

FORO, JUVOSI, ARIENI



UN Inter-Agency

Update on Kosovo

Situation Report 56

Monday 24 August 1998

This report has been compiled by UNHCR with support from OCHA and with inputs from UN Agencies and other humanitarian organizations in FRY, FYROM and Albania

1. KOSOVO

1.1 Fresh Outbreak of Violence

Results in New Displacement. A fresh outbreak of violence beginning on Saturday has prompted villagers to flee their homes over a broad area southwest of Pristina. Field reports indicated gunfire and shelling occurred in the area of Sava Reka, 40 kilometers west southwest of Pristina. A UNHCR team on its way from Pristina to Sava Reka was turned back on Monday after police at a checkpoint said the road was unsafe. A reporter on Monday told UNHCR Pristina that many displaced persons arrived in the village of Pagarusa between Malishevo and Oraovac following shelling in villages around Sava Reka.

On 23 August, UNHCR received reports that fighting erupted in Komorane, site of a police checkpoint 25 kilometers outside Pristina, beginning on 22 August. Shell blasts were reported and houses were seen ablaze in a string of villages stretching 25 kilometers to the south down to Magura. Fires were seen by travelers along the Pristina-Pec road on Sunday. A UNHCR team was barred from proceeding to Magura on Monday.

According to Kosovo Albanian media sources, strongest attacks by the police took place in the villages of Rerak and

Bedjete. The number of people displaced by the latest fighting was not immediately known.

1.2 Some Villagers Return Home. Recently, agencies have noted return of some displaced persons in the town of Oraovac and villages in Drenica region. The returned population in these villages may be some 10 to 20 per cent of the original population.

Estimated Displacement Figures:

(as at 24 August 1998)

Displacement within Kosovo**	170,000
Displacement into Montenegro**	33,000
Displacement into other parts of Serbia	20,000
Refugees into Albania***	14,000
Visitors into FYROM***	1,000
TOTAL	238,000

* Estimated figure based on information from various organizations in Kosovo.

** An average figure based on figures provided by the Montenegrin Ministry of Interior and the Montenegrin Red Cross, as shown in the next page.

*** Includes 7,000 registered in Trojake District and an estimated 7,000 who have left for other areas.

**** Figure provided by a local NGO, El Hilal.

1.3 UNHCR Escorts Refugees for Resettlement. UNHCR continues to provide escort services to refugees in Kosovo who have been displaced from Croatia and Bosnia & Herzegovina during the previous conflict in the former Yugoslavia. On Monday, UNHCR picked up five refugees in Pristina and

surrounding areas for resettlement to third countries, and two requiring medical treatment in Pristina.

1.4 UNICEF Provides Essential Drug Kits. UNICEF has recently delivered essential drug kits to state health institutions in Decane, Prizren, and Glogovac.

1.5 Over 450 Kosovo Albanians Killed by the Conflict. According to *VJP Daily New Report* of 24 August, the head of the news service of the Yugoslav Army's Pristina Corps said on Sunday that Yugoslav border guards had registered 146 armed incidents in Kosovo and killed more than 450 ethnic Albanians so far. The same report says that border guards have also seized 900 rifles, 200 machine guns, 20 recoilless guns, and over 450,000 rounds of various calibre and other military equipment.

2. MONTENEGRO

2.1 Influx of Displaced Persons from Kosovo Continues. Last week saw a sudden increase in the number of people in need of aid in Ucinj. The Montenegrin Red Cross has registered nearly 3,000 people in one week. Reasons behind this sudden increase remain unclear. Some people may have come through mountain passes without going through police checkpoints, while others may have moved internally from other areas within Montenegro. These new arrivals have made difficult an already desperate situation.

UNHCR received today a report of 150 new arrivals into Tuzi, a town just miles away from Podgorica towards the Montenegro-Albanian border. As the town was already saturated by hosting 1,400 people in private homes, the 150 newly

arrived people have been sheltered in a transit centre.

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<u>Statistics as at 24 August 1998</u>	
Ministry of Interior Count of New Arrivals:	
	32,841
Montenegrin Red Cross Registered Cases:	
Ucinj	14,125
Rozaje	4,160
Podgorica	4,507
Plav	7,273
Others	4,119
Total	34,184

Average figure shown on the first page.

2.2 Reports of Return from Montenegro to Kosovo. According to the police, two buses with approximately 90 displaced persons from Kosovo left yesterday from Montenegro to Pec. While this report has been seconded by an Italian journalist, no further information is available to UNHCR. Podgorica at this time. If this information is correct, it will be the first time a return of this scale has taken place from Montenegro to Kosovo.

2.3 Government to Maintain an Open-Door Policy. As reported earlier, the Montenegrin Government has and will maintain an open-door policy towards those displaced by the conflict in Kosovo. At the same time, however, the Republican Government increasingly stresses that Montenegro should be seen as a "transit point" for the displaced, rather than as a permanent settlement, given the current lack of means to ensure adequate coverage of the needs of the IDPs.

2.4 Assistance Coordination. The Montenegrin Deputy Prime Minister has called a meeting to take place this week with the main humanitarian agencies and line ministries, as well as with mayors from four of the most affected towns. The meeting will discuss ways to clarify what should be done to coordinate humanitarian assistance operations in order to respond to

the needs on the ground in an effective manner. Separately, WHO will chair a health coordination meeting this coming Thursday.

2.5 NGOs to Open Offices in Podgorica. The Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Italian Consortium of Solidarity (ICS) and Japan Emergency NGOs (JEN) will open offices in Podgorica this week, shortly after which they will begin implementation of their programmes.

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3. NORTHERN ALBANIA

3.1 Another Border Incident
Diplomatic sources reported that on 17 August, between 9:00 am and 10:10 am, several mortar bombs fell into Albanian territory, near the village of Padesth. While the situation became calm by noon and no injuries had been reported, some 40 local inhabitants temporarily moved out from the area and returned home late afternoon.

3.2 Shooting Incident Affects UNHCR
Shooting by rival gangs increased last week, one of which resulted in a random bullet hitting the UNHCR office window in Bajram Curri. On 19 August, a UNHCR car was high-jacked at gun point by two armed masked men.

3.3 Aid Agency Presence Limited in Tropoje District. The following is a list of humanitarian aid agencies currently present in the district: Komiteti Cap Anamur, Albanian Encouragement Programme, Humanitarian Cargo Carriers, Swiss Disaster Relief, Terre des Hommes, Albanian Red Cross, Islamic Council, THW, ICRC, EPRC, UNHCR, and WFP. (Some have only one delegate who shuttles between Tirana and Tropoje District.)



UN Inter-Agency

Update on Kosovo

Situation Report 58

Friday 28 August 1998

This report has been compiled by UNHCR with support from OCHA, and with input from UN Agencies and other humanitarian organizations in FRY, FYROM and Albania.

1. KOSOVO

1.1 New clashes have been reported in the region of Duije, on the Pristina - Prizen road, in the town of Podujevo, the wider Drenica region and within the Klina, Glogovac and Srboica triangle and in Malisevo municipality.

Fighting along the Stimlje - Suva Reka road continues. Over the last couple of days Serbian police checkpoints in Drenica, Podujevo, Lausa and Gornja Klina were reported attacked.

1.2 New displacement. New displacement has resulted from the recent clashes. UN agencies are trying to track the locations and the numbers to assess their condition.

1.3 Returns. An estimated 70%-80% of residents have returned spontaneously to Orshovna. 700 out of 2,500 villagers who fled have returned to the villages of Ade and Obilic. The returns need help to repair houses and reconnect water and electricity. According to the field reports, most of the 180 houses remained intact in the area of Obilic.

However, it is estimated that some 15,000 houses have been rendered uninhabitable, thus making it impossible for residents to return.

Estimated Displacement Figures:

(as at 24 August 1998)

Displacement within Kosovo*	170,000
Displacement into Montenegro**	35,000
Displacement into other parts of Serbia	
Refugees into Albania***	20,000
Visitors into FYROM****	14,000
1,000	
TOTAL	237,000

* Estimated figures based on information from various organizations in Kosovo.

** An average figure based on figures provided by the Montenegrin Ministry of Interior and the Montenegrin Red Cross, as shown in the next page.

*** Includes 7,000 registered in Topolje District and an estimated 1,000 who have left for other areas.

**** Figures provided by a local NGO, El Hilal.

1.4 Humanitarian convoys. The Serbian police stopped the UNHCR led multi-agency eight-truck convoy at Slatina near Pristina on Thursday. The convoy had been trying to deliver aid to Stivjane in the Decane municipality (4 trucks) and to Bralic in the municipality of Pec (4 trucks). The 8-truck multi-agency convoy transported 25 tons of wheat flour, 3,000 family food parcels (with 1 month food provisions for 30,000 people), 30 rolls of plastic sheeting and 120 stoves. According to the Serbian sources the convoy was denied passage due to security reasons. UNHCR spokesman in Geneva said this was the first time since the beginning of the conflict in the region that a UNHCR relief convoy had been stopped and sent back without any explanation.

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However, late Friday Mr Janowski told the journalists that the convoy had been granted permission to resume its journey.

1.5 Julia Taft, the US Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration accompanied by Ambassador Christopher Hill and Charge d'Affairs Richard Miles visited the villages of Kijevu and Vrnice in western Kosovo, where she was shocked by the humanitarian situation.

1.6 Pilot projects of return. Representatives of UNHCR and ICRC met on Thursday with the high level delegations from the Austrian Presidency of the European Union and Britain to discuss the proposal put forward by France and Germany to undertake pilot projects that would enable return of the displaced to selected areas in Kosovo. The EU members invited UNHCR to draft a proposal for potential returns depending on the situation on the ground.

1.7 Eleven aid points. Andreja Milosavljevic, Coordinator for Kosovo and Vojko Odalovic, Head of Kosovo District requested representatives of 50 humanitarian agencies including UNHCR and NGOs in Kosovo to work with the Government to form 11 aid points throughout Kosovo in: Orshovac, Djakovica, Decane, Klina, Osojan, Kijevu, Strbica, Glogovac, Malisevo, Suva Reka and Junik. The relief agencies were urged to help normalise the situation in the region and facilitate return of DP's to their homes.

1.8 UNICEF assistance. A joint mission of Federal and Republican Health authorities, Institutes of Public Health, the Institute for Mother and Child Health Care of Serbia and UNICEF visited Kosovo on August 23-25 to assess the health system capacities and staffing, epidemiological situation and immunization process. Until

24 August 6,272 cases of infectious diseases with 78 fatalities were reported in Kosovo. An outpatient obstetrics services will be re-established in Glogovac and Orshovac by mid-September.

Immunization has not been performed at almost 50% of vaccination points due to obvious difficulties related to the frequent population movements. UNICEF will provide MMR vaccines, syringes and needles. The state health authorities have pledged their support to the Mother Theresa Association mobile teams and promised to assure free passage through police checkpoints. The UNICEF mobile team continues to work in different locations examining more than 250 patients a day. 70% of whom are children. Diarrhoea is extremely common and there are a few cases of very severe dehydration.

1.9 WFP Food Aid Update. WFP led a 10 vehicle multi-agency convoy to Berane and Glogjane on 25 August delivering food and non-food assistance to up to 50,000 people in the 13 surrounding villages. 12 MT of wheat flour, 2 MT of pulses and 1 MT of oil were delivered. On 26 August WFP delivered Humanitarian Daily Rations (HDRs), donation of USAID, to the village of Brolic. According to the reports, there are 3000 DP's in the village, 200 of whom live out in the open.

2. MONTENEGRO

2.1 New influx. Over 1,500 DP's arrived in Montenegro following the deployment of the Serb security forces in the Rugovska Klisura. Emergency food and non-food supplies have been dispatched by UNHCR/ICRC/MRC to Rozaje and Ucinj. According to UNHCR estimate 500 persons/day arrive in Montenegrin villages claiming insecurity due to the relative proximity of police/army forces. DP's are unanimous in that an

unknown number of people (2,000-4,000) are stranded in the forest on their way to Montenegro. New arrivals were seen in Tuzi, 10 km away from Podgorica where already 1,400 IDPs are accommodated in vacant private houses. SDR/UNHCR team visited the village and requested approval from the local authorities for SDR to adapt the building turned into a temporary transit centre.

UNHCR and the staff of the Commissioner for Displaced Persons visited together the municipality of Rozaje where each house hosts an average of 20 DPs. At the request of the local RC mattresses and blankets have been dispatched to the main towns to cover the urgent needs of the increased caseload. Stock is till available for 15,000 new arrivals. UNHCR and UNICEF met with the Minister of Education who stated parallel education system would not be allowed. UNHCR (SDR) will participate in rehabilitation of the school buildings while UNICEF will provide 1000 first grade textbooks. DRC opened offices in Plav and Rozaje.

Statistics (as at 27 August 1998)	
Ministry of Interior Count of New Arrivals:	
	14,338
Montenegrin Red Cross Registered Caseload:	
Ulcinj	15,117
Rozaje	4,561
Podgorica	4,567
Plav	7,483
Berane	1,160
Others	1,002
Total	36,913

Average of the two figures is shown on the first page. The discrepancy may be due to the fact that the Ministry of Interior is not keeping track of IDPs travelling through mountain paths. The registration in each municipality conducted by the Commissioner for Displaced Persons' Office is proceeding slowly, with only 9,000 IDPs recorded to date.

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UN Inter-Agency

Update on Kosovo

Situation Report 59

Tuesday, 1 September 1998

This report has been compiled by UNHCR with support from OCHA and with input from UN Agencies and other humanitarian organizations in PRY, BHG and Albania.

1. KOSOVO

1.1 Following attack at the village of Senik 5 km east of Malisevo on Thursday 27 August, UNHCR team visited the area on Friday and Saturday having been informed that some 15,000 people needed food urgently. As a result of the attack 17 people are believed to be dead and at least 47 wounded. On Saturday UNHCR lead a medical team that evacuated 13 seriously wounded civilians to Pristina hospital. ICRC workers reported they had no problems with the Serbian police while driving the wounded into the region's hospital but the wounded themselves had been afraid. At the nearby village of Gucaat, 10 km east of Malisevo which originally had 1,500 residents the UNHCR team found over 10,000 IDPs from 35 villages in the area who appealed for food and medicines.

On Saturday 29 August UNHCR visited the woods at Kala some 15 km outside Pristina where an estimated 2000 people have been living in the woods for six weeks. UNHCR spoke to a group of 50 people who told them that they fled the villages of Mirena, Gornji and Donji Zabeji and Gornja Korotica. UNHCR appealed to the authorities to ensure a safe passage for them to Pristina but was refused and told that they should return to their villages.

On Saturday 29 August Kosovo Prefect Vojko Odalovic sent an open letter to the agencies working in Kosovo offering to facilitate the issuance of visas, entry of communications equipment and to ease the work of the aid organisations in Kosovo.

On Monday 31 August UNHCR met with the foreign ministry officials in Pristina to discuss the problems in convoy movements and inform them of reports that the police had prevented IDPs from returning from Montenegro to Kosovo. They were referred to the local chief of police who was unavailable. The agency requested access to Lekovic (vicinity of Obilic) in view of the possible returns into the village. In closing the meeting the MOFA urged that agencies take a "balanced" approach in reporting from the field.

Following reports on large numbers of people forced to flee their homes in the municipality of Lipijan (north of Pristina) during heavy shelling in recent weeks UNHCR is investigating the situation in the villages of Sedlare and Magura. The municipality of Lipijan, inhabited by both Serbs and Albanians came under attack on 18 August. Prior to the attack on Sedlare an estimated 18,000 IDPs from Malisevo, Glogovac and Stimlje were accommodated there. Despite heavy destruction, people are returning to Sedlare, as no other shelter is available.

UNHCR visited a Serb family who fled the village of Jedovae, 10 km east of Kina who are living in the collective centre with refugees from Krnjina. They were told that the village had been populated by 40 ethnic Albanian and 12 Serb households, but that in May the rebels torched all the Serb houses.

1.2 Convoys. UNHCR escorted a nine-truck multi-agency convoy to Kosovska Mitrovica and Vucitrm where there is an estimated 40,000 IDPs. The supplies from WFP, Doctors of the World, Catholic Relief and Mercy Corps International included 4,000 family food parcels, 98 tons of wheat flour, 2 tons of beans, 2 tons of oil, 100 packs of sanitary napkins. This was a third convoy to set out of Pristina in the week 24-30 August.

Today, 1 September, two convoys left Pristina. The UNHCR led convoy headed for Gornji Stretci in Pec carrying emergency relief supplies to an estimated 15,000 beneficiaries. The aid consists of 3 trucks of family food parcels, 1 ton of beans, 54 tons of wheat flour, 1 ton of cooking oil, 20 boxes of hygienic napkins, 300 pairs of rubber boots, 50 stoves, 300 rolls of plastic sheeting, 300 boxes of high protein biscuits and sleeping bags. The agencies participating in the convoy are: CAD, DOW, HI, WFP and MCI. The WFP led nine-truck convoy including CAD, IRC, WFP and MCI will accompany relief supplies to Nisor southeast of Malisevo for an estimated 40,000 beneficiaries. The supplies consist of 4 trucks of family food parcels, 1 ton of beans, 78 tons of wheat flour, 1 ton of cooking oil, 20 boxes of hygienic napkins, 50 stoves, 300 pairs of rubber boots, 30 rolls of plastic sheeting, 300 boxes of high protein biscuits and sleeping bags.

1.3 Situation in Klacka. On 29 August the Serbian police took reporters to view a lime pit where purportedly the remains of 22 Serbs executed by ethnic Albanian

separatists were found. If the claims are true, this would amount to a horrific violation of human rights. Boxes of food aid (HDBs) from the USA and probably distributed by UNHCR found there have been widely reported in the local press. The food packs are distributed to needy displaced people when other food is unavailable and with the risks that some of it could fall in the hands of combatants.

Estimated Displacement Figures:

(as at 24 August 1998)

Displacement within Kosovo ¹	170,000
Displacement into Montenegro ²	35,000
Displacement into other parts of Serbia	
Refugees in Bosnia Herzegovina ³	20,000
Refugees into Albania ⁴	4,700
Refugees into FYROM ⁵	14,000
Refugees into FYROM ⁶	1,000
TOTAL	241,700

¹ Estimated figures based on information from various organizations in Kosovo.

² An average figure based on figures provided by the Montenegrin Ministry of Interior and the Montenegrin Red Cross, as shown in the next page.

³ Includes 1937 registered asylum seekers.

⁴ Includes 7,000 registered in Trepce District and an estimated 7,000 who have left for other areas.

