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## Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: Population movement

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>DREF Operation</b>	<b>Operation n° MDRMK005</b> <b>Glide n° OT-2015-000069-MKD</b>
<b>Date of issue: 22 June 2015</b>	<b>Date of emergency: from January 2015 on-going</b>
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<b>Operation start date: 19 June 2015</b>	<b>Expected timeframe:</b> <b>4 months (19 June 2015 – 19 October 2015)</b>
<b>Overall operation budget: CHF 193,218</b>	
<b>Number of people affected: 10,000</b>	<b>Number of people to be assisted: 4,600</b>
<b>Host National Society presence:</b> <b>20 staff and 120 volunteers from 6 branches of the Red Cross Society of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia along with the staff of Headquarters and the City Branch of Skopje</b>	
<b>Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation:</b> <b>Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, UNHCR, MSF, ICRC</b>	

## A. Situation analysis

### Description of the disaster

Since September 2014, the number of migrants that are transiting through the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) has been constantly increasing. According to various sources, hundreds of migrants are transiting now through Macedonia day by day. The migrants usually come from Greece, and they walk along the railway line Gevgelija Veles in the direction of Kumanovo and the neighbouring villages where they cross the Serbian border on their way to the countries of the European Union. They would usually cross the border on foot, or they might use public transport or bicycles, or they would illegally board some closed train wagons and continue their journey towards the northern border of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on their way to Serbia. As a result of recent intensified controls on the trains by the police, most migrants choose to make the trip on foot across the territory of the Republic of Macedonia. They walk along the highway M5 or along the railway in the direction Gevgelija – Demir Kapija - Veles- Skopje - Kumanovo, and on the road they frequently get confronted with criminal groups.



Red Cross mobile team providing first aid and distributing bottled water on the highway M5. Photo: Red Cross Society of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

According to the information received from the local Red Cross branches, the migrants usually stay in the villages along the border, where they rent private houses from the local population. There is an increasing number of infants and children below the age of 10 as well as pregnant women and persons with chronic diseases that are transiting through Macedonia. The most frequented places in the last two months where the migrants stay for a longer period of time, three to four days, are the villages around the southern city of Valandovo, the places around Demir Kapija and Veles and the villages around Kumanovo. People need about 10 days to walk through the whole territory of the Republic of Macedonia on foot.



Red Cross mobile team providing first aid and distributing bottled water on the highway M5. Photo: Red Cross Society of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

According to official local statistics, over 2,300 migrants transited through the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in the period between January 2015 and May 2015, and about 600 persons are sheltered in the reception centre, located in the capital city of Skopje and managed by the Ministry of Interior, where they stay from one to six months. If these persons request asylum, then they are relocated to the centre for asylum seekers which is managed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy.

In the year 2014, 1,233 persons submitted an application for asylum in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In comparison, already by the end the first half of 2015, the same number was 850, i.e. by 27 per cent higher. However, the main increase is in the number of migrants just transiting through the country without travel documents. Compared to 2014, the number of persons that have transited through the Republic of Macedonia in 2015 is estimated to be three times higher than it was last year. There are now estimates by authorities that 2,000 to 3,000 persons are trying to enter Macedonia via Greece on a monthly basis.

As most of the people who are transiting through the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia with a view to seek a better life and protection in other European countries are crossing the Serbian border from the FYROM using the "Western Balkan Migratory Route", the number of persons received at the Serbian/Macedonian border is also indicative for the number of migrants transiting through FYROM. Based on this information the Serbian authorities registered 9,000 migrants trying to enter Serbia from the FYROM in the last six weeks.

At the moment the FYROM is in the process of amending the Law on Foreigners, and that is expected to have a positive effect on the overall transit of migrants. The new amendments would not treat the migrants as illegal persons and they would enable them to obtain temporary travel documents at the border crossings to move freely around the country in a period of 72 hours. They would be entitled to use public transport free of charge. The transit time to exit the FYROM would be three days unless they submit an application request for asylum.

