



Programme co-funded by the
EUROPEAN UNION

**National coordination of the health care response to refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants: Working document
BULGARIA**



READER'S GUIDE:

The SH-CAPAC consortium is conducting a mapping of the European Union Member States' health response to the refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants entering, transiting or staying in their territories.

This working document summarizes the latest information on the influx of the different categories (see box 1 on Country Context) and on the coordination of the health care responses (see box 2) in Bulgaria. It also maps the available information on the WHERE-WHAT-WHO of these health care responses (see box 3). This is done for different categories: (1) recent arrivals, (2) people in transit, (3) asylum seekers, (4) refugee status granted persons, (5) undocumented migrants, and where relevant, also for (6) unaccompanied minors. Lastly we would like to map the funding sources for which the Member State's input is appreciated (see box 4 on Funding of health care responses).

*The information already completed below is based on different sources which were consulted online between January 20 and February 8 2016 and which is meant to give a first snapshot. **We would like to ask you to verify the information, to correct and amend where necessary and to complete where possible.** This mapping exercise will help the SH-CAPAC consortium to define a framework for effective health sector coordination for addressing the needs of the refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants in the European Union. **Please reply before February 16 2016 to ainhoa.ruiz.easp@juntadeandalucia.es with copy to birgit.kerstens@gmail.com and daniel.lopez.acuna.ext@juntadeandalucia.es.** More information on the SH-CAPAC project can be found in the leaflet in attachment and on www.easp.es/sh-capac.*

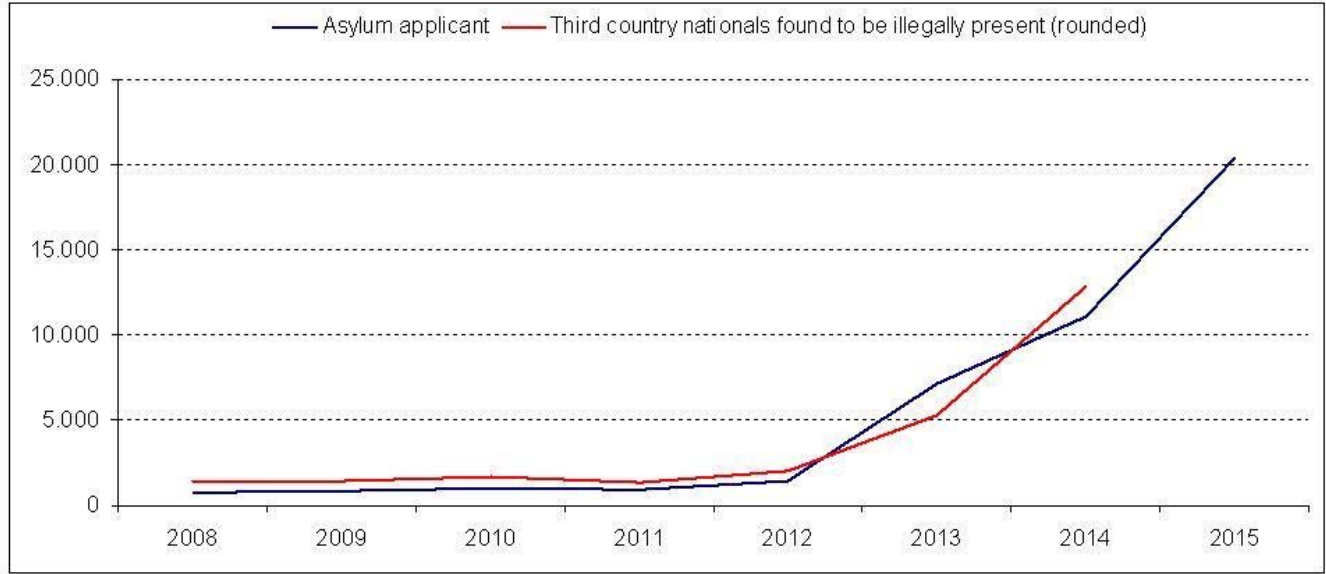
Sources consulted:

- MdM, Médecins du Monde. 8 NGOs for migrants/refugees' health in 11 countries. Project 717307. Annex I (part B), 2016.
- FRA, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights. Monthly data collection on the current migration situation in the EU. December 2015 monthly report. 23 November – 31 December 2015. http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2016-monthly-compilation-com-update-1_en.pdf
- Eurostat, 2/02/2016

- <http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/page?page=49e48db16&submit=GO>
- IOM.- Mixed Migration Flows in the Mediterranean and Beyond - 28 January 2016.
<http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/mixed-flows-mediterranean-and-beyond-21-27-january-2016.pdf>
- UNHCR_ BULGARIA. <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49e48db16.html>

Please provide us with any other sources that you deem appropriate for your country.

