



Save the Children

REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS AT THE WESTERN BALKANS ROUTE

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER 2017

Balkans Migration and Displacement Hub
Data and Trends Analysis

Balkans Migration and Displacement Hub

Data and Trends Analysis

IMPRESSUM

Every child has the right to a future. Save the Children works in North West Balkans and around the world to give children a healthy start in life, and the chance to learn and be safe. We do whatever it takes to get children the things they need – every day and in times of crisis.

Acknowledgements

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Mixed migrations flow along the Balkans route continues. More than 5,000 refugees and migrants are estimated to have arrived to the Balkans countries (other than Greece) in the last four months of 2017

Figures from Bulgaria, Serbia, Romania and FYROM clearly indicate that the Western Balkans remains one of the most travelled migration route. During the last four months of 2017, Save the Children identified 3,730 new arrivals in Serbia. During the same period, 849 new refugees and migrants were identified in Bulgaria, 1,240 were recorded as transiting through FYROM, while 1,642 people applied for international protection in Romania. The use of many different routes and the comparison of demographic data indicate that these figures do not overlap completely. In addition, the available data does not capture all irregular migrants, who travel the Balkans route, and who are avoiding police registration. Based on these indicators, we estimate that at least 5,000 refugees and migrants arrived to the region in the period from September to December of 2017.

More than 6,500 refugees and migrants are currently present in the Balkans countries (other than Greece)

The number of people accommodated in reception centres, at external addresses and unofficial shelters in Bulgaria, Serbia, Romania and FYROM is estimated to be around 6,500. The data shows that the number of refugees and migrants present in the region did not increase, despite new arrivals, suggesting continuous onward movement.

Two new routes emerged in late 2017: (1) Black Sea route; and (2) the route through Bosnia and Herzegovina

The data shows two migration routes more prominently emerging during the reporting period: the Black Sea route to the east, connecting Turkey and Romania; and the increasingly used route through Bosnia and Herzegovina towards Croatia to the west, attempting to move onwards to Western or North Europe.

Most of new arrivals were refugees and migrants from Iraq.

The data shows that the majority of new arrivals in the period from September to December were from Iraq. This represents a change from the previous period when the majority of newly arrived refugees and migrants were from Afghanistan.

Children make about one-third of all refugees and migrants transiting through the Balkans, out of which a significant number travelled alone.

Available data on the number of refugee and migrants transiting through the Balkans shows that the proportion of children in the total migrating population fluctuated between 33% and 36%. In addition, the data shows that the percentage of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) in the overall number of children vary from country to country, oscillating from 12% in Romania to 47% in Serbia, indicating that some children remain invisible and that there are significant differences in identification procedures. The vast majority of UASC are boys from Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Balkans Migration and Displacement Hub

Data and Trends Analysis: September – December 2017

MIGRATION ROUTES



Bulgaria

The vast majority of refugees and migrants enter Bulgaria from south-east, namely by crossing the border with Turkey and Greece. On the other side of the country, the strongest pressure is on the west and north borders, suggesting that most of the refugees and migrants continue their journey through Serbia and Romania.

FYROM

FYROM is mainly used as a corridor between Greece and Serbia. Refugees and migrants enter FYROM from Greece and most of them head north trying to cross the border with Serbia. Data also indicate some reverse movement as there are refugees and migrants who have decided to move back to Greece and explore their options there. In addition to the route towards Serbia, some of the refugees and migrants are moving west using the route through Albania or Kosovo*.

Serbia

The vast majority of refugees and migrants enter Serbia from Bulgaria and FYROM. In addition, as a result of visa liberalisation policy, increased number of people from Iran are arriving to Serbia by plane. Within Serbia, the main transit point for refugees and migrants is Belgrade. Exit routes from Serbia are going through Croatia, Hungary and Romania. The most recent data shows that a new exit route from Serbia towards Bosnia and Herzegovina has been established.

Romania

Most of refugees and migrants arrive to Romania from Serbia, while a small number of them enter from Bulgaria. In addition to these two routes, the new route directly from Turkey across the Black Sea became more prominent in the second half of the year. The main exit point from the county is the north-west border with Hungary.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

The most of refugees and migrants enter Bosnia and Herzegovina from Serbia or from Montenegro. Within the country, they move north-west where they are trying to cross the border with Croatia.

