

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

| Working environment |

• The context

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) has a complex and multi-layered political structure, reflecting ethnic and national divisions, which hamper resolving the displacement stemming from the conflict that ended 15 years ago. Durable solutions are still needed for more than 100,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs). However, the Revised Strategy for the Implementation of Annex VII of the Dayton Peace Agreement that was adopted by the Parliament in mid-2010 now offers a viable framework for finding these solutions.

Bosnia also currently hosts some 6,000 refugees from Croatia, for whom countries of the region have reconfirmed their willingness to consolidate durable solutions by the end of 2011. Closing the overall chapter of displacement in BiH is, indeed, critical for both domestic and regional stability, as well as for the country's European integration process.

Enhancing the implementation of the asylum system and strengthening international refugee protection are key UNHCR objectives in BiH. While the country's asylum legislation is generally in line with international and regional standards, numerous shortcomings remain in its implementation.

The exact number of stateless people in BiH is not known, but statelessness is prevalent among the Roma minority, who are often unable to enjoy effective citizenship, nor benefit from their rights and entitlements.



Planning figures for Bosnia and Herzegovina

TYPE OF POPULATION	ORIGIN	JAN 2011		DEC 2011	
		TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR
Refugees	Croatia	6,000	1,300	5,000	1,000
	Serbia (Kosovo)	120	120	50	50
	Various	20	20	20	20
Asylum-seekers	Serbia (Kosovo)	260	260	150	150
	Various	30	30	60	60
Returnees (refugees)	Bosnia and Herzegovina	500	50	500	50
IDPs	Bosnia and Herzegovina	103,600	31,100	92,400	30,000
Returnees (IDPs)	Bosnia and Herzegovina	1,000	1,000	1,200	1,200
Stateless	Stateless	9,400	2,000	8,500	2,000
Others of concern	Bosnia and Herzegovina	1,900	250	1,400	200
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	43,100	4,000	39,600	3,500
Total		165,930	40,130	148,880	38,230

• The needs

A large number of IDPs and returnees remain in precarious situations, lacking adequate living conditions and requiring continued support. Some 7,000 of them continue to live in collective centres, an option that was meant to be temporary. This population includes persons who are physically and mentally challenged, others with chronic illnesses, the elderly without income or family support, and some who cannot return to their places of origin due to serious protection concerns. UNHCR advocates for tailored interventions to meet the most pressing needs of these extremely vulnerable people, preserving as much as possible the social support networks that have developed among them over the years of displacement.

While UNHCR has worked to ensure that refugees have access to education, health care, employment and social welfare services under the same conditions as nationals, there is still a need to develop a systematic integration strategy for them. This would include permanent housing and other forms of support. The local integration of refugees is seriously hampered by legal restrictions on the issue of residence permits.

Few livelihood choices exist for stateless people. Many suffer the consequences of not having civil documents and not being registered, which restrict their access to health care, education, employment and other rights. This particularly affects the Roma, who face various forms of discrimination and are unable to obtain employment. Moreover, documentation gaps increase the risk of exposure to various abuses, including human trafficking.



Internally displaced persons remaining in collective centres include older people who are without an income or family support.

UNHCR / AZIZ

Main objectives and targets

Fair protection processes

- RSD procedures become fairer and more efficient.
- The provision of civil-status documentation is strengthened.
 - *Some 500 advocacy interventions help people of concern obtain civil-status documentation.*
- The level of individual documentation is increased.
 - *900 identification and travel documents are issued to stateless residents.*

Basic needs and services

- Shelter and infrastructure are improved.
 - *Some 710 people are provided with long-term shelter.*

Durable solutions

- The potential for voluntary return is realized.
 - *Some 1,100 refugees and IDPs are assisted in the return process through repatriation grants or transport support.*

Community participation and self-management

- Opportunities for people of concern to gain self-reliance and livelihoods are increased.
 - *Some 4,300 IDPs, returnees, stateless people and refugees benefit from activities to find them jobs.*

