

Children on the Move: A European Perspective

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CFAB is the UK branch of the International Social Service network

Presentation Topics

Introduction to presenters

Introduction to Children on the Move in Europe

Case study on social service professional collaboration

Children arriving and transiting through Greece
Children arriving in the UK as a final destination

Presentation Topics

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CFAB Presenters



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Katy Tolman, Social Worker

The Network- International Social Service

CFAB is the UK Branch of the International Social Service network

- Network established in 1924
- Provides assistance on cases involving vulnerable adults and children that cross international borders
- Has a presence in 120 countries
- General Secretariat based in Geneva
- Network members – government agencies, central authorities, charities

What CFAB does:



Additional ISS services:

- International Adoption
- International Tracing
- International Surrogacy
- International Family Mediation
- Child Abduction
- Moving Children with Disabilities to Family Care Settings



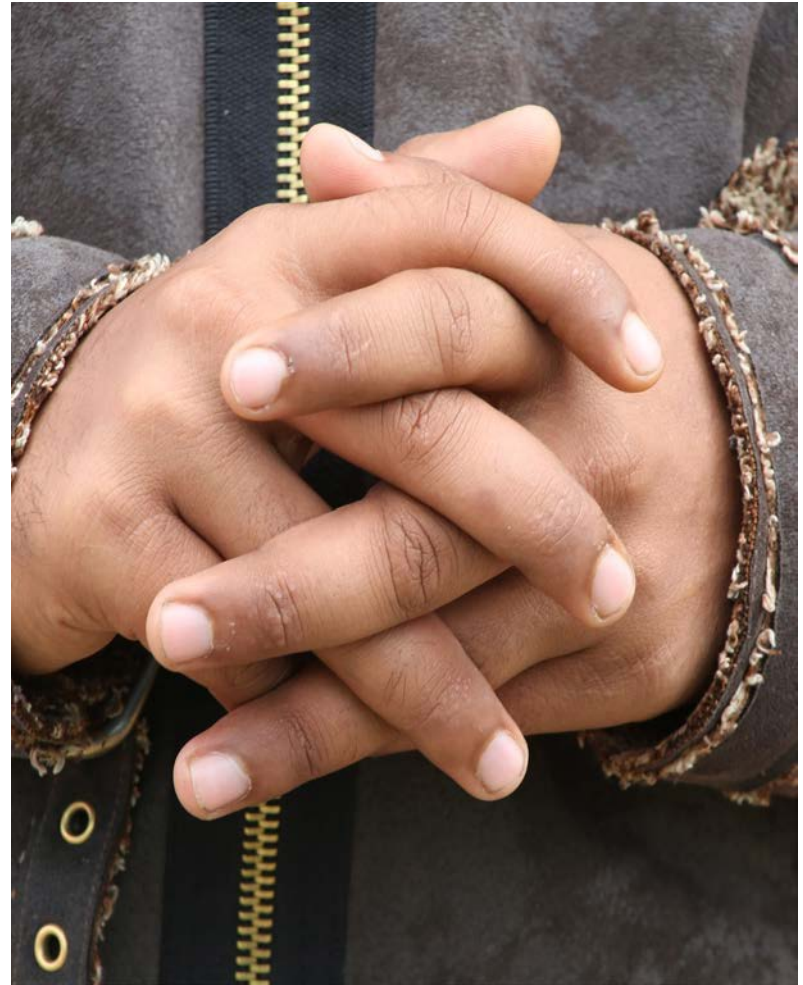
LEGAL ROUTES TO SANCTUARY

Safe Passage International

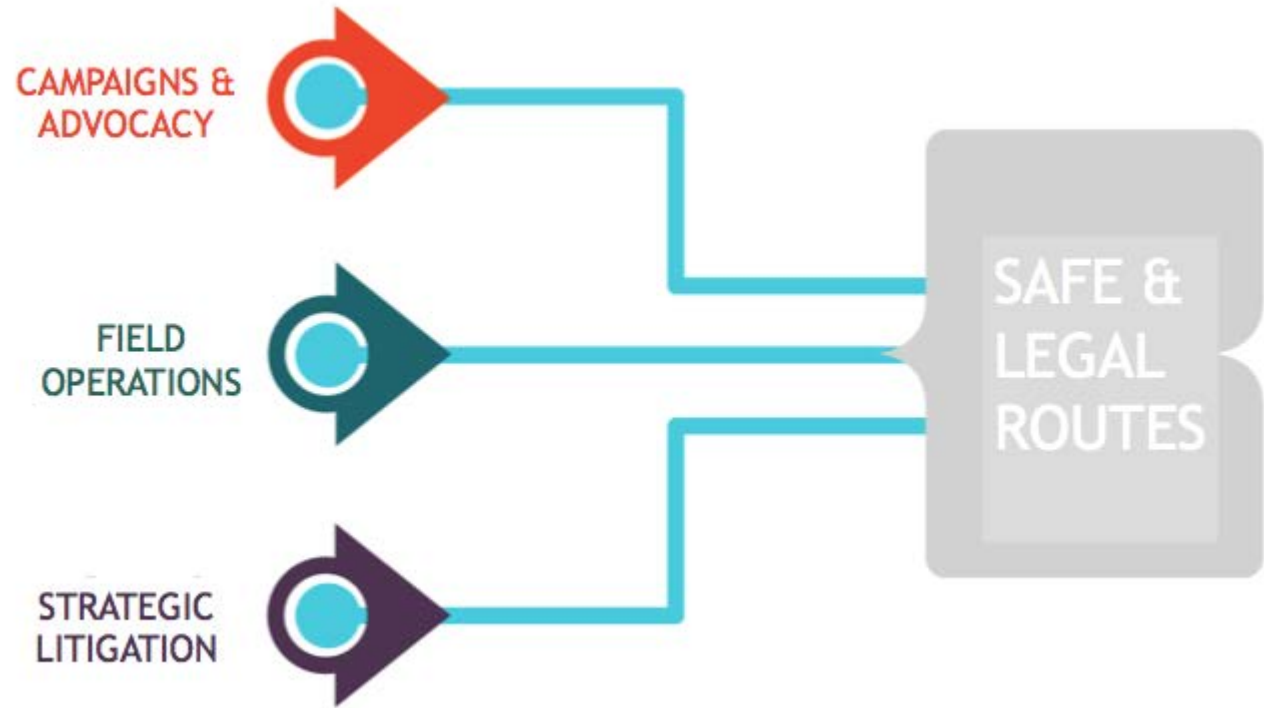
SAFE ROUTES: To open & defend safe, legal routes to sanctuary for those seeking asylum

SAFE CHILDREN: To protect & defend the rights of every child traveling to safety and upon arrival in their new home

SAFE SUPPORT: To increase & cement public and political support for protection for those seeking asylum



Our Intervention Model



We are a cross-border organisation with operations in UK, France, Greece.

- Directly supported more than 250 children
- More than 2000 children have reached safety through the routes we have opened
- **Capacity Building:** 1000 people trained
- **New routes since 2018:**
 - Italy→ Norway,
 - Bulgaria→ Italy,
 - Austria→ UK,
 - Iceland→ UK,
 - Libya→ Italy



Presentation

Introduction to presenters

Introduction to Children on the Move in Europe (Carolyn)

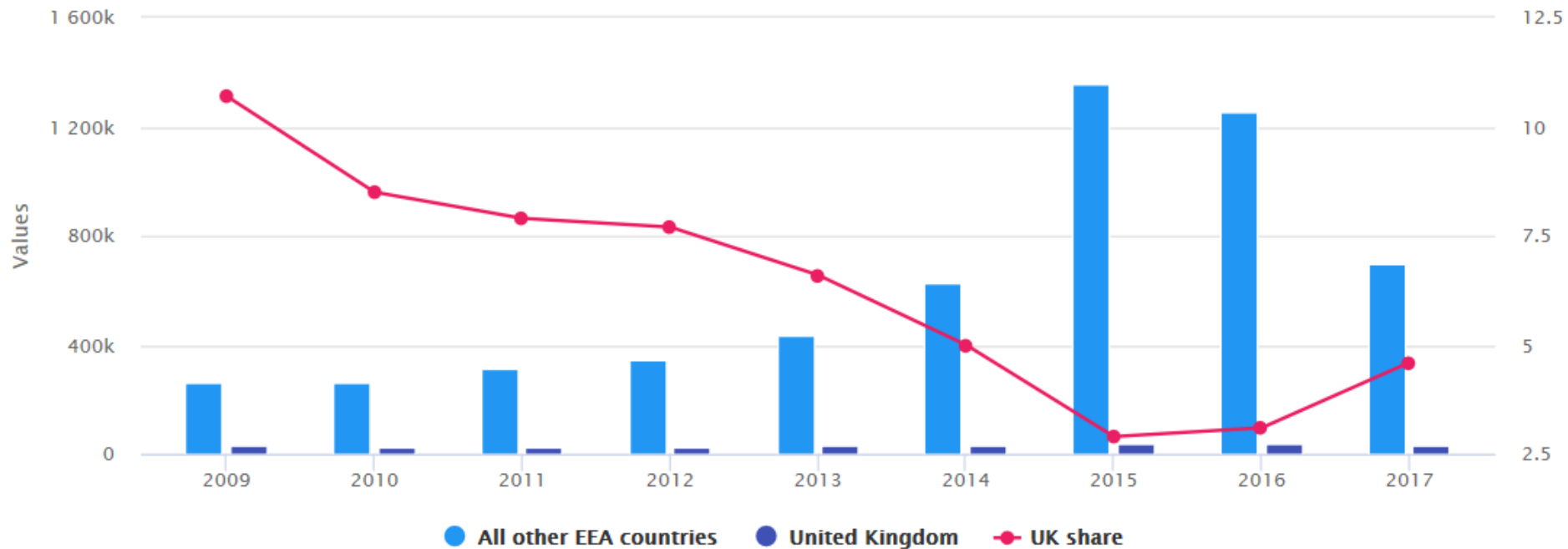
Case study on social service professional collaboration

