

# SERBIA

## INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL UPDATE

4-17 January 2016

### 2015 KEY FIGURES

(AS AT END-DECEMBER)

**577,995**

Registered intentions to seek asylum

**36%**

of registered intentions were expressed by minors in December

**99.9%**

of registered intentions were from refugee-producing countries in December

**548**

Applications for asylum

**16**

Persons granted refugee status

**14**

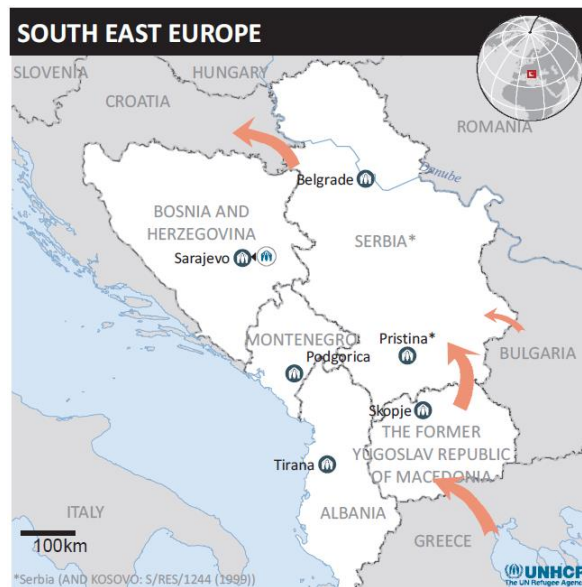
Persons granted subsidiary protection

### PRIORITIES

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

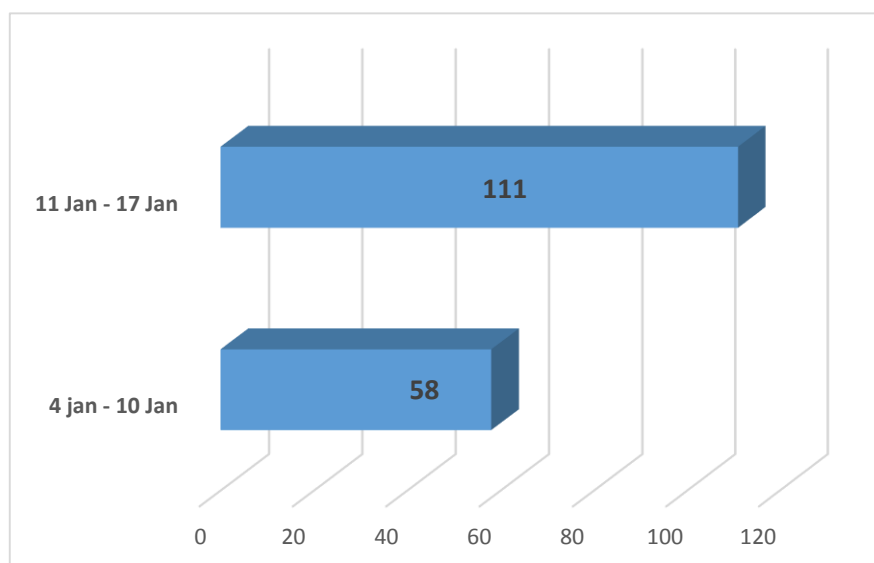
### Highlights

- The number of average daily refugee arrivals fell from close to 8,000 two months ago and some 3,000 a month ago to below 1,850.
- The number of arrivals into Serbia from Bulgaria further decreased, with an average of 63 asylum-seekers arriving daily across the entire stretch of this border. Around 250 asylum-seekers were assisted in Belgrade on average each day.
- As a result of the practice of screening out of asylum-seekers, small numbers of migrants gathered at Šid refugee aid point and other sites. Authorities, UNHCR and partners counselled them on the possibility to seek asylum in Serbia. As a result, the numbers of registered intentions to apply for asylum in Serbia increased.