CONTINUING MIGRATION FLOW

According to the Bulgarian Ministry of Interior, from September to December 2017, police apprehended 849 people who illegally transited through the country.¹ Comparing with the first eight months of 2017, the monthly average of apprehended refugees and migrants decreased by around 20%.² Similarly to the previous period, the continued influx of refugees and migrants did not increase the number of those accommodated in Bulgaria. During the reporting period, the number of refugees and migrants reported to be in official centres or at “external addresses”³ dropped by 642 people (from 2,226⁴ in August, to 1,584 reported in December). The Ministry of Interior further reports that 384 migrants were either deported or they left Bulgaria legally during the last four months of 2017. For the “missing” 258, we can only assume that they have irregularly continued their journey towards Western Europe.

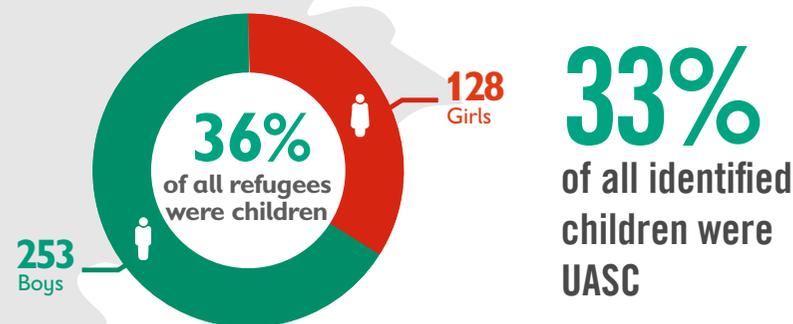
The comparison of the available data from Serbia and Bulgaria indicates that the official data from Bulgaria fails to capture the entire migration flow. The Bulgarian data shows a decrease in the number of refugees and migrants reaching Bulgaria while the data from Serbia shows a significant increase in the new arrivals from Bulgaria.

Even though the Bulgarian data suggests a decreased intensity of transit through Bulgaria, the data from Serbia suggests otherwise. According to the field data collected by Save the Children and its partners in Serbia, the average monthly arrivals of refugees and migrants from Bulgaria in the period from

September to December 2017, increased by around 90% compared to the first eight months of the year.⁵ The likely explanation for this is the increased transit through Bulgaria during the last four months of 2017, but less visibility for refugees and migrants, and the possible use of new smuggling routes through Bulgaria, resulting in lower number of apprehensions.

DEMOGRAPHY⁶

From September to December 2017, the Bulgarian State Agency for Refugees reported that 1,067 people have applied for international protection. This number includes 686 (64%) adults (485 men; 201 women) and 381 (36%) children (253 boys; 128 girls). According to official statistics, 125 (33%) of children were traveling alone, most of them from Iraq (48%) and Afghanistan (30%).

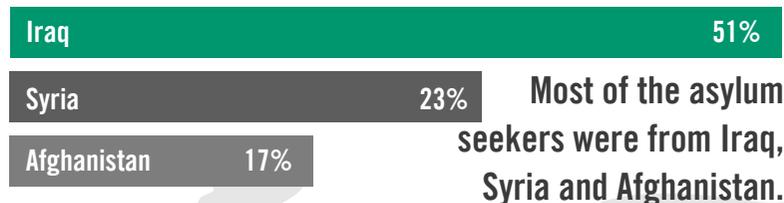


The majority of the asylum seekers were from Iraq (51%), Syria (23%) and Afghanistan (17%). The applicants from Iraq and Syria included a balanced number of men, women and children indicating that many of them travel in family groups. On the other hand, the applicants from Afghanistan were predominantly men and teenage boys (at more than 90%). At the same time, three out of four children from Afghanistan travelled alone, and almost all of them were boys.

Balkans Migration and Displacement Hub

Data and Trends Analysis

Refugees and migrants by country of origin (N=1,067)



If we compare this with the asylum statistics from January to August 2017, it is evident that there was a change in demographics. The most significant change is related to the country of origin. During the first eight months of the year, the majority of the asylum seekers were from Afghanistan (37%), whereas in the latter part of the year, about half of the applicants came from Iraq. As a result, the proportion of women and girls increased by 8%, while the percentage of unaccompanied children in the total number of children decreased by 5%.

