

## Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

Bi-weekly Situation Report No. 13/00  
Covering the period 29 May to 11 June 2000

### 1) GENERAL

- 1.1. Bus strike:** On 29 May, private bus owners in Belgrade embarked on a strike over the low fare which the government had refused to raise. Public transportation in the city came to a virtual halt. The strike was made moot after the public transportation service had been taken over by the Serbian government from the opposition SPO party which controls the city government.
- 1.2. Repatriation PI campaign:** A major UNHCR media breakthrough was achieved in the week 3–9 June. Presented as a joint exercise with the FRY Ministry for Refugees, Displaced Persons and Humanitarian Aid and the Commissioner for Refugees of the Republic of Serbia office and UNHCR FRY/OCMC, the campaign on repatriation to Croatia attracted great attention in the media. For the first time UNHCR jointly chaired the press briefing jointly with the Federal government and received media coverage at such a level. A team of UNHCR FRY/OCMC appeared on many local and the national TV and radio programmes. Media targets were stations in the areas with potential returnees to Croatia—the Belgrade area, central Serbia and Vojvodina. Talk shows were combined with live Q&A, advertised in advance to give the audience/refugees time for their questions. The media particularly appreciated the participation of the returnee to Croatia, Mr. B. Desic, who talked about his experience in the return process and gave valuable first hand information.

### 1) SECURITY

- 2.1. Murder in Montenegro:** Goran Zugic, national security adviser to Montenegrin President Milo Djukanovic, was shot dead outside his home in Podgorica on 31 May around 23:00 hours with two bullets in the head. On 6 June FRY Minister of Information, Mr. Goran Matic, accused at the press conference the CIA of organising this murder. The killing follows a pattern of many unsolved assassinations of public figures in Belgrade in recent years.
- 2.2. SFSA** travelled on 31 May to 1 June on mission to Southern Serbian municipalities of Bujanovac and Presevo to assess the security situation. There were no reports of security incidents after 27 May in the Ground Safety Zone. On 7–9 June the SFSA travelled on mission to Montenegro and Sandzak area.
- 2.3. FO Belgrade** regular visits to the areas of special attention with regard to preparedness plans (Sandzak region in FO Belgrade AOR) do not give reasons for any particular concerns for the time being.

## 2) STATISTICS AND REGISTRATION

- 3.1. Registration of refugees:** Protection unit has started the planning for the registration of refugees, to be carried out in September.
- 3.2. Registration of IDPs:** FO Belgrade random check of about 100 out of 6,000 IDPs who registered both in Montenegro and in Serbia showed that many are actually based in Serbia, primarily due to lower living costs. All of them are either Montenegrins or of Montenegro origin, all come from Pec, Istok, Klina and Decani area in Kosovo and most of them have spent some time in Montenegro after fleeing Kosovo.  
Continued interest of IDPs for registration in Novi Pazar, 220 in total (including reported 57 new arrivals) and Tutin, 46.

*See breakdown list annexed, Table 1.*

## 3) DURABLE SOLUTIONS

- 4.1. IDP issues:** Assistant Protection Officer from FO Kraljevo visited Kosovo on 7-8 June, visiting the village of Slivovo, which is under discussion in the Joint Committee on Returns as a potential return area for IDPs in Serbia. FO Kraljevo continued to look into "IDP return" issues as reflected in "update #2" of 5 June.

FO Belgrade pays special attention to the issues related to numerous initiatives/projects with regard to return to Kosovo. For the time being there is a great deal of confusion among IDPs receiving rather contradictory information concerning possibilities of return and the current situation in Kosovo. Information gathered by FO Belgrade is included in the Kosovo Return Update #2 recently prepared by BO Belgrade.

- 4.2. Roma IDPs:** The Joint Platform for Action regarding Kosovar Roma was distributed to FOs in Serbia, with a view to start discussions with local Roma associations.

**In Kraljevo area,** some health problems of Roma IDPs in Salvatore and Kursumlja sites were addressed to HORIZONT and IRC. Roma children in Kursumlja camp do not attend the school. This issue will be followed by HORIZONT.

### 4.3. Resettlement

- 4.3.1. Icelandic delegation visit:** A team of Officials from the Icelandic Red Cross and the Icelandic Refugee Committee was in Belgrade from 2 to 5 June to make departure arrangements to Iceland for 23 refugees accepted for resettlement in April.

**4.3.2. Finnish delegation visit:** A Finnish Delegation arrived in Belgrade from Helsinki on 9 June to conduct Resettlement interviews for 44 cases/135 persons .

*See resettlement statistics annexed – Table 2.*

#### **4.4. Repatriation**

**4.4.1. PI campaign:** With full support of the FRY authorities UNHCR Belgrade launched PI campaign on 5 June to promote return procedure to Croatia.

**4.4.2. Leaflet on return to Croatia:** Upon receiving the green light from the Croatian authorities, UNHCR Belgrade will distribute Leaflet no. 1 on return to Croatia. Apart from the general information on the procedure, the leaflet contains one major change:

'Property Damaged No Host' and 'Property Occupied No Host' responses from ODPH are cancelled and the authorities are committing themselves to provide interim accommodation to returnees if their property is occupied or damaged. In practice, this means that all refugees wishing to return and accept temporary accommodation can return soon. The leaflet was also accepted by the FRY Federal Ministry for Refugees.

