



United Nations

Common Strategy for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Return, Stabilisation & Confidence Building September to December 2001

Introduction

After six months of escalating conflict, which resulted in the displacement of more than 140,000 people, the humanitarian situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (fYRoM) has now improved. Not only is the cease-fire generally holding, but the signing of the August 13th Peace Agreement and the deployment of NATO troops under Operation Essential Harvest, charged with the collection of voluntarily surrendered weapons by ethnic Albanian armed groups - the so called NLA - has accelerated return of displaced persons both back to fYRoM as well as into villages directly affected by the conflict. As a result of these positive developments, the UN Country Team (UNCT) in fYRoM have revised their common strategy, to support the implementation of Annex C of the Framework Agreement, which states that *"all parties will work to ensure the return of refugee and displaced person to their homes within the shortest possible timeframe . . ."*

The aim of this paper is to detail the focus of the UN common strategy in fYRoM through the end of 2001. The first section of the paper provides an overview of the current security, political and humanitarian context, on the basis of which the UN strategy is defined and with UNHCR taking the lead as stipulated in the Framework Agreement. The second section outlines sector plans based on key problems identified and the third section details planned activities of UN agencies active within fYRoM.

Overview

Between June and the end of September, over 52,500 refugees returned from Kosovo and southern Serbia. However as conditions in conflicted impacted areas remain volatile, thousands of these returnees are now internally displaced. Several factors including the ongoing presence of the NLA, random checkpoints and the threat of mine and unexploded ordinances (UXO) are limited freedom of movement and impeding safe return. Assistance to the returnee, displaced and conflict-affected populations is therefore, a primary humanitarian concern. With many returning to homes that have been damaged during the conflict or looted during prolonged absences, immediate shelter provision and materials for emergency housing repairs are urgently needed. Winter needs such as firewood and warm clothing have also been identified as priority assistance needs for returnees as well as for IDPs. Moreover, a thorough mine and UXO assessment and subsequent clearance operations are necessary to facilitate safe return throughout the conflict areas.

Within the political arena, despite encouraging progress, ongoing and often acrimonious parliamentary debates highlight the fragile state of the existing peace. Strong and unified support for the political process is therefore, extremely important in order to consolidate the positive developments that have occurred since the August 13th Peace Agreement.

Following improvements in the security situation since August, the UN Country Team (UNCT) has reoriented their common strategy to support **sustainable return, stabilisation and confidence-building**. Accordingly, the UN agencies have begun to implement programmes which support the return and stabilisation process in conflict affected communities, while at the same time ensure basic assistance to an estimated caseload of 41,000 IDPs who may not be able to return to their homes before spring 2002 as well as some 5,000 remaining refugees from the Kosovo crisis.

Given continued political instability and the fluidity of the situation in the field, the UNCT will also maintain contingency plans, which were established during the spring and summer of 2001 and are reviewed regularly, for a worst case scenario involving prolonged conflict, accompanied by large-scale population displacement. In this scenario, the UNCT would divert 'return and stabilisation' resources to ensure a rapid initial response, while additional resources are secured. Recognising the regional influences on stability within fYRoM, contingency planning will also take into consideration regional arrangements for response.

UN Country Team Objectives

UN Programmes in close cooperation with the government will cover a range of activities which work together to address urgent needs and promote confidence and stabilisation within the country with an additional aim of deterring a deterioration of the situation, which could result in a resumption of hostilities and/or additional displacement.

Objectives:

- Provide humanitarian assistance and protection to the residual refugee caseload and to conflict-affected groups, including internally displaced persons, host families, returnees and remainees. *Indicator: alleviation of suffering caused by conflict and consequent displacement as reflected in reduced beneficiary caseloads.*
- Facilitate the timely, safe and dignified return of refugees and displaced persons, as stipulated in **Annex C of the Framework Agreement** through emergency assistance to returnees, mine and UXO clearance, basic support for essential public services and rehabilitation of infrastructures and private dwellings in the affected areas. *Indicator: sustainable return to places of origin in the affected areas.*
- Undertake confidence-building and stabilisation activities, to promote inter-ethnic tolerance and the enactment of constitutional and other legislation, with corresponding enforcement mechanisms, to protect individual and minority rights. *Indicator: peaceful co-existence of multiethnic groups, respect for human rights.*
- Sustain the reintegration of the displaced populations in the affected areas through infrastructure rehabilitation, economic recovery, capacity building and empowerment of local government structures. *Indicator: improvement of community infrastructures and services; increased inter-ethnic participation in community level initiatives.*

Sector Plans

Under the supervision of the UN Humanitarian Co-ordinator a multi-level, multi-faceted coordination mechanism amongst the UN CT has been established at the sector and interagency level. The following section outlines key sectoral problems and UN activities that will work together to support the return, stabilisation and confidence building process over the remainder of 2001.

Protection / Human Rights / Rule of Law

The conflict has increased mistrust and polarisation between ethnic communities generating significant protection and human rights concerns, including equal access to basic services. In addition, the presence of armed rebels as well as military forces continue to represent an intimidating factor and to raise security concerns amongst civilians of all ethnic groups.

To promote community stabilisation and confidence, which will facilitate the return process, the UNCT will maintain a robust presence in return and conflict-affected areas and will also advocate for strengthening of existing human rights bodies, particularly municipal-level Ombudsman offices. To facilitate access to legal and protection services for IDPs, returnees and refugees, **UNHCR** will expand the existing legal network, particularly in affected areas and will organise information campaigns to provide essential information on home communities and the availability of humanitarian assistance to assist displaced persons make informed decisions regarding return. Complementary inputs will be provided through **UNDP's** local government reform project to support the decentralisation process and work to ensure equitable participation and

inclusion of all ethnic groups in order to promote the reintegration of refugees and IDPs into ethnic diverse communities.

The lack of legal documentation has hindered the return of a significant number of refugees and has highlighted the need to regulate citizenship and residency status of minorities within FYRoM. To address problems faced by refugees lacking legal documentation, who wish to re-enter the country, *UNHCR* will also continue to monitor the implementation of the Political, Legal and Administrative Framework that has been endorsed by the Government.

In co-operation with the National Child Rights Commission, relevant Ministries and the Ombudsperson for Children, *UNICEF* will expand its programme to promote respect for the rights of all children. The "Mayor's Alliance for Children" comprised of Mayors from different ethnic backgrounds who are committed to the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child will be an especially important initiative to support community confidence and stabilisation. Child rights monitoring will be further enhanced through training for professionals working with children and journalists. In addition, *WHO's* 'Peace Through Health' will use health initiatives as a neutral forum to promote reconciliation and confidence and re-integration of health professionals into the national health system.

Food

To assess the negative impact of the conflict on food security and livelihoods, especially in rural areas, and to plan for future food requirements after *WFP's* assistance ends in December 2001, a food needs assessment is being carried out by *WFP*. Based on the results of this assessment, it is expected that key partners will formulate and support an integrated range of activities relevant to the changing context of the crisis. This will allow future food donors the flexibility to shift planned and resourced assistance for IDP to support returnees and affected communities where needed.

With a view to maintaining the strong cohesiveness of the food aid coordination, *WFP* will continue to lead efforts to ensure a common approach to food baskets and beneficiary selection criteria. In addition, contingency stocks pre-positioned within the country in late 2001 will enable *WFP* to respond quickly in the event of future emergencies.