As already reported in the previous Regional Overview,⁷ asylum recognition rates for Afghanistan remain extremely low in Bulgaria. In July 2017, this issue was raised by the European Commission's Director for Migration and Protection, Laurent Muschel, who in his letter to Bulgarian officials underlined that Bulgaria's recognition rate for applicants from Afghanistan is "strikingly low compared to the rate of recognition (granting of international protection status) for the same nationality in other EU countries".⁸ The low recognition rates persisted during the last four months of the year, namely, out of 241 asylum seekers who were granted refugee status or subsidiary protection from September to December 2017, only 7 (3%) were from Afghanistan. The vast majority of non-Syrian applications were considered manifestly unfounded, similarly to the previous period.

MIGRATION ROUTES

The Bulgarian Ministry of Interior also provides some data on where irregular migrants were apprehended. The locations are divided into three categories: (1) borders of entry, namely the borders with Turkey and Greece; (2) in-country, meaning that people were arrested somewhere within the country; (3) borders of exit, namely, north and west borders with Serbia and Romania. Even though this data does not capture the overall migration flow it gives us clues about cross-border migratory routes.

According to the available data, the vast majority of refugees and migrants entered the country from south-east, namely by crossing the border with Turkey (88%) and Greece (9%). To prevent illegal crossings from Turkey, Bulgaria constructed a security fence which helped to decrease the number of migrants but not to completely stop the flow. Despite the barbed fence, about 70% of migratory routes are still going through the "green border areas", while the remaining attempts are at official border crossings.



The data also shows the significant pressure on the west and north borders, suggesting that most of the refugees and migrants continue their journey through Serbia (more than 80%) and Romania (about 8%). To enter Serbia from Bulgaria, the vast majority of refugees and migrants use smuggling routes through the mountains, and to enter Romania, most of the refugee and migrants attempt to cross at the official border crossings.

IRREGULAR FLOW

During the last four months of 2017, FYROM police apprehended 421⁹ refugees and migrants entering the country from Greece and brought them to the Transit Centre in Gevgelija. After a short stay in the Transit Centre, all of them were returned to Greece.¹⁰ If we compare this with the number of arrests from January to August, we notice an increase in the monthly average number of apprehended refugees and migrants by almost four times.¹¹ During the same period, the Macedonian Red Cross mobile team in Lipkovo reported assisting 822 irregular refugees and migrants near the border with Serbia.¹²

1,240 refugees and migrants were identified transiting through the FYROM in last four months of 2017.

In total, more than 1,240 refugees and migrants were identified transiting through FYROM in last four months of the year.

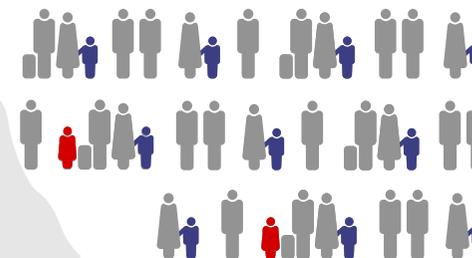
DEMOGRAPHY

The unavailability of official data from the field is the key obstacle for exploring the demographics of refugees and migrants transiting through the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In order to identify demographic trends, the data collected by Save the Children and its partners in Serbia are used instead. According to data from Serbia, in the period from September to December, 1,218 of refugees and migrants reported that they have entered Serbia from FYROM.

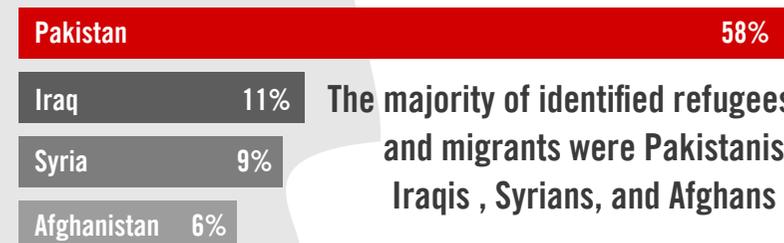
This number includes 944 (78%) adults (894 men; 50 women) and 274 (22%) children (243 boys; 31 girls). As many as 74% of all identified children travelled alone, the vast majority of them coming from Pakistan.

The majority of identified refugees and migrants were Pakistanis (58%), Iraqis (11%), Syrians (9%), and Afghans (6%).