⁵ Figures provided by a local NGO, El Hilal.

1.4 Julia Taft US Assistant Secretary of State on a visit to Kosovo expressed horror at the destruction she saw. She said the international community had only six weeks to implement a crash program of humanitarian assistance in Kosovo if thousands of lives are to be saved. She pledged to ask the US State Department for "substantial" funding to avert the disaster and called for an immediate end of the conflict.

1.5 Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, ended her visit to Bosnia Herzegovina, Republika Srpska and Croatia. Visiting Bijeljina she said Sunday that the US was pursuing a three-track Kosovo policy: of humanitarian aid to civilians, efforts to promote a political settlement and planning for possible military intervention. She reiterated the

"need to solve the Kosovo issue diplomatically rather than militarily".

1.6 UNICEF assistance. UNICEF visited Senik Guncat and Pagurata in the municipality of Malisro and Dobrdeliane in the municipality of Suva Reka on Monday 31 August. Out of the 210 children checked in Senik and Guncat, some 80% had diarrhoea. There were 10 children with bronchopneumonia. Some of the children show signs of dehydration, albeit not so severe as to need infusions. The assistance distributed to Guncat and Senik on 31 August:

- 16 boxes of diapers
- 86 baby hygienic kits
- 4 bundles of blankets

IDPs in Guncat were also provided with:

- 25 collapsible water containers
- 150 sets of underwear

1.7 WFP Food Aid Update.

WFP is continuing to send wheat flour, oil and pulses on convoys targeting the areas where IDPs have access to cooking facilities. HDRs are sent to many areas due to continuing movement of IDPs, most of whom have no access to clean water.

2. MONTENEGRO

2.1 UNHCR estimates 3000 persons fled between 24 and 29 August. On 28 and 29 August UNHCR team monitored the arrival of IDPs to Rozaje including the villages of Bandrov, Kludjanski Laz and Bukelj. At the pace of 500 a day inhabitants of the 13 villages (Veliki Stupelj, Lutova, Pepici, Kovutani, Alagina Reka, Pecaj, Dredja, Kuciste, Dugaivo, Stakaj, Badaj, Bege and Malaj) in the area of Rugovska Klisura fled out of fear after the deployment of Serb forces in the village of Veliki Stupelj west of Pec. Neither fighting nor destruction of houses were reported by the

new arrivals. All IDPs declare their willingness to return as soon as the security situation allows. Since 30 August the influx has stopped with only a few persons entering Montenegro over the mountains. IDPs praise the positive attitude of the Montenegrin police and claim to feel safe in their presence. UNHCR concludes that return to the villages of Rugovska Klisura is possible but the situation still remains to be checked and the actual possibility assessed. However, an attempt by a small group of IDPs from Pec who tried to return there on 29 August failed when their minibus was turned back to Montenegro by the police at the checkpoint at Savina Voda. As reported above, UNHCR raised this question at the meeting with foreign ministry officials in Pristina 31 August.

Statistics (as at 27 August 1998)

Ministry of Interior Count of New Arrivals:

Montenegrin Red Cross Registered Caseload:	34,238
Ulcinj	15,117
Rozaje	4,581
Podgorica	4,557
Plav	7,483
Berane	1,160
Others	1,000
Total	35,913

Average of the two figures is shown on the first page. The discrepancy may be due to the fact that the Ministry of Interior is not keeping track of IDPs travelling through mountain paths. The registration in each municipality conducted by the Commissioner for Displaced Persons' Office is proceeding slowly, with only 9,000 IDPs recorded to date.

2.2 Shelter in Rozaje. The maximum housing capacity in this municipality has been reached. Due to the absence of any registration system it is still impossible to establish the accurate number of persons who arrived in Rozaje since 24 August. Red Cross has distributed bread and blankets. Temporary shelter is the greatest problem and one that needs to be solved urgently. In the town of Bukovica, north of Rozaje the mayor and the local R/C

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secretary told UNHCR that the local inhabitants have declared IDPs not welcome and warned about potential security incidents.

RC continues registration and distribution of flour, rice, sugar, oil blankets and mattresses. UNHCR requested the Republican Commissioner for Refugees to provide a list of buildings that could be rehabilitated quickly.

3. ALBANIA

3.1 Security situation. The situation in the Tropoje District remained tense throughout the week of 24 August. On 24 August a UNHCR vehicle was hi-jacked by two armed persons. As the security situation deteriorated the restriction of movements of the FO staff were imposed and the international staff was temporarily moved to Tirana. The international organisations remaining on 29 August are: ECMM, OSCE, WFP and UNHCR.

The general situation in Kukës and Bas area is calm. No incidents have been reported in the past week.

3.2 Displacement. During the week 180 persons, the majority of whom had been displaced from Junik, crossed the border at Zogaj and reported to the UNHCR in Bajram Curri.

3.3 Assistance. The September food distribution in the north is scheduled to begin 4-5 September and will consist of IFRC food parcels and WFP bulk food, supplemented by local purchases. WFP intends to distribute assistance to 2,000 refugees in the Tropoje region whilst IFRC will cover Bajram Curri. Although WFP warehouse remains safe and there has been no looting, food stocks are kept to an absolute minimum with deliveries made immediately before distribution. Hearing

and cooking stoves will be a major necessity in the oncoming weeks.

3.4 Shelter. The SDR works on several sites (two of them in Fierre) in the north is progressing slowly. Rehabilitation of the transit centre and one of the three collective centres in Bajram Curri is to begin shortly.

In the southern town of Burrel collective accommodation shall be built. Two sites further to the south are being considered. In the area of Kruma, Kukës and Kafanas the German Shelter team from THW have started the rehabilitation of a kindergarten. They have also undertaken identification of other sites to be rehabilitated.

4. FYR of MACEDONIA

4.1 The figures differ to a large extent. According to the information of the Macedonian Ministry of Interior 12,000 "guests" from Kosovo have been registered in the period March - July. It is estimated that some 2,000 are accommodated privately in the region of Tetovo.

The Macedonian Red Cross and the Federation estimate that there are approximately 3-5,000 people from Kosovo, while UNHCR Pristina estimates some 20,000 people from Kosovo to have arrived in Macedonia with tourist visas. Those who approach the Red Cross are assisted directly by what they have in stock: food, hygienic supplies and bedding. To date about 20 - 30 families have been assisted or referred to UNHCR for help.

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UN Inter-Agency

Update on Kosovo

Situation Report 60

Friday 4 September 1998

This report has been compiled by UNHCR with support from OCHA and with inputs from UN Agencies and other humanitarian organizations in FR Y, FYROM and Albania

1. KOSOVO

1.1 Fighting has been reported in the course of the last couple of days in the area south of Prizren. Tusus, the suburb of Prizren has been a target of fighting and is reported completely deserted. The villages of Postiste, Bitusa, Boca Zagradska, Jeskova, Ljubicevo, Kusendil, Leskovec and Lez were reported encircled. Some 20,000 people are reported to have fled to the vineyards surrounding Prizren and into the city itself (no. of inhabitants 70,000). 35 casualties have been reported. Along the main highway between Pristina and Pec fighting is reported in the Iglarevo area, along the Pec - Pristina road. KDOM visited the village of Rusinove, municipality of Lipjan, which was shelled the night of 01 September with 4 people killed and 16 injured.

Fighting was also reported in the areas of Drenovac and Kramovik, northwest of the town of Grahovac. In Ostrozub, a village between Malisevo and Grahovac, clashes have been reported today.

1.2 Displacement. Thousands of people forced from their homes in Sedlare pleaded with UNHCR on Wednesday to ask the government to allow them to return to their villages in safety. They also asked for food. About 5000 of them have been hiding in the hills around Sedlare for two weeks.

Representatives of the villagers said 170-300 houses have been damaged. UNHCR team saw several thousand people living in the open over a 3 km stretch of a valley at the edge of Sedlare and noted many destroyed and damaged houses. UNHCR also visited Kula and Glavica, some 15km southwest of Pristina. Some 3000 displaced people have been living there for two weeks. They appealed for food and asked the team to arrange for at least women and children to go to Pristina, their request to proceed to Pristina having been turned down by the authorities on 31 August. The men expressed a wish to go back to their homes at nearby Sandoz and Koronic but said they were frightened.

The situation in Pec is calm. 300 IDPs are living in the village along with the 1300 inhabitants. No humanitarian assistance is needed. More than 2000 IDPs, UCK fighters among them, are reported on the road from Sedlare to Klecka. About 12,000 IDPs are crowded in Guncat and five other neighboring villages. It is estimated that at least 40,000 people are gathered in villages around Pagarusa and the neighbouring Semetiska river banks in an aftermath of late August shelling of the area.

2000 IDPs are reported to be living in Golubac, municipality of Klinja.

1.3 Returns. En route to Sedlare UNHCR saw the situation in Magura returning to normal. At Sedlare, more than

5000 people who had been living outdoors for 10 days returned to the village during the day 3 September. Except for badly destroyed Rusinovac, little damaged could be seen in the villages of Mirena, Gornja and Donja Fustica, Sandaz and Korotica. A UNHCR team visited the town of Orhovac on Tuesday and found that more people have returned. However, tensions remain and there is heavy police presence. KDOM reports returns to be taking place to the area of Gornje and Donje Prekaze in Srbica municipality and Glagovac.

The first of 11 humanitarian centres announced by the Government on 27 August opened in Orhovac (run by the Yugoslav Red Cross) but, having only small amounts of wheat flour, sugar and oil, ran out of stocks quickly. The Prefect of Kosovo states that new supplies will reach soon and asks humanitarian agencies for support.

1.4 Convoys. Two multi-agency convoys with contributions from UNHCR, WFP, Mercy Corps, International Children's Aid Direct, Catholic Relief Services, Centre for Protection of Women and Children delivered relief aid on Thursday to some 20,000 IDPs at Nekovac and Banjice villages in Glagovac, southwest of Pristina. The shipment consisted of 2000 family food packs for one month, 106 tons of wheat flour, 60 rolls of plastic sheeting, biscuits, beans, oil, baby food, high protein biscuits, sanitary napkins, hygienic items, shoes, clothes and sleeping bags. UNHCR truck carried 6720 HDRs to Guncat to an estimated 12 - 15,000 IDPs today. During the week 31 August - 4 September there were four multi-agency convoys in all.

1.5 Meetings. UNHCR met Tuesday with the US government delegation who offered to provide substantial food aid during winter in Kosovo. US is prepared to

send 2000 food packs (HDRs) to each of the 11 humanitarian centres. Hugh Parmer, Assistant Administrator for the Bureau of Humanitarian Response said US will also increase its aid in medicines and sanitation.

On 2 September UNHCR had a meeting with General Lukic, Kosovo police commander, who promised to do everything possible to ensure the safety of people returning to the villages and urged the agency to take the lead role in organising these returns. He promised assistance to avoid unnecessary delays in aid deliveries and thanked the agency for its plan to provide the HDRs to humanitarian centres.

Mr Nicholas Morris, UNHCR Special Envoy and Ms Margaret O'Keefe, COM FRY visited the municipality of Lipjan Thursday and saw several villages damaged and abandoned. In the evening they met with ICRC officials and Kosovo Prefect Veljko Odalovic.

Estimated Displacement Figures:

(as at 24 August 1998)	
Displacement within Kosovo ¹	170,000
Displacement into Montenegro ²	37,200
Displacement into other parts of Serbia	20,000
Refugees in Bosnia Herzegovina ³	5200
Refugees into Albania ⁴	14,000
Refugees into Turkey ⁵	2,000
Visitors into FYROM ⁶	1,000
TOTAL	246,200

¹ Estimated figure based on information from various organisations in Kosovo.

² In average figure based on figures provided by the Montenegro Ministry of Interior and the Montenegrin Red Cross as shown in the next page.

³ Includes 15,000 registered asylum seekers.

⁴ Includes 7,000 registered in Trepce District and an estimated 2,000 who have left for other areas.

⁵ Figure announced by the Regional Bureau of Europe.

⁶ Figure provided by a local NGO, El Hital.

1.6 Mary Robinson, High Commissioner of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights said in Geneva 2 September she was haunted and terrified by the weekend's

images of the charred remains in a makeshift crematorium. She stressed that although humanitarian crisis is growing the political crisis remains unresolved. She called for an independent investigation by experts, including international forensic specialists, into the violent deaths resulting from armed actions. "Joint efforts to promote independent investigation into these tragedies are in the interest of all persons committed to human rights in Kosovo" Ms Robinson said.

1.7 John Shattuck, US Assistant Secretary of State will arrive in Kosovo today. 4 September and will be joined by Bob Dole, Chairman of the International Commission on Missing Persons on Saturday. They are expected to meet with Serb and Kosovo Albanian leaders and NGOs and visit the sites in the region where alleged human rights violations have occurred. On Monday they are scheduled to meet with officials and NGOs in Belgrade.

1.8 UNICEF assistance. A team of UNICEF officials visited Kosovo on 1 September. In the village of Cirez, municipality of Srtica they assessed the condition of IDPs and provision of humanitarian assistance. One of the members of the team Mr John Donohue, Regional Director for Central and Eastern Europe said the only encouraging thing was that everyone agreed that children should not suffer their parents' mistakes. On 2 September Mr Donohue visited Play in Montenegro to assess the situation of the IDPs accommodated in a collective centre. In Podgorica he discussed with Montenegrin government further UNICEF emergency assistance to children and women, especially in the fields of health and education.

1.9 WFP Food Aid Update. Today WFP led a small convoy to a village near Malisevo to deliver 800 HDRs to some

100 displaced persons. CRS is participating in the convoy accompanied by a USAID representative. Assessment of the current situation and needs will be made during the delivery.

WFP has received a confirmation of a USD 4.5 million donation by the USA under the Kosovo Flash Appeal that will provide 10,000 tons of wheat flour. Nonetheless, there is a gap in the pipeline for operations in Kosovo until the wheat flour arrives.

WFP accompanied UNHCR to Rozaje to assess the situation of IDPs since the food distribution in August. A coordination meeting is planned for 7 September to plan this month's food distribution programs.

2. MONTENEGRO

2.1 UNHCR reports that the influx has scaled down since 31 August. UNHCR team monitoring the mountain villages of Rozaje witnessed only a few families were arriving from the area of Rugovska Klisura. The road from Cakor has reportedly been closed by the Serbian police. The road from Pec to Rozaje is still open.

2.2 Returns to Pec. The IDPs who have been unsuccessfully trying to return to Pec by the main road told UNHCR of harassment at the Serbian checkpoint where they were not allowed to proceed without the identity-cards. Yet, the regular bus lines Podgorica - Pec are still operating normally and the Roma women, Montenegrin traders and a few Albanian women with IDs travel without any problems. Some of the IDPs accommodated in Ulicinj, Rozaje and Play asked UNHCR for assistance in returning to Pec and the surrounding villages.

2.3 Assistance. UNHCR received proposals from SDR and IOCC for the distribution of food and non food items. WFP has opened an office in Podgorica.

World Vision is preparing a proposal for adjustment of the existing facilities to the winter conditions.

A logistic coordination meeting will be held on 7 September to plan the distribution of food and non food items.

3. ALBANIA

No updated reports received.

4. FYR of MACEDONIA

No updated reports received.

Statistics 1st at 27 August 1998	
Ministry of Interior Count of New Arrivals:	36,072
Montenegrin Red Cross Registered Caseload:	
Ulcinj	15,951
Rozaje	5,887
Podgorica	4,689
Plav	7,483
Barane	1,182
Others	3,242
Total	38,434

Average of the two figures is shown on the first page. The discrepancy may be due to the fact that the Ministry of Interior is not keeping track of IDPs traveling through mountain paths. The registration in each municipality conducted by the Commissioner for Displaced Persons' Office is proceeding slowly, with only 9,000 IDPs recorded to date.

2.4 Shortage of medicines. Municipal health centres report they can barely cope with the increasing needs for medical services and call for the international assistance.

2.5 Education. Following the decision taken by the Montenegrin Government 9000 children will not be integrated in the Montenegrin education system this term. The explanation given is that they do not hold valid school certificates (parallel system certificates not being recognised). UNICEF and UNHCR met today the Ministry of Education whose attitude was positive and who promised to find a compromise, but had to refer the issue to the Parliament. Thus, only the first grade children have been accepted to schools.

For information, please contact:
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Update on Kosovo

Situation Report 61

Tuesday 8 September 1998

This report has been compiled by UNHCR with support from OCHA and with inputs from UN Agencies and other humanitarian organizations in FYR, PEROM and Albania

1. KOSOVO

1.1 Mass grave. At 15:30 hours today UNHCR office in Pristina was called to meet with the Prefect of Kosovo, Mr Odalovic, who stated that a mass grave had been discovered at **Djakovica**. Mr Odalovic was organising an immediate visit to the site for journalists and humanitarian agencies. UNHCR did not participate in the journey having no competence in the subject

1.2 Ultimatum. The serb police and the VJ visited several villages in the area of Prizren on 5 September. The villagers were issued an ultimatum to surrender their weapons before a deadline. One of the villages was Rugovo along the Prizren-Djakovica road. KDOM saw the VJ convoy proceeding towards Ostrozh, northeast of Orahovac.

According to the reports that the Serb forces launched an attack on the village of Donje Potocake, 2 km west of Orahovac on 3 September. The villagers attempted to move into the hills but were stopped to women and children were sent to Orahovac and the men, most of whom were subsequently released, to Prizren for interrogation.

UNHCR was informed of the large concentration of population in Kozanik; en route to Labovcero and Ponorac, northeast of Orahovac it saw smoke rising from the

villages of Kpuz and Kratjane. 50 IDPs the team saw on the road claimed that the village of Kpuz (550 inhabitants originally) was encircled and set on fire. 500 people took to the surrounding hills. No UCK presence was noted. According to the reports of IDPs the village of Zatic between Orahovac and Kozanik was burned to the ground on Thursday and Friday.

According to local villagers the village of Pantisa, 5 km southeast of Mitrovica was shelled on Sunday, 6 September. The KDOM team visited the place but could not confirm the reports. However, damage was evident.

1.3 Roundup. A senior foreign ministry official in Pristina told UNHCR on Monday that the government is preparing charges against 40-50 people seized during the roundup of civilians late last week in the Ponorac area of Malishevo. He said they will be given fair trial and allowed to defend themselves. Local aid workers told UNHCR that the operation forced some 20,000 people out of their homes but that some 10,000 had returned. UNHCR emphasized that returns would have negative consequences if the safety of returnees could not be guaranteed.

