INFLUENCE OF FORCED MIGRATIONS ON CHANGES OF DEMOGRAPHIC STRUCTURE AND CREATION OF ILLEGAL SETTLEMENTS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PRIJEDOR

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Abstract: Demographic and socio-economic characteristics of Prijedor municipality are directly conditioned by political, economic and social transformations within the Republika Srpska and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Turbulent period of political instability, war events, inefficient institutional organization and post-war transitional phase led to significant (negative) transformations of demographic structure and population movements. Population settled in the area of Prijedor municipality after the year 1990, as a result of forced migrations, supported by the municipal authorities established a number of newly illegal settlements.

Rezumat: **Influența migrațiilor forțate asupra structurilor demografice și apariției de așezări ilegale în Municipalitatea Prijedor.** Caracteristicile demografice și social-economice ale municipalității Prijedor sunt direct influențate de trasnformările sociale din Republica Srpska și Bosnia Herțegovina. Perioada tulbure de instabilitate politică, războaiele, organizarea instituțională ineficientă și faza postbelică de tranziție au dus la transformări negative semnificative ale structurii demografice și mișcării populației. Populația s-a stabilit în Municipalitatea Prijedor după anul 1990, ca urmare a migrațiilor forțate și a stabilit o serie de așezări ilegale.

Key words: *migrations, post war transition, demographic structure, municipality of Prijedor*
Cuvinte cheie: *migrații forțate, tranziție postbelică, structură demografică, municipalitatea Prijedor*

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Basic Demographic and Socio-economic Characteristics Of Prijedor Municipality

The municipality of Prijedor is situated in the north-western part of the Republic of Srpska and Bosnia and Herzegovina. In terms of population size, it is the third largest municipality in the Republic of Srpska. According to the estimates of the Republic Statistical Institute of the Republic of Srpska, in 2006 the territory of the municipality of Prijedor had a population of 99,679, grouped in 27,233 households, housed in 26,555 housing units and inhabiting 71 settlements. The area of the municipality is 834 km^2 with population density of 119.5 persons per sq km, which makes Prijedor one of the most

densely populated municipalities in the Republic of Srpska (average population density in the Republic of Srpska is 59.9 persons per sq km)[1].

Natural movement of population is distinctly negative in the municipality of Prijedor and, as such, is consistent with the trends in the Republic as a whole. In 2006 in the municipality of Prijedor a total of 618 babies were born, i.e. birth rate was 6.2‰, while a total of 934 persons died the same year, i.e. death rate was 9.4‰[2], thus making the population growth rate a negative one at -3.17‰ (Republic average -1.5‰).

The municipality of Prijedor is also unique in terms of migratory movements taking place after 1992. The general political climate and armed conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina and neighbouring countries in 1990s brought about very extensive forced migration. Prijedor is one of the municipalities in the Republic of Srpska and Bosnia and Herzegovina with the most profound consequences of forced migration, which has had a dramatic impact on the municipality's demographic structure. The official records show that in 1996 a total of 29,079 refugees and displaced persons[3] were registered as living in the territory of the municipality, accounting for 6.9 per cent of the total number of refugees and displaced persons in the Republic of Srpska, whereas in 2001 their number was 19,117[4] or 7 per cent of the total number of refugees and displaced persons in the Republic of Srpska. Furthermore, during the same period a considerable number of inhabitants were forced to emigrate from the municipality of Prijedor. However, the emigrated population returned to the municipality in the post-war period. According to the UNHCR data[5], around 20,000 persons have returned to date.

The economic structure of the Prijedor municipality, viewed in terms of employment distribution, is strongly orientated towards service (tertiary) industry. According to the data for 2007[6], of the total number of those employed (16,904), around 1.8 per cent were in the primary industry sector, around 24.1 per cent in the secondary industry sector, and as many as 74 per cent in the service industry sector (service activities – trade, catering industry, traffic, financial and insurance activities, service craft; non-economic activities – health care, education, administration, defence, etc.). Another indicator of a markedly unfavourable economic structure is the fact that 37.1 per cent of those employed work in trade and catering sectors. Prior to the war, Prijedor was a significant industrial hub with overwhelming dominance of the secondary industry sector in economic structure (over 50 per cent of those employed worked in the secondary sector). The data presented above clearly indicate that the economic sector has undergone significant transformation.