22% of all refugees and migrants were children



Refugees and migrants by country of origin (N=1,218)



The majority of identified refugees and migrants were Pakistanis, Iraqis, Syrians, and Afghans.

MIGRATION ROUTES

The data suggests that the migration route through FYROM is mainly used as a corridor between Greece and Serbia. Refugees and migrants enter FYROM from Greece and most of them head north trying to cross the border with Serbia. However, the data also indicate some reverse movement. Beside new arrivals coming from the south, some of the refugees and migrants identified in FYROM are returning from Serbia. Those are refugees and migrants who have decided to move back to Greece and explore their options there.

In addition to the route towards Serbia, some of the refugees and migrants are moving west using the route through Albania or Kosovo*.¹³

REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS ON THE MOVE

During the period from September to December 2017, Save the Children identified and supported 3,730 newly arrived refugees and migrants, which is almost the same number of people as for the first eight months of the year.¹⁴ Nevertheless, these new arrivals have not increased the number of refugees and migrants in the country. According to the UNHCR data, the overall number of refugees and migrants present in Serbia in December¹⁵ remained the same as it was in August,¹⁶ implying that more than 3,700 people left the country during the last four months of 2017. Around 870 have legally crossed the Hungarian border to seek asylum,¹⁷ while more than 2,850 refugees and migrants are thought to have continued their journey using irregular channels.

Almost the same number of refugees and migrants arrived to Serbia during the period September - December as in the first eight months of the year.

more than
3,700
refugees and migrants arrived in
first eight months

3,730
refugees and migrants arrived
in last four
months

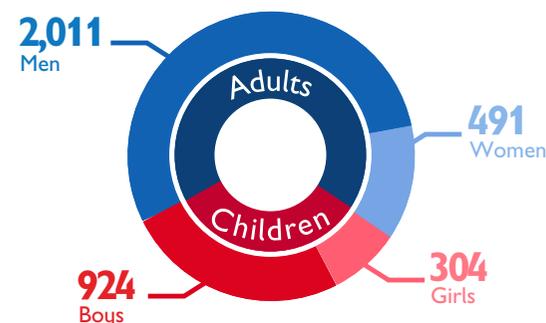
January - August 2017

Sep - Dec 2017

DEMOGRAPHY

Save the Children and its partners¹⁸ routinely collect data on new refugee and migrant arrivals in Serbia. Even though this data cannot record all the people transiting through Serbia, the data set is illustrative, giving us an insight into the demography of new arrivals. New arrivals included 3,730 people, identified during the period from September to December 2017,¹⁹ of whom 2,502 (67%) were adults (2,011 men; 491 women) while 1,228 (33%) were children (924 boys; 304 girls).

79%
of identified
refugees and
migrants in
Serbia were boys
and men



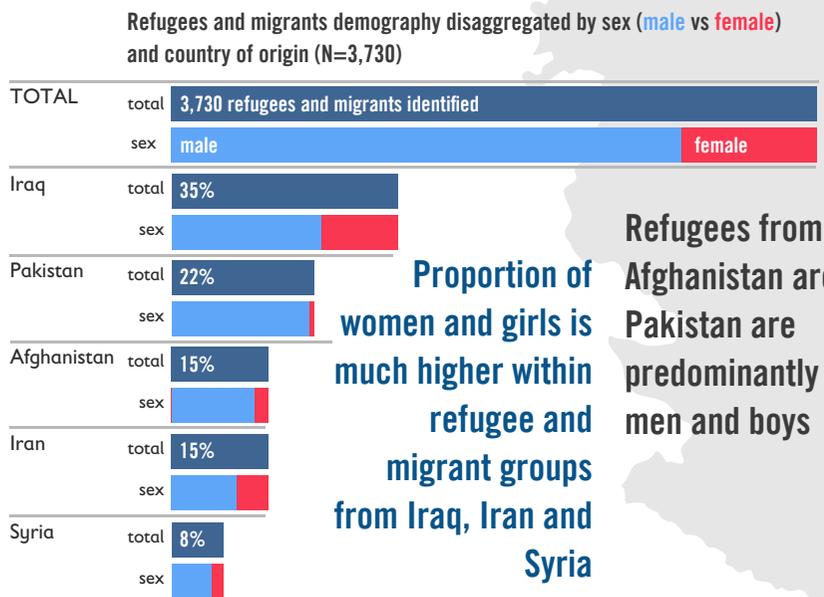
The total of 577 children were registered as travelling alone, representing 47% of all identified children, meaning that unaccompanied and separated children make nearly 15% of all new arrivals. Almost all identified unaccompanied minors (549 or 95%) were boys, mostly coming from Afghanistan 225 (41%), Pakistan 194 (35%) and Iraq 82 (15%).

