

**CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
No. 01/2017**

Project title and Identification:	Project Location:
Support to Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Serbia	Serbia

Brief Background of the Project:

As of the end of September 2017, there are over 4,200 new refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants in Serbia who arrived in the context of the Europe refugee situation. Some 75% originate from refugee-producing countries (Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria), while 43% are adult men, 14% adult women, and 43% children. There are approximately 300 unaccompanied and separated children (UASCs), mostly Afghan boys of 15-17 years of age. Just over 3,800 POCs are housed in 18 governmental centres around the country. Around 100 people are estimated to stay in the centre of Belgrade, while some 150 people are reportedly accommodated in informal settlements near Šid, close to the Croatian border. Additionally, an estimated 70 people are reportedly scattered in various locations close to the border with Hungary. The situation of transit through Serbia has evolved, and due to limited legal ways to re-enter the EU and the closing of the western Balkan route in 2016, most have by now been staying in Serbia for 12 months or longer. Despite tightly-controlled borders, attempts to irregularly enter Hungary, Croatia or Romania continue; a small reverse flow to Greece has been also observed since Spring. It is estimated that some 3,300 of these refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants will be in need international protection by the end of 2017. Few express a genuine interest to seek asylum in Serbia, although many resort to temporary legalization of stay in Serbia via asylum procedures while making further arrangements for onward irregular movement.

Although their basic needs are being largely met, asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants in Serbia are faced with many challenges. Due the evolution of the situation from transit into one of prolonged stay, with persons not being able to move across the borders in the region, the nature of their needs and the risks they are facing have changed. SGBV detection and response mechanisms in particular required further support.

Among this group of people who arrived in the context of the Europe refugee emergency, UNHCR's persons of concern include:

- 1) Asylum-seekers and persons accorded international protection
- 2) Persons who are likely to be in need of international protection (originating from refugee producing countries who do not wish to seek asylum in Serbia)
- 3) Persons with specific needs, including unaccompanied and separated children, vulnerable women, etc.

Needs include access to education, adequate accommodation, improved guardianship and protection of UASC, access to health (including provision of psychosocial support - PSS), to documentation, registration, and legal status, profiling to identify specific needs and vulnerabilities, GBV identification, provision of information to refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants, including legal counselling and legal assistance. Additionally, there is a need for interpretation services and in-country transportation support. Ultimately, refugees and migrants are in need of solutions, including assisted voluntary return (AVR) for migrants, and local integration, resettlement, and family reunification for refugees. Finally, access to territory needs to be improved through enhanced protection-sensitive border cooperation, while access to asylum and asylum procedures as well as capacities need to be strengthened.

UNHCR is supporting the further development of the Serbian asylum system in close collaboration with the government. The adoptions of a New Asylum Law and law on Temporary Protection are expected by the end of 2017, and UNHCR will provide support in its implementation.

In line with the regional protection engagement strategy for South Eastern Europe (SEE), UNHCR will continue its two-pronged approach of supporting the Government in developing the asylum system in Serbia as well as in addressing immediate protection and humanitarian needs.

Goal/Objective, Expected Outcome and Main Activities:

UNHCR seeks partners who will provide response to the protection needs of the people temporary staying in Serbia on transit through the Western Balkans region, the vast majority of whom originate from refugee-producing countries:

1. *UNHCR and partners will continue their efforts to ensure access to territory and asylum procedures, strengthening the asylum system in line with international standards. This will include the following:*
 - Protection in the field and in centres through presence of UNHCR staff and partners;
 - Information gathering, exchange and capacity building through cross-border activities with neighbouring countries;
 - Border-monitoring, in support to the authorities, including in airport and detention facilities, to ensure access to territory;
 - Systematic reporting on protection incidents and push-backs (through partners and in cooperation with the office of the Ombudsperson, and the use of the border protection monitoring tool), and adequate intervention in cases of refoulement;
 - Promoting development of relevant national and international jurisprudence through judicial engagement and the identification of cases to be pursued in domestic courts and at the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR);
 - Collection of evidence for potential infringement procedures to address practices of neighbouring EU member states in contradiction to EU law.
2. *UNHCR and partners strive to ensure the quality of asylum procedures, including by the promotion of the rights of asylum-seekers and refugees with relevant the authorities and institutions, through:*
 - Advocacy for the development of a fair and efficient asylum system;
 - Advocacy for adoption and implementation of the new Law on Asylum and Temporary Protection in line with UNHCR and EU standards (preventing undue use of detention, etc.) including advocacy with parliamentarians and relevant officials;
 - Identification and protection of bona fide asylum-seekers through regular and comprehensive field presence;
 - Legislative support / commentary on primary and secondary legislation;
 - Provision of free legal aid in the asylum procedure;
 - Provision of interpretation for the asylum procedure;
 - Monitoring of the asylum procedures;
 - Judicial engagement at the national level and with the ECtHR;
 - Provision of free legal assistance in accessing rights for asylum seekers, as well as persons accorded international protection
3. *UNHCR through its field protection presence and partners will continue regular monitoring of reception conditions, advocating for improvements in line with international standards, including:*
 - Regular monitoring and support to reception facilities;
 - Advocacy with relevant actors for improvements of conditions;
 - Provision of medicines through local pharmacies for refugees/asylum seekers in asylum and reception centers and provision of medical services through local health center;

