of target)

# women, girls and boys accessing GBV risk mitigation, prevention or response intervention

### 1,667 (76% of target)

# of women, girls, men and boys (including refugee, migrants and host community) receiving information on GBV, available services and how to access them

### 164 (37% of target)\*\*

# children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning

### 19,263 (876% of target)\*

# people participating in engagement actions (for social and behavioural change)

\*Significant increase in results are due to increase in arrivals in 2022 and/or more cost effective modality of interventions.

\*\*Underachieved results are due to the need to prioritise certain activities and resources over others based on funding availability.



appropriate supplies, including winter clothes, shoes and hygiene items reaching 2,662 children and women.

Moreover, 1,837 women, girls, and boys accessed GBV risk mitigation, prevention and/or response and 1,667 received information on GBV and how to access services.

164 school-aged children benefitted from formal or non-formal education which is a lower number than expected due to high turnovers and parents opting to not enrol their children during their short stay. Educational programmes for refugee and migrant and local children were developed in 11 schools as well as workshops for intercultural and English language programmes led by 25 youth volunteers. At the end of 2022, online English courses were taking place in three accommodation centres, engaging 26 children and youth.

19,263 people were reached by the promotion of social inclusion of migrants and refugees via social media. To improve the engagement of affected populations and ensure that they were at the centre of our work, UNICEF monitored partners' dialogue and feedback from the affected population.

UNICEF supported migrant and refugee children and families to cope with the challenges associated with protracted displacement by provision of humanitarian cash transfers to mitigate protection risks and ensure a dignified stay in Serbia. The humanitarian cash transfer programme targeted refugee/migrant/asylum seeker families with children accommodated in the asylum/transit/reception centres managed by the Commissariat. The targeting methodologies, transfer value and frequency were carefully aligned with those provided by the national social protection system, thus avoiding duplication and conflicts within host communities. Sixty-one households (with 105 children) were provided with UNICEF cash assistance.

Through outreach activities UNICEF partner Info Park reached refugees and migrants staying outside the state-run centres, providing information, assessment and referrals to women and girls who as females, could not access services in person, due to cultural norms which led to restriction to information and access.

Thanks to UNICEF's advocacy, the Serbian government has joined the [international initiative International Data Alliance for Children on the Move \(IDAC\)](#) to improve statistics and data on migrant and forcibly displaced children with the goal to support evidence-based policymaking that protects and empowers them. The government participated in the IDAC's indicator mapping exercise, the aim of which is to establish a list of standard indicators for children on the move across Europe.

In 2022, UNICEF's response in Serbia was 25 percent funded. With a 75 percent underfunded response, still UNICEF was able to overachieve number of important indicators and reaching children and women in need.

## Bosnia and Herzegovina

In 2022, UNICEF and partners reached 1,218 infants, children, and mothers with health and nutrition services. UNICEF also continued to support provision of infant and young child feeding (IYCF) and counselling to 237 primary caregivers of children aged 0–23 months, in two mother baby corners. These

**1,455 (66% of target)**

# of infants, children and mothers accessing health and nutrition services, including in mother and baby care centres

**312 (20% of target)\*\***

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

**1,200 (52% of target)\*\***

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

**5,301 (96% of target)**

# of children reached with quality child protection support (MHPSS, legal counselling and case management) and protection standards

**3,733 (170% of target)\***

# of unaccompanied and separated children accessing family-based care or a suitable alternative

**165 (50% of target)\*\***

# of frontline workers and caregivers with improved knowledge and skills on child protection

**1,235 (225% of target)\***

# women, girls and boys accessing GBV risk mitigation, prevention or response intervention

**1,840 (78% of target)**

# children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning

**31 (28% of target)\*\***

# of formal school teachers trained on at least one key theme on inclusion of refugee and migrant children

**935 (170% of target)\***

# children receiving individual learning materials

\*Significant increase in results are due to increase in arrivals in 2022 and/or more cost effective modality of interventions.

\*\*Underachieved results are due to the need to prioritise certain activities, and resources over others based on funding availability.

safe spaces also benefited children under five and their parents/guardians in Temporary Reception Centre (TRC).

UNICEF, with partners World Vision and Center for Social Welfare, continued to provide protection for children, including through child-friendly spaces, in two TRCs in Sarajevo and Una-Sana Canton. In total, 3,308 children and caregivers accessed MHPSS support, and 1,993 children received individual case management. In addition, 3,733 unaccompanied and separated children were provided with alternative care or reunification. UNICEF also continued to support capacity building of institutions through trainings on child safeguarding and prevention, recognition and treatment of sexual abuse of children in social welfare institutions and TRCs. 165 frontline workers and caregivers improved their knowledge and skills in child protection. Moreover, 1,235 women, girls and boys accessed GBV risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions.

UNICEF continued to coordinate the child protection response through working groups at cantonal and national level. Moreover, UNICEF continued to strengthen capacities of the child protection system through direct support to the Center for Social Welfare and initiating the development of capacity building programmes to support leadership role of relevant institutions in the protection of children on the move. As part of winter response, UNICEF reached 1,200 children and women with clothing and hygiene items.

UNICEF and NGO World Vision continued to support education authorities in Una-Sana Canton and Sarajevo Canton by engaging cultural mediators, teachers and assistants and provided daily non-formal education activities in TRCs, including Bosnian language classes, creative and sports activities. In partnership with NGO Save the Children, the Akelius Digital Language course was implemented in eight local primary schools, giving local and children on the move the opportunity to learn English and German through a blended approach, which also strengthened digital competencies of teachers and students. UNICEF also supported the inclusion of refugee and migrant youth in vocational training courses (chef, barber, IT technician, electrician) in two secondary schools. 1,344 children accessed formal or non-formal education, including early learning, and 496 school-aged children benefitted from a strengthened and more inclusive formal education system. In addition, 935 children received individual learning materials.

In 2022, UNICEF's response in Bosnia and Herzegovina was 22 percent funded. With a 78 percent underfunded response, still UNICEF was able to overachieve number of important indicators and reaching children and women in need.

## Montenegro

In 2022, 147 children were reached with child protection, including MHPSS. Frontline workers were trained on determining the best interest of child in asylum procedures while children and women benefitted from GBV response and prevention activities. A two-day capacity building training on the best interest of a child in asylum procedures was also organized and included professionals from the centres for social work, border police, asylum centres, admission and accommodation centres. Focus areas included the rights of unaccompanied and separated children, age determination, and intersectoral cooperation for protection of children asylum seekers. Forty-one women, girls and boys provided with GBV risk mitigation, prevention and response services.

### 147 (294% of target)\*

# of children reached with quality child protection support (MHPSS, legal counselling and case management) and protection standards

### 20 (40% of target)\*\*

# of frontline workers and caregivers with improved knowledge and skills on child protection

### 41 (41% of target)\*\*

# women, girls and boys accessing GBV risk mitigation, prevention or response intervention

\*Significant increase in results are due to increase in arrivals in 2022 and/or more cost effective modality of interventions.

