

SERBIA UPDATE, 23-26 Feb 2017

HIGHLIGHTS AND STATISTICS

- Over 7,700 refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants were counted in Serbia. 85% (6,614) of them were sheltered in 17 heated government facilities (below chart refers). The rest were staying rough in Belgrade city centre or the North.
- Hungarian authorities admitted 19 asylum seekers into procedures at the Hungarian "transit zones" near Kelebija and Horgos border crossings. During the same period, some 150 asylum-seekers reported to UNHCR and partners to have been denied access to asylum procedures in Hungary but instead collectively expelled back into Serbia, with some alleging serious maltreatment by Hungarian authorities.
- UNHCR with its partners supported attendance of five unaccompanied and separated boys from Afghanistan, accommodated in the Vasa Stajic home for children, together with 11 IDP children, to attend a week long International Winter Camp for children, organized by a Serbian sports association, under the auspices of the Ministry of Education, at a ski resort in Kopaonik.

Occupancy of Asylum, Reception and Transit Centres

as of 26 February 2017: 6,614 1200 1053 984 1000 899 783 641 800 600 419 354 400 251 237 222 188 110 200 121 118 91 86 0 a Temp. AC PirotTRC Subolica Sombor

Between 01 and 26 February, 485 intentions to seek asylum in Serbia were registered.

EAST

Over 580 asylum seekers were accommodated in four Reception Centres: 251 in Pirot, 188 in Divljana, 91 in Dimitrovgrad and 57 in Bosilegrad. Most are from Irag, 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.

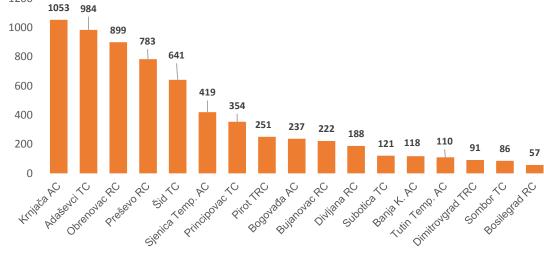
SOUTH

1,005 refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants were accommodated in the Reception Centres of Presevo (783) and Bujanovac (222). In Presevo RC, half of the population is from Afghanistan, 24% from Iraq, 13% from Pakistan and 6% from Syria. 52% are children. In Bujanovac, 30% are from Afghanistan and Iraq each, 24% from Syria, and 62% of the total population is children.

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

Upon request of authorities, they also 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: Miriana Milenkovski +381 63 275 154



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Refugee and IDP children at International Winter Camp for children, Kopaonik (Serbia) @Amity, 26 February 2017

BELGRADE

Around 2,700 refugees and migrants were counted in Belgrade, of which over 840 sleeping rough in the city centre, where UNHCR and partners continued providing life-saving aid, counselling, support to registration with the police, as well as referrals to child protection and medical services as well as transport to governmental shelters. Krnjaca Asylum Centre accommodated 1,053 asylum-seekers, while 899 refugees and migrants (including 341 unaccompanied or separated boys) were sheltered in Obrenovac. Small groups of men and boys continued using governmental transport from the city centre to

move into Obrenovac, while some also went to Obrenovac spontaneously, requesting accommodation. UNHCR and partners continued supporting the rapid refurbishment of capacities in Obrenovac, as well as regular medical, Non-food aid and protection services.

WEST

Transit Centres (TCs) in the West sheltered 1,979 refugees and migrants: 984 in Adasevci, 641 in Sid and 354 in Principovac.

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

NORTH

Subotica TC sheltered 121 asylum-seekers and Sombor TC 68, while six male 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.

The access road to Horgoš/Röszke transit zone remained inaccessible by car, and humanitarian workers have to carry all aid there on foot, while asylum seekers collect food parcels from an agreed point near outside the site.

Over 200 unregistered migrant men from North Africa, Pakistan and Afghanistan continue being observed sleeping rough around Subotica, trying to irregularly enter Hungary, some repeatedly.





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