**Intentions to apply for asylum** (Source: Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Serbia)

**169** refugees and migrants registered their intention to seek asylum during the reporting period.



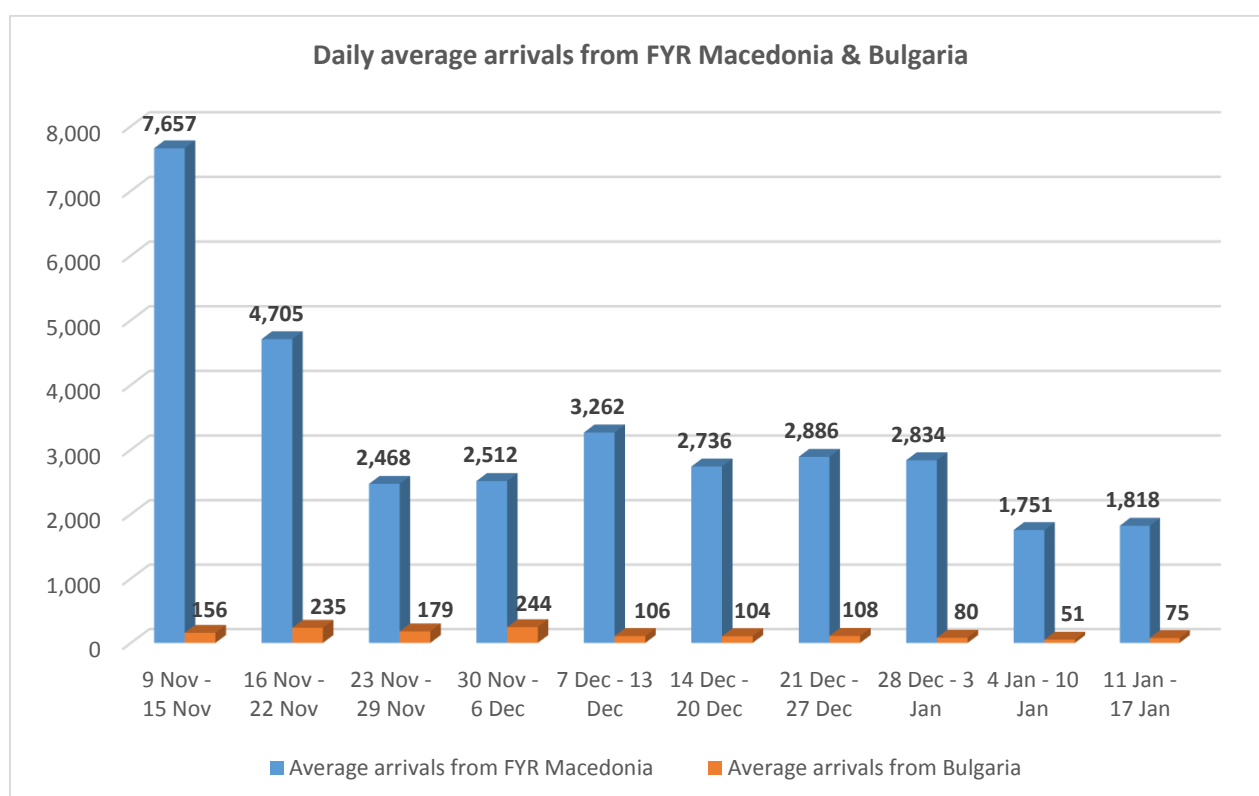
## UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

### Operational Context

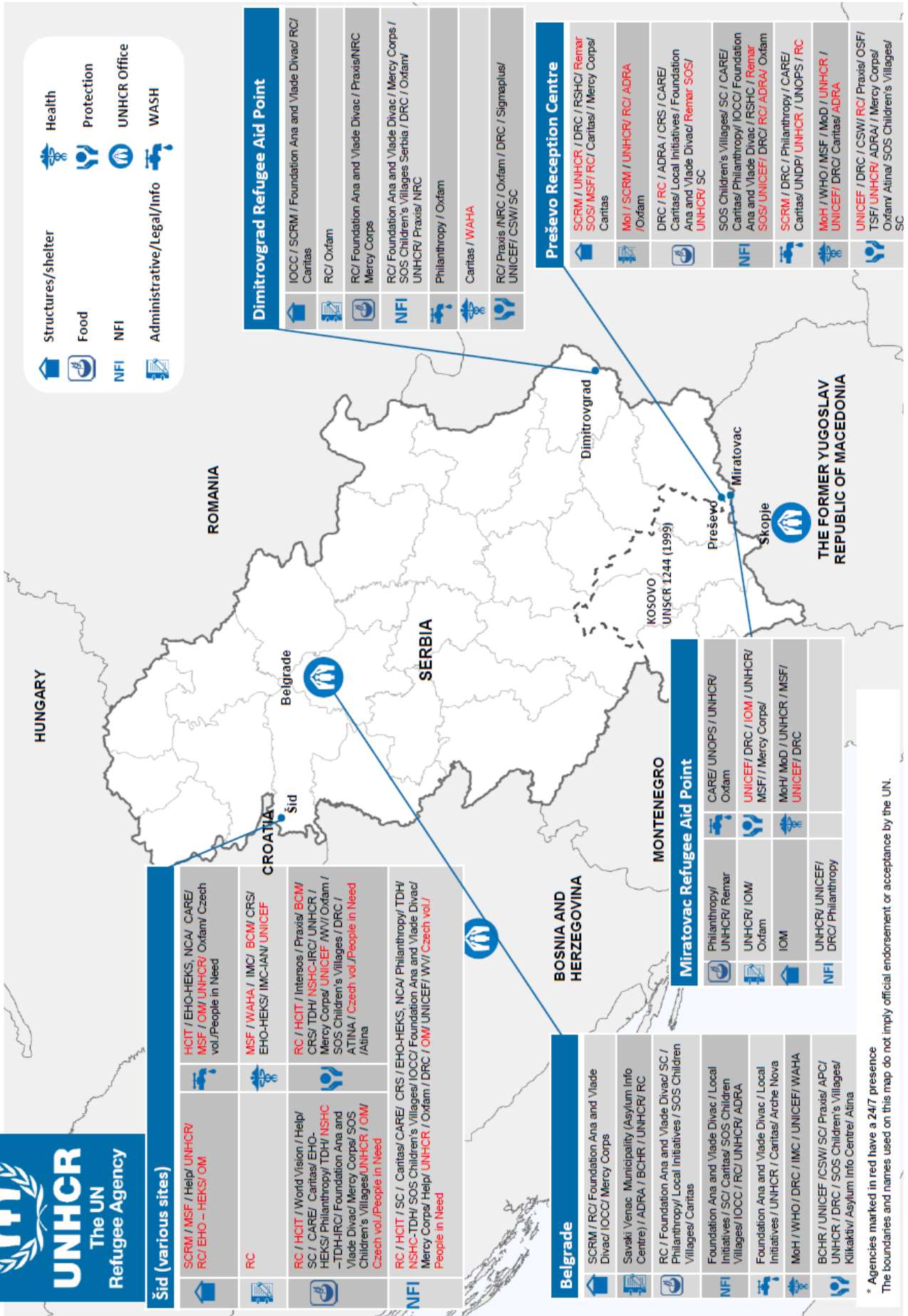
The weather remained very cold with snow and daily temperatures dropping to -8 degrees Celsius. Distribution of winter items for adults and children (especially jackets and boots, blankets, hats, gloves and scarves) remained intense and refugee aid points across the country were almost fully winterized.

