

KEY FIGURES

70,070

Medical interventions provided

8,100

Medical assistance to children

9,883

Unaccompanied minors registered

56,548

Food packages & sandwiches distributed

16,099

Blankets 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

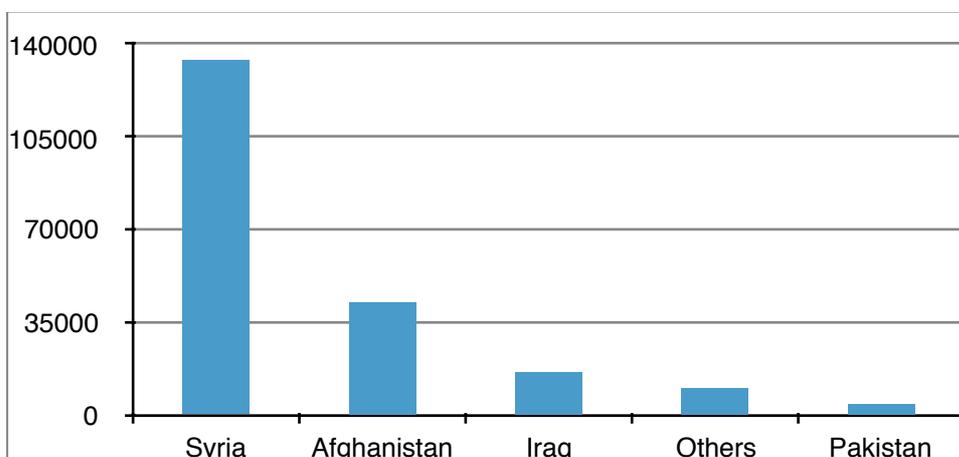
FYR MACEDONIA

INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL UPDATE

28 October - 03 November 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

- 51,055 refugees and migrants have crossed the border into fyR Macedonia during the reporting period 28 October - 03 November with a daily average of 7,294. Since UNHCR began monitoring the departures from Gevgelija on 1 July 2015 some **470,000** refugees and migrants have departed.



Intention to apply for asylum: **207,905** applications have been filed from 19 June to 03 November 2015 (source: Ministry of Interior).



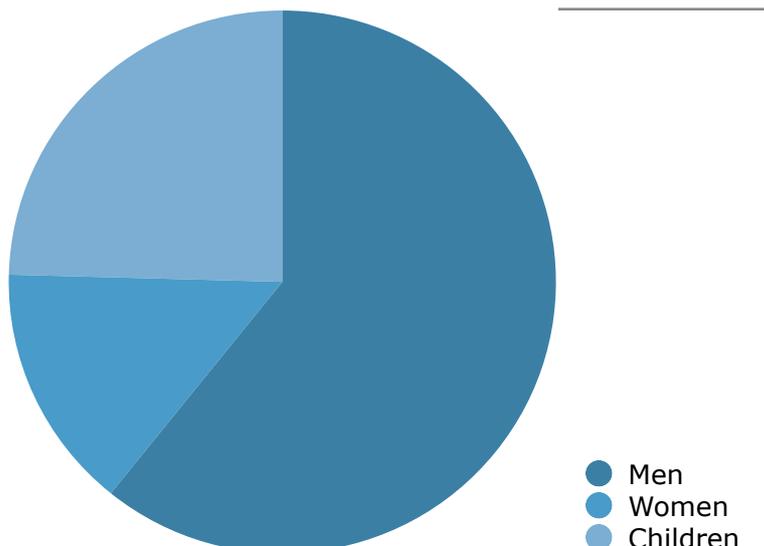
Inside the UNHCR rub hall at Vinojug site two men rest ahead of their onwards journey. Photo UNHCR/A.Moller

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

51,055 refugees and migrants have crossed the border into fyR Macedonia during the reporting period 28 October - 03 November with a daily average of 7,294. Since UNHCR began monitoring the departures from Gevgelija on 1 July 2015 some 470,000 refugees and migrants have departed.

The Ministry of Interior's statistics of refugees and migrants declaring their intention to apply for asylum reached 207,905 including 51,097 (25%) children, of whom 9,883 (5%) are unaccompanied since 19 June until 03 November 2015. Of these 134,363 (64%) of the arrivals are Syrians, 42,348 (20%) Afghans, 16,022 (8%) Iraqis, 4,390 (2%) Pakistanis and the remainder represent other nationalities such as Palestinians, Iranians, Somalis, Congolese and Bangladeshi. 70 applications for asylum were registered out of which 51 were submitted by Syrians in the same period while from January to end of October 1,739 asylum applications were submitted.