**Under the mentioned circumstances, the competent authorities of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) have inquired very recently whether the Red Cross Society of the FYROM could step up their much appreciated efforts so as to handle the issue jointly with the Government in a humanitarian spirit in compliance with the relevant international standards and principles. The available resources of the National Society are already extremely stretched. Therefore some international assistance would be most welcome, and the National Society would like to receive financial support for this operation from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). Should the numbers of migrants remain high or increase further in the coming months, the National Society will consider a longer term programme or the launch of an emergency appeal.**

**Table 1. Number of migrants registered through the primary health care station of the Red Cross in the reception centre during the period January – May 2015**

Period	Number of persons	Number of interventions
January – May 2015	759	2,277

## Summary of the current response

### Overview of Host National Society

One of the regular activities of the Red Cross Society of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is the support to refugees and asylum seekers, for reducing their vulnerability and enabling them to integrate into the society. Despite the fact that the Red Cross is regularly following the situation in the field with new activities for this vulnerable group, still there are a significant number of migrants that need additional assistance, having in mind the difficult route that they use to reach their destinations. This specially applies to babies and children that live in subnormal conditions which represents a risk to their health, growth and development.

In its regular activities and programs the Red Cross implements activities in the area of ensuring primary health care support in the reception centre for seven days a week, such as referrals to secondary and tertiary medical institutions, distribution of medicaments, food, clothes, provision of non-food items and material products, as well as the distribution of information materials about the available services. Having in mind that 27 persons have lost their lives on the railroad tracks in the last six months, the Red Cross developed 20 information boards with warning about the potential dangers on the railroad in cooperation with UNHCR and ICRC. The information material was translated into eight languages, and the boards were placed along the railroad on which the migrants walk on foot. In June 2015 the Red Cross Society of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia established a mobile team with one driver, one paramedic and one doctor in cooperation with the UNHCR office in Skopje to work on the highway M5 in (Skopje/Veles/Demir Kapija). The mobile team administers first aid to persons that transit towards Serbia. In the last 15 days the mobile team was doing 70 to 120 interventions per day.

The Red Cross Society of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is implementing its migration-related activities in coordination and cooperation with UNHCR and the Ministry of Interior of the FYROM.

Target Group	Health Protection	Social Welfare Division	Tracing Department
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Irregular migrants sheltered in the reception centre</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primary health protection</li> <li>Referral to other medical institutions</li> <li>Monitoring of health services provided on secondary and tertiary level</li> <li>Distribution of medicaments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision of food parcels, hygiene parcels and other non-food items</li> <li>Provision of clothes, shoes and toys</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communication with the families after received information from UNHCR or ICRC Belgrade</li> <li>Establishment of contacts via Red Cross owned cell phones</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Migrants that transit through the FYRS</li> <li>Locations: Gevgelija, Valandovo, Negotino, Veles, Skopje, Kumanovo</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mobile teams that provide first aid (each team is comprised of a driver, a paramedic and a doctor)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision of water and food</li> <li>Distribution of information brochures</li> </ul>	

### **Movement Coordination**

During this period the Red Cross of the FYROM is regularly sharing information with the Secretariat of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Europe Zone Office, in Budapest and the Office of ICRC in Belgrade.

### **Overview of non-RCRC actors in country**

#### ***Ministry of Interior***

- The border police is responsible for ensuring the safety of the borders and for registration of migrants that cross the border legally. The border police is also responsible for the monitoring of the roads, the prevention of human trafficking (smuggling of migrants) and the prevention of illegal entry and transiting.
- Reception Centre – The Ministry of Interior manages the Reception Centre which shelters the irregular migrants.
- Department for Asylum – Migrants may file applications for asylum in the Department for Asylum (through the local police stations or NGO's), which processes the overall procedure.

#### ***Ministry of Labour and Social Policy***

- The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy manages the Centre for Asylum Seekers and implements the National Plan of Action for the integration of refugees.

#### ***UNHCR Office in Skopje***

- The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Skopje Office, implements activities for health care and material support for vulnerability reduction of the persons sheltered in the Reception Centre in cooperation with the Red Cross of the FYRS.

#### ***NGO Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)***

- The NGO is now in the process of registration in the FYROM.

## Needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment and scenario planning

Although the Red Cross of the FYROM is implementing significant activities for harm reduction of migrants, the high number of migrants that are sheltered in the reception centre requires more efforts, particularly when it comes to babies, small children, unaccompanied minors and pregnant women. Children would be less stressed if they had some kind of animation, or toys. Many babies need supplementary food as a result of malnutrition or anemia of the nursing mothers in the centres. Besides supplementary food for babies, there is a need for supplementary food for mothers and pregnant women.

Many of the adults need medical care. Primary medical care is provided through the health care unit of the Red Cross which is located in the reception centre, but the number of migrants that requires such an assistance is constantly growing which means that some additional health care provider (a nurse) is needed. Constantly there is a need for a wide range of medicaments, having in mind that many of the migrants that come to the centre are wounded or injured, or have chronic illnesses which require continuous therapies. The Red Cross doctor provides to them primary health care in the reception centre seven days a week.



Red Cross mobile team providing first aid to irregular migrants on the highway near the city Veles. Photo: Red Cross Society of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

The high number of sheltered persons in the reception centre requires the procurement of additional hygiene materials and means for disinfection in order to prevent infectious and communicable diseases.

Most of the local residents are not very welcoming towards the migrants. In order to prevent hostilities and possible conflicts, there is a need for raising public awareness on the need to support this target group, particularly among the population living in the bordering villages and cities.

Special attention has to be paid to migrants that are transiting through Macedonia, which takes them quite a long time, up to two weeks. They go on foot or travel by bicycle, and usually stay in old and deserted houses, or spend the nights out in the open air, without any assistance and support. They are hungry, injured or require medical assistance, food, water, clothes and shoes. Babies and small children are most vulnerable, and they usually need

food and are exhausted. Pregnant women usually fall under the same category because they do not have access to medical institutions while transiting through the country.

### Selection of beneficiaries

The main activities implemented within this operation will be for persons that are sheltered in the reception centre, with emphasis on pregnant women and new-born babies, self-supporting mothers, and persons with acute and serious health conditions.

The second target group will be persons that are transiting through the FYROM, particularly pregnant women and new born babies, self-supporting mothers, and persons with acute and chronic illnesses.

### Risk assessment

The Red Cross of the FYROM, in cooperation with its local partners and the corporate sector, has responded to the needs with the deployment of volunteers and members of the emergency response unit, and provided assistance and support to the migrants using all available resources (food and hygiene materials) and requested the local industrial and commercial companies to donate food, water and medicaments.

After the conducted assessment, the main identified challenges are as follows.

1. The staff and volunteers have significant communication problem with the migrants (only a few of the staff and volunteers speak English or French) When needed, the mobile teams use the support of a Syrian volunteer who provides translation support.
2. The area for operation is very difficult and inaccessible, and additional activities are required for the successful implementation of the foreseen activities.
3. Long-term efforts are needed for the successful implementation of these activities ,and good communication channels are required with other stakeholders working in the field in order to avoid a duplication of efforts.
4. Stress on volunteers and staff represents an additional risk. There is a significant pressure and stress on the Red Cross staff and volunteers because they work with a large number of beneficiaries. Efforts will be made to involve more staff and volunteers if the situation so requires.

## B. Operational strategy and plan

### Overall objective

The emergency/basic needs of 4,600 migrants are covered to reduce their vulnerability including two main groups:

- 600 migrants who are sheltered in the reception centre for foreigners are provided with medicaments, food and non-food items. The psycho-social support and the assistance to restore family links are expected to significantly improve the well-being of the migrants in the reception centre.
- Some 4,000 migrants that are transiting through the country on foot or on bicycles who require food, water, medical assistance, clothes and shoes. These items are expected to reduce the suffering of these persons who stay up to 10 days in the open air along the highways or in the wilderness.

