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# Akelius' digital language school enables flexible teaching

UNICEF Sverige

In a colorful container, in an old military facility on the outskirts of Sarajevo in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Merva, 7 years old, sits and solves tasks in English together with five other students.

The teaching is completely individualized because students of different ages, who speak different languages and with varying prior knowledge come together here.

Some of them have never been to school.

But with the help of a digital language school that the Akelius Foundation and UNICEF have developed together, the teachers are able to meet each child where he is.

The composition of the class changes from day to day, few stay longer than a couple of days.

Since 2018, over 140,000 refugees, migrants and asylum seekers have passed through Bosnia and Herzegovina, approximately 15 percent of whom have been children.

The reception center Usivak in Sarajevo is one of two centers in the country.

In addition to the informal school activities at the center, the children are shuttled to a preparatory class in a nearby school so that, if they stay for a long time in the country, they can take part in regular school education.

## **Mobile learning - for children on the run**

For the teachers from UNICEF's partner organization World Vision, Akelius' digital language school is a great help in teaching.

During the lesson, joint exercises, songs and games are interspersed with individual work on tablets. Each child logs into a personal account with a QR code and does the exercises at their own pace.

The exercises are designed to make learning fun with games, challenges, and rewards.

Those who travel further can download the language school's app on their mobile phone and continue learning, wherever they are.

In this way, the children gain both increased digital competence and the opportunity to stay in school while they are on the run.

### **The family split up – two of the children remain in Turkey**

Merva and her mother came to Bosnia two weeks ago.

The mother, who does not want to be named or photographed, left Afghanistan with her three children after she divorced the children's father.

For a few years they lived in Turkey, but when they were to move on, the family split up. Two of the siblings, 10 and 12 years old, were allowed to stay with an Afghan family they know in Turkey.

The plan for Merva and her mother is to get to Germany and then send for the two remaining children.

### **The dream of a life in Germany**

Merva has drawn a drawing that represents the family, with the mother and the three siblings, in front of a house with flowers and blue sky.

It is the house in Germany where they will live, says Merva.

Her mother adds that this is what she hopes for. In Germany, she wants to work and get a house for herself and her children, to give them a better future.

Merva stretches and smiles when asked what she wants to be when she grows up.

- I'm going to be a police officer. Because girls can actually become that too, she says.

Then she snaps her neck and jumps away to continue playing with her newfound friends.