

HUMANITARIAN APPEAL – AKELIUS FOUNDATION

SYRIAN/EUROPEAN REFUGEE CRISIS RESPONSE

	By	On
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OVERALL SITUATION & HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

In 2015 UNHCR reported an “all-time high” in the number of displaced people – 59.5 million – caused by wars, conflicts and persecution. **Approximately one third of the total displaced population worldwide has fled their countries, half of them being children.**¹ One of the main driving factors of this development is the conflict in Syria which is ongoing since 2011 and has caused tremendous humanitarian needs and triggered the world’s largest humanitarian crisis since the Second World War. 4.6 million People have fled from Syria alone, mostly to neighboring countries², but also to European countries overstressing their capacity to support the refugees.



In September 2015 UNHCR stated that **“Europe is facing its biggest refugee influx in decades.”** Last year more than 850,000 people transited through Greece, more than 550,700 refugees have been registered to have moved through Serbia. In the first two months this year 131,724 people arrived in Europe through the Mediterranean Sea.³ Due to the latest political and legal developments in Western European countries, refugees are not able to cross borders in Greece and some Balkan countries and are now stranded on the transit route. UNHCR has recently warned of a humanitarian crisis in evolving in Greece.⁴



Refugee routes to Europe are already changing and adapting to the new restricted legislations in some countries. According to recent news reports 150,000-200,000 refugees are waiting for better weather conditions in Libya in order to cross the Mediterranean Sea to Europe.

The situation described above lead to unmet humanitarian needs of refugees on their journey. The needs range from food, non-food items, health, shelter, protection and many more.

Especially children in general and unaccompanied and separated children specifically who flee their conflict-prone countries to escape from effects of war, recruitment by armed groups, or forced marriage **are affected by different forms of child protection issues of during their journey to as well as in**

¹ <http://www.unhcr.org/558193896.html>

² http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/aid/countries/factsheets/syria_en.pdf

³ <http://reliefweb.int/report/greece/unhcr-warns-imminent-humanitarian-crisis-greece>

⁴ <http://reliefweb.int/report/greece/unhcr-warns-imminent-humanitarian-crisis-greece>

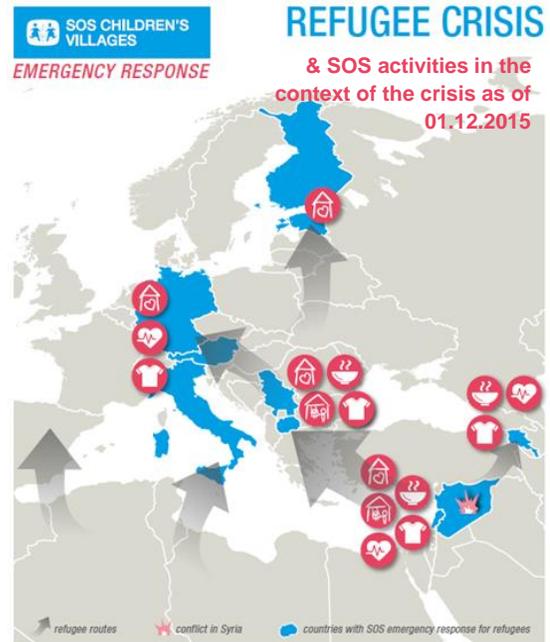
Europe. Children are at risk of being exposed to sickness, injury, violence, exploitation and trafficking – violations of their rights and threats to their lives and well-being.

Europol reported recently that in the last 2 years more than 10,000 children who arrived in Europe may have disappeared.⁵

SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES RESPONSE

SOS Children's Villages use our global federation to provide practical support for unaccompanied children and vulnerable families displaced from their homes. In the countries of origin and during the refugees' transit to Europe, **we are on the ground providing humanitarian aid**, immediate help in the form of food and non-food items, first aid and counselling, interim care for unaccompanied children, safe spaces for children and families to rest and recover, communications support so that families can find each other and stay in touch, as well as trauma counselling.

In some of the countries where refugees and migrants are finding new homes, we also work to ensure that there are **long-term solutions that protect the children and allow them to integrate into society** – providing access to counselling, language courses, and educational and vocational opportunities.



OVERVIEW OF SOS CV ACTIVITIES

Below are an overview of activities in the counties of Origin, Path countries and Destination.

