The Chairman of the SAR met with the newly appointed UNICEF representative for Bulgaria and reaffirmed the long-standing partnership between the State Agency for Refugees and UNICEF. Among the initiatives under this framework, a third safe zone for unaccompanied refugee children was created in ROC-Harmanli in 2024.

The two institutions made significant progress in developing a sustainable mechanism to support refugee children, for example by piloting the EU funded project to create alternative social services for unaccompanied refugee children, in partnership with IOM and four municipalities.

As a next step, SAR Chairman emphasised the need to work on social activities and Bulgarian language support for integration purposes, jointly with IOM.

Source(s)

- State Agency for Refugees at the Council of Ministers | Държавната агенция за бежанците при Министерския съвет (12 October, 2026), Димитър Иванов: Държавната агенция за бежанците ще продължи партньорството си с УНИЦЕФ в подкрепа на търсещите закрила у нас със силен фокус върху децата [Dimitar Ivanov: The State Agency for Refugees will continue its partnership with UNICEF in support of those seeking protection in our country with a strong focus on children], https://aref.government.bg/en/node/1370

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For more information, please contact: ias@euaa.europa.eu