Agriculture and Livestock

Already suffering from the loss of traditional agricultural markets as a result of several factors such as the break-up of the former Yugoslavia and the EU ban on exports due to foot and mouth disease, the conflict has had a disastrous impact on the agricultural sector. In many of the conflict-affected areas, fields were not planted or harvested due to population displacement or insecurity created by the threat of mines. In addition, three years of drought have further impacted crop production as water reserves reached dangerously low levels during 2001. The *UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)* estimates that this year's yields of staple and fodder crops will be 50 to 70 percent lower than average.

Without targeted support the agricultural production deficit in drought and conflict-affected areas, will result in increased food insecurity, growing dependence on food aid and severe reductions in farming livelihoods. To mitigate the mid and longer term food aid dependency of IDPs, host families and other vulnerable population, *FAO* together with the Ministry of Agriculture and NGO partners, will provide a range of agricultural inputs including seeds and fertiliser, animal feed, equipment as well as technical expertise and logistic support.

Health

The crisis related reduction in state budget allocations away from social services has resulted in an estimated 25% reduction in health expenditure. In addition, damage to health facilities, electrical and water supplies coupled with displacement and travel restrictions on medical personnel has reduced health capacity, resulting in increased vulnerability of remainee and returnee populations in conflict areas. At the same time, the needs of high-risk groups such as IDPs and refugees have placed a significant strain on the already fragile health infrastructure. Drug availability has also been reduced and immunisation rates have dropped to as low as 20% in some of the conflict-affected areas. Communicable diseases, especially Tuberculosis also pose a risk

to those living in overcrowded conditions common in host families and collective centres. Moreover, ethnic tension has heightened concerns that not all population groups are afforded equal access to health services.

WHO leads emergency health co-ordination providing crucial links between the Ministry of Health and humanitarian health agencies and together with *UNICEF* will assist the national health services in coping with the additional needs of the conflict-affected population. At the same time, *WHO* will strengthen disease surveillance systems and outbreak control and *UNICEF* will continue to monitor immunisation compliance and provide support to the existing mother and child healthcare outreach networks such as the patronage nursing system. Finally, *WHO's* "Peace Through Health" initiative will serve as a neutral medium to facilitate reconciliation and confidence building through the re-integration of health professionals into the national health system.

Another profound consequence of the conflict has been the dramatic increase in stress related trauma amongst conflict affected populations, highlighted in the *UNICEF*-led vulnerability assessment. In order to restore the psychosocial well being of children and their families, *UNICEF* has established a Psychosocial Working Group. Through this group, urgent psychosocial response mechanisms including mobile outreach teams and a SOS telephone hotline are planned and will include multidisciplinary professionals trained by *WHO*. *IOM* will complement this support through the implementation of formal and informal activities and will facilitate access to the program for interested youth by providing transport services in rural areas.

Water and Sanitation

During the height of the crisis, water supply became a highly contentious issue as reservoirs were cut off and supply severely reduced in the Tetovo and Kumanovo areas. With the opening of some conflict affected areas, assessments, conducted jointly by the Government, UN and other International Agencies are highlighting chronic problems that have been exacerbated by the conflict. While government bodies have been coping with crisis related needs, a lack of funds will limit timely restoration of basic services in some conflict affected areas.

To support sustainable return, *UNICEF* plans to initiate essential water and sanitation repairs, primarily targeting schools and health facilities. In addition, *UNICEF* will maintain a water and sanitation rapid response capacity to ensure safe water supply and reduce the threat of communicable disease outbreaks through the provision of purification tablets and appropriate containers. Providing a crucial link from emergency to the longer-term development, *UNDP* will work with local governments to restore and strengthen capacity to manage water and sanitation infrastructure and *WHO* will continue with water and sanitation surveillance within its ongoing public health programme.

Shelter / Non-Food Items

The majority of IDPs have been accommodated with host families, who have extended overwhelming hospitality. However as return to homes has been delayed and host families themselves suffer from the negative impact of the conflict, a widespread 'host family fatigue' is contributing to heightening tensions and social unrest. In addition, an estimated 7,000 to 13,000 homes were damaged as a result of the conflict, impeding the rapid return of displaced persons.

UNHCR is coordinating emergency shelter activities in close collaboration with the EU, which will assume the lead in the reconstruction phase. Working closely with local and international NGO partners, activities in the shelter and host families sectors will aim to support host family structures through the provision of household and non-food items. At the same time, *UNHCR* will support the return of families to areas that are assessed as adequately safe by providing return kits to meet the initial and basic need of families returning to residences that have sustained damage or loss during the conflict, complemented by follow on housing repair inputs. *UNHCR* will also provide funding for Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) to assist affected communities with minor infrastructure repair to speed the process of recovery.

Education

The conflict has disrupted the education process in many areas as a result of damaged structures, insufficient school space in hosting communities and a lack of essential material and human resources. In addition, low

attendance rates and a threat of parallel systems are linked to ongoing ethnic tensions that are being exacerbated by restrictions on movement for teachers and students as well as harassment of students who form the minority within their schools.

To ensure access to a safe learning environment and a quality education for all children, especially those affected by the conflict, *UNICEF* will support the Ministry of Education in assessment, co-ordination, planning and response, including reforms to improve education quality and relevance within a multi-ethnic environment. *UNICEF* interventions will include the provision of temporary spaces (tents/containers), school supplies and furnishings, support for youth programmes, peace-building and human rights curricula and inclusive learning practices. Awareness raising materials on mines/UXOs clearance will also be included in school programming.

Urgent school rehabilitation/reconstruction needs are currently being assessed and as education is a primary concern for both communities, rapid rehabilitation or reconstruction of damaged/destroyed school facilities will be undertaken to ensure access to education and also to build confidence and promote community stabilisation - not merely for the children who attend these schools, but for their parents and communities as a whole.

Economic Recovery / Infrastructure

Equal access to employment and the enforcement of workers' rights are essential to the re-integration of the affected population. *UNDP* will assume a leading role to support post-conflict economic rehabilitation through employment, area-based development and private sector partnerships as well as through expansion of citizen access to and participation in local affairs, aimed at strengthening civil society. Drawing support from the broader *UNDP* mission, local capacity building including needs identification and management will be emphasised to facilitate sustainable social and economic development.

Mine/UXO Action

Although concentrated in specific areas, the problems of unexploded ordinances (UXOs) represent a significant threat in an estimated 30 conflict-affected villages and is hampering return of IDPs and refugees as well as the delivery of humanitarian assistance. While the presence of landmines appears to be less problematic, the potential threat is also hindering return, planting of crops and free movement.

Following a joint *UNICEF / UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS)* technical assessments of the presence of UXO and landmines, significant progress has been made in identifying and mapping high risk areas. *UNMAS* is working closely with relevant government bodies, providing technical support and critical links to key humanitarian and military to undertake clearance operations to facilitate safe return and contribute to the confidence building process. In addition, complimentary mine awareness activities currently underway in conflict affected areas through the ICRC will continue and be reinforced through *UNICEF* awareness raising activities.

Coordination and Support Services

Given the complexity of the emergency, strong coordination amongst and between the humanitarian community, EUMM, OSCE, governmental departments and ministries as well as the military is crucial in building a cohesive strategy and assistance programme. To facilitate this process, OCHA consolidated its presence during the second half of 2001 to support the Humanitarian Coordinator in maintaining and enhancing links both between UN agencies and with other governmental and non-governmental organisations. In addition to ongoing interagency forums, coordination and networking with key actors at the central level were also expanded to include joint technical assessments and clear UN leads in each of the major sectors, which enjoy wide participation of representatives from local and international NGOs as well as European institutions.

