EUROPEAN REFUGEE CRISIS
Programme and Advocacy Report, January 2017
Context

More than 1.3 million people have crossed the Mediterranean since 2015, taking potentially perilous journeys to flee conflict, instability and persecution across the Middle East and Africa.¹ With the Balkans border closures, more than 62,907 people are currently stranded in Greece, while following the signing of the controversial EU-Turkey deal in the first months of 2016, 15401 people are still being held on the islands. Such restrictions have also shifted the focus to Italy, where 2016 marked the deadliest year on record for thousands of refugees and migrants crossing the Central Mediterranean to reach Italian shores.

Along the route, children face extortion by smugglers, sexual abuse and exploitation, violence and trafficking. Many have been living for months in detention centres, which lack the right protection, information, and services they so desperately need. Yet despite proposals made by Europe for an immediate response to the crisis such as the relocation and resettlement schemes, we are still experiencing the European failure to ensure children’s rights and safety are guaranteed.

Advocacy priorities at EU level

1) Improve reception conditions for refugee and migrant children

Too often reception procedures are not in the best interest of the child. This includes determining children’s identity, assessing their age, their specific needs, as well as identifying a guardian or arranging temporary care solutions for unaccompanied children. These problems lead to prolonged uncertainty about children’s legal status and future. Many children have lost trust in the institutions and measures intended to guarantee their rights, safety and well-being and they eventually disappear from the radar, increasing their exposure to smugglers and human traffickers.

Save the Children is therefore calling for:

- A reformed asylum system by EU members, guaranteeing the strongest possible protection for children.
- Reformed age assessment and identification procedures, which are in line with child friendly minimum standards.
- Education and health services that all refugee and migrant children to have access to in Europe.
- Effective durable solutions for all unaccompanied children.

2) Improve and expand existing regular and safe channels for children on the move to and within Europe

The focus on European policy makers remains on border control rather than the safety and needs of children fleeing violence and exploitation. Only a small proportion of refugees and migrants have been relocated and resettled under the relocation and resettlement schemes adopted by the EU. If people can make their way to the

EU in an organized and orderly manner, this can decrease the likelihood of children absconding and disappearing into the irregular circuit or risking their life crossing the Mediterranean. It enhances Member States’ control over migration procedures and reduces people smuggling.

**Save the Children is therefore calling for:**
- Improved relocation of children from Greece and Italy.
- Improved family reunification and resettlement schemes, and humanitarian visas for all refugees as well as private sponsorship programmes.

**3) Ensure EU migration initiatives respect the rights of children on the move and their best interest.**

The EU is intensifying cooperation with governments in Sub-Saharan Africa, such as Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Mali, as well as in East African countries like Ethiopia. Essentially, this means we could see the return of migrants to their countries of origin. With the primary focus of these agreements on curbing migration, deterrence and expulsion, there are no safeguards envisaged to ensure that human rights, rule of law standards and protection are in place. As a result, people are at risk of being deported to countries where their rights are not safeguarded.

**Save the Children is therefore calling for:**
- Migration management agreements between the EU and third countries to respect fundamental rights and prevent returning people, particularly children, from a European country to a third country if they violate or risk violating fundamental rights.
- The EU position on the Global Compact on safe, orderly and regular migration to be in line with international human rights standards.

**Greece and the Balkans advocacy priorities**

With freezing winter conditions across the region, overcrowding in camps and deplorable conditions of those still staying in makeshift shelters and tents, urgent scale up of appropriate reception and support services, with a particular focus on emergency winterized accommodation for children and vulnerable persons is needed.

In view of the increased numbers of pushbacks of refugees and migrants, including many children and unaccompanied minors, being carried out by countries of the region, in some cases while using violence, Save the Children is calling for human rights of all refugees and migrants to be respected regardless of their migratory status. It is unconscionable and unlawful to continue clandestinely moving people from one country to another with no regard to their rights or needs.

With more frequent instances of detention of migrants, including children, all countries of the region must consider alternatives to detention for children since detention can never be in the best interest of the child.