Refugees and migrants continued having to walk 2.5 km on the dirt road (green border) from the FYR Macedonia to Serbia in freezing weather conditions and the practice of denying entry to refugees and migrants from countries other than Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq continued. A new limit of maximum 800 asylum-seekers per train departing from Šid to Slavonski brod was introduced by the Croatian police. As of 8 January, asylum-seekers are only allowed to purchase train tickets for the direct train from Preševo to Šid, rather than taking the route via Belgrade.

On 15 January, the EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Mr. Christos Stylianides visited Belgrade and Šid. Following his meetings with Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić, Minister of Labour Aleksandar Vulin and Refugee Commissioner Vladimir Cucić, Mr. Stylianides visited Adaševci and Šid. He praised Serbia's response to the refugee crisis. Serbia's Prime Minister expressed hope that a harmonised European policy and approach to the refugee issue would soon be developed, and Serbia's readiness to implement such policy.



# Who's Doing What Where? (Serbia, 22 January 2015)



### Šid (various sites)

	SCRM / MSF / Help/ UNHCR/ RC/ EHO – HEKS/ OM	HOCIT / EHO-HEKS, NCA/ CARE/ MSF / OM/ UNHCR/ Oxfam/ Czech vol./People in Need
	RC	MSF / WAHA / IMC/ BCM/ CRS/ EHO-HEKS/ IMC-IAM/ UNICEF
	RC / HOCIT / World Vision / Help/ SC / CARE/ Caritas/ EHO-HEKS/ Philanthropy/ TDH/ NSHC –TDH-JRC/ Foundation Ana and Viade Divac/ Mercy Corps/ SOS Children's Villages/ UNHCR / OM/ Czech vol./People in Need	RC / HOCIT / Interos / Praxis/ BCM/ CRS/ TDH/ NSHC-JRC/ UNHCR / Mercy Corps/ UNICEF / AM/ Oxfam / SOS Children's Villages / DRC / ATINA / Czech vol./People in Need /Atina
	RC / HOCIT / SC / Caritas/ CARE/ CRS / EHO-HEKS, NCA/ Philanthropy/ TDH/ NSHC-TDH/ SOS Children's Villages/ IOCC/ Foundation Ana and Viade Divac/ Mercy Corps/ Help/ UNHCR / Oxfam / DRC / OM/ UNICEF/ WW/ Czech vol./People in Need	

### Dimitrovgrad Refugee Aid Point

	IOCC / SCRM / Foundation Ana and Viade Divac/ RC/ Caritas
	RC/ Oxfam
	RC/ Foundation Ana and Viade Divac / Praxis/NRC Mercy Corps
	RC/ Foundation Ana and Viade Divac / Mercy Corps / SOS Children's Villages Serbia / DRC / Oxfam/ UNHCR/ Praxis/ NRC
	Philanthropy / Oxfam
	Caritas / WAHA
	RC/ Praxis /NRC / Oxfam / DRC / Sigmepius/ UNICEF/ CSW/ SC

### Belgrade

	SCRM / RC/ Foundation Ana and Viade Divac/ IOCC/ Mercy Corps
	Savski Venac Municipality (Asylum Info Centre) / ADRA / BCHR / UNHCR/ RC
	RC / Foundation Ana and Viade Divac/ SC / Philanthropy/ Local Initiatives / SOS Children Villages/ Caritas
	Foundation Ana and Viade Divac / Local Initiatives / SC/ Caritas/ SOS Children Villages/ IOCC / RC/ UNHCR/ ADRA
	Foundation Ana and Viade Divac / Local Initiatives / UNHCR / Caritas/ Arche Nova
	MoH / WHO / DRC / IMC / UNICEF/ WAHA
	BCHR / UNICEF / CSW/ SC/ Praxis/ APC/ UNHCR / DRC / SOS Children's Villages/ Kilikativ/ Asylum Info Centre/ Atina

### Miratovac Refugee Aid Point

	Philanthropy/ UNHCR/ Remar	CARE/ UNOPS / UNHCR/ Oxfam
	UNHCR/ IOM/ Oxfam	UNICEF/ DRC / IOM / UNHCR/ MSF/ Mercy Corps/
	IOM	MoH/ MoD / UNHCR / MSF/ UNICEF/ DRC
	UNHCR/ UNICEF/ DRC/ Philanthropy	

