

Forbundsvep. Jugoslavien (31)



UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

UNHCR FRY INFORMATION BULLETIN

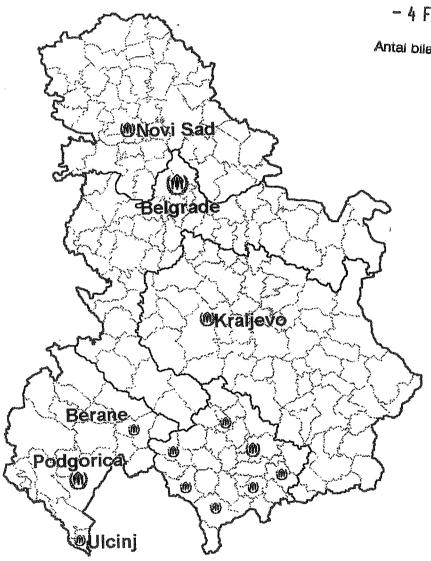
January 2000

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The boundaries displayed on this map do not imply official recognition by the United Nations

December 1999, UNHCR Belgrade

Please see Kosovo Information Bulletin for details on UNHCR activities in Kosovo.

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UNHCR FRY INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 1/00 January 2000

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	2
Internally Displaced Persons from Kosovo	2
Refugees in FRY	5
Repatriation to Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina	7
Integration in FRY	8
Resettlement to Third Countries	g
Winter Strategy	10
UNHCR Areas of Responsibility in FRY	11
UNHCR Implementing Partners in FRY	12
2000 Inter-agency Funding Requirements in the region	13
1999 Cash Contributions to UNHCR Operations (Regional)	14



Introduction

UNHCR established its Office in Belgrade in 1976, mainly to assist refugees from eastern Europe who fled to the former Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia. UNHCR operations in Serbia and Montenegro — the two republics in the present Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) — have greatly expanded in the 1990s. The war in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia forced more than 2 million people out of their homes, of whom about two-thirds of a million have found refuge in FRY.

Today, FRY still hosts about half a million refugees from Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia. But the total number of displaced people in the country now exceeds 700,000 as non-Albanian residents of Kosovo began fleeing the southern province since mid-1999.

UNHCR offers a wide range of assistance to refugees and internally displaced people in FRY with the largest allocated budget (71 million required for year 2000) for a single UNHCR country operation in the world. From providing care and maintenance aid for refugees and internally displaced persons to assisting repatriation, local integration, third country resettlement and protecting asylumseekers arriving from other countries, the UNHCR operation in FRY illustrates all aspects of UNHCR protection and assistance activities in a nutshell.

Internally Displaced Persons from Kosovo

Despite efforts made since mid-June 1999 by international actors in Kosovo to protect all peoples in the province, attacks on the non-Albanian population have continued. As a result, over 200,000 non-Albanians have fled Kosovo to elsewhere in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY). The vast majority of them are Serbs but those displaced from Kosovo also include Roma and others.

The majority of the internally displaced people (IDPs) from Kosovo are staying in private homes throughout Serbia and Montenegro. But as winter sets in, people are moving from one municipality to another looking for appropriate shelter. Especially in central and southern Serbia, where the impact of economic and political instability is felt more acutely, host families can barely support the displaced people as the local population already suffers unstable incomes and faulty infrastructure, including state heating facilities.

To help support those living in private homes, UNHCR has launched in December a cash-grant project to the most vulnerable persons among the displaced people from Kosovo. Up to 50,000 displaced people are expected to benefit from the one-time ECHO grant of 60 USD to help them get through winter.



Registration

The registration of humanitarian aid beneficiaries is normally the responsibility of the government authorities. However, as the internally displaced people from Kosovo constantly relocate throughout more than 150 municipalities in Serbia and Montenegro, UNHCR has recognized the need for a joint registration to obtain more accurate figures — eliminating double registration, for example — so that the assistance needs of the displaced people can be better addressed.

Together with the Montenegrin Commissioner for Displaced Persons, UNHCR began verifying in November the number of people from Kosovo staying in Montenegro. The results from Montenegro are expected shortly while the registration in Serbia will be completed by February 2000.