### Proposed strategy

1. Provision of complementary food portions to the extremely vulnerable migrants (in average 600 persons) that are sheltered in the reception centre. The parcels with the additional food will be distributed through the Red Cross.
  - Distribution of family food parcels and some baby parcels.
2. Health protection, hygiene parcels and clothing for 600 persons sheltered in the reception centre, according to the size of families, which will be distributed through the Red Cross:
  - Hygiene parcels distributed to families immediately upon arrival in the centre;
  - Distribution of brochures with information on health prevention;
  - Organizing educational workshops on prevention of infective diseases;
  - Basic psycho-social assistance to all persons that require support, particularly to children;
  - Organizing entertainment and creative workshops for children.
3. Provision of water, food, blankets, clothes, first aid kits for self-aid in case of injuries for up to 4,000 persons that transit through the FYROM (on the route Gevgelija /Veles / Skopje /Kumanovo), distributed through the mobile teams and volunteers from the local RC offices with placement of support-points where people usually stop or stay during their travel through the country.
4. Provision of medical materials, equipment and medicaments for the mobile teams for providing first aid for people transiting through FYROM. The first aid kits will be used by the two mobile teams (each one comprised of a doctor, a paramedic and a driver), in the territory of Veles, Gevgelija, Demir Kapija, Kumanovo and Skopje. The teams will work in two shifts from 7 AM to 6 PM, i.e. the time with the heaviest traffic of people transiting towards the Serbian border.
5. Tracing Service / Restoring family Links

Migrants will be able to establish contacts with their families through the Red Cross. 10 trained persons for restoring family links from the local Red Cross branches will be involved in this activity. The required materials for the work of these persons are provided by ICRC.

**Table 2. Contents of a food parcel**

Item	Quantity
Water 0.5 litre	2
Biscuits 400 gr.	1
Canned fish	2
Tea cookies	1
Juice 0.25 litre	2
Tea	1 pack x 20 bags
Plastic cups for single use	10 pieces
Crackers	1
Dried grapes 100 gr	2
Sugar	20 bags
Wet wipes	1 pack x 10 wipes

**Table 3. Contents of a hygiene parcel for women**

Item	Quantity
Toilet paper	2 rolls
Toothbrush	1
Soap	1
Sanitary pad	2
Antiseptic wipes	1
Sewing set (thread, needle)	1
Toothpaste / small tube	1

**Table 4. Contents of a hygiene parcel for men**

Item	Quantity
Toilet paper	2 rolls
Soap	1
Shaving foam	1
Toothpaste /small	1
Toothbrush	1
Razors	5 pcs

**Table 5. Contents of a family hygiene parcel**

Item	Quantity
Toilet paper	2 rolls
Soap	2
Antiseptic wipes	2 packs
Shampoo 500 ml	1
Toothpaste /large tube	1
Toothbrush	4
Washing powder 3 kg	1
Towel	2

**Table 6. Contents of a baby parcel**

Item	Quantity
Diapers	2 packs
Baby shampoo	1
Baby cream	1
Baby bottle	1
Wet wipes	1
Food	2
Juice	2

**Table 7. Contents of the medical set to be used by the mobile teams**

Item	Quantity
Disinfectant 50 ml	3
Protective face masks	10
Disposable gloves	20
Alcohol 1 l.	3
Betadine (iodine) solution 150 ml	5
Hydrogen solution 3 % 1 l.	5
Bandage 10 cm	20
Bandage 8 cm	20
Elastic bandage	10
Gauze7.5	30
Cotton 100 gr	10
Triangular bandage	10
Analgesic gel	2
Analgesic cream	2
Spray against bleeding	2
Pain killer spray	2
Cream against insect bites	2
Cream for burns	2
Cooling spray	2
Tape 2.5 h 5m	2
Adhesive tape	10
Vitamin C	10 packs
Antipyretic	10 packs

**Table 8. Contents of the medical set with medical equipment**

Item	Quantity
Blood pressure measuring device	1
Thermometer	2
Scissors	2
Flashlight	1

**Table 9. Contents of the medical set for migrants for self-assistance**

Item	Quantity
Sterile gauze 7.5 gr	3
Bandage 10 cm	5
Adhesive tape	1/10
Antiseptic gel 50 ml	1

## **Operational support services**

### **Human resources**

Six Red Cross branches will be involved in the activities with a total of 20 staff and 120 volunteers, who will implement the activities. The DREF operation is going to cover per diems and insurance for those volunteers who will be exclusively engaged in the implementation of the DREF operation during the four-month period. The operation will also cover the employment of two new staff members who will work on the DREF implementation, one at Headquarters and one in the City Branch responsible for the DREF implementation.