1. COUNTRY CONTEXT	
When influx started <i>(by year up till 2015, month since 2015)</i>	The number of migrants entering Bulgaria is progressively increasing, from 1,025 asylum seekers in 2010 to 12,738 in 2015 (January to September). (...) Authorities have constructed a so-called “offensive barrier” with razor blades (33km), and an additional 130 km long and 4 meters high barrier, planned to be electrified, at the Turkish and Greek border. Moreover, arrests of migrants in Sofia for example with their expulsion to the Republic of Serbia have led to demonstrations, some of which have turned into riots. (Mdm, Annex 1)



Eurostat, 2/02/2016

(please complete or correct)

<p>Current number as of Feb 1 (AS/ REF/ UDM/ unaccompanied minors)</p>	<p>A. Most recent data per category:</p> <p>In December, a total of 690 new arrivals were apprehended at the border. (FRA Monthly Review Dec 2015)</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="646 379 1892 1080"> <thead> <tr> <th>Residing in Bulgaria [1]</th> <th>june 2015</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Refugees [2]</td> <td>11,406 Refers to the end of 2014 in the absence of updated data available.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Asylum Seekers [3]</td> <td>7,840</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Returned Refugees [4]</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) [5]</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Returned IDPs [6]</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stateless Persons [7]</td> <td>67</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Various [8]</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Population of Concern</td> <td>18,953</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Originating from Bulgaria [1]</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Refugees [2]</td> <td>1,631</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Asylum Seekers [3]</td> <td>248</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Returned Refugees [4]</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) [5]</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Returned IDPs [6]</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Various [8]</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Population of Concern</td> <td>1,880</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>source:http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/page?page=49e48db16&submit=GO</p> <p>B. Most recent data on total number:</p>	Residing in Bulgaria [1]	june 2015	Refugees [2]	11,406 Refers to the end of 2014 in the absence of updated data available.	Asylum Seekers [3]	7,840	Returned Refugees [4]	0	Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) [5]	0	Returned IDPs [6]	0	Stateless Persons [7]	67	Various [8]	0	Total Population of Concern	18,953	Originating from Bulgaria [1]		Refugees [2]	1,631	Asylum Seekers [3]	248	Returned Refugees [4]	0	Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) [5]	0	Returned IDPs [6]	0	Various [8]	1	Total Population of Concern	1,880
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	<p>Over the whole year of 2015 Bulgarian authorities apprehended a total of 31,174 migrants and refugees entering, exiting, and within the country. The most prominent nationalities in descending order were Iraqis, Syrians, Afghans, Pakistanis and Iranians (data from January to November 2015). Over the period 01 to 21 January 2016, Bulgarian authorities apprehended 356 irregular migrants and asylum seekers. (IOM.- Mixed Migration Flows in the Mediterranean and Beyond - 28 January 2016)</p>																																				
<p>Percentage of F/M/T, age groups and origin</p>	<p>A. Most recent data per category: In December, a total of 690 new arrivals were apprehended at the border. Out of these, 575 persons were apprehended at the green border (189 men, 125 women and 261 children) and 115 persons at border checkpoints (78 men, 12 women and 25 children). The new arrivals were mainly from Iraq, Afghanistan, and Syria, as well as from Pakistan, Somalia, and other countries.⁷⁰ (FRA Monthly Review Dec 2015).</p> <p>B. Most recent data by gender, age group, origin:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="646 783 1381 1252"> <thead> <tr> <th>ASYLUM APPLICANT</th> <th>2014</th> <th>2015</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>11.080</td> <td>20.365</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Males</td> <td>76,9%</td> <td>79,2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Females</td> <td>23,1%</td> <td>20,9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Less than 18 years</td> <td>30,1%</td> <td>26,9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18 - 64 years</td> <td>69,4%</td> <td>72,7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>65 years or over</td> <td>0,4%</td> <td>0,3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unaccompanied minors (Asylum applicant)</td> <td>940</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Males</td> <td>96,8%</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Females</td> <td>3,2%</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>IRREGULAR MIGRANT</td> <td>12.870</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	ASYLUM APPLICANT	2014	2015	Total	11.080	20.365	Males	76,9%	79,2%	Females	23,1%	20,9%	Less than 18 years	30,1%	26,9%	18 - 64 years	69,4%	72,7%	65 years or over	0,4%	0,3%	Unaccompanied minors (Asylum applicant)	940		Males	96,8%		Females	3,2%					IRREGULAR MIGRANT	12.870	
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	Males	84,0%	
	Females	16,0%	
	Less than 18 years	2,2%	
	18 years or over	97,7%	

Source: Eurostat, 2/02/2016.

2. HEALTH CARE RESPONSES

Please correct or complete the information where possible.

