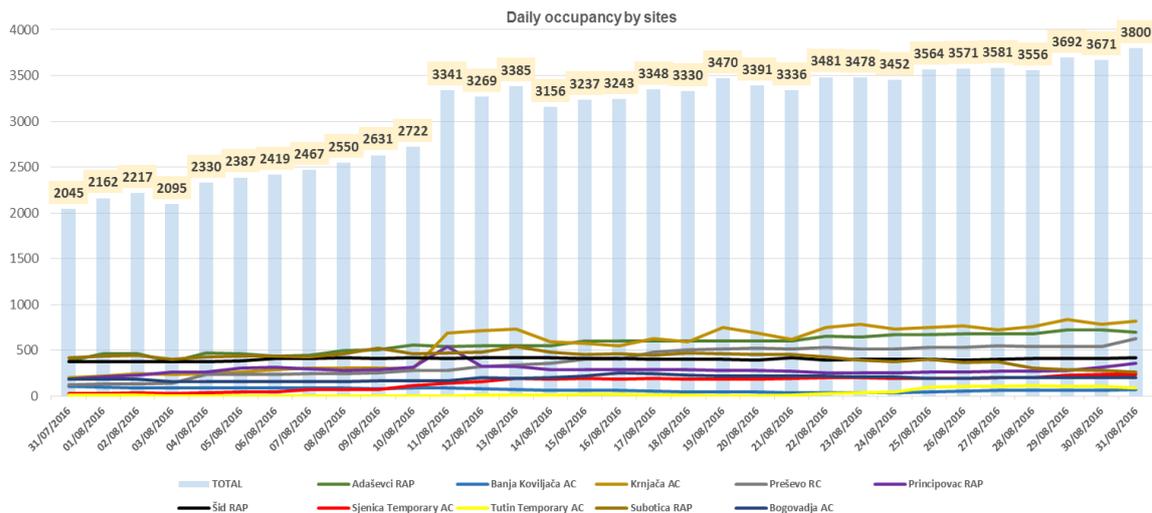


HIGHLIGHTS AND STATISTICS

- The number of new refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants in Serbia rose to close to 4,700. 80% were accommodated in governmental facilities, including 1,432 in the five Asylum Centres and 2,368 in Refugee Aid Points/Reception Centre.
- Authorities, UNHCR, partners and refugee community leaders continued to encourage asylum-seekers to move to governmental centres instead of camping in the open close to the Hungarian border. Consequently, the number of asylum seekers staying on Serbian soil in front of the Hungarian “transit zones” at Horgos I and Kelebija border-crossings shrunk to 280 (down from over 1,000 on 14 July).
- On 29 August, three fully renovated barracks at Krnjaca Asylum Centre (AC) in Belgrade, with a capacity to house 200 asylum-seekers, were opened by the Serbian Commissioner for Refugees and Migration (SCRM), the CRS Regional Coordinator, the UNHCR Representative and the Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation. Their reconstruction had been implemented by the Divac Foundation under the CRS programme with US funding. The maximum capacity of Krnjaca AC stands at 750-800, with 600 places now suitable for disabled-friendly longer-term stay.
- 195 persons expressed their intent to seek asylum in Serbia, bringing the total for August to 1,935 and for the whole year to 8,071. Jan-July 2016, the Asylum Office of the border-guards issued 50 first instance decisions, which granted subsidiary protection to 16 applicants and refugee status to ten, while rejecting 24 [compared to 16 decisions Jan-July 2015: 14 refugee status and two rejections].



SOUTH

New arrivals from fYRo Macedonia, Bulgaria and other reception facilities continued to be referred to the Reception Centre (RC) in Presevo. It accommodated some 620 refugees and migrants, over half of them Afghans, followed by Iraqis, Syrians and Pakistani.

The authorities, UNHCR and all other organizations active in the RC, assisted with food and non-food items, medical services, counselling, interpretation, referrals and recreational activities.

BELGRADE



Asylum seekers outside the renovated barracks, Krnjaca Asylum Centre (Serbia) @UNHCR, 29 August 2016

In continued fair weather, around 500 refugees, asylum seekers and migrants were encountered and assisted in the city centre during the day. They were encouraged to move to the Asylum Centre of Krnjaca, which sheltered over 820 overnight.

Various Civil Society Organisations provided assistance, counselling and facilitated many referrals, including to asylum procedures, registration with the police, accommodation in the Asylum Centre and medical services. Unaccompanied minors and separated children were referred to the Centre for Social Work. UNHCR/DRC and MDM doctors treated over 100 refugee/migrant patients every day.

NORTH

The number of asylum seekers in the North further dropped to 553 (from a peak of 1,553 on 24 July), half of which camped in the open on Serbian soil close to the “transit zones” at Horgos I and Kelebija. 63% were women and children from Afghanistan, Iraq or Syria. The SCRM sheltered some 260 asylum-seekers in the Refugee Aid Point (RAP) of Subotica. Hungary admitted 91 asylum seekers in the last three days, while UNHCR and partners collected testimonies from over 20 who reported having been pushed back into Serbia without being allowed access to procedures/protection in Hungary.

The SCRM, UNHCR, and other organizations present in the North provided humanitarian aid, including bottled water, food, fresh fruits, non-food aid, hygiene packages, support to maintenance of the sanitary conditions, medical assistance as well as legal and other counselling.

WEST

The Refugee Aid Points in Sid, Adasevci and Principovac continued sheltering over 1,400 refugees and migrants. Most had been referred by the SCRM from other locations, mainly Horgos and Subotica. On 31 August, 420 stayed in Sid RAP, mainly from Afghanistan or Pakistan, 695 in Adasevci RAP, mainly from Afghanistan, Syria and Iraqi and 362 in Principovac RAP, mainly from Afghanistan. Additionally, some 120 were observed in public places in the Sid town.

Civil Society Organizations assisted with food, and non-food as well as medical aid, counselling, referrals, child support, and recreational activities.

Attempts to clandestinely enter Croatia hidden on trains/trucks as well as push-backs from Croatia continued being reported.



The 2016 UNHCR Serbia Operation is grateful for funding by:



and to private donors in Australia, Japan and the Swedish company “Radiohjalpen”