### **Logistics and supply chain**

The procurement of the required products within this operation for making the parcels will be done in compliance with the procedure for procurements of the Red Cross of the FYROM. The stock will be placed in Red Cross warehouses in four locations. There are four employees in these warehouses, and they will be supported by ten volunteers who will be making the parcels. The distribution of the parcels will be done with Red Cross vehicles by the mobile teams and the local RC volunteers.

### **Information technologies (IT) and communications**

The expenses for communication (telephone and internet) will be included in the final budget.

The visibility of the Macedonian Red Cross will be ensured with proper media coverage on both national and local media and press conferences on different milestones. The transparency will be ensured by regular published information to the traditional and social media about the current activities and the progress of the operation, including the amount of donations and aid received and distributed.

All relevant information and photos will be shared with the public and relevant partners through the Red Cross e-newsletter, the Red Cross web site and the national and local printed and electronic media.

A flier will be developed and printed in 4,000 copies in three languages (English, French and Arabic) with information regarding the legal procedure for requesting asylum in the FYROM and about the available social and medical services.

### **Security**

In every step of the operation, the Headquarters of the Red Cross of the FYROM will closely work with the authorities of the FYROM in order to obtain timely information and proper risk assessment of the field activities. The health and well-being of the staff and volunteers involved in the operation are per se a highest priority. Additionally, the team members are properly trained in first aid and possess proper equipment to intervene until the arrival of the ambulance.

### **Planning, monitoring, evaluation & reporting (PMER), administration and finances**

Monitoring will be conducted by FYROM Red Cross staff, and each conducted activity will be evaluated and recorded in the form of written reports. Six monitoring visits are planned by the National Society during the implementation of the activities. A monitoring mission will take place from IFRC EZO to support the National Society.

Narrative and financial reports will be produced according to the IFRC's requirements.

The administrative and financial procedures will be implemented by the responsible Red Cross staff in compliance with the Red Cross of FYROM procedures and the relevant international standards.