OCHA will continue to support the Humanitarian Coordinator in interagency planning and coordination. OCHA will also play an enhanced role in information exchange and will serve as a focal point for UN agency inputs.

Security

As mentioned in each of the sectors, security is a major concern and obstacle to promoting full return. NATO's Taskforce Fox follow on force will focus primarily on the protection of OCSE and EU monitoring missions to bridge the transition before a Government multi-ethnic security force can be established.

A UN Military Liaison Officer will support the Humanitarian Coordinator, providing strategic links between humanitarian and military actors to facilitate communication and lobby for appropriate security measures. To ensure safety of staff while contributing to an effective return response, it is also vital to maintain and upgrade security mechanisms. A review of current security levels and resource needs is underway. The UNCT will continue to monitor security issues through the well-established Security Management Team (SMT) with overall security coordination led by UNSECOORD in close consultation with the Designated Official. UNHCR, UNICEF and WHO Field Security Officers will provide complementary agency support.

UN Funding requirements by Agency by Sector September – December 2001

AGENCY	SECTOR								TOTAL (US\$)
	Food and Agriculture	Health Water and Sanitation	Shelter and Non - Food Items	Education	Protection, Human rights and Rule of Law	Economic recovery	Multi-sectoral Assistance and Coordination	Security / Mines	
UNHCR	0	350,000	4,171,000	0	183,300	0	1,982,700	0	6,687,000
OCHA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UNDP	0	0	0	0	0	1,100,000	0	0	1,100,000
UNICEF	0	900,000	0	2,000,000	500,000	0	680,000	0	4,080,000
WHO	0	600,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	600,000
WFP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FAO	1,300,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,300,000
UNMAS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	166,000	166,000
IOM	0	100,000	0	0	60,000	200,000	220,000	0	580,000
TOTAL	1,300,000	1,950,000	4,171,000	2,000,000	743,300	1,300,000	2,882,700	166,000	14,513,000

UN Agency Responses

The next section summarises the planned activities for each UN agency as part of an overall **UN stabilisation and return strategy**. The inputs have been planned with a view that if international efforts to stabilise the situation fail and the conflict in former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia resumes, resources available to the UN agencies for implementation of the return and stabilisation strategy will be quickly shifted to help cover the multi-faceted needs of the conflict-affected population.

UNHCR's Role in the Return and Confidence Building Process

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has assumed a lead role in the return, confidence building and stabilisation process as outlined in Annex C of the Framework Agreement. Priority activities during this crucial period of transition are focused on a significant field presence to assess the security, protection and humanitarian needs in villages where people have expressed a desire to return. In addition, UNHCR will provide support to repair collective centres where IDPs have found safe havens, undertake a winterisation programme to assist IDPs and returnees in coping with the often harsh winter months and provide quick access to funds to support infrastructure projects through QIPs.

UNHCR's Programme is Based on the Following Principles:

- Emphasis on Monitoring, Protection and Security for All Affected Communities
- A Comprehensive Response: Including identification of priority needs for return and quick impact projects (QIPs)
- Promotion of Dialogue Between Local Communities
- Continued Support and Advocacy to Citizenship and Documentation Issues

UNHCR Field Presence

Since the cessation of hostilities, UNHCR field presence has increased dramatically, with three field teams comprising six staff each, targeting the areas most affected by the conflict. Humanitarian organisations have identified approximately 100 villages which have been impacted either by destruction to homes or the inflow of internally displaced people. Many of the villages are partially empty due to fear of being caught in the middle of renewed conflict.

UNHCR Field Teams have visited nearly 80 villages in the Aracinovo/Kumanovo area, and the towns and villages north of Tetevo town. To collate information from these visits, UNHCR has developed a database, which includes profiles on each of the villages, as well as information on IDPs, returnees, security, damage to houses and basic needs. Additionally, shelter teams from various humanitarian organisations have traveled with UNHCR field teams and are completing housing damage assessments in Aracinovo, with repairs on 20 houses completed by UNHCR's implementing partner, the Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIC).

UNHCR field teams in close corporation with the Protection Unit also regularly monitors the three main border crossing points at Blace, Jazince and Tabanovci. In the first half of September returns peaked at more than 1500 people per day falling to a few hundred by the end of the month. While increased returns were prompted largely by the start of the school year, many refugees will remain in Kosovo until issues such as general amnesty, and the lack of legal documents including travel documents and birth certificates for new-borns are resolved.

Distribution of Relief Items

UNHCR Field Teams have identified vulnerable returnees in need of warm winter clothes, firewood to heat houses, tools to repair houses and mattresses and blankets to stay warm and dry.

The expanded family return kit is intended to meet the initial and basic needs of families on return to a residences, which have sustained damage or loss in the conflict. In addition to household goods (mattresses, blankets, water containers, kitchen sets and hygiene items), the expanded kit includes all-purpose plastic sheeting, small tools, and supplies to assist families in the clean-up and securing of their residences and properties. The expanded return kit is suited for mild weather and is intended to complement a detailed assessment of actual damage and required shelter repairs. The kit has been designed so that the content can be easily modified and/or the items can be distributed separately subject to the assessed needs of receiving communities.

Basic winter needs (winter clothing, underwear, and firewood) have been identified as a result of UNHCR visits to the IDP in host families and Collective Centres as well in the areas of return. As such, UNHCR plans to provide 2 cubic meters of firewood for an estimated 13,000 vulnerable families as well as winter clothes and undergarment for targeted vulnerable groups.

Housing Repair and Rehabilitation

At the height of the crisis in Macedonia, more than 135,000 people were displaced, including 75,000 internally within former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and another 60,000 refugees, mainly in Kosovo. In addition to large scale displacement, fighting between Ethnic Albanian Armed Groups (EAAG) and Macedonia Security forces also resulted in the damage or destruction of as many as 13,000 houses. (Precise figures will become available as the International Management Group (IMG) progresses with housing assessments currently underway).

Through the Housing Repair and Rehabilitation project, UNHCR aims to assist the Government of Macedonia in co-ordinating shelter efforts and in providing basic funding to repair and rehabilitate light to moderate damaged houses with a view supporting returns before the onset of winter.

Project Objectives Include:

Establish a common legal framework for housing repair and rehabilitation.

UNHCR will facilitate the process of establishing a legal framework, agreed between the Government of Macedonia, donors and implementing NGOs. The framework will:

- (i) establish a process for agreeing ‘Beneficiary Lists’ of affected villages, and
- (ii) develop and agree a ‘Bi-Partite Agreement’, which details the extent of works to be undertaken as well as the rights and responsibilities of the beneficiary head and household and the implementing NGO.

Establish and co-ordinate a common implementation strategy for housing repair and rehabilitation.

In coordination with Government authorities and donors, UNHCR will assist in establishing an implementation strategy for implementing NGOs to ensure that beneficiaries are provided with fair and consistent assistance. UNHCR will continue to led the shelter coordination and work with implementing NGOs to agree areas of operation, standards, and procedures.