In view of the above UNHCR visited Ponorac and was asked for urgent food and medical supplies. The team also visited Labovcero where 70% of some 100 houses are destroyed or damaged. Some 1000

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local villagers and 2000 IDPs were seen returning.

1.4 Return. Villagers began returning to their homes in the area of Puzem on Saturday following a government offensive in which reportedly more than 50,000 people fled their villages. UNHCR visited Hoca Zagradaka, southwest of Puzem and saw some people returning. The village underwent some destruction, but is intact for the most part. KDOM visited the Mayor of Poc and discussed the return into the villages of Grabovac, Zlopek and Lozane, north of Poc. Out of the 80 houses in Grabovac 60% are heavily damaged. In Zlopek 10% of the 50 houses are heavily damaged, while in Lozane 97% of the 70 houses remained intact. The people will need food, clothing and hygienic items. KDOM visited the area west of the Zrce - Orlovac road and found some returns have been taking place in the villages of Gede and Ratkovac. The villagers from the heavily damaged village of Bladeste took shelter in the woods, but came into the village in daytime to take care of their live stock.

The village of Ade is being visited regularly. Since the security situation is improving as well as the living conditions there, an increasing number of people are returning.

Life in Orlovac seems to be back to normal. Over 10,000 IDPs or over 50% are estimated to have returned there.

1.5 Convoys. Two multi-agency convoys with contributions from UNHCR, WFP, Mercy Corps International, Children's Aid Direct, Doctors of the World and Handicap International delivered relief supplies on Saturday. The WFP led convoy that headed for Dijasovce, southeast of Suva Reka was stopped at the Serbian Police checkpoint at Stunje. Convoy leader's vehicle base station was checked and it turned out that one of the radio frequencies, installed for Bosnia, was

the same as the local police station. After some delay, the convoy was allowed to proceed escorted by the UNHCR vehicle that joined it in the meantime. Six trucks carried 57 t 360 kg of wheat flour, 1 t 560 kg of oil, 560 kg of pasta, 560 kg of sugar, 504 kg of high protein biscuits, 1 ton of beans, 1000 family food parcels, 108 kg of baby food, 50 packs of sanitary napkins, 120 mattresses and 600 pairs of shoes. The participating agencies were Mercy Corps International, USAID, Children Aid Direct, Doctors of the World and Catholic Relief Service.

The second, UNHCR led, eight-truck convoy went to Djakovica carrying 1750 family food parcels, 78 tons of wheat flour, 1790 kg of high protein biscuits, 168 baby parcels, 324 kg of baby food, 144 parcels of baby cream, 43 containers of canned fish, 1 ton of beans, 1790 kg of sugar, 1790 kg of oil, 1790 kg of pasta, 60 packs of sanitary napkins, 1 parcel of soap, 102 parcels of detergent, 180 mattresses, 900 pairs of shoes and 5 bales of blankets.

Today, three convoys were organised. UNHCR led five truck convoy carrying supplies for an estimated 10,000 beneficiaries in Gornat. The agencies taking part in the convoy are Children Aid Direct, Catholic Relief Service, Doctors of the World, Mercy Corps International, WFP. The cargo consisted of 5592 family food parcels, 600 kg of high protein biscuits, 40 tons of wheat flour, 1 ton of oil, 1 ton of beans, 10 boxes of baby food, 70 stoves, 30 boxes of sanitary napkins, 27 rolls of plastic sheeting and 100 sleeping bags.

The second, WFP led, nine-truck convoy, carried 2300 family food parcels, 13080 kg of family food parcels, 54 tons of wheat flour, 1 ton of oil, 1 ton of beans, 1496 kg of high protein biscuits, 510 mattresses, 70 stoves and 50 boxes of sanitary napkins to Prerren. Agencies participating were Children Aid Direct, Doctors of the World and Mercy Corps International.

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UNHCR also escorted a truck with 400 boxes of HDRs to an estimated 4000 IDPs in Marmala, east of Diakovica. The truck has not yet returned to Pristina.

1.6 Potential danger. VJ 2nd Army based in Podgorica reported on Friday that the VJ Border Guards had prevented an attempt by a group of Albanian citizens to cross illegally the border into FRY near Grljeva post, municipality of Plav. This raises the question as to whether the UCK have started to use Montenegro to enter Kosovo from Albania. Since the Kosovo-Albanian border is sealed and Montenegro has refused to impose the Border Belt policy decreed some 6 weeks ago by the Federal Government, this might well be the case.

Estimated Displacement Figures: (as at 4 September 1998)

Displacement within Kosovo ¹	200,000
Displacement into Montenegro ²	38,628
Displacement into other parts of Serbia	20,000
Refugees in Bosnia-Herzegovina ³	5200
Refugees into Albania ⁴	14,000
Refugees into Turkey ⁵	2,000
Refugees into FYROM ⁶	1,000
TOTAL	281,828

¹ Estimated figure based on information from various organisations in Kosovo.

² An average figure based on figures provided by the Montenegrin Ministry of Interior and the Montenegrin Red Cross, as shown in the next page.

³ Includes 2632 registered asylum seekers.

⁴ Includes 7,000 registered in Tropic District and an estimated 7,000 who have left for other areas.

⁵ Figure sponsored by the Regional Bureau of Europe.

⁶ Figure provided by a local NGO, El Nihil.

1.7 John Shattuck, US Deputy Secretary for Human Rights and Bob Dole, Chairman of the International Commission for Missing Persons, having visited the conflict zone, said Sunday that they have seen "horrendous violations of humanitarian law and acts of punitive destruction on a massive scale". Shattuck said that the US believes that all situations

involving violations of international humanitarian law in Kosovo should be fully investigated and prosecuted by the ICTY in The Hague.

1.8 UNICEF assistance. On Monday, 7 September UNICEF in cooperation with OXFAM and Mercy Corps International launched a training session "Snitekeepers" - psychological support to children under stress. The project aims at providing children in extremely difficult circumstances with opportunities for social activities in which they will be guided to ease up their psychosocial tensions and address the ways of non-violent communication. As part of the UN/NGO convoy, UNICEF has distributed the following emergency supplies for the most needy in Diakovica.

- 168 boxes of baby hygiene kits
- 150 boxes of diapers
- 3 cases of collapsible containers
- 1 box of toilet soap
- 10 boxes of sanitary napkins
- 144 tubes of baby cream
- 102 tubes of washing detergent
- 5 bundles of blankets

1.9 WFP Food Aid Update. On 4 September WFP led a small convoy to a village near Malishevo to deliver 800 HDRs and some 80 hygiene kits (CRS) to some 100 displaced persons. This delivery was to be made upon the visit of Hugh Palmer of USAID who was distraught at the situation of the group of people living in the open. However, in the four days between his visit and the delivery the people had moved, so that the aid was distributed to other groups of IDPs living in the open in the vicinity. 95.49 tons of mixed food commodities (75 tons of wheat flour, 10 tons of pulses and 10.49 tons of oil) stored in Skopje will be redirected to other areas of need within Kosovo.

2. MONTENEGRO

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2.1 UNHCR field team monitored Play and Rozaje municipalities last last week. A few families went back to the Rugovica Kishura villages to fetch their belongings and then returned to Montenegro. The road from Pec to Cukur remain closed on the Serbian side. Traffic remains possible only for non-ethnic Albanians. Daily entries by the main road to Rozaje average 100.

2.2 Assistance. The September distribution of food is planned to 42,724 IDPs. The actual quantities of what is to be distributed still depend on the complementary contributions from various donors in addition to the already available amount contributed by WFP and ICRC. IOCC opened an office in Podgorica on 7 September and plans to provide food and non food items to IDPs, refugees and Montenegrins.

Statistics (as at 08 September 1998)	
Ministry of Interior Count of New Arrivals:	
	36,532
Montenegrin Red Cross Registered Casualties:	
Ulcinj	16,855
Rozaje	8,143
Podgorica	5,039
Plav	8,114
Berane	1,217
Stolac	984
Others	2,372
Total	42,724

Average of the two figures is shown in the first page. The discrepancy may be due to the fact that the Ministry of Interior is not keeping track of IDPs travelling through mountain paths. The registration in each municipality conducted by the Commissioner for Displaced Persons' Office is proceeding slowly, with only 9,000 IDPs recorded to date.

2.3 Protection. Head of Police in Podgorica informed UNHCR of a significant increase in thefts and petty crimes in the city associated with the arrival of IDPs. He expressed concern over the presence of KLA elements in the Republic, intense smuggling activities on the Albanian

border and organised transport of IDPs via the lake of Skadar. He said the check-up of identity of the displaced is conducted at random, both in private accommodation and, as of recently in collective centres. Upon such an action in a collective centre in Tuzi, 50 IDPs left.

UNHCR closely monitors bus departures from Podgorica to Pec. Apparently, a few Albanian families return to Pec and the surrounding villages every day, but those without IDs do not take their chances. UNHCR saw 15 ethnic Albanian IDPs departing from Podgorica to Kline and Pec and 15 Roma returning to the latter.

3. ALBANIA

3.1 Security. The situation in the area of Padash and Kamenica is calm. However, ECOMM reports military activities in the area of Zogaj. However, 30 local Albanian families claiming insecurity left the Padash area for Bajram Curri in the course of the last week. The security in the Tropoje District continuing tense the majority of UNHCR's international staff members are still in Tirana. Activities are reduced to the essential, mainly around Bajram Curri and the transit centre. The international organisations remaining as on 6 September are ECOMM, OSCE, UNHCR and the Islamic Coordination Council.

On 1 September two serious incidents occurred at the warehouse of the Albanian Red Cross and the Islamic Coordination Council. Namely, a large group of masked, armed men threatened the guards and looted over 16 tons of food and non food items. As a result all aid for September from UNHCR, WFP, EPRC and the Islamic coordination are on stand-by in Tirana until guarantees of escort and security are given. The situation in Kuklen and Has district is calm. UNHCR is assisting 455 refugees in the area.

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3.2 New arrivals. During the week 31 August - 7 September 250 persons crossed the border in the Zogaj area. The majority are hosted at the UNHCR transit centre in Bajram Curri and all of them are registered by the Albanian Office for Refugees. Most of the assisted originate from the area of Junik and Decani who have left their homes weeks ago and waiting the propitious moment to cross the border. They report

lives and burning of houses. Since the families leaving to Tirana Skodra, Durres and elsewhere in Albania do not deteriorate it is very hard to determine the precise number of refugees and some 6000 are estimated.

3.3 Assistance and shelter. WFP began distribution in central part of the country on 7 September. There are now over 4,500 refugees in the Durres area and the figure is expected to reach 7,000 by the end of the month. WFP began four bakery projects in this area where refugees provide bread to 4,500 refugees with wheat flour supplied by WFP. The organisation reached a tri-partite agreement with Caritas to meet the food aid needs of up to 320 vulnerable refugees accommodated in a collective centre in Shkoder and a further 300 refugees in the town.

The demand for non food items is greater than can be supplied. In order to fulfill the needs purchase of them has been pursued. As reported previously, heating/cooking stoves are the most urgent necessity. Preparations for winter conditions in regards to shelter are under way.

4. FYR of MACEDONIA

4.1 Following the IFRC Country Representative the number of families from Kosovo approaching the Macedonian Red Cross branches is slowly increasing. The MACRC's coordination directly support with

food, hygienic items, bedding and other some 150 people. It is noteworthy that several of the families are not ethnic Albanians, but Serbs. UNHCR is assisting some of the families with help in visa extensions and access to the Macedonian health care system. It is estimated that several hundred people from Kosovo are being assisted in various ways by either Red Cross or the UN system.

According to Nova Makedonija daily the control of the border between Macedonia and Kosovo will soon be strengthened with four new observations posts, amounting to 14 observations posts on borders towards Albania and FR Y.

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Update on Kosovo

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Situation Report 62

Friday 11 September 1998

This report has been compiled by UNHCR with support from OCHA and with inputs from UN Agencies and other humanitarian organizations in PRY, FYROM and Albania

1. KOSOVO

1.1 Heavy shelling. On 9 September KDOM reported that VJ had been shelling the area east of Glogjane (southeast of Pec) since early morning the previous day. The most affected villages were Neposje, Jablanica, Kraljane and Lagaci. The team estimated that some 20,000 IDPs may have been on the move. Burning houses could be observed. The team also visited the villages of Ratkovac and Dautjane, 8 km east of Diakovica and found them heavily destroyed in the recent fighting. Most of the population who fled on 8 September were seen returning.

On 9 September UNHCR team saw tens of thousands of people, mostly women and children on a 12 km stretch of the road south of Pec. An estimated 25,000 IDPs fled the villages of Istinitic, Krstevac, Raetic, Baranji, Celopek and Kosturic. On the way back to Pec the team saw some 200 people who had tried to go to Pec but turned back on seeing the troops.

On Friday a UNHCR team went to the area and found the village of Barane abandoned. The villages of Celopek and Kosturic are empty and destroyed to a large extent. Glogjane to the east, appeared intact. The team then proceeded to Krstevac, 27 km south of Pec, and found heavy police presence in town. The town of Istinitic (original population of 6000) hosts some 15,000 IDPs, some of whom in the open.

The humanitarian centre opened there distributed bread. However, nobody approached for fear they might be shot at and the bread was taken to the Mother Theresa warehouse where it was distributed to some 1000 women, children and the elderly. UNHCR delivered 40 packages of HDRs. The local aid worker appealed for baby food. Heavy police presence was noted.

KDOM visited the village of Janina Voda, 12 km west of Pristina and found it almost abandoned although only a few houses appear to be heavily damaged. Some 600 inhabitants of Janina Voda are living in Sibovac, 14 km west of Pristina.

1.2 Convoys. Three multi-agency convoys left Pristina on Thursday.

The first UNHCR led six-truck convoy went to Sedlare to take relief to an estimated 15,000 beneficiaries. The cargo consisted of: 3780 kg of food, 1000 family food parcels, 48 tons of wheat flour, 216 kg of high protein biscuits, 100 boxes of baby food 25 boxes of boxes of hygienic napkins, 840 hygienic kits, 210 mattresses, 300 rubber boots, 30 rolls of plastic sheeting, 70 tee shirts, 120 shorts, 10 pairs of socks, 40 shirts for babies, 30 boxes of lice powder and 50 boxes scabby powder. The participating agencies were: Children Aid Direct, Catholic Relief Service, Doctors of the World, Mercy Corps

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The second, UNHCR led, five-truck convoy went to Galabovac carrying 500 family food parcels, 350 kg of biscuits, 3400 kg of mixed food, 100 baby parcels, 10 tons of wheat flour, 280 hygienic kits, 10 boxes of sanitary napkins, 60 mattresses, 100 stoves, 180 pairs of rubber boots, 10 rolls of plastic sheeting and 40 boxes of second hand clothing to an estimated 2000 beneficiaries. The agencies that took part were Children Aid Direct, Doctors of the World, Catholic Relief Service, Mercy Corps International. The third, WFP led, six-truck convoy went to Pasaar carrying relief to an estimated 10,000 beneficiaries. The cargo consisted of 5.4 tons of food, 360 boxes of HDRs, 1000 family food parcels, 48 tons of wheat flour, 100 boxes of baby parcels, 1260 boxes of hygienic kits, 10 boxes of sanitary napkins, 220 mattresses, 30 pairs of rubber boots, 30 rolls of plastic sheeting, 70 stoves, 100 boxes of second hand clothing and materials for the handicapped.

Today, two convoys left Pristina. The UNHCR led, five-truck convoy will be delivering 92 tons of wheat flour and 75 family food parcels supplied by Mercy Corps International and Doctors of the World to the beneficiaries in Pec. The WFP led, two-truck convoy headed for Dretaj and Dacaj (west of Pec) carrying 600 boxes of family food parcels, 2 tons of human daily rations, 2 tons of hygienic materials and 10 rolls of plastic sheeting. The participating agencies are Catholic Relief Service, Mercy Corps International and UNHCR. The estimated number of beneficiaries of the two convoys to the Pec area is 4000.

In the course of the week 7 - 11 August 8 convoys were organized.

1.3 Distribution centres. The Serbian Coordinator for Kosovo, Andrija Mitosavljevic accompanied by Eduardo

Arboda of UNHCR, Richard Wagner of USAID and Severio Bertolin of the Italian embassy visited on Wednesday and Thursday nine of the eleven humanitarian distribution centres set up by the Serbian Government late last month in an effort to support the returns of IDPs. The centres visited were: Malisevo, Orahovac, Djakovica, Junik, Glogovac, Kijev, Klin, Decani and Srbica.

The village of Malisevo appears almost empty. The warehouse still has a certain amount of supplies.

The majority of the original population (some 80%) of Orahovac has returned. The shops are re-opening, the market is functioning. Electrical and telephone services have been restored. The warehouse, run by the Yugoslav Red Cross, is relatively well supplied.

The warehouse in Djakovica is well stocked. UNHCR was told that the authorities had signed contracts with a number of villages where the people surrendered arms and the distribution of assistance was underway.

65 families (mostly women, children and old men) returned to Junik. There is a heavy police presence in the village. A bus line Decani-Djakovica-Junik was established. The government said return of 4000 people was expected.

Little destruction was noted in Glogovac. Assistance is available. The village appeared empty, although the team was told that 40% of the original population had returned.

Kijev is a tiny village with mixed population. At the time of the visit it seemed fully populated.

The humanitarian centre in Klin has been open for 20 days. A lot of people were seen at it. Some 50% of the population has returned and normal life seems to have been resumed.

The small humanitarian centre in Decani is fully stocked. 200 persons out of the original 10,000 have returned thus far. Extensive police presence was noted.

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In Serbia life seems to be completely back to normal. The schools, both Serbian and Albanian are working. The humanitarian centre is open and the people were seen queuing at it. In one collective centre 20 refugees who remained were seen. However, the villages around Srbica seem empty.

The majority of the humanitarian centres is run by the Yugoslav Red Cross and the general impression of what the team saw is positive.

Also on Thursday, Mr Odalovic, the Kosovo Prefect, informed the diplomatic monitors and representatives of ICRC and UNHCR that the 12th humanitarian centre in the province had been opened in Istic. He said he expected 10,000 people to return to their homes as all the conditions have been put in place.

1.4 Returns. UNHCR is seeking to arrange a meeting between representatives of Grabovac, north of Pec and police authorities to discuss the possibility of some 1200 people returning to their village. 120 houses abandoned in July remain largely intact despite looting. An estimated 1300-1500 inhabitants of Leskovac, municipality of Obilic, also expressed a wish to return to their homes and asked UNHCR assistance in the process. Some 700 of the 2000 people who left the village of Ade, municipality of Obilic two months ago, have returned. However, they are still afraid of the police in the area.

