

# SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE

## Regional Overview

Albania • Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Croatia • Federal Republic of Yugoslavia • The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia



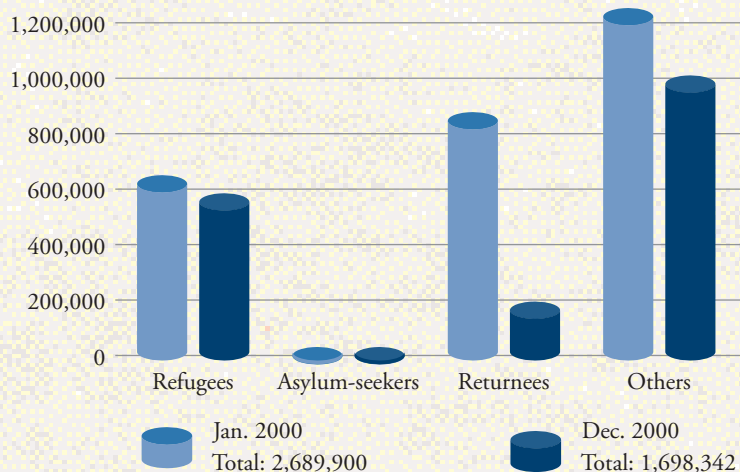
## MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

Following a year dominated by massive population displacement and suffering caused by the conflict in Kosovo, South-Eastern Europe witnessed a number of positive developments in 2000. The installation of a democratic regime in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia created new opportunities for peace and stability in the region, and renewed hopes of solutions to displacement. The change of government also had a positive impact on two of UNHCR's key regional strategic objectives, namely return and local integration of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). The normalisation of relations between the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Governments of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia should substantially ease the process of refugee return. Furthermore, the new Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has formally encouraged refugees who do not wish to return to their pre-war

homes to integrate as citizens of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

In Kosovo, a large-scale humanitarian relief effort successfully assisted hundreds of thousands of Kosovars to reintegrate into their communities. In Albania and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYR Macedonia), the number of refugees and persons of concern to UNHCR declined substantially, thanks to large-scale repatriation to Kosovo. Both Bosnia and

### Persons of Concern to UNHCR



Herzegovina and Croatia witnessed the return of tens of thousands of displaced persons and refugees, mainly from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, more vigorous enforcement of property legislation, combined with improved security conditions, allowed many IDPs and former refugees to return to areas to which no minorities had dared return since the end of the war. The new administration in Croatia took steps to revitalise the stalled process of minority returns by eliminating discriminatory elements of legislation relating to property reconstruction. These developments raised hopes for continued peace and stability in the region as a whole.

While there was considerable progress in the search for solutions to displacement during 2000, significant challenges remain. More than 1.3 million people are still displaced from their homes in the region and hundreds of thousands of refugees, returnees and displaced persons continue to require the support of the international community. UNHCR's primary objective during 2000 was to continue to promote conditions conducive to the return of the displaced, especially minorities, as well as to promote alternative solutions, such as local integration. The potential for fresh population displacement also exists, due to continuing instability in certain areas of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. UNHCR therefore remained actively engaged throughout the year in emergency preparedness and response activities especially with regards to areas of potential population displacement in the region, such as Montenegro, Kosovo and southern Serbia, as well as FYR Macedonia.

## CHALLENGES AND CONCERNS

In Kosovo, the ongoing harassment and displacement of non-Albanian minorities remained one of UNHCR's major concerns throughout 2000, with more than 220,000 non-Albanians having been displaced from Kosovo into other parts of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia since June 1999. Despite some limited progress, continued inter-ethnic tension and violence frustrated UNHCR's efforts to promote the return of minorities. Ongoing inter-ethnic violence in southern Serbia also caused displacement of the civilian population and impeded efforts to bring home approximately 20,000 ethnic Albanians who have left the area since 1999.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the limiting factors to the return of refugees and displaced people continued to be property restitution, reconstruction of housing and overall economic recovery. Property restitution laws

were successfully implemented in many parts of the country, but in several municipalities they were still being actively obstructed. In Croatia, a satisfactory legal framework and property restitution mechanism has yet to be put in place. Investment in property re-development did not keep pace with the numbers of returnees in either country, forcing many returnees to take sub-standard alternative accommodation. Lack of economic opportunities discouraged many people from returning to some areas and threatened the sustainability of returns.