Maintain and co-ordinate a capacity to undertake damage assessment. UNHCR will maintain the capacity to assess damage through Joint Assessment Teams (JATs), comprised of representatives from the Government, international and local NGOs and local community representatives. JATs will have the capacity to assess damage to housing and public buildings to the level of producing documents for tender. The Government of Macedonia has offered at no cost the assistance of engineers from the Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Engineering Seismology to assist in assessment. This capacity will be independent of, but complimentary to, the assessments of the International Management Group (IMG). JATs are currently active in assessing housing damage in the towns of Aracinovo, Brnjaci and Lopate, and also have begun detailed assessment of schools and clinics.

UNHCR will maintain through the International Rescue Committee (IRC), databases of both Rapid Village Assessments, undertaken by UNHR Field staff and JATs, and House Assessments. The database will be made available to IMG, for inclusion within their assessment database on infrastructure needs.

Repair and rehabilitate houses. By mid December 2001, if secure access to villages by Implementing Partners (IPs) can be assured, UNHCR will fund the repair and rehabilitation of 1500 Category 1, 2 and 3 houses, to agreed standards, using the IMG or JAT assessments of housing damage. Preference will be given to IP currently operational in housing repair. A list of potential beneficiaries will be prepared by the IP and submitted to the appropriate central and municipal authorities. IPs will also undertake detailed house assessments to determine the repairs possible with the funds available and after discussion with the beneficiary homeowner or legal occupant, will prepare a scope of work, which will be detailed in the ‘Bi-Partite Agreement’.

Proposed average costs, by damage category

Category	Description	UNHCR assistance for repair
1	Minor damage up to about 15%, e.g. broken glass and tiles, bullet holes, shrapnel	300 USD average
2	Non-structural damage up to about 30%, e.g. holes in walls, roofs, floors,	800 USD average
3	Limited but repairable damage up to about 50%, including structural and limited fire damage	1,500 USD average
4	Un-repairable damage, usually to structure or following a severe fire	0 USD, unsafe for repair, reconstruction by EU

The total cost of repairs to 1,500 houses is estimated at **1.3 million US\$** which includes a 2% indirect cost recovery rate for IPs. To the extent possible, UNHCR Skopje will procure goods locally in order to strengthen the local economy and support local businesses. Disbursement of funds is contingent upon secure access being available by UNHCR and IPs to affected areas.

Quick Impact Projects (QIPS)

The QIPS programme will support small projects of up to US\$ 30,000, which can be implemented within 12 weeks and do not require ongoing support. The QIPS programme will be open to applications from international and local NGOs, as well as Municipal authorities and will focus on support for return areas, especially in communities where the absence of a response would impede the return of IDPs.

QIPS objectives include to:

- Assist vulnerable communities that have been affected by the conflict
- Support communities where IDPs are or have been hosted as well as the neighboring communities
- Provide a link between emergency and longer term development

The programme will be split between minor infrastructure repairs projects and community services projects focused on vulnerable groups.

Within the community service component, the *ARC (American Refugee Committee)* will serve as the umbrella agency. In close co-operation with UNHCR, ARC will manage funds to support projects related to psychosocial, education and special needs activities as well as confidence building measures including the promotion of civil society and legal assistance/protection.

Oxfam (and /or other agencies to be identified) will provide umbrella management for Civil Works QIPs covering shelter, water and sanitation and small scale infrastructure activities. Shelter activities may include repairs to public building as well as the rehabilitation of former IDP collective centres. Similarly, water and sanitation projects such as the installation of small water systems, reservoirs, repair to latrines, sewage disposal systems and garbage management may also be included. Other projects such as minor repairs to roads, may also be funded at the discretion of the selection panel.

Project will be selected by a panel, which consists of representatives from the donor, UNHCR and the umbrella agency. Priority will be given to projects that include local participation and a community consultation process, demonstrate a balanced assistance approach to ethnic groups and give special consideration to vulnerable groups and their needs.

The donor and UNHCR will have the final decision in relation to selection. In cases where the Umbrella Agencies themselves have submitted proposals, they will not be involved in the selection discussion. When a QIP is selected, the umbrella agency will enter into a sub-agreement with the implementing partner, which details transfer of funds and narrative reporting requirements. The administrative procedure will allow for quick and efficient disbursement of monies.

QIPS projects will be monitored regularly by the umbrella organisations through a process of agency self-assessments and field visits to project sites. Field visits will be made to selected sites by technical staff from the umbrella management agencies, with regular accompaniment by UNHCR.

UNHCR Funding Requirements September to December 2001

Protection	183,300
Shelter	2,311,000
Non-Food Items	1,860,000
Water and Sanitation	100,000
Health and Community Services	250,000
<u>Multi-Sector / Agency Support</u>	<u>1,982,700</u>
Total Funding Requirements:	6,687,000

UNICEF's Role in Stabilisation, Confidence Building, and Return

Overview

Despite many months of hostilities the ratification of the Framework Agreement provides a crucial window of opportunity - with well-planned and targeted support from the international community - that the people of FYR Macedonia can consolidate the peace process into a full recovery of normal life. Promoting the rights of children and their families is central during this delicate period of stabilisation. As schools re-open families need assurances that education will continue at the highest possible standard. As people return to their homes they need to see that critical health, sanitation and psychosocial support services are in place. Stabilisation and confidence-building interventions are required to ensure that the rehabilitation process fosters a resolution of tension and return to peaceful co-existence.

General Approach

In order to promote the rights of children and women, foster a **resolution of tension, confidence building, return to peaceful co-existence** and **social cohesion** amongst various communities and facilitate the **return of the displaced** in FYR Macedonia, UNICEF's integrated programmes in education and youth, child protection, psychosocial support and winterisation, and health and early childhood care aim to ensure:

- Specific emergency, rehabilitation and winterisation interventions aimed at meeting the needs of all conflict affected children and their families;
- Stabilisation and reform support programmes aimed at improving social service delivery for vulnerable children and families;
- Emphasis on local government and social service structures, and community development initiatives;
- Preparedness, rapid assessment and response capacity to meet arising emergency needs as part of the UNCT within the framework of the UN Humanitarian Co-ordination system;

Building on achievements, experience and lessons learnt from the past 9 years of continuous presence in FYR Macedonia, UNICEF will re-enforce the confidence building components of its' regular country programme, expand on previously developed child protection, early childhood, youth and health networks and broaden partnerships with governmental counterparts, and local and international non-governmental organisations.

Guiding Principles

The outlined strategy is based on the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and humanitarian principles, ensuring non-discrimination, impartiality, neutrality, independence, the best interest of the child, the right to survival and full development and the participation of children in all matters affecting their lives. In line with this, UNICEF programme interventions aim to:

- Provide equal access to quality services for all children and their families, where necessary ensuring special measures for minorities in majority areas, those with disabilities, those living in poverty and/or in need of humanitarian assistance;
- Reflect diversity, respect cultural values, build local capacity, create ownership and accountability, encourage social cohesion, unity and sustainability;

- Take into account existing strengths of social service and protection structures and ensure that new initiatives are developed with the participation of families and communities.

Inter-Agency Coordination and Technical Guidance

In accordance with its' Core Corporate Commitments', UNICEF will maintain capacity to assume a coordinating role for:

- Education,
- Child Protection and Psychosocial Support,
- Emergency Water and Sanitation.

Education and Youth Programme

Aiming to ensure access to education for all children, paying special attention to ensure full participation of girls, IDP's, remainees, refugees and returnees, UNICEF will support the Ministry of Education in assessment, co-ordination, planning and response as well as policy development and reform to improve education quality and relevance in a multi-ethnic environment.