**4.4.3. HCIT:** Humanitarian Centre for Integration and Tolerance (HCIT) organised in Vojvodina a panel discussion on 28 May regarding the prospects for return to Croatia following the political changes in Croatia. The guest speaker was Mr. M. Pupovac, President of the Serb National Council from Zagreb. Present were about 100 refugees from Croatia.

**4.4.4. Go-and-See visits:** Local trustees from Majdanpek, Cukarica, Lajkovac and Vozdovac have applied for escorting go and see visits to Croatia, within the recent agreement reached between UNHCR and SCR.

*For repatriation statistics see Annex – Table 3.*

#### **4) PROGRAMME/OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

**5.1. Joint WFP/UNHCR Food Aid Needs Assessment for FRY** began on 5 June as scheduled. The assessment mission is composed of 4 members : 2 WFP, 1 UNHCR and 1 ICRC. The exercise is expected to be completed on 26 June 2000.

**5.2. Community Services Unit:** CSU met with IFRC to co-ordinate the community services activities in FRY. It has been agreed to closely co-ordinate the psycho-social activities implemented through the local Yugoslav Red Cross branches to avoid overlapping and duplication of activities. It was also agreed that ECHO/IFRC/UNHCR will meet to discuss further co-operation of all activities and to establish a unified reporting system of programmes implemented in the field.

CSO visited Kursumlija with the IRC medical team, CSA from FO Kraljevo, ICS and the new psycho-social team for the region to follow up on the reports on urgent needs for medical and social interventions. Kursumlija as a high concentration of Roma IDPs and the joint team tried to resolve some of the most urgent needs.

Local NGO Amity has officially become JEN IP for the implementation of Psycho-Social Support Program (PSSP) in 55 municipalities (FO Belgrade AOR). The contract was signed on 7.6.00.

- 5.3. LSPs: Vojvodina:** Ruma – The official opening of the construction site Tivol (12 housing units, full construction) took place on 2 June.  
Zitiste – The Agreement for the establishment of the refugee settlement through self-help construction in the villages of Cestereg and Banatsko Arandjelovo (22 housing units) has been signed on 7 June.  
Due to increased number of difficulties in the implementation of LSP in some municipalities, FO decided to strengthen its presence in the field by visiting each problematic construction site once every week.

**Kraljevo:** Bujanovac - 20 units – Construction completed. Some adjustments are to be made by the subcontractor. The Sub-Committee will visit beneficiary families next week.

Rekovac - 10 units – Construction completed. The Sub-Committee visited beneficiary families, which applied for the housing units next week.

Lack of funds in Municipalities budgets does not allow them to participate actively in the LSPs in the FOK AOR. Many proposals were put on hold until better times. These issues should be further discussed in attempt to identify a solution for such projects in the AOR.

Plans are to be made concerning proper assessment of LSPs in the AOR, their effectiveness and beneficiaries.

- 5.4. Logistics:** The Novi Sad Humanitarian Centre (NSHC) received 80 mattresses and 50 sleeping bags which were immediately distributed to the Roma IDP families.
- 5.5. Health:** Alleged TB outbreak in unofficial CC Komgrap, Mladenovac, where 130 Roma IDPs are accommodated has luckily proven to be a false alarm. Medical services, both local and our IP, have been fast and efficient in assessing the actual situation, co-ordinating their activities and providing assistance. They have also unanimously stressed that living conditions at the CC are deplorable. FO is looking into the ways to address the issue with SCR.
- 5.6. Shelter:** The owner of CC “Mitrovac na Tari” completed the repair works with the material provided through UNHCR-SDR.

- 5.7. Financial Monitoring:** FO confirmed SCR payments to CCs, in Bajina Basta, Novi Pazar, Uzice, Nova Varos, Smederevo, Ljubovija. The payment list covers the period December, 1999 and January, 2000, but according to the owners they have received payments February, March and smaller number for April.

SCR Financial Report cross check so far showed that the payments are received as reported, all official CCs are covered and the refugee figures in both CC and SI are accurate. Issue to note: taxes are levied to these payments (9-13%) thus the amount of money actually received by CCs is reduced.

Detailed report on random financial monitoring will be finalised by mid-June.

*For breakdown of logistics activities see Annex – Table 4.*

**5) MEDIA**

- 6.1. Field Coordination meeting** was held in Nis on 5 June. UNHCR will continue to serve as a general NGO coordinator in the Kraljevo area.

**6) ADMINISTRATION AND STAFFING**

- 7.1. New UN rate:** Following the new "stimulation" exchange rate for foreign currencies introduced by the National Bank of FRY for Yugoslav Dinar, new UN rate was promulgated (four times higher), which will benefit the office in budget savings for all payments made in local currency.

**Attachments: Montenegro Sitrep and Annex with breakdowns**