Double displacement: refugees in Kosovo

When conflict broke out in Kosovo in 1998, there were about 14,000 refugees from Bosnia-Herzegovina or Croatia caught in the cross-fire. Many of them were sheltered in areas close to the fighting and others were found huddled in isolated villages after residents had fled the armed conflict in the area. Many refugees have managed to flee eventually yet another conflict since the Bosnian war, but there still remain about 600 refugees in the province, half of whom have requested resettlement to third countries. As a matter of priority, UNHCR is seeking solutions for these refugees who have been in Kosovo, either through voluntary repatriation or resettlement to third countries.

Roma

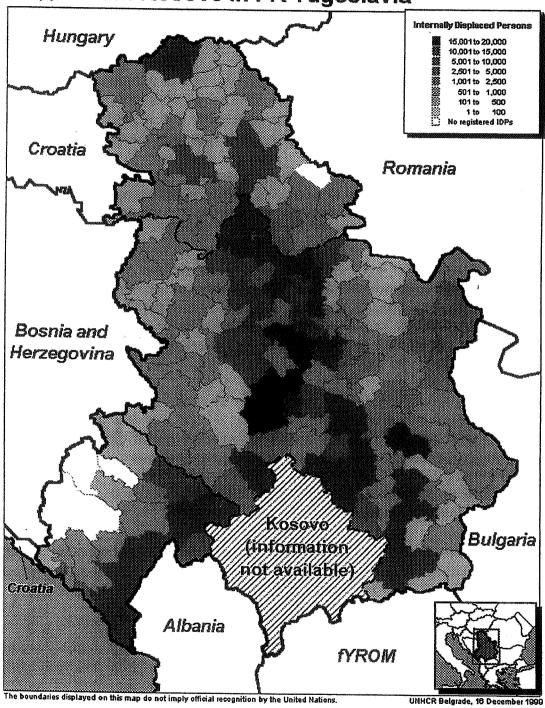
UNHCR's preliminary study estimates that between 40,000 and 50,000 of the displaced people from Kosovo currently in FRY are of Roma origin. Assisting the Roma population is a particular challenge for UNHCR and other aid agencies, as local authorities are often reluctant to accept large number of Roma in their communities. In central and southern Serbia, where economic difficulties are greater in general, Roma tend to be assisted second to the already large displaced population there.

In Montenegro, displaced Roma live in large tented camps or make-shift shelter throughout the Republic. The majority of these settlements are unfit for winter and strong wind and rain in early December have destroyed more than a hundred tents in Konik, near Podgorica.

While UNHCR hopes that the current displacement from Kosovo is temporary and expects to assist eventually the displaced people's return to Kosovo as conditions improve in the province, it is unrealistic to expect this to happen during winter. UNHCR, together with other aid agencies, continues to appeal to the local authorities in Serbia and Montenegro to set up hard shelters with proper infrastructure so that displaced people, including Roma, can survive through the harsh Balkan winter.



Internally Displaced Persons from Kosovo in FR Yugoslavia





Refugees in FRY

Four years after the Dayton Peace Accord, there remain over half a million refugees in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) from the wars in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia. About 300,000 have fled their homes in Croatia, including some 50,000 who left Eastern Slavonia in 1997, when the UNTAES (United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia) left the region. Another 200,000 are from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

