



CONTEXT

The number of refugees and migrants prepared to make potentially perilous journeys to flee conflict and persecution is at an all-time high. The vast majority of refugees and migrants travelling to the EU come from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, Sudan, Eritrea and Nigeria. The conflict in Syria alone has seen more than four million people flee the country. Conflict, instability and human rights abuses in countries such as Sudan, Afghanistan, Somalia and Eritrea have triggered population flows of up to 5,000 people a day seeking a safe haven elsewhere. Often arriving in neighbouring countries unable to cope with the massive influx, many of these refugees choose to continue their journey north and west towards Europe via either the Mediterranean Sea or over land via Turkey and Greece.



THE EUROPEAN CRISIS – KEY FACTS*

- By early October, more than 575,544 people had crossed the Mediterranean in 2015.
- That's already 2.7 times more than in the whole of 2014.
- 3,080 people have died or gone missing making the perilous journey across the Mediterranean.
- More than half (55%) are Syrians fleeing terrible conflict.
- 18% of all arrivals by sea (Mediterranean) are children.

GREECE – KEY FACTS*

- More than 441,107 people have arrived by sea to Greece.
- More than 70% of people arriving in Greece are fleeing conflict and insecurity in Syria.
- More than 21% of people arriving in Greece are children.

ITALY – KEY FACTS*

- More than 132,000 people have arrived by sea to Italy in 2015.
- More than 10% of the people arriving in Italy are children. According to Save the Children, at least 9,410 are travelling completely alone, without family.
- The majority of people arriving in Italy are escaping conflict or insecurity in countries such as Eritrea, Nigeria, Somalia and Sudan.

WHERE SAVE THE CHILDREN IS WORKING

Save the Children has worked on these issues for decades, and we work along the whole route that refugees and migrants take. We work in the countries they are fleeing – countries like Syria, where brutal war has ripped apart the lives of millions, and in Nigeria, Somalia, Sudan and Libya. We work in countries on route – countries like Turkey, Egypt, Hungary, Italy, Greece and Serbia – ensuring that children are protected wherever possible. We also work in destination countries like Italy, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Germany to ensure that children understand their rights and have access to care and support.



A young Afghan boy walks through the streets of Moria camp on the Greek island of Lesbos where refugees from Afghanistan are currently settled. Children often arrive in Europe scared and exhausted. Many have seen and experienced untold horrors during their journey.

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OUR RESPONSE IN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

SYRIA, LEBANON, JORDAN, EGYPT

The brutal conflict in Syria has seen more than four million people flee the country since the conflict began in 2011. The majority of child refugees coming to Europe are from Syria. Children in Syria tell us that they feel hopeless. They have witnessed their friends and families being killed in front of them. Their homes are now rubble. Many have been tortured. They are hungry, often sick. They can't find clean water. Our teams are inside Syria giving children the basics they need to survive. We are also in Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt providing urgent relief and long term aid to child refugees and their families.

- Around 4 million people have now fled Syria.
- Children make up 52% of the refugee population, meaning there are an estimated 2 million refugee children in the region or making perilous journeys to Europe.



Little Layla and her family were staying on the beach on the Greek island of Lesbos as they had nowhere else to stay. They urgently needed water, food and shelter. (Photo: Anna Pantelia/ Save the Children)*

- Save the Children is running child-friendly and youth-friendly spaces across the region reaching thousands of children.
- We are carrying out a large scale infant and young child feeding programme in refugee camps and host communities in Jordan.
- We have distributed winter clothes and blankets in Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan and Iraq, as well as essential items from warm coats and blankets to food inside Syria.
- To date we have reached 2.6 million people in Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and Syria – about 1.6 million children.

A woman and her child look out over the sea at Lesbos, having fled Iraq.



Anna Pantelia/ Save the Children

IRAQ

In June, Iraq's second largest city of Mosul was overrun by an armed group which caused a mass population movement.

- 500,000 people are estimated to have been displaced within and outside the city of Mosul.
- As of 13 August, there are more than 3 million displaced persons in total in various locations in Iraq
- The majority of Iraqis fleeing did so in a matter of minutes, and many would have left carrying only what their arms could hold. They are therefore likely to be in need of the basics – food, shelter, and water.
- Save the Children is on the ground working with refugees and displaced people, distributing water, food and hygiene kits.

AFGHANISTAN

- Afghans make up the second largest contingent of the refugee and migrant population arriving in the Mediterranean (14%) after Syrian refugees.
- The UNHCR says that Syrians, Afghans and Iraqis account for 90% of the more than 440,000 refugees and migrants arriving in Greece this year.

Asmat, two, from Afghanistan, plays with his only toy, a plastic guitar, in the informal camp in Moria on the Greek island of Lesbos.*



Anna Pantelia/ Save the Children

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IN COUNTRIES OF TRANSIT AND DESTINATION

Many European countries are overwhelmed by the child refugee crisis – countries where refugees and migrants are passing through, and in countries where refugees and migrants hope to settle and live in peace.

