



**Save the Children**

**REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS AT THE WESTERN BALKANS ROUTE**

# **REGIONAL OVERVIEW**

**APRIL – JUNE 2020**

**Balkans Migration and Displacement Hub**  
**Data and Trends Analysis**

# Balkans Migration and Displacement Hub

## Data and Trends Analysis

# IMPRESSUM

Every child has the right to a future. Save the Children works in North West Balkans and around the world to give children a healthy start in life, and the chance to learn and be safe. We do whatever it takes to get children the things they need – every day and in times of crisis.

### Acknowledgements

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Photo: Boško Đorđević, Save the Children

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# KEY REGIONAL TRENDS

**For the first time in the last several years, the migration route through the Balkan countries was not the main point of entry for refugees and migrants coming to Europe. In the second quarter of 2020, there have been only 847 officially registered new refugee and migrant entries (significantly less than in Italy or Spain).**

There has been a drastic decrease in new entries to Greece (838) during the second quarter of 2020, with a rising tendency from month to month. UNHCR registered 2,961 new beneficiaries during this period in Serbia, Bulgarian authorities registered 230 people who entered the country illegally, BiH recorded 2,108 new arrivals, North Macedonia had 7,345 new arrivals, Kosovo\* had 181 new asylum-seekers, Albania had a decrease with 1,623 new arrivals, and Romania had noticeable decrease as well (395). The number of new arrivals shown here represents a very conservative estimate, mostly relying on recorded arrivals in Greece and arrivals in Bulgaria through Turkey, in order to avoid possible data overlapping.

**More than 140,000 refugees and migrants are currently staying in the Balkans.**

The number of people accommodated in official reception centres, in external accommodation and in unofficial shelters in the Balkans countries is estimated to be 141,445. Most of them were staying in Greece (about 122,000), Bosnia and Herzegovina (about 9,000), Serbia (6,304), Bulgaria (481), and several thousand persons are accommodated in Romania (3,660 including those in reception Centres).

**Movements between Balkan countries were very dynamic regardless of COVID-19**

Although there were not many new arrivals to the peninsula, the migrant movement between countries was high. Macedonia alone received more than 7,000 new refugees and migrants, mostly from Greece, regardless of stricter border controls and restricted movement of all people, not only refugees. Movements through Serbia, Albania and BiH were also relatively higher than expected in the current situation.

**COVID-19 situation influenced migration flows**

During April, May and partly June 2020, the borders in the region were closed, which probably played a part in the decrease in new arrivals in most Balkan countries with numbers noticeably lower than in the previous quarter. In addition, due to the COVID-19 situation, most refugee and migrant camps prohibited refugees and migrants to leave them. This situation further complicated the health and security risks for the refugee and migrant population accommodated in official centres. Also, due to the fact that most organizations reduced activities regarding migrants since March, data on migrants during this period is scarce and incomplete.

**Families travelled somewhat less during the pandemics and, as in previous periods, they mostly came from Syria and Iraq. The route through Kosovo\*, which was dominant in the last 6 months, was almost abandoned during the second quarter of 2020.**

**Bosnia and Herzegovina remains one of the main exit points used by refugees and migrants traveling through the Balkans by land.**

Existing transit corridors: Bulgaria/North Macedonia/Serbia, Kosovo\*/Serbia, as well as Albania/Montenegro, usually merged in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). Although the number of refugees and migrants trying to cross the Hungarian or Romanian border remained relatively high, with smaller movement from Bulgaria to Romania, BiH still remains the most used exit route. The data shows that most refugees and migrants enter the Balkans through Greece.

**Children make, on average, less than the usual one-third of all refugees and migrants transiting through the Balkans. Many of these children are travelling unaccompanied.**

The available data shows that the proportion of children in the total migrant population was lower than in the previous period. The percentage of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) in the overall number of children varies from country to country, but for this reporting period, the incomplete data prevents us from making any solid assumptions. Looking at the available data, we can conclude that most of UASC in all the Balkans countries were traditionally boys from Afghanistan and Pakistan, with children from African countries as well as Syria emerging as unaccompanied travellers as well.



Photo: Centre for Youth Integration

### DECREASE IN ARRIVALS AND COVID-19 MOVEMENT RESTRICTIONS

During the second quarter of 2020, there have been only 838 registered new refugee and migrant arrivals in Greece.<sup>1</sup> The noticeable COVID-19-related decrease in new arrivals started in March and continued throughout the second quarter of 2020. Although the numbers of new arrivals steadily increased from month to month, these figures are much lower than those in the same period last year (10,250). Refugees and migrants entered Greece in the same manner they did for the last several years – mostly using sea routes (66% or 550), but the number of land crossings was somewhat higher than in the previous periods.

only  
**838**  
registered new  
refugee and migrant  
arrivals in Greece

According to UNHCR data<sup>2</sup> this was the first time in the last several years that Greece, the site of the majority of new arrivals on the Balkans route, was behind Spain and Italy when it comes to refugee and migrant arrivals.

