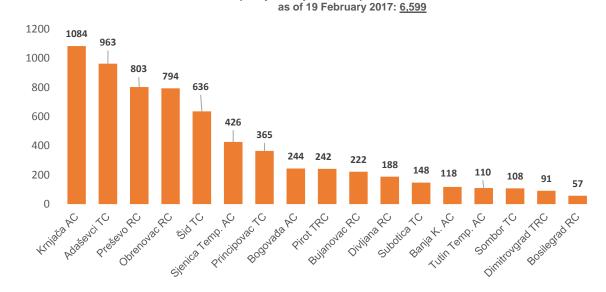


SERBIA UPDATE, 16-19 Feb 2017

HIGHLIGHTS AND STATISTICS

- The overall number of refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants counted in Serbia stood close to 7,700. Over 6,599 (86%) of them were sheltered in 17 heated government facilities (below chart refers). The rest were staying rough in Belgrade city centre or the North.
- On 15 February, UNHCR and partners surveyed refugee and migrant men squatting in all known locations in Belgrade city centre, and counted a total of 841, all males. With successful transfers to Obrenovac and other governmental shelters, the number of unaccompanied and separated boys amongst them had dropped to 41 (or 12%). Of the total, 40% who were willing to be surveyed, 87% claimed to be from Afghanistan and 13% from Pakistan. Among them, 12% indicated they were willing to transfer into any government shelter immediately and 17% perhaps, depending on the shelter, while 49% stated they did not want to move to any governmental shelter but prefer to stay in the city centre instead.
- Hungarian authorities admitted 19 asylum seekers into procedures at the Hungarian "transit zones" near Kelebija and Horgos border crossings. During the same period, over 110 asylum-seekers informed UNHCR and partners to have been denied access to asylum procedures in Hungary but instead been collectively expelled back into Serbia, with some alleging maltreatment by Hungarian police.



Occupancy of Asylum, Reception and Transit Centres

• Between 01 and 19 February, 324 intentions to seek asylum in Serbia were registered.

EAST

Over 570 asylum seekers were accommodated in four Reception Centres: 242 in Pirot, 188 in Divljana, 91 in Dimitrovgrad and 57 in Bosilegrad. Most are from Iraq, followed by Afghanistan and Syria and around half of them are children.

Authorities provided food and medical services and UNHCR NFIs, while NGOs were available for support in aid delivery, interpretation and counselling.

SOUTH

1,025 refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants were accommodated in the Reception Centres of Presevo (803) and Bujanovac (222).

UNHCR and partners assisted with food and non-food items, medical services, counselling, interpretation, referrals and recreational activities.

Upon request of authorities, UNHCR and partners continued to support the Centre for Social Work in conducting Best Interest Assessments for unaccompanied and separated children and appointing legal guardians.

Asylum statistics are provided by the Ministry of Interior. Other information is based on findings of UNHCR staff and partners. If you use this content, please refer to UNHCR as source. **CONTACTS:** *General:* Ivana Zujovic-Simic +381 63 452 950; External Relations: Indira Beganovic, +381 63 431 886; *Media:* Mirjana Milenkovski +381 63 275 154



SERBIA UPDATE, 16-19 Feb 2017

BELGRADE

Around 2,700 refugees and migrants were present in Belgrade, of which over 840 sleeping rough in the city centre.

Krnjaca Asylum Centre accommodated 1,084 asylum-seekers, while 794 refugees and migrants, including 295 unaccompanied or separated boys, were sheltered in Obrenovac. UNHCR continued supporting the rapid refurbishment of capacities in Obrenovac. Small groups of men and boys used governmental transport from the city centre, while some also went to Obrenovac spontaneously, requesting accommodation. At the same time, UNHCR and partners transported 28 newly registered asylum seekers from Belgrade city centre to asylum centres.

UNHCR and partners provided life-saving aid, counselling, support to registration with the police, as well as referrals to child protection and medical services in the city centre.



NSHC sewing course in Adasevci Transit Centre, Adasevci (Serbia) UNHCR @13 Feb 2017

WEST

Transit Centres (TCs) in the West sheltered 1,964 refugees and migrants: 963 in Adasevci, 636 in Sid and 365 in Principovac.

Civil society organizations assisted authorities with food, nonfood and medical aid, counselling, referrals, child support and recreational activities.

During this period, 37 asylum-seekers informed UNHCR and partners to have been denied access to asylum procedures in Croatia, but instead been collectively expelled back into Serbia.

NORTH

Subotica TC sheltered 148 asylum-seekers and Sombor TC 108, while only seven asylum seekers camped at Horgos and six at Kelebija border sites, awaiting admission into Hungarian "transit zones". UNHCR and partners provided humanitarian aid, including food, non-food aid, hygiene packages, support to maintenance of the sanitary conditions, medical assistance, referrals, as well as legal and other counselling.

Over 200 unregistered migrant men from North Africa, Pakistan and Afghanistan were observed sleeping rough around Subotica, waiting to irregularly enter Hungary.



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