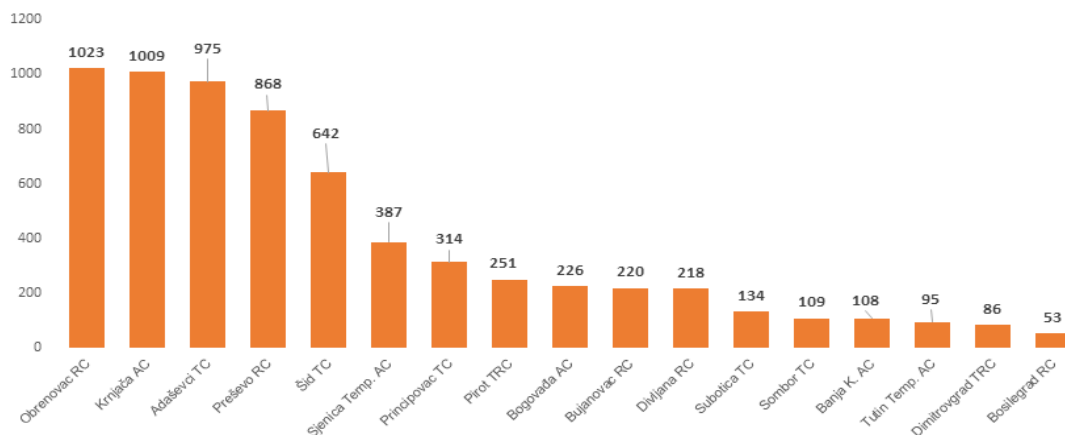


HIGHLIGHTS AND STATISTICS

- Close to 7,800 refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants were counted in Serbia. 87% (6,718) of them were sheltered in 17 heated government facilities (below chart refers). The rest stayed rough in Belgrade city centre or the North. Based on available data, 43% were children, 16% women children and 41% men; some 80 % originate from Afghanistan (54%), Iraq (18%) and Syria (8%), with 12% Pakistan and 8% from other countries.
- On 10 March, the authorities gathered 112 unregistered migrants/refugees (83 men, 1 couple and 27 unaccompanied and separated boys) who were squatting in a few locations in/near Subotica and transported them to the Presevo Reception Centre (RC). Most are from Pakistan, a few from Syria and Afghanistan, and have already spent several months in Serbia unregistered. UNHCR and partners supported their admission to the RC, including health screening/treatment and provision of NFIs.
- Last week, the Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (The Lanzarote Committee), published a special report on protecting children affected by the refugee crisis from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. The report, based on responses provided by 41 States to the Committee, identified many challenges including, *inter alia*, inadequate reception facilities, lengthy asylum procedures and problems with age verification and identification of victims. You may find the full report [here](#).
- Observing continuing arrival of Unaccompanied and Separated refugee Children (UASC) from Bulgaria, as well as allegations of abuse, UNHCR reiterated its offer to support authorities in improving their protection both inside and outside of governmental centres. This would include the expansion of UNHCR support to Centres for Social Work in identifying, profiling, conducting Best Interest Assessments (BIAs), foster and other arrangements in line with adopted SOPs, from Presevo and Bujanovac Reception Centres (where over 200 BIAs have already been conducted with UNHCR support) to all locations and centres. Currently up to 900 UASC are in Serbia, with 702 accommodated in government centres, including 127 in Presevo, 39 in Bujanovac, 305 in Obrenovac and 231 in all 14 other governmental centres.
- Between 01 and 12 March, the Border Guard's Asylum Office registered 255 intents to seek asylum in Serbia.

Occupancy of Asylum, Reception and Transit Centres
as of 12 March 2017: 6,718



EAST

Over 600 asylum seekers were accommodated in four Reception Centres: 251 in Pirot, 218 in Divljana, 86 in Dimitrovgrad and 53 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 supported aid delivery, interpretation and counselling.

SOUTH

1,088 refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants were accommodated in the Reception Centres of Presevo (868) and Bujanovac (220). In Presevo RC, some 51% of the population is from Afghanistan, 24% from Iraq, 13% from Pakistan and 7% from Syria. About half are children. In Bujanovac, 31% are from Afghanistan, 30% Iraq and 25% from Syria, and 62% are children.

UNHCR and partners assisted with food and non-food aid, medical services, counselling, interpretation, referrals, educational and recreational activities. Upon request of authorities, UNHCR and partners also continued supporting the Centre for Social Work in conducting Best Interest Assessments for unaccompanied and separated children and appointing legal guardians.

BELGRADE

Over 2,900 refugees and migrants were counted in Belgrade. According to authorities, some 940 men and boys still sleep 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 1,009 asylum-seekers. 1,023 refugees and migrants (including 305 unaccompanied or separated boys) were sheltered in Obrenovac. UNHCR and partners continued supporting the rapid refurbishment of capacities in Obrenovac, as well as regular medical and protection services. UNHCR also delivered 240 pairs of sneakers, 198 tracksuits, 450 pieces of underwear, 400 T-shirts and 308 hygiene parcels to residents of Obrenovac. A separate building in the centre was dedicated to accommodating only unaccompanied and separated boys.



WEST

Transit Centres (TCs) in the West sheltered 1,931 refugees and migrants: 975 in Adasevci, 642 in Sid and 314 in Principovac. Some small groups of unregistered men were also observed staying in abandoned buildings near Sid.

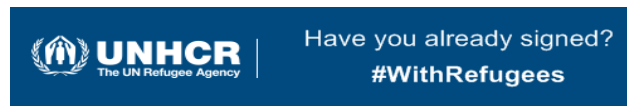
Civil society organizations assisted authorities with food, non-food and medical aid, counselling, referrals, child support and recreational activities.

*Sewing workshop, Adasevci (Serbia),
©UNHCR, 10 March 2017*

NORTH

Only five asylum seekers camped at Horgos and three at Kelebija border sites, awaiting admission into Hungarian "transit zones". Subotica Transit Centre (TC) sheltered 134 asylum-seekers and Sombor TC 109, while 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.

UNHCR discussed with authorities its concern that the planned detention and rejection of all asylum-seekers by Hungary (and thus the termination of refugees' hopes to re-enter the EU regularly through Hungarian "Waiting Lists") risks leading to tensions, protests, perhaps even violence, in governmental centres and elsewhere.



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