Although new arrivals decreased dramatically, the number of refugees and migrants residing in this country at the end of the reporting period was 122,000, which is even higher than in the first quarter of 2020. Most of them were on the mainland (86,500), with a large minority accommodated on the islands (35,500). This is one of the highest numbers of migrants temporarily residing in Greece in the last several years.

When it comes to islands, according to the National Coordination Centre for Border Control, Immigration and Asylum<sup>3</sup>, at the end of June there were exactly 33,066 migrants

and refugees present in that part of Greece. The number greatly exceeded the capacities of those islands to accommodate migrants and refugees, which were set at 6,095 at that point (these capacities are noticeably lower than in March). As in the previous periods, the island of Lesbos had the largest discrepancy between the capacities for accommodation and the actual number of migrants residing in it – although the total capacities on this island were 2,757 accommodation units, 15,358 migrants were staying there at the end of June. The island of Samos had the official capacity to accommodate 648 migrants but had almost 10 times more temporary residents (6,303).



**At the end of June 2020 there were exactly 33,066 migrants and refugees present on the islands, greatly exceeding the reported official capacity of 6,095**

At the end of March, there were 4,684 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) in Greece.<sup>4</sup> Out of that number, 957 children were left without adequate shelter. They were reported as living in informal housing arrangements, on the streets (reported as homeless), or with their location unknown.

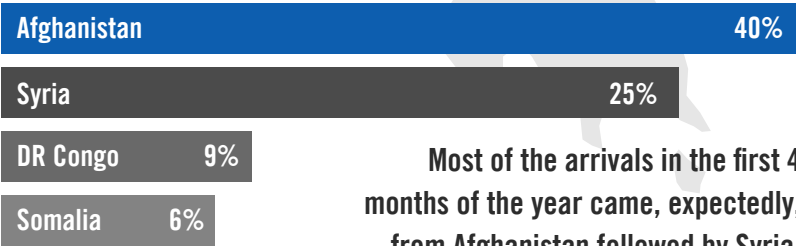
**957** UASC children in Greece living in informal housing arrangements, on the streets or at unknown locations

## DEMOGRAPHICS

Although there is no publicly available data on the demographics of all new Greece migrant arrivals, the reports on sea arrivals until April 2020 could provide some insight into this population.<sup>5</sup> Out of 7,591<sup>6</sup> refugees and migrants arriving by sea, only 39 of them came in April. During the first 4 months of the year, over one-third of new sea arrivals were children, while adults made up 62.5%. Out of roughly 2,809 children arriving since the beginning of the year, boys made up 57% (1,594). When it comes to adults, the gender distribution is similar, with 54% being men and 46% being women. Such relative gender balance in migrant arrivals was not seen in other countries of the Balkans during this period. UASC children made up 14% of all children.

Most of the arrivals in the first 4 months of the year came, expectedly, from Afghanistan (40%), followed by Syria (25%), Congo (9%) and Somalia (6%).

Refugees and migrants by country of origin (N=838)



Most of the arrivals in the first 4 months of the year came, expectedly, from Afghanistan followed by Syria, Congo and Somalia.

## MIGRATION ROUTES

During the first six months of the year, most migrants and refugees traditionally used sea routes to enter Greece, particularly islands close to the Turkish coast, namely Lesvos, Samos, Chios, and the Dodecanese islands. The mainland route used by refugees and migrants is at the north-eastern border with Turkey, crossing the river Evros.

During this period<sup>7</sup>, 66 persons died or went missing on the Eastern Mediterranean route. This is a noticeable increase compared to the previous period.<sup>8</sup>

Even though Greece is an EU member state, many refugees and migrants continue their journey towards West and North Europe. The well-established exit route, extensively travelled since the beginning of the migration crisis, heads north towards North Macedonia and Serbia. According to the data from Albania and Kosovo\*, the relatively new route from Greece, through Albania and Montenegro, towards Bosnia and Herzegovina became more popular in the last months of 2019.



## REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS ON THE MOVE

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Serbia declared a state of emergency. While the state of emergency was in effect, refugees and migrants were transferred to official reception centres which they were prevented from leaving, per Governmental decree, for more than two months. These measures, combined with the formal closing of the national borders, resulted in lower numbers of new refugee and migrant arrivals during the second quarter of 2020 than in comparable previous periods.