Security from violence and exploitation

- Access to legal remedies is improved.
 - *Some 300 people receive legal assistance and representation.*
 - *Approximately 5,000 people are provided with legal aid.*

UNHCR's presence in 2011

□ Number of offices	2
□ Total staff	44
International	5
National	27
JPOs	2
UNVs	5
Others	5

PARTNERS

Implementing partners

Government agencies:

Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees
Ministry of Security

NGOs:

Bosnia and Herzegovina Humanitarian Service
Bosnia and Herzegovina Women's Initiative
Catholic Relief Services
Hilfswerk Austria International
Foundation for Local Democracy
Vasa Prava BiH

Operational partners

Government agencies:

Federation Ministry of Displaced Persons and Refugees
Republika Srpska Ministry for Displaced Persons and Refugees

Others:

Council of Europe Development Bank
European Commission
IOM
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
UNDP
UNICEF
World Bank

Strategy and activities in 2011

To address protracted displacement, UNHCR will take a three-pronged approach comprising policy initiatives, protection monitoring coupled with confidence-building, and operational support.

UNHCR's interventions will be focused on:

- Continuing to encourage national authorities to end the protracted displacement of the remaining IDPs.
- Supporting displaced people in BiH by providing access to free legal aid, income-generation and livelihood projects, and housing assistance for the most needy among them, who are not in a position to return.
- Working closely with the BiH authorities to improve asylum procedures and their implementation. Refugees from Croatia will be supported in their search for durable solutions either through voluntary repatriation grants or local integration and free legal aid.
- Providing legal aid to the most vulnerable members of the Roma community to help them obtain civil-status documentation.

○ Constraints

The complex political and administrative structures in BiH obstruct efforts to advance human rights and protect refugees and asylum-seekers.

Needs greatly exceed the capacity of the social welfare system in BiH, which remains underfunded. Though the global economy is in the recovery phase, that of

BiH is still affected by the financial crisis. This will significantly impair the Government's ability to allocate funds to meet the needs of vulnerable refugees and IDPs in 2011. Unemployment will continue to be a chronic problem, particularly among displaced people, women, minorities and other vulnerable groups.

Organization and implementation

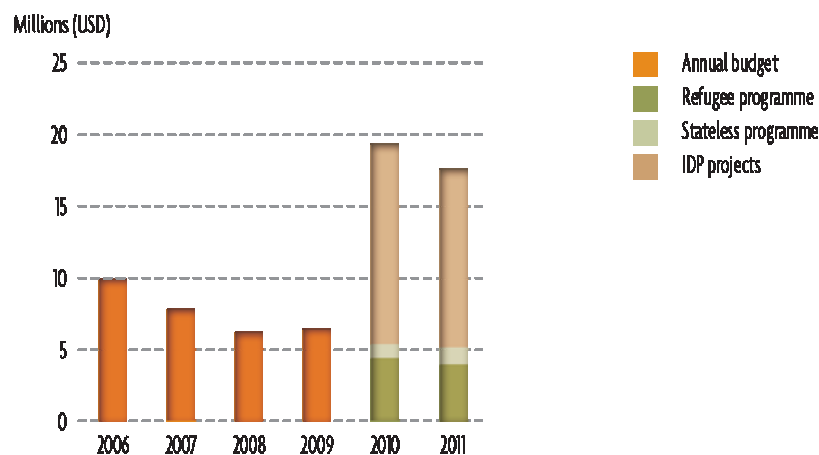
○ Coordination

UNHCR continues to work closely with the BiH authorities at all levels, in particular with the State Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees and the Ministry of Security. The Office is a member of the Board of Principals that brings together the key international organizations in the country. UNHCR is also an active member of the UN Country Team, and works closely with other international organizations, such as the Office of the High Representative, the EU, the Council of Europe and the OSCE, as well as with various international and national NGOs, donors and multilateral bodies.

Financial information

The budget for BiH is USD 175 million in 2011. Of this amount, 70 per cent is allocated for IDPs, 23 per cent for refugees and asylum-seekers and 7 per cent for stateless people. An important component of the budget relates to efforts to find durable solutions for vulnerable IDPs, and to support self-reliance and livelihood opportunities.