During 2000, all the countries of South-Eastern Europe were confronted with the new challenge of an increasing number of migrants and asylum-seekers from other parts of the world transiting the region en route to Western Europe. The problem was compounded almost everywhere by porous borders, liberal visa policies, and the absence of an effective legal framework to regulate migration, asylum, and the prosecution of smugglers. UNHCR initiated a regional approach within the framework of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe aimed at developing national asylum systems and improving the capacity of each country to deal with this increasingly complex issue. The initiative is designed to ensure that migration control systems allow *bona fide* asylum-seekers and refugees to have access to safety and protection.

## PROGRESS TOWARDS SOLUTIONS

In 2000, UNHCR continued its partnership with governments, other agencies and organisations, as well as NGOs, to facilitate returns and protect minority groups, while promoting durable solutions for those unwilling to return. As co-chair of the Stability Pact Steering Group on Return, UNHCR continued to support the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe as a means to encourage and sustain durable solutions in the region, especially sustainable minority return movements. UNHCR encouraged the relevant international organisations with long-term rehabilitation and development mandates (notably in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Kosovo) to provide more sustainable support for reconstruction, infrastructure and local economies.

UNHCR continued its efforts in 2000 to create the conditions for the return of minorities to Kosovo. The Office promoted inter-ethnic dialogue between the ethnic Albanian majority and the minority communities. This led, for example, to the adoption in February 2000 of a Joint Platform for Action for the return of displaced

Roma communities in Kosovo. As a result, there has been some progress on returns, although the prevailing climate of violence and harassment of non-Albanian minorities in Kosovo has significantly limited the success of the programme. UNHCR has also sought to address the more difficult issue of the return of Kosovo Serbs through the development of a Framework for Serb Returns to specified locations where early safe and sustainable return might be feasible. However, despite the efforts of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the Kosovo Force (KFOR), conditions in most parts of Kosovo in 2000 were not yet conducive to the safe and sustainable return of Kosovo Serbs.

Encouraging progress was achieved on returns in Bosnia and Herzegovina, where stricter implementation of property laws under the Property Law Implementation Plan was accompanied by a dramatic increase in minority returns to areas where there had previously been none. In November 2000 the Government, with the

support of UNHCR, conducted the first official registration of refugees and IDPs. This revealed that the number of IDPs had fallen from 800,000 to 518,200. Since January 1996, some 368,000 refugees have repatriated to Bosnia and Herzegovina, while 355,300 IDPs returned to their areas of origin within the country. During 2000 alone, some 18,000 refugees repatriated, and some 59,000 IDPs returned to their homes. Of the total returns during the year, some 67,000 are considered to have been “minority return” movements, representing a 60 per cent increase over the 1999 figure. Returns to and within Croatia numbered some 42,000 in 2000 (including some 14,000 IDPs, and 19,000 Croatian Serb refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia).

UNHCR encouraged all countries in the region to pass or amend legislation with a direct bearing on the protection and welfare of asylum-seekers, refugees, returnees and IDPs, and encouraged them to provide services for the most vulnerable. Through the Bosnian



Women's Initiative and Kosovo Women's Initiative, UNHCR continued to empower women to become agents of economic and social change.

## OPERATIONS

Separate country chapters describe UNHCR's operations in **Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia** (including activities in Kosovo) and **The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**.

## FUNDING

The unprecedented donor response to the Kosovo emergency during 1999 was followed in 2000 by a relative decline in donor support for UNHCR's programmes in South-Eastern Europe. Reduced funding for UNHCR's programmes globally led to a prioritisation of activities, and the withdrawal of some non-essential programmes, which put a considerable strain on operations. Under the revised budget, in late 2000 UNHCR issued a sep-

arate appeal specifically for funding of its programme of weatherproof dwellings for winter conditions, to which donors responded quickly and generously.

The 2000 Global Appeal included two boxes describing two refugee situations in South-Eastern Europe: the Post-Dayton and Kosovo situations, with total financial requirements for the year amounting to USD 102,620,945 and USD 107,977,131 respectively. The boxes were intended to summarise UNHCR's strategy, to highlight the complexity and cross-border nature of these situations, and to facilitate the transition from the former Special Programme for the South-Eastern Europe Operation to the unified budget structure, which was launched on 1 January 2000. Earmarked contributions received for these refugee situations are reflected in the table at the end of this Regional Overview. Total expenditure for the two situations in 2000 amounted to USD 81,757,542 and USD 70,038,497 respectively. A description of the corresponding activities may be found in the relevant country chapters following this Overview.