Official UNHCR data shows that there were 2,961 new refugee and migrant arrivals during the reporting period, with 71% of those arrivals happening in June alone, once the migrant flow became more established.<sup>9</sup> This is a major decrease compared to 6,621 arrivals in the same period last year. The estimated number of migrants present in the country peaked in April with 8,969,<sup>10</sup> while at the end of this period there were 6,304 refugees and migrants in Serbia with 5,121 of them accommodated in the reception centres.<sup>11</sup>

During this period, there were only 9 applications for international protection with 5 positive decisions pertaining to applications made before the state of emergency was declared.

Due to the COVID-19 situation and the closing of the Reception Centres, Save the Children field teams in Serbia were able to support refugees and migrants only during the last two weeks of June and they identified 53 new arrivals. Children made up almost two-thirds of these new arrivals (62%), with UASC representing more than half of those children (54%).

**2,961**  
new migrants and  
refugees recorded  
during the second  
quarter of 2020

## DEMOGRAPHICS

It should be noted that precise information on the number of refugees and migrants in Serbia is not available and that the nature of migrations makes it difficult to collect exact data on this population. However, for several years already, Save the Children has been systematically and regularly collecting data on its beneficiaries, providing important insight into the structure and habits of this population. Since the COVID-19 situation has resulted in reduced possibilities for Save the Children and other organizations to carry on their regular activities, only official data will be presented herein.

During April, May and June 2019, men made up 97% of all new arrivals. Children (mostly boys) made up only 6% of all refugees and migrants entering the country<sup>12</sup>, with 71 of them being UASC. More than one-third (37%) of all migrants came from Afghanistan, and almost a third from Pakistan (32%), which is a great increase compared to the previous period. During this period, refugees and migrants from Syria came in much smaller numbers compared to previous periods (8%) and take up almost the same number of new arrivals as Bangladesh (8%).

### Refugees and migrants by country of origin (N=2,961)





### MIGRATION ROUTES

The COVID-19 situation has drastically changed entry points to Serbia during the second quarter of 2020. Although refugees and migrants still use similar exit points through Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Hungary and Romania, entry routes have changed visibly.

The most widely used route for entering Serbia in the second quarter of 2020 was North Macedonia route (89%) with arrivals from Albania/Kosovo\* and Bulgaria drastically decreasing.



**The most widely used route for entering Serbia in the second quarter of 2020 was North Macedonia route (89%) with arrivals from Albania/Kosovo\* and Bulgaria drastically decreasing.**



## BUSY ROUTE THROUGH BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

The migration route through Bosnia and Herzegovina is still one of the main transit corridors in the region. According to the UNHCR,<sup>13</sup> there have been 2,108 new arrivals in Bosnia during April, May and June 2020.

Compared to 7,234 new arrivals in the same period last year, this is a significant yet expected decrease, having in mind COVID-19-induced circumstances.

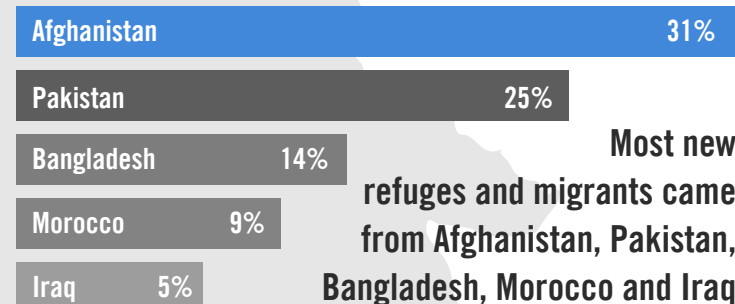
Refugees and migrants were mostly confined to Reception centres with restricted movement. Save the Children teams were allowed to continue their activities and assist refugees and migrants in centres located in Bihac during the state of emergency. According to their field data, there have been more than 9,000 estimated migrants in the country at the end of June (both in official and unofficial shelters), while 5,510 of them were accommodated at the reception centres.<sup>14</sup>

**2,108**  
newly arrived  
refugees and  
migrants have  
been identified  
during the second  
quarter of 2020

## DEMOGRAPHICS

UNHCR recorded that most of the newly arrived refugees and migrants came from Afghanistan (31%), followed by Pakistan (25%), Bangladesh (14%), Morocco (9%) and Iraq (5%).

