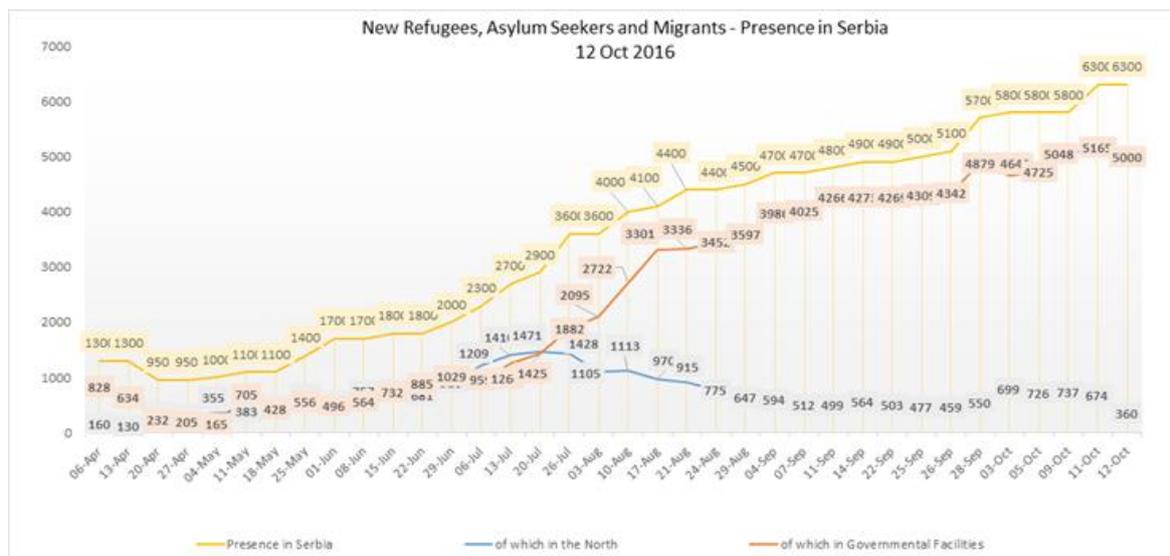


## HIGHLIGHTS AND STATISTICS

- The number of new refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants, encountered by UNHCR and partners in Serbia, continued rising, now to around 6,300. 80% (or 5,000) were accommodated in governmental facilities, with 1,863 in five Asylum Centres and 3,137 in “Transit” or Reception Centres. The others were counted at the border with Hungary and around 1,000 sleeping rough at night in Belgrade City centre.
- In rainy and cold weather, UNHCR partner agencies distributed over 800 UNHCR blankets, 1,290 winter jackets, 730 raincoats and other items of footwear and clothing to refugees in Belgrade, the North and West of Serbia, since the beginning of October.
- We would like to thank the Government of Sweden for having accepted two vulnerable refugee children, who left Serbia for resettlement to Sweden on 10 October. UNHCR continues to promote and facilitate orderly legal pathways for refugees to access effective protection as one way to prevent a reoccurrence of the chaos and suffering of 2015 and the violations of law and human rights that characterise movements on the “Balkan route” this year.
- Invited to brief Parliament on 12 October, UNHCR offered to further augment its support to sustainable asylum and migration management Serbia, e.g. by supporting a resumption of registration and processing of all refugees and migrants by the Ministry of Interior as well as through partnership agreements with the Ministry of Labour and the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration.
- 98 persons expressed their intention to seek asylum in Serbia over the reporting period, bringing the total for October to 521 and the whole year to 9,594.



## SOUTH

The Presevo Reception Centre (RC) accommodated some 790 refugees and migrants, including some 100 single men and boys, mainly from Afghanistan and Pakistan, transferred by SCRM from Subotica TC. About half of the RC population are from Afghanistan (52%), followed by those from Pakistan (17%), Iraq (14%) and Syria (12%). Almost half are children, 39% adult men and 13% adult women.

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

The results of the profiling exercise UNHCR conducted in September with SCRM and IOM to identify protection and special needs as well as available options for solutions amongst the RC residents, show that top reasons for leaving the country of origin were “flight from harm”, “armed conflict” and “indiscriminate violence”. More than half of the profiled population, i.e. 57% entered Serbia from Bulgaria, and 43% from FYRoM. In lieu of systematic governmental registration, the profiling exercise assisted authorities in identifying over one hundred Unaccompanied and Separated Children, as well as a few more children at risk, single parents, women at risk and serious medical conditions.

## BELGRADE

With almost all governmental accommodation (except the Reception Centre in Presevo but including the Asylum Centre of Krnjaca) fully occupied, many refugees/migrants slept rough in the centre of Belgrade City (some 950 on 12 October). Most were from Afghanistan, followed by Pakistan and Iraq. The same night, the Asylum Centre (AC) of Krnjaca sheltered a new record 1,112 refugees, asylum-seekers or migrants.

Several Civil Society Organisations provided assistance, counselling and facilitated many referrals, including to asylum procedures, registration with the police, and medical services. UNHCR/DRC and MDM doctors treated some 85 refugee/migrant patients during the reporting period.

## NORTH

The total number of asylum seekers in the North decreased since last week, with some 360 counted on 12 October. This decrease was caused by authorities transporting over 200 single men from Subotica Transit Centre to the South of Serbia. Consequently some 150 people remained sheltered in Subotica TC, and around 180 were camping in the open on Serbian soil close to the two Hungarian “transit zones” of Horgos I and Kelebija.

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

Hungary admitted 86 asylum seekers during the reporting period, while UNHCR and partners encountered over 60 foreign nationals who reported to have been pushed-back into Serbia, without having been granted access to asylum procedures in Hungary, having entered it irregularly.

## WEST



*Counselling on asylum in Sid Transit Centre, Sid (Serbia)@UNHCR, 10 October 2016*

The Transit Centres of Sid, Adasevci and Principovac sheltered over 2,100 refugees and migrants. Most were from Afghanistan, followed by Syria and Pakistan, with the rest from Iraq, Iran, Bangladesh, Morocco or Algeria.

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

UNHCR and partners encountered close to 40 foreign nationals who reported to have been pushed-back into Serbia from Croatia having entered it irregularly, and without having been granted access to asylum procedures in Croatia.



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