

The Republic of North Macedonia

31 December 2019

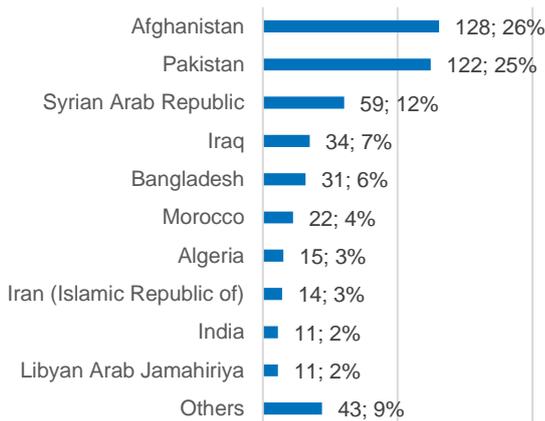
The total estimated number of irregular mixed migratory arrivals in the country up to the end of December 2019 is **40,887** arrivals or approximately **112** arrivals/day. Source: UNHCR and partners

The number of asylum claims submitted in 2019 is **490**. **One person** has been granted subsidiary protection in the same period (January – December). Source: Mol

As of 31 December 2019, **567** identified persons remain at risk of **statelessness**, of whom **275** with undetermined nationality and **292** persons with unregulated citizenship. Source: MYLA

COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN OF PERSONS HAVING APPLIED FOR ASYLUM IN THE COUNTRY IN 2019

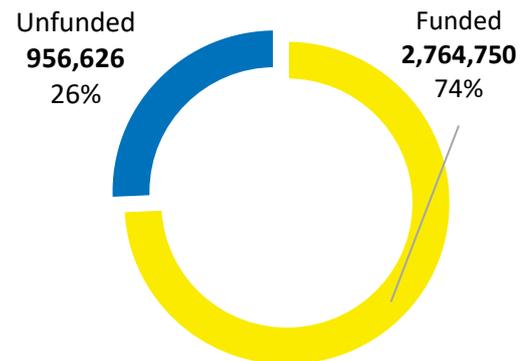
January - December 2019



FUNDING (AS OF DECEMBER 2019)

USD 3,721,376

requested for the North Macedonia situation



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

27 National Staff (incl. 7 affiliated through UNOPS support)
2 International Staff

Offices:

1 Representation Office in Skopje, with daily field presence in Tabanovce, and **1 Field Unit** in Vinojug Reception and Transit Centres



Speak Up for #SolidarityWithRefugees event held in conjunction with the first Global Refugee Forum
17 December 2019, Skopje, ©UNHCR/E.Manevska

Working with Partners

UNHCR Skopje collaborates with national institutions, NGOs, UN agencies, and other international partners working in the areas of international protection and eradication of statelessness. Key partnerships have been established and cultivated with: Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Crisis Management Center, Secretariat for European Affairs, and the Ombudsman. We also cooperate with NGOs, primarily with partners: City Red Cross, Macedonian Young Lawyers Association, La Strada Open Gate, Center for Human Rights and Conflict Resolution, Legis and GR Vaksince. In addition, since 2018, a new partnership has been developed with the Iustinianus Primus Law Faculty. In order to achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs) in line with the UN 2030 Agenda and to optimize resources, UNHCR also works closely together with the UN Resident Coordination Office and UN sister Agencies (particularly UNICEF, IOM, UNFPA). Our international partners include the EU Delegation and the relevant EU Agencies the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) and the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and the Council of Europe (CoE).

Strategic Priorities

To support the meeting of the 2019 strategic priorities below, UNHCR North Macedonia places strong focus on **communication, advocacy, strategic partnerships, and coordination.**

- To strengthen the asylum system by working **together** with the competent authorities on improving the legislation and implementation, in line with international standards for asylum, influencing, in particular, the quality of first instance decision-making and related asylum procedures while ensuring systemic unhindered access to asylum, including substantial judicial review, sustainable and quality free legal aid, as well as adequate reception standards.
- To improve the prospects and conditions for integration of asylum seekers and refugees in the country by encouraging holistic approach that involves cooperation between government, local authorities, CSOs and persons under the mandate of UNHCR, in particular through utilization of existing resources and national measures.
- To support the state authorities in finding **durable solutions** for the remaining **refugees from Kosovo**¹, and resolve protracted situation of refugees enabling these people to leave the refugee experience behind and live full lives, in line with the pledge made in December at the Global Refugee Forum.

¹ UNSC/RES/1244 (1999)

- To maintain strong **protection monitoring** throughout the country, in line with UNHCR's mandate, in response to continuing mixed-movements of refugees and migrants. Our partners and UNHCR are particularly focused on **supporting implementation of the national SOPs** for dealing with unaccompanied/separated children/foreigners, as well as for dealing with vulnerable foreigners, identification of persons in need of international and other protection, counselling and assistance.
- To assist the country in finding and implementing systemic **solutions for the eradication and prevention of statelessness** – primarily amending legislation to ensure universal birth and civil registration. To achieve this, UNHCR has enhanced partnership with the civil society organizations, UNICEF and OSCE, in support to the Government's efforts.
- To assist the country in **strengthening the preparedness** for any possible future refugee influxes.

The UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is grateful for the generous funding of the UNHCR South Eastern Europe operation:

USA | European Union

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