

# Serbia: assessing health-system capacity to manage sudden large influxes of migrants



Joint report on a mission of the Ministry of Health of Serbia and the WHO Regional Office for Europe with the collaboration of the International Organization for Migration





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## Abstract

Recent large influxes of migrants into southern Serbia from Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia have challenged the capacity of the Serbian health system to respond rapidly and effectively. Serbia is coping well with the migrant influx, a situation that will likely continue for the foreseeable future. At the moment, most migrants entering Serbia intend to travel onwards to Hungary and, ultimately, to other European Union countries, and therefore remain in Serbia for only a few days. Currently migrant processing is managed humanely and efficiently. Only a minority of migrants enter asylum centres, where they receive a medical examination and any treatment they need. However, Serbia is vulnerable to changes in entry and exit flows and to any increase in the number remaining in the country, whatever the reason. A joint assessment between the Ministry of Health of Serbia and the WHO Regional Office for Europe in June 2015, supplemented by an expert field assessment mission in August 2015, has indicated a need for contingency planning for the further development of both local and national health policies to respond to any future large influx of people in transit.

## Keywords

DELIVERY OF HEALTH CARE – organization and administration

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HEALTH SERVICES NEEDS AND DEMAND

REFUGEES

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## Abbreviations

ICMHD	International Centre for Migration Health and Development
PHAME	Public Health Aspects of Migration in Europe
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

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