

# The Republic of North Macedonia

31 August 2019

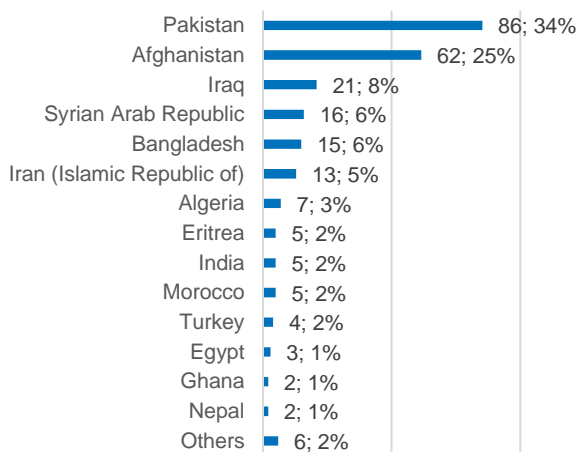
The total estimated number of irregular mixed migratory arrivals in the country up to the end of August 2019 is **25,794** arrivals or approximately **107** arrivals/day.  
Source: UNHCR and partners

The number of asylum claims submitted in 2019 is **252**. **No-one** has been granted international protection in the same period (January – August).  
Source: Mol

As of 31 August 2019, **569** identified persons remain at risk of **statelessness**, of whom **281** with undetermined nationality and **288** persons with unregulated citizenship. Source: MYLA

## COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN OF PERSONS HAVING APPLIED FOR ASYLUM IN THE COUNTRY IN 2019

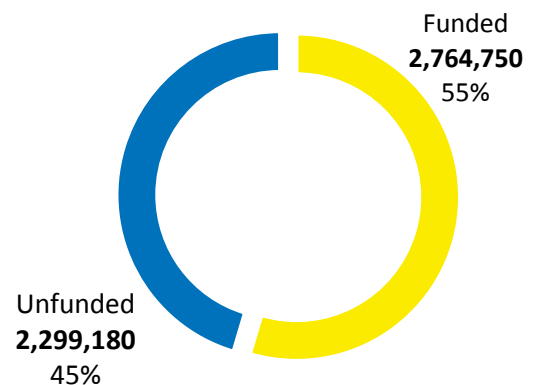
January - August 2019



## FUNDING (AS OF AUGUST 2019)

**USD 5,063,930**

requested for the North Macedonia situation



## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff:

**24 National Staff** (incl. 7 affiliated through UNOPS support)  
**2 International Staff**

### Offices:

**1 Representation Office** in Skopje, with daily field presence in Tabanovce, and **1 Field Unit** in Vinojug Reception and Transit Centres



World Refugee Day awareness raising – lighting of Kale Fortress in blue, 20 June 2019, Skopje © UNHCR/T.Georgiev

## Working with Partners

UNHCR Skopje collaborates with national institutions, NGOs, UN agencies, and other international partners working in the areas of international protection and eradication of statelessness. Key partnerships have been established and cultivated with: Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Crisis Management Center, Secretariat for European Affairs, and the Ombudsman. We also cooperate with NGOs, primarily with partners: City Red Cross, Macedonian Young Lawyers Association, La Strada Open Gate, Center for Human Rights and Conflict Resolution, Legis and GR Vaksince. In addition, since 2018, a new partnership has been developed with the Iustinianus Primus Law Faculty. In order to achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs) in line with the UN 2030 Agenda and to optimize resources, UNHCR also works closely together with the UN Resident Coordination Office and UN sister Agencies (particularly UNICEF, IOM, UNFPA). Our international partners include the EU Delegation and the relevant EU Agencies the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) and the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and the Council of Europe (CoE).

Our operation has been possible due to the generous support by the international community, most particularly by the United States of America which has made possible a major part of the activities undertaken by UNHCR North Macedonia in 2019.

## Strategic Priorities

To support the meeting of the 2019 strategic priorities below, UNHCR North Macedonia places strong focus on communication, advocacy, coordination and strategic partnerships.

- To **strengthen the asylum system** by working with the competent authorities on improving the legislation and implementation, in line with international standards for asylum.
- To **improve the prospects and conditions for integration** of asylum seekers and refugees in the country.
- To support the state authorities in finding **durable solutions** for the remaining **refugees from Kosovo**<sup>1</sup>, enabling these people to leave the refugee experience behind and live full lives.
- To maintain strong **protection monitoring** throughout the country, in line with UNHCR's mandate, in response to continuing mixed-movements of refugees and migrants. Our partners and UNHCR are particularly focused on **supporting implementation of the national SOPs** for dealing with unaccompanied/separated

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<sup>1</sup> UNSC/RES/1244 (1999)

children/foreigners, as well as for dealing with vulnerable foreigners, identification of persons in need of international and other protection, counselling and assistance.

- To assist the country in finding and implementing systemic **solutions for the eradication and prevention of statelessness** – primarily amending legislation to ensure universal birth and civil registration, and ratifying the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. To achieve this, UNHCR has enhanced partnership with the civil society organizations, UNICEF and OSCE, in support to the Government's efforts.
- To assist the country in **strengthening the preparedness** for any possible future refugee influxes.