\*\*Underachieved results are due to the need to prioritise certain activities and resources over others based on funding availability.

In 2022, UNICEF's response in Montenegro was 3 percent funded with carry over funds from 2021.

## IV. Results achieved from humanitarian thematic funding

In 2022, generous, flexible donations received through global humanitarian thematic funds were invaluable to enable UNICEF to respond to emerging priorities and provide complementary, critically required, adapted and timely support to address critical needs of refugee and migrant children. This

included provision of protection, education, health and WASH services, critical humanitarian supplies and systematic capacity building in Greece, Italy, Bulgaria, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

At the end of 2022, UNICEF's [2022 Humanitarian Action for Children \(HAC\) appeal for the Refugee and Migrant Response in Europe](#) was 97 per cent funded (US\$40.9 million), including US\$5.7 million carry over from 2021 and US\$34.4 million received in 2022<sup>21</sup>. Of this funding US\$4 million, 10 per cent of funds received, was humanitarian thematic funds. This flexible funding was essential for UNICEF to enhance preparedness and react rapidly and adequately to address urgent needs for refugee and migrant children, including bolstering and filling critical social service gaps resulting from overstretched national services and an increased refugee influx, mitigating the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 followed by subsequent economic downturn due to the war in Ukraine and addressing urgent and seasonal needs.

In [Greece](#), UNICEF received US\$1.64 million from thematic funding. This funding has been invaluable in giving UNICEF the flexibility to respond to emerging priorities and ensure the uninterrupted continuation of services. In particular, funding has supported the state in addressing the needs of refugee and migrant children and families in Greece, focusing on education, child protection and the prevention and response to GBV. In coordination with the authorities, UNICEF and its partners supported 21,147 children (12,585 boys and 8,562 girls) to access formal or non-formal education, including early learning. 4,053 formal schoolteachers were trained on including refugee and migrant children in their classrooms, among other issues. While living conditions remained difficult in many locations, 13,167 children (6,927 boys and 6,240 girls) received protective care, including MHPSS. In addition, UNICEF and its partners operated mother and baby centres for refugees and asylum seekers across the country. 2,072 mothers benefitted from IYCF and counselling. 905 women, girls, men and boys accessed information related to the risks of GBV and received information on how to reach specialized services if they need them.

In [Italy](#), UNICEF received US\$1.3 million from global humanitarian thematic, which enabled UNICEF to adapt its interventions, expanding its activities at arrival points and in quarantine facilities, assisting 1,417 refugee and migrant children, young people, and women with information, psychological first aid, and referral to services. 240 frontline workers and caregivers improved their knowledge and skills on child protection through capacity building activities. Through online and in-person activities, 11,500 women, girls, and boys were reached with GBV risk mitigation, prevention, or response interventions. 1,425 adolescents benefitted from enhanced participation, social inclusion, and empowerment. Through online and in-person activities, 255,995 people were reached with messages on prevention and access to services and 7,920 people engaged in the promotion of positive messages for the social inclusion of young migrants and refugees. Life-saving messages were disseminated via U-Report, Facebook, and Instagram, in coordination with UNHCR and national partners.

UNICEF received US\$84,529 global humanitarian thematic funds in [Bulgaria](#), which was instrumental to reach the most vulnerable unaccompanied and separated children with life-saving interventions. UNICEF and its partner Bulgarian Helsinki Committee, monitored, identified and assisted 870 unaccompanied children in detention and at the borders (26 per cent of a total of 3,348 unaccompanied and separated children registered in the country). Out of the 870 unaccompanied and separated children, 864 children in inland detention centres were assisted to be immediately released; the well-being of 202 unaccompanied children was monitored, including access to services, education, health care, refugee status procedure while 108 children were monitored with respect to the quality of their legal representation provided by the lawyers of the National Bureau for Legal Aid. 517 unaccompanied and separated children participated in information sessions on accessing family-based care or suitable alternatives.

In [Serbia](#), UNICEF received an overall amount of US\$120,000 from global humanitarian thematic funding, of which US\$20,266 was utilized in 2022, with the remaining amount planned to be used for 2023. Funding was used to build the capacity of 53 social welfare professionals working with refugee/migrant children, including unaccompanied and separated children. In collaboration with the Republic Institute for Social Protection developed and delivered three trainings for social workforce aiming to strengthen the technical quality of the child protection workforce. The training content included key skills and technical areas contextualised for migration context, including the best interests of the child, the right to participation, case management in social protection, promotion of resilience in working with unaccompanied and separated children.

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<sup>21</sup> The funding information is updated in March 2023, and is different from end year sitrep published in January 2023

In [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), UNICEF received US\$770,000 from global humanitarian thematic funding, which is around 50 per cent of the overall funds received for the refugee and migrant response. Humanitarian thematic funding was crucial to complement other funding sources in the provision of uninterrupted services to refugee and migrant children and their families. In 2022, UNICEF and partners reached 750 children and mothers with health and nutrition services, including IYCF and counselling for 120 primary caregivers of children aged 0–23 months in two mother baby corners. More than 1,654 children and caregivers were reached with MHPSS support, nearly 1,000 children received individual case management and 1,866 unaccompanied and separated children were provided with alternative care or reunification. 618 women, girls and boys accessed GBV risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions. As part of the winter response, 600 children and women were provided with clothing and hygiene items. In addition, 690 children accessed formal or non-formal education, including early learning, and 470 children received individual learning materials.

In [Montenegro](#), UNICEF utilized US\$7,491 from global humanitarian thematic funding, reaching 147 children with child protection, including MHPSS. 20 front line workers and caregivers received knowledge and skills on child protection through a two-day training. 41 women, girls and boys reached with GBV risk mitigation, prevention and response services.

