

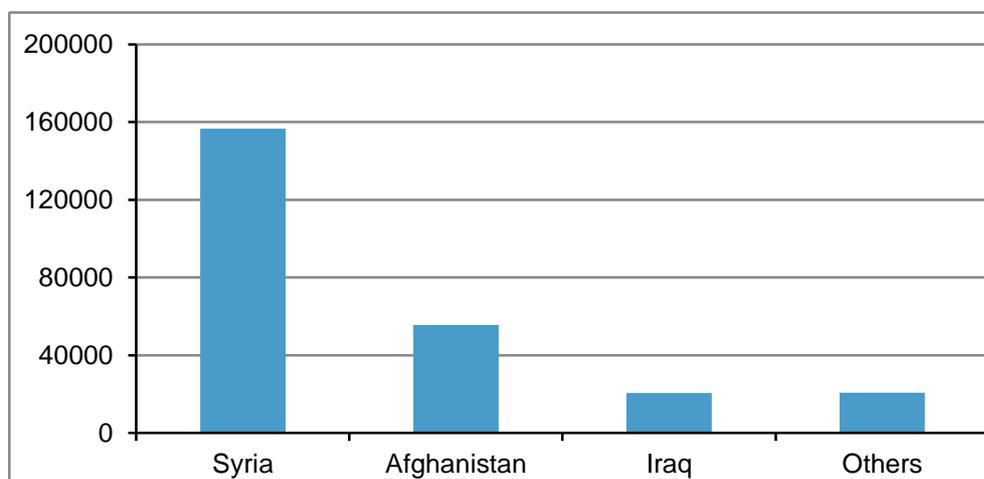
FYR MACEDONIA

INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL UPDATE

11 - 17 November 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

- 42,724 refugees and migrants crossed the border into fyR Macedonia during the reporting period 11 - 17 November with a daily average of 6,103. Since UNHCR began monitoring the departures from Gevgelija on 1 July 2015 some **558,000** refugees and migrants have departed.



- Intention to apply for asylum: **253,369** applications have been filed from 19 June to 17 November 2015 (source: Ministry of Interior).

KEY FIGURES

18,876

Medical interventions provided

4,435

Medical assistance to children

13,175

Unaccompanied minors registered

26028

Food packages & sandwiches distributed

904

Blankets distributed

PRIORITIES

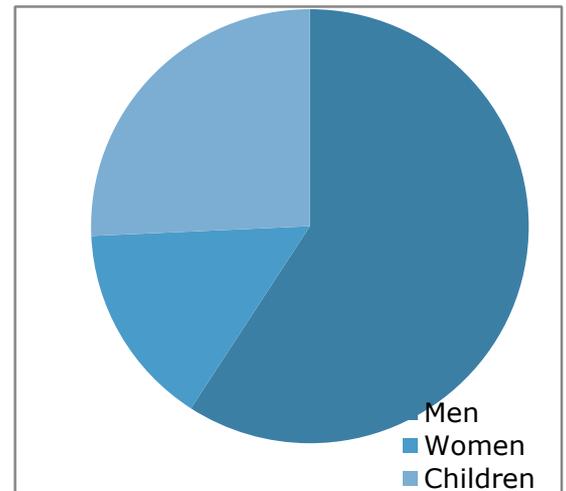
- Assist the Government and civil society in responding to the most urgent humanitarian and protection needs of the refugees
- Strengthen the asylum systems in the country in line with applicable

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

42,724 refugees and migrants crossed the border into fyR Macedonia during the reporting period 11 - 17 November with a daily average of 6,103. Since UNHCR began monitoring the departures from Gevgelija on 1 July 2015 some 558,000 refugees and migrants have departed.

The Ministry of Interior's statistics of refugees and migrants declaring their intention to apply for asylum reached 253,369 including 65,169 (26%) children, of whom 13,175 (5%) are unaccompanied since 19 June until 17 November 2015. Of these 156,530 (62%) of the arrivals are Syrians, 55,585 (22%) Afghans, 20,564 (8%) Iraqis, 5,303 (2%) Pakistanis and the remainder represent other nationalities such as Iraqis, Palestinians, Iranians, Somalis, Congolese, Bangladeshi and Moroccans. 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 levelling outside the fence in Vinojug is ongoing in preparation of the installation of three new rubhalls.
- In Vinojug, metal barriers were erected to improve crowd control of refugees and migrants when they board the train.
- Pre-recorded messages explaining the assistance refugees can expect in the Vinojug site; registration procedures; and onward transportation arrangements have been agreed upon by all partners involved. The messages will be transmitted over loudspeakers shortly.
- In Vinojug, messages in Farsi explaining the same thing as above have been produced on laminated sheets to be read by refugee group leaders in order to help translators share this information with a greater number of refugees.
- Reports of theft of refugees on the stretch of road between FYR Macedonia and Serbia is being investigated by the police. More refugees are staying overnight at the transit center.
- In Tabanovce, electricity and lighting was installed along the dirt road to Serbia, and the road was improved to facilitate the journey and enhance security for refugees and migrants.

