

Every day. **In times of crisis.** For our future.

A close-up photograph of a young girl with dark hair and eyes, wearing a pink headscarf and a pink top. She is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is blurred, showing other people in a crowd.

European Migration Crisis

One Year on Report

September 2016

Executive Summary

Since 2015, continued conflict, oppression, human rights violations and entrenched poverty in the Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa have driven over 1.2 million children and adults from their homes to seek safety in Europe. Those who survive the journey face unparalleled challenges: from overcrowded and unsanitary conditions in temporary camps and shelters, to journeys through transit countries in summer heat and winter cold, to arrival in strange new countries. Girls and boys who are making this trip either alone or with their families face the additional risks of exploitation, abuse and denial of their basic rights.

More than 1.2 million people have arrived in Greece since 2015. Save the Children has used our donors' support to build a comprehensive response in that country from the ground up and has implemented critical aid and child protection work both rapidly and effectively. As refugees and migrants began to flood into destination countries like Sweden and Norway from transit routes in the Balkans, our staff along those routes and in those destination countries immediately began to establish impactful humanitarian response programming where there once was none.

In March 2016, the repatriation agreement between the European Union and Turkey – and the closure of the border between Greece and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – have left more than 57,100 refugees and migrants stranded in Greek refugee camps. Such restrictions have sparked another shift in the crisis to date: refugees and migrants who want to reach Europe are now forced to travel to Italy, taking on a sea journey much more dangerous and lengthy. To respond to such changing circumstances, we have strengthened our presence on the Italian coast and have launched a fully-equipped and crewed vessel to search for struggling migrants and refugees in the central Mediterranean.

The European migration crisis is one of the most complex emergencies we have responded to. As circumstances shift, we are continuously adapting our work to support children wherever they are, responding in multiple countries and contexts. We have made every effort to reach those who need us most – an accomplishment that would not be possible without the compassion of our supporters.

The Impact of Your Support

As we reach the one-year mark of our response to Europe's refugee crisis, we are constantly grateful for the empathy and concern of partners like you, who are at the heart of all we do. Below, you will find examples of our response activity throughout refugees' and migrants' entire journey in origin, transit and destination countries. Though certain programs are highlighted, Save the Children provides multi-sectoral aid in each country, taking into account the needs of refugees and migrants by providing them with food and water, nutrition services, protection and education programming, and hygiene and livelihood resources.

The Middle East

Since the beginning of our humanitarian response in Syria in 2013, Save the Children and its partners have reached over one million internally displaced children and adults. We are also working in refugee camps



Aya,* 2, lives in a refugee camp in Iraq.
Photo: Sebastian Rich for Save the Children

and host communities in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya and Turkey to provide tens of thousands of refugee children and their families, as well as children from host communities, with access to critical resources and services across all our sectors. We have reached over 4 million people in the Middle East, including more than 2.5 million children across the region.

SYRIA

Save the Children and its partners have delivered a wide range of aid services to Syrians trapped in the war-torn country. Along with the continuous provision of health and hygiene services, nutrition and food resources, and psychosocial support, we rehabilitated 20 schools for children to resume their education. Quality education is crucial to providing children with physical and psychosocial protection and a sense of security – and in light of these benefits, we have selected another 13 schools to restore in the future.



A Save the Children staff member comforts Sabah* at a child-friendly space in a refugee camp in Greece.
Photo: Anna Pantelia for Save the Children

JORDAN

As hundreds of thousands of refugees and migrants poured into Jordan during the summer of 2015, food resources were stretched to alarming levels. Our supplementary feeding programs in a number of refugee camps and host communities treat children with severe malnutrition until they are well enough to be discharged; we also distribute electronic food vouchers in refugee camps. Additionally, we sustain livelihoods projects in Jordan, helping vulnerable households gain access to sustainable employment opportunities. These programs have a particular focus on youth and women in host communities and camps; we also seek to improve awareness of the harms of early marriage. Since our response in Jordan began, we have reached more than 605,500 people, including more than 356,400 children.

Transit Countries

To reach children and adults on the move throughout the region, Save the Children is active in transit countries such as Greece, Italy, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia.

GREECE

Since the beginning of 2015, more than 1.2 million people have arrived in Greece. To respond to the vast numbers of people reaching the Greek mainland and islands, Save the Children sprang into action – we provided food, water and transportation at arrival points and in informal settlements. Immediately, we began transporting newly arriving families to a reception center, providing a safe alternative to a 40-mile walk these tired, hungry and dehydrated refugees had to make prior to our services. As temperatures began to drop in December 2015, we provided more than 18,000 refugee and migrant children with waterproof winter coats, baby snowsuits, rain ponchos, warm hats, gloves, scarves and fleece-lined boots.

The situation in the country has remained extremely fluid – after the border with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia closed, tens of thousands were left stranded in overcrowded, dirty and unsanitary camps. Resources are scarce, tensions are high and violence is increasingly common. In response, our teams have monitored developments daily and provide the most comprehensive and impactful support possible. Save the Children supports shelters with our partners, aiding unaccompanied children and providing

pregnant women and mothers with the support they need to protect their children's nutrition. Our child-friendly spaces have engaged more than 43,000 girls and boys in play and structured programs. Case workers also continue to identify, refer and follow up on child protection cases and issues in refugee camps. We provide health and nutrition support for children and mothers. And, we are strongly advocating for children's safety while they are in government custody. We have reached more than 383,700 people in Greece, including more than 150,795 children.