Voluntary Contributions - Restricted (USD)			
Donor	Earmarking <sup>1</sup>	Annual Programme Budget	
		Income	Contribution
Austria	Federal Rep. of Yugoslavia	337,299	337,299
Canada	Federal Rep. of Yugoslavia	4,090,290	4,090,290
	Croatia	344,828	344,828
Czech Republic	South-Eastern Europe	26,000	26,000
Denmark	Federal Rep. of Yugoslavia	1,156,069	1,156,069
	South-Eastern Europe	2,258,469	2,258,469
Finland	Bosnia and Herzegovina	310,596	310,596
	Federal Rep. of Yugoslavia	776,490	776,490
France	South-Eastern Europe	942,834	942,834
Germany	Bosnia and Herzegovina	602,700	602,700
	Federal Rep. of Yugoslavia	2,553,925	2,553,925
	Croatia	279,591	279,591
Italy	Federal Rep. of Yugoslavia	2,263,991	1,310,238
Japan	Albania	1,150,000	1,150,000
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	4,400,000	4,400,000
	Federal Rep. of Yugoslavia	9,000,000	9,000,000
	Croatia	1,400,000	1,400,000
	FYR of Macedonia	1,440,000	1,440,000
Liechtenstein	Federal Rep. of Yugoslavia	28,409	28,409
Malaysia	Federal Rep. of Yugoslavia	100,000	100,000
Netherlands	Albania	481,711	481,711
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	1,926,845	1,926,845
	Federal Rep. of Yugoslavia	8,812,747	8,812,747
	Croatia	963,422	963,422

Voluntary Contributions - Restricted (USD)			
Donor	Earmarking <sup>1</sup>	Annual Programme Budget	
		Income	Contribution
Norway	Federal Rep. of Yugoslavia	10,155	10,155
	South-Eastern Europe	8,315,609	8,315,609
Sweden	Federal Rep. of Yugoslavia	497,018	497,018
	South-Eastern Europe	5,405,405	5,405,405
Switzerland	Bosnia and Herzegovina	227,273	227,273
United Kingdom	Federal Rep. of Yugoslavia	3,368,472	3,368,472
United States of America	Bosnia and Herzegovina	7,500,000	7,500,000
	Federal Rep. of Yugoslavia	12,000,000	12,000,000
	Croatia	9,498,995	9,498,995
European Commission	Albania	25,964	0
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	19,223	0
	Federal Rep. of Yugoslavia	11,117,028	11,105,525
	Croatia	1,903	0
	FYR of Macedonia	53,144	53,144
	South-Eastern Europe	242,327	0
<i>Action Réfugiés (FRA)</i>	Federal Rep. of Yugoslavia	2,669	2,669
<i>España con ACNUR (SPA)</i>	Bosnia and Herzegovina	130,373	269,674
	Federal Rep. of Yugoslavia	98,999	11,717
UK for UNHCR (GBR)	Bosnia and Herzegovina	8,542	8,542
	Federal Rep. of Yugoslavia	115,620	115,620
	FYR of Macedonia	312	312
ANIA CISL-FIBA (ITA)	Federal Rep. of Yugoslavia	208,039	208,039
<i>Soka Gakkai (JPN)</i>	Federal Rep. of Yugoslavia	300,000	300,000
Soroptimist International (JPN)	South-Eastern Europe	52,776	52,776
Women Cultural and Social Society (KUW)	Federal Rep. of Yugoslavia	40,000	0
Zayed Foundation (UAE)	Bosnia and Herzegovina	500,000	500,000
Private Donors Austria	South-Eastern Europe	67	67
Private Donors Greece	Federal Rep. of Yugoslavia	4,920	4,920
Private Donors Italy	Federal Rep. of Yugoslavia	540,710	540,710
Private Donors Japan	Federal Rep. of Yugoslavia	1,230	1,230
	South-Eastern Europe	21,630	21,630
Private Donors Switzerland	Federal Rep. of Yugoslavia	3,012	3,012
Private Donors United States of America	Federal Rep. of Yugoslavia	325	325
<b>Total<sup>2</sup></b>		<b>105,957,956</b>	<b>104,715,302</b>

<sup>1</sup>For more information on the various earmarkings, please refer to the Donor Profiles.

<sup>2</sup>Total funds available for obligation in the region also included unearmarked voluntary contributions, broadly earmarked contributions, opening balances and adjustments.

Budget and Expenditure (USD)		
Country	Revised Budget	Expenditure
	Annual Programme Budget	
Albania	7,884,842	6,570,648
Bosnia and Herzegovina	34,217,361	31,717,075
Croatia	13,997,322	13,578,727
Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	107,926,053	89,027,200
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	11,411,707	10,502,856
Regional Projects	523,791	371,005
Co-ordinator's Office at Headquarters	2,361,802	2,278,674
<b>Total</b>	<b>178,322,878</b>	<b>154,046,185</b>