

SERBIA

(and Kosovo: Security Council resolution 1244 (1999))

| Working environment |

● The context

Serbia

Serbia is currently home to nearly 70,550 registered refugees from the Balkan conflicts of the 1990s. Serbia also hosts some 210,000 IDPs from Kosovo, of whom some 97,000 are in need of assistance, according to an IDP needs assessment survey conducted by the Serbian Commissariat for Refugees and UNHCR in 2011.

In 2012, over 3,100 people expressed their intention to apply for asylum in Serbia. However, only 488 were registered by the asylum office, while many left for Western Europe without submitting the application or without completing the second step of registration due to some shortcomings in the asylum system and lack of resources at the asylum centre.

UNHCR also works to identify, prevent and reduce statelessness, in particular for the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian (RAE) minority communities. According to a 2010 UNHCR survey, some 30,000 people belonging to this group are at risk of statelessness.



Planning figures for Serbia

TYPE OF POPULATION	ORIGIN	JAN 2013		DEC 2013	
		TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR
Refugees	Bosnia and Herzegovina	20,000	600	19,000	400
	Croatia	49,000	5,000	45,000	5,000
Asylum-seekers	Various	200	200	350	350
IDPs	Serbia	210,000	9,000	210,000	8,000
Stateless people	Stateless	8,500	2,500	8,500	2,500
Total		287,700	17,300	282,850	16,250

Planning figures for Kosovo (S/RES/1244 (1999))

TYPE OF POPULATION	ORIGIN	JAN 2013		DEC 2013	
		TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR
Refugees	Bosnia and Herzegovina	10	10	-	-
	Croatia	30	30	20	20
	The former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia	30	30	10	10
	Various	30	30	20	20
Asylum-seekers	Various	20	20	20	20
Returnees (refugees)	Serbia (and Kosovo S/RES/1244)	500	500	500	500
IDPs	Serbia (and Kosovo S/RES/1244)	17,200	17,200	16,000	16,000
Returnees (IDPs)	Serbia (and Kosovo S/RES/1244)	1,500	1,500	2,000	2,000
Stateless people ¹	Stateless	4,000	1,000	4,000	1,000
Others of Concern	Various	600	600	600	600
Total		23,920	20,920	23,170	20,170

¹ Official statistics on stateless people are not available. The figure is a UNHCR estimate based on field assessments and experience in assisting persons at risk of statelessness.

Kosovo

UNHCR works with the authorities and other partners to support legal reform in the areas of asylum, civil status and civil registration; to prevent statelessness; and to develop a law and policy framework for returns and reintegration. Some 18,000 people remain displaced within Kosovo.

The first half of 2012 saw 24 new applications for asylum and UNHCR continues to support 52 refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina and from Croatia who fled during the 1991-1995 conflict, 43 refugees from The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and 26 mandate refugees from Iraq, Cameroon and Ethiopia.

Main objectives and targets for 2013

SERBIA

Favourable protection environment

- Law and policy are developed and strengthened.
 - ☞ Training sessions and seminars for the judiciary, officials of local government bodies and civil society help to promote compliance with protection standards.

Basic needs and services

- Services for people with specific needs are strengthened.
 - ☞ A total of 244 IDP families receive help to leave collective centres, reducing the number of collective-centre residents and increasing the percentage of households living in adequate conditions.
 - ☞ Some 4,800 IDPs and 2,900 refugees benefit from psychological support, referral to state institutions and advocacy. Some 1,000 extremely vulnerable individuals receive one-time cash grants.

Durable solutions

- Greater reduction of statelessness is achieved.
 - ☞ Some 5,500 stateless people are assisted to acquire or confirm their nationality.
- The potential for voluntary return is realized.
 - ☞ Up to 500 people benefit from go-and-see and go-and-inform visits, as well as participation in municipal working groups.

Community empowerment and self-reliance

- Self-reliance and livelihoods are improved.
 - ☞ Some 740 IDPs receive self-reliance and livelihoods assistance.

KOSOVO (S/RES/1244 (1999))

Fair protection processes and documentation

- The provision of civil-registration and civil-status documentation is strengthened.
 - ☞ Some 500 children are registered and issued documentation under regular birth registration procedures, and 500 individuals are registered through late birth registration facilities.
- The level of individual documentation is increased.
 - ☞ Some 1,000 potential beneficiaries above 16 years of age in need of identity documents are able to obtain it through legal assistance.
- Access to status-determination procedures is improved, and so is their quality
 - ☞ UNHCR attends 300 interviews with asylum-seekers and people of concern to ensure institutional compliance with RSD standards.
- Reception conditions are improved.