Another negative characteristic of the socio-economic structure of the Prijedor municipality is a vast number of unemployed persons. According to the Employment Agency of the Republic of Srpska, in May 2008 there were 11,513 unemployed persons in the municipality of Prijedor, which are over two thirds of the total number of those employed.

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[1] *According to the data of the Republic Statistical Institute of the Republic of Srpska about the estimated population in 2006.*
[2] *Demographic Statistics, Statistical Bulletin No. 10/07, Republic Statistical Institute of the Republic of Srpska, Banja Luka*
[3] *Census of refugees and displaced persons in 1996.*
[4] *Data obtained through registration of refugees and displaced persons in the Republic of Srpska in 2001.*
[5] *www.unhcr.ba*
[6] *Republic Statistical Institute of the Republic of Srpska.*

In terms of population size and how developed its functional structure is, Prijedor constitutes a meso-regional centre within the Republic of Srpska towards which all neighbouring municipalities (Novi Grad, Kozarska Dubica, Oštra Luka, Krupa na Uni, Kostajnica) gravitate, which results in daily migrations of commuters and students to Prijedor.

1.2. Methodology and Surveyed Area

The survey was conducted in 3 settlements in the municipality of Prijedor. The target settlement of the survey is Nova Orlovača with its sub-settlements: Vrbice, Celpak, Nova Orlovača and Topolik. Nova Orlovača is a newly formed settlement in the municipality of Prijedor. It was formed in the period after 1990, in the wake of political, social, economic and migratory events. The Nova Orlovača settlement with its sub-settlements is considered to be an illegal (informal) settlement with housing units that were built without building permit. Although the municipal authorities participated in allocation of plots, thus playing a direct part in formation of the settlement, the settlement is treated as illegal. Circumstances surrounding the formation of the settlement, socio-economic structure of its population, and unresolved infrastructure issues pose major obstacles to proper functioning of the Nova Orlovača (Overall) settlement and cause serious problems in integration of the settlement into urban structure.

For the purpose of comparing demographic and socio-economic characteristics in the Nova Orlovača (Overall) settlement, we gathered data in the settlements that served as comparative examples. In that sense, as part of analysis, demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the Nova Orlovača (Overall) settlement were compared with one legal (formal) settlement, namely Urije Jug, and with one settlement of the same type as Nova Orlovača (Overall), namely Urije Aerodromsko 3. The comparative analysis enabled us to draw conclusions about how developed demographically and socio-economically Nova Orlovača (Overall) is in relation to the comparative settlements. The survey is based on the polls conducted in the three aforementioned settlements.

2. DEMOGRAPHIC, SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND MIGRATIONS CHARACTERISTIC

2.1. Population and household members

The processing of survey data helped us to determine basic demographic characteristics in surveyed settlements.

Table 1 shows that an average number of household members in all surveyed settlements is in the range of 3.36 per cent and 3.88 per cent. The number of household members ranges from 1 to 10. Households with more than one family are more likely to have a greater number of household members. Table 1 also shows that the majority of households are comprised of one family (over 90 per cent in most settlements), whereas two or three families are less likely to constitute the household structure ("extended family"). Furthermore, judging from the average number of household members we may say that these are households with a low number of household members, which is consistent with the wider demographic context (Republic of Srpska).