**KEY DATES**

- **26-27 January:** Conference on the protection of children in migration (Maltese President’s Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society)
- **8-9 February:** Senior Officials Meeting in Valletta to take stock of the state of play of the implementation of the joint Valletta Action Plan
- **9-10 March:** European Council
- **March (TBC):** 34th Human Rights Council’s session – Enhanced interactive dialogue on the human rights of migrants in the context of large movements
- **26-27 May:** G7 Summit (Italy)
- **June (TBC):** Children on the Move Conference
- **20 June:** Refugee Day
- **22-23 June:** European Council
- **7-8 July:** G20 Summit (Germany)
- **2 September:** Aylan Anniversary
- **12-25 September:** 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly
- **19-20 October:** European Council
- **14-15 December:** European Council
RESPONSE UPDATES

Greece

Context and issues
- With the border between Greece and FYROM officially closed, more than 62,907 people are stranded in Greece. More than 47,500 people on the Greek mainland are unable to continue their journey, while 15,401 people are being held on the islands as part of the EU agreement with Turkey.
- Since the start of the EU-Turkey in March, the number of arrivals has dropped significantly. In January 2016, 73,100 people arrived in Greece compared with just 698 in January 2017. So far, 828 people have been deported to Turkey as part of the EU-Turkey return agreement.
- Greece has been hit with snow and sub-zero temperatures. Many camps are not adequately prepared for the harsh winter and there have been water shortages, a lack of heating and tents collapsing under the weight of the snow.
- Almost all camps on the islands are at or are exceeding maximum capacity due to the number of new arrivals in recent weeks, causing massive concerns related to protection, health, physical security. Conditions are extremely poor and security incidents, such as fights and protests, are continuing in many locations.

Programmatic work
- Save the Children in Greece is working in more than 20 sites across Greece, including camps, detention centres and shelters. Since launching its response in Greece in August 2015, the team has reached more than 490,000 children and adults.
- Save the Children Greece runs Child and Youth Friendly Spaces, case management where trained case workers, social workers, psychologists and lawyers provide support for the most vulnerable families and children and help them access services, Mother and Baby Areas, and non-formal education where children can attend language and maths classes.
- The team also provides shelters and supports in other accommodation arrangements with counselling and recreational activities for the most vulnerable lone children.

Advocacy priorities
- Immediate access to appropriate shelter is needed for all refugees and migrants, regardless of their status, to prevent unnecessary loss of life, particularly for children.
- The need for safe and appropriate facilities in line with international standards is urgent. For this purpose, increased collaboration and planning between NGOs, the Ministry of Migration Policy and the Ministry of National Defence is required not only for the improvement of the conditions in the already existing sites but also for ensuring that new sites will meet approved standards before opening.
- The Asylum Service needs to be immediately strengthened, particularly to avoid any potential backlog. The slow processing of asylum claims is leading to severe overcrowding at detention facilities on Greek islands.

FYROM

Context and issues
- The official closure of the Balkans Route on March 9, 2016 has not stopped the migrant flow through FYROM but only led to increased smuggling activity making refugees transiting through FYROM even more vulnerable.

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• There is a regular flow of new arrivals, with an average of 60 persons daily during Dec/Jan (from July-Nov 2016 there were between 100-150 newcomers on daily bases). Those are reportedly irregularly arriving from Northern Greece, mainly with smugglers.

• The majority of refugees are placed in two transit centers: one the Southern border with Greece ‘Gevgelija’ and one on the North with Serbia ‘Tabanovce’. They offer services for approximately 200 individuals that have been ‘stranded’ after the border closure.

• In recent months, there has also been a growing trend of ‘pushbacks’, sometimes violent, including families, children and unaccompanied and separated children from Serbia to FYROM. As a result, refugees and migrants in FYROM are exceptionally vulnerable to abuse, violence, exploitation and trafficking.

Programmatic work
• As the risks and vulnerability of the people on the move increases every day with winter, strict police patrols, and more frequent push backs to Greece and from Serbia, Save the Children and Macedonian Red Cross is covering the whole region around Tabanovce with two mobile teams, consisting of five professionals: social workers, psychologists, medical doctors, paramedics and translators.

• Save the Children FYROM via Red Cross is also providing medical assistance for prevention of infective diseases such as scabies which is on the rise among the migrants and refugees.

• The team also continues to support the Infant and Young Child Feeding program in both transit centres by providing technical support to the Mother and Baby Areas.

Advocacy priorities
• Save the Children FYROM is advocating to ensure the rights and needs of those crossing are met, particularly for unaccompanied and separated children, and that they receive quality services and support. Alternative care arrangements should be considered as solutions for these unaccompanied and separated children.

Serbia

Context and issues
• More than 7,000 refugees and migrants are stranded in Serbia. Save the Children estimates 80-100 new arrivals daily (based on December 2016 figures); about third of them children.