Children arriving and transiting through Greece
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Children on the Move

Asylum applications per country, 2009–2017

www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk

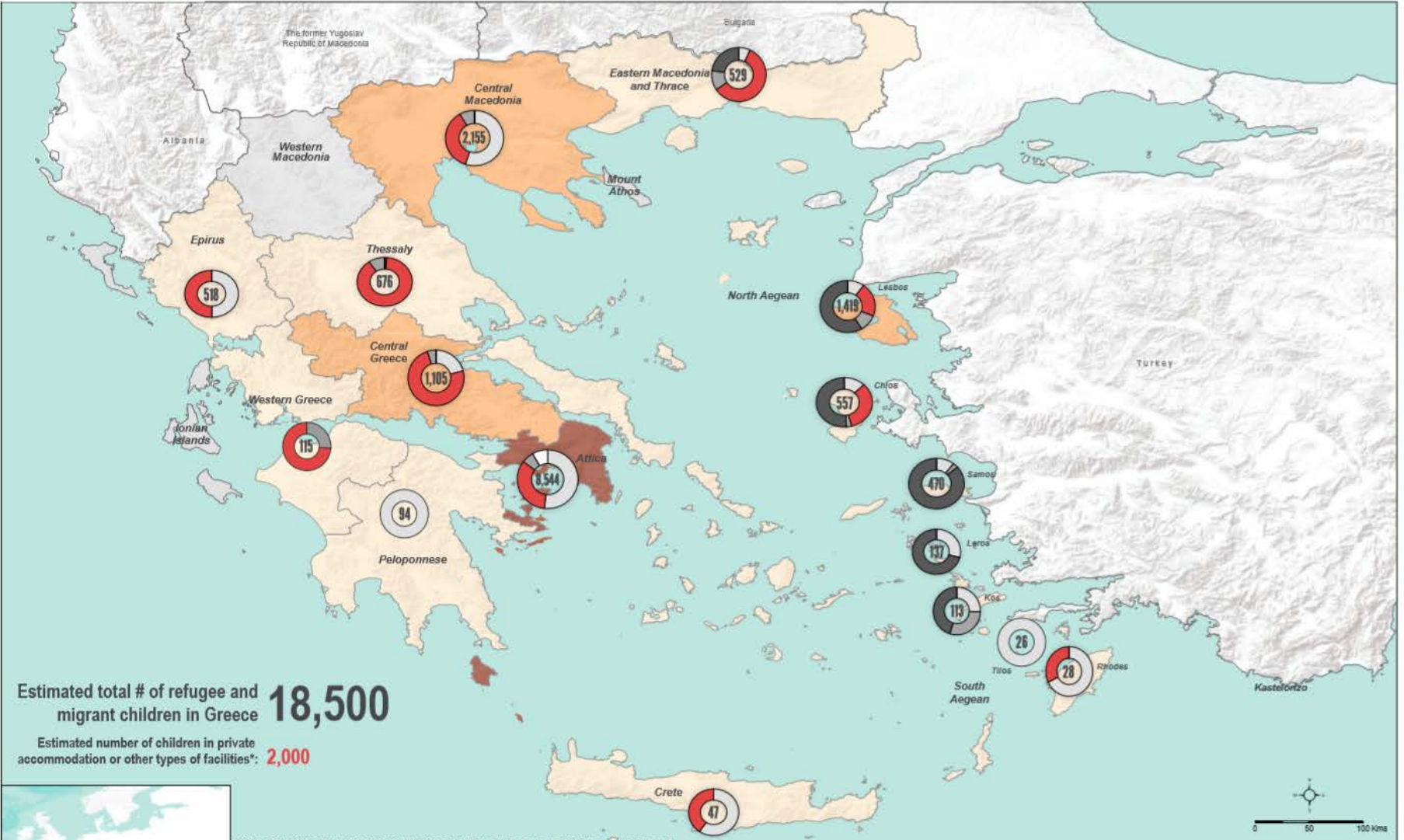


Source: Eurostat, Asylum and first time asylum applicants by citizenship, age and sex [migr_asyappctza]

Children on the Move

unicef  **Refugee and Migrant Children in Greece - by Region**

For Humanitarian Purposes Only
 Production date: 31 July 2017



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Introduction to Children on the Move in Europe

**Case study on social service professional collaboration
(Laura)**

Children arriving and transiting through Greece

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LEGAL ROUTES TO SANCTUARY

The Role of the Social Service in supporting Children on the Move: A European Perspective

Laura Griffiths, Head of Casework & Programmes

Our History

September 2015: 3 volunteers, 2 solicitors and 1 barrister went to the Calais Jungle and in one day identified 50 Unaccompanied Minors (UAM's) rising to 350 by day 5.

January 2016: after 1,400 pro bono legal hours the first three boys and one dependent older brother from Syria, were successfully reunited with their families from Calais when the courts ordered the Dublin III* processes set aside because of their rights under the ECHR 8*.
(known as the ZAT case)



'Dubs' Amendment

Collaboration of legal practitioners and social workers, France 2016

- March 2016: Amendment to immigration Bill (Section 67) - Dubs Amendment - transfer UAMs in Europe to the UK.
- October 2016: No transfer of UAMs.
- Facilitated legal practitioners and social workers to come together to conduct 36 best interested assessments
