



Profile
at a glance

Serbia

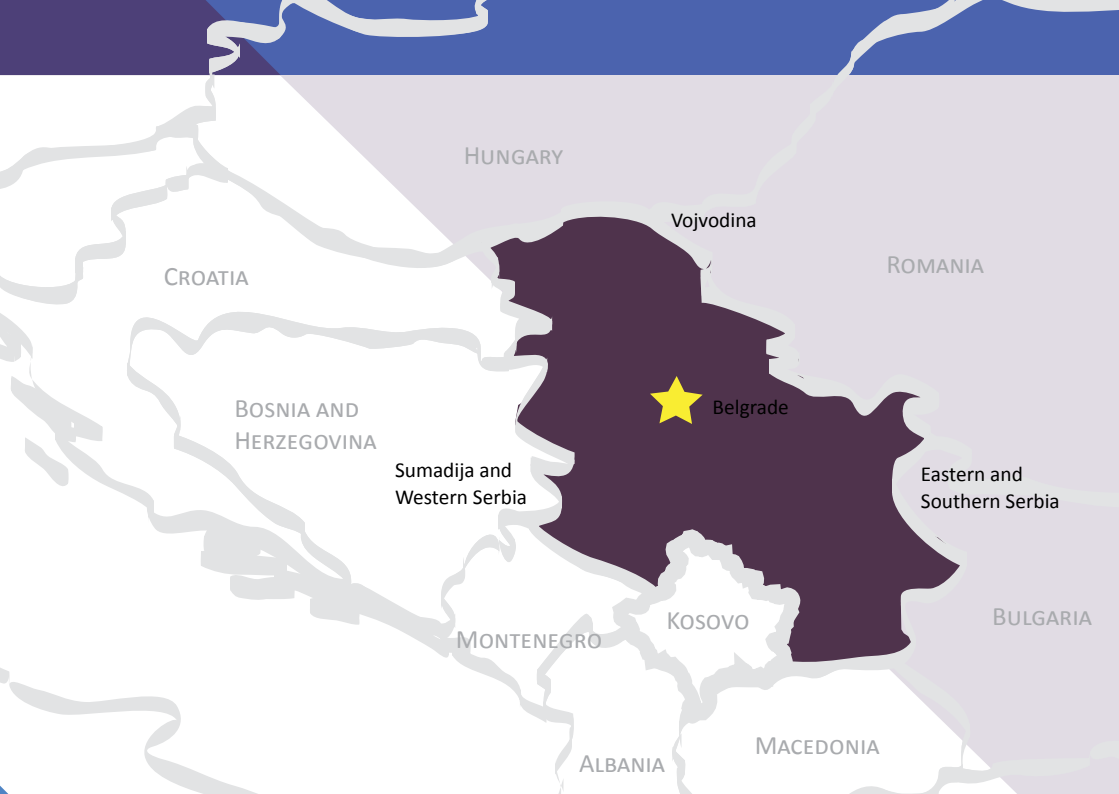
“The data set produced has formed a basis for UNHCR Serbia’s operational plans for 2012 and beyond.”

Milos Terzan, UNHCR Serbia

By the end of 2010, after several migratory waves, over 200,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) had been identified in Serbia - their displacement a result of regional conflict in the 1990s. Many settled in central and southern areas, with a group of mostly ethnic Roma in the northern region of Vojvodina.

The Government of Serbia, along with humanitarian and development actors in the country, realised the importance of collecting information on the specific needs faced by IDPs. To do so, they undertook this collaborative survey.

Managed by the Serbian Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR, and the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia with technical and financial support provided by the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS), the fieldwork was conducted in late 2010 by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (SORS), and findings were published in February 2011.



A two-staged approach randomly sampled urban and rural settlements with known populations of IDPs, then households from these areas who were registered in the Serbian Commission for Refugees IDP database were selected for interviews.

СПИСАК ЧЛАНОВА ДОМАЋИНСТАВА
 Чланове домаћинства упишите на следећи начин: најпре упишите лице на које се води домаћинство (на основу личне изјаве или изјаве другог члана домаћинства који даје податке), а затим остале чланове домаћинства упишите у оквиру њихових ујих породица.

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Which methods were used?

To produce reliable age, sex and location disaggregated estimate on IDPs originating from Kosovo, residing in Serbia, appropriate sampling methods were used.