In many transit countries there is still no management in place in informal camps. Conditions are dire and there are inadequate facilities. Even the formal reception centres in many countries are unable to provide access to water or medical care and food is inadequate. Children, especially those alone, are vulnerable to all kinds of dangers.

ITALY

- So far during 2015, more than 132,000 refugees and migrants have reached Italy's shores.
- This includes around 13,240 children.
- More than 9,410 of these children arrived alone, unaccompanied.
- The majority of the unaccompanied children arriving in Italy are from Eritrea, Somalia, Gambia and Nigeria while others are from other parts of sub-Saharan and West Africa, including Mali, Ivory Coast, Senegal and Guinea.
- Most of the families (and accompanied children) arriving have been Syrians, Somalis and Eritreans.

Save the Children is working with refugees and migrants who have made the journey to Italy.

- In Lampedusa, Sicily, Calabria and Apulia we work in reception centres to assess children's needs, including health and psychosocial, and ensure they are aware of their legal rights.
- In Rome and Milan we also have day and night centres where children are offered showers, clothes, food, medical support, legal advice, and guidance on the asylum seeking process.
- One of our night centres is specifically for Afghan and Eritrean children who have travelled alone, as they tend to have taken long and difficult journeys and have specific needs.
- We also work with authorities to help with family tracing and reunification, ensuring that children find a safe place to stay in the long term.



GREECE

- Greece has received 441,107 refugees this year already, compared with a total of 41,038 arrivals during 2014.
- 21% of these new arrivals are estimated to be children.
- At present, there are between 3,000 and 5,000 refugees and migrants arriving each day, mainly from Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Somalia.
- In September, 142 people died or went missing at sea, including 42 children, making it the most deadly month.
- We work in Lesbos, Chios, Kos in a bid to ensure families' basic needs and safety are met, providing adequate food and water.
- In the Moria camp on Lesbos, we have distributed many recreational kits and hosted unaccompanied children.
- We have distributed food (one hot meal a day) to 13,600 people of which 8,410 are children.
- We are also building child friendly spaces, providing recreational activities for 1,030 children so far, and we will be providing kits to help children survive the winter.
- We also provide transport services for migrants from where they arrive to the registration point, ensuring no family or unaccompanied child will have to endure the long 70km walk to the registration point.
- To date, Save the Children has reached 38,647 people, including 10,840 children.



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SERBIA

- Between 3,000 and 5,000 refugees and migrants are arriving in Serbia each day.
- 180,805 people (around 48,000 children) have reached and transited Serbia during 2015, entering mostly from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.
- By 5 Oct there were as many as 7,218 unaccompanied and separated children entering Serbia.
- The recently established temporary accommodation is not enough to accommodate the high numbers; the sheltering of unaccompanied and separated children is even more challenging.
- We have distributed 2,000 food parcels along the Serbian border with Hungary and Croatia; in the last 2 weeks we distributed 679 baby nutrition packages and 585 baby hygiene kits.
- In Belgrade we have established 1 stationary and 1 mobile child friendly space reaching a total of 1,051 children.
- In Mothers' and Baby spaces in Belgrade assistance in food and hygiene is provided daily to families with children up to 24 months old.
- We are making preparations for the onset of winter.
- To date we have reached 2,183 people including 1,616 children.

FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA (FYROM)

- People are arriving at an average rate of 5,248 per day, crossing on foot from Greece, and another 200,000 people are anticipated to continue arrive over the next six months.
- The vast majority (over 70%) of people arriving are Syrians, followed by Afghans, Iraqis, Palestinians and Pakistanis.
- 20% of these arrivals are children, and 2,931 unaccompanied children were identified between 19 June and 16 September, although the number is believed to be much higher.
- When they arrive in the FYROM refugees are exhausted, suffer hunger, thirst and some need urgent medical attention.
- Save the Children is focusing on child protection due to the fast growing number of unaccompanied children, mothers with babies and children, and families with children, including those with disabilities.
- A 'one-stop-shop' is to be established for unaccompanied minors upon arrival with a private area before their registration.
- We will also continue to provide child friendly safe spaces and a mother and baby corners for families.

CROATIA

- Since Hungary closed its borders, Save the Children has been working at the refugees' next entry point in Croatia to provide basic needs for those entering the border.
- On the border in Tovarnik, we set up safe spaces for children and their families and offer blankets to families as temperatures drop.
- We also work with other agencies to ensure the protection of unaccompanied children, reuniting many children with their families.
- Save the Children assisted UNICEF to set up a child friendly space at the train station in Tovarnik, and set up an additional child friendly space to respond to the needs of the children waiting for transportation out of Tovarnik, reaching more than 50 children and their families with a safe space.
- We have been assessing child protection needs and working with UNICEF, UNHCR, the Ministry of Interior, and the Ministry of Social Welfare and the police on how to deal with unaccompanied/separated children, so far assisting with the reunification of 10 children with their families.