1.5 USD 20 million is a sum earmarked by the United States to help the affected population in Kosovo. In addition to the USD 11 million already provided, the White House stated Wednesday that part of this sum will be given in response to a 54,332,900 USD UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Kosovo.

1.6 Government authorities reported that up to Friday, bodies of 24 persons, apparently executed by armed separatists, had been unearthed at the mass grave 1 km from Gradjane.

1.7 UNHCR in Sarajevo reports an increasing number of asylum seekers from Kosovo. Those accommodated privately will continue to get some support, while the new arrivals will be expected to meet certain criteria.

Estimated Displacement Figures: (as at 11 September 1998)	
Displacement within Kosovo ¹	200,000
Displacement into Montenegro ²	40,596
Displacement into other parts of Serbia	20,000
Refugees in Bosnia-Herzegovina ³	5700
Refugees into Albania ⁴	14,000
Refugees into Turkey ⁵	2,000
Refugees into FYROM ⁶	1,000
TOTAL	283,396

¹ Estimated figure based on information from various organisations in Kosovo.

² An average figure based on figures provided by the Montenegrin Ministry of Interior and the Montenegrin Red Cross, as shown in the next page.

³ Includes 2022 registered asylum seekers.

⁴ Includes 7,000 registered in Tropic District and an estimated 7,000 who have left for other areas.

⁵ Figures announced by the Regional Bureau of Europe.

⁶ Figures provided by a local NGO, El Hilal.

1.8 UNICEF continues to provide support to MTA mobile medical team which visited the area of Drenica this week. Medical education regularly continues in Sipolje, municipality of Mitrovica and Vranjevac, Pristina.

According to the local NGO from Pristina (Centre for Human - Women's Rights, the economic, social and medical status of Kosovo IDPs in Ucinj is alarming. In the course of a three-day survey their team interviewed 434 persons (62 families) 272 of whom were children. The team was told that the aid received does not, even remotely, cover the needs. Many children, suffer from stress and trauma in addition to

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various infections, malnutrition and influenza. Consequently, the NGO sent an appeal to local and international humanitarian organisations to facilitate opening of collective centres as well as the establishment of health points to provide medical assistance to these people.

For information, please contact:
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2. MONTENEGRO

Statistics Jan. to 31 September 1998	
Ministry of Interior Count of New Arrivals:	
	37,180
Montenegrin Red Cross Registered Caseload:	
Ulcinj	17,349
Rozaje	8,646
Podgorica	5,127
Plav	8,246
Berane	1,231
Bjelo Polje	1,008
Others	2,405
Total	44,012

Average of the two figures is shown on the first page. The discrepancy may be due to the fact that the Ministry of Interior is not keeping track of IDPs traveling through mountain paths. The registration in each municipality conducted by the Commissioner for Displaced Persons' Office is proceeding slowly, with only 9,000 IDPs recorded to date.

3. ALBANIA

No updated reports received.

4. FYR of MACEDONIA

No updated reports received.

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Update on Kosovo

Station Report 63

12-18 September 1998

This report has been compiled by UNHCR with support from OCHA and with inputs from ETR Agencies and other humanitarian organizations in PRY, FYROM and Albania.

MONTENEGRO

1.1 On 11th September, 1998 the Government of Montenegro released the following statement

- a) Montenegro has no real capacities for further acceptance of internally displaced persons and refugees.
- b) The Government of Montenegro appeals to all those intending to enter Montenegro aiming to obtain a displaced / refugee status, not to do so, for there are no possibilities to find shelter.
- c) The Government of Montenegro launches a Memorandum to the governments abroad additionally informing them on details regarding point one of these conclusions, as well as on needs of IDPs in Montenegro, asking for full economic support enabling Montenegro to continue with comprehensive society reforms.
- d) The Government of Montenegro appeals to the parties involved in the Kosovo conflict to immediately halt fighting and other activities causing the exodus of the civilian population, in order to prevent further displacement of the people and to create the conditions for return.

1.2 On 11th September 3,000 displaced from the Decani area entered into the Plav municipality before the border was closed. On 13th September the local Montenegrin authorities in Plav and Rozaje transported the 3,000 displaced by bus to the Montenegrin border with Albania, via Gusinje, to the point of entry near Vrnos in Albania. There were allegedly some armed men among the new influx, from whom the women and children refused to be separated, despite the Government's offer of assistance. They are currently being sheltered in local homes or reception centres in Schkodra.

1.3 On 12th September UNHCR sent a letter to the President of Montenegro urging that the border be reopened.

1.4 On 15th September senior officials from UNHCR met the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Commissioner for Displaced Persons from the Republic of Montenegro to protest against the expulsion of the 3,000

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Kosovo displaced into Albania and to reiterate the request that the border be reopened for humanitarian and human rights reasons.

1.5 In response to these overtures by UNHCR the Montenegrin Government indicated that it was already hosting 44,200 internally displaced from Kosovo, which together with 30,000 refugees from Bosnia Herzegovina and Croatia constituted 11.6 % of the population, and that it lacked the capacity to accommodate any future influx. In the three municipalities principally affected by the arrival of IDPs from Kosovo, Ucinj, Plav and Rozaje, the IDPs outnumbered the local population. Consequently, it would continue to advise that displaced persons and refugees should not come to Montenegro. The Montenegrin Government also indicated its disappointment with the poor level of international support to help them with this burden.

1.6 Initial expectations that this decision might be interpreted in a "flexible" fashion by the Government of Montenegro have been dispensed by press reports that an additional caseload of several hundred Kosovo displaced had been turned back at the Montenegrin border during the past two days.

Statistics for 18 September 1998	
Ministry of Interior Count of New Arrivals:	
	37,180
Montenegrin Red Cross Registered Caseload:	
Ucinj	17,348
Rozaje	8,721
Podgorica	5,216
Plav	8,246
Berane	1,231
Bijelo Polje	1,008
Others	2,447
Total	44,218

Average of the two figures is shown on the first page. The discrepancy may be due to the fact that the Ministry of Interior is not keeping track of IDPs traveling through mountain paths. The registration in each municipality conducted by the Commissioner for Displaced Persons' Office is proceeding slowly, with only 9,000 IDPs recorded to date.

KOSOVO

2.1 During the period under review fighting between the Serbian police and forces of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) intensified in the municipalities of Kosovska Mitrovica, Vucitrn and Podujevo with both sides reportedly incurring casualties. According to UNHCR approximately 10,000 people from at least 7 villages between Podujevo and Mitrovica fled the area following the outbreak of hostilities.

2.2 On 14th September, a KDOM vehicle hit an explosive device to the South of Likovac village in the central area of Drenica. The device caused the vehicle to turn over onto its roof injuring one of its 3 occupants. Although the KDOM representatives had to remain near the vehicle for several hours for security reasons, they were eventually evacuated from the area by the Serbian police.

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2.3 The international community continues to express deep concern over the humanitarian plight of Kosovo displaced who have been forced from their homes into the woods and the mountains. It is clear that if these people remain out of their homes over the winter, they will be at serious risk of death. A recent survey by reliable sources over a six hour period in Drenica and the Southern part of Kosovo revealed a total of 7,500 displaced living in the open air. UNHCR estimates that there could be as many as 50,000 without access to shelter.

2.4 The Serbian Coordinator for Kosovo and other senior officials in Pristina have outlined their plans for the operation of the 12 relief distribution centres set up in the province. The centres are being managed by local authorities in collaboration with the Yugoslav Red Cross, mayors and representatives of ethnic Albanians. UNHCR has visited 10 of the 12 humanitarian centres.

2.5 A recent UNHCR field visit to Krusavac and Istinic, located to the East of Decane, revealed a high level of destruction. For example, in Krusavac at least 10 houses as well as two clinics were completely destroyed. In Istinic the Mother Theresa Centre has been converted into a Police Headquarters and the humanitarian centre has not yet started distribution. Some 12 families had returned to Krusavac, while the population of Istinic have not left their homes.

2.6 UNICEF-supported medical teams visiting villages in the municipalities of Glogovac, Srbica and Klin and Orahovac have noted an increased incidence of bronchitis, bronchopneumonia and tonsillitis among children due to the onset of colder weather. During the past week approximately 350 patients were treated of whom 70% were children. UNICEF has also provided emergency relief supplies to the newly-established humanitarian aid distribution centre in Orahovac.

2.7 On 16th September ICRC began a new round of deliveries of essential surgical supplies in towns in Kosovo. Hospitals in Pristina, Pec, Kosovska, Prizren, Djakovica and Gnjilane will each be provided with a complete unit of disposable surgical materials and instruments, as well as bedsheets. The total value of the supplies, which are a gift from the Norwegian Red Cross, amounts to more than DM 440,000.

2.8 On 12th September a convoy comprising representatives from UNHCR, WFP, Doctors of the World, Children's Aid Direct, Mercy Corps International, CRS and Kinderberg delivered 1,000 family food parcels, 8,916 packets of meals ready to eat, 36 tons of wheat flour, blankets, clothes, shoes, baby parcels, oil, beans, boots, milk powder, bed linen and clothes to an estimated 20,000 beneficiaries in the region of Djakovica and Pec.

2.9 On 15th September a UNHCR-led convoy including representation from the same agencies mentioned above distributed relief aid to more than 20,000 people in the region of Malisavo and Glogovac. The shipment

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included 2,000 family parcels, 80 tons of wheat flour, 60 rolls of plastic sheeting, blankets, winter clothes, mattresses, baby milk, salt, oil, beans detergent, sanitary napkins and footwear.

2.10 On 17th September multi-agency convoys escorted by UNHCR delivered relief aid for 10,000 people at Kosturic in Suva Reka and Grogovac in Dakovica. The shipment included family food parcels, wheat flour, plastic sheeting, mattresses, salt, detergent, clothing and boots. Participating agencies included WFP, Doctors of the World, Children's Aid Direct, Mercy Corps International and Handicap International.

ALBANIA

UNHCR at Bajram Curri alerted the Albanian authorities on 13th September to the arrival of some 3,000 Kosovars expelled from Montenegro. The Albanian authorities organised transport to take the new arrivals from Vrmos to Shkoder, where they were sheltered in accommodation UNHCR had prepared for refugees now in the Tropoje area.

FYR of MACEDONIA

No updated reports received.

DISPLACEMENT

<u>Estimated Displacement Figures:</u> (as at 17 September 1998)	
Displacement within Kosovo ¹	200,000
Displacement into Montenegro ²	40,000
Displacement into other parts of Serbia	20,000
Refugees in Bosnia Herzegovina ³	5,700
Refugees into Albania ⁴	17,000
Refugees into Turkey ⁵	2,000
Visitors into FYROM	1,000
TOTAL	284,700

¹ Estimated figure based on information from various organisations in Kosovo.

² An average figure based on figures provided by the Montenegrin Ministry of Interior and the Montenegrin Red Cross, as shown in the next page.

³ Includes 2622 registered asylum seekers.

⁴ Includes 7,000 registered in Tropoje District, an estimated 7,000 who have left for other areas and the newly arrived 3,000.

⁵ Figure announced by the Regional Bureau of Europe.

⁶ Figure provided by a local NGO, El Hilal.

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Update on Kosovo

Situation Report 64
19-23 September 1998

This report has been compiled by UNHCR with reports from OCHA and with inputs from UN agencies and other humanitarian organizations in former Yugoslavia and Albania

1. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees will visit Belgrade, Kosovo, Montenegro and Albania from 24-28 September, 1998. The purpose of the visit is to highlight the humanitarian plight of the 291,000 refugees and displaced from Kosovo province and to draw attention to the continuing needs of the 550,000 refugees in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia who originate from both Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

KOSOVO

Internal Displacement

2.1 The continued crackdown by the Serbian police and military against UCK strongholds in the villages between Mitrovica and Podujevo is resulting in increased numbers of civilian casualties and rising levels of displacement. On 21st September UNHCR saw small groups of displaced leaving the mountain village of Bajgora and heading towards Vucitrn. Local sources reported that 17 villages between Mitrovica and Podujevo with a population of 15,000 - 20,000 were affected. Although 2,000 displaced in this area were reportedly still in the open air the vast majority were living with friends and relatives in Mitrovica, Podujevo and Pristina. It is unlikely that the displaced from this area will return to their homes in the near future as most houses have been severely damaged and food stocks burned or looted.

2.2 UNHCR saw Serbian tanks shell villages on the night of 22nd September in an area approximately 20 km North of Pristina. Women, children and the elderly were reported to have been evacuated from at least 10 villages hit in the shelling. UNHCR saw smoke and flames from the villages, which had a population of about 6,000. The villages reportedly attacked were Beccic, Mijalic, Strovce, Glavotina, Bivoljak, Zilivoda, Hamidia, Leskovcic, Sibovic and Spitula. Other clashes occurred near Mount Cicevica to the West of Pristina and various sources reported fighting North-West of Prizren.

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2.3 On 19th September a U.S. Kosovo Diplomatic Observer Mission (KDOM) team saw 400 civilians moving from 3 villages near Srbica into the town of Mitrovica. Local sources reported that some 10,000 people had fled a government offensive in this area.

2.4 During a six hour period on 16th September KDOM directly observed 7,500 people living in the open air. Although many IDPs are terrified of any contact with the police, KDOM reports that increasing numbers of civilians are moving into urban areas due to the cold weather. According to KDOM the IDPs living in the open air in the Rugovska valley and in the central areas to the West of Pristina are most at risk. Most Albanian civilians are reportedly too proud to use the state-run humanitarian aid centres.

2.5 A UNHCR assessment of Grogovac village (near Pristina) revealed that most of the houses in the village were intact and that the majority of the displaced were reluctant to return for security reasons. Of the 1,300 residents who fled the village, about 20 had returned during the previous two weeks.

UNHCR Estimated Displacement / Refugee Figures:
(as at 23 September 1998)

Displacement within Kosovo ¹	200,000
Displacement into Montenegro ²	41,800
Displacement into other parts of Serbia	
Refugees in Bosnia Herzegovina ³	20,000
Refugees into Albania ⁴	6,800
Refugees into Turkey ⁵	18,000
Refugees into Slovenia	2,000
Visitors into FYROM ⁶	2,000
	1,000
TOTAL	291,600

¹ Estimated figures based on information from various organizations in Kosovo.

² An average figure based on figures provided by the Montenegrin Ministry of Interior and the Montenegrin Red Cross, as shown in the next page.

³ Includes 2672 registered asylum seekers

⁴ Includes 7,000 registered in Trieste District, an estimated 7,000 who have left for other areas and the newly-arrived 4,000

⁵ Figure announced by the Regional Bureau of Europe

⁶ Figure provided by a local NGO, El Hilal.

2.6 At a press conference held in Belgrade on 23rd September the Yugoslav Red Cross announced that there were a total of 11,642 displaced throughout Kosovo province.

Returnees

2.7 UNHCR estimates that at least 50,000 civilians in Kosovo have returned to their homes. It is expected that this trend will continue as the onset of colder weather is forcing the displaced to return home or seek shelter wherever possible if their residences are destroyed. Heavy police presence in areas of origin means that returnees live in fear. Total numbers of displaced within Kosovo province remain unchanged as the renewal of violence in the

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Klina, Srbica, Orhovac and Prizren municipalities as well as the onset of new clashes to the North of Pristina have resulted in rising levels of displacement in these areas, offsetting the total number of returnees.

Shelter

2.8 On 18th September the international humanitarian community met in Pristina to develop a coordinated approach to the provision of shelter for displaced people and returnees in Kosovo. It was concluded that agencies would divide areas of responsibility and identify villages in need of materials such as plastic sheeting, plywood and nails. The recent housing survey conducted by KDOM would serve as a useful source of baseline data. The Serbian Coordinator for Kosovo said that the Government was prepared to make available stockpiled shelter materials to encourage returns.

Relief Distribution

2.9 Interagency convoys successfully delivered essential relief supplies to four different delivery points during the period under review, namely Klina, Orhovac, Vucitrn and Mitrovica. The details are as follows:

Saturday 19th September

Destination: Klina

Cargo: 1400 boxes family food parcels, 48 MT wheat flour, 128 kg macaroni, 1 MT salt, 120 mattresses, 20 rolls plastic sheeting, 2280 kg detergent, 4 boxes soap, 40 bags of clothes.

Estimated beneficiaries: Approximately 11,000

Participating agencies: UNHCR (convoy leader), Children's Aid Direct, Doctors of the World, Mercy Corps International, Life Line.

Destination: Orhovac

Cargo: 2,800 family food parcels, sanitary napkins, blankets, 50 boxes chlorine, 72 MT wheat flour, 128 kg salt, 180 mattresses, 30 rolls plastic sheeting, 4 boxes soap, 3 MT detergent, 50 boxes clothing.

Estimated beneficiaries: 15,000 - 20,000

Participating agencies: UNHCR (convoy leader), Children's Aid Direct, Doctors of the World, Handicap International, Mercy Corps International, Oxfam, Kinderberg

Tuesday 22nd September

Destination: Vucitrn

Cargo: 12.6 MT food parcels, 2,000 boxes food parcels, 68 MT wheat flour, 2 MT macaroni, salt, soap, detergent, 40 stoves, 20 sheets plastic sheeting, 120 bags used clothes, 3.6 MT canned fish, 2.4 MT soap

Estimated beneficiaries: 62,000

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Participating agencies: UNHCR (convoy leader), WFP, Children's Aid Direct, Doctors of the World, Mercy Corps International, Catholic Relief Services, Mercy Corps International

Destination: Mitrovica

Cargo: 2000 boxes family food parcels, 68 MT wheat flour, Macaroni, salt, soap, detergent, 40 stoves, 20 rolls plastic sheeting, 110 bags used clothes, 3 MT canned fish.

Estimated beneficiaries: 55,000

Participating agencies: UNHCR (convoy leader), Children's Aid Direct, Doctors of the World, Mercy Corps International, Catholic Relief Services

2.10 The deliveries to Podujevo and Mitrovica were particularly timely due to ongoing fighting in neighbouring villages which caused large numbers of civilians to flee into these towns.

2.11 WFP has distributed 180 MT of wheat flour, beans and oil to beneficiaries in Kosovo province during the period from 25th June to 14th September, 1998. During the past two days WFP has transported 224 MT of mixed food commodities from Bar in Montenegro to Pristina which is sufficient to cover the requirements of the existing caseload until the end of October assuming current delivery rates.

