

KEY FIGURES

17,108

Medical interventions provided

4,311

Medical assistance to children

11,711

Unaccompanied minors registered

29,625

Food packages & sandwiches distributed

3,767

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

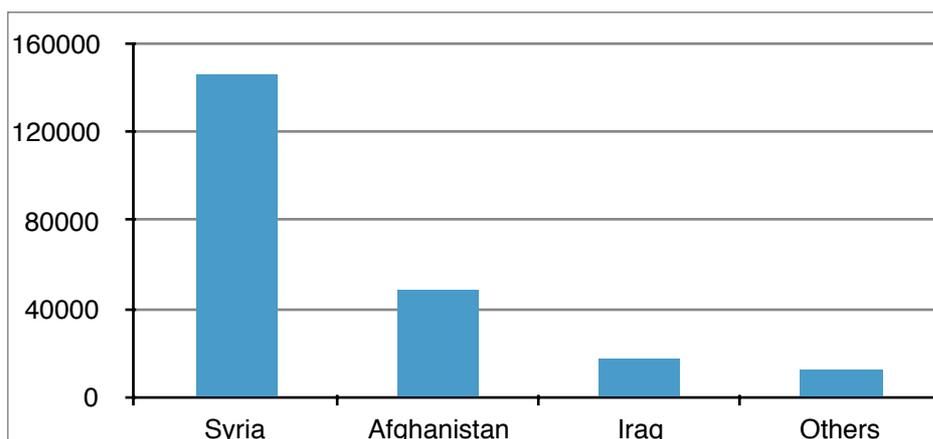
FYR MACEDONIA

INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL UPDATE

04 - 10 November 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

- 44,851 refugees and migrants have crossed the border into fyR Macedonia during the reporting period 04 - 10 November with a daily average of 6,407. Since UNHCR began monitoring the departures from Gevgelija on 1 July 2015 some **515,000** refugees and migrants have departed.
- Due to the Greek ferry strike the figures of refugees and migrants dropped to less than one thousand on 5 November. However, the figure picked up when the strike was called off and reached 11,072 on 9 November; a new high since UNHCR began monitoring the departures on 1. July.



- Intention to apply for asylum: **230,248** applications have been filed from 19 June to 10 November 2015 (source: Ministry of Interior).



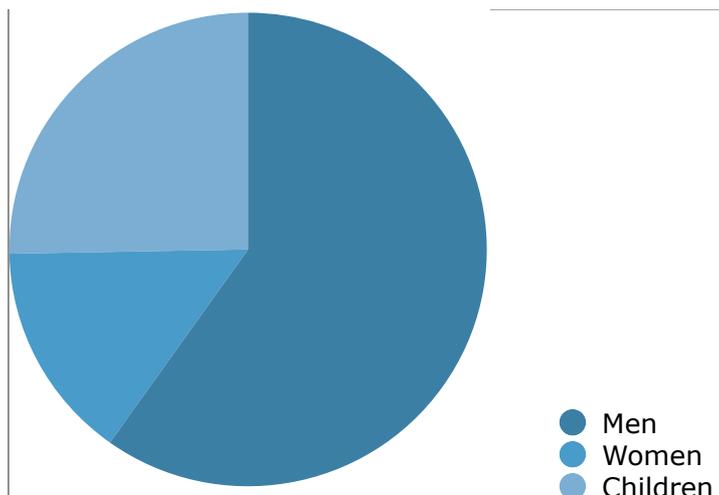
The last stretch in fyR Macedonia before refugees and migrants reach Serbia in their journey to reach a place they can call home. © UNHCR/A.Moller

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

44,851 refugees and migrants have crossed the border into fyR Macedonia during the reporting period 03 - 10 November with a daily average of 6,407. Since UNHCR began monitoring the departures from Gevgelija on 1 July 2015 some 515,000 refugees and migrants have departed.

The Ministry of Interior's statistics of refugees and migrants declaring their intention to apply for asylum reached 230,248 including 58,217 (25%) children, of whom 11,711 (6%) are unaccompanied since 19 June until 10 November 2015. Of these 146,121 (63%) of the arrivals are Syrians, 48,716 (21%) Afghans, 17,969 (8%) Iraqis, 4,822 (3%) Pakistani 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.



