

SERBIA UPDATE, 01-07 May 2017

HIGHLIGHTS AND STATISTICS

- **7,219** refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants were counted in Serbia, 84% (6,052) of which sheltered in 18 government facilities (below chart refers).
- The Serbian Commissioner for Refugees and Migration (SCRM) announced plans to within one month transfer to governmental centres all refugee and migrants still squatting in Belgrade city centre. On 07 May, a first 99 men, including 10 UASCs, were relocated to Adasevci Transit Centre (TC).
- On 06 May, the SCRM transferred 130 single men accommodated in the rub halls of TC Sid to TC Principovac (30) and TC Adasevci (100), reducing the occupancy of TC Sid to 198 (compared to over 500 in April).
- With the support of authorities and partners, UNHCR Serbia continued real-time tracking and updating of
 reception conditions and access to services at all 18 government shelters in Serbia. The process proves
 popular with its link having been accessed over 20,000 times so far.
- UNHCR received 41 reports of collective expulsions from Croatia, 15 from Hungary, and 11 from Romania with some testifying to disproportionate use of force.
- Among some 40 new arrivals that were met and assisted by UNHCR and partners during the week, three were
 unaccompanied and separated refugee children (UASCs). Close to 1,000 UASCs need protection in Serbia,
 with 797 accommodated in government centres (343 in Obrenovac, 150 in Presevo, 18 in Bujanovac, and 286
 in all other governmental shelters), as well as close to 200 in Belgrade city centre.
- In April, 552 individuals registered intention to seek asylum in Serbia. 52% of applicants were children, 43% adult men, and 5% adult women. Most intentions were filed by citizens of Afghanistan (63%), Pakistan (20%), Iraq (3%), or Syria (3%). The Asylum Office still did not recognize any refugee or subsidiary status since the beginning of this year (during the first four months of last year it had recognized 16). One negative decision, however, was recorded in April.
- The Belgrade Centre for Human Rights (BCHR) issued "<u>Right to asylum in the Republic of Serbia, periodic report January-March 2017</u>", on developments in the field of asylum system development during the first three months of 2017. BCHR also supported the first successful nostrification of the diploma of a refugee in Serbia. He had been recognised in 2008.



Occupancy of Asylum, Reception and Transit Centres as of 07 May 2017: 6,052

Asylum statistics are provided by the Ministry of Interior. Other information is based on findings of UNHCR staff and partners. If you use this content, please refer to UNHCR as source. **CONTACTS:** General: Ivana Zujovic-Simic +381 63 452 950; External Relations: Indira Beganovic, +381 63 431 886; *Media:* Mirjana Milenkovski +381 63 275 154



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EAST

520 refugees and migrants were accommodated in four Reception Centres: 209 in Pirot, 209 in Divljana, 57 in Dimitrovgrad and 45 in Bosilegrad. Most are from Iraq, followed by Afghanistan and Syria and around half are children.



Cleaning of Miratovac village, Miratovac (Serbia), ©UNHCR, 4 May 2017

SOUTH

920 refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants were accommodated in the Reception Centres of Presevo (754) and Bujanovac (166).

59% of the residents of Presevo RC are from Afghanistan, 26% from Iraq, 8% from Pakistan and 5% from Syria. 50% 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. 58% are children.

On 04 May, UNDP and the Vlade Divac Foundation organized cleaning Miratovac village together with local volunteers and some 20 refugee/migrant youth from Presevo RC.

BELGRADE

Close to **3,000** refugees and migrants were counted in Belgrade. According to SCRM, some 1,200 refugees and migrants, mostly men and boys from Afghanistan or Pakistan slept rough in the city.

Krnjaca Asylum Centre accommodated 830 asylum-seekers, mainly families from Afghanistan, Iraq or Syria. 1,027 unregistered male refugees and migrants (including 343 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 **1,599** refugees and migrants: 1,069 in Adasevci (following the relocation of 99 from Belgrade on 07 May), 198 in Sid and 332 in Principovac. They are mainly from Afghanistan, followed by Pakistan, Iraq, and Syria.

NORTH

52 asylum seekers, mainly families from Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria were admitted into Hungary. Only seven asylum seekers camped at Horgos (3) and Kelebija (4) border sites. Subotica TC sheltered 137 asylum-seekers, Sombor TC 155, and Kikinda TC 219, mostly families from Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria.





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