

KEY FIGURES

21,767

Medical interventions provided

4902

Medical assistance to children

14,793

Unaccompanied minors registered

26,122

Food packages & sandwiches distributed

4079

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

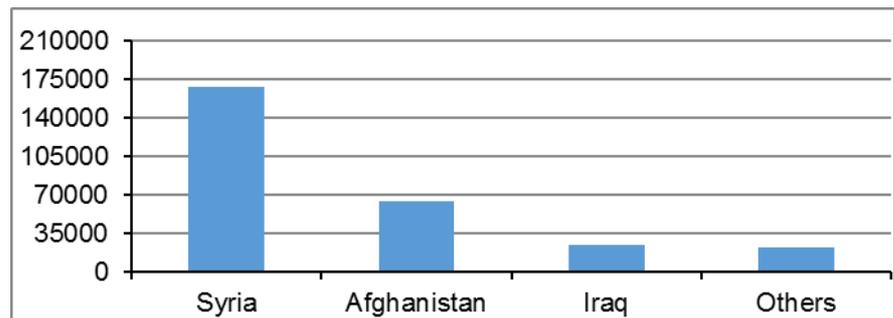
FYR MACEDONIA

INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL UPDATE

18 - 24 November 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

- 28,164 refugees and migrants have crossed the border into fyR Macedonia during the reporting period 18 - 24 November, with a daily average of 4023. Since UNHCR began monitoring the departures from Gevgelija on 1 July 2015 some **586,000** refugees and migrants have departed.

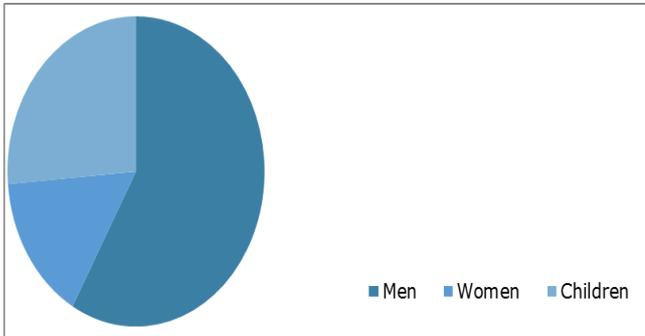


- While onward movement continued through fyR Macedonia during the reporting period, new border controls were introduced on 18 November in neighboring countries, which started screening out nationalities perceived as not being in need of international protection, namely non-Syrian, Afghani and Iraqi. This has caused a slight drop in arrivals and some concentration of refugees and migrants at the country's borders and transit centers.
- Intention to apply for asylum: **279,914** applications have been filed from 19 June to 24 November 2015 (source: Ministry of Interior).

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

28,164 refugees and migrants have crossed the border into fyR Macedonia during the reporting period 18-24 November with a daily average of 4023. Since UNHCR began monitoring the departures from Gevgelija on 1 July 2015 some 586,000 refugees and migrants have departed.



The Ministry of Interior's statistics of refugees and migrants declaring their intention to apply for asylum reached 278,120 including 73,123 (26%) children, of whom 14,889 (5%) are unaccompanied since 19 June until 24 November 2015. Of these 168,472 (61%) of the arrivals are Syrians, 63,848 (23%) Afghans, 24,367 (9%) Iraqis, 6231 (2%) Iranians and the remainder represent other nationalities such as Palestinians, Pakistanis, Somalis, Congolese and Bangladeshi. 80 applications for asylum were

registered out of which 53 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 Ministry of Health, supported by UNFPA, initiated the process of drafting of emergency specific SOPs on SGBV which would cover the services and activities related to the emergency, specifically for the transit centre in Vinojug, Gevgelija. The SOPs will lay out the role and provide basis for cooperation and coordination of activities of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, HERA, Red Cross and La Strada as well as the relevant UN agencies, in processing potential victims of GBV.
- Authorities in Vinojug are striving to register 100% of arrivals, thus IOM provided 12 new data entry clerks and UNHCR will complement with 10 additional staff in order to support the pace of registration. The government also contracted a US firm, which will assist with improving the overall registration procedure. The US Embassy, which is liaising between the government and the US firm, included UNHCR in order for all actors to be able to coordinate actions and resources.
- UNICEF and SOS Children's village opened a Child-Friendly Space in Tabanovce that is providing psycho-social support for migrant/refugee children and families. Trained social workers, psychologists, pedagogues and translators are working with children and families 24/7. The premises provide a heated space where families and vulnerable individuals can rest and/or spend the night. In addition to this, a mother-and-baby corner and an ICT corner for adolescents are also functioning and operational.
- Delegations from the UK, Swedish and Turkish Embassies, as well as and members of MSF visited Tabanovce during the reporting period.