- **Confidence Building through Safe Access to Quality Education for All.** UNICEF aims to ensure safe access to primary education for all children. To improve learning conditions, UNICEF provides additional textbooks, school materials for students and teachers and supplies schools with furniture and teaching equipment. Refurbishment of schools and temporary facilities will be supported to stabilise the learning environment and to cope with additional placement needs for displaced children and those in conflict areas where school facilities have been damaged or destroyed.
- **Support to Inclusive Learning Environments.** Access for excluded and deprived groups will further be ensured through promotion of open, effective and all-inclusive schools based on UNICEF's support to inclusive practices, professional management, dedicated teachers, appropriate curricula, effective methodology, modern materials, community and parental participation and the "Education for life" principle. Special needs education. programmes and non-formal education for Roma children, policy formulation to increase girl's participation in secondary education and literacy programmes for women and girls in poor communities will be supported.
- **Peace-building, Reconciliation and Human Rights Promotion.** In co-operation with the Ministry of Education, UNICEF has introduced education for human rights, conflict resolution and inter-culturalism lessons into primary schools in Macedonia. The programme aims to re-establish and enhance inter-ethnic dialogue and understanding among youth from different ethnic groups through revision of curricula, training of teachers, and support to community-based children and youth centres.
- **Youth Development and Participation.** At the secondary level and through the network of the Babylon Youth Centers, UNICEF supports lifeskills programmes focusing on the enhancement of non-violent communication skills, the promotion of healthy lifestyles and the prevention of HIV/AIDS and substance abuse. The youth development initiative includes basic employment skills and recreation activities and will be further expanded in conflict-affected communities.
- **Community Mobilisation and Learning.** UNICEF works towards reforming the role of schools from places of acquiring knowledge into community learning centres enhancing coping mechanisms and conflict resolution skills for all community members. Through further expansion of the Early Childhood Development Network parents in conflict affected areas will be empowered to better support the development of children's psychosocial and communication skills.

Funding Requirement Education and Youth: US\$ 2,000,000

Child Protection, Psychosocial Support and Winterisation Programme

UNICEF will expand its current human rights-based programming to further promote the concept and application of human/child rights in co-operation with the National Child Rights Commission, relevant Ministries, non-governmental organizations and the Ombudsperson for Children.

Programme and Operational Support

- **Expansion of Technical Human Resource Capacity.** UNICEF is recruiting additional technical experts and support staff to meet increased needs in the education, youth, and child protection, information/communication programmes and to ensure emergency WES co-ordination. Additional technical staff has been deployed from UNICEF offices in Kosovo, Albania and the Area Office for the Balkans.
- **Field Presence and Expanded Monitoring Focus.** To increase UNICEF's field assessment capacity and the effectiveness of monitoring activities, two field monitor teams have been deployed. Recruitment of two further field teams are envisaged to ensure a UNICEF presence in conflict affected areas, and ethnically mixed and minority communities. The field operations teams will be co-ordinated by a Field Operations Officer currently being recruited.
- **Strengthening of Logistics and Supply Support.** In order to improve in-house capacity for the equitable distribution of emergency, rehabilitation and winterization supplies, UNICEF has re-enforced its' operations team through additional logistics/supply staff.
- **Security Liaison and Communication Function.** To ensure safety of staff and to contribute to the security mechanism of the UN country team, UNICEF has deployed a field security officer. Necessary communication equipment to enhance safety during field visits has been transferred and re-deployed from other UNICEF offices in the region.

Funding Requirements Cross-Sectoral Support: US\$ 680,000

WHO's Role in the Return and Confidence Building Process

Overview

The World Health Organisation's (WHO) operations in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia consists of two offices: a Humanitarian Assistance Office (HAO) and a Liaison Office (LO) within the Ministry of Health. The two offices complement each other in co-ordinating health activities within the humanitarian health sector, providing assistance in health policy development as well as technical support to the national health authorities, international and local health agencies.

Sectoral Coordination and Technical Guidance

World Health Organization (WHO) Humanitarian Assistance Office (HAO) has a lead role in co-ordination of humanitarian assistance and response to the crisis in the health sector, including technical assistance to the national health authorities, international and local health agencies.

- WHO chairs weekly interagency health sector coordination meeting with the aim of optimising available resources and providing participants (international and local NGOs, representatives from the Ministry of Health) with guidance on emergency health assistance.
- WHO cooperates closely with the Ministry of Health and district health authorities, to fully mobilize and optimize local capacities to ensure accessible basic health services for internally displaced persons in return areas while avoiding the creation of parallel systems.
- Health infrastructure in FYRoM is still very fragile and unable to cope with increased demands posed by the presence of high-risk groups such as IDPs and refugees.

Assistance Response / Readiness

Within this crisis context, WHO Health programmes aim to strengthen public health services, targeting in particular IDPs and returnee population as well as other vulnerable groups of the population (persons with mental and physical disabilities, HIV/AIDS infected persons).

With regards to spontaneous return to areas considered unsafe, where access for most humanitarian agencies is inaccessible, WHO is strengthening existing channels of communication in order to ensure essential medical assistance to the returnees.

- WHO plans to conduct initial *capacity assessment and mapping of health facilities in the areas of potential return*. The assessment will cover the existing primary health facilities in the Tetovo, Kumanovo and Skopje crisis areas focusing on the general status of health facilities, human resources, catchment areas and coverage, referral mechanisms and available equipment and supplies. This assessment will be complemented by further needs assessments in areas of return, once areas are considered safe and can be safely accessed.
- A team of properly trained and fully mobile health assessment personnel (WHO, Ministry of Health representative, UN, NGOs partners) is needed to complete this exercise over a period of one-week.
- Through strengthening of existing co-ordination mechanisms, WHO aims to promote a strong and consolidated inter-agency response. Individual agencies will be encouraged to actively participate in the assessment process and will have access to the results of the rapid assessment, which will include guidelines and recommendations.
- Spot assessments are necessary to estimate the level of damage that has occurred on existing health facilities to make recommendations on needed repair and equipment, which will support returns to conflict areas. *During the initial stage, temporary solutions may be necessary to support return.* (E.g. mobile medical teams consisting of a doctor and a nurse, equipped with basic supplies and essential drugs who will cover a broader region). During this period, reconstruction of premises could start in the areas where large-scale, well organised return has occurred.
- Existing public health teams from the Public Health Institutes will be mobilised to provide surveillance and control of communicable diseases. Water and sanitation will be monitored through teams equipped with portable water testing instruments. Teams will also be capable of investigating potential disease outbreaks.
- Preventive health programmes and health education for returnees will be implemented and supported by international health agencies, when feasible in collaboration with country public health specialists, addressing in particular problems with inadequate living conditions and poor hygiene.

Gaps

- Eventual spontaneous return to the areas considered unsafe and restricted.
- General lack of funds to support additional health services in potential areas of return..
- National health authorities are unprepared to promptly readjust existing services (especially emergency and home-visit services), personnel (mobile teams), drug distribution (currently only available through pharmacies) to cover the health needs of returnees.