In addition to population estimates, a primary objective was to specify the main problems the IDPs face, and to identify the most vulnerable among

them in order to develop targeted assistance programmes and contribute to the process of defining strategic durable solutions. Questions on working status, unemployment, social inclusion, housing, life resources, and access to documentation were developed and administered to households and individuals.

220 settlements selected

10 households per settlement

2,200 households total selected for interview

2,006 households

8,335 individuals interviewed

What was the impact?

- Working closely with the Government and directly involving the national Statistics Office provided a strong basis for ensuring the required confidence in the findings.
- The findings of this collaborative exercise informed the national strategy for refugees and IDPs with needed information on the amount and type of IDPs in need.
- This collaborative exercise became a platform for agreement among different actors who could then work together to support particularly vulnerable IDPs.
- Bringing stakeholders working with displacement-affected communities together with locally esteemed technical organizations helped to ensure the actual use of the data collected.

What were the findings?

After over a decade of displacement, vast numbers of IDPs in Serbia still face a number of challenges that can be directly linked to their displacement. The survey results show that major challenges include housing and unemployment and point towards an increased effort to support the empowerment of IDPs in the country.

Disaggregated numbers

Of the estimated 207,000 IDPs in the country, the largest numbers were found to be concentrated in the regions of Sumadija and Western Serbia. The majority is living in urban areas - more than 165,000 compared to less than 42,000 IDPs in rural areas (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: Percentage of IDPs in need, in urban and non-urban areas

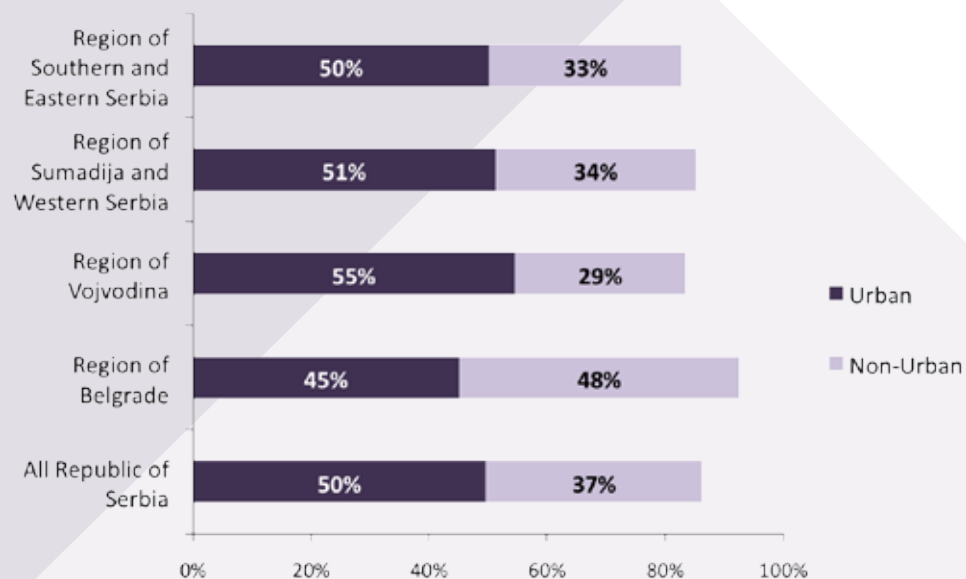
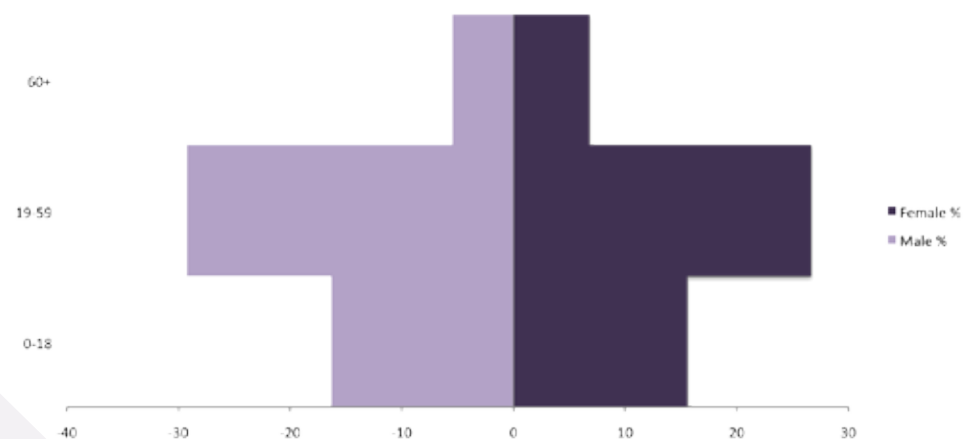