Health

2.12 UNICEF, in collaboration with Mother Theresa Association, a local NGO, continues to provide emergency primary health care to displaced women and children without access to health services. During the period under review the medical team visited Ksine Reka Valley, Novo Selo, Divljak, Klecka and Orlate (in the municipalities of Glogovac, Lipjan and Orahovac) where a total of 300 were treated, 200 of whom were children.

2.13 UNICEF and WHO are investigating the possibility of re-establishing an immunisation programme in the Drenica area. The programme will start in the villages of Cirez and Gradica as vaccination of children in these areas has been disrupted since March 1998.

2.14 A recent UNICEF assessment of Cirez revealed that the village was hosting approximately 20,000 displaced. Although the majority of the displaced were living with families and friends, some were settled in collective centres at the school and the mosque with neither water nor electricity. UNICEF set up a mobile health clinic in the village where a total of 350 patients were treated. UNICEF donated baby hygiene parcels, baby cream, diapers and washing detergent. 130 collapsible water containers, water purification tablets and blankets were also provided.

MONTENEGRO

3.1 The Government of Montenegro has continued to enforce its decision to close its border to Kosovo refugees despite the protests of UNHCR (See points 1.3 and 1.4, Update No. 63). This decision is clearly having severe humanitarian consequences for the considerable number of displaced living in the mountains in the Western part of Kosovo province. The increase in the Montenegrin Red Cross displaced caseload from 44,218 (as at 18 September) to 46,425 (as at 23 September) reflects a rise in registrations rather than a new influx of Kosovo displaced.

3.2 The health status of Kosovo displaced in Montenegro is becoming a source of concern. Local health centres in Plav, Rozaje and Ucinje have reported an increase in referrals by 30-50 % during the past month and the Ministry of Health has appealed for assistance from the international community. Food availability has improved following the recent arrival of 124 MT of food in Podgorica supplied by WFP.

<u>Refugee influx (as at 19 September 1998)</u>	
Ministry of Interior Count of New Arrivals:	
	37,180
Montenegrin Red Cross Registered Caseload:	
Ucinje	18,146
Rozaje	9,271
Podgorica	5,255
Plav	9,048
Berane	1,263
Gjalo Polje	1,008
Others	2,434
Total	46,425

Average of the two figures is shown on the first page. The discrepancy may be due to the fact that the Ministry of Interior is not keeping track of IDPs travelling through mountain paths. The registration in each municipality conducted by the Commissioner for Displaced Persons' Office is proceeding slowly, with only 9,000 IDPs recorded to date.

ALBANIA

4.1 UNHCR reports that the total Kosovo refugee caseload is approximately 18,000. A total of 4,000 have now arrived in Shkoder, the vast majority of whom are residing with host families. Some refugees are accommodated in the dormitory at Shkoder University and approximately 200 are staying in a hotel in Lezha district. WFP has transported 6.5 MT of high protein biscuits to Shkoder to meet the immediate needs of this new influx.

4.2 According to UNHCR 2,370 refugees have crossed into the Kukës region adjacent to South-West Kosovo. 700 have been registered thus far. Most remain in the area although some have moved to Tirana and other locations.

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BOSNIA AND HERZOGOVINA

5.1 UNHCR reports an influx of 6,800 Kosovo refugees into Bosnia and Herzegovina since the start of the crisis, with a steady influx of approximately 200 per day into Sarajevo. Some 700 refugees were reportedly staying in poor conditions in an abandoned Coca Cola plant in the Sarajevo suburb of Hadzici and efforts are ongoing to provide better accommodation for these people.

SLOVENIA

6.1 According to UNHCR approximately 2,000 Kosovo Albanians have taken refuge in Slovenia as of 21st September. Although the Slovenian authorities are not willing to grant the new influx refugee status, they have not deported any of the new arrivals. To date 23 (including dependants) have applied for asylum and 75 for residence permits for humanitarian reasons.

FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

No updated reports received.

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Update on Kosovo

Situation Report 65
24 - 29 September 1998

This report has been compiled by UNHCR with support from OCHA and with inputs from UN Agencies and other humanitarian organizations in former Yugoslavia and Albania

KOSOVO

1. The UN Security Council has voted to demand that all parties, groups and individuals immediately cease hostilities and maintain a ceasefire in Kosovo. In its Resolution the Council said that such a ceasefire would enhance the prospects of meaningful dialogue between FRY and the Kosovo Albanian leadership. The Security Council also demanded that the FRY authorities and the Kosovo Albanian leadership take immediate steps to improve the humanitarian situation and to avert the impending humanitarian catastrophe.
2. The Resolution called on FRY to facilitate, in agreement with UNHCR and ICRC, the safe return of refugees and displaced persons to their homes and to allow free access for humanitarian organisations and supplies to Kosovo. The Resolution also called on Member States to provide adequate resources for humanitarian assistance in the region and to respond promptly and generously to the United Nations Consolidated InterAgency Appeal for Humanitarian Assistance Related to the Kosovo Crisis.
3. Several themes have emerged from public statements delivered by Mrs Ogata, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, during her recent visit to FRY and Kosovo: the situation in Kosovo is not a humanitarian problem but the consequences of a political one; negotiations to achieve a fair political settlement should begin immediately; the level of internal displacement in Kosovo was a source of grave anxiety; the violence and burning of civilian houses was deplored; commerce should be re-established so that supplies can reach the communities in need, thus avoiding continued dependence on humanitarian assistance; the police presence should be reduced to give the displaced the confidence to return home, particularly in light of the onset of winter; returnees should not be subjected to harassment; the Government's declared policy to assist the return of the displaced was welcomed.

4. Mrs Ogata stated that UNHCR's policy is to identify IDPs living in the open air and with host families, and to provide assistance in the form of food, shelter, clothing and medical help to the displaced and the returnees, she

also called on the authorities to continue to facilitate humanitarian agencies' access to populations in need to enable them to carry out their work.

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5. The United Nations system and international NGOs are rapidly expanding in Kosovo in order to meet increased humanitarian needs in the province. UNHCR has opened satellite offices in Pec, Mitrovica and Prizren and now has 28 staff, twice its strength one month ago. WFP has also increased its staff to more than 20 primarily with a view to improving its monitoring capacity. There are now more than 30 international NGOs in Kosovo, at least five of whom have arrived during the past month.

6. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has issued a statement dated September 1998 summarising its activities in Kosovo. In the field of protection ICRC is currently visiting 155 people in prisons in Kosovo and in other parts of FRY, 66 of whom are sentenced for offences against state security. ICRC has also received confirmation from the authorities that a further 54 people are detained. ICRC is aware of many other cases of alleged detention, reported by various sources. ICRC is also following up on 140 people who have been reported as abducted by the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) or who have lost contact with their families. Efforts are being made to restore family links through the exchange of Red Cross messages.

Internal Displacement

7. During the period under review clashes between the KLA and the Serbian police occurred in the triangle defined by Suva Reka, Stimlje and Urosevac, South of Pristina, resulting in casualties on both sides. On 28th September a UNHCR assessment team in the area was told that 15,000 people from 13 villages in the Suva Reka area had been on the move since the previous day. To the North-West of Pristina, fighting between the KLA and the Serbian police in the Cicavica mountains continued to cause widespread civilian displacement, although hostilities between the two sides eased during the weekend.

8. The recent trip by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to Kosovo illustrates the extent to which displaced populations move around within the province due to a combination of insecurity and poor weather. On 25th September UNHCR staff saw an estimated 15,000 displaced in Resnik, a village situated two kilometres west of the road linking Pristina and Vucitrn. These people were fleeing serious fighting in the Cicavica Mountains. On 26th September the delegation of the High Commissioner for Refugees visited Resnik and discovered approximately 2,000 displaced. On 27th September staff from UNHCR's Pristina office visited the same village and discovered only a handful of displaced. The remaining displaced said that police had arrived with buses the previous night and transported women, children and many others to Vucitrn.

9. The most immediate response to those suffering in Resnik was provided by ICRC. On 25th September ICRC provided medical treatment for 30 wounded

in Resnik and evacuated the most seriously injured. Three trucks, with 47 tonnes of food, 11,500 blankets as well as plastic sheeting were also brought to the village.

10. During the weekend of 26-27 September a Kosovo Diplomatic Observer Mission (KDOM) team discovered several thousand displaced 5 km South-West of Komarane in Glogovac municipality, an area believed to be under the control of the KLA. The team estimated that 1,800 people were living in the open air in urgent need of security, food and medical care.

**UNHCR Estimated Displacement / Refugee Figures:
(as at 29 September 1998)**

Displacement within Kosovo ¹	200,000
Displacement into Montenegro ²	41,800
Displacement into other parts of Serbia	
Refugees in Bosnia Herzegovina ³	20,000
Refugees into Albania ⁴	6,800
Refugees into Turkey ⁵	18,000
Refugees into Slovenia ⁶	2,000
Non-visa guests into FYROM	1,000
TOTAL	291,600

¹ Estimated figure based on information from various organisations in Kosovo.

² An average figure based on figures provided by the Montenegrin Ministry of Interior and the Montenegrin Red Cross, as shown in the next page.

³ Includes 3622 registered asylum seekers.

⁴ Includes 3,000 registered in Tropoje District and an estimated 15,000 in other parts of Albania, most of whom are in the South.

⁵ UNHCR estimate.

⁶ UNHCR estimate.

Access

11. The ability of humanitarian organisations to gain access to populations in need remains sporadic. WFP attempted to visit Vucak (in Glogovac municipality) following reports of 6,000 - 8,000 people living in the open air but were blocked by the Police due to fighting in the vicinity. At the outskirts of Vucak the team observed that many houses were on fire and that the village appeared deserted. On 25th September humanitarian organisations, including UNICEF and UNHCR, were turned back at Slatina 10 kilometres west of Pristina on the Pristina-Pec road. In the afternoon aid agencies saw smoke emanating from several villages in the Drenica area, through which this road passes.

Relief Distribution

12. On 24th September joint convoys delivered emergency aid for some 28,000 people in Pec and Istinic in Western Kosovo. The 12 trucks carried family food parcels, wheat flour, pasta, medicine, soap, detergent, plastic sheeting, hygienic parcels and stoves. Participating agencies include Children's Aid Direct, Doctors of the World, Mercy Corps International and

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the Centre for the Protection of Women and Children(a local NGO). The convoy was led by UNHCR.

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13. On 26th September multi-agency convoys escorted by UNHCR and WFP delivered relief supplies to approximately 50,000 beneficiaries in Sedlare (Kosovska Kamenica municipality), Pagarusa (Orahovac municipality) and Guncat (Suva Reka municipality). The shipment consisted of family food parcels, wheat flour, plastic sheeting , blankets, mattresses and hygienic kits. Participating agencies include Children's Aid Direct, Doctors of the World, Mercy Corps International, the Centre for the Protection of Women and Children, Catholic Relief Services and Kinderberg.

14. On 29th September multi-agency convoys escorted by UNHCR and WFP delivered supplies to more than 40,000 people in Podujevo and Srbica in central Kosovo. The 13 trucks carried family food parcels, high protein biscuits, wheat flour canned fish, vegetable oil, beans, salt, marmalade, pasta, soap, hygienic parcels, clothes, jerry cans and stoves. Participating agencies included Doctors of the World, Children's Aid Direct, Mercy Corps International, Catholic Relief Services and Handicap International.

15. On 27th September UNHCR distributed two truckloads of Humanitarian Daily Rations (HDR) to some 1,000 displaced at Kula woods just outside Pristina and 384 boxes HDR to approximately 400 displaced living in Fustica village to the West of Pristina.

16. Catholic Relief Services (CRS) reports that it is continuing to distribute family hygiene kits to cover the needs of more than 60,000 beneficiaries per month. Firewood continues to be distributed at the rate of more than 1,000 cubic metres per week.

17. Since the start of the crisis in Kosovo ICRC has distributed more than 150 MT of food and non-food items to people displaced from their homes. ICRC has provided some 30 health facilities with basic supplies to help them cope with additional demands. Critical cases , such as wounded people, pregnant women with complications and other life-threatening conditions, are evacuated to Pristina.

18. Since the beginning of 1998 the Yugoslav Red Cross (YRC) has distributed 14,222 MT relief items throughout FRY. Some 2,708 MT were provided by the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC). Although IFRC's existing programmes include Kosovo, an additional 22 MT pasta and 55 ML oil have been diverted to the province to meet expanding needs.

Health

19. The expanded immunisation programme supported by UNICEF and WHO continued. On 25th September the Orahovac health team was supported in its efforts to vaccinate 121 children against DPT and Polio in Ratkovac and Danjane villages in Orahovac municipality. The programme will be expanded

to include the surrounding villages during the coming week. UNICEF and WHO also plan to help the Pec health team conduct a similar vaccination campaign in Istinic village on 29th September. The successful implementation of these programmes is of critical importance to the eradication of polio in Europe.

20 On 25th September the UNICEF-assisted MTA mobile medical team consulted over 200 patients in the villages of Poluza and Pusta in the West of Orshovac. UNICEF also distributed drugs, sanitary napkins and children's clothing to beneficiaries in five different villages and three health units throughout Kosovo during the period under review.

Women and children

21. At the Community Services Task Force meeting, chaired jointly by UNICEF and UNHCR in Pristina on 24th September, the necessity of developing a co-ordinated approach to the provision of emergency relief services to women and children was discussed. A focal point group was formed comprising five organisations: Save the Children Fund, Children's Aid Direct, Kinderberg, Oxfam and UNICEF.

MONTENEGRO

22. On 27th September the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Mrs Ogata, met Mr Djukanovic, the President of Montenegro, in Podgorica. At the meeting Mrs Ogata reiterated UNHCR's request that the border be re-opened to those fleeing violence in Kosovo, particularly women and children, while acknowledging the burden that any new influx might place on the coping capacity of the Republic. Mrs Ogata said that UNHCR was committed to offering increased financial support to Montenegro to help it fulfil its humanitarian responsibilities. Areas targeted for support include shelter, health, education, registration of displaced and training in protection criteria. UNHCR's capacity to respond would be enhanced through the opening of satellite offices in Ulicinj and Rozaje-Plav.

23. The three food supply agencies for Montenegro have commenced food distribution to Kosovo displaced for the month of September. 1998. WFP will provide for 18,000 displaced whilst ICRC and Mercy Corps International are responsible for the food needs of the remaining 24,700 beneficiaries.

24. UNICEF distributed clothing to some 400 children at the collective centre in Plav. The beneficiaries included both Bosnian refugees and Kosovo displaced.

ALBANIA

25. A recent UNHCR assessment in Northern Albania revealed that many of the Kosovo refugees in the area were leaving Tropoje district spontaneously and moving into the South of the country, particularly Durres, due to a

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combination of deteriorating security and adverse weather conditions. The majority of the estimated 3,000 refugees still in Tropoje are accommodated with host families although some 200 are hosted in transit centres. The entry point from Kosovo into Albania has not been used for several weeks as a result of aggressive surveillance by the Serbian security forces.

26. UNHCR has closed its office in Bajram Curri for security reasons but the refugee situation in Tropoje district will continue to be monitored by the satellite offices in Kukes (adjacent to Diakovica in Kosovo) and Shkodra. In Kukes an average of 60 Kosovo refugees per day have been arriving through Zogaje.

27. Following the closure of UNHCR's office WFP is now the only United Nations agency maintaining a presence in Tropoje district. WFP is planning to conduct an assessment of Bajram Curri to determine the feasibility of implementing a food aid distribution in the light of the deteriorating security situation and inclement weather. WFP has also distributed additional rations to refugees in Shkocet in Durrës Prefecture to meet the food needs of the additional refugee influx into this area.

FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA (FYROM)

28. The FYROM Government does not recognise the existence of refugees from Kosovo in its country, merely the presence of "non-visa guests." Following the Government's request for the provision of assistance to the most vulnerable among the "non-visa guests," coordination meetings have been held between the Government, UNHCR, UNICEF, ICRC and IFRC to discuss implementation modalities.

29. As at 16th September, 1998 UNHCR in Skopje had interviewed approximately 250 Kosovo Albanians seeking either visa extensions, relocation to other countries or medical assistance. Recommendations on the appropriate course of action for 17 of those families have been submitted by UNHCR to the Ministry of Interior but no reply has been received to date. The IFRC has another list of 220 Kosovo Albanians who have received first aid assistance.

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DANISH MISSION

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To: Ms Anne Hare

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Update

UN Inter-Agency

Update on Kosovo

11. 1998
MEN GENEVE
BLAG

Situation Report 98

30 September - 6 October 1998

This report has been compiled by UNHCR with support from FROPA and the Danish Agency for Development Cooperation (DANIDA) and the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Udenrigsministeriet).

KOSOVO

1. In the report submitted by the UN Secretary-General (SG) to the Security Council dated 3rd October, 1998 pursuant to Security Council Resolutions 1160 and 1199, the SG condemned the recent "appalling atrocities" witnessed by the international community in Kosovo. The report continues: "It is clear beyond reasonable doubt that the great majority of such acts have been committed by security forces in Kosovo acting under the authority of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY). But Kosovar Albanian paramilitary units have engaged in armed action also, and there is good reason to believe that they too have committed atrocities."

2. The report states that while FRY has the inherent right, as a sovereign state, to maintain public order and security and to respond to violent acts of provocation, this can in no way justify the systematic terror inflicted on civilians. The report adds that it is the duty of security forces to protect civilians not to intimidate or murder them. The report also states that it is equally necessary, as called for by the Security Council, for terrorist action, including the taking of hostages by Kosovar Albanian elements, to cease.

3. The SG's report recommends the following: cessation of violence, the granting of full humanitarian access and the creation of conditions that will enable refugees and internally displaced persons to return to their homes with confidence that they will not face harassment or worse. However, the SG states that as the United Nations does not have a direct political presence on the ground he does not have the means necessary to provide an independent assessment of compliance with Security Council Resolution 1199, other than on the humanitarian situation. In this regard, the SG reiterated that "the humanitarian crisis is a consequence of what is fundamentally a political problem, which requires a comprehensive political solution through a negotiated settlement."

Internal Displacement

4. The Kosovo Diplomatic Observer Mission (KDOM) has reported that the informal truce seems to be holding in Kosovo although there were reportedly several engagements between Serbian police and Kosovo Albanians in some parts of the province in recent days.
5. The overall improvement in security on the ground in Kosovo during the past week has given many displaced living in the open air the opportunity to move into villages in search of shelter. KDOM teams operating in the regions of Pec and Mitrovica reported that they observed very few displaced without shelter in these areas. On 6th October a joint UNHCR / MSF mission to Golubovac in central Kosovo, which came under attack and was emptied in late September, revealed that most of the 1,000 residents of the village had returned. UNHCR estimates that at least 50,000 displaced throughout Kosovo have returned to their home areas although it is known that there are still thousands of people living out in the open air.