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Achievements

Protection

Achievements and Impact

- A joint mission of UNHCR/UNFPA/WRC/UN Women was in fyR Macedonia to assess the protection risks facing women and adolescent girls fleeing into Europe in order to provide information that will feed into and inform the protection responses of humanitarian agencies responding to the crises.
- Due to the Greek ferry strike the figures of refugees and migrants dropped to less than one thousand on 5 November. However, the figure picked up when the strike was called off and reached 11,072 on 9 November - a new record since UNHCR began monitoring the departures on 1. July.
- In Tabanovce, near the Serbian border, an agreement has been reached for a new site plan that will allow 200 persons to stay overnight and assist 1,000 persons in transit with seating and shelter.
- The installation of the lighting at Tabanovce resting area and path towards the border crossing with Serbia started, increasing security for refugees and migrants.
- UNHCR and the Academy for Judges and Prosecutors organized the 8th annual round table for Judges. The purpose of the meeting was to familiarise the judges processing asylum cases within the Administrative Courts with the specifics of the refugee crisis the country is currently facing.
- During the reporting period approximately 2,552 children and 1753 women were provided with emotional and psychosocial assistance in the UNICEF Child Friendly Spaces operated by the NGO La Strada in Gevgelija and the La Strada mobile teams in Tabanovce. La Strada identified and assisted 244 vulnerable individuals. The activities are funded by UNICEF, UNHCR, GIZ, People in Need and Terre des Hommes.
- During the reporting period approximately 472 refugee group leaders (approximately 50 persons in each group) were given information about their rights and obligations in Macedonia at the Vinojug

site by MYLA, who also assisted seven asylum seekers at the Vizbegovo Reception Center with their asylum procedure. MYLA also ensured prioritization for 134 vulnerable individuals for their registration. The MYLA activities are funded by UNHCR.

- UNHCR identified and assisted several unaccompanied minor who were interviewed and counselled on the possibilities of assistance. However, all children refused to stay and UNHCR ensured that UNHCR colleagues in Serbia were informed about the cases and received the children upon their arrival.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The upgrade of the electricity grid in Vinojug is still pending; but the national electricity company indicated that in 30 days the upgrade will be available.
- Despite improvements, trains remain overcrowded and hygiene standards are of concern. UNHCR is exploring options on how best to monitor the train journeys from Vinojug to Tabanovce (near the Serbian border).
- UNHCR observed that the number of refugees and migrants with no financial means to cover the travel costs has increased recently. However, some few cases managed to retrieve money from Western Union to allow for onwards travel.
- Two incidents of report of robberies and assaults affecting refugees and migrants along the way from the border towards the registration centre in Presovo in Serbia, are becoming a growing concern. The Ministry of Interior promised to ensure more presence on the 400 m dirt path before the Serbian border.



Health

Achievements and Impact

- During the reporting period the Red Cross provided 17,108 medical interventions out of which 171 were pregnant women and 4,311 were children. 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.



Food Security and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

- Legis, Nun, Kaliri, Agape, Dorcas, La Strada, Help the Refugee in Macedonia, UNHCR and Red Cross distributed 22,425 food packages and 7,200 sandwiches in Vinojug during the reporting period. Of other items that were distributed were 150 kg fruits and 42 high energy biscuits, 738 baby food, 1,147 children's drinks. Most were distributed at Vinojug and some at Tabanovce.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Hot meals will be provided by Red Cross and Caritas, some 1,500 portion of soup per day will be available.



Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact

- Red Cross, Help the Refugees in Macedonia, La Strada and other NGOs distributed daily hygiene items such as hygienic parcels (84), diapers (2,570), pads to women (1,660 pcs) as well as soap, wipes, towels and other hygienic items.
- The Red Cross distributed 84 hygiene parcels (for men, women and babies), 58 baby parcels and 9,384 liters of water.

- The toilet and shower facility for disabled is now functional as well as a baby change room. Both are funded by UNICEF.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The Ministry of Health released a report on the water quality in the tank at Vinojug site that stated that the water cannot be used safely.



Communication and Information

Achievements and Impact

- La Strada outreach teams have disseminated materials on prevention of children separation from families.



Powering electrical devices and an opportunity to go online to be in contact with family and friends. © 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

- Eleven tons of winter clothes arrived in a truck from Berlin, Germany. It is being distributed in Vinojug. UNHCR facilitated the transport and provides its storage space for the clothing.
- UNHCR, Red Cross, La Strada, Nun, Legis, Help the Refugees in Macedonia and UNICEF distributed 3,767 blankets, 38, torches, 60 baby slings, 1,550 pcs of baby and children's clothing, 2,600 pcs of women's clothing, 700 pcs of men's clothing, 640 pairs of shoes, 20 jackets, 120 winter hats, scarves and gloves. Most NFIs were distributed at Vinojug and some at Tabanovce.
- Dorcas, La Strada and Samaritans Purse distributed 950 backpacks.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The participants of the NFI/winterization meeting agreed to adjust the initial planning figures and the needs accordingly. Gaps remain in particular for winter clothing.

Working in partnership

Achievements and Impact

- The weekly coordination meeting in Gevgelija took place on Thursday 05 November.
- 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.