OUR WORK IN DESTINATION COUNTRIES

NORWAY

- Nearly 2,700 unaccompanied children have arrived in Norway so far in 2015.
- A quarter of all asylum seekers arriving in Norway in August were children on their own less than 18 years old.
- Save the Children Norway has several hundred volunteers running recreational activities for children in reception centres across the country, to give them a degree of normality in their lives after so much upheaval.
- We are also meeting with parliamentary politicians who will initiate a parliamentary debate about the situation for unaccompanied asylum seekers.
- There are 111 reception centres in Norway currently and 17 temporary reception centres.
- The government has agreed to establish a new reception centre and the directorate of immigration has announced they are looking for places for 7,500 asylum seekers.
- Hundreds more volunteers have been recruited and are undergoing the vetting process in anticipation of expanding programming.

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GERMANY

- By the end of 2014, 147,000 refugee children lived in Germany, of which 17,000 were unaccompanied.
- Between January and August 2015, 256,938 people have sought for asylum in Germany, 86,000 of them were children.
- Germany expects 800,000 refugees by the end of 2015. Based on previous statistics, one third of those will most likely be children, in total 266,000 minors applying for asylum.
- Save the Children in Germany runs programmes to support refugee children through several partners, by giving them a voice and providing them with a welcoming culture, and by strengthening best practices in child protection and education.
- We are also working with three German states to improve child rights in six reception centres and facilities, building partnerships between reception centres, schools, day-care centres, communities, youth departments, social workers and volunteers.



Samar, 8, from Syria, at an office building in Germany, being used as an emergency shelter. (Photo: Chris de Bode/ Save the Children)*

SWEDEN

- 48,774 people have applied for asylum so far this year. Of these, 18,212 are children, 9,383 are unaccompanied.
- In Sweden, we run four centres where unaccompanied and accompanied children can meet psychologists and receive treatment
- In Stockholm, a mobile team is moving between the Central station and the different shelters to find unaccompanied children. The team has also created a temporary Child Friendly Space, and is helping with translations.
- We have been working with unaccompanied children in asylum centres for years through crafts and play time, language training, help with homework, parent groups, field trips, distribution of toys and basic school materials, local sports and other activities.

FINLAND

- About 19,600 people have sought asylum in Finland this year, of which more than 1,200 are children who have arrived in Finland alone, with no family.
- 71% of these asylum seekers have fled conflict in Iraq.
- Save the Children Finland staff (most of them social workers) provide help for children who are alone and are placed at reception centres specifically meant for children.
- A new administrative hub has been established to control the refugee arrivals in Tornio in Northern Finland and new reception centres are being established around the country. Before the administrative hub was established in Tornio there were hundreds of unregistered asylum seekers arriving by train from North to Helsinki. Save the Children Finland took care of unregistered families and unaccompanied children in the main railway stations.

A three-year-old girl from Iraq receives a warm new coat in Finland.



DENMARK

- The Danish police estimates that around 12,400 refugees and migrants, of whom we estimate 15% are children, have entered Denmark in the last three weeks.
- Most of the refugees and migrants arriving in Denmark through the borders with Germany are headed towards Sweden, so Denmark is mainly a transit country.
- Save the Children has provided safe spaces for play and normality for children and their parents.
- We set up a temporary child friendly space at the main reception centre in Rødby Port and took steps to set up a child friendly space in Padborg, another reception area.
- The Child Friendly Spaces in Rødby Port and Padborg allowed us to work directly with children and their families, address protection issues and cooperate with the Red Cross social service and medical teams.

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FRANCE AND UK

- 1,016 unaccompanied children have arrived in the UK in 2015. Most child asylum seekers are from Eritrea, Afghanistan and Albania.
- In Kent, we are providing books for young people in assessment centres, training to foster carers, and training to staff, volunteers and mentors working with young refugees in Kent.
- We are looking at joint training for those working with, caring for and supporting child refugees, and we are working with various organisations and councils on training for foster carers.
- In Calais, there are around 3,500 in the 'Jungle' camp.
- The key risks are of violence, exploitation and abuse of children, women and young people, lack of identification, documentation of unaccompanied and separated children, lack of adequate services for children including food, WASH, no psychosocial or mental health services for children, inadequate shelter.
- We are looking at working with partners to provide recreational and informal learning activities and psychosocial support, child friendly spaces and youth friendly spaces, child protection sensitisation and training for staff of other organisations in the camps.

SPAIN

- Melilla, in the far south, bordering Morocco, is the cheapest and safest way of access to Europe via Spain.
- Many children are travelling with their parents, although they often cross the border alone through smugglers, being temporarily separated from their families.
- Save the Children is deploying a team to Melilla to assess the needs of children there and are prepared to attend the children and their families that will come to Spain.

Children play in Melilla, Spain (Photo: Save the Children)



OUR STAFF ARE ON THE GROUND SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES



Above: Giovanna, Save the Children Italy, with Ismail* in Italy



Above: Paul, Save the Children UK, unloading goods in Hungary

Below: Habtai, Save the Children Italy, with Fadi* from Syria in Italy



Below: Children play and draw at a mobile Child Friendly Space in Belgrade, Serbia. (Photo: Sejla Dizdarevic/ Save the Children)