To support the stabilization, confidence building and return process, WHO's Humanitarian Office, is complementing ongoing WHO programmes and projects in FYRoM with activities focused primarily in the areas of potential return including:

1) **Emergency Health Co-ordination Framework - Rapid Needs Assessment / Direct Humanitarian assistance / Psycho-social Support to Vulnerable Groups.**

- Rapid health assessment of the health status of the conflict-affected population (internally displaced persons/returnees), the existing health services response capacity and major public health needs, providing health information and internationally accepted norms and standards to national and international health community and coordination to make optimal use of available resources.
- Provision of direct, basic health services assistance to the conflict-affected population in coordination with the National Health Services.
- Continued assistance to public health structures in the provision of essential health services to the conflict-affected populations, in coordination with the National Health Services.
- Supply of essential drugs, especially for vulnerable groups, co-ordination of humanitarian drug donations and promotion implementation of WHO guidelines on drug donations.
- Provide medical items according to identified needs of beneficiaries in return areas.
- Psycho-social support program for IDPs through a group of 40 professionals from FYRoM trained for one year by WHO in "Psychosocial/Traumatic Stress Understanding, Prevention and Treatment".

- Support the co-ordination of activities related to physical rehabilitation of damaged health facilities, including basic medical equipment (guidelines/criteria for reconstruction / rehabilitation in returnee areas).

Findings of the assessment will be used to address immediate needs/gaps in health emergency and to plan health interventions in the areas of potential return.

WHO HAO is currently providing, either directly or through its implementing partners, essential health services, health education and free of charge prescription medication for IDPs in Skopje and Kumanovo, and returnees in Aracinovo.

Funding required: 300,000 USD

2) Communicable Disease Surveillance and Emergency Public Health Interventions

- Continue to perform rapid public health intervention on surveillance of communicable disease and outbreaks detection and control, immunisation, water and sanitation, mental health of affected population in return areas.
- Establish and reinforce the communicable diseases surveillance system for the early detection and control of most relevant communicable diseases including TB.
- Provide public health technical advice to local health authorities, UN Agencies, NGOs and other humanitarian health organizations.

WHO provided Public Health inputs including a temporary water plant to supply the Kumanovo hospital with water from the hospital well and the provision of water tanks for hospital hemodialysis unit during the May/June water supply crisis in Kumanovo.

Funding required: 200,000 USD

3) Post-conflict interventions promoting confidence building in health sector

- Development of public health activities, through “Peace Through Health” initiatives such as joint training and continuous education of health professionals, promoting human rights and ethics of patients, etc.
- Development of health-related micro-projects at local level, in the areas of potential return focusing on common interests and needs through a participatory approach, based on the principles of joining initiatives of “Decentralized Co-operation”.

“Peace Through Health” and “Decentralized Co-operation” initiatives have been successfully employed in the Balkan region, as a neutral medium for reconciliation and confidence building.

Funding required: 100,000 USD

ACTIVITIES	BUDGET
Emergency Health Co-ordination framework - Rapid Needs Assessment / Direct humanitarian assistance / psycho-social support to vulnerable groups.	300,000
Communicable Disease Surveillance and Emergency Public Health Interventions	200,000
Post-conflict interventions promoting confidence building in health sector	100,000
TOTAL	600,000

WFP's Role in the Return and Confidence Building Process

Overview - Assessment of Needs

A significant amount of information already exists on the food security situation within the country that has been useful in defining the food aid programme for conflict-affected populations. This information provides a baseline against which the impact of the conflict can be assessed. The first step to support returnees with food assistance will be to analyse this information and identify gaps in the understanding of the situation and needs.

In this regard, the World Food Programme, along with Action Against Hunger, is undertaking a Food Needs Assessment, which uses the same methodology and similar analytical approach as the WFP *Macedonia Food Economy Assessment of Social Cases* conducted in June/July 2000. This analytical approach is a tried and tested means of assessing food aid needs and its adoption in the current assessments will assist in the consistency and comparability of information.

The primary objective of the Food Needs Assessment is to ensure that returnees, as well as affected residents, will be included in food aid programming based upon a clear definition of needs. Changes in the economy of conflict-affected areas will be assessed and changes in production and exchange options will be specified. Research has also been carried out on the food preferences of beneficiary groups, which is being used in improving the appropriateness of food rations. This data will be incorporated in to the analysis and recommendations on the size and content of food rations.

It is also expected that the effects of the conflict on resident populations within the conflict zones are likely to be serious. The destruction of property, including productive infrastructure and assets (eg, the mining of agricultural fields) is expected to have a serious impact on the income of resident populations. Marginal families who are currently vulnerable to food insecurity are seriously affected by the disruption to economic and social life caused by the conflict. The sub objectives of the assessment are therefore to:

1. To estimate the number of persons in the conflict affected areas, including returnees, needing food aid.
2. To determine the type of food basket required by the different groups (basic or basic and complementary).
3. To determine the composition of the food rations (types of food commodities and quantities).
4. To identify criteria for the targeting of food aid where appropriate
5. To predict changes in future food aid needs.

Co-ordination between WFP and ICRC is crucial in the food aid sector. In this respect, a strong dialogue has been developed and maintained in order to ensure the co-ordination of the food aid effort. Already in close co-ordination and through a frequent exchange of information with ICRC, WFP continues to work with national and local authorities and its partners to implement and promote and respect an effective method of monitoring the return of persons to areas affected by the conflict.

Assistance Response

The food aid sector is co-ordinated by a well-established Food Aid Co-ordination Meeting, which takes place on a bi-weekly basis, or according to need. WFP organises and chairs this meeting. The main emphasis of the meeting is collating and disseminating a country-wide geographical overview of food aid assistance by the international community, including basic and complementary food rations distributed by national NGOs, to avoid duplication and gaps. The meeting is now being used as the co-ordination mechanism for food aid matters related to the current crisis.

ICRC has planned its activities to continue and allow for a rapid and flexible, but targeted, response with the provision of basic food assistance to returnees and directly affected residents. Intersos and Action Against Hunger, funded by ECHO, are gradually taking over from ICRC the provision of basic food assistance to longer-term IDPs. With a joint intervention threshold of basic food assistance for 70,000 beneficiaries through February 2002, food assistance already planned and resourced for IDPs could be shifted to support returnees and affected population. Based on the results of the Food Needs Assessment, further food assistance may be required from the donor community.

NGOs have also expressed interest to provide complementary fresh foods to affected areas if required. This food assistance, as required, will continue to be co-ordinated by WFP with other food aid actors through the Food Aid Co-ordination Meeting. The cost and programme requirements for such an intervention, as found necessary, are under review.

FAO's Role in the Return and Confidence Building Process

Strategy

The *Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)* operations in fYROM will support the recovery process for vulnerable farmers affected by the conflict. FAO will support the UNCT initiated confidence building programme by assisting returnees and vulnerable families to re-establish viable small scale farming activities, to promote cash crop production among economically weak farmers and strengthen community activities between ethnic groups in order to reduce tensions. In keeping an ethnic balance of the support provided, both locally and countrywide, FAO will ensure that assistance is provided based on vulnerability. Therefore, areas highly affected by the drought will be included in the programme in order to enhance the confidence of all population groups.

FAO's Programme

Working closely with the Ministry of Agriculture, NGOs and the private sector, FAO programmes will consist of two phases of implementation. During the first phase, programming will facilitate a quick resumption of agriculture activity in areas where it has been most seriously disrupted. In the second phase, FAO will implement programmes based on a thorough analysis in which sub-sectors are defined. FAO will continue to follow its Balkan-wide strategy of integrating relief, rehabilitation and development activities. This will include the strengthening of government capability to develop sound agricultural policies and rehabilitation of agricultural educational and research facilities. FAO will provide material inputs, technical assistance and overall coordination of the emergency agricultural programmes in fYROM.