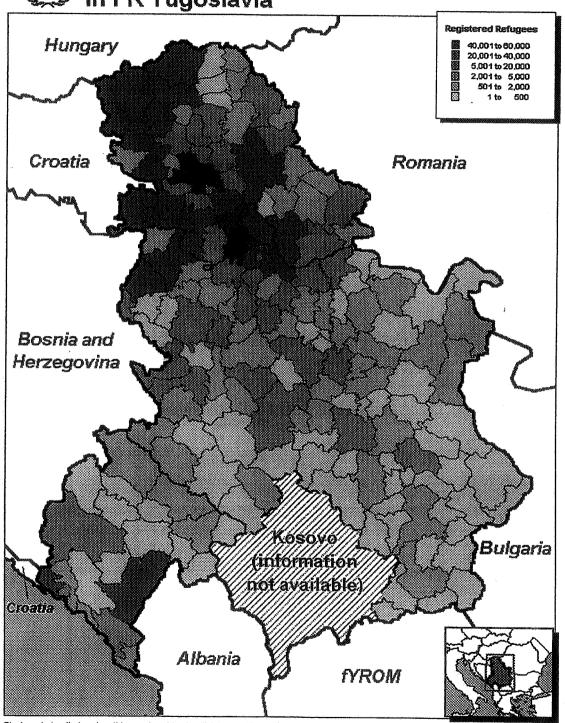
UNHCR has been engaged in a three-pronged approach to finding solutions for these refugees who remain in FRY: repatriation, local integration or resettlement. So far, UNHCR has managed to find lasting solutions for up to 100,000 refugees through one of the above programs. The political and economic instability in the region, however, continues to frustrate the repatriation and local integration process.

Registered number of refugees (December 1999)

	Republic o	f asylum	
Country of Origin	Serbia	Montenegro	TOTAL
Bosnia and Herzegovina	182,800	17,200	200,000
Croatia	293,000	5,800	298,800
Macedonia	1,300		1,300
Slovenia	3,000	200	3,200
Refugees TOTAL	480,100	23,200	503,300







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UNHCR Belgrade, 16 December 1999



Repatriation to Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina

UNHCR began organizing the repatriation of refugees to Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina (BiH) in 1996, soon after the signing of the Dayton Agreement. One of the main roles of UNHCR under the Annex 7 of the Dayton Accord has been to facilitate negotiations between the concerned governments to enable the safe return of refugees. In April 1998, a Protocol was signed between the Governments of FRY and Croatia, outlining a workable procedure for repatriation.

By December 1999, up to 6,000 refugees have returned voluntarily to their original homes with UNHCR assistance (4,300 to Croatia; 1,300 to BiH). An additional 38,000 are estimated to have returned on their own to these countries.

Aside from facilitating the safe return of refugees and addressing the multitude of legal issues related to the rights of returnees, one practical problem remained until recently: the tractors.

Many of the refugees are agricultural people originating from rural areas. They fled the conflict in tractor-trailers, which came to symbolize their plight and often remained their sole belonging. Many refugees understandably are reluctant to part with their tractors, which support their livelihood. The ability to bring home these vehicles, most without proper license plates, has been key for many of the refugees' decision to return.

In 1998, UNHCR began returning tractors through a trucking company in FRY. After a brief interruption in 1999, UNHCR has resumed the tractor movements in September with additional help of Russian logistic experts, EMERCOM, delivering tractors directly to the returnees' doorsteps. With twice weekly trailer-shuttles, about 200 tractors have been delivered home since September 1999.



Integration in FRY

Citizenship

After the break-up of the Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia, the citizenship law in FRY came into effect in 1997. Its Article 48 specifically refers to refugees from BiH and Croatia. As at November 1998, some 83,000 applications (over 100,000 persons) for citizenship had been received from refugees, of which 25,500 cases (42,000 persons) had been granted citizenship. According to the Ministry of Interior, no negative decisions were taken on refugee applications.

In March 1999, however, the government's processing of citizenship applications was effectively interrupted. The FRY authorities say that the administration of granting citizenship resumed only in the fall of 1999.

UNHCR believes that local integration is the lasting solution for the majority of refugees currently in FRY and will continue to support both refugees and the Government in this naturalization process.

Local settlement project

For refugees who wish to obtain FRY citizenship and integrate in the local society, UNHCR provides housing assistance to help in their efforts to do so. Since 1996, over 400 housing units have been built under local settlement projects in Montenegro and Serbia, including about 180 units in 1999 alone. There are an additional 300 units currently under construction and another 210 have been contracted.

There are two types of housings available for refugees who have applied for FRY citizenship. One is a ready-made house, which the refugees will have the chance to buy in installments once they receive citizenship; another is a self-help housing, where qualified refugees are provided with basic building materials with which they build on their own.