Figure 2: Serbia IDP population pyramid



Ethnically, Serbians make up the highest number of IDPs, followed by Roma and Gorani, however, ethnicities are distributed varyingly across the different regions. The average age of the IDP population is 32.9 years, which is considerably lower than the national average of 41.2 years. As the population pyramid shows, a quarter of the IDP population is aged between 19-59 years (see Figure 2).

Individuals and households in need

The findings of the profiling exercise indicate dire housing conditions and limited access to basic services among some vulnerable IDP groups. Almost half (45%) of all IDPs are considered to be in need, according to survey criteria based on housing status and income. The graph below (Figure 3) shows the proportion of in need IDPs per region.

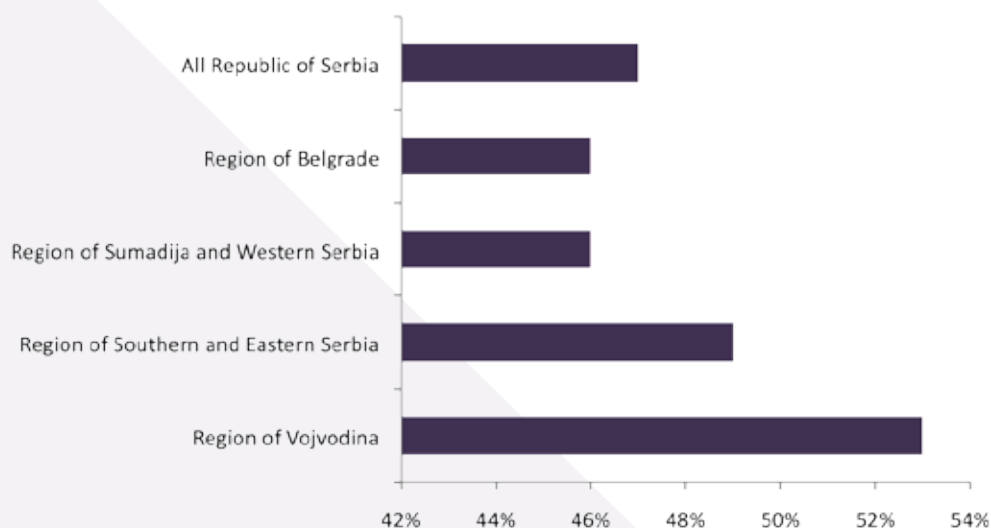
There are an estimated 49,000 men and 48,000 women who are considered to be “in need” IDPs. The Roma ethnic group is the most vulnerable, with 75% of the Roma IDP population in need.

45% of IDPs are in need

Preferred solutions

The displaced in urban areas were found to be more in need than those in other areas. 50% of urban IDPs were considered in need as opposed to 37% in non-urban areas.

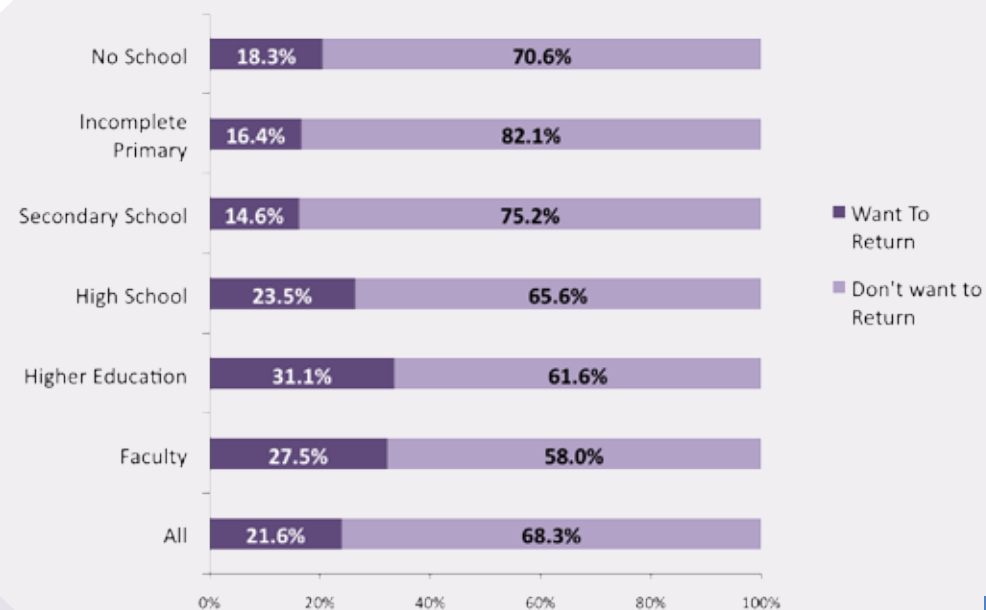
Figure 3: Percentage of IDPs in need by region



