
A mobile response for children and mothers before the winter

The current situation

- 819,218 people are reported to have arrived to Europe by sea, including 673,916 to Greece.
- In Macedonia as of 3 November, 25% of the refugees arriving were children, of which 5% were unaccompanied.
- Of the arrivals registered in Macedonia between 19 June and 3 November, 64% were from Syria, 20% from Afghanistan, 8% from Iraq, and 2% from Pakistan.
- An average of 5000 people per day a moving along the Balkan route.

Our collaboration

La Strada Open Gate – Macedonia and Terre des hommes Foundation Lausanne partner on an emergency aid relief and protection to vulnerable refugee children and families.

La Strada Open Gate and Terre des hommes Foundation Lausanne are collaborating on an emergency aid relief and protection to vulnerable refugee children and families in Macedonia since October 2015. The second phase of the project which started mid-November will be implemented until the end of December. Similar initiatives are also taking place in Serbia in collaboration with the Novi Sad Humanitarian Centre (NSHC: Novosadski humanitarni centar). The aim of our project is to deliver emergency assistance, to disseminate information and guidance and to establish temporary protective spaces for refugee children and their families, particularly those staying in non-camp settlements and in transit areas along the migration corridors. The project is implemented in Tabanovce at the exit point of Macedonia where more than 5000 refugees are transiting every day with limited access to services covering their basic needs.

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Source: UNHCR, 11 November 2015

Who’s Doing What Where?
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
15 October 2015

1. Direct assistance:
- In Macedonia, refugee children and mothers receive non food items assistance to cover basic needs especially in winter conditions.
- 2000 winterization kits are distributed to refugee children and members of their families.
- 1400 hygiene and dignity kits and non-food items benefit to refugees, particularly mothers and girl children and are delivered through the mobile unit. Responses to the needs identified will be adapted regularly and according to cultural sensitivities and appropriateness.

2. Safe space:
- Children and mothers benefit from age appropriate, gender and culturally-sensitive support activities, and emergency counseling when needed in the 24H/7 safe space.
- On site, flexible mobile safe spaces offer opportunities to enjoy a child-friendly environment for young children and mothers where babies can be changed and children enjoy some playful moments before continuing their journey.
- In the safe space, health and hygiene promotion activities support mothers and children with special focus on vulnerable groups as pregnant women, teenagers and children below 5. “Psychological First Aid” may be provided, and in case of serious health and child protection concerns, referrals to statutory service providers.

3. Access to information:
- Children and families access information and communication means to be regularly updated on their rights, migration risks and maintain social connections with their country of origin and family members.
- Dissemination of information on refugees’ rights, procedures and basic services in multi-lingual formats, through posters and potentially leaflets. Limited mobile communication services (WIFI) established on sites for the refugees in transit in case of needs.

Our project on 3 main axes