

# FYR MACEDONIA

## INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL UPDATE

28 July – 4 August 2015

### KEY FIGURES

**17,950**

Food packages distributed

**949**

Medical interventions provided

**1,200**

People provided with legal counselling

**236**

Unaccompanied minors identified

**1,219**

NFI packages distributed

### PRIORITIES

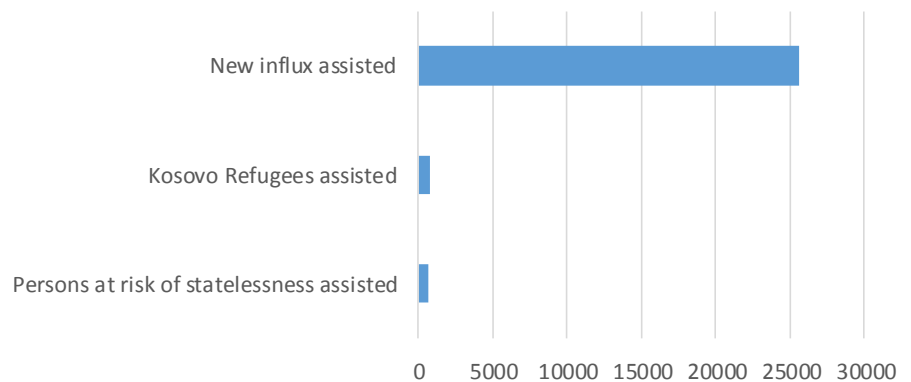
- Assist the Government and civil society in responding to the most urgent humanitarian and protection needs of the refugees
- Strengthen the asylum systems in the country in line with applicable international standards

### HIGHLIGHTS

- The installation for the WASH facilities at the day waiting area in Gevgelja are completed; the housing units (pre-fab containers) have arrived in the country and will be installed ASAP. The installation for the WASH facilities in Tabanovce are currently being finalized.
- The Gevgelja level coordination mechanism is taken place on a regular basis with the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy chairing and UNHCR co-chairing the meeting. A joint information campaign to prevent exploitation and abuse and community awareness raising campaigns to ensure peaceful co-existence between refugees and the local population are being finalized.

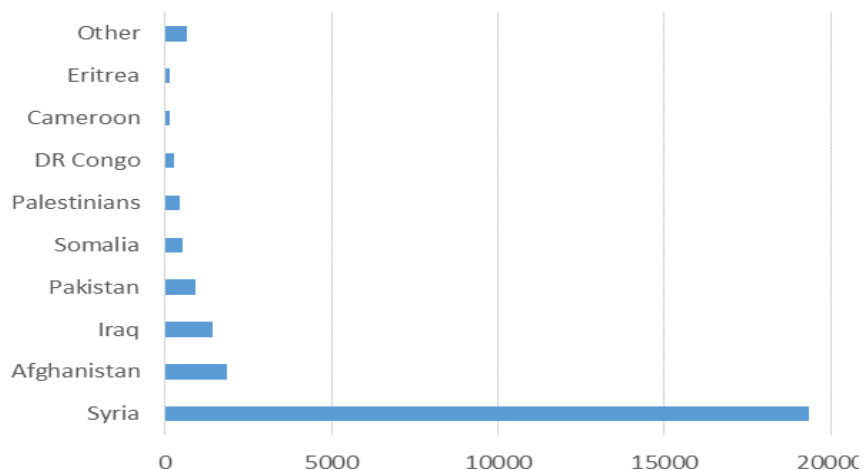
#### Population of concern (source: UNHCR)

A total of **27,216** people of concern



#### Intention to apply for asylum (source: Ministry of Interior)

A total of **25,672** applications have been filed from 19 June to 4 August 2015



## UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

### Operational Context

The current average arrival rate in Gevgelija is increasing with some 1,500 to 2,000 per day. The Ministry of Interior registered a total of 25,672 persons as of 4 August 2015. 75% of the arrivals are Syrians, 7% Afghans, 5% Iraqis, 3% Pakistanis and the remainder represent other nationalities such as Somalis, Palestinians, Congolese and Cameroonians. 41 applications for asylum were registered out of which 31 were submitted by Syrians.