UNHCR Estimated Displacement / Refugee Figures: (as at 05 October 1998)

Displacement within Kosovo ¹	200,000
Displacement into Montenegro ²	41,800
Displacement into other parts of Serbia	
Refugees in Bosnia Herzegovina ³	20,000
Refugees into Albania ⁴	8,800
Refugees into Turkey ⁵	20,500
Refugees into Slovenia ⁶	2,000
Non-visa guests into FYROM	2,000
Non-visa guests into FYROM	1,000
TOTAL	294,100

¹ Estimated figure based on information from various organisations in Kosovo.
² An average figure based on figures provided by the Montenegrin Ministry of Interior and the Montenegrin Red Cross.

³ UNHCR estimate
⁴ Figures provided by Albanian Government's Office for Refugees and endorsed by UNHCR.

⁵ UNHCR estimate

⁶ UNHCR estimate

Relief Operations

6. The threat of NATO air strikes in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, coupled with the possibility of subsequent reprisals by the civilian population, has prompted many humanitarian organisations to scale back their relief activities in Kosovo and evacuate some of their international personnel. At the time of writing expatriate staff from at least 8 of the 28 international humanitarian organisations with operations in Kosovo have left Pristina.
7. Many humanitarian agencies remaining in Kosovo have reported experiencing easier passage at police checkpoints during the last week. At major checkpoints traffic policemen have replaced police security units

although the police have maintained positions in burned-out houses on the side of the roads.

8. On 30th September a worker of the ICRC was killed and 3 others wounded after its vehicle hit a land mine at Gornje Obrinje, which is between Glogovac and Srbica. On 14th September an armoured vehicle of the Canadian Kosovo Diplomatic Observer Mission also struck a land mine in the area. On 5th October the UNHCR Security Coordinator warned relief workers against the possible presence of landmines in two other parts of Kosovo. These are located in the villages of Gladane, Dolovo, Ceskovo and Kpuz, near the Kline turnoff 5 kilometres South-West of the main Pristina-Pec road and at Sedlare and Krimirovce, 11 kilometres South of Komorane, which is 25 kilometres West of Pristina.

Level of Destruction

9. In his report dated 3rd October, the UN Secretary-General (SG) stated that as of mid-September an estimated 6,000 - 7,000 buildings in 269 villages had been severely damaged or destroyed by shelling and deliberate burning in the Serb forces' main areas of operations. The SG observes that this level of destruction points clearly to an indiscriminate and disproportionate use of force against civilian populations.

Relief Distribution

10. On 1st October multi-agency convoys escorted by UNHCR delivered relief supplies for some 40,000 people at Djinov village in Suva Reka and Djakovica. The 14 truck convoy carried family food parcels, high protein biscuits, wheat flour, pasta, used clothes, jerry cans, hygienic parcels and napkins, blankets, soap, detergent and stoves. Participating agencies included Doctors of the World, Children's Aid Direct, Mercy Corps International and Catholic Relief Services.

11. Multi-agency convoys escorted by UNHCR and WFP delivered relief supplies on 3rd October, 1998 to 28,000 people in Decane, Malisevo and Lipijan. The 16 trucks carried high protein biscuits, family food parcels, wheat flour, canned fish, oil, sugar, marmalade, macaroni, plastic sheeting, used clothing, water containers, hygienic parcels, sanitary napkins, stoves, candles and soap. The items came from Children's Aid Direct, Doctors of the World, Mercy Corps International, Catholic Relief Services and Save the Children Fund.

12. On 6th October UNHCR and Mercy Corps International sent relief aid to Kina and Glogovac in central Kosovo for some 40,000 people. The eight trucks, escorted by UNHCR and WFP, carried wheat flour, food packages, baby milk, plastic sheets, blankets and mattresses.

Health

13. UNICEF and Medecins du Monde-France have signed an agreement which outlines their respective roles in the provision of support to the mobile medical teams operated by Mother Theresa Association (MTA), a local NGO. During the period under review the medical team focused primarily on those suffering the consequences of the recent clashes in the Drenica area. The team visited Kisha Reka, Trdevac and Gornje Obrinje on 30th September and Gradica, Likosane, Cirez and Krasalic on 2nd October. These mobile health teams have assisted more than 780 displaced during the month of October, 70% of whom are children. Diarrhoea and bronchitis were the most frequently diagnosed ailments.

14. The immunisation programme supported by WHO, UNICEF, Mother Theresa Association (MTA) and professionals from state-owned health institutions continued in Istnic in Decani municipality and in Ratkovac in Orahovac municipality during the period under review. In Istnic a total of 375 children were immunised, out of which 36 were newborns.

15. On 2nd October a joint delegation comprising representatives from the Institute of Public Health, WHO, UNICEF visited Prizren and met local health representatives with a view to developing a strategy for the resumption of EPI activity in the area. It was decided to target Suva Reka, Orahovac and Malisevo as these were areas where health services had been most disrupted.

16. On 2nd October WHO, in collaboration with the Institute of Public Health of Serbia, chaired the fortnightly health meeting focusing on medical programmes in Kosovo.

MONTENEGRO

17. In spite of UNHCR's protests the Government of Montenegro has not yet officially rescinded its decision to close the border with Kosovo. This decision is enforced by the police at the entry points along the mountain range of Rozaje and Plav, even though there are unconfirmed reports of an influx of approximately 30 displaced per day from Kosovo into Montenegro. Discussions are ongoing between UNHCR and the Government of Montenegro on the provision of support to the most vulnerable new arrivals.

18. WFP's food stocks in Montenegro have been replenished with the arrival of 770 MT wheat flour in Bar on 5th October. This represents the first tranche of a donation by Germany. The wheat flour will be available for distribution in late October assuming that there are no problems with offloading and customs clearance.

19. UNHCR, Swiss Disaster Relief, World Vision, the Danish Refugee Council and Malteser are coordinating their efforts to provide shelter for

Kosovo displaced in the mountainous region of Plav and Rozaje. Several different types of project are under consideration:

a) Renovation of Collective Centres

There are currently some 900 displaced hosted in collective centres and it is expected that the population will increase in the future to some 1,500. SDR is compiling a database with all requests for the rehabilitation of these collective centres.

b) Adaptation of Private houses

Some displaced are being hosted by families in houses which are not fully completed. SDR will implement major structural repairs to houses hosting IDPs on condition that homeowners allow the displaced to remain for one year. This programme may subsequently be expanded to Podgorica and Ucinj. Summer cottages will be "winterised" through the distribution of plastic sheeting, plywood and other materials and tools.

c) Purchase of Prefabricated huts

In the mountains in the vicinity of Rozaje where many displaced are either living in congested houses or in the open air with their livestock, the possibility of providing wood in order to construct huts is under consideration. This option, which is favoured by the local community, would enable the displaced to survive the Winter without having to move into Rozaje.

20. The Institute of Public Health in Montenegro has reported an increase in diarrhoeal disease and food poisoning among the displaced although there has been no serious outbreak of major infection or disease to date. Medecins du Monde has delivered 800 kg of drugs in an effort to alleviate shortages.

21. There are currently some 12,000 displaced children of school age in Montenegro. The majority of these are not being educated as the Ministry of Education has stated that only first graders or those with regular certificates are allowed to go to school. In many areas first graders do not even go to school as parents are reluctant to allow some children to attend classes while others remain at home. In an attempt to encourage the Ministry of Education to adopt a more flexible attitude UNICEF and UNHCR have offered assistance in the form of the renovation of schools premises and the provision of school materials.

22. According to the Diplomatic Observer Mission (KDOM) the channels for the transfer of Kosovo refugees to a third country are still active in the Ucinj, KDOM estimates that approximately 2,000 refugees have moved from Ucinj to Albania, Hungary and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

ALBANIA

23. According to the Office for Refugees, the Government agency responsible for registering new arrivals, there are currently 20,500 Kosovo refugees in Albania. The majority of the refugees are located in Southern Albania: 7,000 are on the coast in Durres and 6,000 in Tirana. There is also a caseload of 900 in Kukës due to the continuing influx of 50-60 per day from South-West Kosovo. A few isolated cases continue to cross the border from

Montenegro. According to the Office for Refugees 15,400 Kosovo refugees are in good health, 4,600 have "general health problems," 47 are disabled and 32 are wounded. WFP reports that the October food aid distribution is underway using two trucks stationed in Tirana provided by the United States.

24. The majority of the Kosovo refugees in Albania are living with host families. It is widely recognised that this arrangement is unacceptable as the capacity of the host population to cope with expanded households is gradually becoming eroded. UNHCR has advocated for some time that the refugees be housed in collective accommodation in suitable locations in central Albania and in coastal areas. A site has been identified in Rogozhina, approximately 60 km from Durres, but Government approval is required before refugees can be moved into this area. It is hoped that the UN High Commissioner for Refugees' request for a quick decision on the allocation of land / buildings for new arrivals will be observed despite the disruption caused by the recent change in the Albanian Government.

FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA (FYROM)

25. Nothing significant to report.

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Update on Kosovo

Situation Report 67

7 October - 13 October 1998

This report has been compiled by UNHCR with support from OCHA and with inputs from UN Agencies and other humanitarian organisations in former Yugoslavia and Albania

KOSOVO

1. Relief operations have continued in Kosovo during the period under review albeit at a reduced level as some expatriate humanitarian personnel temporarily relocated due to the threat of NATO air strikes. Humanitarian activities have focused on the delivery of relief items, essential drugs and the provision of health care to those displaced by the conflict in Kosovo. Field assessments to determine levels of displacement have also continued. Relief activities were suspended on 12th October but should resume and expand on 14th October.

Relief Distribution

2. On 8th October a multi-agency convoy escorted by UNHCR delivered relief supplies to some 60,000 people in the Vucitrn area 25 kilometres Northwest of Pristina. The 20-truck convoy carried wheat flour, family food parcels, baby food, pasta, oil, sugar, rice, high protein biscuits, canned fish, used clothes, water containers, blankets, mattresses, soap and hygienic packets. The supplies came from UNHCR, WFP, Mercy Corps International, Catholic Relief Services, Doctors of the World, Children's Aid Direct and the International Rescue Committee.

3. On 10th October UNHCR sent a five truck convoy to Urosevac to meet the needs of some 15,000 displaced. The shipment included wheat flour, food parcels, blankets, mattresses, soap and clothes. The team also visited Jezerce, the scene of recent violence, and saw some 600 people living in destroyed houses in need of plastic sheeting and food.

Population Movements

4. Field assessments conducted by UN agencies during the period under review have indicated that movement among the displaced population in Kosovo continues to be fluid with significant return in some parts of the province being partly offset by some renewed displacement in other areas. The overall level of new displacement has reduced.



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Displacement

5. A UNICEF field trip to Suka Reka on 7th October revealed that there were still large numbers of displaced in the municipality. In Nisov, Kostice and Bresnace, three villages in the North-western Suva Reka, an estimated 8,000 displaced were still living with host families. In the South-eastern part of the municipality an estimated 10,000 displaced had sought (and to a large extent found) shelter in Suva Reka town and the surrounding villages.

6. A joint UNICEF / UNHCR trip to Kisna Reka valley, about 30 kilometres West of Pristina, on 10th October revealed that approximately 2,000 displaced were still living in woodlands without proper shelter or food. The displaced said that they were very concerned about the approaching winter but could not return to their village of Komorane because it had been occupied by the Police. Access to the displaced in Kisna Reka valley was becoming increasingly difficult due to poor road conditions exacerbated by the onset of winter.

Returns

7. On 8th October a UNHCR assessment team discovered that some 1,500 displaced living in the woods in the hills above Fustica village about 30 kilometres Southwest of Pristina had returned to their houses. The displaced told the team that they went back to their homes after they saw soldiers withdrawing from their village. They also said they were concerned about the health of their children due to the drop in temperature with the onset of winter weather. However, they remained concerned about security and one family had in its courtyard a trailer with plastic sheets covering mattresses and blankets, ready to move at short notice.

8. On 8th October a UNHCR mission to Rugova canyon in the Western of Pec discovered a significant reduction in the numbers of displaced in the area. UNHCR saw several families at Drejje village in Rugova who wanted help in returning to their houses in the Decane area. UNHCR was told there were 25 families, comprising about 150 people, in Rugova area and that many displaced had crossed the hills to go to either Albania or Montenegro. In September representatives from the Kosovo Diplomatic Observer Mission had indicated that there were some 25,000 displaced in the region.

Health

9. During the course of the field assessments mentioned in points 5 and 6 above, the UNICEF-supported mobile medical team, composed of three doctors and two nurses, provided primary health assistance to 650 patients, 75% of whom were children. Acute respiratory infections were becoming, with diarrhoeal diseases, the most serious health problem. Health workers also reported increasing symptoms of malnutrition and vitamin deficiency among the children.

10. Shortages of drugs and medical supplies are a major problem for the public health stations that are still functioning. For example, the local doctor at the state clinic in Nisor expressed extreme frustration at the lack of medicine, given that patients were unable to purchase drugs in the nearest town due to insecurity. Although Nisor's problems have been temporarily alleviated by the provision of drugs by UNICEF, it is clear that many other health clinics in Kosovo must remain desperately short of medical supplies.

**UNHCR Estimated Kosovo Displacement / Refugee Figures:
(as at 13 October 1998)**

Kosovo ¹	200,000
Montenegro ²	42,000
Other parts of Serbia	20,000
Bosnia Herzegovina ³	
Albania ⁴	8,000
Turkey ⁵	20,500
Slovenia ⁶	2,000
FYROM ⁷	2,000
TOTAL	297,500

¹ Estimated figure based on information from various organisations in Kosovo.

² Average based on figures provided by the Montenegrin Ministry of Interior and the Montenegrin Red Cross.

³ UNHCR estimate.

⁴ Figures provided by Albanian Government's Office for Refugees and endorsed by UNHCR.

⁵ UNHCR estimate.

⁶ UNHCR estimate.

⁷ Estimate of those whose presence is directly linked to the conflict in Kosovo.

Liaison with Kosovo Authorities

11. On 8th October senior UNHCR officials met Mr Andjelkovic, the newly-appointed President of the Kosovo Provisional Executive Council (KPEC), in Pristina. At the meeting Mr Andjelkovic said that the authorities hoped to open approximately 100 humanitarian distribution centres and that he hoped to cooperate closely with UNHCR to achieve this objective. In response, the UNHCR officials noted the importance of humanitarian assistance being distributed through arrangements in which beneficiaries had confidence. UNHCR also recalled the recent meeting between the High Commissioner and President Milosevic in which the importance of creating a genuinely secure environment for returnees was stressed.

MONTENEGRO

12. Reports from humanitarian agencies in Podgorica said that the atmosphere in the town was calm during the past week and that the usual crowds were in evidence on the streets. There were, however, indications that the local population was stockpiling goods despite the Government's exhortations. The Government of Montenegro assured humanitarian agencies of protection in the event of air strikes.

S/P

13. Humanitarian operations continued in Montenegro during the period under review, albeit at a reduced level as many expatriate staff left the Republic as a precautionary measure. UNHCR received 4 trucks last weekend with a cargo of blankets, mattresses and soap and ICRC accepted delivery of 3 trucks from the Bosnia and Herzegovina programme to supplement the existing fleet of the Montenegrin Red Cross. The distribution of food aid continued as planned.

14. UNICEF continued to focus on the needs of displaced children from Montenegro including support for their education. At the health meeting chaired by WHO and the Institute of Public Health on 8th October, it was noted that there was still a shortage of medicines, sanitary material, baby and hygienic parcels and vaccines in the municipalities where the majority of the displaced were accommodated. Doctors of the World have received a consignment of drugs in Bar which will be transferred to UNHCR's warehouse shortly. UNICEF is also expecting an imminent delivery of vaccines.

ALBANIA

Food Aid

15. Food aid agencies in Albania have completed their October distribution to 21,500 Kosovo refugees. WFP targeted 6,500 beneficiaries and the food needs of the remaining 15,000 were met by IFRC, Mercy Corps International, Islamic Relief Services, Catholic Relief Services and the Kosovo Association, a local NGO which has recently assumed responsibility for the Tirana caseload.

16. WFP and IFRC have made the joint decision to halt operations in Tropoje district for security reasons after IFRC had food parcels looted from its warehouses in the district during the weekend of 10-11 October. There are also concerns with regard to the integrity of registration procedures.

Health

17. Since May 1998 when refugees from Kosovo first started to flow into Albania, WHO has regularly chaired health meetings in Tirana which have enabled UN agencies, NGOs and local health authorities to develop contingency plans in the health sector. This process has enabled health agencies to execute joint assessments of health care available to refugees throughout Albania. It has also facilitated the creation of a surveillance system to allow for the early detection and control of outbreaks of communicable diseases.

18. There has been a coordinated response to the delivery of health services to Kosovo refugees in Albania. WHO has delivered emergency health and surgical kits to the hospitals in Bajram Curri and Krume and General Practitioner kits to the Tropoje health centre even though the uncertain security situation has prevented WHO from establishing an office in Northern

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Albania. UNICEF's initial response was the immediate delivery of hygiene supplies, basic drugs, immunisation services and water and quality control. UNICEF subsequently provided supplementary food and hygiene parcels for infants through the Albanian Red Cross. UNICEF, in collaboration with its NGO partners, has also helped to rehabilitate health facilities and train health staff in the districts of Kukes and Puka.

Education

19. As requested by the Ministry of Education, UNICEF procured and delivered basic education kits in time for the beginning of the school year in October. These kits contain basic materials for more than 8,000 primary school pupils, both refugees and from vulnerable host families.

Psychosocial assistance

20. In order to increase local capacity for the provision of psychosocial assistance to refugee children who have endured particularly stressful situations, UNICEF has initiated, in collaboration with national and international NGO partners a training programme for care givers, with long term follow up activities.

Capacity-building

21. UNDP has established a project office to increase the capacity of communities and local authorities in Shkodra (in the North) and Durres (on the West coast of Tirana) to cope with the strains created by the presence of refugees from Kosovo. UNDP will help local authorities to provide basic services to both the local population and refugees by implementing programmes designed to improve water supply, sewerage and road conditions.

Family Tracing

22. The Albanian Red Cross, supported by IFRC and ICRC, has set up tracing services for many refugees from Kosovo who are separated from family members. It also responds to enquiries from family members working abroad on the welfare of relatives caught up in the hostilities.

FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA (FYROM)

23. The Macedonian Red Cross, with the support of UNHCR, is preparing to identify and register the arrivals fleeing the conflict in Kosovo who have exceeded the two month temporary stay permit for FRY citizens. They are mainly concentrated in the Western part of FYROM between the towns of Kumanovo and Struga / Ohrid. When the registration process has been completed under the supervision of UNHCR, the final list will be submitted to the Government's Ministry of Interior for extension of the two month stay

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permit with the status of 'Humanitarian Assisted Persons,' which is similar to Temporary Protection Status granted elsewhere.

24. A modest assistance programme for the most vulnerable of those registered from Kosovo will be implemented by UNHCR, UNICEF, ICRC and IFRC. The Macedonian Red Cross will distribute food, hygienic parcels, adult clothing and baby parcels provided by IFRC and ICRC will undertake tracing activities. UNICEF will handle the requirements for primary education, children's clothing, vaccinations and baby parcels. UNHCR will be responsible for administering the registration process and the provision of food when IFRC's stocks are finished. UNHCR will also facilitate access to medical care provided by the Ministry of Health. Additional needs will be addressed when they are identified.

25. WFP continues to maintain contingency stocks of 95 MT mixed food commodities in Skopje. Should beneficiaries increase to exceed 5,000 WFP is likely to establish a small office to implement a food distribution programme. Food rations will be similar to those distributed elsewhere in former Yugoslavia and will consist of basic commodities such as wheat flour, pulses and sugar.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

26. Kosovo refugees continue to enter Bosnia and Herzegovina at an average of 40 per day bringing the total estimated caseload to 8,000. 1,500 refugees are currently accommodated in 3 different reception centres in different parts of the country. 180 are in Bosanski Petrovac, 100 in Srednje and the remainder are temporarily located in the Coca Cola plant in Hadzici suburb in Sarajevo. 3 new refugee sites are under construction to provide accommodation for up to 2,500 refugees, including those currently living in the Coca Cola plant.

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ATT: Menele Mark

MISSION DU D'EMERX DEVEUE

SAISON DU D'EMERX DEVEUE

14 October - 20 October 1998

This report has been prepared by the UNHCR with support from the OSCE and with input from UN agencies and other humanitarian organizations in the former Yugoslavia and Albania.

KOSOVO

1. Following the recent negotiations between Ambassador Holbrooke and President Milosevic, the FRY Government has signed two agreements designed to verify compliance by all parties with UN Security Council Resolution 1199, which calls, inter alia, for a cessation of hostilities in Kosovo. On 15th October NATO generals and the Yugoslav Army signed an agreement permitting unarmed NATO aircraft to fly over Kosovo.

2. On 16th October the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Yugoslav Foreign Minister signed an agreement authorising the OSCE to begin a verification mission in Kosovo through the deployment of 2,000 unarmed monitors from OSCE member states. The agreement states that the Kosovo Verification Mission, which will absorb the Kosovo Diplomatic Observer Mission (KDOM), will "travel throughout Kosovo to verify the maintenance of the cease-fire by all elements. It will investigate reports of cease-fire violations. Mission personnel will have full freedom of movement and access throughout Kosovo at all times."

3. The text of the Agreement on the OSCE Kosovo Verification Mission addresses humanitarian issues as follows: "The Verification Mission will, to the extent possible, assist UNHCR, ICRC and other international organisations in facilitating the return of displaced persons to their homes, the provision of facilitative and humanitarian assistance to them by the FRY, Serbian and Kosovo authorities as well as the humanitarian organisations and NGOs. The Mission will verify the level of co-operation and support provided by the FRY and its entities to the humanitarian organisations and accredited NGOs in facilitating procedural requirements such as issuance of travel documentation, expedited customs clearance for humanitarian shipments and radio frequencies. The Mission will make such representations as it deems necessary to resolve problems it observes."

4. The Agreement on the OSCE Kosovo Verification Mission also makes provision for ICRC's detention work: "The Verification Mission will maintain liaison with FRY, Serbian and, as appropriate, Kosovo authorities and with

ICRC regarding ICRC access to detained persons." It is also intended that the Verification Mission, which will have an initial lifespan for one year, will provide support in areas such as elections supervision, assistance in the establishment of Kosovo institutions and police force development in Kosovo.

5. At the meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council on 15 October representatives from both UNHCR and OSCE emphasised the importance of maintaining a coordinated approach to the Kosovo crisis in order to pave the way for a political settlement and lasting peace. Discussions are ongoing to determine in more detail the respective roles and responsibilities of UNHCR and OSCE in Kosovo.

United Nations Assessment Mission in FRY

6. In response to the request of the Security Council in the President's statement to the press, and in lieu of a personal visit, the UN Secretary-General has dispatched a mission to FRY to consider how to ensure that the UN Secretariat has a first-hand capability to assess developments in FRY and to continue reporting to the Security Council on compliance with resolutions 1160 and 1199. The mission will assess present and proposed arrangements for cooperation and information-sharing among UN entities, the OSCE and other international actors present in the region. The mission will also assess the current situation in Kosovo and investigate the possibilities for expanding the UN presence in Kosovo, if so requested by Member States. The mission will take place from 17-24 October and will travel to Belgrade, Kosovo and Montenegro. The mission includes representatives from the political, peace-keeping, humanitarian and human rights components of the United Nations system.

UN Humanitarian Strategy for Kosovo

7. On 14-15th October the UNHCR Special Envoy for former Yugoslavia chaired an Interagency Regional Strategic Planning meeting in Sarajevo. The meeting included UN agency representatives from Sarajevo, Belgrade, Zagreb, Tirana, Skopje and Geneva. The International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) was also present to represent the views of the NGOs. The participants of the meeting welcomed the recent political progress made with regard to Kosovo and, after extensive discussion, decided to revise humanitarian strategy in Kosovo as follows:

Strategy within Kosovo

to promote and assist the safe return of the displaced to their homes, or to host families where their homes are too severely damaged; to provide the necessary humanitarian assistance to all the affected population (food, blankets, mattresses, clothes etc); to provide immediate winterisation of damaged dwellings – to a minimum of one room weatherproof; to support self-help house repairs; to ensure Serbian authorities deliver promised material assistance; to restore essential services (electricity, water and

restocking/repair of health clinics); to support reactivation of education and extend winterisation assistance to damaged schools; and to support seeds programmes for spring planting.

Strategy outside Kosovo

Assistance should continue to be given to the estimated existing Kosovo Albanian caseload in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, FYROM, Montenegro and other parts of Serbia until Spring, with return taking place thereafter. If earlier return is possible resources would be shifted to Kosovo as necessary.

Population Movements

8. Humanitarian agencies have reported that the onset of winter, epitomised by the first light snow fall in Kosovo on 14th October, has obliged increasing numbers of displaced living under plastic in the hills and mountains to seek shelter, despite their continuing security-related concerns. Many of those dislocated from their homes have now sought refuge in major towns such as Podujevo, Mitrovica, Vucitrn, Urosevac and Pristina. In these towns many of the houses contain three to four times the number of their original occupants. Barns are used for shelter and tents and covered wagons can be seen in the courtyards of many homes. The Kosovo Diplomatic Observer Mission (KDOM) also reported increased IDP returns, particularly in the areas of Malisevo, Oraovac, Suva Reka, Djakovica and Decani, as well as in the Dranica region. However, there has also been some renewed displacement in the Malisevo area and in the area South of Komorane and Lepusnik in the wake of skirmishes between Government forces and the KLA over the weekend of 17-18 October during which 3 Serbian policemen were reportedly killed and 4 wounded.

Agriculture

9. FAO has despatched a mission to FRY to evaluate the condition of the agricultural sector in Kosovo and areas affected by the crisis in Kosovo. The purpose of the mission is to determine the degree to which the war-affected population is able to cover its food needs until the next harvest. In the event of a shortfall FAO will identify the necessary emergency agricultural input requirements to increase family food production for the 1999 Spring and Autumn planting season. The mission will also review the activities of NGOs and other humanitarian organisations in the agricultural sector.

Relief Distribution

10. Deliveries of relief supplies have sharply increased as humanitarian agencies have returned to full strength in Kosovo and experienced improved freedom of movement in many areas. Humanitarian agencies are also determined to make as many deliveries as possible to vulnerable populations in rural areas before future access is constrained by deteriorating road conditions. From 14-20 October interagency convoys delivered both food and non-food items to meet the needs of some 135,000 beneficiaries throughout

Kosovo. It is anticipated that relief convoys will continue to operate on a daily basis in the foreseeable future subject to security constraints.

11. On 14th October UNHCR and Mercy Corps International sent five trucks of relief aid for 600 IDPs living in destroyed houses at Jezerce in Urosevac and 2,000 living in the hills above Kisna Reka village in Komarane. The supplies included wheat flour, high protein biscuits, rice, oil, sugar, salt, pasta, milk powder, canned meat and fish, used clothing, shoes, blankets, jerry cans and soap.

12. On 15th October convoys delivered relief aid to some 20,000 people in Malisevo, Glogovac and Mitrovica. The 10 trucks carried wheat flour, food packages, plastic sheeting, soap, hygienic kits, blankets, stoves and used clothes. The supplies came from UNHCR, Catholic Relief Services and Mercy Corps International.

13. On 16th October joint UNHCR / WFP convoys delivered food and non-food items to an estimated 48,000 beneficiaries in the villages of Rakovac and Skiviane in Djakovica municipality. The five trucks carried wheat flour, Humanitarian Daily Rations, blankets and mattresses.

14. On 17th October UNHCR escorted convoys to two different locations in Malisevo municipality. One 11 truck convoy took food and non-food items donated by WFP, Catholic Relief Services, Doctors of the World and Mercy Corps International to an estimated 18,000 beneficiaries in Pagarusa village. The other 8 truck convoy delivered relief aid to an estimated 13,000 beneficiaries in Crna Vrnja village. Participating agencies include WFP, Doctors of the World, Mercy Corps International and Catholic Relief Services.

15. On 18th October a 4 truck convoy led by UNHCR delivered food and hygienic items provided by WFP and Mercy Corps International to 3,000 displaced in the village of Trdevac, West of Glogovac. This is the first convoy to have reached this village as it is near an area which is known to be mined. A second convoy of three trucks delivered food and hygienic items to an estimated 3,000 people in Glogjan in Pec municipality.

16. On 20th October multi-agency convoys supplied aid to an estimated 11,000 beneficiaries in Istok (Istok municipality) and to approximately 18,000 beneficiaries in Djirvoce (Suva Reka municipality). The 18 truck convoys carried a variety of food and non-food items. Participating agencies included: WFP, Children's Aid Direct, Doctors of the World, Mercy Corps International and Catholic Relief Services.

17. From 14 -16 October UNICEF distributed the following emergency supplies in Kosovo: 3 Essential Drug Kits, 140 Baby Hygiene Kits, 2 boxes of baby cream, 100 pieces of baby underwear, 65 tubes of washing detergent, 8 boxes of sanitary napkins, 106 pairs of shoes, 4 boxes of socks, 150 trousers, 32 jackets, 63 jogging suits, and 120 blankets.

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18. WFP has released a report summarising its food aid activities to those affected by the Kosovo crisis. WFP has distributed 244.6 MT mixed commodities to the displaced in Kosovo since June 1998 and 287 MT to new influxes in Montenegro (as well as refugees from the break-up of former Yugoslavia) since August 1998. The food basket comprises wheat flour, oil, pulses and high protein biscuits.

UNHCR Estimates Kosovo Displacement / Refugee Figures:

(as at 13 October 1998)

Kosovo ¹	200,000
Montenegro ²	42,000
Other parts of Serbia	20,000
Bosnia Herzegovina ³	8,000
Albania ⁴	20,500
Turkey ⁵	2,000
Slovenia ⁶	2,000
EVROM ⁷	1,000
TOTAL	298,100

¹ Distinct figures based on information from various organisations in Kosovo.

² Average based on figures provided by the Montenegrin Ministry of Interior and the Montenegrin Red Cross.

³ UNHCR estimate.

⁴ Figures provided by Albanian Government's Office for Refugees and endorsed by UNHCR.

⁵ UNHCR estimate.

⁶ UNHCR estimate.

⁷ Estimate of those whose presence is directly linked to the conflict in Kosovo.

Health

19. UNICEF-supported medical teams treated 863 patients, including approximately 615 children, in the municipalities of Urosevac, Suva Reka and Malisevo. The team distributed Oral Rehydration Salt, diarrhoea tablets and the newly published 'Breastfeeding in Emergency' publication to mothers.

20. During the past week WHO went on field trips to the municipality of Glogovac (with the UNHCR convey) and to Prizren municipality accompanied by UNICEF and Mother Theresa Health Branch. The field trips revealed a high incidence of acute diarrhoea and acute respiratory infections among children. Displaced families living in makeshift houses were also observed using water from mountain streams without taking any precautions such as boiling or chlorination. Displaced populations were also being denied access normal preventive health care such as prenatal health care and vaccination of children in state health institutions.

21. On 16th October WHO co-chaired with the Institute of Public Health of Serbia the national health coordination meeting which focused on the humanitarian assistance in Kosovo. The meeting was attended by CARE International, IOM, IRC, MSF, Yugoslav Red Cross.

MONTENEGRO

22. Although cross-border movement of Kosovo displaced remains fluid with Kosovo Albanians both entering and leaving Montenegro, there has been a higher level of return during the period under review than vice versa. On 17th October the Montenegrin Commissioner for Displaced Persons reported that 5,000 Kosovo displaced had returned to their areas of origin since the start of the talks between Ambassador Holbrooke and President Milosevic. The police in Rozaje told UNHCR that 60-70 displaced per day were currently returning to Kosovo via mountain paths. The police attributed this movement to the poor living conditions of the displaced in mountain villages. On the other hand some sources in Plav and Rozaje reported a continuing influx of displaced. On one occasion a woman and 10 children were sent back to Kosovo by the Montenegrin border police suggesting that Government pledges to treat the most vulnerable displaced in a "flexible" manner had not been communicated to the appropriate border officials. UNHCR and the Government of Montenegro are currently planning a joint re-registration programme to determine the numbers of Kosovo displaced more accurately.

23. In accordance with the interagency plan for the provision of adequate shelter to the Kosovo displaced (See point 19. Kosovo update 65), the authorities in Plav have produced a list of 90 houses in 10 villages hosting 1,052 displaced from Kosovo. The houses included on the list will be assessed by UNHCR, Swiss Disaster Relief, World Vision and the Danish Refugee Council to determine whether the displaced families still intend to remain in situ in light of the recent political discussions in Kosovo. The authorities in Ulicinj and Rozaje will submit a similar list in due course.

24. UNICEF provided the Institute of Public Health of Montenegro with 12,000 doses of vaccines to meet the most urgent needs for the immunisation of children from Kosovo. On 19th October, UNICEF started distribution of education and emergency supplies for internally displaced children in Montenegro.

25. UNICEF has started a project entitled *Education for Development- Teachers and Parents in Action*. The purpose of the project is to provide funds to the Ministry of Education for the training of pre-school teachers.

ALBANIA

26. UNHCR's office in Kukës in North-east Albania reports that approximately 100 Kosovars crossed into Albania through Zogaj (opposite Dakovica) during the past week. There was little evidence of any refugees returning into Kosovo and many of those interviewed expressed a reluctance to return to their destroyed houses during the winter. The slowdown in the refugee influx into Albania during the past week is attributable to fears of an increased prevalence of landmines at the border as well as an improvement in security

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conditions in Kosovo. During the past week five refugees were reportedly killed and three wounded in separate mine-related incidents at the border near Kukës.

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Update on Kosovo

Situation Report 69

21 October - 27 October 1998

This report has been compiled by UNHCR with input from ECHR and with inputs from UN Agencies and other humanitarian organizations in former Yugoslavia and Albania.

KOSOVO

UN Security Council Resolution 1203 (1998)

1. Acting under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, which allows for enforcement, the United Nations Security Council on 24th October endorsed and supported the agreements signed in Belgrade on 16 October by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and on the following day by FRY and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). The Russian Federation and China abstained on the text, which was adopted with 13 votes in favour as Resolution 1203 (1998).
2. The Security Council demanded that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia comply fully and swiftly with its resolutions on Kosovo, and cooperate fully with the OSCE Verification Mission and with the NATO Air Verification Mission in accordance with agreements reached. The Council also demanded that the Kosovo Albanian leadership and all other elements of the Kosovo Albanian community comply fully and swiftly with its resolutions and cooperate with the OSCE Verification Mission.
3. With respect to humanitarian issues, the Security Council demanded immediate action from the Belgrade authorities and the Kosovo Albanian leadership to cooperate with international efforts to improve the humanitarian situation and to avert the impending humanitarian catastrophe. The Council also called on the FRY Government and the Kosovo Albanian leadership to take all steps to ensure that international and humanitarian personnel are not subjected to the threat or use of force. Reaffirming the right of all refugees and displaced persons to return to their homes in safety, the Council underlined the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia's responsibility in creating the necessary conditions towards that end. The Council also urged Member States and others concerned to provide adequate resources for humanitarian assistance in the region and to respond promptly and generously to the UN Inter-Agency Consolidated Appeal for Humanitarian Assistance Related to the Kosovo Crisis.

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Compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 1199

4. On 27 October the Kosovo Diplomatic Observer Mission (KDOM) reported that approximately 4,500 Serbian police had left Kosovo during the course of the previous day. KDOM Team Orshovac reported that Serbian security forces had withdrawn from the area between Orshovac and Malisavo and reduced their presence almost to February 1999 levels. KDOM Team Prizren noticed a "massive pull-out" of police and military forces from the area between Prizren and Pristina. KDOM in Mitrovica reported a similar large-scale reduction in police and military presence in their areas of operations.

Returns

5. There are clear indications that the retreat of the Serbian security forces has encouraged many displaced to return to their areas of origin. However, at the time of writing the international humanitarian community has not yet had the opportunity to verify with any accuracy the true extent of return since the reduction of the police presence in Kosovo. The plight of the estimated 3,500 displaced living rough in the hills at Krasa Raksa has attracted a high level of publicity. In a recent meeting with Mr. Anđelićević, Prime Minister of Kosovo's Temporary Executive Committee, UNHCR was informed that the displaced would be able to return to their villages in the Komorane area after the withdrawal of the police from the area. There have also been reports that the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) has been moving into areas vacated by the security forces in the Drenica area.

