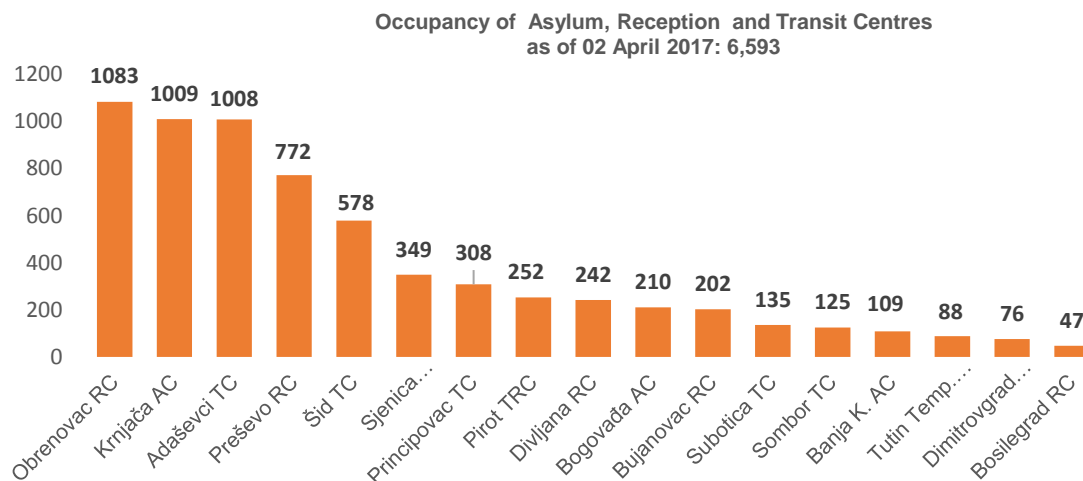


HIGHLIGHTS AND STATISTICS

- On 02 April, **7,720** refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants were counted in Serbia. 85% (6,593) were sheltered in 17 government facilities, while the rest slept rough in Belgrade city centre or close to the borders with Croatia or Hungary.
- On 28 March, the legislative amendments came into effect in Hungary, which prescribe mandatory detention of all asylum-seekers, including many children, for the entire length of the asylum procedure. UNHCR, like the ECHR, Council of Europe and many others, question their compliance with applicable international and European law ([UNHCR Press Release](#), [ECHR ruling](#), [EC Press Release](#)). Refugees and migrants throughout Serbia continued to express increased exasperation with their enactment, fearing prolonged detention before being denied entry to substantive asylum procedures in Hungary and being pushed-back to Serbia. Many indicate they would instead try to irregularly re-enter the EU. UNHCR continues offering authorities increased support to maintain mental health and security, especially in the Transit Centres (TCs) in the West of Serbia that have the lowest NGO presence and appear most vulnerable to tensions.
- Nine cases of collective expulsions from Hungary were encountered this week, compared to five last week. Consistent with increased attempts to irregularly enter Croatia, 56 collective expulsions from Croatia were encountered this week, compared to 60 last week.
- A tragic accident, illustrating the high risks taken by those who attempt irregular crossings, was reported on 01 April, when a young man from Algeria climbed on top of a train in Sid and got electrocuted by overhead cables, suffering serious burns. He remains hospitalized in critical condition.
- On 31 March, authorities transported 44 male refugees/migrants from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Morocco and Algeria, including 12 boys, from various locations in and around the Sid TC to the Presevo Reception Centre (RC), where they were received by camp management, UNHCR and partners who provided medical screening, body lice treatment, NFIs, food and registration.
- Unaccompanied and Separated refugee Children (UASC) continued arriving daily, mainly from Bulgaria. Some 26 new, mostly Afghan, boys were referred by UNHCR and partners to the Centre for Social Work in Belgrade alone. By now over **900** UASCs are in Serbia, with 775 accommodated in government centres, including 359 in Obrenovac, 124 in Presevo, 24 in Bujanovac, and 268 in all other governmental shelters, as well as close to 200 in Belgrade city centre.
- In March, the Border Guard's Asylum Office registered a total of **710** individuals intending to seek asylum in Serbia: 43% were made by men, 9% by women and 48% were registered as children. Most were made by citizens of Afghanistan (45%), Iraq (20%), Pakistan (16%), Syria (6%) and other nationalities (13%). One negative (one rejection) first-instance decision was recorded in March and no positive decisions have been taken by the Asylum Office yet in 2017.
- Paragraphs 32 and 33 of the concluding observations ([link](#)) of the UN Human Rights Committee (CCPR) review contain pertinent recommendations to Serbia regarding its treatment of refugees and asylum seekers. You may wish to also study the UNHCR Serbia overview "Europe Refugee Situation: Serbia 2016 in Numbers", available [here](#), as well as UNHCR's real-time tracking of reception conditions and access to services at all 17 government shelters in Serbia, at the following [link](#).



EAST

617 refugees and migrants were accommodated in four Reception Centres: 252 in Pirot, 242 in Divljana, 76 in Dimitrovgrad and 47 in Bosilegrad. Most are from Iraq, followed by Afghanistan and Syria and around half are children.

SOUTH



Registration of the 44 men and boys transported from the West to the Presevo RC, (Serbia) @UNHCR, 31 March 2017

974 refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants were accommodated in the Reception Centres of Presevo (772) and Bujanovac (202).

57% of the residents of Presevo RC are from Afghanistan, 25% from Iraq, 8% from Pakistan and 6% from Syria. 48% are children.

In Bujanovac, which continues to accommodate only families with children and UASCs, 32% are from Iraq, 30% Afghanistan, 23% from Syria and 14% from Iran. 60% are children.

BELGRADE

Over **3,000** refugees and migrants were counted in Belgrade. It is estimated that with fairer weather again over 1,000, mostly Afghan and Pakistani, men and boys sleep rough in the city centre.

Krnjaca Asylum Centre accommodated 1,009 asylum-seekers, mainly families from Afghanistan, Iraq or Syria. 1,083 male refugees and migrants (including 359 unaccompanied or separated boys) were sheltered in Obrenovac. Most are from Afghanistan, followed by Pakistan and very few from Iraq, Syria, and other countries.

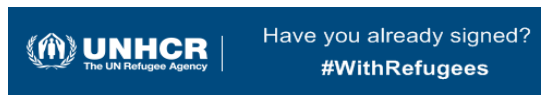
WEST

Transit Centres (TCs) in the West sheltered **1,894** refugees and migrants: 1,008 in Adasevci, 578 in Sid and 308 in Principovac. The population is mainly from Afghanistan, followed by Pakistan, Iraq, Syria and Iran.

At least some 50 unregistered migrant and refugee men were observed squatting in abandoned buildings near Sid train station, preparing to irregularly cross into Croatia.

NORTH

56 asylum seekers, mainly families from Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria were admitted into Hungary. In total, 17 asylum seekers camped at Horgos (3) and Kelebija (14) border sites. Subotica Transit Centre (TC) sheltered 135 asylum-seekers and Sombor TC 125, mostly families from Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria.



The 2017 UNHCR Serbia Operation is grateful for funding by:



and private donors in Spain