Refugees and migrants by country of origin (N=2,108)



Most new  
refugees and migrants came  
from Afghanistan, Pakistan,  
Bangladesh, Morocco and Iraq

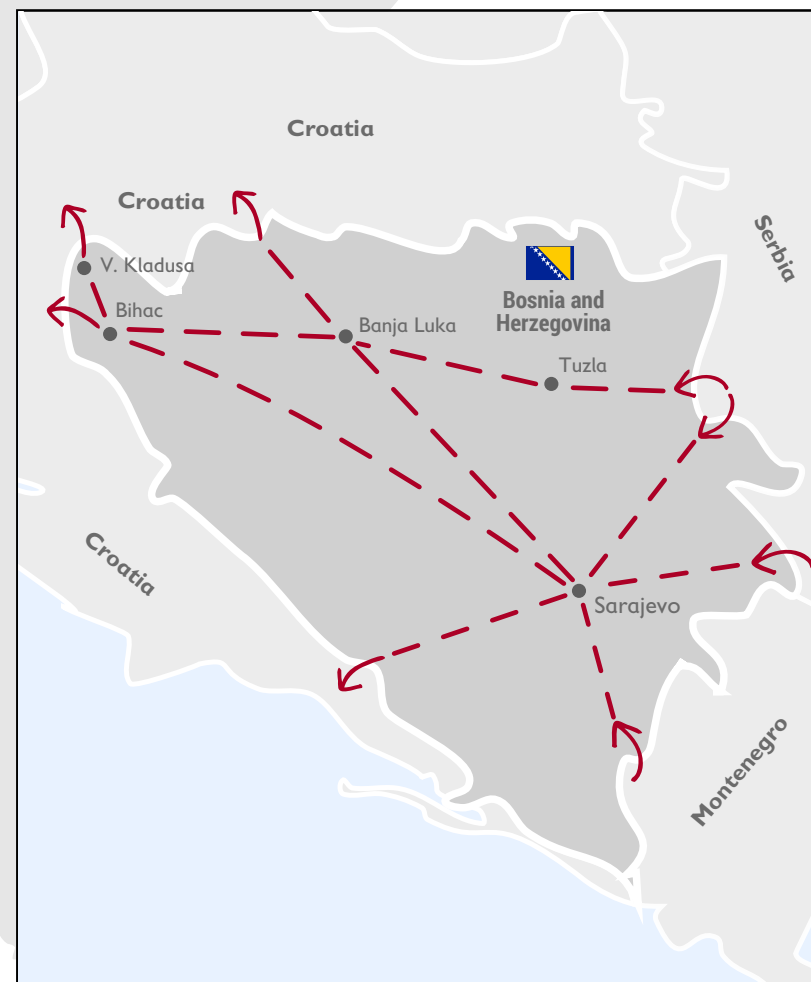
There is no official data on newly arrived refugees and migrants disaggregated by gender or age. It is interesting to look at the structure of migrants staying in the camps at the end of the reporting period in order to have a better understanding of this population. According to UNHCR and Save the Children data from reception centres in BiH, 78% of all accommodated people at the end of June were single adult men. Girls and women made up only 9% of refugees and migrants in centres, while UASC made up 7% of all accommodated persons (45% of all children).<sup>15</sup>

**45%** of all children were  
unaccompanied

## MIGRATION ROUTES

The UNHCR data suggests that, during this period, 82% of all migrants entered BiH from Serbia, while 14% stated that they entered BiH from Montenegro.<sup>16</sup> This confirms the data from previous years that most refugees and migrants identified in Bosnia and Herzegovina entered the country from south-east or east by irregularly crossing the border with Serbia or Montenegro. Entry routes merge in Sarajevo, the country's capital located in the central part of the country, or in Tuzla in the north. From there, refugees and migrants head towards Croatia. Save the Children field data and field teams' experiences suggest that most migrants perceive Bosnia as a transit country.

The border between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia is more than 900 kilometres long. According to field data, refugees and migrants attempt to continue their journey through Croatia. The most attempts to cross the Croatian border have been recorded at the north-west part of the border in the area of Bihac and Velika Kladusa.





## MIGRATION FLOW

During the first three months of 2020, Bulgarian police registered 230 people during their illegal entry in the country.<sup>17</sup> These numbers are higher than in the previous quarter, but lower compared to the same period last year (598).