- Legal bundle including input from social workers sent to Home Office
- Within 48hrs transfers started (220 total)



"The things we saw, we keep
in our head. They won't go
away... but we thank you for
being a country where we can
be welcome, where we aren't
discriminated against for being
Syrian, or Iraqi, or Afghan."

Majeed, 16



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**Children arriving and transiting through Greece
(Stefania)**

Children arriving in the UK as a final destination

Greece Context: some numbers

Arrival Country	Arrivals Jan-Jun 2019	Arrivals Jan-Jun 2018	Arrivals Jan-Jun 2017	Arrivals Jan-Dec 2018	Arrivals Jan-Dec 2017
Greece	18 448	22 899	10 679	50 215	35 052
Spain	13 263	17 950	6464	65 325	28 707
Italy	2779	16 577	83 752	23 370	119 369
Cyprus	3935	108	273	1278	1078
Malta	1276	234	-	1445	-
Bulgaria	836	589	391	2533	2562
Total	40 537	58 357	101,559	144166	186768

Between 2016 and 2018 **17,199 unaccompanied children** arrivals were officially recorded in Greece

Over the first quarter of 2018, Greece received almost **half of all migrant children** arrivals in Europe

http://www.ekka.org.gr/images/EKKA_Dashboard_30-9-2019.pdf



Key Facts

1.640 children in long term or temporary accommodation

1416* children in RICs
238* children in Protective custody
153* children in Open temporary accommodation facilities

1169* children in Insecure housing conditions

*The above numbers include **258** separated children, and **127** pending transfer to long term or temporary accommodation

4616 children in total out of which:

93,6% Boys

6,4% Girls

7,0% <14 years old

Number of places

1,196 Total number of places in long term accommodation (Shelters/SIL)