47% of all children were registered
as travelling alone

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Data and Trends Analysis

The majority of refugees and migrants identified were from Iraq (35%), Pakistan (22%), Afghanistan (15%), Iran (15%) and Syria (8%). The data shows that the proportion of women and girls is much higher within refugee and migrant groups from Iraq (34%),²⁰ Iran (33%) and Syria (23%), while refugees from Afghanistan and Pakistan are predominantly men and boys.



Data on refugees and migrants for the period from September to December shows some changes in the demographic data compared to the first eight months of the year. As in Bulgaria, the most significant change is related to the country of origin, namely the proportion of new arrivals from Iraq increased by 20%, the proportion from Iran increased from 4% to 15%, while the proportion from Afghanistan decreased by almost 30%.

Changes in demographic trends are also evident regarding unaccompanied and separated children.

During the period from January to August 2017, the unaccompanied minors made up 59% of all children, while this ratio decreased to 47% during the last four months. In addition, the data shows that unaccompanied girls represented 5% of the children who travelled alone, compared to only 1% in previous period.

Regarding the asylum process, from September to December 2017, Serbia's Ministry of Interior registered 2,369 intentions to seek asylum in Serbia. During the same period of time, only 72 persons actually initiated the procedure and applied for asylum. These behavioural patterns show that refugees and migrants still perceive Serbia as a transit country.

MIGRATION ROUTES

According to the information received from 3,446 refugees and migrants (92% of all identified persons) from September to December 2017, they entered Serbia from Bulgaria (51%) and FYROM (35%), while 12% reported that they have arrived by plane from Iran. As reported above, only a small number (less than 10%) of recorded border crossings were between Bulgaria and Greece or Bulgaria and FYROM, indicating that the vast majority of those who entered Serbia from Bulgaria, entered Bulgaria from Turkey. On the other hand, refugees and migrants arriving to Serbia from FYROM were mostly those who were previously in Greece.

The data shows that the majority of refugees and migrants from Iraq and Afghanistan use the route through Bulgaria, while the route through FYROM is more often travelled by Pakistanis. Refugees from Syria use both routes.

Balkans Migration and Displacement Hub

Data and Trends Analysis

A new migratory trend identified during the last four months of the year was an increased number of people from Iran. From September to December, Save the Children identified 551 migrants from Iran compared to 357 for the previous eight months, or a monthly average increase by more than 200%.

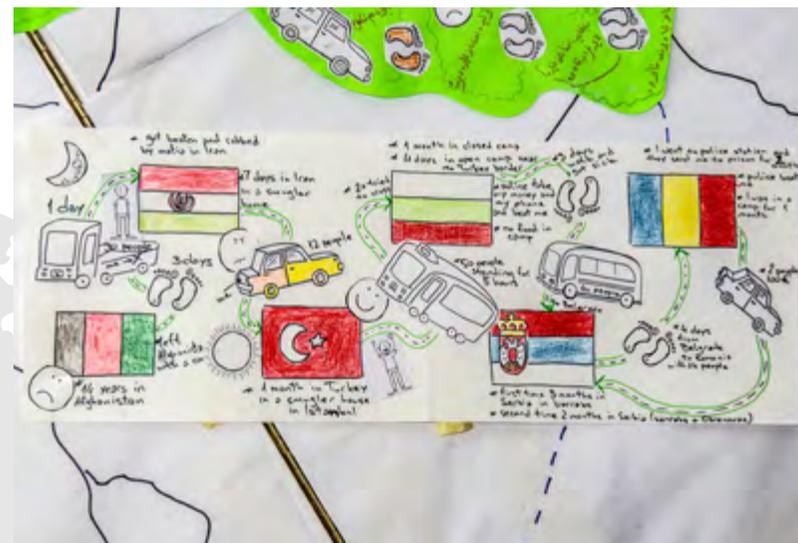
Most of the Iranians (78%) identified in last quarter of the year arrived to Serbia by plane. This trend overlaps with the Serbian Government's decision on visa liberalisation with Iran. From late August, Iranian citizens do not need visas for Serbia and they can stay in the country legally for 30 days.