• Around 80% of refugees and migrants present in Serbia are accommodated in official asylum centers, while the rest mainly sleep rough in Belgrade city centre. The smugglers are strongly present in the centre of Belgrade, increasing the risks for many, but especially the numerous vulnerable lone children.

• Serbia has been hit with snow, with temperatures dropped to below -10. Temporary shelter was found to accommodate 230 people, but over 1,000 people, amongst whom 100-200 are children, are staying in abandoned warehouses, exposed to the bitter winter.

Programmatic work
• Save the Children Serbia provides temporary shelters for unaccompanied children and supports in hiring social workers and psychologists for these children.

• In Belgrade, Save the Children, together with other agencies and local partners, runs a 24/7 drop-in centre for the new arrivals to provide immediate life-saving assistance for those waiting to be registered and accommodated in official shelters. The service also includes a youth space and child friendly corner, providing psychosocial support through creative activities.

• In Belgrade, the team also runs mobile outreach teams providing legal counselling, identifying and referring vulnerable cases, as well as distributing Non Food Items to the most vulnerable cases.

Advocacy priorities
• The Serbian Government has strongly advised humanitarian organizations to suspend all support services for refugees and migrants outside official reception centres in the city centre, to avoid encouraging people
to stay outside instead of registering to be transferred to official centres. Save the Children has advocated for the continuation of life-sustaining assistance while supporting the plans to relocate all refugees and migrants to appropriate shelters. Emergency shelter capacities need to be urgently increased by Serbia with adequate financial support by donors, mainly EU.

- Greater visibility needs to be ensured for refugees and migrants still arriving to Serbia (and traveling through the Balkans route) to prevent rights violations and reduce protection concerns.

### Croatia

**Context and issues**

- Refugees and migrants are continuing to enter Croatia, while the number of those accommodated in asylum centres is relatively stable - between 500 and 700 - which indicates that about the same number of people are leaving the centres to illegally cross to Western Europe countries.
- In Croatia, all refugee and migrants have been accommodated in two Asylum centres: one in Zagreb, accommodating 560 people and one in Kutina, accommodating more vulnerable people (families, elderly etc.), currently accommodating 90 people.
- Arrivals to Croatia happen through: illegal crossings mainly from Serbia; reallocation from one EU member state to another (namely Greece and Italy); resettlement from third countries (Turkey, Jordan) to the EU (to cities of Zagreb, Rijeka, Split and Osijek); and returns from EU countries - those whose asylum application has been turned down in EU countries.

**Programmatic overview**

- Save the Children Croatia, together with the partnering organization, Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, implements informal educational activities in Zagreb and Kutina which include Croatian language education for teenagers and adults, creative and life skills workshops for teenagers, including unaccompanied minors, workshops for pre-school children, English language education for adults, and literacy class for adults. The team also provides individual support to children with homework and other school tasks.
- Psychological support and cultural mediation is provided by Save the Children on a daily basis for asylum seekers and irregular immigrants.
- The team also provides support to mothers in both asylum centers, advising them on feeding, providing clothes hygiene items and clothes for babies and young children, breast milk substitute, baby food and nappies.

### Italy

**Context and issues**

- 181,436 refugees and migrants crossed the Mediterranean Sea and reached Italy in 2016 (153,842 in 2015). 13% were women and 16% children.¹
- 90% of the children were unaccompanied. The number of unaccompanied children more than doubled in 2016 from 12,360 in 2015 to 25,846 in 2016.
- There was a large decrease in Syrian arrivals in 2016 and a growing trend of migrants from the Ivory Coast, Senegal, Mali and Bangladesh.
- As of mid-January 2017, more than 1,500 migrants arrived in Italy, of which 230 are children (40 accompanied and 190 unaccompanied).
- On 31st December, the country’s chief of police asked officers nationwide to step up efforts to identify and repatriate migrants who are not entitled to asylum, while Italy will also open new identification centres to hold people before their expulsion.

¹ Italian Ministry of Interior
The reception centres in both Milan and Italy are at full capacity due to the large increase in arrivals. Urgent support is needed to improve children’s reception conditions in Milan and Rome.

