

# BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

## | Working environment |

### • The context

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) has a complex and cumbersome political structure. The country of approximately four million inhabitants has 13 constitutions, 14 legal systems, 13 prime ministers and some 140 different ministries. Ethno-national divisions continue to define the political situation in the country. Much effort is still required to resolve the protracted situation of displacement stemming from the conflict which ended nearly 15 years ago.

Durable solutions are needed for more than 115,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in BiH. The recently revised Strategy for the Implementation of the Dayton Peace Agreement, which offers a viable framework for finding durable solutions, has yet to be adopted by the Parliament. Cooperation among governments in the region needs to be reinvigorated and efforts redoubled to enable some 7,000 refugees from Croatia to find durable solutions. Ending the chapter of protracted displacement in BiH is critical for domestic and regional stability, and to move the country towards integration with the European Union.

Enhancing the implementation of the asylum system and strengthening international refugee protection are key UNHCR objectives in BiH. The adoption of new legislation on asylum and the movement and stay of foreigners are welcome improvements. The legislation on asylum is generally in line with international and regional standards, but shortcomings remain in its implementation.

The extent of statelessness in the country cannot be precisely determined, but it is prevalent among the Roma minority, who are often unable to enjoy effective citizenship.



## Planning figures

TYPE OF POPULATION	ORIGIN	JAN 2010		DEC 2010 - JAN 2011		DEC 2011	
		TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR
Refugees	Croatia	6,580	1,300	5,640	1,300	4,600	1,000
	Various	140	140	20	20	-	-
Asylum-seekers	Kosovo	370	370	270	270	180	180
	Various	40	40	30	30	60	60
Returnees (refugees)		700	200	500	150	400	100
Internally displaced		110,000	2,000	87,360	5,000	64,720	5,000
Returnees (IDPs)		5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>122,820</b>	<b>9,050</b>	<b>98,820</b>	<b>11,770</b>	<b>74,960</b>	<b>11,340</b>

## ● *The needs*

A substantial number of IDPs and returnees remain in a precarious situation, lacking adequate living conditions, and require continued support. Some 7,500 IDPs remaining in collective centres are extremely vulnerable. This group includes people who are physically or mentally challenged, the chronically ill, older people without an income or family support, and others who cannot return due to acute protection fears.

Indeed, return is no longer realistic for many of these people, who have been displaced for more than a decade. UNHCR will tailor its interventions to the specific situations of these people, and will aim to maintain the social networks and coping mechanisms that have developed among collective centre residents over many years.

UNHCR has worked to ensure that refugees have access to education, health care, employment and social welfare services under the same conditions as citizens. However, there is still a need to develop a systematic integration strategy, which would include permanent housing and other forms of

support for refugees. The local integration of refugees is seriously hampered by restrictive legal conditions for residence permits.

There are few livelihood choices for de facto stateless people, especially of Roma origin, who consistently face discrimination and suffer from the consequences of not having civil documents and registration. This hampers their access to health care, education, employment and other rights. Roma are particularly affected and unable to obtain employment. As a result, they need to be assisted through income-generating projects, including self-employment schemes.

## | *Main objectives* |

### Favourable protection environment

- Enhance the capacity of the national authorities to develop a functioning legal framework and asylum system, which are compatible with international and regional standards.
- Reduce statelessness by assisting concerned people (mostly Roma) to obtain civil documentation so that they may avail themselves of the rights of citizens.

## *Key targets for 2010*

- All refugees and asylum-seekers in the reception centres (230 people) receive food and other relief items; all women of reproductive age receive hygiene items; and 70 per cent of adults and adolescents participate in activities to prevent sexual and gender-based violence.
- All asylum-seekers are properly registered and possess legal documents.
- Some 550 refugees repatriate to Croatia and Kosovo (Serbia), helped by repatriation grants and free transport.
- More than 17,200 people of concern to UNHCR have access to free legal advice.
- Some 6,790 families benefit from income-generation or livelihood projects.
- Some 300 vulnerable IDPs in collective centres receive construction or reconstruction assistance, facilitating local integration or return.
- Some 130 female victims of domestic violence or trafficking receive social and economic assistance.
- Some 500 displaced Roma are issued with birth certificates and personal identity documents.



UNHCR is working with the Government and partners in BiH to find durable solutions for residents of collective centres.