650 Total number of places in temporary accommodation (Safe zones/Emergency hotels)

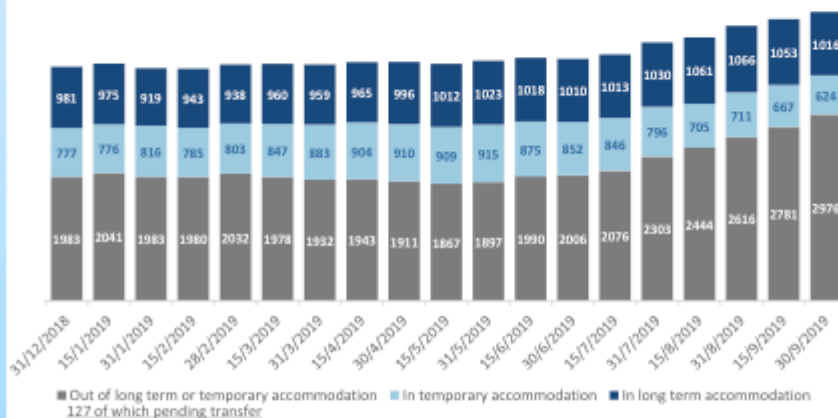
Figures dynamically change and may be adjusted based on verification by EKKA. All figures are based on referrals.

Situation Update: Unaccompanied Children (UAC) in Greece

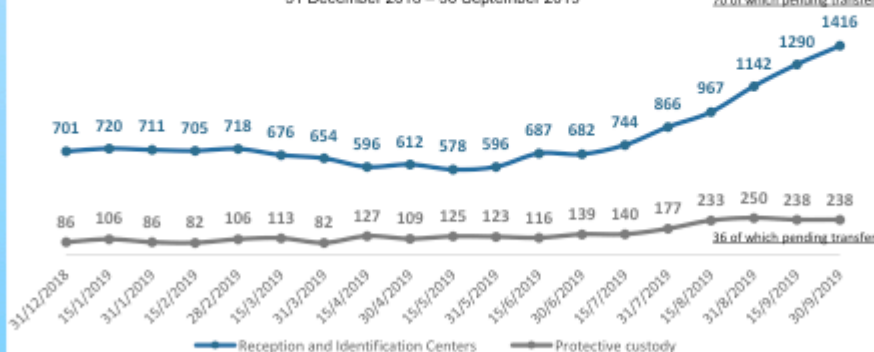
30 September 2019



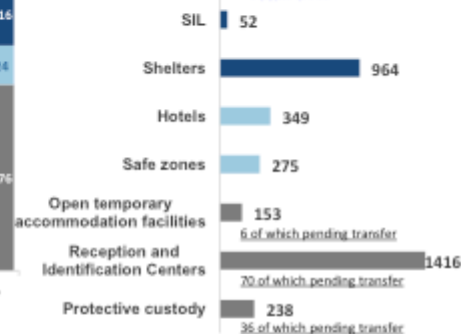
Number of UAC per accommodation type
31 December 2018 – 30 September 2019



Number of UAC in Reception and Identification Centers/Protective Custody
31 December 2018 – 30 September 2019



Reported place of stay of children in UAC accommodation facilities, open accommodation facilities, protective custody and RICs
Total: 3447



Additionally, **1169** UAC (15 of which pending transfer) have been reported as living in informal/insecure housing conditions such as living temporarily in apartments with others, living in squats, being homeless and moving frequently between different types of accommodation. The above number includes 91 UAC with no location reported by the referral agent. EKKA is in the process of updating this information.

With support from:



Situation Update: Unaccompanied Children (UAC) in Greece

Number and places of UAC shelters, safe zones and hotels, 30 September 2019



Key Facts

as of 30 September 2019

UAC shelters

- **Current:** 48 UAC shelters with total **1,136** places
- **Planned:** 4 UAC shelters with total **148** places

SIL (Supported Independent Living) apartments

- **Current:** 15 SIL apartments for UAC older than 16 years old with total **60** places
- **Planned:** 50 SIL apartments with total **200** places