## Summary Programme Results 2022

		Target 2022	Total Result
<b>Health and Nutrition</b>			
# of infants, children and mothers accessing health and nutrition services, including in mother and baby care centres	Greece*	1,100	2,922
	Serbia	495	529
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	2,200	1,455
# children benefitting from increased access to general health checks and referrals, incl. access to life-saving vaccines	Greece**	3,300	1,129
	Italy**	1,100	-
	Bosnia and Herzegovina**	1,540	312
	Bulgaria*	385	126
	Montenegro**	61	-
# women, girls, men and boys benefiting from increased health literacy	Bulgaria**	275	102
# of parents/caregivers of children under 5 receiving ECD counselling and/or parenting support	Serbia*	110	234
	Montenegro**	50	-
<b>Water and Sanitation and Critical Supplies</b>			
# of children receiving culturally appropriate basic supplies, including clothes, baby hygiene items, dignity kits	Bulgaria**	2,200	1,001
	Serbia	2,750	2,662
	Bosnia and Herzegovina**	2,310	1,200
<b>Child Protection, GBV and PSEA</b>			
# of children reached with quality child protection support (MHPSS, legal counselling and case management) and protection standards	Greece	17,600	13,167
	Italy*	2,420	9,449
	Bulgaria*	550	1,605
	Serbia <sup>i</sup>	1,650	3,504
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	5,500	5,301
	Montenegro*	50	147
	Greece**	2,750	-
# of unaccompanied and separated children accessing family-based care or a suitable alternative	Italy	275	279
	Serbia	660	814
	Bosnia and Herzegovina*	2,200	3,733
	Greece**	330	86
# of frontline workers and caregivers with improved knowledge and skills on child protection	Italy	1,870	1,604
	Bulgaria*	55	152
	Serbia	110	134
	Bosnia and Herzegovina**	330	165
	Montenegro**	50	20
	Greece**	5,621	871



# women, girls and boys accessing GBV risk mitigation, prevention or response intervention	Italy*	25,410	76,664
	Bulgaria**	770	343
	Serbia	2,750	1,837
	Bosnia and Herzegovina*	550	1,235
	Montenegro**	100	41
# of frontline workers with improved knowledge and skills on GBV prevention and response	Greece**	440	68
	Italy	770	543
	Bulgaria*	55	436
	Montenegro**	30	-
# of women, girls, men and boys (including refugee, migrants and host community) receiving information on GBV, available services and how to access them	Greece**	8,910	905
	Serbia	2,200	1,667
	Montenegro**	55	-
Education			
# children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning	Greece	27,500	21,147
	Italy	2,750	1,938
	Bulgaria**	385	-
	Serbia	440	164
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	2,365	1,840
	Montenegro**	50	-
# of formal school teachers trained on at least one key theme on inclusion of refugee and migrant children	Greece*	2,552	4,053
	Bosnia and Herzegovina**	110	31
	Montenegro**	50	-
# children receiving individual learning materials	Bosnia and Herzegovina*	550	935
Youth Empowerment and Participation			
# of adolescent boys and girls benefitting from enhanced participation, social inclusion and empowerment	Greece**	3,000	513
	Italy**	9,500	8,080
	Bulgaria**	550	43
	Serbia**	300	-
# of people reached through messaging on access to services	Greece**	27,500	2,713
	Italy*	22,000	255,995
	Bulgaria*	550	4,780
	Montenegro**	200	-
# people participating in engagement actions (for social and behavioural change)	Italy**	130,923	52,802
	Serbia <sup>i</sup>	2,200	19,263

\*Targets have been exceeded due to a significant increase in number of new refugee and migrant arrivals in 2022, a highly transient population requiring support at multiple service delivery points and increased need for protection and health services and online modality of service provision.

\*\* Planned activity was adjusted to prioritize other critical needs leaving unmet results due to the funding gap.

## Humanitarian Thematic Funding Case Studies

### Case study 1: How to make refugee camps more friendly and safe for children and their families, Greece



**Top-level results:** Amidst a constrained funding environment, global humanitarian thematic funding was critical in sustaining UNICEF-supported services and technical expertise to strengthen state-led efforts for the protection of refugee and migrant children during 2022. Specifically, flexible funds were used to ensure the continuation of critical protection services, including child protection case management, GBV prevention and response services through the operation of female-friendly spaces and technical support provided to the Special Secretary for the protection of unaccompanied minors to strengthen the monitoring framework of the new national guardianship scheme.

**Issue/background:** At the end of 2022, 64,950 refugees and asylum seekers lived in Greece<sup>22</sup>. Most of the families live in Refugee sites on the mainland and as such, their functionality is an important aspect for the well-being and protection of refugee and migrant children. To this end, and in cooperation with national authorities and CSOs, UNICEF developed a self-assessment Checklist tool that helps site management authorities to design and track progress towards a child-friendly site. The Checklist includes a series of key recommended actions based on international standards and good practices to be applied by site management and site management support actors. Key pillars include safety and security, minimum package of services, protection from GBV and PSEA, monitoring mechanisms, child participation, access to clean and green communal spaces, resilience building and social inclusion.

**Resources required/allocated:** The resources utilized in support of the Checklist originated from global humanitarian thematic funding amounted to US\$24,000. The funds were used in providing technical support in data collection and compilation of reports, and dissemination of the child-friendly check list reports, among others.

**Progress and results:** The Checklist tool was rolled out, under the coordination of the Reception and Identification Service, with support from UNICEF, in 22 accommodation centres, which by mid-December 2022 hosted over 3,270 children (Ministry of Migration and Asylum data). UNICEF provided its expertise for the design, methodology and use of the Checklist tool, and also trained site focal points on its implementation.

The Checklist culminated into 22 action plans for each site with tangible actions to be taken forward to further strengthen protection and service provision at site level. In addition, seven actions to strengthen protection and child friendly services across open accommodation sites were identified and their

<sup>22</sup> <sup>22</sup> Total refugees and asylum-seekers is 86,600 of them, 25% are Ukrainian refugees ([UNHCR data](#)).

implementation will be promoted by UNICEF at central level. The action plans were the result of a consultative process involving site management, support service agencies, child protection actors and state representatives.

The results of the Child-Friendly Site Checklist exercise and the respective site-level action plans provide an overview of the measures and services in place, as well as a way forward to ensure a child-friendly site. The reports were shared with the relevant government authorities to inform their planning at site, regional and national levels.

**Criticality and value addition:** By the end of 2022, thousands of vulnerable asylum seekers and refugee children continued to be accommodated in sites across mainland Greece under difficult living conditions and lacking systematic access to protection and integration services. UNICEF in its capacity to provide technical support on child protection across all open accommodation sites, developed in collaboration with all relevant actors, the self-assessment Checklist tool. This tool helps site-level actors plan and prioritize services for children in sites and communicate actions requiring external support; promotes a shared understanding of minimum standards needed to keep children safe; assists in the identification of strengths and gaps related to services for children in sites; and facilitates site-level discussions for follow-up actions necessary.

**Challenges and lesson learned:** The findings of the Checklist revealed common trends across many sites, such as the need to improve safety and security through the participation of children in designing relevant measures for each site; the need for reinforced child protection provisions (standardization of processes/procedures regarding safeguarding policies, continuous capacity building of frontline staff), and access to services (legal representation, accessibility for persons with disabilities); the need for strengthened community participation and resilience (establishing feedback/complaint mechanisms) and the need to create clean and safe community spaces.

**Moving forward:** The Checklist tool as a self-assessment tool used by the authorities is sustainable and cost efficient and can be further utilized to achieve child-friendly sites countrywide. UNICEF will work with the authorities to put the proposals and recommendations stemming from the exercise into practice at the national level to ensure that all sites hosting refugee and migrant are friendly and safe for children and their families.