### Preševo Reception Centre

	SCRM / UNHCR / DRC / RSHC/ Remar SOS/ MSF/ RC/ Caritas / Mercy Corps/ Caritas
	Mo/ SCRM / UNHCR/ RC/ ADRA / Oxfam
	DRC / RC / ADRA / CRS / CARE/ Caritas/ Local Initiatives / Foundation Ana and Viade Divac/ Remar SOS/ UNHCR/ SC
	SOS Children's Villages/ SC / CARE/ Caritas/ Philanthropy/ IOCC/ Foundation Ana and Viade Divac / RSHC / Remar SOS/ UNICEF/ DRC/ RC/ ADRA/ Oxfam
	SCRM / DRC / Philanthropy / CARE/ Caritas/ UNDP/ UNHCR / UNOPS / RC
	MoH / WHO / MSF / MoD / UNHCR / UNICEF/ DRC/ Caritas/ ADRA
	UNICEF / DRC / CSW/ RC/ Praxis/ OSF/ TSF/ UNHCR/ ADRA/ / Mercy Corps/ Oxfam/ Atina/ SOS Children's Villages/ SC

\* Agencies marked in red have a 24/7 presence. The boundaries and names used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the UN.

## Achievements



Protection

### Achievements and Impact

- In Preševo and Šid, UNHCR, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), IOM and Humanitarian Centre for Integration and Tolerance (HCIT) assisted over 1,000 persons with special needs (PSNs) and reunited at least 20 families.
- On 5 January, an Afghan baby was taken to the Šid hospital by UNHCR's IP HCIT in critical condition, due to severe malnutrition, as it appeared that he had not been properly fed for six days. The mother accompanied the baby, while the rest of the family was accommodated at Šid Rap. The baby was likely to stay for at least two weeks in the hospital.
- In the Preševo Registration center (RC), IOM mobile team engaged in assisting the work of police in preparatory activities for registration of refugees and migrants (filling in the questionnaires prior to registration), and assisted the asylum-seekers in filling in 21,000 questionnaires.
- UNHCR buses continued to transport up to 3,000 refugees and migrants daily from Miratovac to Preševo Reception Centre (RC). UNHCR/DRC, IOM, Mercy Corps and MSF vans transported up to a dozen PWSNs and their family members from the border with FYR Macedonia to Preševo RC each day.
- UNHCR identified at least 20 UASCs and referred them to local authorities and UNHCR Croatia for further protection.



*This new-born baby girl is nestling in her mother's arms, snugly wrapped in a warm blanket provided by UNICEF, thanks to the generous donation from the European Union's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO),*

- UNHCR's implementing partner HCIT maintained a 24/7 presence at the Šid train station and provided legal aid and protection information (2,607 asylum-seekers), fast tracking (151 PWSNs) and referrals (220 referrals to medical staff of WAHA and Šid doctors), assistance to Serbian Police in crowd control and assistance to Croatian Police with interpretation during short interviews conducted while checking the paperwork of asylum-seekers. HCIT conducted interviews with 30 asylum-seekers who shared important information on transit and treatment during transit and intervened in 7 cases of family reunification. One PWSN received a wheelchair and one was referred to Šid Health Centre with HCIT interpreter assisting with examination at the Hospital. HCIT interpreters assisted in over 1,820 cases. 200 asylum-seekers who were refused entry on board of trains headed to Croatia were referred by HCIT staff to SCRM for further assistance.

- Closely coordinating its operations on both sides of Serbia-FYR Macedonia border, Mercy Corps transported a total of 1,028 PWSNs and their family members, with an average of 147 individuals per day. This assistance was provided during night time, using a van, and in close collaboration international and local partners.

- Mercy Corps team was providing internet connection, information via distribution of updated leaflets in Arabic and Farsi/Dari and translation services at the train station and RC in Preševo. Approximately 8,400 asylum-seekers were assisted by Mercy Corps in the reporting period.

- Mercy Corps provided internet connection, information and translation services to approximately 6,450 asylum-seekers at the Grey house RAP and the train station platform in Šid. Arabic and Farsi versions of information leaflets were distributed, while MC information/educational videos were cleared by SCRM and are ready to be displayed on TV screens in Šid and Adaševci RAPs.

- Philanthropy continued distribution of cash cards (worth €40) in Preševo and Zaječar. Cash cards are distributed to vulnerable refugee families in order to satisfy their immediate needs while they are in Serbia. In the reporting period, Philanthropy distributed 1,536 cash cards to 1,179 refugee families (5,477 individuals).
- Danish Refugee Council (DRC) mobile teams continued protection activities mainly in three locations: Adaševci, Miratovac/Preševo and Dimitrovgrad. DRC assisted 3,414 persons, through immediate response and referrals to relevant organisations and authorities. DRC provided relevant information to 14,796 refugees and asylum-seekers.
- IOM mobile team deployed to support Border police in Miratovac RAP assisted approx. 24,500 refugees and migrants upon arrival by providing necessary information and referral towards the registration center in Preševo. The IOM mobile team assisted vulnerable families and individuals (around 4,956 in total, of which 2,400 were children and



2,250 elderly, disabled, etc.) with transportation assistance from Miratovac to Preševo. Rental of additional mini vans for transportation assistance of vulnerable refugees and migrants from the Miratovac transit entry point to Preševo is planned for February.