At present, FAO is implementing an emergency seed and fertiliser distribution project in conflict affected areas for the autumn 2001-planting season, which is making a significant contribution in confidence building through stimulating farmers to restart agriculture activities. Through additional inputs, the project will continue to provide support to farmers and returnees affected by the conflict and drought. According to the assessed needs of the different target groups, FAO plans to distribute animal feed (barley) for the winter 2001/02, and potato and maize seeds and fertiliser for the 2002 spring planting season. In the most conflict-affected areas, the agricultural programme will also include a machinery rehabilitation component restoring basic capacities to prepare the land area to be planted. These first quick-impact actions will aim at the prompt restoration of agriculture activities. Livestock requirements will also be considered and restocking will be designed according to assessed needs. In drought affected areas, training and demonstration plots with a special focus on improved cultural practices adapted to dry climatic conditions, such as minimum- and no-tillage land preparation, will be carried out.

Financial Requirements

Wheat seed and fertiliser will be covered through a \$1,000,00 USAID donation and \$400,000 FAO funds. An additional \$1,300,000 is needed to cover the procurement of animal feed through the end of the year. UNDP's Role in the Return and Confidence Building Process

Overview

The United Nation's Development Programme (UNDP) programme has adapted the programme to respond to the humanitarian and security context in fYRoM. With the signing of the Framework Agreement and NATO's Operation Essential Harvest, UNDP is prepared to assume an enhanced role under a best-case scenario where implementation of the peace agreement will progress and security conditions will become conducive to facilitate the return of a substantial number of refugees and internally displaced persons. A UNDP Emergency Response Officer has been deployed to support the office over the coming six months in advancing implementation and developing further interventions that link the humanitarian relief efforts with UNDP's medium to long term development strategy, in close coordination with other UN agencies.

The UNDP Country Cooperation Framework (CCF) has been and will remain adjusted to incorporate emergency response measures towards alleviating the negative socio-economic pressures that are related to the root causes of the conflict. However, priority will be given to activities that support the post-conflict peace building development process. UNDP's role in addressing the development dimensions of the post-conflict return phase will draw upon and support the broader mission of UNDP to facilitate progress on sustainable social and economic development. The substance of the work will therefore give emphasis to local capacity building, needs-identification and management structures.

UNDP Programmes:

Immediate Community Support Programme

The programme is rooted in UNDP's principles of preventing conflict and engaging in peace building through a development approach. Key areas of focus identified in consultation with stakeholders, include the creation of immediate employment, providing opportunities for youth, restoring infrastructure and access to basic social services, engaging civil society, and, throughout, ensuring equitable participation and inclusion of all ethnic groups. Working with other agencies, opportunities will additionally be sought to support the reintegration and rehabilitation of returnees through support for quick impact public works projects in which all ethnic communities have a stake and a vested interest to become involved. In the economic sphere, opportunities for strengthening the private sector and stabilizing levels of economic security through support for income-generation initiatives will be explored.

UNDP's responses to the identified needs are strongly linked to the goal of facilitating reconciliation and confidence building, aiming to steer community authorities and populations towards productive alternatives to ethnic hostility and conflict. The programme has been launched in 14 municipalities directly affected or at potential risk as a result of the crisis. In light of the widespread support and endorsement of the initiative by the municipalities as well as by international organizations, UNDP will be expanding the programme to 36 additional municipalities with priority given to the vulnerable communities that require most support in the reintegration process of returnees.

Estimated budget for the period September-December 2001: US\$ 700,000

Implementing Local Government Reform

With the signing of the Framework Agreement, the legal framework for decentralised local governance is currently in preparation and its adoption is expected by end of October. Once the legislation is in place, the challenge will lie in its implementation. UNDP is committed to facilitate this critical process through a programme designed to support the implementation of local government reform at both the central and the local government levels through advocacy, capacity building, as well as the strengthening of local institutions. In the medium term, a Municipal Development Fund is envisaged that will finance small projects that can trigger local economic development initiatives.

Priority will be given to ensuring that citizens are informed about the content of the reform and the achievements of its various implementation steps. The underlying assumption is that the best way to deter the action of anti-democratic forces that might be tempted to use the reform for destabilization purposes is to provide the wide public and relevant stakeholders with regular and accurate information and knowledge of objectives, challenges and achievements.

Estimated budget for the period September-December 2001: US\$ 400,000

UNMAS's Role in the Return and Confidence Building Process

Overview

The mine/UXO threat is a major constraint hampering the return of IDPs and refugees, as well as delivery of humanitarian assistance. Though concentrated in specific areas and limited to basic classical items of ordnance, the problem of UXOs represents a threat within an estimated 30 affected villages. In contrast, landmines, essentially antitank and antipersonnel mines, were used infrequently, laid mainly on roads and tracks for ambush and roadblock purposes, and for protection of armed group positions.

Following a mine/UXO assessment conducted in August 2001 by the UNMIK Mine Action Coordination Centre, on behalf of the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) a Mine Action Office (MAO) was established in Skopje. The aim of the MAO is to provide appropriate responses to mine/UXO threats and to coordinate mine action responses between the UN, governmental and non-governmental agencies. In addition, the MAO will be responsible for mine action information after the departure of NATO troops, necessitating capacity for the emergency situation, but also for the longer-term advice provision.

The Ministries of Defense and Interior have Explosive Ordinance Disposal (EOD) capabilities to handle mine/UXO threats that can be easily strengthened with limited training and equipment. National EOD units are currently performing mine/UXO clearance operations in affected areas accessible to Macedonian authorities. In addition, NATO Task Force Harvest (TFH) EOD teams have been conducting mine/UXO in direct support of their mission. The Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) has been made available to NATO for the duration of Operation Harvest and the information in the system will remain unclassified to allow for timely and efficient dissemination for humanitarian purposes. In addition, the Government of fYRoM has recently approved a technical survey and implementation of mine/UXO clearance operations, primarily in the areas still under control of ethnic Albanian armed groups. Under the coordination of the MAO, these activities will be executed by a regional commercial company, with funding from the International Trust Fund (ITF). The technical survey will assist in confirming dangerous area reports generated from unverified information, and will facilitate subsequent and / or simultaneous clearance.

Objectives of the UN Mine Action Strategy

In this context, urgent assistance in mine action is required in order to address emergency humanitarian concerns related to people living in mine/UXO affected areas, and to those IDPs and refugees expecting to return to their villages. To this end, the objectives of the UN mine action strategy are to ensure the rapid implementation of mine action activities, particularly in the areas of mine awareness education and mine/UXO clearance, and to assist the Government in strengthening its capacity in mine action. Assistance is planned in two phases over a six-month period, as follows:

Phase 1

The responsibilities of the MAO will include but are not limited to:

- Coordination of mine action activities through the establishment of appropriate mechanisms with the UN agencies, the national authorities and interested donors.
- Assistance in the establishment of a coordination group headed by the Government.
- Further assessment and monitoring of the mine/UXO situation and determination of any additional mine action requirements.
- Preparation for the establishment of the IMSMA database in close cooperation with TFH and the relevant national authorities, and development of the appropriate information collection mechanism.
- Strengthening of existing national mine/UXO clearance capabilities through provision of technical advice and coordination of bilateral assistance, in particular with ITF.
- In liaison with UNICEF, monitoring mine awareness activities.

