

September, 2009



**WHO INSISTS ONCE AGAIN THAT THE ONLY SOLUTION TO THE LIFE  
THREATENING LEAD EXPOSURE TO THE ROMA, ASHKALI AND EGYPTIANS IN  
NORTH MITROVICA IDP CAMPS IS THEIR IMMEDIATE EVACUATION.**

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WHO Regional Office for Europe has consistently called for the **immediate** and **urgent** need to **evacuate all** the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians Internally Displaced People from Osterode and Cesmin Lug camps to a lead safe environment. The population in these camps have life threatening lead toxicity proven through laboratory and clinical findings. Women and children are the most vulnerable and affected.

The majority of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians from the three lead toxic camps were relocated to nearby Osterode camp in 2006. Two of these camps were completely closed and one remained partially open. WHO was promised that all these populations would be relocated within six months, but the majority are currently still there.

Chelation treatment (which is a procedure for cleaning lead from the blood) is not recommended in lead contaminated areas. In response to the Mitrovica crisis situation WHO recommended chelation treatment as an emergency intervention under the promise that relocation would occur within six months. As WHO has constantly stated the **ONLY** effective treatment under these circumstances is the removal of the affected population from the exposure, this means urgent evacuation.

WHO is asking for immediate evacuation while relocation plans are organised.