Programmatic work
- Since October 2016, Save the Children Italy has been working on two EU projects. The first 18 months project aims to reinforce the unaccompanied and separated child protection and reception system. The team works with 9 mobile teams displaced in the Northern (Lombardia) and Southern Borders (Sicily – including Lampedusa, Apulia, Calabria, Campania and Sardinia).
- The second 15 months project aims to enhance psychological first aid to children who have arrived in the Southern Border and to promote child safeguarding in the first reception centers.
- In 2017 the team will continue working with children in CivicoZero reception centers based in Rome, Milan and Turin as well as in the Helpline (SC Italy phone-line).
- Save the Children Italy reached 23,666 children including 4,121 accompanied and 19,545 unaccompanied children in 2016.

Advocacy priorities
- Save the Children Italy asks Parliament to approve the law proposal inspired by Save the Children, which aims to provide Italy with a comprehensive system of protection and reception for unaccompanied and separated children.
- The team is also working with the Italian Dublin Unit and the Guardianship Judge to make the relocation procedure a functional system, in order to provide a legal alternative to unaccompanied children who cross the borders on their own.

Search and Rescue

Context and issues
- 2016 was the deadliest year on record for refugees and migrants crossing the Mediterranean with more than 5,000 deaths at sea - the majority between North Africa and Italy.
- 230 refugees and migrants have already died this year in two separate shipwrecks.

Programmatic work
- In September 2016 Save the Children launched a Search and Rescue vessel in the Central Mediterranean, working in close coordination with the Italian Coastguard to rescue and bring children and adults to a safe port in Italy.
- On board child protection experts offer support to vulnerable rescued children and provide a child friendly space. The team also works in close cooperation with Save the Children Italy’s domestic Child Protection programme and other service providers on-shore to ensure they are prepared to receive and follow up on the vulnerable cases.
- Rescued persons are also offered lifesaving medical support by our medical experts and provided with nutritional rations and an adult kit which includes a blanket, face towel, and a bottle of water when they come on board.
- The operation ran from September to November 2016. It then paused for the winter and will resume on 1st April 2017.

Advocacy priorities
- Search and Rescue is asking for European States to support Italy with search-and-rescue operations: saving lives – not border control – should be the over-riding priority.
- European states must also provide safe and legal alternatives both for those in need of international protection and for other migrants, which ensure human rights and respect dignity, and also establish a long-term plan to tackle the root causes of unsafe and forced migration.
Lebanon

Context and issues
- Lebanon, a country with a population of a little over 4 million, still hosts the highest number of Syrian refugees relative to its population in the region, with almost 1.1 million registered Syrian refugees, while over 400,000 remain unregistered. This equals more than one-quarter of the country’s population.
- There is a need to expand and improve access to formal education. The non-formal education programming needs to be formalized and rolled out.

Programmatic work
- Save the Children Lebanon provides Early Childhood Care and Development activities and psychosocial activities for children in the Bekaa area and Beirut. The team also provides positive parenting sessions and support groups for parents.
- The team is supporting families with repair kits to winterize their homes.
- Life skills training and community initiative training for youth as well as unconditional cash assistance to families is also provided.

Advocacy priorities
- Save the Children Lebanon is advocating to remove barriers to education, implementing a clear, simple and reliable residency renewal process for Syrian refugees that does not require substantial fees or sponsorship.
- International donors and policy-makers should also engage in dialogue with the Ministries on issues of education, residency permits, right to work and other limiting factors that adversely affect children’s wellbeing and their right to education.

Jordan

Context and issues
- The number of registered Syrian refugees in Jordan to date is 655,399. 337,530 of the registered refugees are 18 years or below.
- The UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Jordan announced the resumption of life-saving humanitarian assistance at the north-eastern border with Syria, the Berm.

Programmatic work
- Save the Children in Jordan’s response focuses on education, protection, health, nutrition and Food Security and Livelihoods programming.
- The team runs child and family centres, informal education centres and Informal Tented Settlements across the different regions in Jordan where children are provided with life skills, psychosocial support, and informal education.
- Case management is provided in the camps’ schools and 12 help desks across Jordan.
- The team also runs Infant and Young Child Feeding centres in the camps and host communities and distributes e-cards, bread and meals to refugees in Za’atari camp.

Advocacy priorities
- Save the Children Jordan’s advocacy focus is around refugee children’s education and access to education for the most marginalised refugee children as part of the Every Last Child campaign.