### Case study 2: GRIOT, the podcast series that answers questions about the life paths of young migrants and refugees in Italy.



**Top-level results:** The global humanitarian thematic funding was instrumental in ensuring adolescent, boys and girls benefitted from enhanced, participation, social inclusion and empowerment and received protection services, including MHPSS, GBV prevention and mitigation, and developed skills to integrate in the society. The intervention was provided through the 13 episodes of the GRIOT podcast. A total of 555 episodes were downloaded by users and promotion of the podcast was done through U-Report on

The Move (UROTm) and social media platforms, reaching 7,278 U-Report followers, and directly engaging 3,035 of them.

**Issue/background:** The UROTm platform has reached almost 9,000 U-Reporters, and over the past two years has provided individual support to almost 1,500 young migrants and refugees all over Italy. Throughout the years, UROTm has become a trustworthy service that provides integrated support and care for adolescent and young refugees and migrants, reaching remote and rural areas in Italy and working in cooperation with the existing public and civil society-based services. UROTm in Italy is using various tools to create awareness among adolescent and young refugees and migrants. One of them is [GRIOT](#), a podcast launched in 2021 by UNICEF and disseminated through UROTm social media platforms, Spotify and Speaker, in which key U-Ambassadors<sup>1</sup> provide information on key topics relevant to unaccompanied minors and young migrants and refugees in Italy.

In 2022, out of 13 episodes, four were dedicated to mental health and four to GBV (including sexual and reproductive health rights) with experts interviewed by U-Ambassadors. The host and the experts deepened knowledge on several aspects of everyday life, focusing on different personal experiences and increasing knowledge for the listeners based on topics that have been already discussed in other formats of the platform. A multi-sectoral team in UNICEF/ECARO National Response for Italy was involved in the preparation of the episode's content (child protection/MHPSS, GBV, communications, adolescent development and participation). Collaboration was also undertaken with key partners and stakeholders (ARCI, Approdi, Save the Children, as well as representatives of anti-violence centers and socio-health local service providers). Dissemination was made through UROTm and other social media channels users' platforms.

**Resources required/allocated:** A total of US\$33,705 was used for the recruitment of a consultant/audio-video producer in charge of delivering the product. Support from the U-Report team was instrumental for the planning of the editorial calendar, quality assurance of content produced, amplification via social media channels and the production of digital content for promotion purposes. The flexibility of the unearmarked thematic funding allowed the possibility to use it in such an innovative way.

**Progress and results:** A total of 38 episodes were produced and broadcasted over the past two years. In 2022, 13 episodes were produced, 555 were downloaded, and 7,278 users were reached through UROTm dissemination.

**Criticality and value addition:** Despite a favorable legislative environment for child protection in Italy, many challenges still exist with regards to its implementation. They include: structural bottlenecks of the system, heterogeneity of practices and standards across Italy and the different reception centres, complex legal system to navigate for a child/adolescent, language and cultural barriers, persistence of racist and xenophobic acts towards migrants and refugees in a polarized media ecosystem and systematic inadequacy of competencies and number of specialized staff dedicated to child protection in reception centres. All these factors are framed in a top-down 'dependency culture' of the service provision in Italy, which takes little consideration of the recipients' needs, identities and engagement.

As a result, there is chronic need for age, gender and culturally appropriate and digestible information, tailored to the needs of unaccompanied minors and young migrants and refugees in Italy, on a variety of topics important for their daily life in Italy. GRIOT has been an innovative and well-received tool to convey the needed information and gather feedback from users, building on the trustworthiness and knowledge of the UROTm platform. Timely broadcasting – an episode every two weeks – has been essential in ensuring the audience's fidelity and adherence to their integration paths. Thirty-eight episodes were produced and broadcasted over the past two years. During 2022, the third season of GRIOT consisting of 13 episodes, 7,278 users were reached and 3,035 were directly engaged, with 555 episodes downloaded.

**Challenges and lesson learned:** The U-Report community is composed of a heterogeneous group with considerable variety in terms of age, gender, cultural backgrounds and spoken languages. Developing universal messages able to capture all the target group's attention in the same way was thus challenging.

To offset this, it is essential to ensure messages are translated into the main languages of U-Reporters, to reach the highest number of people potentially interested. This is extremely time-consuming and needs to be factored in when planning new content for the UROTm platform. The podcast is in Italian. Engagement of U-Ambassadors from different countries of origin could be explored for disseminating the information in other languages spoken by the migrant and refugee youth communities in Italy.



**Moving forward:** Season 4 of the podcast is planned to be broadcasted in September 2023, and is being funded through the Union Action 'PROTECT' project, which contributes to UNICEF's 2023 Refugee and Migrant HAC.

### Case Study 3: The Akelius Digital Language course in reception centres and primary schools in Bosnia and Herzegovina



**Top Level Results:** Within a constrained funding environment, Global Humanitarian Thematic funding was critical in ensuring that children continue their learning and are provided with individual learning support. Education authorities and CSOs in two cantons were supported by engaging cultural mediators, teachers and assistants. As part of the non-formal education activities, the Akelius Digital Language course in TRCs was provided, reaching 1,344 children (346 girls) with language learning supporting their integration. 240 children (102 girls) were supported with inclusion in two primary schools through tailored preparatory programs and continued to access the Akelius Digital Language course jointly with local children. These funds have contributed to ensuring that all children and youth benefit from quality inclusive education and skills development.

**Issue/Background:** In Bosnia and Herzegovina, a significant increase in the number of refugees and migrants has been reported over the past five years, rising from just a few dozen arrivals annually prior to 2017 to around 95,000 from 2018 until 2022. This increase, caused by changes in migration routes into western Europe, has put an incredible strain on the country's capacity to respond. In July 2020, UNICEF together with partners Save the Children and World Vision, introduced the Akelius digital learning application to support children's language learning in TRCs including English, German and other languages. The use of the digital learning application subsequently expanded to formal schools in Una-Sana and Sarajevo Cantons that integrate refugees and migrants.

**Resources Required/Allocated:** In partnership with Save the Children, World Vision and the education authorities, US\$20,340 were utilized in order to support the engagement of teachers, assistants and cultural mediators in reception centres, but also to support reception centres and primary schools with necessary ICT and individual learning equipment such as tablets, headphones, stationary and other supplies. Funds were also used to facilitate teacher capacity building in order to strengthen digital competencies, blended learning approaches and the use of the Akelius Digital Language course.

**Progress and Results:** The non-formal education in TRCs reached 1,344 migrant and refugee children and the Akelius Digital Language course in primary schools and TRCs reached an additional 2,976 children.