Most of the Iranians (78%) identified in last quarter of the year arrived to Serbia by plane.

Within Serbia, the main transit point for refugees and migrants remained Belgrade. They stay in Belgrade for a while and wait for new connections, additional resources, or smuggling schemes as they consider Serbia to be a transit country and not their final destination. While in Serbia, most of them stay at refugee reception centres, but several hundreds were observed living in improvised accommodations or outside, sleeping rough in Belgrade or at western and northern border areas (Sid, Sombor, Subotica). According to the information from the field, they stay in Serbia from a few weeks to longer than a year.

Exit routes from Serbia are going through Croatia, Hungary and Romania. Borders are very well protected, including by physical barriers at the Hungarian border, and by the strong presence of border police, occasionally supported by Frontex.



According to the testimonies by refugees and migrants, it is difficult to cross the border irregularly and, in most cases, more than dozen attempts were needed to succeed. If caught by police after crossing the border, refugees and migrants were forced back to Serbia.

The most recent data shows that a new exit route from Serbia towards Bosnia and Herzegovina has been established more prominently. This is a recent development which will be closely monitored in the next period.

TRANSITING THROUGH ROMANIA

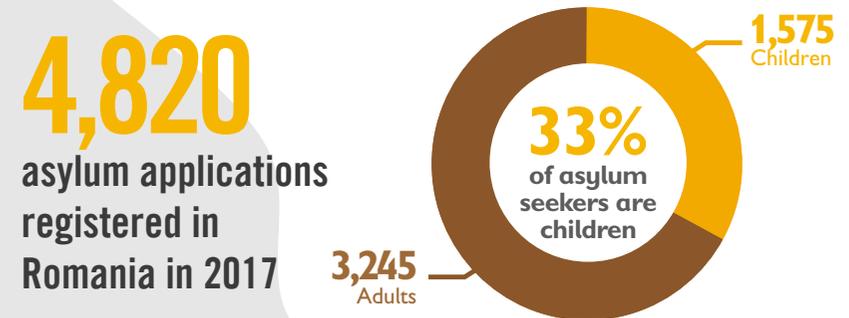
From early 2017, Romania became an important transit point of the Balkans migration route and the arrivals of refugees and migrants continued in the latter half of the year. According to the Romania's General Inspectorate for Immigration, 1,642 people applied for international protection from September to December 2017, suggesting that the intensity of migration flows remained comparable with the first half of the year. In addition, some migrants caught in Romania do not want to apply for asylum in Romania and they were held in public custody. Some of them, including vulnerable cases - pregnant women, families with children, sick persons, receive a tolerated status, which grants them 90-day access to the Romanian territory.

1,642
people applied for international protection from September to December 2017.

UNHCR data shows that at the end of the year 3,924 beneficiaries of international protection were registered in Romania, all of them possessing valid residence permits. In addition, 1,540 asylum seekers were registered as being in the asylum procedure. It is thought that not all of them are still in the country. By the end of December 2017, there were 609 refugees and migrants accommodated in six reception centres managed by the General Inspectorate for Immigration. Cases of migrants staying outside the reception centres were not registered, except for a few small groups that were found either in hotels or in parks near the Hungarian border.

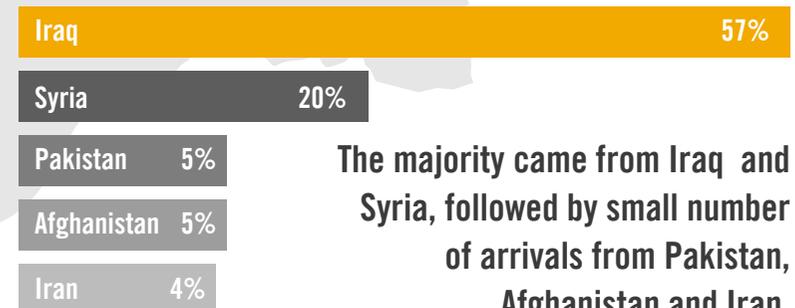
DEMOGRAPHY

The data from Romania shows that main demographic trends for refugees and migrants remained comparable throughout the year. According to the field data, Romanian officials registered 4,820 asylum applications in 2017. This number includes 3,245 (67%) adults, and 1,575 (33%) children.