Local municipalities offer land and basic infrastructure (water, electricity), as well as either agricultural land or employment in the community for one member of the refugee family. UNHCR provides building supplies through the Swiss Disaster Relief (SDR) and some basic furniture to completed houses.

Although labor intensive, these local housing projects are, in UNHCR's view, quite successful in providing future to the refugees. The houses are modest, but the refugees are very happy to have their own homes, a solid base from which they can restart their lives. So far the majority of houses are being constructed in the Vojvodina area in the north, but an increasing number of municipalities in central Serbia and Belgrade areas are expressing interest in participating in the project. Should funding permit, UNHCR will continue to expand local settlement projects to benefit more future FRY citizens.



Resettlement to Third Countries

UNHCR's resettlement program for refugees in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) has been seriously hampered this year by the conflict in FRY. By the end of March, there were 2,000 refugees accepted for resettlement waiting to travel, while another 3,000 had been submitted to and awaiting decisions by resettlement countries. During the NATO air strikes, UNHCR and IOM urgently assisted the departure of accepted refugees to resettlement countries. With the assistance of the Hungarian government and the FRY authorities expediting the issuance of exit visas, more than 2,000 refugees had departed for six resettlement countries via Budapest by the end of August.

As the diplomatic presence in Belgrade has changed during 1999, UNHCR has sought innovative ways to continue the resettlement program. With the help of Romania, UNHCR has set up out-of-the-country interviews for about 4,000 refugees awaiting decisions.

Since 1992, UNHCR has resettled from FRY over 15,000 refugees, which is still a small number considering the half a million refugees remaining in the country. Yet, UNHCR considers resettlement as an important protection strategy providing lasting solutions to eligible refugees. The increasing economic and social difficulties in FRY further add to the need to keep the resettlement option open for refugees, not the least because refugees are affected first and most seriously. UNHCR is requesting resettlement countries to accept another 6,500 refugees in FRY for the year 2000.

1999 resettlement figures from FRY (2 Dec. 1999)

COUNTRY	DEPARTED	ACCEPTED FOR DEPARTURE	PENDING DECISION
AUSTRALIA	545	442	51
CANADA	40	39	248
CHILE	26	6	37
FINLAND	78	102	20
ITALY		4	
GREAT BRITAIN	5		
NETHERLANDS	294	3	0
NORWAY	39	146	22
SLOVAKIA			6
SWEDEN	43	3	699
USA	2,189	232	2,149
(refugee figures) TOTAL	3,259	977	2,602



Winter Strategy

This winter is feared to be particularly harsh for people in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, with the predicted shortages of electricity, food and other basic commodities. UNHCR is gearing up to help refugees and internally displaced people in FRY to get through the cold season, particularly some 50,000 staying in more than 500 collective centers throughout Serbia and Montenegro. Meanwhile, UNHCR has called on the international community to give attention to the humanitarian needs of the wider public, which inevitably affects also the displaced population staying in private homes.

Heating fuel and coal

UNHCR resumed in October the delivery of heating fuel and coal to collective centers hosting refugees and IDPs. As at the beginning of December, over 3,500 metric tons of heating fuel and nearly 6,000 metric tons of coal have been distributed. UNHCR is planning to deliver a total of at least 8,500 mt of fuel and 13,000 mt of coal through the winter season.

Fresh food

In addition to fuel, UNHCR resumed the delivery of fresh food items in mid-October through CARE International. Up to 50,000 refugees and displaced people from Kosovo living in collective centers receives about 2 kg of food items (vegetables, fruits, jam, pasta, powder milk and eggs) per week.

The fresh food delivery to collective centers is normally done only during the winter season starting November. But for 1999 UNHCR had planned initially to continue the food delivery throughout the year, to compensate for the loss of summer jobs due to the declining economy in the host country. Due to the NATO air strikes and the abduction of the CARE workers, however, the fresh food delivery was suspended temporarily.

Shelter⁻

As winter sets in, an increasing number of displaced people from Kosovo are looking for alternative shelter. This means that they can no longer afford private apartments or have over-stayed their host families' welcome. To allow aid agencies to respond quickly to the growing needs for accommodation, UNHCR and its implementing partners have begun the search for possible shelter sites throughout Serbia and Montenegro, gathering data on estimated cost and resources necessary to repair the identified buildings. By December, UNHCR and other aid agencies have identified some 30 additional sites that may be suitable for accommodating over 2,000 displaced people.