Turkey

Context and issues
• In January 2016, the number of registered Syrians was over 2.5 million, and as of December 2016 the number is over 2.7 million, an increase of approximately 200,000. This is comparatively low given that fact that 2016 has been one of the most violent years in the Syrian crisis.
• Since March 2015, the Government of Turkey (GoT) has pursued tighter border controls, which now render the borders effectively shut.
• The GoT has shifted its education policy, and plans to have all Syrian children integrated into the state education systems within 3 years. It has been recently announced that Turkish citizenship would be available to well-educated and highly qualified Syrian and Iraqi refugees.
• The lack of a clear overarching GoT strategy with regards to the Syrian crisis means that policy changes are frequently changing. While the team’s programmes have been designed to best cope this, it still remains problematic that they have to renew registration to operate in Turkey annually. Equally, this impacts their ability to apply and receive multi-year funding.

Programmatic work
• Save the Children Turkey has supported 54 Temporary Education Centres across Hatay province, and distributed 15,343 student kits, 14,414 hygiene kits, and provided transportation support to 1390 children of which 432 were out of school and are now attending education full-time.
• The team is rehabilitating classrooms and making 5 Temporary Education Centers quality learning environment according to international standards. 3 schools are being constructed in three districts of Hatay province that will serve the educational needs of 1,530 Syrian children. The construction is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2017.
• Two adolescent friendly centres are due to be fully operationally in January 2017, and will provide the following services: catch up classes, language courses, psychosocial support; certified skills training in areas like IT, and nutrition support for young mothers and infant children.

Advocacy priorities
• Save the Children Turkey’s advocacy priorities centre around expanding the Turkey programme into new provinces, such as Istanbul.

Norway

Context and issues
• A historical low number of people sought asylum in Norway in 2016. The total number was 3460 people, of which 320 were unaccompanied children. The majority were from Eritrea, Syria and Afghanistan. The majority of unaccompanied minors were from Afghanistan.
• So far in 2017 approximately 150 people have sought asylum in Norway.
• Norway has so far only received approximately 300 relocation refugees, of the 750 Norway promised to relocate in 2016 and the 750 in 2017.
• The Norwegian government is prioritizing the return of asylum seekers, and children are often detained for a short period of time as part of the process.
• An increasing number of asylum seeker applications from Afghanistan are being rejected. A significant higher number of unaccompanied children from Afghanistan are given temporary permits until they turn 18 only.

Programmatic work
• A 2-year plan has been developed for the Save the Children Norway domestic response, which encompasses direct work with children (largely through volunteers) during the asylum process and integration process; advice, training and support to government and organizations working with migrant and refugee children; and direct advocacy with the government as the leading child rights organization in Norway.
• 546 children in reception centers have participated in our activities, organized by 212 volunteers. 139 children have participated in our integration activities, organized by 112 volunteers
Report

- SC Norway works with teachers for better inclusion of children seeking asylum at school.
- There is a clear need for more information for children asylum seekers, and someone to talk to in their own languages. The team is therefore looking into the possibility of setting up a helpline (similar to that of Saver the Children Sweden’s).

Advocacy priorities
- An increasing number of unaccompanied children from Afghanistan are not granted asylum in Norway but are given temporary permits only, which means they will be returned to Afghanistan when they turn 18. Save the Children Norway is pushing the message that unaccompanied children should not be given temporary visas.
- The government has published a white paper regulating the detention of children in the asylum process. The team is advocating that no children should be detained.
- The government announced plans to lower the standard of care to unaccompanied and separated children under 15 years in Norway. The team is therefore advocating that all children, regardless of immigration status, have the right to equal protection and care standards.

UK/France

Context and issues
- Calais camp was dismantled and cleared in October 2016. Unaccompanied children were dispersed to centres across France. The UK Home Office carried out assessments to determine whether children had the right to come to the UK under Dublin (family reunification) regulations or the Dubs amendment. Children were not informed during this process and were left in limbo for months. Many children have now absconded from the centres and are heading back to smaller informal camps in Northern France.
- With children returning or arriving in Northern France the French state protection system needs to respond with accommodation and support. Currently groups working with children are struggling to get access and get children into protection.
- Approximately 500 children were transferred to the UK. The majority of those were family reunification cases, but some were not and therefore need UK local authority care.

Programmatic work
- During the evictions Save the Children set up information points and distributed phones and legal helpline information to over 1,500 children.
- The team is now exiting from Calais and working with organisations remaining in Calais to ensure they are able to access the French child protection system and build relationships between key organisations.
- In the UK, Save the Children has now given out a total of 50 Eat, Sleep, Learn, Play! grants to children and families arriving in the U.K. They are delivering training on working with unaccompanied children to services in Northampton.