Less than a quarter of IDPs expressed a willingness to return to Kosovo, with the overwhelming majority of IDPs wishing to stay in Serbia. This is a significantly smaller percentage compared to the 2007 Living Standards Measurement Survey, which found that over 50% of IDPs expressed a desire to return. Notably, extremely few Roma (9%) expressed an interest in returning to Kosovo.

The main reasons given for this unwillingness to return include safety concerns, ethnic discrimination and restricted movement. Interestingly, as Figure 4 shows, the more highly-educated IDPs are generally more willing to return to Kosovo.

Figure 4: Willingness to return by educational attainment



Only 21% of IDPs want to return to Kosovo

Employment

Internally displaced men in Serbia have higher employment rates than women, with almost a third (30%) of men being employed compared to less than one fifth (18%) of women.

The displaced community suffers from higher rates of unemployment than the general population: a significant 32% compared to the average of 19% in the country.

These findings indicates a clear need to identify employment solutions for those not in work.

30% of men
and only
18% of
women are
employed

17% of
displaced
Roma have
no ID cards
or birth
certificates

Documentation

Documentation is another challenge for IDPs. 8% of displaced people surveyed do not have ID cards or birth certificates. Amongst the displaced Roma population, this figure is even higher at almost 20%.

Problems associated with lack of documentation include access to employment and health services, and many IDPs are as such excluded from these. The profiling report recommends a revision of the social welfare system so that these services are no longer limited to those with specific documentation.

Housing, land & property

Housing is a central concern for all IDPs, with 80% claiming the need for support in this area. This finding is remarkably high amongst IDP households in need (94%).

While the majority of IDPs live in private houses and apartments, 14% of those in need live in buildings that are not suitable for housing.

Generally, IDP households in need live in smaller spaces than other IDP households. The living conditions of the Roma are the most constrained of all households surveyed, with an average living area of 10m² per household member. By comparison, IDPs in general live in approximately 60m² per household, with 18m² per household member. IDP households in need live in an average of 48m², with 13m² per household member.

What were the profiling lessons?

- Collaborative profiling exercises can serve as an effective platform to bring multiple organizations with different mandates together to agree on how to assess and respond to the needs of the displaced.
- When data on a population is sensitive, involving a government technical counterpart such as the Serbian Statistics Office facilitates a smooth negotiation on the design of the methodology and analysis.
- Thorough planning and agreement on what partners want to get out of a profiling survey is critical. To ensure all stakeholders understand the types of analytical findings the survey will produce, partners need to plan for this from the start.
- Tools should be tested prior to implementation, which is especially the case for specifically created tools or unfamiliar technologies. In Serbia, initial plans to use mobile technology for data collection were ultimately rejected by survey planners due to errors, a scenario that could have been avoided through proper testing.

94% of IDPs
in need see
housing as a
central concern

The full report, containing further analysis and the profiling tools, can be found at:
<http://www.idp-profiling.org/serbia-idp-profiling-report.html>.
The profiling data is also available upon request.

This summary provides a glimpse into a collaborative IDP profiling process. Governmental and multi-lateral actors contributed to the process, working together to form its objectives, develop its tools and collect the required data.

JIPS supported these actors to undertake an in-depth needs assessment of displaced communities in Serbia, through an internationally endorsed methodology for profiling IDP situations.

This glance into the profile of displaced persons in Serbia hopes to spark interest in both the findings and profiling of IDP situations in general.