Safe zones*

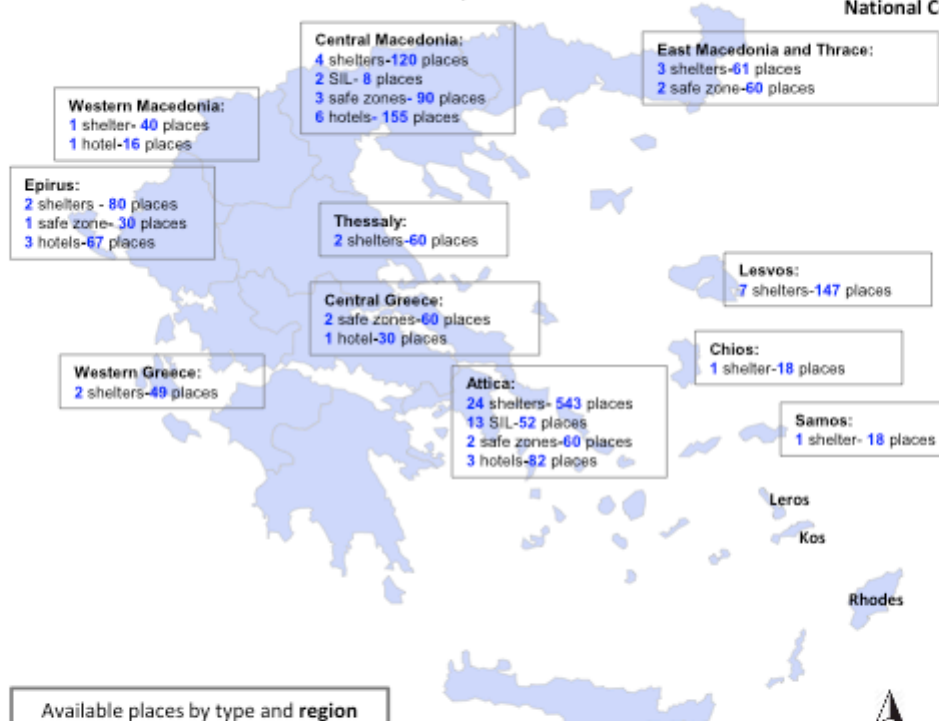
- **Current:** 10 Safe Zones for UAC with total **300** places

Hotels**

- **Current:** 14 Hotels for UAC with total **350** places

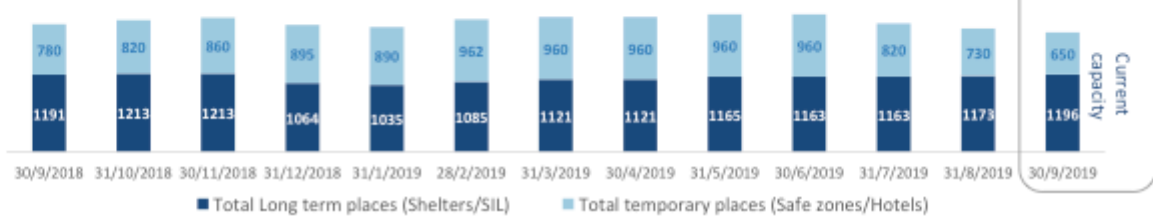
*Safe Zones are designated supervised spaces within accommodation sites which provide UAC with 24/7 emergency protection and care. They should be used as short term (maximum 3 months) measures to care for UAC in light of the insufficient number of available shelter places. Safe Zone priority is given to UAC in detention as well as other vulnerable children, in line with their best interests.

**Hotels are emergency accommodation spaces being used as a measure to care for UAC in light of the insufficient number of available shelter places. Priority is given to UAC in Reception and Identification Centers.



Available places by type and region

Current capacity compared to previous months



Below Numbers of UAMs At the Reception and Identification Centres on Greek islands on
8th of September 2019

Total	1,544	RICs	1,248	Out of RICs	188
Lesvos	908	Moria	767	Lesvos	141
Chios	86	Vial	70	Chios	16
Samos	260	Vathy	243	Samos	17
Kos	117	Pyli	112	Kos	5
Leros	58	Lepida	56	Leros	2
Rhodes	7	-	-	Rhodes	7
Evros	138		138		-

Legal Framework on unaccompanied children's rights

1) Convention on the Rights of the Child

The principle of non-discrimination
The best interests of the child principle
The child's right to life, survival and development
The child's right to express his/her views

2) Law No. 4554 of 18 July 2018 defines the regulatory framework for the guardianship of unaccompanied minors in Greece

3) Greek asylum and immigration policy Law 4375/2016

Entitlements by law

accommodation and basic needs
keeping siblings and families together
primary education
access to health care services
legal assistance
responsible adult /guardian

The Committee on the Rights of the Child has as ultimate objective **a durable solution that respects the child's best interest** and **family reunification is seen as a durable solution**

1. Main Challenges faced by YP and professionals providing support in arrival countries

First Reception and Identification
Guardianship
Access to accommodation
Access to Education

2. Impact they may have on YP and professionals in destination countries

Assessment and Identification
Accessing the right to family reunification and illegal journey
Risk of trafficking - Sleeping disorders - Stress and Anxiety
Lack of education and routine

3. A case study

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CFAB's Post-Placement Support Project

- The project works with families who have been reunited across international borders, mainly via the Dublin III Regulation
- This is mostly children and young people joining their adult family members in the UK (brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles or sometimes parents)
- Families will sometimes face challenges once they have been reunited. A big barrier for these families can be a lack of professional knowledge around entitlement to services, as well as discrimination towards this group made worse by the UK's Hostile Environment



Learning from a Case Study



Mohammed and Samir

Mohammed and Samir, aged 23 and 13 years old, are two cousins originally from Syria.