## Contact information

**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**

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# DREF OPERATION

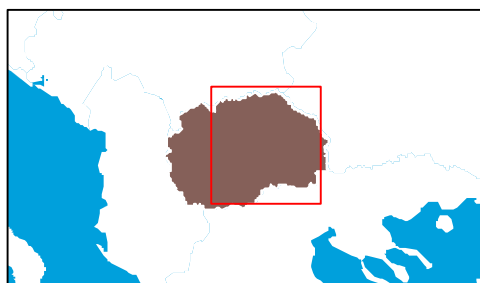
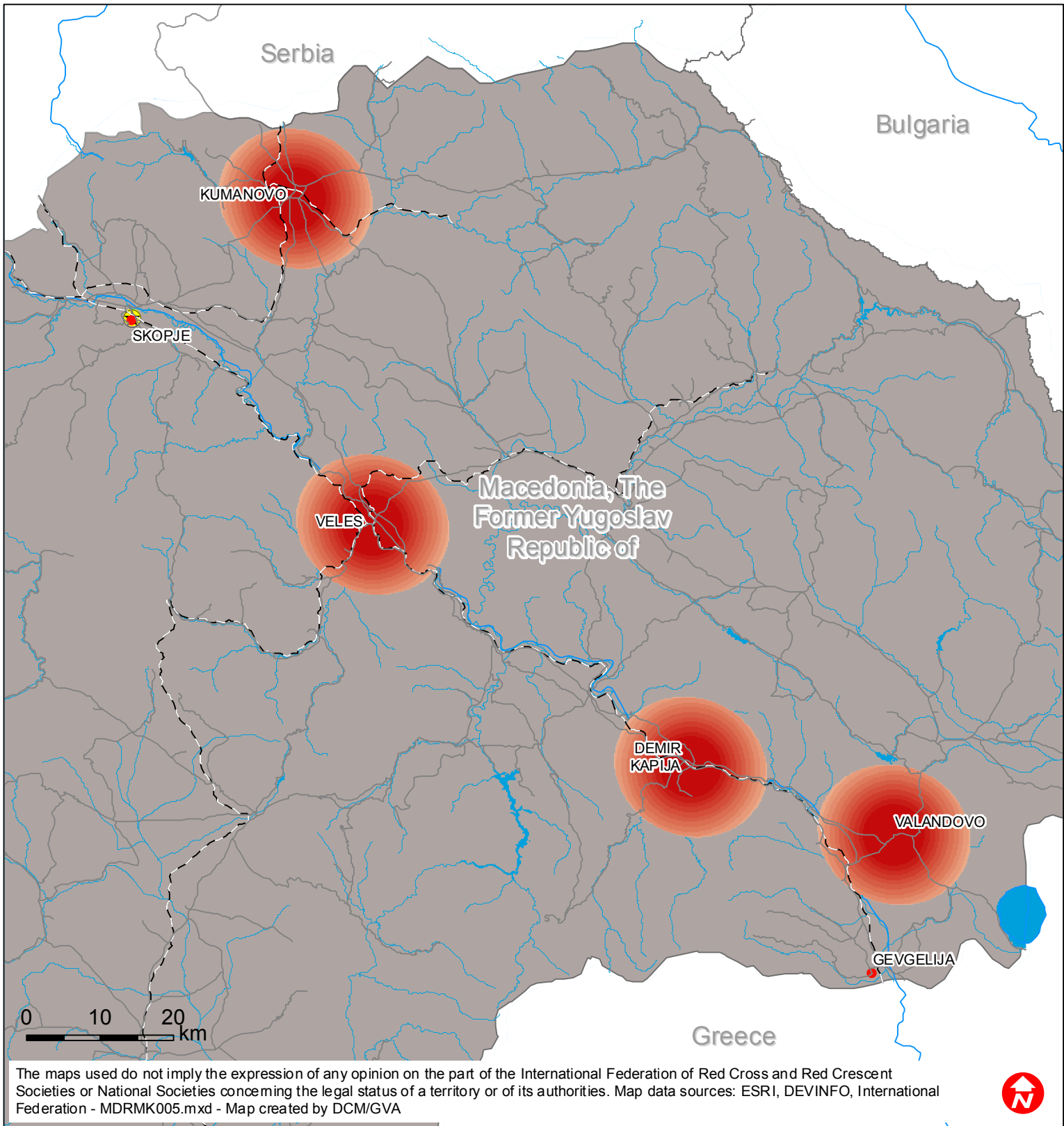
15/06/2015

## Macedonia - Migration

<b>Budget Group</b>	<b>DREF Grant Budget CHF</b>	
500	Shelter - Relief	
501	Shelter - Transitional	
502	Construction - Housing	
503	Construction - Facilities	
505	Construction - Materials	
510	Clothing & Textiles	42,959
520	Food	36,160
523	Seeds & Plants	
530	Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	29,230
540	Medical & First Aid	15,146
550	Teaching Materials	
560	Utensils & Tools	
570	Other Supplies & Services	
571	Emergency Response Units	
578	Cash Disbursements	
<b>Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES</b>		<b>123,495</b>
580	Land & Buildings	
581	Vehicles Purchase	
582	Computer & Telecom Equipment	
584	Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	
587	Medical Equipment	
589	Other Machinery & Equipment	
<b>Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT</b>		<b>0</b>
590	Storage, Warehousing	
592	Distribution & Monitoring	14,139
593	Transport & Vehicle Costs	10,194
594	Logistics Services	3,055
<b>Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE</b>		<b>27,388</b>
600	International Staff	
661	National Staff	
662	National Society Staff	4,218
667	Volunteers	11,089
<b>Total PERSONNEL</b>		<b>15,307</b>
670	Consultants	
750	Professional Fees	
<b>Total CONSULTANTS &amp; PROFESSIONAL FEES</b>		<b>0</b>
680	Workshops & Training	6,575
<b>Total WORKSHOP &amp; TRAINING</b>		<b>6,575</b>
700	Travel	1,500
710	Information & Public Relations	1,360
730	Office Costs	3,200
740	Communications	2,600
760	Financial Charges	
790	Other General Expenses	
790	Shared Support Services	
<b>Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>8,660</b>
599	Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	11,793
<b>Total INDIRECT COSTS</b>		<b>11,793</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>		<b>193,218</b>



# Macedonia: Population movements



- Main roads
- Railways
- Most frequented places