The number of refugees and migrants in official centres or at “external addresses”<sup>18</sup> practically remained the same when compared to the beginning of the year, with 481 in June 2020. During the second quarter of 2020, 36 migrants were either deported or they left Bulgaria legally.<sup>19</sup>

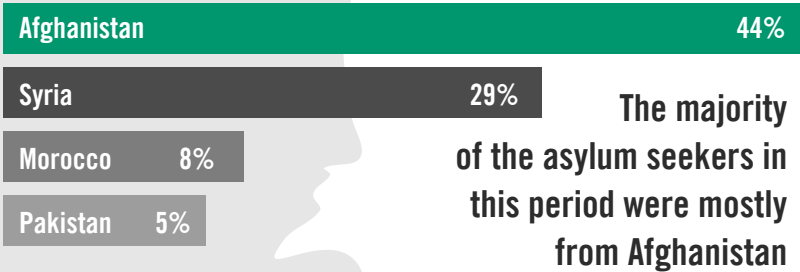
**230**  
people were  
registered of  
illegally entering  
the country

## DEMOGRAPHICS

Bulgarian State Agency for Refugees reported that 446 persons applied for international protection during the first three months of 2020.<sup>20</sup> As in previous periods, those were mostly adults (68%) (278 men and 24 women) and 144 children (130 boys and 14 girls).

By far the largest number of asylum-seekers in this period came from Afghanistan (44%), followed by Syria (29%), Morocco (8%) and Pakistan (5%). Same as in earlier periods, applicants from Syria and Iraq had a more balanced number of men, women and children, while those from other countries mostly consisted of young men.

### Refugees and migrants by country of origin (N=230)



During this period, 158 persons were granted international protection.

## MIGRATION ROUTES

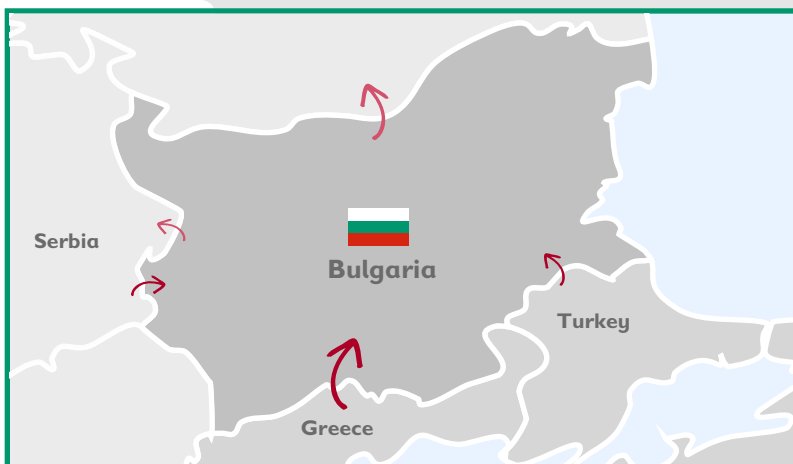
The Bulgarian Ministry of Interior also provides data on where irregular migrants were apprehended. The locations are divided into three categories: (1) borders of entry, namely the borders with Turkey and Greece; (2) in-country, meaning that people were arrested somewhere within the country; (3) borders of exit, namely north and west borders with Serbia and Romania. Even though this data does not capture the overall migration flow, it gives us clues about cross-border migratory routes.

# Balkans Migration and Displacement Hub

## Data and Trends Analysis

# BULGARIA

Although at the beginning of the year most migrants entered Bulgaria from Turkey, during the second quarter of the year more than half of them came from Greece (51%). The rest of them mostly came from Turkey (24%) and Serbia (10%).<sup>21</sup>



**During the second quarter of 2020 most refugees and migrants entered the country from Greece (51%), followed by Turkey (24%) and Serbia (10%)**

Again, in the first 3 months of 2020, most of the officially registered migrant exits took place on the Romanian border, but in the second quarter of the year this changed, and most migrants left Bulgaria through Serbia (92%). Only 7% of refugees and migrants continued through Romania during the peak of COVID-19 crisis.<sup>22</sup>



Photo: Šejla Dizdarević, Save the Children

## THE BUSIEST ROUTE IN THE REGION

Although IOM recorded two<sup>23</sup> new refugee and migrant apprehensions in North Macedonia during this period,<sup>24</sup> UNHCR reported that during this period there have been 7,345 new arrivals.<sup>25</sup> These numbers are somewhat lower than in the previous period (9,050), but still unexpectedly high having in mind the COVID-19 circumstances.

