Within the framework of the pilot project to create alternative social services for unaccompanied children, funded by the EU and implemented in partnership with the IOM and four municipalities, UNICEF and SAR launched a national communication campaign to promote family-based care as an alternative solution for unaccompanied children. The key message of the campaign is that every child, irrespective of their origins, has the right to be protected and cared for in a family environment.

In 2025, a total of 573 unaccompanied minors sought international protection in Bulgaria. The Agency for Social Assistance reported that the Child Protection Departments worked in 2025 on 174 cases of unaccompanied children for whom child protection measures were undertaken across the country. Support through residential care services, including family-type accommodation centres, crisis centres and transitional housing was provided to most of them, with a total of 155 children. In addition, 15 children were placed with relatives, while four children were placed with foster families.

SAR also announced this campaign on its website.

Source(s)

- United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (29 October, 2026), [UNICEF Bulgaria and partners launch a campaign to promote foster care for unaccompanied children], https://www.unicef.org/bulgaria/en/press-releases/right-care-knows-no-borders

Related development(s)
SAR and UNICEF prepare a national communication campaign on foster care for unaccompanied refugee minors
Date of development
29.10.2026
Country
Bulgaria
Thematic area(s)
Applicants with special needs, Unaccompanied minors
Development type
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