The Akelius Digital Language course was used to help transition and integrate students into formal schooling, including vocational training programmes. 240 children (102 girls) were supported with inclusion in two primary schools through tailored preparatory programs. Support was provided to secondary schools in providing vocational training for secondary school-aged children. Three schools in two cantons provided with trainings on chef, barber, IT technician and electrician reaching 256 adolescents.

59 teachers, teaching assistants and cultural mediators were reached with the capacity building sessions, strengthening their digital and pedagogical competencies, and were provided guidance on blended learning approaches through this support. Out of this, 36 were public school teachers in Canton Sarajevo and Una-Sana Canton.

**Criticality and value addition:** The programme was highly valued to develop and enhance students' language skills. The digital learning application, accompanied by writing and speaking assignments provided by the teacher in a blended classroom approach. The digital learning application proved effective when used as one tool for teachers to reinforce knowledge gained from other classroom activities. The digital learning application was used to help transition and integrate students into formal schooling and their community.

**Challenges and Lesson Learned:** Use of the digital learning application contributed to the learning and personal development needs of both students and teachers in TRCs and primary schools. The use of the digital learning application in classrooms was reported to improve learning results, especially at beginner levels and particularly for students participating regularly over an extended period.

The digital learning application contains rich, diverse and entertaining content for children. Using the digital learning application also helped teachers to focus on improving their lesson plans and individualized learning plans for various groups of children.

In TRCs parents rarely actively engage in their children's education and do not necessarily see their children's education as a priority. There are several possible reasons for this, such as their own experience in education and their current unresolved status and insecure and unpredictable prospects, which put them under pressure and place their children's education on hold. Nevertheless, parents do not object or prevent their children from attending the digital learning application classes; there are even parents who are becoming more open to learning a new language themselves

Both teachers and students experienced technical difficulties when first introducing technology in the classroom. The introduction of technology at first affected the class dynamics - the teachers' control over the class in both reception centres, but also schools. Continuous engagement with teachers to support the technical skills on hybrid learning helped to overcome the initial challenges on technical difficulties.

**Moving forward :** UNICEF, together with the education authorities, will be working to ensure long term sustainability of the initiative by using the digital course to foster the use of digital learning solutions in the teaching process and enhance the effectiveness of teaching interventions. This will be done by supporting education authorities in developing methodological guidance on the use of digital technologies in the classroom by developing teacher trainings in cooperation with universities and education authorities and compiling best practices on the use of the Akelius Digital Language course in the classroom.

## V. Strategic Partnerships

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In 2022, UNICEF continued to work with national authorities, UNHCR, IOM, and other United Nations agencies, NGOs, CSOs, and religious leaders to ensure the rights of children and families on the move were protected. Inter-agency coordination enabled an effective emergency response, the relocation of vulnerable children and families, and country-specific initiatives to ensure protection and basic services for populations in need. Working directly with governments and European Union institutions, UNICEF and partners developed and delivered unified, coordinated advocacy messages and policy positions, promoting key child rights issues faced by refugee and migrant children.

In Greece, UNICEF led the national and Lesvos education sector working group. In 2022, UNICEF handed over the chair of the Lesvos WASH sector working group to the Greek government as planned.

In Italy UNICEF continued to work closely with relevant line ministries and departments<sup>1</sup> of the government and with several local authorities across Italy. UNICEF coordinated regularly with United Nations agencies, NGOs and CBOs involved in the response. The United Nations inter-agency coordination on child protection and GBV continued with both UNHCR and IOM, leading to joint advocacy and strengthening response. UNICEF, in collaboration with UNHCR, strengthened its presence and coordination in several locations, e.g., Agrigento, Taranto and Reggio Calabria, to ensure closer monitoring and cooperation with local prefectures on addressing protection concerns of first line reception centres.

In Bulgaria, UNICEF worked with UNHCR, IOM and WHO to implement interventions to support to refugee and migrant children and their families with the State Agency for Refugees.

UNICEF coordinated the child protection sub-working group with authorities in Bulgaria, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina to ensure inter-sectoral collaboration, strengthening capacities and delivery of humanitarian response in reception and transit centres. In Montenegro, together with IOM and UNHCR, UNICEF coordinated with the Ministry of Interior to monitor reception centres.

UNICEF's response prioritized the protection of children and women, the prevention of child immigration detention, the promotion of family unity, unhindered access to health and education services, as well as the fight against xenophobia and discrimination, in line with the Global Programme Framework on Children on the Move. The response complemented the Global Compacts on Migration and on Refugees, promoting effective scale-up models. At regional level, UNICEF continued to support risk monitoring and coordination to strengthen preparedness and knowledge exchange. UNICEF continued to support inter-agency advocacy to mainstream children's rights into the European Union Pact on Migration.

## VI. Advocacy and Communications

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UNICEF continued to advocate for policy and legislative reforms and promote social inclusion to advance the rights of refugee and migrant children. Throughout the year, media campaigns were used at regional and country level to give a voice to young people enabling them to share their experiences and vision for the future as well as to highlight their everyday difficulties as refugees and migrants.

In [Greece](#), on the occasion of World Refugee Day, UNICEF highlighted through the voices of young people with a refugee or migrant background through U-Report making a difference in their communities and promoting the message of mutual respect and issued a [press release](#).

In [Italy](#), UNICEF advocacy efforts with key national and regional authorities focused on strengthening the reception system (including quarantine facilities) for refugee and migrant children, youth, and women and access to quality services, including psychosocial support and GBV prevention, risk mitigation, and response services, racial discrimination and various informative topics through both online and offline platforms and fora, from blogs and podcasts to [Activate talks](#). The OPS! 2.0 - [Your Opinion, beyond Stereotypes, against Prejudices!](#) campaign, aimed at informing and engaging adolescents and youth in countering unconscious racial biases, was launched in September 2022 and included an online skills-building programme for young aspiring activists aged 14–24 years.

In [Bulgaria](#), UNICEF continued supporting the national and local authorities' capacity to provide appropriate protection and care to refugee and migrant children. In addition, assistance was provided to the State Agency for Refugees for the development of a video to support the implementation of the Rules by the staff in the registration and reception centres.

As a member of the Thematic Working Group for the development of the 2021–2027 national programme and priorities under the Asylum and Migration Fund led by the Deputy-Minister of Interior, UNICEF provided recommendations throughout the development and finalization of the programme, related to the need for establishment of state-led safe spaces for all children and women accommodated at registration and reception centres; strengthening the best interest assessment and best interest determination procedures (incl. the age assessment procedures) and ensuring the relevant mechanisms are in place for swift identification and referral to national child protection authorities and services; development of additional alternative care arrangements for unaccompanied and separated children and young persons above 18 years; building the capacity of the frontline workforce and continuing to provide child-friendly, age and language appropriate information materials to refugee and migrant populations.