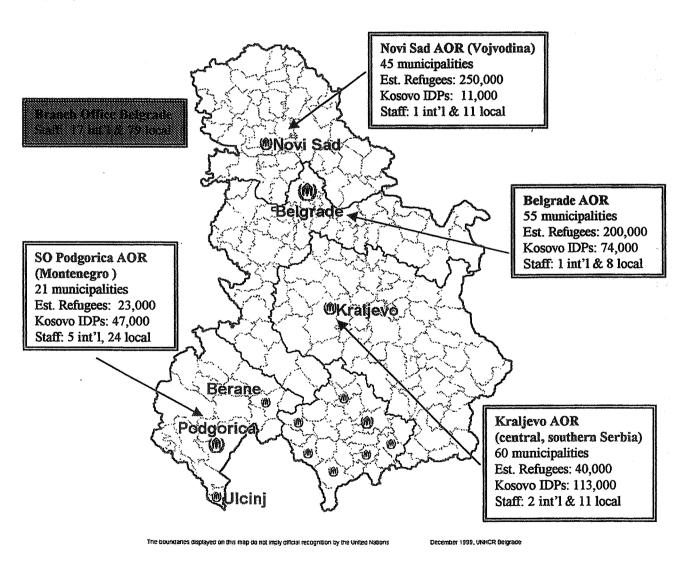
Additionally, UNHCR has procured 1,000 winterized tents in case of emergency needs, for such IDPs who may find themselves in desperate need for alternative shelter to survive the winter.



UNHCR Areas of Responsibility in FRY

UNHCR has 1 Branch Office, 1 Sub Office and 5 Field Offices covering 181 municipalities in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, excluding Kosovo. The total staff size of 159 (26 international and 133 local) and the 1999 annual budget of US\$ 54 million makes UNHCR the largest international humanitarian organization operating in the country.

The numbers of refugees and internally displaced persons in each of the field offices' areas of responsibility (AOR) are provided below as rough indications only. The figures of displaced people from Kosovo are government registration figures, which are currently being updated jointly.





UNHCR Implementing Partners in FRY

Implementing partners	Activities
American Refugee Committee (ARC)	Sanitation in Montenegro.
Action Contre la Faim (ACF)	Water and sanitation repairs, kitchen set distribution.
Care International	Fresh food delivery, distribution of heating fuel and coal, self-reliance program.
Commission for Real Property Claims (CRPC)	Registration of refugees claiming property in BiH.
Catholic Relief Service (CRS)	Wood purchase
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	Health counseling, community services, school equipment in Montenegro, support to IDPs in private accommodation, skills training, income generation program.
Emercom	Transport of tractors for repatriating refugees.
Handicap International (HI)	Assistance to the disabled.
Hi Neighbour (HiN)	Income generation program, community services for children and elderly.
Humanitarian Centre for Integration and Tolerance (HCIT)	Legal counseling.
Humanitarian Law Center (HLC)	Legal counseling.
Institute for Mental Health (IMH)	Psychological support to refugees and IDPs.
International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)	NGO network support.
Int'l Federation of Red Cross (IFRC)	Secondary distribution of aid items.
Int'l Organization for Migration (IOM)	Medical escort of repatriating refugees, resettlement processing.
International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC)	Self-reliance projects, repatriation of refugees to Krajina, repatriation information campaign.
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Medical program for vulnerables, income generation programs, skills training.
Italian Consortium of Solidarity (ICS)	Income generation programs, skills training, community services in Montenegro.
Japan Emergency NGOs (JEN)	Income generation program, skills training, community services.
Montenegrin Commissioner for Displaced Persons (MCDP)	Running cost of CCs in Montenegro, registration of IDPs, financial support to IDPs.
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	Shelter construction for refugees.
Odgovor	Publication of refugee newspaper.
Oxfam	Income generation projects, skills training, community services.
Radio B292	Radio broadcasting for refugees.
Refugee Commissioner of Serbia	Running cost of CCs and institutions.
Sunce	Community services.
Swiss Disaster Relief (SDR)	Permanent shelter construction, emergency repairs of CCs, legal counseling, building adaptation.
World Vision (WV)	Water/sanitary installations, repairs in Mont.