- During the week there were many individuals who had Greek documents indicating they were Palestinians who were residing in Syria. Initially these individuals were not let into the Vinojug site; however, after intense advocacy from UNHCR those with Syrian documents and/or UNRWA registration certificates were granted access.
- During the reporting period approximately 2822 children and 2150 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 799 vulnerable individuals. The activities are funded by UNICEF, UNHCR, GIZ, People in Need and Terre des Hommes.
- During the reporting period 286 refugee group leaders, representing around 14,300 refugees, were given information about their rights and obligations in FYR Macedonia at the Vinojug site by MYLA. The organization also ensured prioritization of 78 vulnerable individuals with their registration in Vinojug. MYLA also assisted 29 asylum seekers with their asylum procedure at the Vizbegovo Reception Center, out of which 3 were UAMs. MYLA's data entry clerks assisted the Border Police in issuing 24,433 intentions for asylum during the reporting period.
- The EVN power company upgraded the electrical grid in Tabanovce in order to produce sufficient electricity to provide heat.
- Habitat for Humanity Macedonia installed an electrical network (cables underground and junction boxes), as well as delivered and connected a 160kW diesel power generator in Vinojug as agreed with MLSP at the winterization meeting. The Habitat Rubb Hall (at the entrance), UNHCR Rubb Hall (by the entrance), UNICEF smaller Rub Hall and administrative containers are now all connected to the network.
- Construction of two UNHCR funded rub halls in Tabanovce started and is expected to finish on 25 November. Also, the construction of three rub halls on the southern side of the Vinojug site was started and is expected to finish on 27 November.
- Heaters with protective cages are operational in one out of four tents now as the Government arranged for the necessary generator.
- UNICEF procured and distributed two diesel powered generators to support the winterization efforts in Tabanovce.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- New border controls were introduced on 18 November in neighboring countries and subsequently in FYR Macedonia, whereby nationalities perceived as not being in need of international protection, namely non-Syrian, Afghani and Iraqi, were being screened out and not given access to the territory. This has caused a slight drop in arrivals, and some concentration of refugees and migrants at the country's borders and in transit centers.
- The above-mentioned development has also caused some families to be separated in cases of couples of mixed marriages (different nationalities). UNHCR has advocated for individual cases with the authorities to maintain family unity
- MYLA has reported on seeing groups walking on the highway towards Skopje at night; hinting to the revival of the practice that took place before the amendment of the law that allowed one to declare the intention to apply for asylum. UNHCR will monitor closely these new developments.

- Some railway staff continue to try to charge for train tickets for children under 10 years. UNHCR sent a letter to the Office of the Minister of Transport to try to resolve this issue. UNHCR is still awaiting the response.
- Private citizens selling cigarettes, blankets and raincoats are still present in Tabanovce despite multiple attempts to block their access. UNHCR continues to raise the problem with the CMC and the police in Tabanovce.
- A number of refugees and migrants disputed the policy of prioritising Syrian, Afghani and Iraqi refugees over other nationalities via protests, some Iranians sewed their lips shut as an act of defiance.



Health

Achievements and Impact

- During the reporting period the Red Cross provided 21,767 medical interventions out of which 357 were pregnant women and 4902 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.
- WHO in collaboration with MoH to procure and provide medicine for the medical unit in Vinojug Gevgelija on regular basis through the Health Center Gevgelija. Other health centers and general hospitals continue to provide staff for the medical unit. Some medicines were also provided by Project Hope, who hired medical staff for three weeks (doctors and nurses).
- WHO proposed to hold coordination meetings of all organizations involved in medical care to be held at least twice a month. All actors agreed.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- UNHCR recommended systematic medical screening at the site entrance in Vinjoug, especially for more vulnerable groups such as children. UNHCR will follow-up with MoH and other partners.



Food Security and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

- Legis, Nun, Kalliri, Agape, Dorcas, La Strada, Help the Refugee in Macedonia, UNHCR and Red Cross distributed 19,122 food packages and 7000 sandwiches in Vinojug during the reporting period. Of other items that were distributed were 1000 kg fruits, 334 packages of biscuits and 2500 energy and cereal bars, and 500 packages of baby food and biscuits, as well as 250 bottles children' drinks, 623 chocolate milks and 300 juices. Most were distributed at Vinojug and some at Tabanovce.
- Legis distributed 5500 hot soups in Vinojug and Tabanovce.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Coordination of food delivery and distribution needs to be improved. With a slight decrease in arrivals, too much food was delivered to Tabanovce and Vinjoug sites during the day.



Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact

- Red Cross, Help the Refugees in Macedonia, Legis, La Strada and other NGOs distributed daily hygiene items such as baby wipes (100 packages), diapers (262), pads to women (100 pcs) as well as soap, wipes, towels and other hygienic items.
- The Red Cross distributed 236 hygiene parcels (for men, women and babies), 104 baby parcels and 7682 liters of water.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Insufficient availability of hygiene materials and equipment for cleaning in the sites; however, MSF offered to donate some materials to the Vinojug site.



Communication and Information

Achievements and Impact

- Télécoms Sans Frontières (TSF) put in place a satellite high-density Wi-Fi connection in the Vinojug site. The installation was carried out in cooperation with UNHCR. The connection is open to UN Agencies, NGOs, government bodies and the refugee and migrant population.
- The loudspeaker system is in place and is airing the pre-recorded messages explaining to refugees the type of assistance they can expect in the Vinojug RC; the registration process; and onward transportation arrangements. The messages are aired in English, French, Arabic, Farsi, and Urdu.
- SOS children's village placed four information boards in the site and towards the border indicating the path.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In Tabanovce, Wi-Fi coverage was weak.

NFIs

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR, Red Cross, La Strada, Nun, Legis, Help the Refugees in Macedonia and UNICEF distributed 4079 blankets, 540 sleeping bags, 200 pcs of baby clothing, 450 pcs of women's clothing, 170 pairs of socks and leggings, 300 pairs of shoes, 300 rain jackets, 560 winter hats, scarves and gloves. NFIs were distributed at Vinojug and Tabanovce.
- Samaritan's Purse distributed 1000 backpacks.

Working in partnership

Achievements and Impact

- The weekly coordination meeting in Gevgelija took place on 20 November as well as the Tabanovce meeting on 19 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, 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), 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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