Tab. 1 Average number of household members and number of families in the household
Numărul mediu de membri per gospodărie şi numprul de familii per gospodărie

	Average no. of household members	Number of families in households					
		1 family		2 families		3 families	
Nova Orlovača (Overall)	3.73	287	91.1%	22	7.0%	6	1.9%
Vrbice	3.6	37	92.5%	2	5%	1	2.5%
Topolik	3.36	44	93.6%	2	4.2%	1	2.1%
Celpak	3.88	15	83.3%	1	5.5%	2	11.1 %
Nova Orlovača	3.82	191	90.9%	17	8.1%	2	0.9%
Urije Jug	3.55	97	80.8%	23	19.1%	0	0
Urije Aerodromsko 3	3.77	121	95.3%	6	4.7%	0	0

2.2. Age and sex distribution of the population

Sex distribution shows varying ratios across surveyed settlements. Of the total number of those surveyed in the Nova Orlovača (Overall) settlement, 50.9 per cent are men and 49.1 per cent are women. The ratios show that the age distribution in the Nova Orlovača (Overall) settlement is very close to that in the Urije Aerodromsko settlement (50.8 per cent - men, 49.2 per cent - women), whereas it differs somewhat from that in the Urije Jug settlement (48.8 per cent - men, 51.2 per cent - women).

The analysis of the age distribution in surveyed settlements shows that the age distribution is more favourable in Nova Orlovača (Overall) and Urije Aerodromsko settlements. What accounts for that is the fact that the proportion of young population in these settlements is notably higher than in the Urije Jug settlement, which has a considerably larger proportion of elderly population in the age range 50-64 years. This is further corroborated in the next Graph, which allows analysis of the distribution of the population in these settlements by major age groups.

Graph 1 shows that the Nova Orlovača (Overall) settlement has the best demographic perspective with 24 per cent of young population and only 7.4 per cent of the oldest age group in the overall population. Much less favourable demographic structure is in the Urije Jug settlement, with a very low proportion of young population (13.6 per cent) and almost the same proportion of the oldest age group (11.1 per cent) in the overall population.
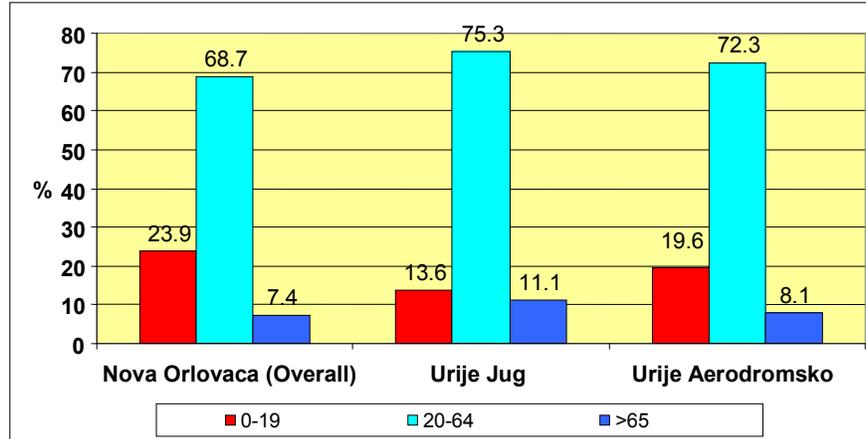
Fig. 1. Major age groups of population in surveyed settlements
Principalele grupe de vârstă în localitățile analizate

Based on the presented findings, it is clear that of all surveyed settlements, the Nova Orlovača settlement has the greatest demographic potential in terms of age distribution of its population due to the significant proportion of young population and low proportion of the oldest population, i.e. the "ageing of population" is not as pronounced as in the Urije Jug settlement.

2.3. Educational distribution of the population

Educational distribution is a good indicator of socio-economic characteristics of the population. Certain differences may be observed across surveyed settlements in terms of educational distribution, which is a direct reflection of socio-economic conditions in these settlements.
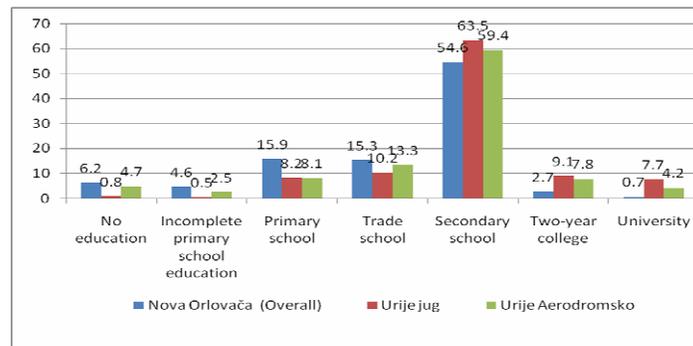

