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## Early Experience in Hosting as a Shelter Intervention: The Case of "FYROM"

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The OFDA shelter sector strategy for the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), which was formulated in July 2001, featured the following goal:

Occupancy of safe, secure, private, habitable, and winterized living space by 1,000 households in need of shelter no later than 1 December 2001.

Approximately 65 percent of beneficiary households were identified for Host/Guest Family (H/GF) shelter support, based on the following reasons:

- Implementation of any peace accords would be delayed, undermining efforts to improve security and access conditions in conflict-affected communities, and thus making off-site shelter solutions imperative
- Real or perceived problems with mines and unexploded ordnance (UXOs) would remain largely unresolved, further exacerbating security and access issues
- Unwillingness by a portion of the displaced conflict-affected population to return to their homes, regardless of whether access and security issues improved, thereby creating a need for off-site shelter support solutions
- Although entirely appropriate, the FYROM Government would assume a greater role in discussions on emergency and reconstruction activities. However, this would have the effect of increasing the time required to make decisions on a number of important repair and reconstruction issues
- Reconstruction issues would remain largely unresolved until next year, thereby causing some confusion -- and attendant delays -- regarding the identification of a coordinated emergency repair and reconstruction effort.

**THESE REASONS REMAINED VALID OVER TIME, THUS SERVING AS A SOUND RATIONALE FOR CONTINUED OFDA SUPPORT OF HOST/GUEST FAMILY ARRANGEMENTS AS A PRIMARY MEANS OF EMERGENCY SHELTER WINTERIZATION ASSISTANCE IN FYROM.**

Additional reasons for continuing to emphasize H/GF shelter support included:

- IFRC estimated that at least 20,000-30,000 people in FYROM would remain displaced through the winter, and
- Other than OFDA, there was negligible humanitarian community response to the shelter needs of those living in H/GF arrangements.