- ☞ Some 100 interventions are made on behalf of people of concern with the police and local and regional institutions to ensure that access to asylum procedures is guaranteed.

Favourable protection environment

- Law and policy are developed and strengthened.
 - ☞ Some 20 legal policy documents are commented on by UNHCR in order to ensure they are consistent with international standards.
 - ☞ Some 200 police/border officials and 50 lawyers benefit from workshops, training sessions, thematic meetings and study tours, increasing their capacity for RSD and understanding of international law and standards.
 - ☞ Advocacy is conducted for the inclusion of people of concern in local, national and regional development plans.
- Access to legal assistance and legal remedies is improved.
 - ☞ Some 1,300 voluntary returnees, forced returnees belonging to minority groups and 500 IDPs benefit from legal services and improve their legal status.
- Access to territory is improved and the risk of refoulement reduced.
 - ☞ Daily monitoring at the airport and 100 monitoring visits to border crossing points guarantee adherence to international protection principles.
 - ☞ Some 500 interviews are conducted with asylum-seekers and individuals of concern.

Durable solutions

- The potential for integration is realized.
 - ☞ Some 70 refugees from Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia benefit from regularization of their legal status.
- The potential for voluntary return is realized.
 - ☞ Some 1,800 returnees and IDPs receive return packages.
- Reintegration is made more sustainable.
 - ☞ Reintegration monitoring is strengthened and an assessment of protection gaps is undertaken.
 - ☞ A durable solutions strategy for displaced persons in Kosovo is pursued.

Security from violence and exploitation

- The risk of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is reduced and the quality of the response to it is improved.
 - ☞ At least 20 victims of SGBV are supported through gender- and age-sensitive legal assistance and interventions.

UNHCR's presence in 2013

Serbia

□ Number of offices	1
□ Total staff	39
International	2
National	31
Others	6

Kosovo

□ Number of offices	5
□ Total staff	44
International	6
National	32
UNVs	5
Others	1

Since 2010, forced returns from Western Europe have greatly outnumbered voluntary returns to Kosovo. This trend is likely to continue in 2013, raising major concerns about Kosovo's reintegration capacity as well as practical protection issues. UNHCR retains a

Kosovo-wide return monitoring framework to measure the degree of reintegration of returnees and to make appropriate recommendations to relevant national and international actors. Assistance is also given to those at risk of statelessness due to the lack of civil documentation and birth certificates, a situation that particularly affects RAE communities.

● The needs

Serbia

There is a strong need to bolster reception capacity for asylum-seekers in a permanent manner. It will be important to continue monitoring and building the capacity of both civil society and government officials working in the asylum system.

Some 2,540 people, including over 500 refugees and more than 2,000 IDPs, live in 24 collective centres. A large number of refugees and IDPs reside in substandard temporary housing or in illegal settlements lacking basic facilities. Alternative and durable housing solutions are necessary in order to improve the living conditions.

According to the findings of the 2011 IDP needs assessment, some 39 per cent of IDPs are unemployed, and 74 per cent live



Groatian refugee in Vojvodina who has benefited from a UNHCR agricultural income-generating programme.

below the poverty line. Female heads of household constitute 31 per cent of the most vulnerable people. Some 80 per cent of IDP households have expressed a need for help in finding durable housing solutions. Only one in five IDPs has expressed a willingness to return to Kosovo; the rest wished to remain in their place of displacement. Some 25 per cent of people of concern to UNHCR suffer from chronic diseases, and 8 per cent have disabilities.

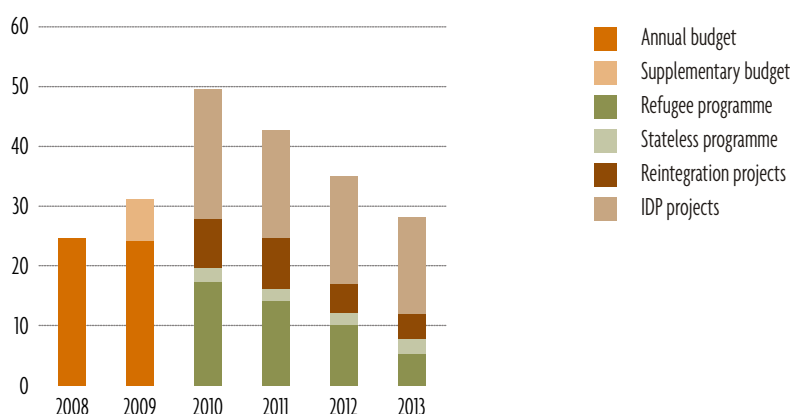
Kosovo

In Kosovo, UNHCR is mandated under UN Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999) to supervise the "safe and free return of all refugees and displaced persons to their home." The lack of civil documentation and property deeds, as well as insufficient housing and high unemployment, remain key issues affecting reintegration and the sustainability of return.