UNICEF [Serbia](#) continued to advocate for equitable access to services for the refugee and migrant population. UNICEF posted about the importance of education continuation for child migrants and refugees in [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#). UNICEF has produced a [human interest story](#) on education programming, which has also been shared on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#). One human interest story on the distribution of non-food items was produced and is available [here](#)

In [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), UNICEF used the opportunities of field visits, high-level meetings, and public statements to advocate for the rights of children on the move and their families. UNICEF branding and visibility was also ensured throughout procurement and distribution processes. UNICEF posted human interest stories and an article to advocate for the needs and relevance of response interventions for populations on the move.

A detailed list of Communication and Media Outreach is included in **Annex 1**.

## VII. Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation

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UNICEF's programmatic responses, advocacy and contingency planning at country and regional level were informed by careful monitoring of the situation of refugee and migrant children and their families. Throughout 2022, to enhance and sustain availability of quality data through administrative data systems, research, and inter-agency assessments on child protection, GBV prevention and response, education, and health and nutrition, UNICEF mobilised strategic partners, such as United Nations agencies, the European Union institutions, governments, Ombudspersons, and civil society.

In [Greece](#), UNICEF continued implementing systems to effectively monitor progress of results and deliverables as required, based on several different UNICEF frameworks (Result Assessment and Monitoring, Humanitarian Performance Monitoring), including timely and accurate reporting. UNICEF also provided regular information through the collection and analysis of data, results monitoring, narrative reporting, and the production of monthly dashboards, to inform various regional products, like situation reports and refugee and migrant flow monitoring.

Within the scope of the 'All Children in Education' programme, UNICEF established a dedicated Monitoring Sub-Working Group to ensure timely, quality and harmonized monitoring countrywide. As part of support provided to authorities in managing accommodation sites, UNICEF alongside IOM and other organizations participated in the Inter-agency Monitoring Committee carrying out monitoring visits in mainland accommodation sites. UNICEF, in cooperation with the Reception and Identification Service, carried out the Child-Friendly Sites Checklist exercise, a self-assessment tool designed to help site-level actors to plan and prioritize services for children in sites and make them suitable for children.

In [Italy](#), UNICEF kept track of the situation of refugees and migrants through field visits and close monitoring by implementing partners. UNICEF, in collaboration with UNHCR, strengthened its presence and coordination in several locations, e.g., Agrigento, Taranto and Reggio Calabria, to ensure closer monitoring and cooperation with local prefectures on addressing protection concerns at first line reception centres.

In consideration of the change of the operational scenario in Friuli Venezia Giulia region, where the influx from the Balkan route has been outnumbering the influx from the Ukrainian route since the end of 2022, a joint response needs assessment was carried out jointly with UNICEF partner Save the Children and in coordination with UNHCR. The results will inform the adjustment of the strategy and the scale up of the protection interventions in the region in 2023.

In [Bulgaria](#), monitoring continued through partner organizations, surveys, and studies. UNICEF conducted two field trips to Harmanli, Lyubimets, Elhovo and the state registration and reception centres of State Agency for Refugees in Sofia, including the two safety zones. The objective of the missions was to assess the current situation of children on the move vis-à-vis the observed dynamics of the situation in Afghanistan and the expected influx to Europe. The main observations included an overall increase in the numbers of both migrants and asylum seekers in the country, deteriorated reception conditions in the last couple of years, and poor hygiene conditions.

UNICEF's approach of closely monitoring all activities implemented by partners through field visits, regular reports, and coordination meetings between key actors was also implemented in [Serbia](#).

In [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), UNICEF routinely monitored programme implementation via programmatic visits. This is complemented by weekly, monthly and quarterly partner reports. In support of UNICEF's commitments to AAP, UNICEF instituted specific mechanisms throughout the year to ensure feedback from the vulnerable population, including Compliant Council for adults and children. The UNICEF Country Office has developed its own monitoring and reporting tool to establish a more comprehensive digitalized feedback mechanism from beneficiaries through the Innovative initiative SPARK.

Throughout 2022, UNICEF [Montenegro](#) monitored the situation of refugee and migrant children and families in the country to inform and adapt its programmatic responses. This was done through regular communication with the Ministry of Interior and through regular exchanges and coordination with different partners on the ground, particularly the Red Cross.

## VIII. Financial Analysis

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In 2022, UNICEF's 2022 Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal for the Refugee and Migrant Response in Europe was 97 per cent funded (US\$40.9 million), including US\$5.7 million carry over from 2021 and US\$34.4 million received in 2022. This included generous contributions from the European Union to Greece, for education, and to Italy, for child protection and adolescent engagement, which increased initially foreseen funding by 30 per cent and 8 per cent, respectively. Additional generous contributions were received from the European Union, UNICEF National Committees in Belgium, Germany, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and pooled global thematic humanitarian funds. The response to the urgent humanitarian needs of refugee children and families fleeing from Ukraine was supported under the Pillar 2 of the [2022 Ukraine Humanitarian Action for Children \(HAC\) Appeal](#), aligned with the Inter-agency Regional Refugee Response Plan, and related results are reported under the [Ukraine Refugee Response situation reports](#).

Flexible, timely resources were critical to enable UNICEF to support essential, evidence-based, national responses addressing immediate needs and mitigating longer-term impacts on vulnerable refugee and migrant children in Europe. While generous contributions were received, they were not equal among countries. Funding gaps remained particularly high in Montenegro (97 per cent)<sup>23</sup>, Bosnia and Herzegovina (78 per cent), Serbia (75 per cent) and Bulgaria (39 per cent), which significantly limited the capacity to respond to needs and register progress against targets in critical support areas.

UNICEF continued to enhance cost-efficiency and effectiveness in its response to the needs of refugee and migrant children and women across European countries by coordinating closely with national authorities, United Nations agencies, international organizations, civil society, and religious leaders to provide high quality services and, at the same time, avoid duplication. Close cooperation with UNHCR and IOM for effective emergency response, relocation, and implementation of country-specific initiatives helped ensure the delivery of protection and basic services to populations in need. Working directly with parliaments, ministries and European Union institutions, UNICEF and partners developed and delivered unified and coordinated messages and policy positions, while advocating for key child rights issues faced by refugee and migrant children.

Resource mobilization and partnership efforts enabled UNICEF to reach and, in most cases, exceed programme targets in health and nutrition (129 per cent), the provision of MHPSS and legal counselling (119 per cent), access to education (75 per cent), and GBV prevention and response (230 per cent). Further strategic investments were made to build national capacities in providing government services, protection and education to refugee and migrant children and women.



Going forward, 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 frontline responders will be rolled out. Funds allocated to education will help scale up inclusive formal education and structured non-formal education activities.