## UNHCR's presence in 2010

□ Number of offices	2
□ Total staff	38
International	4
National	27
JPOs	2
UNVs	4
Others	1

## PARTNERS

### Implementing partners

#### Government agencies:

Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees  
Ministry of Security

#### NGOs:

Bosnia and Herzegovina Humanitarian Logistics Service  
Bosnia and Herzegovina Women's Initiative  
Foundation for Local Democracy  
Catholic Relief Services  
Hilfswerk Austria  
Vasa Prava BiH

### Operational partners

#### Government agencies:

Federation Ministry for Displaced Persons and Refugees  
Republika Srpska Ministry for Refugees and Displaced Persons

#### NGOs:

Mercy Corps  
World Vision

#### Others:

Council of Europe Development Bank  
European Commission  
World Bank  
UNDP  
UNICEF  
IOM  
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

### Security from violence and exploitation

- Provide victims of gender-based violence with shelter for their safety, and help them to attain economic self-sufficiency.

### Durable solutions

- Intensify collaboration with the national authorities to end the protracted displacement of more than 115,000 IDPs.
- Help the authorities find solutions for the remaining 7500 vulnerable IDPs who reside in deplorable conditions in collective centres, without prejudice to their right of return.
- Reinvigorate efforts to promote durable solutions for refugees from Croatia and improve their access to rights.

## Strategy

UNHCR's assistance will primarily target extremely vulnerable IDPs, while also focusing on the sustainability of returns. Special attention will be paid to displaced people still living in collective accommodation. As an urgent priority, the Office is advocating for solutions to be found in the place of displacement. These will include geriatric centres and assisted-living facilities, the renovation of existing structures, and the construction of social housing.

Asylum-seekers will be ensured access to due process through border and registration monitoring, as well as through a review of asylum procedures. Practical information and social and legal counselling will be made available for eligible refugees and asylum-seekers. The Office will continue field monitoring of the protection environment for refugees and asylum-seekers and intervene whenever necessary.

UNHCR will assist the Roma in obtaining personal registration, which will allow more members of this minority to attain full recognition before the law and subsequent access to all their rights. Implementation of the Roma Action Plan should also facilitate access to housing, employment and health care.

## Constraints

The complex administrative structures in BiH do not generate enough support for human rights and the protection of refugees and asylum-seekers.

The social welfare system in BiH remains underfunded and the needs greatly exceed the system's resources. The current economic crisis further impairs the Government's ability to allocate funds to meet the needs of vulnerable refugees and IDPs. Unemployment continues to be a chronic problem pervading the society, particularly affecting displaced people, women, minorities and other vulnerable groups.

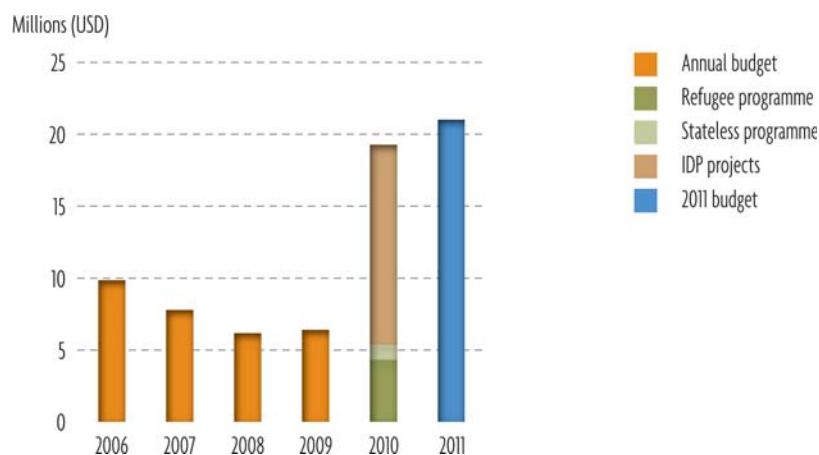
One of the primary difficulties facing the Roma is the widespread lack of civil registration and documentation, which impedes access to other rights, including health care and education. Moreover, documentation gaps increase the risk of exposure to various abuses, including human trafficking.

## Organization and implementation

### Coordination

UNHCR will work closely with the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Office is a member of the Board of Principals, chaired by the UN High Representative, and of the UN Country Team. UNHCR will also

## UNHCR's budget in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2006 - 2011



continue to work closely with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the European Commission, NGOs, donors, and multilateral and bilateral bodies.

for IDPs, 23 per cent for refugees and the remainder for stateless people. An important component of the budget relates to efforts to find durable solutions for vulnerable IDPs as well as to support self-reliance and livelihood opportunities.