2000 Inter-agency Funding Requirements in the region

TOTAL FUNDING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE HUMANITARIAN OPERATION BY SECTOR AND COUNTRY

			. s	SECTOR	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		······································
APPEALING AGENCY	HUMAN RIGHTS, PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF SOLUTIONS	FOOD SECURITY	HEALTH, EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES	SHELTER/NON- FOOD ITEMS AND REHABILITATION	MULTI- SECTORAL ASSISTANCE AND PROGRAMME SUPPORT	HQS SEO AND LO WESTERN EUROPE/ REGIONAL COORDINATION	TOTAL (US\$)
UNHCR	19,136,168	12,101,209	41,302,087	84,441,989	53,069,939	2,981,984	213,033,376
FAO		23,760,000		1,300,000			25,060,000
ILO				22,760,000	13,680,000		36,440,000
IOM	21,865,000		3,248,625	5,400,000			30,513,625
OCHA					2,258,300		2,258,300
OHCHR	5,529,850						5,529,850
UNDP	21,865,000			38,000,000	36,950,000		96,815,000
UNDP/UNEP					1,500,000		1,500,000
UNESCO			13,210,000			3	13,210,000
UNFPA	400,000		2,100,000		1,222,000		3,722,000
UNICEF	15,860,000		40,430,000		7,510,000	1,200,000	65,000,000
UNIFEM					1,500,000		1,500,000
Unmas		· .	395,000	2,000,000	16,802,000		19,197,000
UNV	426,000			668,000	1,500,000		2,594,000
WFP		121,947,270					121,947,270
WHO			15,693,200		5,820,280		21,513,480
TOTAL	85,082,018	157,808,479	116,378,912	154,569,989	141,812,519	4,181,984	659,833,901

	COUNTRY						
APPEALING AGENCY	Albania	BOSNIA AND HERCEGOVINA	CROATIA	FEDERAL RE YUGOSI		THE FORMER YUGOSLAV	TOTAL (US\$)
			Kosovo	REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA			
UNHCR	12,046,447	43,852,300	16,880,347	71,841,808	50,329,600	15,100,890	213,033,376*
FAO					25,060,000		25,060,000
ILO					36,440,000		36,440,000
IOM	1,893,625	6,150,000	1,650,000	1,660,000	18,610,000	550,000	30,513,625
OCHA		99,000		1,180,000	979,300		2,258,300
OHCHR		970,100	1,330,000	2,229,750	1,000,000		5,529,850
UNDP	2,000,000	47,815,000	9,000,000	1,000,000	36,500,000	500,000	96,815,000
UNDP/UNEP				1,500,000			1,500,000
UNESCO	800,000	5,810,000	300,000	3,100,000	3,100,000	100,000	13,210,000
UNFPA				810,000	2,912,000		3,722,000
UNICEF	5,250,000	7,000,000	950,000	20,300,000	23,800,000	6,500,000	65,000,000**
UNIFEM				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	1,500,000		1,500,000
UNMAS			5,197,000		14,000,000		19,197,000
Unv		1,094,000			1,500,000		2,594,000
WFP	7,565,437			92,321,903	19,990,614	2,069,316	121,947,270
Wно	1,272,000	305,000		3,233,000	13,873,280	2,830,200	21,513,480
TOTAL	30,827,509	113,095,400	35,307,347	199,176,461	249,594,794	27,650,406	659,833,901

^{*} Includes US\$ 2.98 million for HQs and LO in Western Europe.

^{**} Includes US\$ 1.2 million for regional coordination.