- MLSP is procuring generators that will be delivered to Vinojug shortly to ensure that the heaters and other electronic devices can be fully operational at the reception centre. The upgrade of the electricity grid is expected to be ready next month.
- During the reporting period approximately 1665 children and 881 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 75 vulnerable individuals. The activities are funded by UNICEF, UNHCR, GIZ and People in Need.
- During the reporting period approximately 445 group leaders (representing around 22,250 persons) were offered free legal advice at the Vinojug station by MYLA, who also assisted 21 asylum seekers at the Vizbegovo Reception Center with their asylum procedure. MYLA also ensured prioritization for 126 vulnerable individuals for their registration. The MYLA activities are funded by UNHCR.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The ticket counter in Vinojug is not adequately staffed with only one person selling tickets and not operational at all times.
- Although it was officially communicated that all children below 10 years old can travel for free with the train, the railway staff still charge some children 25 euro for a ticket.
- Railway staff has grown increasingly reluctant to allow refugees without money to travel with the train resulting in refugees waiting for extended periods of time in the reception centre.



Health

Achievements and Impact

- During the reporting period the Red Cross provided 18,876 medical interventions out of which 144 were pregnant women and 4,435 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. 250 sets of supplements for pregnant women (Vitamin C, Folic Acid and Iron supplement) have been distributed via the Red Cross, funded by UNFPA.
- The health care services provided to the refugees/migrants at the public health facilities are free of charge.
- A mobile gynecological clinic supported by UNFPA managed by HERA NGO is present at the site every Wednesday, providing services to women and girls. On 11 November, 5 women (4 of them pregnant) used the services of the clinic.



Food Security and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

- Tea was provided to some 3,000 persons by Red Cross and Caritas. 1,500 portions of soup per day will be available as of 18 November.

- Legis, Nun, Kaliri, Agape, Dorcas, La Strada, Help the Refugee in FYR Macedonia, UNHCR and Red Cross distributed 19528 food packages and 6500 sandwiches in Vinojug during the reporting period. Other items that were distributed were 1600 kg fruits and 117 boxes of energy bars, 915 bottles of chocolate milk and 43 bottles of baby milk. Most were distributed at Vinojug and some at Tabanovce.



Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact

- Red Cross, Help the Refugees in FYR Macedonia, La Strada and other NGOs distributed daily hygiene items to babies consisting of: baby wipes (177 packages) and diapers (165).
- The Red Cross distributed 127 hygiene parcels (for men, women and babies), 97 baby parcels and 10354 bottles of water.



Communication and Information

Achievements and Impact

- The loud speaker system to convey information on accessible assistance in Vinojug site, to refugees and migrants in Arabic, Farsi, Pashto, French and English, has been procured by UNHCR and will be operational as of the third week of November.
- Information signboards concerning health access in Arabic and Farsi have been developed by UNFPA and UNHCR, and will be placed strategically around Vinojug site.

NFIs

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR, Red Cross, La Strada, Nun, Legis and Help the Refugees in FYR Macedonia distributed 904 blankets, 191 sleeping bags and over 800 pcs of baby clothing. Most NFIs were distributed at Vinojug and some at Tabanovce.
- Dorcas, La Strada and Samaritans Purse distributed 1210 backpacks.
- UNFPA provided 300 sets of dignity kits for women through NGO partners in the field. In addition, 200 pieces female underwear and 1,400 packs of sanitary pads were distributed.

Working in partnership

Achievements and Impact

- The weekly coordination meeting in Gevgelija took place on Thursday, 12 November as well as the Tabanovce meeting on Wednesday, 11 November.
- Partners working with the Ministries and municipalities to provide protection and assistance to refugees are: Agape, ASB, Caritas, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of FYR Macedonia, Danish Caritas, Danish Refugee Council, Dorcas, Euro Human, GIZ, Grain of Goodness, Habitat for Humanity, Help the Refugees in

FYR Macedonia, HERA, Hilal, IOM, JRS, Kalliri, La Strada Open Gate, Legis, Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation, 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.

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