Fig. 2 Proportion of educational levels in the overall population aged 19+
Structura populației de peste 19 ani, după nivelul de instruire

The data on the qualifications of surveyed population show that the largest proportion (over 50 per cent) of the population aged 19+ in all three surveyed settlements have secondary school qualifications. This proportion, however, is highest at 62.8 per cent in the Urije Jug settlement, whereas the proportions of the population with secondary-school qualifications are somewhat lower in the other two settlements. If we add to these data the number of people who have trade-school qualifications, which can also be considered secondary-school qualifications, then the percentage of population with secondary-school qualifications is much higher. If trade-school qualifications are counted in, the percentages of population with secondary-school qualifications are as follows: Nova Orlovača (Overall) – 69.4 per cent, Urije Jug – 72.9 per cent, and Urije Aerodromsko – 67.8 per cent. We find it interesting that the Nova Orlovača (Overall) settlement has the largest proportion of population without any education (6.1 per cent) and primary-school dropouts (4.6 per cent).

These proportions are similar in the Urije Aerodromsko settlement, with 4.4 per cent of the population without any education and 2.3 per cent of primary-school dropouts. Furthermore, these settlements have the lowest proportion of population with two-year college qualifications and university qualifications. To conclude, the Urije Jug settlement is characterised by far better educational distribution, with the lowest proportion of no-education population (0.8 per cent), only 0.5 per cent of primary-school dropouts, and the highest proportion of the population with university qualifications (7.6 per cent).

To conclude, the educational distribution in the illegal settlements (Nova Orlovača and Urije Aerodromsko), with high proportion of illiterate population and low proportion of those with university qualifications, is notably less favourable than in the formal settlement (Urije Jug).

2.4. Socio-economic characteristics

Different conditions under which the surveyed settlements were formed, different demographic and social structures and living conditions brought about obvious differences in socio-economic characteristics between the newly formed illegal settlements and the formal ones.

In terms of population's activity, the lowest percentage of the unemployed was reported in the Urije Jug settlement – 10.9 per cent of the overall population. Far higher percentage of the unemployed population was found in the Nova Orlovača (Overall) settlement – 39.9 per cent, whereas the proportion of unemployed population in the overall population in the Urije Aerodromsko settlement is 24.5 per cent. So, in terms of the employment status of the population, the Urije Jug settlement is in the best position because the proportion of those with employment in the overall population is 42.8 per cent, whereas this proportion stands at 33.1 per cent in Urije Aerodromsko and 25.8 per cent in Nova orlovača (Overall).

It is clear that the largest percentage of retired persons is in Urije Jug (18.1 per cent) as it has already been said that this settlement has the least favourable age distribution. In the Urije Aerodromsko settlement the proportion of retired persons in the overall population is 9 per cent and in the Nova Orlovača (Overall) only 7.5 per cent. Almost the same proportions are observed in terms of the number of housewives, with highest percentage in Urije Jug (11.4 per cent), followed by Urije Aerodromsko (8.1 per cent) and Nova Orlovača (Overall) (6.4 per cent).
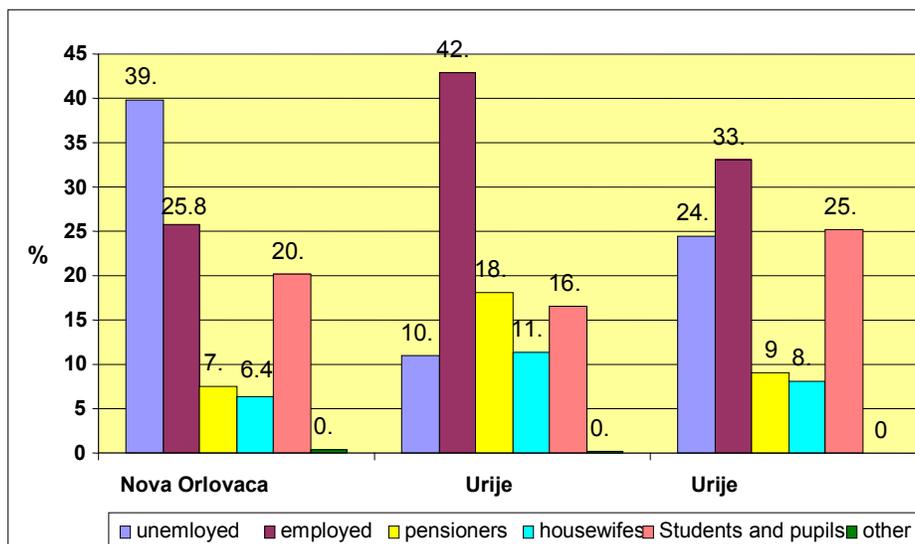
Fig. 3. Population's activity (in %)
Structura social-economică a populaţiei

