

Letters To The Editor

families lost more men than women. However, we want to stress the need for careful interpretation of the presented data on the demographic impact of the exodus as we do not have demographic data on these families in the period before the violence started to compare it with our current findings. Expert demographic advice, preferably from Kosovar sources, would be necessary to understand the age and sex distribution. In addition we cannot confirm nor deny the conclusion by Brown et al. that many heads of family were women and/or elderly since we did not include such a question in our questionnaire and sociological data are needed to interpret our findings.

In conclusion, there seems to have been no difference in the reasons why families had left their homes in Kosovo, whether they came to Albania, Montenegro or Macedonia. We have no reason to believe that this result, found in three separate surveys in three host countries, would not apply to all Kosovar refugees who fled their country in 1999.

Sincerely,

Guus ten Asbroek, epidemiologist, MSF and Academic Medical Centre Amsterdam

Welmoet Tuynman, health advisor, MSF

Katrien Coppens, humanitarian affairs advisor, MSF

Notes

¹ Brown V, Perea W, Godain G, Dachy E, Valenciano M. Kosovar Refugee Assessments in Montenegro and Albania. *Refuge* 2000: vol 18, (5), 43 – 45.

² World Population Prospects, 1998 revision Vol II: Sex and Age. United Nations Economic and Social Affairs Dept. Page 144.

Corrections

Volume 19.1 Guest Editor: Kathryn Graham

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