The majority came from Iraq (57%) and Syria (20%), followed by small number of arrivals from Pakistan (5%), Afghanistan (5%) and Iran (4%). The data shows a balanced proportion of males and females in refugee and migrant groups from Iraq, Syria and Iran which suggests that they travel in family groups more often than those coming from Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Refugees and migrants by country of origin (N=4,820)



The majority came from Iraq and Syria, followed by small number of arrivals from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran.

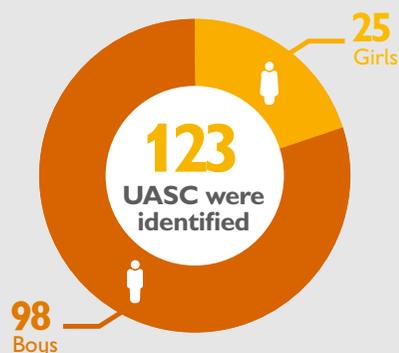
Balkans Migration and Displacement Hub

Data and Trends Analysis

In 2017, Save the Children in Romania identified and supported 1,062 newly arrived children or around 67% of all newly registered refugee and migrant children. According to Save the Children's records, 56% of children were boys, and 44% were girls. Most of the children were from Iraq (66%), Syria (20%) and Afghanistan (7%). The data also shows that 12% (123) of children travelled alone. Out of 123 unaccompanied children, 98 (80%) were boys and 25 (20%) were girls.

12%

of all identified children were UASC



MIGRATION ROUTES

Most of refugees and migrants (around 80%) arrived to Romania from Serbia, while a small number of them entered from Bulgaria. In addition to these two routes, the new route directly from Turkey across the Black Sea became more prominent in the second half of the year. Since August 2017, six boats carrying 577 refugees and migrants (out of which 224 were children) arrived to Romania. Most of them were from Iraq and Iran, and a small percentage from Afghanistan and Pakistan.

According to the Romanian Coast Guard, in September, three more boats tried to reach the Romanian territorial waters but they were blocked and pushed back to Turkey.



Since August 2017, six boats carrying 577 refugees and migrants (out of which 224 children) arrived to Romania.



Similarly to other Balkans countries, refugees and migrants see Romania as a transit point on their way towards Western Europe. According to the recent field data, the length of their stay in Romania decreased compared to the beginning of the year. Instead of staying for months, many of them now choose to leave the country within weeks.

The main exit point from the county is the north-west border with Hungary.

ROUTE THROUGH BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA – THE EMERGING TREND

According to the field data and media reports, the number of refugees and migrants using the route through Bosnia and Herzegovina is increasing. The official data confirm this by reporting that there were around 100 refugees and migrants registered in 2016, while this number increased to 754 in 2017. Most of them were from Afghanistan, Pakistan and North Africa.



700%

Increased number of registered refugees and migrants in 2017, comparing to 2016.

The available reports suggest that most of refugees and migrants entered Bosnia and Herzegovina from Serbia or from Montenegro. They move north-west to try to cross the border with Croatia.

Speculations about a migration route through Bosnia and Herzegovina started already in 2015, but this is the first time that data from the field actually confirms this. The trend will be closely monitored in the following period.



ABOUT THE PROJECT

The official closure of borders, and the EU-Turkey deal in March 2016, reduced the number of migrants, but did not stop the migrations through the Balkans. Refugees and migrants have been pushed into the hands of smugglers and traffickers facing heightened protection risks. The national protection systems in countries like Bulgaria, FYROM, and Serbia are struggling to provide adequate support to the new arrivals. There is a lack of reliable data on migration trends and rights violations against migrants and refugees transiting through, or stranded in the Balkans.

Organizations and volunteer groups operating in the Balkans track irregular arrivals, departures, cases of pushbacks, detention, and violence in their own countries, often without clearly defined standards, objectives or consistency. At the current time, there is no unified collection of information or a regional initiative to collate and organize the available information into a clear and concise overview. International attention remains focused on Greece, while the migration flows through other Balkans countries stay below the radar. The lack of comprehensive data analytics at individual country and regional level increases the vulnerability of refugees and migrants on the move, children in particular, and hinders the development of relevant, evidence-based and responsive policies and programs.