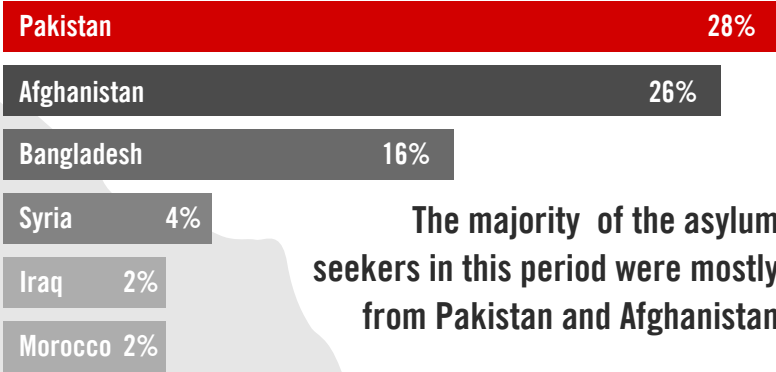
There is no publicly available data on the number of migrants residing in North Macedonian refugee and migrant centres, but there is no reason to believe that things have changed regarding the fact that, so far, North Macedonia has been a country of transit for most migrants.

**7,345**  
new migrant and  
refugee arrivals  
reported by  
UNHCR

## DEMOGRAPHICS

According to the UNHCR data, during the second quarter of the year, refugees and migrants from Pakistan made up 28% of all new arrivals in North Macedonia, those from Afghanistan made up 26%, Bangladesh 16%, Syria 4%, and Iraq and Morocco with 2% each.

Refugees and migrants by country of origin (N=7,345)



The majority of the asylum seekers in this period were mostly from Pakistan and Afghanistan

The demographic structure of migrants was such that adults made up almost the entire (98%) newly arrived migrant population in this country and most adults were men (7,159). Children made up only 2% of all new arrivals with 84 boys and 9 girls. UASC made up 62% of all children entering North Macedonia in this period, which is less than in the last reporting period (81% in the first quarter of 2020).<sup>26</sup>

**62%** of all children entering North Macedonia in the second quartal were UASC

## MIGRATION ROUTES

The data sources<sup>27</sup> indicate that the majority of migrants and refugees entered through Greece (roughly 81% named it as the last country they transited) and most of them continued to Serbia. Some 13% of refugees and migrants came to North Macedonia from Serbia, indicating possible pushbacks. This information will be checked and closely monitored by Save the Children in the future.



# KOSOVO\*

## SMALLER NUMBERS OF MIGRANTS IN TRANSIT

Even though Kosovo\* was never a major part of the Balkans migration corridor in previous years, this situation has changed during the last year. In the first three months of 2020, most refugees and migrants who entered Serbia came from Kosovo\* territory. This situation was radically changed due to COVID-19 in the second quarter of the year, with 181 officially registered new arrivals.<sup>28</sup> On the other hand, IOM data<sup>29</sup> shows 328 newly apprehended migrants in Kosovo\*, which is still a noticeable decrease compared to previous months.

**181**  
officially  
registered new  
arrivals

## DEMOGRAPHICS

According to the UNHCR, all of the new arrivals were adults with no additional gender breakdown. The only existing UNHCR data on the country of origin of these refugees and migrants shows that more than two-thirds (68%) of them came from Syria, 8% came from Morocco and 7% from Libya.<sup>30</sup> There are no official data on refugees and migrants present in the official refugee centres or other institutions.

Refugees and migrants by country of origin (N=672)

Syria	68%
Morocco	8%
Libya	7%

Most refugee and migrants registered in Kosovo\* in second quarter came from Syria

## MIGRATION ROUTES

As in other Balkans countries, many refugees and migrants only transit through Kosovo\* on their journey towards West and North Europe. Interestingly, UNHCR data<sup>31</sup> suggests that all new migrants came to Kosovo\* through Albania, with no records of entries from North Macedonia which were present in previous periods.<sup>32</sup> Also, the second quarter data from Serbia suggests that only 3% of all entries in this period came from Kosovo\*.

**100%**  
of all new migrants  
came to Kosovo\*  
through Albania

## TRANSITING THROUGH ROMANIA

Romania has been an important transit point of the Balkans migration route in the last couple of years, with its importance rising at the end of 2019. During the second quarter of 2020, the number of new arrivals was lower than the expected, same as in other Balkan countries. Due to borders closing and with COVID-19 pandemic restricting movement of refugees and migrants in Romania, the number of new arrivals in this period was 395.

**395**  
officially registered  
new arrivals

Although there have been noticeably fewer new arrivals than in the first quarter of 2020, these numbers are similar to those during the same period last year (443 in the second quarter of 2019).