Table 1 · Funding status against the appeal by sector<sup>24</sup>

Funds available in 2022

Country	Requirement in 2022	Humanitarian Resources received in 2022	Other Resources used in 2022	Resources available from 2021 (Carry-over)	Funding gap (\$)	%
Countries with children on the move						
Greece	21,996,500	25,363,996	75,783	3,336,428	- 6,647,609 <sup>25</sup>	-
Italy	8,373,600	8,339,837	50,000	769,627	- 644,960 <sup>26</sup>	-
Bulgaria	1,560,000	851,518	-	104,628	603,854	39%
Bosnia-Herzegovina	6,684,000	388,536		1,107,211	5,191,700	78%
Serbia	2,048,000	107,527	-	403,348	1,534,069	75%
Montenegro	250,000	-	-	7,480	242,520	97%
Regional Support <sup>27</sup>	1,100,000	-	-	-	1,100,000	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>42,012,100</b>	<b>35,051,414</b>	<b>125,783</b>	<b>5,728,722</b>	<b>1,106,180</b>	<b>3%</b>

Table 2 · Funding received and available by donor and funding type

Recipient Office	Donor	Grant	Overall Amount (US \$)
I. Humanitarian Funds received in 2022			
a. Thematic Humanitarian Funds – See details in Table 3			
		SM 229910	642,000
		SM 229920	1,390,862
		SM229930	138,619
Total Thematic Humanitarian Funds			2,171,481
b. Non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds			
Greece Partnership Office	German Committee for UNICEF	SM 220048	114,397

<sup>24</sup> The funding information presented in table 1 is adjusted in line to the resources used by countries in 2022 and differs from Refugee and Migrant Response in Europe end year situation report 2022.

<sup>25</sup> This includes the generous contributions from the European Union for education, which exceeded the funding ask for education in 2022.

<sup>26</sup> This includes the generous contributions from the European Union for child protection and adolescent engagement, which increased the funding ask for Child Protection and ADAP for 2022.

<sup>27</sup> Despite 100 percent funding gap under the regional support, technical support to the refugee and migrant countries were provided leveraging existing capacities at the regional office under other HACs.

Greece Partnership Office	German Committee for UNICEF	SM 220295	302,012
Greece Partnership Office	Swedish Committee for UNICEF	SM 210289	392, 673
Bulgaria	Swiss Committee for UNICEF	SM 220377	33,695
Bulgaria	Swiss Federal Department of Police and Justice	SM 220855	728,000
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Belgian Committee for UNICEF	SM 220839	46, 536
Total Non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds			1,1617,313
c. Pooled Funding			
Serbia	United Nations Multi Partner Trust	SH220014	155,150
Total Pooled Funding			155,150
d. Other Types of Humanitarian Funds			
Total Other Types of Humanitarian Funds			N/A
Total Humanitarian Funds received in 2022 (a+b+c+d)			3,215,944
II. Carry-over of Humanitarian Funds available in 2022			
e. Carry-over of Thematic Humanitarian Funds			
Total carry-over of Thematic Humanitarian Funds		SM 189910	2,082,303
f. Carry-over of Non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds			
Bosnia and Herzegovina	German Committee for UNICEF	SM 21 0215	35,232
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Swedish Committee for UNICEF	SM 210552	156,626
ECARO, Switzerland/Italy	Swedish Committee for UNICEF	SM 210357	358,315
Greece Partnership Office	German Committee for UNICEF	SM 210120	204,185
Greece Partnership Office	Swedish Committee for UNICEF	SM 210289	40,890
Serbia	German Committee for UNICEF	SM 210278	279,426
Serbia	Swedish Committee for UNICEF	SM 210551	76,465
Total carry-over of Non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds			1,151,139
Total carry-over of Humanitarian Funds available in 2022 (e+f)			
III. Other Sources			
g. Other Resources – Development funding towards HAC			
Bosnia and Herzegovina	European Commission	SC 200523	360,000
Bosnia and Herzegovina	European Commission	SC 200236	127,100

Bulgaria	European Commission	SC 200236	20, 455
ECARO, Switzerland /Italy	European Commission	SC 200236	6,184
ECARO, Switzerland - Italy	European Commission	SC 220694	6,970,044
Greece Partnership Office	European Commission	SC 200236	15,823
Greece Partnership Office	European Commission	SC 210128	1,426,476
Greece Partnership Office	European Commission	SC 21 0842	24,223,822
Greece Partnership Office	Global - WASH Thematic	SC 189906	54,215
Greece Partnership Office	Global – Child Protection Thematic	SC 189905	21,590
Greece Partnership Office	Global – Education Thematic	SC 189904	73,886
Serbia	European Commission	SC 200236	32,585
Total Other Regular Resources			33,311,725
h. Regular Resources			
ECARO, Switzerland - Italy	UNICEF	GS 210007	13,213
ECARO, Switzerland - Italy	UNICEF	GS 200010	311
Total Regular Resources			13,524
IV. Carry-over of Other Sources			
Table 3 · Thematic humanitarian contributions received in 2022			
Donor	Grant	Programmable Amount (US \$)	
Thematic Humanitarian for Cross Sector	SM 2299300048	31,092	
Italian Committee for UNICEF	SM 2299200003	1,116,071	
Spanish Committee for UNICEF	SM 2299200004	25,824	
Norwegian Committee for UNICEF	SM 2299200104	86,994	
Allocation from Global Thematic Humanitarian	SM 229910	642,000	
Allocation from Global Thematic Humanitarian	SM 229920	1,390,862	
Allocation from Global Thematic Humanitarian	SM 229930	138,619	
Total		3,431,462	

## IX. Future Workplan

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For 2023, UNICEF will continue to respond to humanitarian emergencies and address the needs of children on the move and their families in a sustainable manner through multi-sectoral advocacy, coordination, and inclusive responses at local, national, and European Union levels.

UNICEF will work to further strengthen government systems and capacities, reinforcing the linkages between humanitarian action and development programmes. This work will focus on improving reception conditions, building protection systems, and providing essential services in health, nutrition, education, and WASH to refugee and migrant children and women. UNICEF's response will adapt to the evolving COVID-19 context and other crises. Focus will be laid on evidence-based advocacy and support to governments for aligning national policies with international norms. Support will be extended to improve the capacities of health professionals, social workers, and frontline 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 and separated children will be prioritized. Children will access education, including early learning, through formal and non-formal systems. Mothers will be supported to access 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 MHPSS. UNICEF will ensure children and families receive WASH supplies and winter clothing. The response will complement the Global Compacts on Migration and on Refugees and promote effective scale-up models.

At regional level, UNICEF will support risk monitoring and coordination to enhance preparedness and support knowledge management. It will support inter-agency advocacy to mainstream children's rights into the European Union Pact on Migration. Advocacy will focus on national and regional policy reforms that uphold children's right to safe migration, improve best interest determination, and age assessment procedures. UNICEF will strongly advocate for the end of child immigration detention, unhindered access to social services, and the relocation of unaccompanied and separated children to other European Union Member States.