Advocacy priorities
- Save the Children UK is advocating for a relocation process for children and their families from Europe to the UK under Dubs and Dublin III that places children’s best interests at its heart.

Sweden

Context and issues
- During 2016, 28,939 persons applied for asylum in Sweden (163,000 in 2015).
- For Swedish society, the situation is no longer as urgent as it was in 2015. However the situation has not improved for refugees who are still in the process of claiming asylum. For example, the EU-Afghanistan law makes it easier to deport Afghans back to Afghanistan.
• The number of children and young adults whose asylum claims are being rejected is increasing. This is increasing the amount of undocumented young people and the team is looking at possible ways of supporting this vulnerable group.

Programmatic work
• Save the Children Sweden is expanding their support line languages to Somali, Pashto and Tigrinja in addition to the existing Arabic, Dari and English. In 2016 the support line received approximately 1400 calls.
• At least 20 of the team’s local branches run at least one child friendly space each. The local branches have a total reach of 1260 girls, 1620 boys and 1900 adults between February-November 2016.

Advocacy priorities
• Save the Children Sweden’s biggest priority for this year is to advocate against the temporary migration law that was enforced in 2016. All residence permits will be temporary and refugees are granted 3 year permits and are only allowed family reunification under certain conditions. Persons granted residency because of need of subsidiary protection are given 13 month permits, but no right to family reunification. Other needs of protection that existed previously have been taken away.
• The team is also advocating against the proposed EU Procedures Regulation and the Reception directive.

Finland

Context and issues
• A total of 5657 persons applied for asylum in Finland in 2016 (32,476 in 2015)
• There are 126 reception centres in Finland with about 16,000 refugees and migrants. Many reception centres will close during the spring 2017.
• Currently many people whose asylum claims have been accepted are still waiting for residence decisions from the municipalities. Those whose asylum claims have been rejected are not willing to return voluntarily to their home country, as such the number of people staying in Finland without legal status is expected to grow.

Programmatic work
• Save the Children Finland runs four Child Friendly Spaces for asylum seeking children in four reception centers across Finland. Trained volunteers provide activities for children to strengthen children’s psychosocial support, and to encourage children to learn new skills and express themselves. Most of the activities are offered for under school-aged children and for children between 7 and 13 years of age.

Spain

Context and issues
• In 2016, over 6,800 refugees and migrants entered Spain mainly arriving into Melilla. Syrians continue to enter Melilla and since December 2016, there has also been an increase of families from Yemen requesting for asylum in Melilla.
• The temporary reception center (CETI) in Melilla has now officially increased its capacity to 1,000.

Programmatic work
• In CETI, Save the Children Spain runs recreational activities through Child Friendly Spaces for children up to 3 years old and activities in Youth Friendly Spaces for up to 16 years old. The team also identifies vulnerable children in foster homes, offering support and legal advice and runs outreach activities for street refugee and migrant children.
• Save the Children Spain is opening a day center in 2017 to facilitate non-formal education, recreational activities, protection and psychosocial support to refugees and migrants and unaccompanied children in Melilla. Many of the activities in CETI will be transferred to the day center.
Advocacy priorities

- Save the Children’s advocacy priorities are: family separations; reducing the duration of the stay in the temporary reception center (some families have been waiting over 9 months for their asylum claims to be processed); assuring a child protection protocol in the reception and foster homes; reducing violations of children’s rights when determining their age; and assuring legal assistance is provided to unaccompanied children.

Denmark

Context and issues

- Over 6,500 refugees and migrants sought asylum in Denmark during 2016 (21,316 in 2015). Asylum seekers from Syria and Afghanistan made up about 40% of the asylum applicants in 2016. Other major groups are ‘stateless persons’ and asylum seekers from Iraq.
- Unaccompanied minors made up around 20% of the asylum applicants in 2016 compared to around 10% in 2015.

Programmatic work

- SC Denmark has now started a pilot resilience-building project in the northern part of Denmark aimed at unaccompanied minors during their stay at a children’s asylum centres.
- The team runs integration activities through Family Clubs where families with children come together to participate in a range of family-oriented activities. An additional integration project helps newly arrived refugee children and their families getting access to some of the many sports clubs and other social activity clubs and societies in Denmark. Other integration projects are aimed at especially distressed refugee families who participate in out-door/nature activities.