<p>Health care coordination at national/regional level</p>	<p>A. Existence of a national coordination mechanism of the health response: YES/NO <i>(Please complete)</i></p> <p>B. Explanation: <i>(if yes, please describe how the mechanism works and who participates; if no, please describe why there is no coordination)</i></p> <p>MdM France has been present in Bulgaria since 2004 (a Roma health mediator programme in Sliven, with a specific focus on sexual and reproductive healthcare), and is recognized on local and national level. MdM has a very good communication with the Ministry of Health, the National Agency for Refugees and other major stakeholders on the topic, even though some links and coordination mechanisms shall need to be strengthened in view of the current crisis (MdM, Annex 1)</p> <p>One of the main currently observed difficulties in Bulgaria is migrants' lack of information concerning where and how to access healthcare. Currently, information is only given inside detention centres. The UNHCR and the Bulgarian State Agency for Refugees (SAR) insist²⁰ on the necessity to improve the information provided: it should be made more accessible and provided in a language understandable for asylum seekers. The Ministry of Health provides basic and specialized healthcare, but does not seem to be able to manage the situation alone, especially outside detention centres, like in the border zones.</p> <p>(UNHCR Observations on the Current Situation of Asylum in Bulgaria, 2014, in MdM, Annex 1)</p>
<p>First entry assistance services</p>	<p>The low occupancy rates at the reception centres of the State Agency for Refugees (SAR) resulted in better living conditions. As of 7 January 2015, the two reception centres based in Sofia (Ovcha Kupel and Voenna Rampa) host a total of 97 persons. The reception centre in Vrazhdebna is still closed as persons to be relocated from Greece and Italy are to be accommodated there. However, no persons were relocated in December 2015.⁷⁹ The State Agency for Refugees announced that some 80 persons will be relocated by mid-January 2016, but NGOs expressed doubts that people would be willing to do so. The living conditions at the seventh floor of the Ovcha Kupel centre are poor. This is the floor hosting predominantly single men from Afghanistan. They deliberately damaged the building. Volunteers and social workers assumed that stress and frustration were the reasons for such destructive behaviour, although, apparently, relatives in Germany had advised them that if they did damages and filmed these with their mobile</p>

phones, this would prove the bad conditions in Bulgaria and the German authorities would not apply the Dublin Regulation to them.⁸¹
 The reception centre in Harmanli is being repaired. The works do not affect the living conditions of those accommodated there due to the low occupancy rate.⁸²
 Although the inflow of newcomers has decreased in December, the food supply to all centres is delivered according to the forecasted daily inflow of 5,000 persons, possibly leading to waste of food due to poor planning.⁸³
 The living conditions in the closed centres managed by the Ministry of the Interior are evaluated as good taking into account the conditions at the receptions centres hosting asylum seekers.⁸⁴
 (FRA Monthly Review Dec 2015)

Migrants accommodated in the open reception centers under SAR (SAR provided data)		Banya	Pastrogor	Ovcha kupel (Sofia)	Vrazhdebna (Sofia)	Voenna rampa (Sofia)	Harmanli	Total
Capacity		70	320	860	370	800	2710	5130
Accommodated migrants	Total	59	120	213	0	135	190	717
	% of used capacity	84%	38%	25%	0%	17%	7%	14%
	Syrian Nationals	31	105	3	0	39	106	284
Accommodated migrants with granted refugee status		0	32	4	0	20	2	58

(IOM.- Mixed Migration Flows in the Mediterranean and Beyond - 28 January 2016)

Response to 'An Agenda for Action' as agreed during the High Level Meeting on Refugee and Migrant Health in Rome in November 2015:
Cross the appropriate 'Yes', 'No' or 'There is no information available' option in the blue boxes. Additional information or sources can be mentioned underneath the box.

Integration of the health care services for refugees, asylum seekers and migrants into the existing national health systems	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> There is no information available
Limit initial screening upon arrival to relevant risk assessment	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> There is no information available
Non Communicable Diseases included in the provision of services	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> There is no information available
Active participation and empowerment of the refugees and migrants throughout all stages of health service provision, including design and planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> There is no information available
Training of health professionals involved in the provision of health care	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> There is no information available

3. WHERE-WHAT-WHO
Please correct or complete the information where possible.

Migrant group	WHERE are they receiving the health care?	WHAT type of health care provision are they receiving?	WHO is the actor/agency providing the health care?
(1) Recent arrivals	The Ministry of Health provides basic and specialized healthcare,		

	but does not seem to be able to manage the situation alone, especially outside detention centres, like in the border zones. (UNHCR Observations on the Current Situation of Asylum in Bulgaria, 2014, in MdM, Annex 1)		
(2) People in transit			
(3) Asylum seekers			
(4) Refugee status granted			
(5) Undocumented migrants	Project "Improving the Quality of Unaccompanied Minor Asylum Seekers' (UAMAS) Guardianship in Central Europe countries" (IOM)		
(6) Unaccompanied minors			

4. FUNDING OF THE HEALTH CARE RESPONSES				
<p>Please provide us with any relevant information of funding made available by your country or other partners for health care responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ FUNDING SOURCES: where does the funding come from? e.g. Government, UN agency (UNHCR, IOM, WHO Euro,...), EU, NGO, civil society organisation, faith-based organisation, private organisation, international donor, (public/private) health insurance, other (please specify) ▪ FUNDING MECHANISM: how is the health care delivery being funded? e.g. envelope (for whole year/project), lump sum amount per asylum. seeker/refugee, out-of-pocket expenses, third payer mechanism, emergency/contingency budget. ▪ FUNDING AMOUNT: Give the amount spent on health care responses, in Euros, per year/month; if available also provide the pledged amount. ▪ COMMENTS. 				
Migrant group	Funding source	Funding mechanism	Funding amount	Comments
(1) Recent arrivals				
(2) People in transit				
(3) Asylum seekers				

(4) Refugee status granted				
(5) Undocumented migrants				