

Albania,  
Bosnia and Herzegovina,  
Croatia,

Federal Republic of Yugoslavia,  
The former Yugoslav Republic  
of Macedonia.

## SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE REGIONAL OVERVIEW

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### Recent Developments

Although the Dayton Peace Agreement brought an end to a four-year conflict in the former Yugoslavia, raising hopes for continued peace and stability in the region as a whole, the conflict in Kosovo led to renewed large-scale displacement and suffering. Between March and June 1999, more than 850,000 ethnic Albanians fled Kosovo – mostly to Albania and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. During the three months following the signing of the Military Technical Agreement in June 1999, the majority of those displaced flooded back to war-damaged Kosovo.

Since 1991, the total number of people displaced from their homes in the region has reached more than three million. Although many refugees and displaced persons have returned home, others are still awaiting the opportunity to return in safety

and dignity. Concerned about their security, many IDPs and returnees are still obliged to live somewhere else than their former home. Hundreds of thousands of refugees, returnees and displaced persons still require the support of the international community.

A number of international initiatives aim at fostering peace and stability in the region. The Peace Implementation Council continues to seek the full implementation of the 1995 Dayton Peace Accord. In June 1999 the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe galvanised international support for the Dayton and Kosovo peace processes. The Pact will concentrate on three main areas: democratisation and human rights; economic reconstruction, development and cooperation; and security. Security remains a key issue for people of all ethnic groups and is pivotal in the context of return. Only com-

bined progress in each of these three areas will enable the international community, including humanitarian actors, to improve stability and economic prosperity in the region.

### Strategic Objectives

In the year 2000, UNHCR will aim, in partnership with governments, NGOs and other agencies, to facilitate returns and protect minority groups, while at the same time promoting durable solutions for those unwilling to return. UNHCR will seek to provide assistance to the most vulnerable – while encouraging a shift away from humanitarian relief towards more sustainable support as international institutions with mid- and long-term rehabilitation and development mandates assume their responsibilities. UNHCR will also seek to support national and local legislative procedures and services, particularly for the socially deprived. The Office will also continue to promote security and stability in the region.

### Operations

The UNHCR Special Envoy, based in Pristina, continues to head Kosovo-related operations, reporting to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). At UNHCR Headquarters, the Coordinator for South-Eastern Europe and his team will provide support to the Office of the Special Envoy in Kosovo, while at the same time coordinating post-Dayton operations.

In addition, the South-Eastern Europe Operation is funding three posts specifically related to the Balkans crisis: two Senior Liaison Officers (in Austria and Germany) and one Senior Repatriation Clerk (in Italy).

UNHCR's country programmes in **Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia** are described in separate chapters hereafter.

SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE	
BUDGET (USD)	
Country	Annual Programme
Albania	12,046,446
Bosnia and Herzegovina	43,852,300
Croatia	16,880,347
Macedonia (The former Yug. Rep. of)	15,100,891
Yugoslavia (Federal Rep. of)*	121,871,408
Other Countries**	692,684
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>210,444,076</b>
Coordinator 's Office at Headquarters	2,589,300
<b>Total</b>	<b>213,033,376</b>

\* Includes costs related to the Office of the Special Envoy of USD 1,615,300.  
\*\*Includes costs related to the South-Eastern Europe Operation in Austria, Germany, Italy and voluntary repatriation activities in the region.



## The Post-Dayton Situation

In 1991, the United Nations Secretary-General requested UNHCR to provide humanitarian assistance to displaced persons and other victims of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. Since then, UNHCR has responded to new displacement in the region, expanding its operations from an initial presence in Belgrade to a substantial network of offices in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Albania. With the signature of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Dayton Peace Agreement) in late 1995, UNHCR was entrusted with working towards the sustainable return of refugees and displaced persons, particularly minority groups, within the framework of Annex VII of the Peace Agreement.

The violent dissolution of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia resulted in population movements on a scale unprecedented in Europe since the second world war. Before the Kosovo crisis led to large scale refugee and IDP movements in March 1999, there were some 1,500,000 persons still in need of durable solutions. For the majority of the remaining refugees and displaced persons, return home would mean living in areas where they would be in the minority. The countries most affected by the pre-Dayton displacements are Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Croatia. Two of the major causes of conflict in the region have been inter-ethnic tensions and violations

of minority rights. UNHCR's objectives for the year 2000 will therefore continue to give priority to the promotion of voluntary return to and from Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as Croatia, while also supporting long-term reintegration. At the same time, efforts will continue to remove obstacles hindering the voluntary return of refugees and IDPs to and within Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In 2000, UNHCR will continue to work closely with Governments and other partners, within the framework of the Peace Implementation Council and the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe to find durable solutions for the refugees and IDPs, and to promote peace and security in the region. More than four years after the signature of the Dayton Agreement, the number of refugees and displaced persons in the region remains high, particularly in Bosnia and Herzegovina, where UNHCR continues to work on removing obstacles to the voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons. UNHCR will make every effort to ascertain the aspirations of those who became refugees and displaced persons before the 1995 Dayton Peace Accord. Although return will still be vigorously advocated as the best durable solution to their plight, UNHCR will also be promoting solutions predicated on the right to settle locally.

In the year 2000, UNHCR will require **USD 102,620,945** for its Post-Dayton Programmes.

## The Kosovo Situation

Between 1998 and 1999 international attention was riveted on Kosovo. In March 1999 the simmering conflict exploded into an international crisis when more than one million people became uprooted from their homes. Nearly 850,000 fled to other areas of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia or to neighbouring countries, mainly Albania and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Over 130,000 sought asylum in countries further afield and more than 80,000 were evacuated to third countries under the Humanitarian Evacuation

Programme (HEP) organised by UNHCR and IOM.

Following the signing of a peace settlement between NATO and the Yugoslav authorities in June 1999, the KFOR Security Force was deployed. Almost immediately, refugees began flooding back to Kosovo spontaneously. UNHCR and its partners rose to the challenge, quickly transforming their programmes from a major international refugee relief operation into an equally ambitious relief effort aimed at assist-

ing the repatriation and reintegration of hundreds of thousands before the onset of winter.

UNHCR's goals in 2000 are twofold: firstly, to contribute to the international effort to sustain a multi-ethnic civil society in Kosovo within the framework of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe; and secondly, to protect and assist refugees, returnees and other vulnerable persons in Kosovo, the rest of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Albania.

To support multi-ethnicity, UNHCR's projects and activities will promote awareness of and respect for the rights of minorities, including their rights to return to or remain in Kosovo. This will include the creation of a legal aid information network that will provide refugees, returnees,

and other vulnerable groups with essential information and advice on their rights and the assistance and services available to them.

Basic humanitarian relief will continue to be provided to refugees, returnees and other persons of concern to UNHCR within Kosovo and elsewhere in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, as well as in the region, especially during the difficult winter months. At the same time, major rehabilitation programmes in Albania and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia will repair the physical and environmental damage caused during the massive outflow and return movements.

UNHCR estimates that **USD 107,977,131** will be needed to achieve these goals.