- When CFAB received a referral from a refugee charity, Samir was due to arrive to the UK from France to come and live with Mohammed.
- Samir left Syria with his sister and mother, but lost track of them during the journey.
- Mohammed was an unaccompanied asylum-seeking child himself when he first arrived in the UK several years before.
- Prior to their departure from Syria, Mohammed and Samir had witnessed Samir's father being shot outside their family home. Samir does not know where his mother is, and has lost contact with her.

Working with the family

Preparation

- Before Samir's arrival in the UK, the CFAB social worker met with Mohammed to prepare him on what it means to care for a young person and the role of a parent in the UK. Mohammed was not aware, for example, that school is compulsory for children in the UK under 16 years.
- It was also a chance to talk about the practical issues that could arise, such as housing, benefits, asylum and school applications.
- With support, Mohammed was able to explore his financial situation, and we found that he had some debts that would likely make it difficult for him to support his brother. We started work on benefit applications and referrals to debt advice agencies.

Working with the family

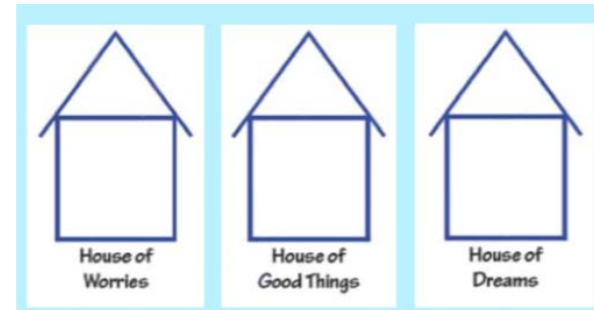
Arrival to the UK

- After Samir arrived, the CFAB social worker met with both Samir and Mohammed to understand Samir's wishes and feelings about being in the UK, any worries he had, and his hopes for the future

For this we used the **Three Houses tool**

Visual tools like these can be helpful when someone's first language is not English

(taken from the Signs of Safety approach,
created by Andrew Turnell & Steve Edwards)



- We also created a family support plan, working in partnership with a local refugee charity who knew Mohammed.

Working with interpreters

- If they are needed, service users should have access to interpreters, especially for important meetings. People have a right to know what information is being discussed about them and to be able to make their own informed decisions.
- Ensure you face and speak directly to the person, not the interpreter. Doing this can support the building of trust and rapport despite the language barrier, as you can communicate with your body language.
- Use registered interpreters who have an understanding of confidentiality, and ensure this is explained to the young person
- Use simple sentences to make it easier for the interpreter to translate accurately
- Ask the interpreter to translate what you are saying exactly. Be aware of when the interpreter may be adding their own information or advice.
- Some young people may be wary of interpreters. This can be because the young person is from a small community, or because there is a cultural dynamic which prevents them from being open and honest in front of a person of the same nationality or culture

Working with the family

Wellbeing

- Both cousins were experiencing sleep disturbances and nightmares. The eldest cousin has a diagnosis of PTSD.
- Amongst other things, these difficulties made it difficult for them to sleep together in the one room they had
- Whilst making an application to housing for a 2 bedroomed home, the social worker also worked directly with Samir and Mohammed to create a sleep routine to help with their immediate situation

Sleep

Many young people experience disordered sleep patterns as a result of their journey

“It’s safer to sleep in the day-light; risks of beatings or imprisonment if caught without papers, so travel at night; huddle in groups to sleep for warmth and safety; in the cover of darkness attempts made to board trucks; traffickers operate in the cover of darkness”

(UASC Health, Disordered Sleep Patterns)

Providing young people with a sleep pack on their arrival can support them to return to better sleeping patterns.