UNHCR will pursue a comprehensive durable-solutions strategy for the displaced in Kosovo to address their protection and reintegration needs, and will advocate for the inclusion of return and reintegration issues in national policies and development plans. The ultimate goal is to ensure that Kosovo's institutions take full responsibility for the return process, find ways to

UNHCR's budget in Serbia (and Kosovo S/RES/1244 (1999)) 2008 – 2013

Millions (USD)



surmount obstacles to return and reintegration, and address the needs of people of concern, especially for the RAE minorities. There is also a need to raise the capacity of the authorities involved in refugee status determination (RSD).

Strategy and activities

Serbia

UNHCR will help to bring the protracted displacement caused by the 1991-1995 conflicts to an end by working to make the regional housing programme a success. It will collaborate with all relevant stakeholders to incorporate refugees and IDPs in national plans. Advocacy for legislative changes and capacity building among the authorities in the areas of asylum and statelessness will be intensified. Close cooperation with implementing partners will aim to help make their activities sustainable after UNHCR disengages from the country.

Kosovo

UNHCR will strengthen its protection of asylum-seekers, refugees, IDPs and returnees while phasing down material assistance to IDPs and returnees. It will improve the quality of RSD and help the authorities to implement durable solutions, mainly through local integration for refugees and IDPs and sustainable reintegration for returnees. Finally, UNHCR will continue to support voluntary returns and monitor the human rights situation of all minority returnees.

Constraints

Serbia

The political willingness of the authorities is crucial if the protracted refugee and IDP situations in the country are to be resolved, the asylum system is to be improved, and the rate of civil registration among those at risk of statelessness to be increased.

Kosovo

Lack of housing and the poor socio-economic situation are key constraints for return and reintegration in Kosovo. Inter-ethnic relations and governance also pose challenges.

Organization and implementation

Coordination

Serbia

UNHCR works in close coordination with the Serbian Commissioner for Refugees,

the Ministries of the Interior and Social Affairs, municipal authorities and local centres for social welfare. Partnerships with the European Union, the UN Country Team, the OSCE, the Council of Europe and civil society are also important.

Kosovo

UNHCR coordinates activities with the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the EU Office in Kosovo. It participates in the UN Kosovo Team (UNKT) and the implementation of the UNKT Common Development Plan. UNHCR also works closely with the Kosovo UN Planning Team, OSCE and IOM.

Financial information

The total comprehensive budget for 2013 for Serbia and Kosovo (S/RES/1244 (1999)), amounts to USD 28.1 million, a reduction of some USD 7 million (17 per cent) from 2012.

The comprehensive budget for Serbia totals USD 19.25 million, of which 85 per cent is allocated for IDPs, 10 per cent for refugees and 5 per cent for stateless people.

The overall requirements in Kosovo are USD 9 million, of which 28 per cent is allocated for IDPs, 41 per cent for return and reintegration, 25 per cent for refugees and 7 per cent for people at risk of statelessness.

Consequences of a funding shortfall

In Serbia:

- Some 8,500 IDPs would not be provided with the housing and self-reliance assistance required to help them leave collective centres or repair their houses.
- Some 5,000 people would be deprived of legal assistance and community services support.

In Kosovo:

- Some 1,000 children would not benefit from birth registration and civil documentation.
- Some 2,000 people would bear the consequences of cuts in:
 - legal assistance;
 - food assistance for the first six months after their return to Kosovo;
 - return packages containing household goods, food and core-relief items; and
 - winterization assistance for vulnerable persons.

PARTNERS

Implementing partners

Serbia

Government agencies

Serbian Commissariat for Refugees

NGOs

Amity
Association for Development of Children and Youth – Open Club
Belgrade Centre for Human Rights
Danish Refugee Council
Humanitarian Centre for Integration and Tolerance
Interos
Micro Development Fund
MicroFinS
Praxis
Vizija

Others

UNOPS

Kosovo

NGOs

Advocacy Training and Resource Centre
Civil Rights Program-Kosovo
Kosovo Agency for Advocacy and Development

Others

Return Coordination and Support Unit

Operational partners

Serbia

Others

EU
IOM
OSCE
UN Habitat
UNDP
UNICEF

Kosovo

Government agencies

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
Ministry of Communities and Returns
Ministry of Local Government Administration
Ministry of Internal Affairs
Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.