**Greece** – In 2023, UNICEF will focus on supporting the State with expertise and technical advice to address the needs of refugee and migrant children in the social welfare system, while undertaking targeted activities to directly help them until a sustainable solution is identified. This includes assisting children to enrol in formal and/or non-formal education; providing newly arrived families information, MHPSS and childcare services; working with the authorities to strengthen trafficking prevention, as well as feedback and complaints mechanisms for children; and empowering young refugees and migrants to raise awareness about mental health issues and promote social cohesion through artistic means. UNICEF will continue working with state authorities, municipalities, CSOs and its expert partners to bring solutions to refugees and migrants, focusing on the most vulnerable and those staying in remote areas. UNICEF requires US\$15.9 million to implement the response interventions in 2023.

**Italy** – In light of the increasing numbers of arrivals from both land (Balkan route) and sea (Mediterranean route, mainly departing from Tunisia and Libya) – causing shocks to the current, overwhelmed, first and second line reception system – as well as of the recently approved legislation restricting the operativity of NGO-led State Agency for Refugees activities between Libya and Italy, it is expected that the first and second reception systems will continue to suffer from both existing structural and contingency stress. This will have consequences on access to rights and services for the population on the move in Italy, and in particular for vulnerable groups (unaccompanied and separated children, families, girls/mothers, GBV survivors), with the risk of further exacerbating such vulnerabilities and hampering the path of self-determination and protection of children and youth on the move in Italy.

Thanks to the Union Action 'PROTECT' project, and in agreement with the Italian Ministry of Interior, UNICEF will scale up its response through implementing partners at the borders and firstline reception centres for critical protection interventions, info-provision, early detection of vulnerabilities and referral. Furthermore, UNICEF will deploy case workers within six prefectures of southern Italy (Sicily, Calabria, and Apulia) to contribute to reducing the pressure on the Italian reception systems with a focus on unaccompanied and accompanied boys and girls and their caregivers ensuring access to safe reception, access to protection information and services, and support to transition to adulthood. Strengthening of youth's skills and job orientation through the 'Skills4Youth' programme, community engagement, and social behaviour change through the systematic use of UROTM and direct outreach through three roving social mobilizers are also part of the activities planned for 2023 under the Union

Action PROTECT project. Unearmarked humanitarian funding will be used to scale up an early response at the borders and for contingency planning. UNICEF will require \$12.2 million in 2023.

**Bulgaria** – UNICEF's interventions in Bulgaria will continue to be focused on asylum-seeking children, children with a granted protection status and migrant children, especially unaccompanied and separated children and children who are at risk of or have experienced violence, including GBV. In close collaboration and partnership with national authorities and other key stakeholders, UNICEF will continue to strengthen the capacity of the national and local systems to provide effective child protection and care, education and health services to children on the move, including unaccompanied and separated children. To do so, the country office will continue to support the most vulnerable refugees and migrants, including unaccompanied and separated children, by address the existing gaps through the provision of quality and timely child protection services, while ensuring referral mechanisms are well established and effectively working so that refugees and migrants have access to services. The country office will continue to provide support for prevention and response, and the provision of holistic response to help GBV survivors access specialized services. UNICEF will continue to strengthen the capacity of the pre-school and school education system to enable access and provide inclusive and quality education to refugees and migrants and will strive to enable meaningful engagement and empowerment of young refugees and migrants as agents of positive change. To implement this strategy in 2023, UNICEF requires US\$1.2 million.

**Serbia** – In 2023, UNICEF will continue to play an essential role in providing advocacy, technical assistance, and coordination to ensure that all refugee and migrant children and women, especially the most vulnerable groups, benefit from timely, equitable and coordinated systems that ensure their protection, development, access to services, and social inclusion. The simultaneous increase of refugees and migrants transiting through the country continues to stretch the capacity of services and resources available. Gaps in protection monitoring and services, including essential services, persist. To meet these gaps and provide quality and comprehensive response, US\$1.1 million is required by UNICEF in 2023.

**Bosnia and Herzegovina** – In 2023, UNICEF together with partners will continue to ensure access to humanitarian assistance and protection to children on the move, especially unaccompanied and separated children, and to strengthen child protection, health and education systems to provide better services to all vulnerable children through capacity building, policy reform and technical assistance: (1) child protection support (case management, MHPSS, guardianship, appropriate care for unaccompanied and separated children) and training of frontline workers; (2) nutrition, WASH and basic needs (IYCF counselling, procurement of hygiene supplies and behaviour change); and (3) education (formal and non-formal education, teacher training on the inclusion of refugee/migrant children, provision of school supplies). To implement this strategy in 2023, UNICEF requires US\$2.6 million.

## Annex 1: Communication and Media Outreach

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### Greece

[Refugee Week Greece ended with the results of the U-Report Greece poll](#)  
[IOM, UNHCR and UNICEF urge European States to end child detention](#)  
[UNICEF & Junior Achievement support vulnerable young people in Greece](#)  
[UNICEF Greece Article: Keeping Hope for Refugee Children in Greece alive](#)  
[UNICEF at the forefront of Humanitarian Response inside and outside Ukraine](#)  
[World Water Day](#)  
[Access to water and hygiene ensures health and dignity](#)  
[Athena dreams of a brighter future through education](#)

### Italy

[Innovative good practices in mental health and psychosocial support services for adolescents, young refugees and migrants in Italy](#)  
[U-Report and Refugee Week join forces on the occasion of World Refugee Day!](#)  
[Save the Children and UNICEF at the border for support to fleeing children and families](#)  
<https://www.unicef.it/media/parte-u-pod-il-canale-podcast-per-dare-voce-ai-giovani-in-italia/>  
[Podcast/Story of A, dreams and battles of a migrant minor only in Italy](#)  
<https://www.jumamap.it/en/griot-the-podcast-that-answers-questions-about-the-life-paths-of-young-migrants-and-refugees-in-italy/>



Serbia

[From Uncertainty to Safety](#)

Bosnia and Herzegovina

[Parents On the Move](#)

[European dream of future chefs and hairdressers from Ušivak | UNICEF](#)

<https://www.unicef.org/bih/en/stories/overcoming-learning-difficulties-refugee-camp>

[Support for pregnant women and mothers with babies at Ušivak | UNICEF](#)

[Stručne obuke za djecu izbjeglice i migrante | UNICEF Bosna i Hercegovina](#)

[Children and parents in "Borići" imagine a better and brighter future | UNICEF](#)

[Overcoming learning difficulties in a refugee camp | UNICEF](#)

[Unlocking Learning: The use of digital learning to support the education and inclusion of refugees and migrant children in Bosnia and Herzegovina \(unicef-irc.org\)](#)

Montenegro

[Inclusion for Andriw and Alenairam: Accepted in Risan](#)