- Storage and secondary distribution of food and non-food items to refugees in at least 3 locations, including Presevo, Vojvodina, and Dimitrovgrad;
4. *Emphasis will be placed on the identification of persons with specific needs and ensuring an effective and timely response, through:*
 - Individual case management through the use of proGres v4 by UNHCR field staff and partners;
 - Identification of special needs through community-based protection presence and monitoring by UNHCR and partners, and their referral to services;
 - Provision of psychosocial support (PSS) to PoCs in need;
 - Identification, referral of cases for potential identification of durable solutions and facilitation in case of family reunification;
 - Advocacy for and support to effective data-sharing with and protection-sensitive case-management by authorities;
 - Provision of interpretation and transport to enhance access to services for vulnerable cases.
 5. *Through regular field UNHCR and partner presence, SGBV risks are reduced by:*
 - Close cooperation with the relevant state authorities, and as part of national coordinated plan, organizing and carrying out activities aimed at SGBV awareness raising and the development of preventive mechanisms established with population of concern;
 - Identification of SGBV survivors, referral and providing continuous support to the relevant state institutions with follow-up on individual cases (with all aspects of SGBV response to ensure physical protection, provide accommodation, legal assistance, psychosocial support and medical assistance), in line with national procedures, with the aim of providing lasting durable solutions;
 6. *Through regular field UNHCR and partner presence and intervention, the protection of children is improved through:*
 - Identification of UASC and other categories of children at risk , referral and provision of continuous support to the relevant state institutions with follow-up on individual cases in order to ensure protection in line with international standards;
 - Providing support to the relevant authorities in applying individualized approach to UASC and conducting best interest assessment for UASC in reception facilities ;
 - Strengthening national child protection system through advocating for improved guardianship for refugee and migrant UAMs, establishing and developing alternative care solutions for UASC;
 - Improving safety and ensuring adequate accommodation;
 - Access to education for all children (including through cultural mediators and pedagogical assistants).
 7. *Through regular field UNHCR and partner presence, CwC established and developed by:*
 - Through established community structures and information channels, providing information to PoCs on issues related to smuggling, trafficking, GBV and existing protection mechanisms;
 - Conducting participatory assessments and ensure systematic information-sharing with PoCs.
 - Sharing information on asylum procedures with PoCs;
 - Providing of cultural mediation in order to ensure communication between displaced and local communities, promoting peaceful coexistence.
 8. *UNHCR with partners to pursue the identification and provision of solutions through:*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Supporting the integration of persons granted international protection; o Monitoring and providing free legal assistance to ensure access to rights without discrimination, as well as advocacy for the adoption of the Law on Free Legal Aid; o Promoting legal pathways, including family reunification through identification and provision of information/support in accessing procedures at the individual level; 		
Intended Population of Concern:		
Asylum seekers and refugees of various origins in urban areas		
Project Period [estimated start and end dates of project]:		
1 January – 31 December 2018		
Submission Deadline:		Date Decision Results to be Communicated to Applicants:
13 October 2017		30 October 2017
Selection Criteria		
Choose relevant criteria	Criteria Description	Assigned Weighting (optional)
X	Sector expertise and experience: the required specific skills, sector specialists, knowledge and human resources.	
X	Project management: ability to deliver project objectives, accountability mechanisms and sound financial management, taking into account the audit results of the previous UNHCR-funded projects, past performance and the external audit of partners' financial statements, where applicable.	
X	Local experience and presence: ongoing programme in the area of operation; local knowledge; engaging refugees and other persons of concern; trust from local communities; local presence; partner policy on community relations; complaint mechanisms for persons of concern; self-organized groups of persons of concern; and other factors that would facilitate access to and better understanding of the persons of concern and that would reduce administrative difficulties.	
X	Contribution of resources: evidenced and documented contribution of resources to the Project in cash or in-kind (e.g. human resources, supplies and/or equipment) by the partner that are presently available (or potentially mobilized by the partner) in order to supplement UNHCR resources.	
X	Cost effectiveness: level of direct costs and administrative costs imposed on the Project in relation to project deliverables.	
X	Experience working with UNHCR: global and/or local partnerships including knowledge of UNHCR policies, practices and programmes, including an understanding of and ability to work within UNHCR's funding limitations and associated inherent risks. Partners that have three consecutive qualified audit opinions for UNHCR-funded projects may not be considered.	
Other information (optional)		

Issuing UNHCR Office
 Contact Address
 Signature, Head of Office
 Full name and title, Head of Office
 Name of UNHCR Office
 Date

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05/10/2017