6. UN agencies and NGOs in Kosovo are planning an interagency survey on a municipality by municipality basis over the next few weeks in an attempt to gather more reliable information on the number of displaced, conflict-affected families and returns in each region.

Security of Humanitarian Personnel

7. Threats to the security of humanitarian personnel working in Kosovo remain. On 23 October KLA soldiers in uniform started shooting at a relief convoy on the outskirts of Jablanica. They immediately stopped when they realised that they were firing at a UNHCR vehicle. On 27 October a UNHCR team travelling near Malisavo noted that a vacated police station appeared to be booby-trapped.

Relief Distribution

8. On 21 October relief deliveries were made to an estimated 17,000 beneficiaries in 3 different locations: Veitka Krusha in Orshovac municipality, Kladernica in Srdica municipality and Gornji Siroc in Pec municipality. The three convoys delivered mattresses, wheat flour, shoes and clothes.

9. On 22 October multi-agency convoys escorted by UNHCR delivered relief supplies to Diakovica and Pec. The humanitarian aid, which consists of high

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protein biscuits, family food parcels, wheat flour, mattresses, stoves and hygienic items, will meet the needs of 47,000 beneficiaries. The 16 trucks carried items from WFP, Mercy Corps International, Children Aid Direct, Catholic Relief Service.

10. On 23 October relief convoys delivered humanitarian aid to three different parts of Kosovo. One five truck convoy successfully delivered food and non-food items to an estimated 3,000 beneficiaries in Japlanka, ten kilometres Southwest of Kina despite coming under fire from armed elements on the outskirts of Japlanka. A second convoy provided four truckloads of humanitarian assistance provided by UNHCR, Catholic Relief Services and Mercy Corps International to an estimated 3,000 beneficiaries in Dobrudjane, seven kilometres West of Suva Reka. The third convoy went to the villages of Svetka and Volujak, both of which are approximately seven kilometres Southeast of Kina. The four trucks containing wheat flour, oil, mattresses, clothes, hygienic material were targeted to meet the needs of 7,000 beneficiaries. The relief supplies were provided by UNHCR, Mercy Corps International, Catholic Relief Services.

11. On 24 October multi-agency convoys escorted by UNHCR delivered relief aid in Oranovac and Prizren. The 13 trucks carried wheat flour, high protein biscuits, family food parcels, shoes, blankets, mattresses, stoves and detergent. The supplies donated by WFP, Mercy Corps International, Catholic Relief Service and Children Aid Direct will meet the humanitarian needs of 51,000 beneficiaries. In addition to the two scheduled convoys, a truck of basic commodities was also sent to a location near the village of Reskin, 20 kilometres East of Pec, where a group of 80 people living in the woods in extremely difficult conditions was found by UNHCR the previous day. The relief items were provided by Mercy Corps International and WFP.

12. On 26 October UNHCR led convoys to Belanica in Malisevo and Dobrosavac in Glogovac to deliver aid to 7,500 displaced. The nine trucks carried supplies from WFP, Mercy Corps International and Danish Church Aid. The items included wheat flour, milk powder, margarine, marmalade, oil, salt, sugar, biscuits, jackets, blankets, mattresses, used clothes, stoves and soap. The United States airlifted 6,000 blankets and health kits to Pristina for IDPs in Kosovo from Pisa, Italy.

13. On 27 October UNHCR led convoys that delivered relief aid for 36,000 people at Sadtar in Lipijan and Mitrovica town and its village of Rasane. The 16 trucks carried wheat flour, milk powder, oil, sugar, margarine, salt and rice. There were also used clothes, mattresses, stoves, and jerry cans. The items came from Mercy Corps International, Children's Aid Direct, Catholic Relief Services, WFP and USAID.

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**UNHCR Estimated Kosovo Displacement / Refugee Figures:
(as of 13 October 1998)**

Kosovo ¹	200,000
Montenegro ²	42,000
Other parts of Serbia	20,000
Bosnia Herzegovina ³	0,600
Albania ⁴	20,500
Turkey ⁵	2,000
Slovenia ⁶	2,000
FRYOM ⁷	3,000
TOTAL	288,100

¹ Estimated figure based on information from various organisations in Kosovo.

² Average based on figures provided by the Montenegrin Ministry of Interior and the Montenegrin Red Cross.

³ UNHCR estimate.

⁴ Figure provided by Albanian Government's Office for Refugees and endorsed by UNHCR.

⁵ UNHCR estimate.

⁶ UNHCR estimate.

⁷ Estimate of those whose presence is directly linked to the conflict in Kosovo.

Human Rights

14. The United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has finalised a Status Agreement with the FRY Government. The Agreement provides for standard privileges and immunities as well as full freedom of movement and access throughout the country for human rights related activities and confirms OHCHR's status as the sole international organisation with a broad mandate for human rights protection and promotion throughout FRY. OHCHR plans to strengthen its activities in Kosovo through the deployment of additional human rights officers.

Health

15. The UNICEF office in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has received a US\$ 500,000 loan from its Internal Emergency Programme Fund. The loan will be used to enhance UNICEF's capacity to respond to the crisis in Kosovo and will hopefully be reimbursed through contributions made against the forthcoming UN Consolidated Appeal. The loan will be used to meet the needs of women and children in four different areas, the provision of winter clothing and shoes for children, the provision of immunisation supplies (including cold chain inputs, syringes and needles and measles vaccines) for approximately 150,000 children, the promotion of breast feeding and printing of guidelines on infant feeding in emergencies, and the provision of water containers and baby hygiene items. UNICEF will also strengthen its field presence through the deployment of additional international staff to its offices in Pristina and Podgorica.

MONTENEGRO

16. UN interagency assessments in Plav and Rozaje have revealed that relatively few displaced children from Kosovo are benefiting from education. According to the director of the Gusinje primary school (near Plav) there are currently only 60 displaced children from Kosovo in primary schools in the Gusinje area. In Rozaje municipality, which includes 28 villages, only 35 displaced are attending school in the area. During the mission UNICEF distributed winter jackets to the school children in Gusinje and Rozaje. The Danish Refugee Council is helping UNICEF to distribute school equipment to displaced children in the mountainous areas near Plav and Rozaje.

ALBANIA

17. After deliberations with UNHCR, IFRC, the Albanian Red Cross (ARC) and the Ministry of Local Governments, WFP and ARC have decided to resume the October food aid distribution in Tropoje district in Northern Albania. Distributions were halted on 12 October due to poor security and concerns over the integrity of registration procedures. Kosovo refugees in Tropoje district have been re-registered to prevent those individuals who fraudulently hold ration cards from receiving food during the upcoming distribution and the Ministry of Local Government has pledged to work with the police to ensure security in the area where the distributions will take place. UNHCR, WFP and ARC believe that the estimated 2,500 Kosovo Albanians remaining in Tropoje district are among the most vulnerable of the refugee population in Albania.

18. WFP and other food supply agencies have drafted a food distribution plan for the month of November in Albania. WFP estimates that it will provide rations to 7,000 of the 21,000 refugees registered in Albania. WFP will continue to support a bakery project which provides bread on a daily basis to 5,700 refugees in the Durrës area.

19. Discussions are ongoing between the UNHCR offices in Belgrade and Tirana over the development of a plan for the possible repatriation of Kosovo refugees in Albania.

FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

20. During the visit of the British Foreign Minister, Robin Cook, on Tuesday 20 October, the FYROM Government announced its decision to support the NATO Kosovo Verification Mission and its Headquarters in Skopje.

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Update on Kosovo

28 October - 3 November 1998

This report was first completed by C.E.H. with support from UNHCR and with input from UN agencies and other humanitarian organizations in former Yugoslavia and Albania.

KOSOVO

1. Although many Serbian security forces have withdrawn from Kosovo, dismantling numerous checkpoints and fortified positions, there is still a police presence in some areas, notably in the Srbica-Istok region, and to the south of Pec. During the past week humanitarian agency personnel have seen security forces in the hills near Komorane (which overlooks the Pristina to Pec road), Dufe (between Stymle and Suva Reka) and Provero (in Mitra).
2. During the period 26 October - 1 November the Kosovo Diplomatic Observer Mission (KDOM) reported: "The Serbian Police have retained control over key roads, particularly the Pristina-Suva Reka-Prizren and Pristina-Pec routes. Police mobile checkpoints have been established on major roads in some areas. The KLA are asserting their own authority to supplant that of the Serb police in areas from which the police have withdrawn. Although the KLA has not established checkpoints on major roads, it has established them on secondary roads in areas it controls in the Dranica, Podujevo and Malisevo regions."

Returns

3. Since the military withdrawal on 27 October, thousands of displaced have gone back to their villages, mainly to see the condition of their houses and to ascertain the extent of police presence near their homes. Many of the returnees to houses that were intact said they would stay and would shelter neighbours who had lost their homes. Others are repairing homes to bring back their families. In some areas, villagers were preparing to plant the winter crop of wheat. Although there were some reports of harassment and obstruction by the security forces, most returnees encountered few problems. There are, however, still some villages such as Malisevo, Oraovac and to a lesser extent Jurik, Saut-west of Decane, which remain deserted. It is also clear that there are still many displaced families remaining with host families and in towns. An interagency survey is currently underway to determine the precise number of returnees and the condition of houses. Early deployment of OSCE verifiers in rural areas will facilitate the process of return.

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4. Of the 10,000 displaced estimated to be living under plastic sheeting before the 27 October military withdrawal almost all have either returned to their villages or are staying with host families. On 31 October small groups were reported to be in Paganusa between Malisevo and Orshovac. The widely publicised group of 3,500 displaced formerly encamped on the hill above Ksena Raka, 30 kilometres west of Pristina, have all returned to their home areas.

5. Landmines and booby-traps are becoming a significant problem in Kosovo both for displaced persons returning to their homes and for humanitarian personnel. As the displaced returned to their villages this week, several people were killed by anti-personnel mines or booby-traps laid around houses, buildings and wells. Vehicle mines are also present on a number of dirt roads in the province. Seven areas have confirmed minefields and others have been reported by humanitarian personnel. The current situation will be exacerbated by the onset of winter when snow will cover traces of landmine locations. Humanitarian agencies have asked local communities to seek the KLA's assistance in removing landmines in areas which they control. Efforts are underway to train relief staff in mine awareness and first aid training courses. Discussions are also underway at the UN Mine Centre in New York to determine future courses of action.

Shelter

6. Many of those returning to their homes are in desperate need of shelter. Estimates from various sources indicate 20,000 houses have been either slightly, partially or totally damaged during eight months of fighting in Kosovo. Visual surveys indicate: 40 percent of the houses are either intact or have only minor damage (bullet holes, broken windows) and are habitable; 30 percent severely damaged (partly burned / shelled) but could be habitable if repairs are made; 30 percent totally destroyed / reduced to rubble and uninhabitable. UNHCR is distributing 3,000 emergency shelter kits (plastic sheeting, wooden poles, nails, hammers) together with NGOs during the coming week. A more systematic distribution of shelter materials will be made on completion of the interagency survey mentioned in point 3 above.

Relief Distribution

7. On 28 October UNHCR and WFP led convoys that delivered relief aid for 6,000 returnees, displaced people and host families at Kodralija in Decane, Drenje in Pec and Cadrak in Surva Raka. The supplies included wheat flour, vegetable oil, sugar, milk powder, beans, pasta, soap, sleeping bags, mattresses, clothes, blankets and stoves. These items came from UNHCR, WFP and Mercy Corps International.

8. On 28 October UNHCR escorted convoys that delivered relief aid for 30,000 IDPs and host families at Srbica and Stimlje. The 16 trucks carried wheat flour, biscuit, oil, pasta, baby parcels, milk, margarine, rice, beans, jackets, used clothes, blankets, soap, sanitary napkins and bags. The

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supplies came from WFP, Mercy Corps International, Children's Aid Direct and Catholic Relief Services.

9. On 30 October interagency convoys delivered relief aid to 16,000 displaced, host families and returnees at Negrovc and Klens Reka, both in Glogovac, and Kostva in Suva Reka. The supplies came from UNHCR, WFP, Mercy Corps International, Catholic Relief Services, Children's Aid Direct, Oxfam.

10. On 31 October convoys delivered relief aid to 28,000 displaced, returnees and host families at Istic and Lipljen. The 12 trucks carried wheat flour, oil, sugar, margarine, pasta, milk powder, beans, mattresses, stoves, used clothes, plastic cans, candles, hygienic napkins and soap. The supplies came from UNHCR, WFP, Mercy Corps International and Catholic Relief Services.

11. On 2 November interagency convoys delivered relief supplies for 20,000 returnees, IDPs and host families at Cilik in Orlovac, Gorra Luka at Decane and Caruz in Glogovac. The supplies included wheat flour, milk powder, sugar, oil, rice, margarine, beans, pasta, blankets, mattresses, candles, jackets, used clothes, jackets, boots, soap and plastic sheeting. These items came from UNHCR, WFP and Mercy Corps International.

12. On 3 November UNHCR escorted convoys that delivered aid supplies for 67,000 returnees, IDPs and host families in Vucim and Suva Reka. The supplies consisted of wheat flour, sugar, oil, rice, macaroni, beans, margarine, milk powder, food packages, blankets, mattresses, hygienic napkins, chlorine, candles, jackets, clothes and soap. The supplies came from UNHCR, WFP, Mercy Corps International, Catholic Relief Services and Children's Aid Direct.

13. The Norwegian Refugee Council has sent 12 trucks with humanitarian aid to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The cargo comprises winter clothes and hygienic items for about 30,000 refugees in collective centres in the Vojvodina area as well as displaced in Kosovo. Children's clothes, shoes and hygienic articles for infants are also been included. The trucks have now arrived in Belgrade and are being cleared for distribution. The relief items will be distributed through the Yugoslav Red Cross and Mother Theresa Association.

Food

14. From 24-30 October WFP distributed a total of 129 MT wheat flour, 2.3 MT pulses and 0.5 MT vegetable oil to an estimated 48,000 beneficiaries in Kosovo.

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15. A recent FAO assessment mission to FRY concluded that the conflict in Kosovo was affecting the agricultural sector in four different ways:

a) Uncertain access to land

Although displaced were returning to their homes it was unlikely that they would be able to access land to establish a family garden until spring.

b) Collapse of local cereal production

Local cereal production has collapsed due to the destruction of wheat fields and the inability of many farmers to harvest in July 1998 for security reasons. Many people have also misused the autumn planting season which will reduce seed availability in 1999. The humanitarian impact of the decline in local production is difficult to quantify as Kosovo has traditionally imported large quantities of wheat from other parts of former Yugoslavia.

c) Shortage of farming equipment

Much farming equipment has reportedly been destroyed or looted. For example, it was reported to FAO that 4,600 tractors had been damaged.

d) Decline in livestock

Local authorities indicated that 200,000 heads of livestock (includes cows, horses, pigs and hens) had been killed or stolen. The high level of free-roaming livestock could lead to the outbreak of animal disease. FAO believes that this could result in the death of a further 50,000 to 70,000 heads of livestock.

FAO will appeal to donors for essential agricultural inputs to enable those affected by the conflict to engage in basic food production activities.

Health

16. At the most recent health coordination meeting, which was chaired by WHO, on 22 October it was reported that there had been an increase in the number of medical NGOs working in Kosovo. WHO reported that IRC and Kinderberg were about to start a mobile medical service in Kosovo to complement the existing activities of MSF, MDM and UNICEF. At the meeting it emerged that many displaced suffering from tuberculosis were not receiving treatment as they were unable to access tuberculosis clinics where they were originally treated. Another problem is that children were not being vaccinated because they were not being officially registered. WHO and UNICEF are attempting to convince health professionals to vaccinate all children, regardless of their official status.

17. On 29 October, WHO donated one New Emergency Health Kit to Mother Theresa Association, a local NGO in Kosovo. According to WHO one new emergency health kit contains medical supplies to cover the basic medical needs of a population of 10,000 persons for a period of 3 months. WHO also donated 6 Surgical kits to the hospitals in Kosovo. According to WHO each surgical kit contains material to cover post-operative care of 100 patients undergoing surgery. In the field of preventive health care WHO supplied the Institute of Public Health of Pristina with 10,000 doses of influenza vaccines. Vaccination of elderly will be initiated immediately with the support of WHO.

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18. UNHCR and the Commissioner for Refugees have finalized the modalities for the re-registration of displaced from Kosovo. During the re-registration process an identification card, which will expire on 31st June, 1998, will be provided to all displaced in Montenegro, regardless of their arrival date. WFP and other food agencies have decided to defer the November food distribution until the registration exercise has been completed.

19. Although there are no concrete statistics on the number of Kosovo displaced still in Montenegro, anecdotal evidence suggests a net outflow of displaced during the period under review. UNHCR reports that although many displaced families have left Plav and Rozaje, not all have reached Kosovo. Some have been unable to cross the border due to harassment and beatings at the hands of the police. Others have sought to move from the mountains into improved accommodation in lowland areas. In Ulicinj thousands of displaced have reportedly departed for Kosovo and for Albania in an apparent attempt to gain access into Western Europe.

20. The discovery of six cases of hepatitis in Plav and Baranja has alerted medical agencies to the importance of continued monitoring of the health condition of local inhabitants as well as displaced in the Plav and Rozaje area. There are fears that overcrowded conditions could lead to outbreaks of epidemics.

ALBANIA

21. UNHCR reports no cross-border movement along the main crossing points of Vlasheni, Dobruna and Chani during the last three days of October. Refugees have been discouraged from returning due to the presence of landmines on the Kosovo side (which have injured several KLA combatants trying to cross the border) and an increase in the presence of FRV military along the border.

22. As at 31 October there are still approximately 3,000 Kosovo refugees in Northern Albania, the vast majority of whom are located in Tropoje district. Most refugees still live with host families although 300 are accommodated in 4 collective centres in Bejram Curri and 120 in two centres in Fierze rehabilitated by Swiss Disaster Relief. In Kukës the most vulnerable families have been identified and will be moved into accommodation constructed by THW, a German NGO.

Relief Distributions

23. The October food distribution was completed in the District of Has and Kukës with no incidents. 800 food parcels were distributed by the Albanian Red Cross (ARC). 124 stoves, 1,700 blankets and 300 winter jackets have also been distributed to the refugees.

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Education

24. Refugee children are still unable to benefit from education as books, which the Ministry of Education agreed to provide free of charge, have still not reached the North of the country. Many schools are also without stoves and windows. UNHCR, Cap Annamour and the local Authorities are collaborating jointly to alleviate this situation through the distribution of window plastic sheeing and some stoves.

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