ORIGIN – Middle East

Countries with emergency response activities:

- Syria
- Lebanon
- Jordan (planned)

Activities:

- Interim Care Centers for unaccompanied and separated children (Family tracking, tracing and reunification; informal education, health, shelter)
- Child Friendly Spaces and psychosocial support
- Food distributions
- Economic empowerment (for families in order to prevent family separation)



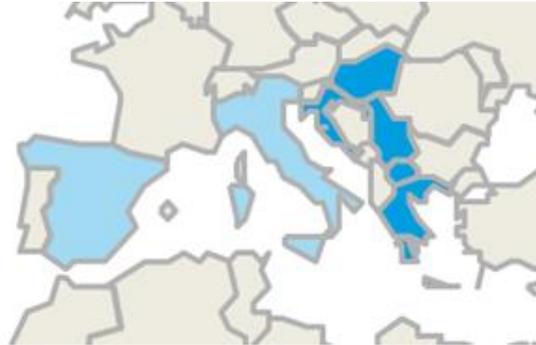
Beneficiaries reached in currently implemented programmes: 32,000

⁵ <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jan/30/fears-for-missing-child-refugees>

PATH – Greece and Eastern Europe

Countries with emergency response activities:

- Greece
- FYR Macedonia
- Serbia
- Hungary
- Croatia
- Italy (planned)
- Spain (planned)



Activities:

- Distribution of food & non-food items (cloths, blankets, shoes) to people and children in need
- Child Friendly Spaces (psychosocial support, education, sports, etc.)
- Mobile teams for urgent response (monitoring of situation, assessing needs and immediate aid through distribution of basic help)
- Information and Communication Technology, ICT corners (provision of ICT services for communication needs, providing information, preventing family separation)

Beneficiaries in currently running programmes: 42,000 (plus 500-1,000 daily users of ICT centre/Serbia).

DESTINATION – European countries & Armenia

Countries with regular programme activities for unaccompanied and separated children:

- Italy
- Spain
- Austria
- Germany
- Finland
- Estonia
- Armenia
- Sweden (planned)



Activities:

- Shelter & care of unaccompanied and separated children
- Psychosocial support & education (counselling, language support, vocational training)

Beneficiaries: Currently more than 500 children are in temporary/permanent care of SOS Children's Villages

PROPOSAL TO AKELIUS

Below proposal show new activities being implemented as a result of additional funding from Akelius Foundation.

As the situation is now, and following recent events in the concerned countries we expect the needs to continue into 2017. The situation is very volatile and is changing rapidly. In Syria and Macedonia particular, the situation is very difficult, severed and constantly changing due to the conflict and government actions.

The Emergency Response team also estimate activities will increased as the military against ISIS is becoming successful and more people are able to flee from previous ISIS held areas. We can expect an increase in refugee numbers in the coming months.

With the additional funding we will be able to set up new and extend activities in several countries. Our proposal will help children in countries of origin, during their path through transit counties and also at their destination.

Beneficiaries: exact number might fluctuate wildly, current estimation would be that 60,000 – 70,000 people and of which 32,000 – 45,000 would be children, will benefit from these additional activities.

We will be able to set up additional interim care center for unaccompanied children evacuated from besieged areas/combat zones (e.g. Madaya, Aleppo, Homes etc.). 12 severely malnourished children have been identified as the most urgent priority. These 12 children will be taken to a hospital where they will receive special treatment until they are healthy enough to be moved to the interim care center. We will try to evacuate them in the next 2 days. A further 99 other children that are separated from parents or unaccompanied are our next priority. The evacuation will happen in small groups and is only viable in small groups while the truce holds. As mentioned above we should expect some resistance and complications from the government. Due to the increase cost for drugs/medication we will finance urgent medical treatment to children of families who can't afford it.

Croatia; The number of refugee arrivals in the country has markedly decreased since autumn 2015. SOS Croatia are working highly organized and function well – the needs to the migrants are being met, monitored and responded to. An additional assessment in the beginning of 2016 was conducted, and no additional emergency program was identified. The situation will be further monitored to be able to respond to additional needs once they occur.

The huge contribution to our emergency activities means that activities will be extended and additional support from regional and international office will be needed in order to ensure an efficient and aligned response. The support ranges from training, stress management and trauma healing, administrative support, financial management etc.