## Financial information

Of the comprehensive budget for 2010 of USD 19.28 million, 72 per cent is allocated

### 2010 UNHCR Budget for Bosnia and Herzegovina (USD)

RIGHTS GROUPS AND OBJECTIVES	REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1	STATELESS PROGRAMME PILLAR 2	IDP PROJECTS PILLAR 4	TOTAL
<b>Favourable protection environment</b>				
International and regional instruments	16,379	20,449	0	36,827
National legal framework	55,003	52,007	106,141	213,151
National administrative framework	10,082	0	15,503	25,585
Policies towards forced displacement	0	0	86,282	86,282
National and regional migration policy	18,103	0	0	18,103
Prevention of displacement	0	0	108,408	108,408
Prevention of statelessness	0	48,134	0	48,134
Cooperation with partners	37,928	24,575	29,133	91,637
National development policies	14,399	0	19,925	34,324
Public attitudes towards persons of concern	25,452	45,883	21,230	92,565
Non-refoulement	22,082	0	0	22,082
Subtotal	199,427	191,048	386,622	777,097
<b>Fair protection processes and documentation</b>				
Reception conditions	270,995	0	0	270,995
Registration and profiling	33,070	0	51,965	85,036
Access to asylum procedures	91,648	0	0	91,648
Fair and efficient status determination	139,826	0	0	139,826
Family re-unification	4,948	0	0	4,948
Individual documentation	45,416	265,958	0	311,373
Civil status documentation	5,932	23,086	0	29,017
Subtotal	591,834	289,043	51,965	932,843
<b>Security from violence and exploitation</b>				
Gender-based violence	51,947	24,271	167,868	244,087
Access to legal remedies	52,878	40,841	228,880	322,599
Subtotal	104,825	65,112	396,748	566,686
<b>Basic needs and essential services</b>				
Nutrition	183,136	0	0	183,136
Shelter and other infrastructure	1,374,537	17,714	6,775,946	8,168,197
Basic domestic and hygiene items	110,975	0	227,632	338,606
Primary health care		18,206	56,945	75,150
HIV and AIDS	7,218	0	0	7,218
Education	141,759	0	0	141,759
Services for groups with specific needs	21,121	0	192,445	213,566
Subtotal	1,838,745	35,920	7,252,968	9,127,633

### Consequences of a 20-40 per cent funding shortfall

- Support for voluntary return for refugees from Croatia and Kosovo (Serbia) will not be given to some 240 people.
- Free legal aid will not be provided to 3,000 people of concern to UNHCR.
- Some 1,200 vulnerable IDP families will not benefit from income-generation or livelihood projects.
- Housing assistance will not be provided to 186 vulnerable IDPs (including residents of collective centres) and refugee families who integrate locally.
- Some 75 victims of gender-based-violence will not be provided with shelter and assistance to achieve economic self-reliance.
- Some 75 de facto stateless Roma will not be assisted to obtain civil registration.

RIGHTS GROUPS AND OBJECTIVES	REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1	STATELESS PROGRAMME PILLAR 2	IDP PROJECTS PILLAR 4	TOTAL
<b>Community participation and self-management</b>				
Participatory assessment and community mobilization	44,180	20,622	34,162	98,965
Community self-management and equal representation	44,047	0	0	44,047
Self-reliance and livelihoods	626,662	20,509	4,807,816	5,454,987
Subtotal	714,889	41,131	4,841,978	5,597,999
<b>Durable solutions</b>				
Durable solutions strategy	21,569	0	0	21,569
Voluntary return	373,839	0	196,497	570,336
Rehabilitation and reintegration support	14,685	0	99,381	114,066
Resettlement	21,315	0	0	21,315
Local integration support	43,705	60,929	92,347	196,981
Reduction of statelessness		62,329	0	62,329
Subtotal	475,113	123,258	388,225	986,596
<b>External relations</b>				
Donor relations	38,768	28,602	46,333	113,704
Resource mobilization	27,380	15,782	38,700	81,863
Partnership	22,507	0	42,781	65,288
Public information	38,983	51,881	98,858	189,722
Subtotal	127,638	96,266	226,672	450,576
<b>Logistics and operations support</b>				
Supply chain and logistics	55,093	44,389	42,974	142,456
Programme management, coordination and support	252,756	102,623	345,980	701,360
Subtotal	307,849	147,012	388,954	843,815
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,360,322</b>	<b>988,78</b>	<b>13,934,133</b>	<b>19,283,244</b>

<b>2011 budget</b>	<b>21,054,100</b>
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<b>2009 Revised annual budget</b>	<b>6,418,164</b>
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