

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

| Working environment |

• The context

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a country characterised by ethno-national political divisions and a complex administrative system, impeding efforts to resolve outstanding displacement issues stemming from the Balkan conflicts that ended 16 years ago. As a result, there are still 113,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in need of a solution. Bosnia and Herzegovina is also host to some 6,800 refugees from Croatia.

Since 2010, countries in the region have demonstrated renewed interest in closing the displacement chapter, consolidating their efforts to find durable solutions for people of concern. In the case of Bosnia and Herzegovina, this will help to ensure stability both domestically and regionally, and assist in the country's efforts to join the European Union (EU). In addition, the June 2010 adoption of the Revised Strategy for the Implementation of Annex VII of the Dayton Peace Agreement provides a framework for resolving the outstanding displacement issues. UNHCR will continue to support its implementation through advocacy and direct assistance for the most vulnerable persons of concern.

UNHCR works closely with the authorities in order to strengthen the asylum system and bolster refugee protection. While legislation on asylum is generally in line with international and regional standards, implementation remains problematic.



Planning figures for Bosnia and Herzegovina

TYPE OF POPULATION	ORIGIN	JAN 2012		DEC 2012 - JAN 2013		DEC 2013	
		TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR
Refugees	Croatia	6,000	230	4,970	800	-	-
	Serbia (Kosovo SC Res. 1244)	140	140	140	140	130	130
	Various	30	30	30	30	30	30
Asylum-seekers	Serbia (Kosovo SC Res. 1244)	20	20	-	-	-	-
	Various	70	70	80	80	80	80
Returnees (refugees)	Bosnia and Herzegovina	500	50	450	50	400	30
IDPs	Bosnia and Herzegovina	95,000	30,000	90,000	20,000	60,000	10,000
Returnees (IDPs)	Bosnia and Herzegovina	450	450	320	320	200	200
Stateless	Stateless	4,900	1,000	3,900	900	3,000	1,000
Others of Concern	Bosnia and Herzegovina	43,650	3,170	40,980	2,970	27,650	2,040
Total		150,760	35,160	140,870	25,280	91,490	13,510

There are an estimated 5,000 people at risk of statelessness in Bosnia and Herzegovina, mainly Roma people, who often face serious obstacles to effective citizenship with full access to their rights and entitlements.

● *The needs*

Many of the IDPs and returnees whose situation remains fragile, require continued support to overcome difficulties in gaining access to their rights and finding employment.

Some 8,500 displaced persons continue to live in collective accommodation – a solution that was only meant to be temporary – and are among the most vulnerable of populations of concern in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Many are physically and mentally challenged, chronically ill, elderly, without income and/or cannot return to their places of origin due to serious protection concerns. UNHCR continues to advocate for tailored interventions to meet the most pressing needs of this extremely vulnerable population, and is working closely with the relevant authorities on solutions for them.

In theory, refugees have access to education, health care, employment and social welfare services under the same conditions as nationals, but in reality such access is limited. Refugees who wish to integrate locally find it extremely difficult to obtain residence permits.

People at risk of statelessness, mostly Roma people, struggle in nearly every area of life, owing to widespread discrimination, as well as the consequences of not having civil documents nor being registered which, in turn restricts their access to rights, such as health care, education and employment. Moreover, documentation gaps increase the risk of exposure to various abuses, including human trafficking.

| Strategy and activities |

UNHCR's approach in Bosnia and Herzegovina seeks to respond to both protection and assistance needs of large groups of IDPs and returnees, refugees and asylum-seekers, and a significant number of Roma at risk of statelessness. Key priorities for 2012 and 2013 are access to rights, free legal aid, income generation, and support for return and local integration.

In 2012 and 2013, UNHCR will:

- Advocate measures with the national authorities to bring to an end the protracted displacement chapter of the residual IDP population.
- Ensure access to free legal aid, income generation and livelihood projects for returnees and displaced people, in addition to supporting housing initiatives for displaced persons to facilitate their local integration.
- Build the capacities of social welfare centres so as to enable them to assist people of concern.
- Help the authorities to strengthen the asylum system and ensure refugees and asylum-seekers have access to their rights.
- Support refugees from Croatia with free legal aid and/or income-generating activities so that they can find durable solutions, either through voluntary repatriation or local integration.
- Help Roma at risk of statelessness to gain civil-status documentation.

Main objectives and targets for 2012

Fair protection processes and documentation

- Access to and quality of RSD procedures improved.
- Civil registration and civil status documentation strengthened.
 - *People of concern obtain civil status documentation through some 150 advocacy interventions.*
- More individuals receive documentation.
 - *Some 500 identification and travel documents are issued to stateless residents.*

Basic needs and essential services

- Sufficient supplies of basic and domestic items are made available.
 - *A total of some 730 refugees, IDPs and returnees are provided with household goods.*

Durable solutions

- The potential for voluntary return is realized.
 - *Some 660 refugees and IDPs are assisted to return through repatriation grants or transport support.*

Community empowerment and self-reliance

- Opportunities for people of concern to gain self-reliance and livelihoods are increased.
- A total of some 2,300 IDPs, returnees, stateless people and refugees benefit from activities to find them jobs.

Favourable protection environment

- Access to legal assistance and legal remedies is improved.
 - *A total of approximately 12,600 IDPs, returnees, stateless people, refugees and asylum-seekers are provided with legal aid.*

● *Constraints*

The fragmented nature of Bosnia and Herzegovina's Government structures and society hinders recovery and reconciliation efforts. Moreover, the decentralized and complex administrative structure creates confusion over responsibility for important State functions. Such conditions are not conducive to the development of clear and effective means for ensuring human rights and protecting refugees and asylum-seekers. Although asylum legislation is largely in line with international standards, concerns persist as to the manner in which the legislation is interpreted and implemented.

