Name: Abdullah State: Afghanistan

Assistance area: Dimitrovgrad, Serbia

Organization: Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation

During our fieldwork, we had a chance to meet refugees and hear so many different stories. One of the refugees who left very strong impression on all of us is young Abdullah. We met him in November, 2015 at the refugees' registration center in Dimitrovgrad. He has been sitting all alone on the ground, when we saw him for the first time. Our staff approached him and started to talk with him. Fortunately, he speaks English. He has been very scared and immediately told us that he is 18 and traveling with relatives (although it was obvious that he is alone and under 18). We needed some time to convince him that we want to help him; he was afraid we would take him to the authorities and make his situation more difficult.

He is from Afghanistan and started his journey two months ago. In Iran, police beat him and took him all his money. In Turkey, he stayed for a month and a half, to earn some money and continued his journey to EU. In Bulgaria, police put him in detention. After two weeks in detention, Bulgarian police left him on the border with Serbia, and he came to Serbian border town Dimitrovgrad.

Abdullah told us that for the very first time he got proper food and medical care for free. Back home he has lost his parents and relatives. He told us that he is going to Germany, or somewhere else where peace is. We asked him what he expects at that "peaceful" place and he just did not know. Unfortunately, almost all stories from young Afghan people are similar. Our staff provides refugees with food, medicines, hygiene, and winter items (close, jackets, boots, etc), all needed information and kind words.

Good luck Abdullah, we wish you a very safe and peaceful journey!