- World Vision (WV) and UNICEF opened up a new child friendly space (CFS) at Šid RAP.
- WV assisted with 3 cases of temporarily separated children in Adaševci RAP.
- INTERSOS provided phone charging and internet access services at Adaševci RAP.
- UNICEF, through its partnership with World Vision, established a child-friendly space (CFS) opposite the railway station in Šid, which became operational on 15 January.
- In Adaševci RAP, UNICEF's CFS and mother-and-baby space are now in two separate, larger rooms. In order to ensure continuous support to children and families transiting towards Croatia, UNICEF-supported spaces are operational 24/7.
- UNICEF was granted permission from the Government to establish a CFS in Dimitrovgrad, to become operational shortly.
- UNICEF supported 3,132 children and 1,017 mothers in the reporting period through the services provided in four CFSs – in Preševo and Miratovac, operating in partnership with the Danish Refugee Council, and Adaševci and Šid RAP, operating in partnership with World Vision.
- UNICEF continued to support the Centre of Social Work to deploy additional social workers to identify and respond to the needs of vulnerable children and families in Preševo, Bujanovac, Belgrade and Šid. UNICEF was supporting training in the area of child protection and psychological first aid. Support to the Centre for social work in Preševo has been expanded and, as of 15 January, now maintains a 24/7 presence by the Centre's outreach workers.
- SOS CV Safe Place for Children at the Info-center in Belgrade supported 53 children, 188 adults and 44 families. 51 hygiene packages and 34 food packages were distributed. During this period, Info center was closed for 2 days due to the Orthodox Christmas. Educators participated in activities for children in RC Adaševci.
- SOS CV Safe Place for Children and Mother and Baby Corner in RAP Adaševci provided support to 564 children and 330 mothers. SPC was operated 12 hours per day and assistance for mothers with babies is available 24 hours/7 days. UNICEF/World Vision and SOS CV Serbia are running SPC together dividing shifts and resources. In the reporting period, Mothers and Babies corner provided support to 1.223 children and 538 mothers. SPC distributed 232 hygiene packages and 167 food items/milk for children older than 6 months. Mobile team distributed 112 NFIs.
- SOS CV IT spot at Adaševci (charger units and Wi-Fi internet) had 6,388 services. Number of mobile charging stations is 84. We provided connection on Informative web page [www.refugeeinfo.eu](http://www.refugeeinfo.eu) with information on 4 languages regarding present position/map, registration process, legal rights, transportation, accommodation and shelters, medical aid, other services/support organized in the One stop center and contacts along transit in Balkan's countries (in cooperation with Mercy Corps).
- SOS CV's new Wi Fi spot at the train station in Preševo was opened on January 7<sup>th</sup> (in cooperation with Mercy Corps) – 1,137 connections /services provided and 36 charging units placed.
- As part of gender-based violence (GBV) prevention activities, UNFPA distributed whistles to refugee women in Preševo, especially targeting those women arriving/traveling during the night.
- NSHC and TDH provided recreational outreach activities in Adaševci to 571 children and 108 parents; 3,922 winter and hygienic items were distributed to 3,049 beneficiaries, mainly children (1,410) and mothers (1,260); 185 asylum-seekers benefited from psychological first aid activities.
- ADRA was involved in the following 24/7 protection-related activities in Preševo, Miratovac and Bujanovac: communication, translation (10 translators) and assistance to public officers, identification of hidden basic needs, medical assistance, monitoring of unaccompanied minors and other persons with special needs, referral to the protection mechanism and assisting UNICEF, social care institutions and other agencies.



Miratovac – Refugee family crossing the border with FYR Macedonia, Photo©UNHCR

- Balkan Center for Migration (BCM)/Catholic Relief Service (CRS) interpreters assisted refugees arriving to Šid.
- The Asylum Info Centre in Belgrade, supported by ADRA, Klikaktiv, Savski Venac municipality and UNHCR, as well as Belgrade Center for Human Rights (BCHR) continued providing information, referrals, aid, counselling and Internet access to refugees in Belgrade.
- SCRM continued to provide free shuttle bus service to the asylum centre in Krnjača for refugees in Belgrade region to shelter from the elements.
- UNHCR's partners Amity and Sigma Plus had mobile teams present in Negotin, Zaječar, Dimitrovgrad, Pirot and Knjaževac, who provided assistance and information to refugees and migrants and referred UASCs to local centres for social work.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Many refugees and migrants sought financial assistance, claiming to have run out of funds.
- As of 30 December, official daily statistics are available only for those asylum-seekers who state the Republic of Serbia as their final destination country.
- There is an increased number of persons who are denied boarding on the train to Croatia as well as expulsions of migrants from Croatia. Stranded migrants are advised by UNHCR and IOM on the possibility of seeking asylum in Serbia and/or on possibilities for assisted voluntary return (AVR) to country of origin. Migrants who do not apply for asylum in Serbia are denied accommodation in refugee aid points.