The social welfare system is grossly underfunded and the needs surpass its capacity. The economy has not yet recovered

UNHCR's presence in 2012

□ Number of offices	1
□ Total staff	39
International	5
National	24
JPOs	1
UNVs	5
Others	4



Internally displaced woman celebrates Easter at her apartment at the collective center in Rogatica.

UNHCR / AZIZ

from the global economic crisis and unemployment remains high, making it difficult to sustain livelihoods, particularly for people of concern to UNHCR.

Office of the High Representative, the EU, Council of Europe and OSCE, as well as various international and national NGOs, donors and multilateral bodies.

Organization and implementation

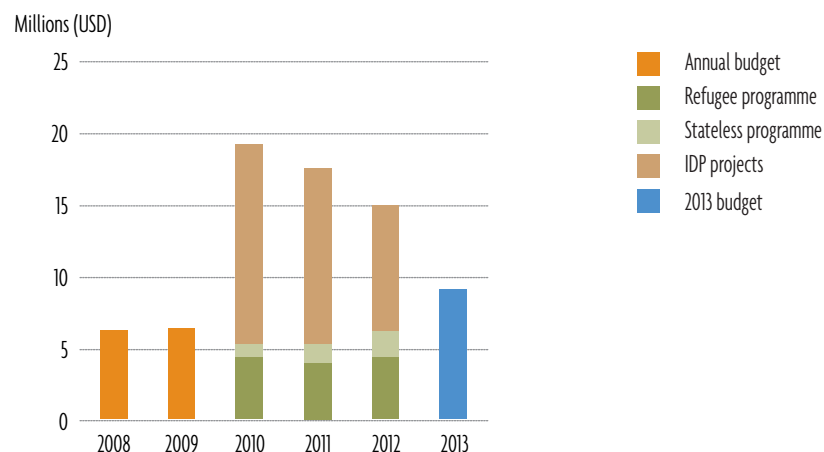
● Coordination

UNHCR continues to work alongside the authorities at all levels, in particular with the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees and the Ministry of Security. The Office is also on the Board of Principals, which is composed of members of the key international agencies in the country. It is an active member of the UN Country Team, and works closely with other international organizations, such as the

Financial information

The budget for Bosnia and Herzegovina calls for USD 15 million in 2012, and USD 9.1 million in 2013, the progressive reduction reflecting the phasing down of UNHCR's operational involvement in the country. Of the budgeted amount, 62 per cent is allocated for IDPs, 28 per cent for refugees and asylum-seekers and 10 per cent for stateless people. Important components of the budget concern durable solutions for vulnerable IDPs, support for self-reliance and the provision of livelihood opportunities.

UNHCR's budget in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2008 – 2013



2012 UNHCR Budget in Bosnia and Herzegovina (USD)

BUDGET BREAKDOWN	REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1	STATELESS PROGRAMME PILLAR 2	IDP PROJECTS PILLAR 4	TOTAL
Favourable protection environment				
Law and policy	44,528	212,522	420,798	677,848
National administrative framework	11,660	0	31,949	43,609
Access to legal assistance	229,079	153,380	275,755	658,214
Access to territory and <i>non-refoulement</i>	26,901	0	0	26,901
Public attitude towards people of concern	98,893	50,243	135,629	284,764
Subtotal	411,060	416,145	864,131	1,691,336
Fair protection processes and documentation				
Reception conditions	328,217	0	0	328,217
Identification of statelessness	0	29,603	0	29,603
Registration and profiling	83,531	0	31,949	115,480
Refugee status determination	199,085	0	0	199,085
Individual documentation	0	412,506	0	412,506
Civil status documentation	21,208	130,075	0	151,283
Subtotal	632,041	572,184	31,949	1,236,174
Security from violence and exploitation				
Prevention of and response to SGBV	25,497	0	26,674	52,170
Subtotal	25,497	0	26,674	52,170
Basic needs and essential services				
Health	100,283	21,035	27,761	149,080
Reproductive health and HIV services	11,660	0	0	11,660
Nutrition	32,727	0	0	32,727
Food security	53,092	0	0	53,092
Sanitation and hygiene	17,278	0	0	17,278
Shelter and infrastructure	1,336,417	0	3,581,981	4,918,399
Basic domestic and hygiene items	45,325	0	393,728	439,053
Services for people with specific needs	147,617	0	213,898	361,515
Education	26,831	0	0	26,831
Subtotal	1,771,231	21,035	4,217,369	6,009,635
Community empowerment and self-reliance				
Community mobilization	33,570	21,386	32,792	87,748
Self-reliance and livelihoods	785,930	344,167	2,582,751	3,712,848
Subtotal	819,500	365,553	2,615,542	3,800,596
Durable solutions				
Voluntary return	340,847	0	171,584	512,431
Reintegration	0	0	19,461	19,461
Integration	11,870	0	20,353	32,224
Resettlement	44,902	0	0	44,902
Greater reduction of statelessness	0	152,172	0	152,172
Subtotal	397,620	152,172	211,399	761,191
Leadership, coordination and partnerships				
Coordination and partnerships	23,320	66,903	454,520	544,742
Subtotal	23,320	66,903	454,520	544,742
Logistics and operations support				
Logistics and supply	131,470	84,141	127,796	343,407
Operations management, coordination and support	217,112	131,279	237,357	585,748
Subtotal	348,581	215,420	365,153	929,155
Total	4,428,850	1,809,413	8,786,737	15,025,000
2011 Revised budget	3,991,865	1,233,886	12,295,172	17,520,923

PARTNERS

Implementing partners

Government agencies

Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees
Ministry of Security

NGOs

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

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