

KEY FIGURES

1 January 2015-14 January 2016

415,413

Registered intentions to apply for asylum

30%

of registered intentions were expressed by minors

1,983

Applications for asylum

86%

of asylum applications were from the 10 ten refugee-producing countries

2

Persons granted refugee status

8-14 January 2016

11,372

Registered intentions to seek asylum

74

Applications for asylum

11,687

Medical interventions provided

422

Medical assistance to children

28,174

Hot soups distributed

3,773

Winter jackets 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

8-14 January 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

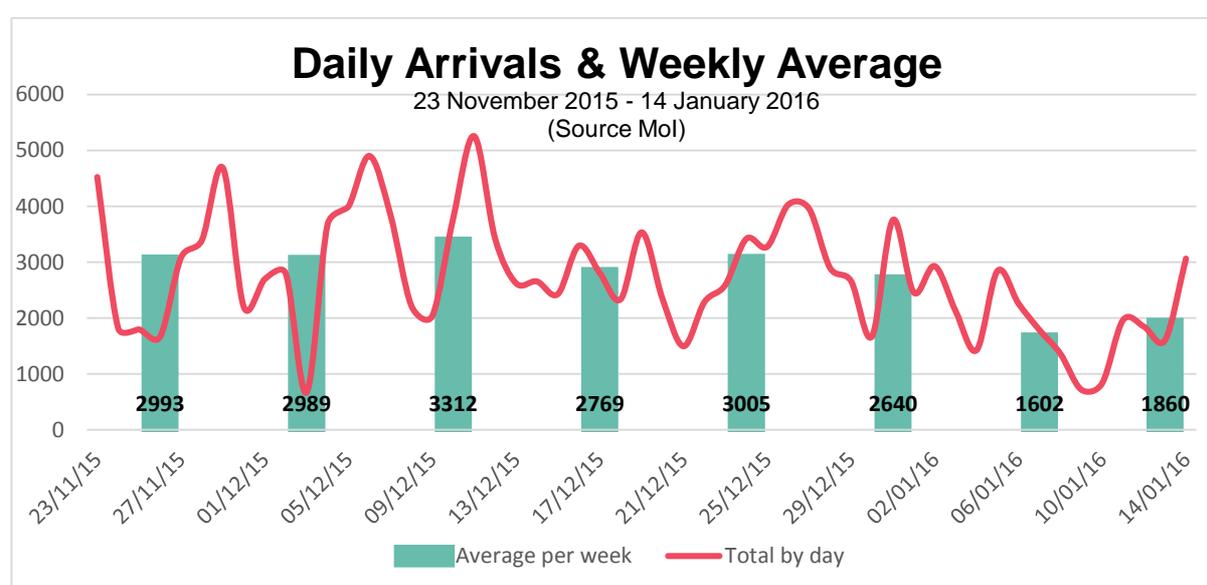
- 11,299 refugees and migrants crossed the border into FYR Macedonia during the reporting period 8-14 January 2016, with a daily average of 1614. Since UNHCR began monitoring departures from Gevgelija on 1 July 2015 some **714,180** refugees and migrants have departed.
- In the period from 8 -14 January 2016, out of the 11,372 intentions to seek asylum 74 applications for asylum were filed, while from 1 January 2015 to 14 January 2016, 1,983 asylum applications were submitted out of which 999 (50%) were submitted by Syrians, 378 (19%) by Afghans, and 172 (9%) by Iraqis. So far only two persons have been recognised as refugees in 2015-2016, both unaccompanied children, one from Iraq and one from Syria.
- For the period 1 – 14 January total of 87 applications, out of which 2 were submitted by Syrians, 20 by Afghans and none by Iraqis.
- During the reporting period, 172 people were returned from Vinojug transit centre, on the southern border of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the Greek border for possessing forged documents, no documents, or for being nationals of countries other than Afghanistan, Iraq, or Syria.
- Devnik news reported that Croatian and Serbian police officers are patrolling along the border with Greece, and that the Czech Republic is also expected to deploy officers at the beginning of February. Negotiations are also underway with other countries – Austria, Poland and Slovakia to potentially deploy more officers.

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

11,299 refugees and migrants crossed the border into FYR Macedonia during the reporting period 8-14 January 2016, with a daily average of 1614. Since UNHCR began monitoring the departures from Gevgelija on 1 July 2015 some 714,180 refugees and migrants have departed.