Phase 2

Phase 2 will begin as soon as possible during Phase 1, through the deployment of national mine action information and support staff. In coordination with the national authorities, the MAO will assist in the development of a longer-term mine action response to rid affected areas of mines and UXOs in order to facilitate the safe return of IDPs and refugees and assist the Government to comply with the obligations of the Ottawa Convention. The MAO will also continue to support national authorities and humanitarian agencies in ensuring rapid implementation of mine action activities through the collection, analysis and dissemination of mine/UXO related information.

Finally, during Phase 2, the MAO will hand-over responsibilities of the IMSMA database to the national authorities. This will include in particular:

- Planning mine action activities, including technical survey and mine/UXO clearance, and assistance to the Government in priority setting.

- Data collection and dissemination, and information management through IMSMA.
- Preparation of IMSMA hand-over to national authorities through training of national staff.
- Development and promotion of appropriate technical and safety standards.

Table of Financial Requirements

BUDGET ITEMS	US\$
<i>Personnel (1 Expatriate & 5 Nationals)</i>	66,600
<i>Equipment: IMSMA Hardware, Computer, Phones</i>	53,600
<i>Support Costs (Office, Transport, etc)</i>	9,600
<i>Contingency Provision</i>	10,000
<i>Operating/Administrative Costs</i>	26,200
Total	166,000

Other Mine Action Activities:

ACTIVITY	FUNDING	AMOUNT
Mine Awareness Education	ICRC	TBD
Technical Survey and Mine/UXO Clearance	International Trust Fund (ITF)	300,000
EOD Training	ITF	TBD
Provision of Specialist Equipment	ITF	TBD

OCHA's Role in the Return and Confidence Building Process

Overview

The outbreak of conflict in February/March 2001 has brought the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the forefront of international attention. Not only has the number of international NGOs significantly increased, but the country's political and humanitarian developments have also generated considerable interest, with a growing commitment to support stabilisation and return efforts and deter a resumption of the conflict.

To assist in the coordination of humanitarian assistance, including the collection, analysis and dissemination of information on the humanitarian situation as well as to support the UN Agencies in the identification of humanitarian needs, OCHA established a presence in former the Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia through the deployment of a Humanitarian Officer to support the UNHCR office. The prolongation of the conflict eventually led to the appointment of a UN Humanitarian Coordinator and the establishment of an independent OCHA office. The OCHA Office in Skopje is now responsible for the maintenance and ongoing review of the Inter-Agency Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan and secretariat support at inter-agency and sector coordination meetings. The OCHA Office also assists the Humanitarian Coordinator in liaison and coordinating efforts with the Government and the donor community, as well as the provision of timely information to the humanitarian community.

Objectives of the OCHA Strategy

The objectives of OCHA planned activities in support of the UN unified return and stabilisation strategy are:

- To ensure effective coordination of humanitarian assistance by assisting in the identification of gaps and potential overlaps in humanitarian assistance and helping avoid overlap;
- To help define a common UN strategy, in which agency programmes complement, stabilisation, confidence and efforts return;
- To assist in the identification and prioritisation of the humanitarian needs of the affected population;
- To facilitate the collection, analysis and dissemination of relevant information within the humanitarian community within fYRoM

Planned Activities

During the period from September until the end of December 2001, OCHA plans to undertake the following initiatives, in support of the UN unified return and stabilisation strategy:

- 1) OCHA will continue to support the UN Humanitarian Coordinator and the UN Country Team in the preparation and review of inter-agency documents, including the 2002 Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal (CAP) for South-eastern Europe and the Inter-Agency Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan for the fYRoM. OCHA will also continue to provide secretariat and other support as inter-agency, sector and other coordination meetings as appropriate and as requested by the UN Humanitarian Coordinator.
- 2) OCHA will continue to assist the NGO community with needed information, particularly security information by providing security briefings at NGO Council meetings and as needed.
- 3) OCHA, in cooperation with UNHCR, will serve as a humanitarian information providing access to a database information on planned and ongoing humanitarian projects, focal point on the level of damage and needs in conflict-affected villages and detailed maps of the conflict-affected zones.
- 4) In coordination with the Humanitarian Coordinator, the Head of the OCHA Office will continue to assist the UN CT in their relations with relevant Government authorities, to ensure effective coordination of assistance with the Government of fYRoM.

IOM's Role in the Return and Confidence Building Process

Overview

As part of the unified UN strategy to assist returnees and help stabilise the situation in the country, the ***International Office of Migration (IOM)*** plans to adopt a multi-sectoral approach, ranging from the provision of direct assistance, e.g. transport, psychosocial activities to the implementation of confidence-building measures in the areas of psychosocial support and a TB surveillance for IDPs in Kumanovo.

Objectives of the IOM Strategy

The objectives of IOM planned activities are:

- To support a Rapid Tuberculosis Surveillance Programme for IDPs in collective centers and host families;
- To facilitate the movement of vulnerable groups, especially those requiring medical assistance outside their places of residence;
- To assist returnees, especially the young, by contributing to the implementation of psychosocial support programmes;
- To assist in community stabilisation through the provision of financial support for economic recovery.

Planned Activities

Rapid Tuberculosis Surveillance Program among IDPs in fYRoM

IOM, in coordination and agreement with WHO and the National Tuberculosis Control Program in fYRoM will support the implementation of a Rapid Tuberculosis Surveillance Program for IDPs in Collective Centers and host families in the Kumanovo region. The program will build capacity at the local level by training health personnel and by providing laboratory supplies and materials to identify TB cases, using internationally standardized screening techniques. The project will also facilitate the implementation of DOTS in the targeted Kumanovo region.

Funding requirement: 60,000 USD

Transportation

IOM will continue to facilitate the movement of IDPs, focusing on those displaced to areas on the outskirts of urban areas who need access to public services, employment and schools through the provision of monthly ticket for public transportation. Beneficiaries will be identified in close cooperation with the National Humanitarian Coordination body the Macedonia Red Cross and factories in the Tetovo area.

In addition, IOM is contingency funding to provide emergency transportation for up to 20,000 IDPs who might could need to relocate to non conflict areas within the country if the situation deteriorated.

Funding requirement: 220,000 USD

Psycho-social support activities to displaced and returning population in fYRoM

In close coordination with UNICEF led Psycho-Social Working Group, IOM intends to provide complementary support to facilitate the inclusion of displaced and returning youth in the existing programs. IOM will identify and support the implementation of informal and formal activities including group and theatre programs. IOM will also subsidize transport to interested young beneficiaries living in rural areas in order to facilitate their access to these programs.

Funding requirement : 40,000 USD

Income Generation

IP plan to implement income generation activities to help the economic recovery and reconstruction of conflict affect areas, In particular, IOM plans to focus of the rehabilitation and development of the labour market in conflict affect areas. To revitalise the economy, financial support will be give to SME in the form of loans and grant while transportation support will be provided to help displaced workers who need to report to work in pre-conflict area of residence to maintain employment

Funding requirement : 200,000 USD

Counter Trafficking

As a part of the existing IOM Counter Trafficking Programme, IOM will undertake a preventive awareness campaign targeting conflict affected populations, especially young person currently displaced in collective centers and displaced students.

Funding requirement : 60,000 USD