## Education

### Achievements and Impact

- In the Banja Koviljača, Krnjača, Bogovađa and Krnjača asylum centres, UNHCR funded DRC activities for children, including a kindergarten supervised by qualified care-givers, and English and Serbian language lessons three times per week to improve their chances of integration within the community.
- The Bogovađa asylum centre conducted sewing classes for women and mothers who are protégés of this centre. This activity boosted refugees' psychological well-being and self-confidence, and empowered them with transferable skills. Products include bed sheets used in other asylum centres and the One-Stop Centre in Preševo.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Notwithstanding the above-mentioned efforts, refugees and persons granted subsidiary protection continued to face challenges of integration and education opportunities.



## Health

### Achievements and Impact

- WHO provided medical supplies for the RAP in Miratovac as well as medical supplies to 16 health centres in most affected locations, including Preševo, Dimitrovgrad and Šid.
- Caritas was providing medicaments and vitamins in the amount of 300 € per month, at the request of the Health Centre Dimitrovgrad.
- DRC and UNHCR continued providing medical assistance to refugees in Miratovac and Preševo, through two medical teams, as well as in Belgrade with two medical teams engaged through the local Primary Health Centres. DRC/UNHCR continued to provide medicines through contracted local state pharmacies. DRC Medical Team continued to monitor hospitalised PWSNs in order to provide additional support.

- UNFPA distributed Leaflets on Reproductive Health in crisis areas in cooperation with local health centers and other partners present in the field. Leaflets on complications in pregnancy, antenatal and postnatal care developed jointly with the Ministry of Health (MoH), were available in Serbian, English, Arabic, Farsi and Urdu.
- Mobile clinics donated by UNFPA to the Health Centers in Vranje and Šid were registered and will be used by local medical teams to provide reproductive health services to refugee women and girls while en route.
- Caritas was providing medicaments and vitamins in the amount of 300 € per month, at the request of the Health Centre Dimitrovgrad, for the needs of the refugees.
- MSF provided medical assistance at their camper in Adaševci to up to 200 asylum-seekers daily. BCM/CRS medical team and IDC/Šid Health Centre provided medical assistance from the main lobby of Adaševci Motel to up to 100 refugees each day, and BCM ensured interpretation services used by the medical team.
- WAHA provided medical care at Šid train station 24/7, supported by day by the Šid Health Centre team.
- WAHA medical team in Dimitrovgrad had up to 30 interventions daily.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- NSTR



## Food Security and Nutrition

### Achievements and Impact

- Distribution of up to 600 UNHCR-funded food rations by the Red Cross continued daily at Preševo Centre.
- World Vision distributed 7,842 food packages and hygiene items (tooth brush, tooth paste, wet wipes and tissues) in Adaševci RAP and Šid train station.
- UNICEF and MoH were in the process of finalising the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) on Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergency to provide appropriate guidance to ensure that those who are involved either as promoters or consumers of baby food have a clear understanding on the health implications. In addition, the SOP is geared towards sensitising and training of partners on good and proper nutrition practices and related standard, with breastfeeding being key to infants and young children feeding.
- UNICEF-supported mother-and-baby corners, where lactating mothers can continue to breastfeed, receive information on breastfeeding, and access necessary hygiene items, continued to be operational in Preševo and Miratovac (operating 24/7 in partnership with DRC), and in Adaševci and Šid (operating 24/7 in partnership with World Vision and SOS Children's Village). UNICEF supported 1,093 babies and 737 mothers in the three mother-and-baby corners during the reporting period.
- NSHC provided 2,740 CARE food packages to 3,011 asylum-seekers (1,888 adults and 1,123 children) in Adaševci RAP. NSHC and IRC provided food (3,824 sandwiches and 3,816 packages of fruit juice) to 4,892 asylum-seekers who arrived to Adaševci at night time.
- CARE/NSHC distributed 2,380 food packages in Šid/Adaševci and CARE/Nexus distributed 2,661 food packages in Preševo.
- Caritas continued, in cooperation with the Red Cross, to provide food parcels daily in Preševo, Adaševci and Belgrade (Krnjača asylum centre and the Red Cross container in the park near the central railway and bus station), based on the needs. Caritas provided 8,550 food parcels. Caritas was also providing hot soup portions at the RC in Preševo, together with the local organization "Life Aid" from Vranje. 16,500 portions of soup were distributed.
- WV and SOS Children Villages' nurses were providing round the clock support to mothers who were breast feeding or required infant and young child feeding (IYCF) in Adaševci RAP. According to WV, the percentage of breastfeeding mothers was 16.5 %.
- In cooperation with Red Cross, Philanthropy continued to provide food parcels in Šid for 250 asylum-seekers per day.
- SOS CV Mobile team at Preševo RC, together with UNICEF/DRC, supported 328 children and 70 families at the Safe Place for Children. In this period, the Mobile team distributed 1,244 food packages and 699 pairs of children's gloves. The team was present 12 hours/7 days at the RC.
- Philanthropy and Remar continued to deliver food 24/7 in Miratovac RAP.