The Ministry of Interior's statistics of refugees and migrants declaring their intention to apply for asylum reached 415,413 including 123,347 (30%) children, of whom 18,210 (4% of children) were registered as unaccompanied since 19 June until 14 January 2016. Of these 228,932 (55%) of the arrivals are Syrians, 105,033 (25%) Afghans, 60,007 (15%) Iraqis, and the remaining (5%) represent other nationalities such as Iranians, Palestinians, Pakistanis, Somalis, Congolese and Bangladeshi.



Achievements



Protection

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR, together with UNICEF and the Red Cross, initiated discussions with the Government/Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, about improving the coordination of existing services for children and families in the transit centres for refugees, through the establishment of Children and Family Support Hubs (CFSH). The partners recognised the added value of the initiative and began streamlining the activities related to the child, gender, and family protection, to frame it within the CFSH set up.
- From 8-14 January approximately 1536 children and 1098 women were provided with support, including emotional and psychosocial assistance, in the UNICEF Child Friendly Space operated by the NGO La Strada in Vinojug. La Strada identified and assisted 102 vulnerable individuals. In Tabanovce La Strada assisted and supported approximately 489 children and 1356 women. The activities are funded by UNICEF, UNHCR, GIZ, People in Need, Save the Children and Terre des Hommes.

- During the reporting period 231 refugee group leaders, around 11,550 refugees were given information about their rights and obligations in Macedonia at the Vinojug site by MYLA, who also assisted 71 asylum seekers at the Vizbegovo Reception Center with their asylum procedure. MYLA also ensured prioritization in 56 cases, around 128 vulnerable individuals for their registration in Vinojug. MYLA's data entry clerks assisted the Border Police in issuing 11,342 intentions for asylum during the reporting period.
- Since January 2016, MYLA has been present in Tabanovce transit centre 24/7. During the day MYLA provides legal assistance to refugees, with a special focus on extremely vulnerable individuals. From the evening, and during the night, MYLA's emergency mobile teams made up of one lawyer, an interpreter, and a social worker from Open Gate-La Strada provide free legal assistance, psychosocial support, and referrals to other services available in the centre, as well as provide the refugees with information regarding their transit to Serbia and other information about the conditions and services available to them in Preshevo, Serbia. MYLA's activities in Tabanovce are funded by the Dutch Embassy in Belgrade, and Oxfam Italia (part of a DFID project).
- During the reporting period, in close coordination with UNHCR, the Red Cross, and La Strada staff in Tabanovce, 60 Extremely Vulnerable Individuals (EVI) and 228 members of their families/groups were transported by Mercy Corps from Tabanovce transit centre to border with Serbia, and referred to the MSF team to be picked up at the border and to the Mercy Corps team at Miratovac RAP. The Mercy Corps Tabanovce team has been supported by two volunteers of Operation Mercy, experienced in emergency work and work with EVIs.
- Equipment for handicapped individuals donated to Mercy Corps by UNHCR arrived and has been partially installed on site. Handicapped toilet equipment was widely used by EVIs throughout the week in the absence of an operational handicapped bathroom.
- In consultation with partners including government, national and international organisations and other UN agencies, on 13 January, UNICEF finalised and shared a concept note on an inter-agency Child Protection in Emergencies (CPiE) capacity building initiative, to address additional child protection training needs of frontline workers in contact with refugee children.
- The initial draft text for the Gender Based Violence (GBV) SOPs is under preparation, supported by a SURGE SGBV Regional Coordinator. In addition, the draft GBV vulnerability criteria and risk factors were developed and shared with partners.
- Visits to the sites: Reporters from Der Spiegel, a German news magazine, visited the Tabanovce site and interviewed the Crisis Management Centre representative. A representative from Mercy Corps USA also visited the site to follow-up on the transportation of EVIs and take photographs. The Program Officer covering Europe for the US Bureau on Population, Refugees and Migration accompanied by the Political Affairs Officer from the US embassy in Athens visited the Vinojug site. A Representative of the Red Cross along with a delegation from the International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent also went to the site, with a Red Cross program officer from Eidomeni who joined the delegation.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Deportations to Greece continued in the reporting period. In addition to the 172 people deported from the Vinojug reception centre to Greece, during regular border monitoring missions, UNHCR witnessed groups of people not being admitted directly at the borderline. Moreover, the police apprehended and rounded up a number of people, mostly from nationalities other than Syria, Afghanistan, and Iraq, in different areas of the country and subsequently sent them back to Greece.
- Movements of undocumented individuals in and out the Tabanovce transit centre continued. Groups of mostly young Moroccan males were frequently seen entering and exiting the site towards the border with Serbia. Some of them stayed in the transit centre for several days, and most cited Germany as their intended final destination.
- On 8 January, assistance for extremely vulnerable individuals was delayed due to coordination issues on the Serbian side of the border.
- The police were present at the entrance and exit of the Tabanovce site; nevertheless, unregulated vendors still operated.