UNHCR's budget in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2006 – 2011



2011 UNHCR Budget for Bosnia and Herzegovina (USD)

RIGHTS GROUPS AND OBJECTIVES	REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1	STATELESS PROGRAMME PILLAR 2	IDP PROJECTS PILLAR 4	TOTAL
Favourable protection environment				
National legal framework	46,423	115,325	103,384	265,133
National administrative framework	21,575	0	37,303	58,878
Policies towards forced displacement	0	0	7,140	7,140
Prevention of displacement	0	0	70,554	70,554
Prevention of statelessness	0	21,310	0	21,310
Cooperation with partners	37,759	21,549	226,389	285,697
National development policies	22,238	0	7,038	29,275
Public attitudes towards persons of concern	0	27,970	5,907	33,877
Non-refoulement	20,858	0	0	20,858
Subtotal	148,853	186,154	457,715	792,722
Fair protection processes and documentation				
Reception conditions	154,781	0	0	154,781
Registration and profiling	11,748	0	69,289	81,036
Access to asylum procedures	112,610	0	0	112,610
Fair and efficient status determination	121,826	0	0	121,826
Family reunification	4,725	0	0	4,725
Individual documentation	50,072	279,940	0	330,013
Civil status documentation	7,173	67,147	0	74,320
Subtotal	462,935	347,087	69,289	879,311
Security from violence and exploitation				
Gender-based violence	80,591	20,837	56,992	158,419
Access to legal remedies	119,851	155,505	197,240	472,597
Subtotal	200,441	176,342	254,233	631,016
Basic needs and essential services				
Nutrition	184,526	0	0	184,526
Shelter and other infrastructure	1,087,136	0	5,627,936	6,715,072
Basic domestic and hygiene items	96,543	0	651,776	748,319
Primary health care	0	31,778	21,255	53,033
HIV and AIDS	4,276	0	0	4,276
Education	98,881	0	0	98,881
Services for groups with specific needs	146,433	0	153,286	299,719
Subtotal	1,617,796	31,778	6,454,253	8,103,826
Community participation and self-management				
Participatory assessment and community mobilisation	51,741	47,041	45,839	144,621
Community self-management and equal representation	6,199	0	0	6,199
Self-reliance and livelihoods	443,008	0	3,969,585	4,412,593
Subtotal	500,948	47,041	4,015,424	4,563,413
Durable solutions				
Voluntary return	369,635	0	170,903	540,538
Rehabilitation and reintegration support	49,975	0	49,387	99,362
Resettlement	78,481	0	0	78,481
Local integration support	178,615	176,975	71,222	426,811
Reduction of statelessness	0	33,365	0	33,365
Subtotal	676,706	210,339	291,512	1,178,557
External relations				
Donor relations	39,439	17,223	37,914	94,576
Resource mobilisation	39,731	22,747	47,304	109,782
Partnership	0	0	127,449	127,449
Public information	16,728	42,163	37,549	96,441
Subtotal	95,897	82,133	250,217	428,247
Logistics and operations support				
Supply chain and logistics	30,946	15,351	34,540	80,837
Programme management, coordination and support	249,841	137,662	467,991	855,493
Subtotal	280,787	153,013	502,531	936,330
Total	3,984,363	1,233,886	12,295,174	17,513,423
2010 Revised budget	4,360,822	988,789	13,934,133	19,283,744

Consequences of a 20-40 per cent funding shortfall

- Some 170 asylum-seekers will not receive legal assistance with regard to their refugee status determination procedures.
- About 200 interventions will not be made for civil-status documentation.
- Some 660 identification and travel documents will not be issued to stateless residents.
- Approximately 300 people will not receive permanent shelters.
- More than 3,000 people will not benefit from activities to find them jobs.
- Some 500 people will not be assisted in the return process through repatriation grants or transport.
- Some 1,300 people will not be provided with legal aid.