- SCRM provided water and food to refugees temporarily accommodated in Šid RAP.
- Red Cross, CRS/Divac Foundation and EHO distributed food parcels in every bus at Adaševci RAP, while REMAR served soup and tea to asylum-seekers.
- UNHCR and partners HCIT, DRC and Asylum Info Center distributed 6,148 litres of water, 1,207 kgs of WFP high-energy biscuits (HEBs) and 56 kgs of biscuits in Preševo, Šid and Belgrade.
- The Red Cross, UNHCR IP Sigma Plus, Amity, ADRA, Divac foundation and “I am Human” NGO distributed food, water, clothes and blankets at the border with Bulgaria.
- Red Cross and Miksalište distributed food and clothes/shoes to refugees in Belgrade.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- NSTR

## Water and Sanitation

### Achievements and Impact

- Latrines funded by UNHCR, Japanese government, Philanthropy and Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) (7 male, 7 female toilets and the same number of showers, including the facilities for disabled asylum-seekers) were finished by the DRC and put into use at Preševo RC.
- MSF ensured water provision at Miratovac RAP with an installation of a water tank.
- UNHCR/DRC launched a tender for the provision of washing and drying equipment together with hygiene and disinfection material for Preševo RC.
- UNHCR/DRC engaged a cleaning agent to improve the sanitary and hygiene conditions at Preševo RC. Sanitary activities will concern both indoor and outdoor capacities of the compound (sanitary blocks, containers, RHUs, open area, etc.). A number of support and maintenance workers were engaged thanks to Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NMFA) and UNHCR funds.
- UNICEF’s expert on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene provided technical advice following a roof leak at the Adaševci RAP.
- UNICEF’s expert on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene was deployed to assess the situation in Preševo, Miratovac, Šid, Principovac and Adaševci to identify gaps and needs in WASH.
- CARE/Nexus provided 2 industrial washing and drying machines for the RC Preševo.
- Caritas-CRS bathroom container with showers, located in Miksalište-Belgrade, was used to provide refugees a chance of taking a free shower during their travel.



Šid - Catholic Relief Services/Divac Foundation distributing non-food aid, Photo@UNHCR,

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- UNHCR was following up with SCRM on the sanitary conditions inside the Šid RAP.



## Shelter and NFIs

### Achievements and Impact

- 35 UNHCR's RHUs are ready for use at Preševo RC. Beds and heaters have been installed in the RHUs.
- DRC progressed with the rehabilitation works, conducted with the funding from the NMFA, in the premises meant for the three sections of NFI storage/delivery at Preševo RC. Works were finalised on installation of dividing walls, electro installations and lighting. The remaining work concerns the glassery and carpentry to enable for the NFIs to be soon stored in RC premises. Main rehabilitation works in the RC infirmary were performed by the DRC, namely, plastering, water supply network and heating. The mixed family pavilion was undergoing intensive works, namely, levelling of the ceiling, flooring, installation of electricity and heating network.
- Next to the Police Station in Minićevo (Knjaževac municipality), the foundations for two containers donated by UNHCR were constructed by IP Vizija and containers were put in place on 16 January. The containers, fully winterized, are used by asylum-seekers while waiting for registration.
- UNHCR/DRC placed 14 containers in Čakanovci in Preševo municipality to accommodate border police/MoI staff.
- UNHCR's IP DRC commenced the refurbishment of premises intended for social space in Šid RAP. New flooring was installed and the walls and interior carpentry were painted. Rehabilitation of sanitary premises commenced. The tendering process for the construction of a prefabricated house in Šid RAP was concluded.
- Mercy Corps containers served i.e. temporarily accommodated a total 504 asylum-seekers in Preševo.
- Mercy Corps-funded mobile team of Divac Foundation continued NFI distributions and provision of information in Šid and Dimitrovgrad. Total number of asylum-seekers assisted exceeded 4,670.
- Philanthropy continued to deliver NFIs in Miratovac RAP. Aid was distributed 24/7. 1,932 non-food items (diapers, baby wet wipes, winter clothes for children, boots, raincoats, etc.) were delivered in this period.
- UNFPA distributed additional sets of underwear in cooperation with the Red Cross.
- WV assisted 3,908 refugees in Miratovac RAP with winterization items.
- World Vision distributed 7,842 food packages and hygiene items (tooth brush, tooth paste, wet wipes, dry tissues) in Adaševci RAP and Šid train station.
- UNICEF, through its partners DRC, World Vision and HCIT, reached 1,384 children with winter items (raincoats, sets of winter hat, scarf and gloves, winter jackets, thermal underwear sets, pairs of winter boots, pairs of winter socks, overall outerwear for babies and thermal cover baby sets).
- Caritas continued, in cooperation with the Red Cross, to provide hygiene packs for women and babies daily in Preševo, Belgrade and Adaševci. Caritas distributed 4,440 hygiene packs for women and 2,002 baby hygiene packages. During the past two weeks, Caritas distributed 675 fleece jackets, 1,024 rain jackets, 246 winter hats, 3,700 pairs of socks and 1,814 winter shoes for both children and adults in Preševo, Adaševci and Belgrade. Caritas also provided 30 water heaters and faucets for the Asylum centre in Krnjača.
- SOS Children Villages Serbia donated 5,000 EUR to Šid Municipality for repairing the roof of the hotel Adaševci RAP. On 25 December, SOS donated a car to the Center for Social Work in Preševo, for support to refugees, especially families with small and sick children and UASCs.
- UNHCR distributed 8 wheelchairs and 3 sets of crutches in Preševo and Šid.