Health

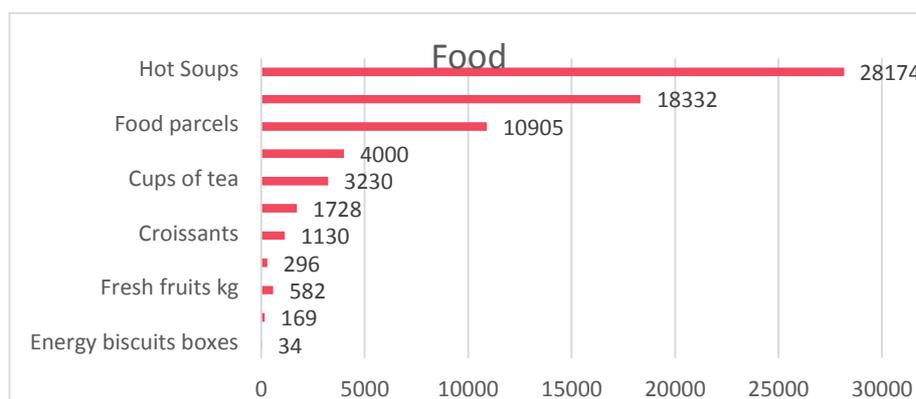
Achievements and Impact

- During the reporting period the Red Cross provided 11,687 medical interventions out of which 117 were pregnant women and 422 were children. The Red Cross is working in shifts to provide medical assistance and first aid in Gevgelija and Tabanovce 24/7. This activity is funded by UNHCR and the Red Cross.
- As a follow up to the recently procured Reproductive Health Kits for the hospitals and health units in Gevgelija and Kumanovo, UNFPA provided a one day on-the-job training to the medical staff in the city hospital in Gevgelija for proper use and implementation of the Kits. The training was provided by two gynecologists trained in MISIP (Minimum Initial Service Package) for reproductive health in crisis situations, from the University Clinic for Gynecology and Obstetrics. Additionally, UNFPA supported the development of a plan for utilisation, management and monitoring of the Kits.
- Further planning for the utilisation of the two UNFPA procured mobile gynecological clinics is under way by the Ministry of Health in collaboration with UNFPA.

The Food Security and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

- Legis, Nun, Kalliri, Agape, Dorcas, La Strada, Help the Refugee in Macedonia, Caritas, UNHCR and Red Cross distributed:



- The baby food that is distributed in the child-friendly spaces in Gevgelija and Tabanovce is funded by UNICEF.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

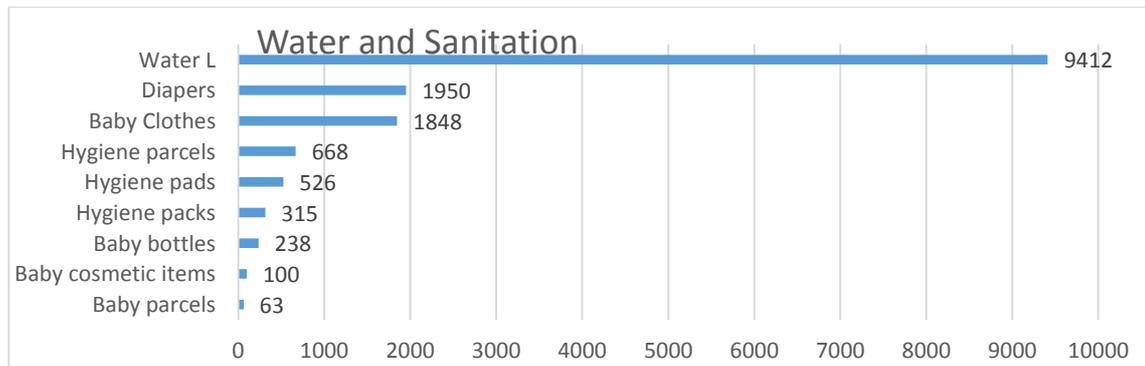
- In Tabanovce, the kitchen was not functional yet as it still lacked insulation and there were frequent power outages.



Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact

- Red Cross, Help the Refugees in Macedonia, La Strada and other NGOs distributed :



- The hygiene items that are distributed in the child-friendly space in Tabanovce are funded by UNICEF.
- On 11 January, UNICEF delivered a submersible pump and pressure vessel to Tabanovce to provide a back-up water supply to the transit centre. This equipment was handed over to the Crisis Management Centre, to be installed if the existing pump fails. The borehole and submersible pump is the only water supply to the centre.



Communication and Information

Achievements and Impact

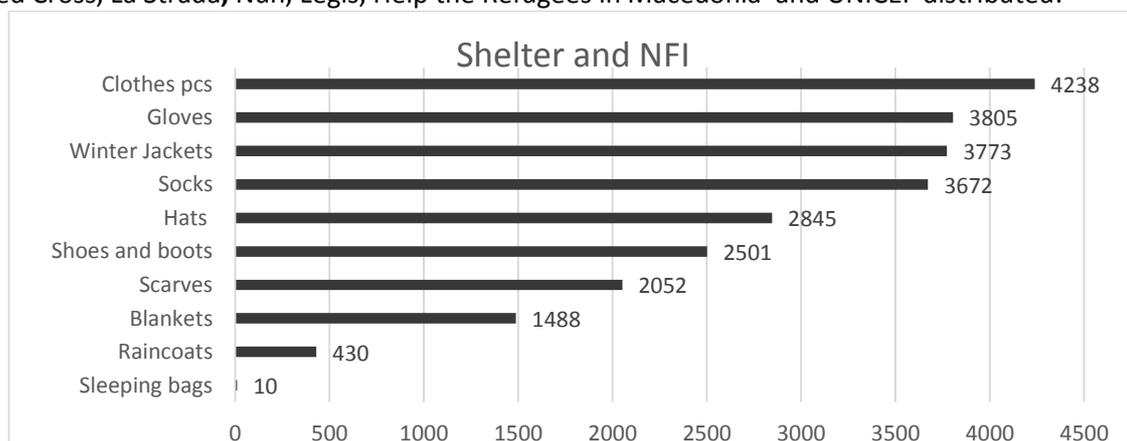
- The Mercy Corps Cross-Border Info Group's information about the current situation from Idomeni to Sid lead to close connection and coordination between Gevgelija-Tabanovce-Miratovac-Miratovac Bus Point-Presevo, resulting in a more optimised response by humanitarian workers at the points of concentration.



Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR, Red Cross, La Strada, Nun, Legis, Help the Refugees in Macedonia and UNICEF distributed:



- UNHCR met with the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy to discuss their plans to make adjustments to the site plan, mainly in terms of the NFI distribution point and usage of Refugee Housing Units (RHUs) that are currently being used by NGOs as storage facilities. MLSP would like to arrange a centralised storage area for NFIs. The DRC site planner gathered the ideas, and agreed to draw an updated site plan.
- In Tabanovce, heating was fully functional during the reporting period. The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy shared that all of the typhoon heaters were also functional and operational in Vinojug.

- In Tabanovce, the new toilet facilities that were built jointly by UNHCR, IOM, and DRC were opened for use. The keys for the toilet designated for disabled persons will be kept by the Red Cross and La Strada, who will give access to the right individuals as needed.
- Water was extended from the main supply to the Rubb hall that will be used as a kitchen in Vinojug.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

In Vinojug:

- One UNHCR Refugee Housing Unit (RHU) was installed at the border crossing, “stone 59”, in Gevgelija for the purpose of protecting refugees and border police at the entry point from the harsh weather conditions.
- EVN, the electrical company, worked on identifying the various electrical issues and is looking for a solution.
- The Rubb halls in the Vinojug reception centre were disinfected. A cover is being built between the two Rubb halls near the train platform.
- Plans are also being made to put up fences to manage the flow of refugees towards the train, and to create a corridor for the police and priority cases.
- The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy instructed NGOs that were using the RHUs as storage to release them immediately so that they could be used as potential accommodation for refugees.

Working in partnership

Achievements and Impact

The weekly coordination meeting took place in Gevgelija on 11 January 2016, while there was no meeting during the reporting period in Tabanovce.

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, DRC, Dorcas, Euro Human, GIZ, Grain of Goodness, Habitat for Humanity, Help the Refugees in Macedonia, HERA, IOM, JRS, Kalliri, La Strada Open Gate, Legis, MCMS (Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation), Mercy Corps, Merhamet, MYLA, Nun, Operation Mercy, People in need, Red Cross, Samaritan’s Purse, SOS Children’s Village, Télécoms Sans Frontières (TSF), Terre des hommes, Vlaznia Kumanovo, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF and WHO.

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