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### Achievements



#### Protection

##### Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR is working closely with the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy and the Ministry of Interior to strengthen the overall management and registration procedures in Gevgelija. Standard Operating Procedures are currently being drafted to ensure that all partners involved in the response share a common understanding of assigned roles and responsibilities and overarching protection standards.
- The housing units (pre-fab containers) which will be installed as shelters in the train stations in Gevgelija and Tabanovce arrived in the country.
- The Macedonian Young Lawyers Association (MYLA) has two mobile teams at the train station in Gevgelija each day to assist with legal counselling and advice on the asylum procedure. This activity is funded by UNHCR.
- IOM has donated 6 computers and 6 printers to the Border Crossing Point in Gevgelija to facilitate the registration process.

##### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- UNHCR will conduct a survey using mobile data collection in particular in Gevgelija. The assessment will be available in four languages and aims at identifying most urgent assistance and service needs as identified by the refugees. Questions on complaints and feedback mechanisms are included to ensure that a system is set up which is tailored to the needs of the refugees.
- In close cooperation with the local authorities and partners, UNHCR will support community activities with the local population to ensure that possible tensions between the population in Gevgelija and the refugees are mitigated early on.



#### Health

##### Achievements and Impact

- Last week the Red Cross provided 949 medical interventions (out of which 719 were to children) at Gevgelija and Tabanovce. Four mobile teams of the Red Cross (two teams in each location) are working in two shifts to provide medical assistance and first aid. More severe cases are referred to the nearby hospital. This activity is funded by UNHCR.
- The Ministry of Health provides voluntary vaccination at Gevgelija train station throughout the day.
- HERA, funded by UNFPA, is providing mobile gynecology healthcare assistance in coordination with the Red Cross.

- WHO has provided technical guidance to Ministry of Health on: vaccination of refugees; implementation of measures for prevention of communicable diseases and the implementation of the International Health Regulation requirements
- 20.000 leaflets for prevention from heat – waves for the refugees and field staff was translated into Arabic and distributed by the Red Cross on behalf of the Ministry of Health and WHO.

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Two additional Red Cross mobile teams and an additional interpreter are required to cover the night shifts; UNHCR will provide the necessary funding for one additional team and the interpreters.
- The local hospital in Gevgelija to which the more severe cases are referred lacks insulin and their gynecological ultrasound machine is not working, both are urgent needs and negatively impact adequate assistance provision by the hospital.



## Food Security and Nutrition and Non-Food Items

#### Achievements and Impact

- The NGOs Nun and Legis with the support of individuals, are providing daily food packages to the refugees. During the reporting period 2,500 food packages per day have been distributed by volunteers working day and night shifts at Gevgelija and Tabanovce train stations. Other volunteers have also been providing fruit and water to the refugees.
- The Red Cross distributed 1,219 NFI packages for women, men and children, tailor made to the needs of each group (e.g. hygiene items, baby items and first aid packages).

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The local NGOs that are currently organizing regular food distribution face funding short falls which might lead to food distributions being decreased or stopped entirely. UNHCR has submitted a funding proposal to donors to assist the local NGOs in fund raising. The Ministry of Labor and Social Policy will follow up on how the Government may assist to cover existing gaps.



## Water and Sanitation

#### Achievements and Impact

- The installation of ten toilets and four showers are completed in Gevgelija and ten toilets are under construction in Tabanovce, funded by UNHCR.

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- With an average of 2,000 arrivals passing daily through the train stations in Gevgelija and Tabanovce, the existing facilities are still insufficient.
- Hygiene promotion activities and a health awareness campaign might become necessary as the rate of arrivals increase.



## Communication and Information

#### Achievements and Impact

- Partners involved in the response at Gevgelija train station currently finalize a joint information campaign in order to inform refugees about existing services and assistance and prevent exploitation and abuse. In addition, community awareness raising campaigns to ensure peaceful co-existence between refugees and the local population are under preparation.

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- UNHCR will carry out an evaluation of the response capacities of partners and possible gaps in the next days.

## Working in partnership

- The refugee response activities are headed by the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Transport and Communication. Partners working with the Ministries and municipalities to provide protection and assistance to refugees are: Help the Migrants in Macedonia, HERA, IOM, La Strada Open Gate, Legis, MYLA, Nun, Red Cross, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, and WHO.
- Coordination is assumed at the national level by the Inter-Ministerial Working Group headed by the Ministry of Interior and chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. UNHCR has regular meetings with the Ministry of Interior to ensure efficient coordination between Government and humanitarian action.



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