*Preševo - Asylum seekers inside the fully winterized resting area,  
Photo©UNHCR*

- UNHCR and partners HCIT, DRC, Society for Peace Development and Ecology (SPDE) and Asylum Info Center distributed 1,867 blankets, 2,989 winter jackets, 523 raincoats, 26 sleeping bags, 360 hygiene gels, 364 plastic bags, 142 hygiene packs, 10 plastic sheets/tarpaulins, 722 pairs of socks and 2,069 pairs of footwear in Preševo, Šid and Belgrade.
- Philanthropy continued to deliver NFIs in Miratovac RAP. Aid was distributed 24/7. 903 persons received assistance. Delivered aid included 1,643 non-food items (diapers, baby wet wipes, winter clothes for children, boots, raincoats, etc.).
- On 2 January, World Vision started operations in Miratovac with distributions of winter items to 915 refugees in the first two days.
- In partnership with Group 484, SC organized the distribution of 1,860 cold food parcels, 1,860 hygiene kits and 4,305 clothing items (gloves, hats, underwear, socks and boots) for children and adults in Šid- Adaševci area.
- Asylum Info Centre in Belgrade distributed clothes and hygienic packages.
- DRC teams conducted distributions of various NFIs in three main locations: Adaševci, Preševo/Miratovac and Dimitrovgrad. Through ECHO funds, DRC provided winterisation items - mainly clothes for men, women and children, targeting the PWSNs. During the reporting period DRC assisted 642 persons in Adaševci, 142 persons in Miratovac and 169 persons in Dimitrovgrad. DRC distributed 4,811 winterisation items through DRC/UNICEF Child Friendly Space.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Šid and Adaševci RAPs need infrastructure upgrade (Šid suffers from electric supply issues whereas the most acute issue at Adaševci RAP is the sewage system).



### Support to local communities

### Achievements and Impact

- SOS CV donated 650,000 RSD (5,328 EUR) to Šid municipality for the repair of the roof at motel Adaševci RAP, in order to provide better conditions for the new CFS and Mother and Baby Corner in the larger premises inside the motel.
- CARE/Nexus continued to provide financial support to the public utility company (PUC) Moravica for garbage collection every day in Miratovac RAP, for a period up to 30 April 2016.
- UNDP procured 10 containers of 1.1. m3, 200 waste bins of 120L, 30 pairs of winter jackets, rubber boots and gloves for the PUC of Šid, 500 waste bins 120L, 30 pairs of rubber boots, 13 pairs of winter shoes and 30 pairs of gloves for the PUC of Preševo and 20 Winter jackets, rubber boots and gloves for the PUC of Belgrade.
- UNDP is finalizing the regeneration of 2 water wells in Šid and has procured a pump and electromotor for water supply system in Preševo.
- UNDP continued to rent a garbage truck on behalf of the Preševo municipality from Vranje PUC, which served to keep Miratovac and Preševo litter-free.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- NSTR

## Working in partnership

- The internal coordination mechanism of the UN system in Serbia is the **UN Refugee Theme Group (RTG)**, which meets every Friday under UNHCR chairmanship. RTG coordinates the 4 sectorial working groups (WGs): a) Refugee Protection WG (Co-chaired by the Ministry of Labour, Employment Veteran and Social Policy (hereinafter: MoL) & UNHCR), b) the WG on Shelter/NFI/WASH (Co-chaired by Serbian Commissariat for Refugees and Migration (SCRM), MoL & UNHCR), c) WG on Health/Food/Nutrition (Co-chaired by the Ministry of Health & WHO) and d) WG on Local Community Support (Co-chaired by the Ministry of Local Self-Government & UNDP), which meet on a fortnightly basis. RTG met on 8 and 15 January.
- Field coordination group meetings take place every second day in Preševo (chaired by UNHCR) and Šid (chaired by SCRM).
- **Refugee Protection Working Group (RPWG)**, co-chaired by the UNHCR and the MoL, currently makes for the key coordination mechanism for agencies/NGOs operational in the country, as well as a source of information for donors/diplomatic missions who also attend its meetings largely as observers. RPWG has over 150 members, and is constantly growing. Under UNHCR lead, RPWG has given rise to three sub- working groups (SWGs) on: a) Information for Refugees, b) Child Protection and c) Non-Food Items (NFIs). The RPWG last met on 14 January in Belgrade.
- A **Partners' Briefing** where the UNHCR, UNRC, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & MoL/Chair of Government WG on Mixed Migration update the diplomatic corps/donors and NGOs on the current refugee situation and the response of the UN agencies in the previous period, took place on 9 November. Partners Briefing takes place every first week of the month and the last meeting took place on 9 December.
- The **Serbian European Integration Office (SEIO)** hosts **Donor Coordination Meetings** every first week of the month. The last Donor Coordination Meeting took place on 9 November in Belgrade.

### Contacts:

Ms. Indira Beganović, Reporting Officer, E-mail: [beganovi@unhcr.org](mailto:beganovi@unhcr.org), Tel: +381 (0) 63 431 886

Ms. Vera Dragović-O'Donnell, Information Management Associate, E-mail: [dragovic@unhcr.org](mailto:dragovic@unhcr.org), Tel: +381 (0) 63 343 521

### Links:

<http://www.unhcr.rs/>