Some 26% of an estimated 300 irregular arrivals per day were encountered/assisted by UNHCR and partners near entry points, including 45% arriving from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and 55% from Bulgaria.

The number of asylum seekers, refugees and migrants resting in Belgrade every day rose above 1,000 with about half encountered/assisted in the city centre and up to 530 sheltered by the Serbian Commissariat for Refugees and Migration (SCRM) in Asylum Centre (AC) of Krnjaca.

Around 660 asylum-seekers, predominantly women and children from Afghanistan and Syria, were daily awaiting re-admission into the EU at the border with Hungary. Some half were waiting outside the Hungarian “transit zones” at the border crossing of Kelebija and Horgos I, while up to 291 where sheltered by the SCRM in the Refugee Aid Point (RAP) of Subotica.

As a result, close to 1,000 asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants out of an estimated 1,800 in the country at any one time, were sheltered in governmental facilities (below chart refers). While those centers on-route (i.e. close to Belgrade or Subotica) were occupied beyond capacity, those at the periphery/Western borders remain of limited utility and empty.

During the reporting period, 250 persons expressed intent to seek asylum, bringing the total in June to 1,002, and the year 2016 to 4,399 (statistics courtesy of the Ministry of Interior).

SOUTH

Up to 140 refugees/migrants, including 115 new arrivals from fYR Macedonia, were accommodated in the Reception Centre (RC) in Presevo.

The Red Cross, UNICEF, Caritas, Indigo, BCM, ATINA, Grupa 484, Humedica, DRC, Care, MSF, REMAR, ADRA, Save the Children, SOS Children Villages, Philanthropy, Border Free and Youth for Refugees assisted them.

The UNHCR-supported Public Health and the Humedica clinic provided over 295 medical treatments. The UNICEF/DRC/CSW child friendly space/mother and baby corner hosted up to 47 children and 18 women daily.

EAST

On 24 June, a group of 22 teenage boys from Afghanistan arrived via Bulgaria. The Zajecar police alerted the Centre for Social Work and the group was assisted by Sigma Plus, Red Cross and Indigo.

On 26 June, authorities apprehended a group of 24 refugees/migrants being smuggled near the town of Bor, while another group of 34 were found in a truck near Ostovica that had been involved in an accident. All 34 refugees/migrants, including seven Afghan children, were taken to hospital in Nis, none were in critical condition. According to the media, the smuggler and driver managed to escape.
UNHCR and partners encountered/assisted some 500 refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in the city centre. They were mainly new arrivals from Afghanistan, Syria or Pakistan. Between 60 and 130 stayed at night in parks near the bus or train station while up to 530 were sheltered by the authorities and assisted by Caritas in Krunjaca AC.

The Asylum Info Centre facilitated many referrals, including access to asylum procedures, accommodation to Krunjaca AC and medical services. UNHCR/DRC doctors treated 133 patients, while MSF, Refugee Aid Miksaliste and Divac Foundation assisted with food and other aid.

NORTH

On average, over 660 asylum seekers were present close to the Hungarian border every day. With no modus operandi of admission and waiting yet established between Hungarian and Serbian authorities, the situation at the border remains potentially explosive, leading to frustration and tensions amongst asylum-seekers and too many dangerous irregular crossings.

Around 310 asylum seekers, predominantly women and children, stayed for days or weeks in difficult conditions outside the "transit zones" at Kelebija and Horgos I border crossings. Garbage collection and cleaning of toilets were improved, though a garbage container in Kelebija is still lacking.

UNHCR, HCIT, UNICEF, IOM, MDM, MSF and the Red Cross provided humanitarian assistance including water, food, non-food aid, medical assistance as well as legal and other counselling at the two border crossings with Hungary. World Vision and HELP contributed with fruits and food.

The SCRM sheltered up to 291 refugees/migrants, in the Refugee Aid Point (RAP) of Subotica, pitching an additional 25 tents on its grounds.

Over 100 refugee/migrants were encountered on a daily basis in and around Subotica on their way to the border. HCIT as well as BCM, Divac Foundation and other agencies aided the most needy.

113 asylum seekers were admitted into Hungarian "transit zones", i.e. around 30 per day.

We are grateful for contributions to the 2016 UNHCR Serbia Operation from:

Additional contributions came from private donors in Australia, Japan and the Swedish company "Radiohjälpen".

Most statistics are being provided by the Ministry of Interior. All 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; Vera Dragovic +381 63 343 521; Media: Mirjana Milenkovski +381 63 275 154