The analysis of the Graph above shows a totally different picture in the analysed settlements as far as the proportion of pupils and students is concerned. The largest proportion of pupils and students in the overall population is found in the Urije Aerodromsko settlement – 25.2 per cent. The Nova Orlovača (Overall) settlement has 20.1 per cent of pupils and students in overall population, while Urije Jug has only 16.5 per cent of pupils and students in overall population, by activity.

The analysed data indicate a poorer socio-economic structure in the recently formed illegal settlements, which is reflected in a much higher proportion of those without employment. This is especially true of the Nova Orlovača (Overall) settlement, where the proportion of those unemployed is by 15 per cent higher than of those employed. However, the lower proportion of retired persons in Nova Orlovača compared to Urije Jug and higher proportion of pupils and students indicates a more favourable age distribution and greater demographic potential in this settlement.

2.5. Marriage rate and number of live-born children

The analysis of data in relation to the marital status of the population indicates considerable differences between the surveyed settlements. In comparison to the other two settlements, the Nova Orlovača (Overall) settlement has a notably higher marriage rate in age groups up to 25 years, at over 20 per cent. The largest proportion of those married in the Nova Orlovača (Overall) settlement is in age groups 35-49 years and 50-64 years. Similar relations are observed in the other two settlements. A relatively low marriage rate is observed in the age range 25-34, in the vicinity of 50 per cent in the Nova Orlovača

(Overall) settlement and the Urije Jug settlement, while considerably lower (at below 20 per cent) in the Urije Aerodromsko 3 settlement.

The divorce rate in all surveyed settlements and all age groups is negligible. The proportion of widowers and widows is higher in older age groups, which is a reflection of normal demographic and biological ageing processes as well as the result of war activities during 1990s. The general conclusion is that the marriage rate is relatively low in reproductive age groups (up to 35 years of age), which might have a major impact in future on the demographic structure in surveyed settlements. In that context, the Nova Orlovača settlement has somewhat more favourable characteristics.

The analysis of the number of live-born children shows that the largest number of 2.5 children per mother was reported in the Urije Aerodromsko settlement, followed by the Nova Orlovača (Overall) settlement with two children per mother, and 1.8 children per mother in the Urije Jug settlement, which also happens to be the settlement with the least favourable age distribution of population.
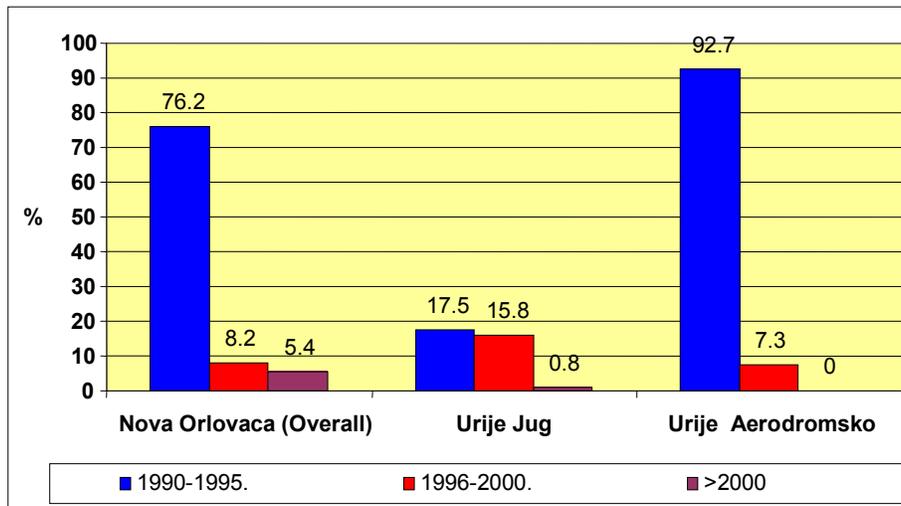
2.6. Migrations