Data and Trend Analysis (DATA) is a project launched by Save the Children's Balkan Migration and Displacement Hub (BMDH). The goal of this initiative is to synthesize valuable information on migration, especially on refugee and migrant children, and contribute to evidence-based programming and policy-making

The DATA Project will focus on the following three topics: (1) Main migratory trends: ebbs and flows in migration, changes in demographics, changes in routes, and seasonal changes; (2) Main protection violations: detention rates and conditions, pushbacks, returns, police violence, local acceptance and tensions; (3) Changes in national migration and social protection policies.

Data Sources

Besides primary data collected by Save the Children and its partners, publicly available data from reports, dashboards, publications, policies and articles, and information from other relevant stakeholders will be collected and analyzed. The initiative will remain open and will encourage the exchange of information, cooperation and partnership with all relevant actors. Data processing will be done in line with national and international regulations and standards on protection of personal data.

Geographical Scope

We will cover the Balkans route, without Greece, which includes the territories of Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia, Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Hungary.

¹ Source: Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Bulgaria, [Monthly Information on Migration Situation in the Republic of Bulgaria for December 2017](#).

² In average, 268 refugees and migrants were apprehended each month in period January – August 2017, while the average for the last four months of 2017 was 212.

³ “Asylum seekers are allowed to reside outside the reception centres at so called “external addresses”. This could be done if asylum seekers submit a formal waiver from their right to accommodation and social assistance, as warranted by law, and declare to cover rent and other related costs at their own expenses. Except those few whose financial condition allows residence outside the reception centres, the other group of people who live at external addresses are usually Dublin returnees, to whom the SAR applies the exclusion from social benefits, including accommodation as a measure of sanction within the jurisdiction for such decision as provided by the law (Law and Asylum and Refugees – article 29)”. Source: [Country Report: Bulgaria](#), p 48, Bulgarian Helsinki Committee

⁴ Source: Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Bulgaria, [Monthly Information on Migration Situation in the Republic of Bulgaria for August 2017](#)

⁵ In total, 1,745 arrivals from Bulgaria were identified in last four months of 2017, which is in average 436 people per month. The average influx for period January – December was 229 refugees and migrants per month.

⁶ The only way to track demographic data of refugees and migrants in Bulgaria is through asylum applications.

⁷ Save the Children, Balkans Migration and Displacement Hub: Data and Trend Analysis, [Regional Overview \(January – August 2017\)](#).

⁸ The letter is available at this [link](#)

⁹ Source: Helsinki Committee of the Republic of Macedonia, Monthly report for December, 2017 on the situation at the border crossings Gevgelija and Kumanovo for [September 2017](#), [October 2017](#), [November 2017](#), [December 2017](#).

¹⁰ Data from the Macedonian Helsinki Committee, also reporting that apprehended refugees and migrants are returned back to Greece at their own request.

¹¹ In average, 27 refugees and migrants were apprehended each month in period January – December 2017, while the monthly average for last four months of the year was 105.

¹² Source: IOM, Mixed Migration Flows in the Mediterranean: Compilation of Available Data and Information for [September 2017](#), [October 2017](#), [November 2017](#) and [December 2017](#).

¹³ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

¹⁴ Save the Children, Balkans Migration and Displacement Hub: Data and Trend Analysis, [Regional Overview \(January – August 2017\)](#)

¹⁵ Source: UNHCR, [Serbia Monthly Snapshot – December 2017](#)

¹⁶ Source: UNHCR, [Serbia Monthly Snapshot – August 2017](#)

¹⁷ Source: UNHCR, Serbia: Inter-Agency Operational Update for [September 2017](#), [October 2017](#), [November 2017](#), [December 2017](#).

¹⁸ [Praxis](#) and [Centre for Youth Integration](#)

¹⁹ For the same period of time, UNHCR observed 2,678 new arrivals, while authorities registered 2,369 intentions to seek asylum. Source: UNHCR, Serbia Monthly Snapshot for [September 2017](#), [October 2017](#), [November 2017](#), [December 2017](#).

²⁰ Balkans Migration and Displacement Hub Data and Trends Analysis: [Iraqis transitioning through the Balkans route \(September-November 2017\)](#).