At the end of June, 285 migrants and asylum-seekers were accommodated in state-run reception centres in Romania (mostly Bucharest, Radauti and Somcuta Mare, but also Galati, Timisoara and Giurgiu.<sup>33</sup>

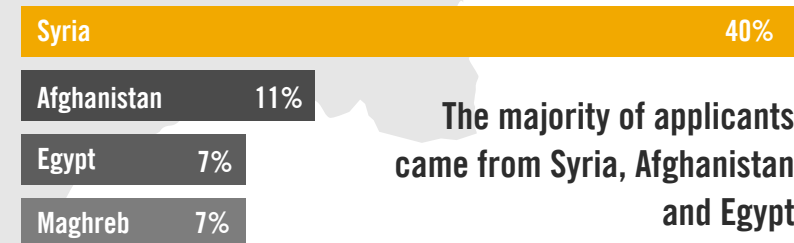
Since the outbreak of COVID-19 in Romania and the state of emergency, the number of asylum requests has dropped. In order to mitigate the risks, the reception centres were closed with limited possibilities for migrants to move in and out. Salvati Copii teams continued providing services to beneficiaries inside the centres throughout this period.

According to the field data and insights from Salvati Copii field teams, the length of stay in Romania varies, but is shorter when it comes to single men entries. Families choose to stay longer than single adults who, mostly, leave the country after several days or weeks.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

During the second quarter of 2020, Romanian officials registered 395 asylum applications. According to Immigration Office unofficial data,<sup>34</sup> 41 were children (10%), which is which is a slightly lower percentage of children than in the previous period. . The majority of applicants came from Syria (40%), followed by Afghanistan (11%) and Egypt (7%), with a significantly lower number of those coming from Maghreb countries than in the previous period (7%).

### Applicants for international protection by country of origin (N=395)



**The majority of applicants  
came from Syria, Afghanistan  
and Egypt**

There is no official data available on UASC population in Romania during this period.

### MIGRATION ROUTES

According to field data, the main point of entry for migrants in Romania is the border with Serbia (Moldova Veche, Oravita and Moravita points). As in the other Balkans countries, refugees and migrants see Romania as a transit country on their journey towards Western Europe and the most frequent exit point from the country is Hungary - Nadlac, Turnu, Salonta, Curtici, Bors, Girisu de Cris (Arad and Bihor counties).



Photo: Velija Hasanbegovic, Save the Children



# Balkans Migration and Displacement Hub

## Data and Trends Analysis

# ABOUT THE PROJECT

The official closure of borders, and the EU-Turkey deal in March 2016, reduced the number of migrants, but did not stop the migrations through the Balkans. Refugees and migrants have been pushed into the hands of smugglers and traffickers facing heightened protection risks. The national protection systems in countries like Greece, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, and Serbia are struggling to provide adequate support to new arrivals. There is a lack of reliable data on migration trends and there are many violations of rights of migrants and refugees transiting through, or stranded in the Balkans.

Organizations and volunteer groups operating in the Balkans track irregular arrivals, departures, cases of pushbacks, detention, and violence in their own countries, often without clearly defined standards, objectives or consistency. At this time, there is no single collection of information or regional initiative to collate and organize the available information into a clear and concise overview.

International attention remains mostly focused on Greece, while the migration flows through other Balkans countries stay below the radar. The lack of comprehensive data analytics at country and regional level increases the vulnerability of refugees and migrants on the move, children in particular, and hinders the development of relevant, evidence-based and responsive policies and programs.

Data and Trend Analysis (DATA) is a project launched by Save the Children's Balkan Migration and Displacement Hub (BMDH). The goal of this initiative is to synthesize valuable information on migration, especially on refugee and migrant children, and contribute to evidence-based programming and policy-making within the region.

The DATA Project focuses on the following three topics: (1) Main migratory trends: ebbs and flows in migration, changes in demographics, changes in routes, and seasonal changes; (2) Main protection violations: detention rates and conditions, pushbacks, returns, police violence, local acceptance and tensions; (3) Changes in national migration and social protection policies.

## Data Sources

Besides primary data collected by Save the Children and its partners, other data used for this purpose includes publicly available data from reports, dashboards, publications, policies and articles, and information from other relevant stakeholders which are collected and analyzed. The initiative is and will remain open to and encouraging for the exchange of information, cooperation and partnership with all relevant stakeholders.

Data is processed in line with national and international regulations and standards on personal data protection.

## Geographical Scope

We intend to cover the Balkans route, which includes the territories of Greece, North Macedonia, Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia, Albania, Kosovo\*, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Hungary.