UNHCR Donor Relations & Resource Mobilisation

1999 Cash contributions for South-eastern Europe, Post Dayton Operations and Kosovo Crisis. As of 15-December-1999

Post Dayton Operations	*Kosovo Emergency Operations	Total
US\$	uss	USS

Budget			
Revised Consolidated Appeal	109,844,299	332,966,742	442,811,
Funds Available			
Carry Over from 98	21,701,023	5,679,369	27,380,
Other Income	6,461,009	-627,079	5,833,
Contributions			
Andorra	The second secon	100,000	100.
Australia		2,201,258	2,201,
Austria		1,838,926	1,838,
Austria (Private Donors) Bahrain (Private Donors)	<u> </u>	507,380	507,
Bangladesh	 	1,868 50,000	1, 50,
Bangladesh (Private Donors)		30,115	30.
Belgium		1,000,000	1,000,
Brunei Darussalam Canada	6,122,449	100,000	100,
Canada (Private Donors)	6,122,449	3,991,530 5.075	10,113, 5,
China (Private Donors)		15,706	15,
Croatia (Private Donors)	22,669		22,
Czech Republic Czech Republic (Private Donors)		86,900	86,
Cyprus (Private Donors)		280 70	
Denmark	1,353,180	7,585,431	8,938,
Egypt (Private Donors)		7,357	7,
Europe (Council of Europe)		918,351	918,
Europe (European Commission) Finland	9,948,414 877,903	66,623,755	76,572,
Finland (Private Donors)	8//,908	1,759,417 179,458	2,637, 179,
France	571,803	2,094,919	2,666,
France (Private Donors)		148,094	148,
Germany (Private Conces)	2,596,415	3,232,333	5,828,
Germany (Private Donors) Greece (Private Donors)	371,886	503,254 1,640	875,
iceland		74,405	
Indonesia (Private Donors)		225	
Ireland		1,216,304	1,216,
italy Italy (Private Donors)		2,289,556	2,289,
Japan	4,860,000	13,604,572 39,100,000	13,604,0 43,960,0
Japan (Private Donors)	94,022	1,579,075	1,673,0
Kuwait (Private Donors)		210,605	210,0
Liechtenstein Luxembourg		167,785	167,
Mexico (Private Donors)		1,528,579 2,923	1,528,5 2,9
Monaco		81,801	81,8
Netherlands	8,513,266	5,884,466	14,397,7
Netherlands (Private Donors) New Zealand		500,000	500,0
Norway	10,188,216	195,650 10,383,620	195,6 20,571,8
Philippines		48,587	48,
Poland		30,000	30,0
Portugal Saudi Arabia		300,000	300,0
Saudi Arabia Saudi Arabia (Private Donors)		50,000 600,000	50,0
Singapore		50,000	600,0 50,0
Spain		1,263,207	1,263,
Spain (Private Donors)		914,916	914,9
Sweden Sweden (Private Donors)	3,787,840	3,868,837	7,656,0
Switzerland	3,368	6,711,410	3,3 6,711,4
Switzerland (Private Donors)		1,065,723	1,065,7
Thalland		93,512	93,8
Thailand (Private Donors)		2,451	2,4
United Kingdom United Kingdom (Private Donors)		7,146,594	7,146,
USA	25,000,000	401,901 78,500,000	401,9 103,500,0
USA (Private Donors)		4,481,346	4,481,3
Subtotal Contributions	74,311,431	275,331,167	349,642,
Total	102,473,463	280,383,457	382,856,9
Heavily earmarked unspendable in 1999	and the second s	9,800,0001	9,800,
Amount obligated to date	400000		
Real liquidity at chart date	100,965,486 1,507,977	262,456,462 8,126,995	363,421,1 9,834,6
Additional projected obligations ***	9,616,908	24,599,267	34,216,1
The state of the s	110,582,394	287,055,729	397,638,1
I diai obligations	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		The second secon
Total obligations *** Differential obligations to CAP budget		(45,911,013)	(45;172,9

NB. Some Donors have allowed UNHCR flexibility to use contributions as required for either "post Dayton" or "Kosovo Emergency" operations and as a result sums may be moved between the two columns with the agreement of these donors.

* Kosovo Crisis includes programmes in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

** An additional amount of \$262,069 has been assigned from the Italian bilateral emergency fund from 1998

*** Kosovo Operation extended to 29.02.00 and FRY extended to 31.03.00





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