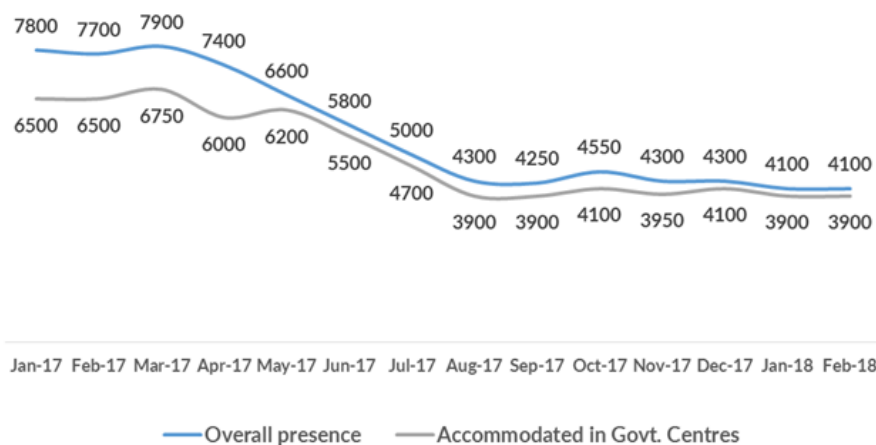


UNHCR SERBIA UPDATE

- As of 23 January Hungarian authorities drastically **reduced admission of asylum-seekers** from Serbia into its so-called “transit zones” from 50 to 10 per week. As a result, only 39 asylum seekers were allowed into territory and asylum procedures of Hungary during the reporting period, compared to 103 in the preceding two weeks.
- The overall number of **new refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants** remained stable with **4,081** counted in Serbia on 04 February. 95% (or 3,856) were accommodated in 18 governmental centres. 46% originate from Afghanistan, 21% from Pakistan, 12% from Iran, 10% from Iraq, 2% from Syria and 9% from other countries. 55% are adult men, 15% adult women and 30% children.
- Authorities transferred 137 men and boys (and one woman) who had slept rough in abandoned buildings in Belgrade (109 on 22 January and 28 on 02 February) to the Presevo Reception Centre. Most were from Syria or Pakistan and arrived in Serbia only recently. While these transfers reduced the number of refugees/migrant men in Belgrade City centre, another 120 were observed sleeping rough near the border to Croatia and Hungary.
- UNHCR and partners assisted **135 new arrivals** (compared to 138 the preceding two weeks). Almost half reportedly entered Serbia from fYRoM, 35% from Bulgaria and 16% by air. 64% were adult men 8% adult women and 27% children (including 16 Unaccompanied or Separated Children - UASC). An **increase in arrivals from Syria** was noted, comprising almost 40% of new arrivals, followed by those from Afghanistan (18%) and Pakistan (13%). Most Syrian refugees reached Serbia through fYR of Macedonia, with around 30% reporting to have fled Syria within the last six months.
- Over 90% of 7-14 year-old children housed in governmental centres continued attending local primary schools, while also secondary school enrolment amongst refugee children increased. UNHCR attended the School Day Commemoration at the Primary School in Presevo, which awarded it “Certificate of Appreciation” for assistance provided to this school attended by 32 refugee children from the Presevo Reception Centre.
- UNHCR is grateful to the Government of Sweden for having accepted for resettlement a single refugee woman with two underage sons from Afghanistan. They departed from Serbia to Sweden on 23 January.



- Upon request of the Serbian Commissariat for Refugees and Migration (SCRM), UNHCR Serbia delivered over 12,000 pieces of winter clothing, footwear and underwear to clothes new arrivals and complement previous distribution to refugees and migrants in all governmental centres.
- Having signed its 17 Project Partnership Agreements for 2018, UNHCR Serbia hosted a partner coordination meeting on 27 January in Belgrade.
- On 30-31 January, the Technical Committee and the Regional Coordination Forum of the Regional Housing Programme met and visited beneficiaries in Belgrade.
- On 01 February, joined by the Serbian Commissariat for Refugees and Migration (SCRM), the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Social and Veteran Affairs and the Asylum Office, UNHCR chaired a first meeting of the Protection Working Group during this year. It gathered over 60 representatives of authorities, international and civil society organisations to discuss pertinent protection issues, including security concerns in Krnjaca and Obrenovac centres and refugees/migrants' psycho-social situation, needs and care.
- UNHCR and partners received reports of 167 asylum-seekers having been **collectively expelled** into Serbia: 98 from Croatia, 45 from Hungary and 24 from Romania (compared to 229 : 123/62/44 respectively during the preceding two weeks), many alleging denial of access to asylum procedures and maltreatment by the authorities of these states.
- Further to the New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants, and its commitment to 'work towards the adoption in 2018 of a global compact on refugees', UNHCR released the [zero draft](#) of the Global Compact on Refugees that will be further enhanced through formal consultations in Geneva between now and July.
- UNHCR Serbia compiled and released the December 2017 [Interagency Operational Update](#) and the [January Snapshot](#). Together with the SCRM, we also updated the [Joint Assessment of Government Centres](#).



A partner of UNHCR supports the medical check of a refugee baby with transport to and translation at the Subotica hospital, Subotica (Serbia), ©UNHCR, 29 January 2018