The Balkans Migration and Displacement Hub (BMDH) has been established in 2018 in Belgrade, Serbia, in order to ensure visibility and continual support for children on the move in the Balkans. Drawing from the experience gained in responding to the refugee and migrant crisis in 2015 and 2016, BMDH documents good practices, improves learning and knowledge sharing and promotes emergency preparedness. The Hub monitors trends in migrations across the Balkans and conducts research in particular issues related to mixed migrations, issuing regular reports. By developing partnerships in countries along the Balkans route and liaising with other stakeholders working with children on the move, BMDH runs and promotes a robust advocacy for children ensuring that their needs are put at the forefront. Together with Save the Children's advocacy offices, BMDH is implementing regional advocacy initiatives targeting EU. The Balkans Migration and Displacement Hub works within Save the Children North West Balkans CO.

Find our Data and Trend Analysis and other reports and publications at:

<https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net>

keyword: **BMDH**

<sup>1</sup> Source: UNHCR, Fact Sheet Greece [June 2019](#)

<sup>2</sup> Source: UNHCR, Operational portal, Mediterranean situation, [June 2020](#)

<sup>3</sup> Source: Hellenic Republic Ministry of Interior National Coordination Centre for Border Control, Immigration and Asylum, [National situational picture regarding the islands at eastern Aegean Sea \(30/06/2020\)](#)

<sup>4</sup> Source: Situation Update: Unaccompanied Children (UAC) in Greece ([June 2020](#))

<sup>5</sup> Since, at the time this report was prepared, there was no available UNHCR data on Sea arrivals except for the month of April, data collected in 2020 until May will be used as an illustrative example of new refugee and migrant structure in second quarter of 2020.

<sup>6</sup> End of April

<sup>7</sup> Since there is no similar information available for the period from April to June 2020, January – April data is used, having in mind that officials recorded only 39 new arrivals to Greece during the month of April.

<sup>8</sup> Source: UNHCR Regional Bureau for Europe: Europe situation data and trends ([April 2020](#))

<sup>9</sup> Source: UNHCR Serbia Statistical Snapshot [June 2020](#)

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> [Source: UNHCR South Eastern Europe Operational Report](#)

<sup>13</sup> [Source: UNHCR, Western Balkans mixed movements report](#)

<sup>14</sup> Source: UNHCR Weekly location and population data matrix (unpublished)

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> Source: UNHCR, [Western Balkans mixed movements report](#)

<sup>17</sup> Source: Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Bulgaria, Monthly Information on Migration Situation in the Republic of Bulgaria for [June 2020](#).

<sup>18</sup> “Asylum seekers are allowed to reside outside the reception centres at so called “external addresses”. This could be done if asylum seekers submit a formal waiver from their right to accommodation and social assistance, as warranted by law, and declare to cover rent and other related costs at their own expenses. Except those few whose financial condition allows residence outside the reception centres, the other group of people who live at external addresses are usually Dublin returnees, to whom the SAR applies the exclusion from social benefits, including accommodation as a measure of sanction within the jurisdiction for such decision as provided by the law (Law and Asylum and Refugees – article 29)”. Source: [Country Report: Bulgaria](#), p 48, Bulgarian Helsinki Committee

<sup>19</sup> Source: Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Bulgaria, Monthly Information on Migration Situation in the Republic of Bulgaria for [June 2020](#).

<sup>20</sup> Source: State Agency for Refugees with the Council of Ministers, [June 2020](#)

<sup>21</sup> Source: Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Bulgaria, Monthly Information on Migration Situation in the Republic of Bulgaria for [June 2020](#).

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> Source: IOM, Mixed Migration Flows in the Mediterranean: Compilation of Available Data and Information for [April-May 2020](#)

<sup>24</sup> This same source cited 5,372 new migrant arrivals in its [first quarter of 2020 report](#), reporting that in Q2 there have been 5,374 new arrivals in the first 6 months of the year.

<sup>25</sup> Source: UNHCR, [Western Balkans mixed movements report](#)

<sup>26</sup> Source: UNHCR, [Western Balkans mixed movements report](#)

<sup>27</sup> Source: UNHCR, [Western Balkans mixed movements report](#)

<sup>28</sup> Source: UNHCR, [Western Balkans mixed movements report](#)

<sup>29</sup> Source: IOM DTM Europe, [April-June 2020](#)

<sup>30</sup> Source: UNHCR, [Western Balkans mixed movements report](#)

<sup>31</sup> Source: UNHCR, [Western Balkans mixed movements report](#)

<sup>32</sup> Ibid.

<sup>33</sup> Unofficial data collected regularly in field by Save the Children Romania (Salvati Copiii) and UNHCR

<sup>34</sup> Obtained through Save the Children Romania (Salvati Copiii)



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