ITALY

Save the Children has eight years of experience working with refugees and migrants in Italy, and is established on the southern borders of the country, including the Sicily, Calabria and Apulia regions, and in transit cities such as Rome and Milan. We work with refugee and migrant children in reception centers throughout Italy, monitoring conditions to ensure children's needs are being met. We provide medical support, legal assistance and advice, guidance on the asylum-seeking process, psychosocial support, and educational activities to refugee and migrant children and families. We also assist in sea landings, meeting boats as soon as they arrive.



Save the Children staff engage girls and boys in educational activities at a refugee camp in Greece.

Photo: Pedro Armestre for Save the Children

Save the Children is present in all ports where people rescued in the central Mediterranean disembark, and is recognized as the leading agency working on child protection. We have particularly focused on reunification programming and extending aid for girls and boys traveling alone. This facet of our response is vital, given that in 2016, twice the number of unaccompanied children have made the perilous crossing to Italy when compared to the same period last year. To date this year, we have helped more than 12,000 unaccompanied girls and boys with our child protection programming.

Destination Countries

In reception centers and host communities in destination countries, we ensure that newly-arrived children have access to services and that their rights are respected. Below are recent highlights of our response in Europe, where we are currently at work in Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

FRANCE

In December 2015, we trained volunteers and community leaders in child protection, child safeguarding and psychological first aid for a camp of some 5,000 refugees near Calais, and in February 2016, a camp of some 3,000 refugees near Dunkirk. In March 2016, French authorities began to evict people from the camp at Calais, and we set up an emergency phone line and provided emergency phone credit to children and youth at risk of being evicted. We continued to monitor the situation in Calais closely, and were in touch with other aid agencies and the local government to ensure that children are protected and receive appropriate psychosocial support. In the spring of 2016, we expanded our services to assist two youth centers – one in each camp.

GERMANY

In December 2015, Save the Children set up the first child-friendly space in the country for refugee children at Tempelhof, a former Berlin airport and the largest reception center in Germany. In these spaces, children are provided with organized opportunities to play, socialize, learn and express themselves as they adjust to their new surroundings. In April 2016, we opened three more child-friendly spaces in the airport and are planning others in reception centers in Brandenburg and Sachsen-Anhalt.

Looking Ahead

THE SEARCH AND RESCUE VESSEL

On September 7, Save the Children deployed a vessel to sail along the most treacherous route in the Mediterranean – the waters between North Africa and Italy – to save people from flimsy and often inflatable boats. While refugees and migrants are on board, we will provide them with the support they need, including medical care and psychosocial first aid.



Save the Children's search-and-rescue vessel, the Vos Hestia, set sail on September 7, 2016.

Photo: Save the Children

We contracted a vessel, the Vos Hestia, from an Italian owner, which is based out of Sicily and manned by its own rescue crew. This crew is using two small inflatable boats to transfer refugees and migrants from the water to our larger vessel. We anticipate reaching up to 20,000 people at sea over the next 15 months. Dependent on where rescues take place, we expect most people to spend between 20 and 30 hours on board. During this time, they will receive continuous support from our staff; the vessel has the capacity to rescue and accommodate 300 people at one time. We are providing food and water, sanitation resources, child protection services and medical care. The latter includes first aid and resuscitation – as waiting for medical care onshore is a delay that could cost lives.

We are also establishing spaces that are safe and welcoming for children, and our child protection experts are offering emotional support and psychosocial first aid to help girls and boys begin to recover from the trauma they have been through. We have an enhanced focus on the needs of unaccompanied children, ensuring those traveling alone are identified and provided with the information and protection they need. This facet of our response is vital, given that in 2016, 90 percent of refugee and migrant children have faced the vast open sea entirely on their own. We also have translators and cultural mediators on our vessel who can understand the needs of and interactions between various groups of refugees and migrants. Such communication can ensure needs are being met and that those on board understand the next steps upon reaching the coast, as everyone who is rescued will be taken to Italian reception centers.

OUR ADVOCACY FOR REFUGEE AND MIGRANT CHILDREN

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) High-Level Meeting on Addressing Large Movements of Migrants and Refugees will take place on September 19, 2016. The next day, President Obama will host a Leaders' Summit on Refugees. At these two events, Save the Children will be calling for political support for refugee education plans to ensure **no refugee child is out of school for more than one month**. This level of ambition is critical to closing the education gap for millions of refugee children who are out of school,

and can be achieved through a combination of investments and policy change. Both events provide Save the Children with the opportunity to speak on behalf of marginalized girls and boys and to promote inclusive education for refugee and migrant children.

Conclusion

Throughout the past year, Save the Children has worked nonstop inside and outside of regions affected by violence, conflict and continued unrest. All of our work was made possible by the support of partners like you. The faces of the children you see in this report are just a tiny fraction of all the girls and boys we have reached throughout our response – and an even smaller portion of the children we will reach in the future. Thank you for giving us the capacity, strength and ability to do so. We are extremely grateful.

Thank you for your trust in Save the Children. We speak for families across Africa, the Middle East and Europe when we say: we are truly grateful.