Migrations are a distinctive characteristic of the population in surveyed settlements. A turbulent period of military, political and economic events in 1990s led to major movement of the population. Occurrence of illegal settlements such as Nova Orlovača is directly linked with migration of population. The population that settled in the municipality of Prijedor after 1990 as a result of forced migration formed a number of illegal settlements with the support of the municipal authorities.

In Graph 4, certain differences may be observed in the period when the migrant population moved in. It is obvious from the Graph that the highest percentage of population moved in between 1990 and 1995. This is the period of extensive forced migration caused by war activities taking place during that period. Being a pre-war economic and cultural hub of the region, Prijedor attracted a significant number of refugees. Much fewer people moved in after 1995. In that period population mainly moved in from the neighbouring Republic of Croatia as a result of forced migration, war activities and political events.

The data related to the years of living at the present address are in accordance with the previous analysis. The analysis of the length of living at the present address shows that the highest proportion of the population in the Nova Orlovača settlement (66 per cent) have been living at the present address for less than five years. This is similar to the Urije Aerodromsko settlement, where 50.4 per cent of the population have been living at the present address for less than five years. The second most common period of living at the present address, in both the Nova Orlovača settlement and the Urije Aerodromsko settlement, is 6-10 years, followed by the period of 10-20 years. Only 0.3 per cent of the population in the Nova Orlovača (Overall) settlement have been registered as living at the same address for over 20 years[7], while no such cases are reported in the Urije Aerodromsko settlement. Exactly the opposite is true of the Urije Jug settlement, where the population that have not changed their home address for over 20 years dominate with 42 per cent, while only 16.8 per cent of the population have settled here over the last 5 years.

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[7] *The reported 0.3 per cent of the respondents who claim to have lived in the Nova Orlovača settlement for over 20 years may be ascribed to false statements given during the interviews.*

Graph 4 Period when the population moved in (in %)
Structura populaţiei după perioada sosirii

CONCLUSION

This work is based on data obtained in the survey, and as such provides relevant information on demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the investigated settlements. The results presented herein indicate a large number of limiting (negative) factors that can prove a significant obstacle in integration of illegal settlements into the urban structure of the town of Prijedor. The survey has showed certain discrepancies in terms of demographic and socio-economic characteristics between illegal and legal (formal) settlements. It was observed that the illegal (informal) settlements have a better demographic potential, which is reflected in age distribution and population growth rate. The formal settlements, on the other hand, are found to be in a much better position as regards socio-economic characteristics.

The survey revealed that the level of infrastructure development in the illegal settlements is very low in relation to the formal ones. The illegal settlements are found to be lacking in basic infrastructure facilities such as sewage and faced with poor water supply, disrupted power supply, etc. Due to lack of infrastructure a large number of environmental problems occur, which is particularly manifested in the form of seasonal floods and virtual paralysis of life in the Nova Orlovača settlements during seasonal floods. The field survey has further found that the living conditions, reflected in the standard of living, in the Nova Orlovača settlements are generally very poor, which in combination with poor infrastructure significantly contributes to dissatisfaction and general despondence of the population in the Nova Orlovača settlements.

Based on the foregoing, it may be concluded that the basic preconditions for integration of the Nova Orlovača settlements into the urban structure of Prijedor include steps aimed at improving infrastructure, employment and improving general living

conditions in this settlement. Otherwise, due to general despondency, it will be very difficult to expect the population to cooperate in legalisation of their housing units.

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