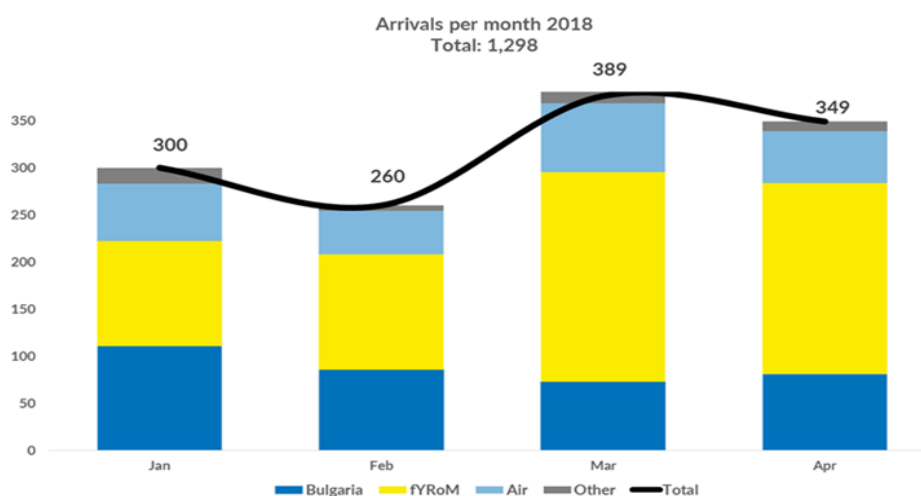


# UNHCR SERBIA UPDATE

- **3,498** new refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants were counted in Serbia on 29 April. 3,194 (i.e. 91%) were accommodated in 18 governmental centres. After 23 April, when authorities transferred 110 men and boys that had been sleeping rough in the North-West to Presevo Reception Centre, around 300 were still observed outside of centres: around 200 in Belgrade City and some 100 camping close to borders with Croatia or Hungary.
- UNHCR and partners noted an **increase in new arrivals** when assisting **208** (compared to 132 the preceding two weeks – below chart refers). 62% arrived via fYRo Macedonia, 16% via Bulgaria and 22% arrived by air and/or other locations. 73% were men, 5% women and 22% children. 25% were nationals of Iran, 24% of Afghanistan, and 21% of Pakistan, followed by 9% each from Iraq or Libya and 12% from other countries.
- UNHCR and partners received **increased** reports of **collective expulsions**, including of 320 asylum-seekers from Croatia (compared to 167 the preceding two weeks), 124 from Hungary (compared to 156 the preceding two weeks) and 23 from Romania (compared to 12 the preceding two weeks), while 22 persons reported to have been pushed-back from Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Hungary admitted 23 asylum-seekers into procedures in its so-called “transit-zones”, compared to 13 during the preceding two weeks.
- On 19 April, the UNHCR Representative together with representatives of the Serbian Commissioner for Refugees and Migration (SCRM), the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Social and Veteran Affairs (MoLESVA), the Catholic Relief Service and the Divac Foundation inaugurated the kitchen in Vranje Reception Centre that had been repaired by CRS and Divac Foundation with UNHCR funds. The kitchen will allow for better food distribution as well as increasing dignity and quality of life of refugees as it will allow them to prepare their own food.
- On 21 April, UNHCR supported local and refugee students from school “Branko Pesic” in Zemun to take part in the 31<sup>st</sup> [Belgrade Marathon](#).
- On 27 April, joined by SCRM, MoLESVA and the Asylum Office, UNHCR chaired the second **Refugee Protection Working Group** for this year. Representatives of authorities, international organisations, NGOs, and donors to discuss pertinent protection issues, including the recently adopted new Law on Asylum and Temporary Protection.





*On the occasion of World Earth Day, trees and flowers were planted in the TC Principovac, Principovac (Serbia), ©UNHCR, 20 April 2018*

- In most centres, CRS and DRC distributed a last round of **cash assistance**, until for funding reasons, it will be discontinued. UNHCR shares the concerns of authorities about the negative impact the lack of cash assistance will have on refugees/migrants physical and mental well-being and encourages potential donors to consider funding civil society partners to continue providing this type of assistance.
- The construction of apartment buildings in Kikinda and in Sevojno under the **Regional Housing Programme**, started on 21 April and 26 April respectively. Opening ceremonies were attended by representatives of the Government of Serbia, OSCE and UNHCR.
- 16-25 April, UNHCR participated in the VIKING 18 Multinational command staff simulation exercise that encompassed real-time role playing in peacekeeping operations.
- On 19-22 April, UNHCR completed a first series of trainings for Roma activists. Starting May, they will be engaged as national UN Volunteers in local self-governments.
- On 17 April, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and UNHCR in Geneva launched a three year [Plan of Action](#) for Advancing Prevention, Protection and Solutions for IDPs (2018-2020). The event marked the 20th anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement – widely accepted as being the global standard for protecting and assisting internally displaced people (IDPs).



**Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds**  
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Notes: The total of contributions received includes the programme support component. All financial information contained in this funding update is indicative and does not constitute official UNHCR financial reporting. Unrestricted and regional funds mentioned above include all sub-regional and regional contributions worldwide.