Achievements

Protection

Achievements and Impact

- The State Secretary of the MOI has been designated by the Prime Minister as the overall focal point for the implementation of the 17 point action plan with the EU which was endorsed at the Heads of state summit in Brussels on 25 October.
- The Macedonian customs have started using on an ad hoc basis mobile scanners to scan the luggage of refugees. This has caused a slow down of entry to Vinojug site when used.
- The ticket counter is operational, resulting in trains being less overcrowded. UNHCR advocates for the ticket booths to remain open 24h/7 and not only shortly before scheduled train departures.
- During the reporting period approximately 3,125 children and 1,144 women were provided with emotional and psychosocial assistance in the UNICEF Child Friendly Spaces operated by the NGO La Strada. La Strada identified and assisted 665 vulnerable individuals. The activities are funded by UNICEF, UNHCR, GIZ and People in Need.
- During the reporting period approximately 17,000 persons were offered free legal advice at the Vinojug station by MYLA, who also assisted 8 asylum seekers at the Vizbegovo Reception Center with their asylum procedure. MYLA also ensured prioritization for 207 vulnerable individuals for their registration. The MYLA activities are funded by UNHCR.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- With the cold nights refugees have lit fires outside and inside the site to keep warm. This has caused some fire hazard concerns. So far the fires have been kept away from other flammable material. When the electricity grid is upgraded by the national electricity company, heaters will be installed at

the site, in the meantime, heaters will be operated using generators.

- Registration remains a challenge with the standard operating procedures proposed by UNHCR still not being discussed by the Ministry of Interior; UNHCR will now organize a high level meeting to discuss on how to address identified challenges.
- Train wagons are too still too crowded and hygiene in the trains is a serious concern. UNHCR is exploring options of having staff present in the trains for monitoring purposes.



A bonfire keeps refugees warm at Vinojug. Photo UNHCR/A.Moller



Health

Achievements and Impact

- During the reporting period the Red Cross provided 70,070 medical interventions out of which 281 were pregnant women and 8,100 were children. They also distributed 974 first aid kits. Red Cross are working in shifts to provide medical assistance and first aid in Gevgelija and Tabanovce 24/7. This activity is funded by UNHCR and Red Cross.
- The mobile gynecological clinic managed by HERA provided services to 8 women. This activity is supported by UNFPA.
- People in Need have 10 waste collectors cleaning outside Vinojug site.
- The Ministry of Health in collaboration with public health institutions provide medical care of patients at Vinojug site in Gevgelija.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- WHO in collaboration with MoH will procure urgently needed medicine.



Food Security and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

- Legis, Nun, Kaliri, Agape, Dorcas, La Strada, Help the Refugee in Macedonia, UNHCR and Red Cross distributed 50,548 food packages and 6,000 sandwiches during the reporting period. Of other items that were distributed were 60 kg fruits and 672 packages of biscuits and 81 high energy biscuits, 410 baby parcels and 1,193 children's drinks. Most were distributed at Vinojug and some at Tabanovce.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The provision of hot meals has been put on hold by the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy until the new distribution area in the reception centre is established.



Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact

- Red Cross, Help the Refugees in Macedonia, La Strada and other NGOs distributed daily hygiene items to babies consisting of: baby wipes (300 packages), diapers (1,869), and to women; pads (200 pcs).

- The Red Cross distributed 799 hygiene parcels (for men, women and babies) and 79,928 bottles of water.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps



Communication and Information

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR has produced their first information film with messages from refugees to refugees. The film has been shared in social media used by refugees to inform them on what to expect in Macedonia. The film is available at UNHCR's [Facebook](#).
- Free wifi is now available both in Vinojug and Tabanovce.



Time for a shave at the shower and toilet block at Vinojug. Photo UNHCR/A.Moller

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The loud speaker system to convey information on accessible assistance in Vinojug site, to refugees and migrants in Arabic, Farsi, Pashto, French and English, is procured by UNHCR and will be installed within the next few days.

NFIs

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR, Red Cross, La Strada, Nun, Legis and Help the Refugees in Macedonia distributed 16,099 blankets, 685 raincoats, 136 sleeping bags, 400 pcs of baby and children's clothing, 360 pcs of women's clothing, 610 pcs of mens clothing, 140 pairs of shoes, and winter hats, scarves and gloves. Most NFIs were distributed at Vinojug and some at Tabanovce.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Eleven tons of second hand winter clothes are on its way from Germany and will be distributed to refugees. UNHCR assisted with the logistical and administrative procedures.

Working in partnership

Achievements and Impact

- The weekly coordination meeting in Gevgelija took place on Thursday 29 October. The coordination meeting in Tabanovce took place on Wednesday 28 October.
- From the Governments side, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy has taken over the coordination of reception conditions including humanitarian assistance. This includes site planning.
- Partners working with the Ministries and municipalities to provide protection and assistance to refugees are: Agape, ASB, Caritas, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Macedonia, Danish Caritas, Dorcas, Euro Human, GIZ, Grain of Goodness, Help the Refugees in Macedonia, HERA, Hilal, IOM, JRS, Kalliri, La Strada Open Gate, Legis, Merhamet, MYLA, Nun, Operation Mercy, People in need, Red Cross, Samaritan's Purse, SoS Children's Village, Terre des Hommes, Vlaznia Kumanovo, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF and WHO.