Sleep packs can have:

Sleep mask

Ear Plugs

Night light

Lavender bag



Reference UASC Health, Semi-starvation on the journey to the UK, & UASC Health, Disordered Sleep Patterns
<http://www.uaschealth.org/resources/mental-health/sleep-eat-hope/>

Mental health

Some young people or adults may come from a country where mental health concerns carry a particular stigma, or they are not used to speaking openly about difficulties. They may initially be unwilling to engage in support services of this kind, or may feel offended by the suggestion that they need mental health support.

Consider...

- Explaining trauma as it is processed by the brain & normalising their responses to their adverse experiences – they are not ‘mad’ but are responding to events that have happened
- Where appropriate, group work can be a good way to share experiences with peers e.g. a group session on sleep
- Not all refugees and asylum seekers have mental health problems, it sounds obvious but it can be easy to make assumptions

Building trust

Explaining the Social Work role

It is important to explain your role in simple terms. Many countries do not have social workers, and young people are not always aware of terms such as ‘trafficking’ or ‘forced labour’. Sometimes these terms are not easily translated and create confusion.

“Children may go missing because of uncertainty over their immigration status or due to feeling unsupported or being unsure or unaware of what it means to be “looked after” and that they need to communicate their whereabouts to carers”

People can often be distrustful of authorities if they have had bad experiences with them in the past. This might be the case if someone has experienced violence or torture at the hands of the state, for example.




Tip: Ensure that the person you are working with understands that you are not part of immigration enforcement. Your role is separate and you do not determine their asylum application.

Reference Department for Education (2017) Care of unaccompanied migrant children and child victims of modern slavery Statutory guidance for local authorities,

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/656429/UASC_Statutory_Guidance_2017.pdf

Building Trust Family Support Plans

Section 4: GOAL SETTING

DOMAIN	WHAT IS WORKING WELL? 	WHAT ARE THE WORRIES? 	WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN? 
HOME & FINANCES Independence skills, keeping things tidy, privacy and space Pocket money, benefits and work Young person's view Carer(s) view			

Family support plans are a tool for working with families to promote change in several key domains. They:

- Evidences the work that is being done with the family
- Set out actions and goals, specifying who is responsible for the action and when it will be done
- Create a transparent process so that the family know what has been discussed, what the worker will do and what they can do
- Give space for the families' views to be heard, recorded and responded to
- Fosters a collaborative approach to working

CFAB's support plan uses a framework taken from the *Signs of Safety* approach, created by Andrew Turnell & Steve Edwards

Further Resources

ISS practical guide: [Children on the Move: from protection to a quality sustainable solution](#)

Initiative for Child Rights in the Global Compacts

UASC Health - <https://www.uaschealth.org/> *This site contains key documents, templates, tools and clinical guidance used in Kent to support the health needs of our unaccompanied asylum-seeking children population*

London Safeguarding Trafficked Children Toolkit

https://dera.ioe.ac.uk/201/1/london_safeguarding_trafficked_children_toolkit_july_2009.pdf - In the appendix section you can find tools such as 'The assessment framework for trafficked children' and a risk matrix

Liberty – A guide to the Hostile Environment <https://www.libertyhumanrights.org.uk/policy/policy-reports-briefings/guide-hostile-environment-border-controls-dividing-our-communities-%E2%80%93>

Signs of Safety approach, created by Andrew Turnell & Steve Edwards

<https://www.signsofsafety.net/signs-of-safety/>

Coram Migrant Children's Project <https://www.coram.org.uk/how-we-do-it/upholding-childrens-rights/migrant-childrens-project> - Resources and information aimed at informing professionals on how to support children access their rights and services

Book: Social Work with Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants: Theory and Skills for Practice edited by Rachel Larkin, Lauren Wroe, Reima Ana Maglajlic - Each chapter speaks to a skill and knowledge area that is key to this work, bringing together myriad voices from across disciplines, interspersed with the vital perspectives of asylum seekers, refugees and migrants themselves.

If you have questions:

Please write your questions in the chat window

We will invite presenters to respond to your questions or comments

**Questions
and Answers**

Continue the conversation and support workforce strengthening efforts:

- This webinar is a part of Social Service Workforce Week. Share the daily blogs and resources <http://www.socialserviceworkforce.org/social-service-workforce-week>
- Join the Alliance to receive regular updates with notices of future webinars, ways to interact with global colleagues, resources and more www.socialserviceworkforce.org/membership
- A summary and recording of this webinar will be available soon and each of the past 31 webinars is available at www.socialserviceworkforce.org/webinars