NGOs

Danish Refugee Council
Kosova Rehabilitation Center for Torture Victims
Mercy Corps
Roma and Ashkalia Documentation Centre

Others

EU Office in Kosovo
EULEX
EUSR
ICRC
IFRC
IOM
KFOR
KPA
OHCHR
OSCE
UNDP
UNFPA
UNICEF
UNMIK
UNWOMEN
WHO

2013 UNHCR's budget in Serbia (USD)

BUDGET BREAKDOWN	REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1	STATELESS PROGRAMME PILLAR 2	IDP PROJECTS PILLAR 4	TOTAL
Favourable protection environment				
Law and policy	148,158	131,390	0	279,548
Access to legal assistance and remedies	328,158	0	206,717	534,874
Access to territory and <i>non-refoulement</i>	229,505	0	0	229,505
Public attitude towards persons of concern	59,968	76,890	128,716	265,573
Subtotal	765,788	208,281	335,432	1,309,500
Fair protection processes and documentation				
Reception conditions improved	197,658	0	0	197,658
Subtotal	197,658	0	0	197,658
Security from violence and exploitation				
Prevention and response to SGBV	0	0	403,578	403,578
Subtotal	0	0	403,578	403,578
Basic needs and essential services				
Health	97,384	0	218,716	316,099
Shelter and infrastructure	0	0	9,074,679	9,074,679
Basic domestic items	0	0	486,120	486,120
Services for people with specific needs	224,567	0	409,431	633,998
Education	0	0	401,716	401,716
Subtotal	321,951	0	10,590,662	10,912,613
Community empowerment and self-reliance				
Self-reliance and livelihoods	199,847	0	2,568,639	2,768,486
Subtotal	199,847	0	2,568,639	2,768,486
Durable solutions				
Voluntary return	123,044	0	563,147	686,191
Integration	62,584	0		62,584
Reduction of statelessness	0	769,843		769,843
Subtotal	185,628	769,843	563,147	1,518,618
Leadership, coordination and partnerships				
Coordination and partnerships	0	0	299,404	299,404
Subtotal	0	0	299,404	299,404
Logistics and operations support				
Logistics and supply	90,851	53,390	607,431	751,673
Operations management, coordination and support	370,699	170,843	546,929	1,088,471
Subtotal	461,551	224,234	1,154,360	1,840,144
Total	2,132,422	1,202,358	15,915,221	19,250,000
2012 Revised budget (as of 30 June 2012)	7,378,415	1,022,518	14,607,367	23,008,300

2013 UNHCR's budget in Kosovo (S/RES/1244 (1999)) (USD)

BUDGET BREAKDOWN	REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1	STATELESS PROGRAMME PILLAR 2	REINTEGRATION PROJECTS PILLAR 3	IDP PROJECTS PILLAR 4	TOTAL
Favourable Protection Environment					
Law and policy	175,502	523,921	212,129	0	911,552
Access to legal assistance and remedies	0	0	299,933	0	299,933
Access to territory and <i>non-refoulement</i>	615,197	0	0	0	615,197
Subtotal	790,699	523,921	512,063	0	1,826,682
Fair Protection Processes and Documentation					
Reception conditions	123,596	0	0	0	123,596
Refugee status determination	62,654	0	0	0	62,654
Individual documentation	0	157,295	0	0	157,295
Civil registration and civil status documentation	0	241,135	0	0	241,135
Subtotal	186,250	398,431	0	0	584,681
Security from Violence and Exploitation					
Prevention and response to SGBV	0	0	484,181	0	484,181
Subtotal	0	0	484,181	0	484,181
Basic Needs and Essential Services					
Shelter and infrastructure	1,754,942	0	0	0	1,754,942
Subtotal	1,754,942	0	0	0	1,754,942
Community Empowerment and Self Reliance					
Co-existence with local communities	0	0	254,229	0	254,229
Subtotal	0	0	254,229	0	254,229
Durable Solutions					
Voluntary return	0	0	373,063	0	373,063
Reintegration	0	0	941,432	216,667	1,158,098
Integration	76,983	0	0	0	76,983
Subtotal	76,983	0	1,314,495	216,667	1,608,144
Leadership, Coordination and Partnerships					
Coordination and partnerships	44,990	0	291,795	0	336,786
Subtotal	44,990	0	291,795	0	336,786
Logistics and Operations Support					
Logistics and supply	0	0	577,701	0	577,701
Operations management, coordination and support	273,200	448,955	817,398	0	1,539,553
Subtotal	273,200	448,955	1,395,099	0	2,117,254
Total	3,127,063	1,371,308	4,251,861	216,667	8,966,898
2012 Revised budget (as of 30 June 2012)	2,759,881	969,467	4,862,867	3,412,792	12,005,007