



# EUROPEAN MIGRATION CRISIS (WESTERN BALKANS)

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

SITUATION REPORT • 11 September 2015



## Highlights

Migrants waiting to be registered in Maratovac, Serbia © IOM Belgrade, 2015

■ IOM has published a response plan to provide lifesaving emergency interventions, with a total funding requirement of USD 3.95 million.

■ At the Miratovac green border camp, IOM provides advice and transport assistance to vulnerable migrants and refugees to reach the registration camp which is 15 km away.

■ IOM has completed reconstruction activities for containers provided by the government at the transit site in Gevglija.

## Situation Overview

In recent months, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia have both witnessed a sharp surge in the numbers of people arriving at and transiting through their borders. Since the beginning of the year, approximately 120,000 people have arrived in Serbia, with nearly 70% of the arrivals coming from Syria, while others are from Afghanistan, Iraq, Eritrea and Somalia. While the number of migrants and refugees arriving in Serbia continues to soar with an average of 3,500 daily arrivals, the government's capacity to carry out registration and fingerprinting remains limited to 1,500 a day.

On 20 August, the government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia declared a state of emergency due to the increased migration flows into its southern border with Greece. According to the Ministry of Interior, between 19 June and 7 September 2015, a total of 64,522 migrants were registered, out of which 43,671 male; 8,857 female; 10,386 children (accompanied by a family member) and 1,608 unaccompanied minors. The current average arrival rate at the southern border is estimated at more than 3,000 per day and the government is faced with difficulties in addressing the basic needs of those arriving.

The authorities and local communities are finding it difficult to cope with the high numbers of migrant and refugee arrivals. An urgent response from the humanitarian community is needed before the situation further deteriorates. IOM staff have been deployed to the most affected locations at the border between Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in order to provide assistance, including advice and transport assistance to new arrivals, specifically for unaccompanied minors, women with children and migrants with specific needs.

## CONTACTS

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## IOM RESPONSE



### Transit Sites

**The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia:** IOM has completed reconstruction activities through the building of roof platforms and concrete baseboards for containers provided by the government at the transit site in Gevgelija. The containers are used to provide registration and medical assistance to arriving migrants and refugees.



### Registration and Reception Assistance

**The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia:** The initial IOM intervention has focused on **setting up registration/screening processes** that can identify and customize assistance to vulnerable migrants and refugees and in the set-up of a new registration centre. As a part of this effort, IOM supplied IT equipment to help the Border Police in Gevglija switch from a manual process of registration to an automated one that provides quicker registration of arrivals.

Country of Origin of registered persons in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (19 June to 7 September)	
Syria	52,495
Afghanistan	3,596
Iraq	3,003
Pakistan	1,876
Palestine	780
Other	2,772
<b>Total</b>	<b>64,522</b>

IOM has also helped to establish the **opening of a new registration centre** in Gevglija, where it has now been operational since 2 September. Since the opening, approximately 4,000 migrants have been registered on a daily basis. The government's priority is to enhance the registration process, which will include security measures such as fingerprinting.

**Serbia:** IOM has deployed staff to the most affected border locations between Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to **provide advice and transport assistance** to new arrivals, especially for unaccompanied minors, women with children and people with vulnerable needs. At the Miratovac green border camp, IOM provides advice and transport assistance to vulnerable migrants and refugees to reach the registration camp which is 15 km away.



### Assessments

**The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia:** IOM staff have conducted a rapid assessment to observe the main trends of the mixed migration flows through the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and at the same time to identify the main vulnerabilities and most urgent needs of the target population.

The Rapid Vulnerabilities Assessment contains a set of recommendations on how to address the migrants' vulnerabilities from the perspective of technical support, humanitarian assistance, prevention/protection (including health), as well as cooperation and coordination.

**Serbia:** In close cooperation with the Government and UNHCR, IOM has participated in a border assessment organized in July 2015. IOM medical staff have also taken part in a WHO-led assessment, which is currently being finalized.



Opening of registration centre in Gevglija  
© IOM Skopje, 2015



### IOM Emergency Response Plan

IOM has published an emergency response plan as an addendum to IOM's Mediterranean Response Plan. The response plan will focus on providing lifesaving emergency interventions in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia, in the **areas of information management, registration and reception assistance, migration management and support, assistance to vulnerable migrants, and health and psychosocial services.**

The overall objective is to contribute to the ongoing efforts of the governments affected by the crisis throughout the region. In doing so, IOM will help them address the emergency situation and provide assistance to vulnerable migrants and refugees. The total **funding required is USD 3.95 million.**