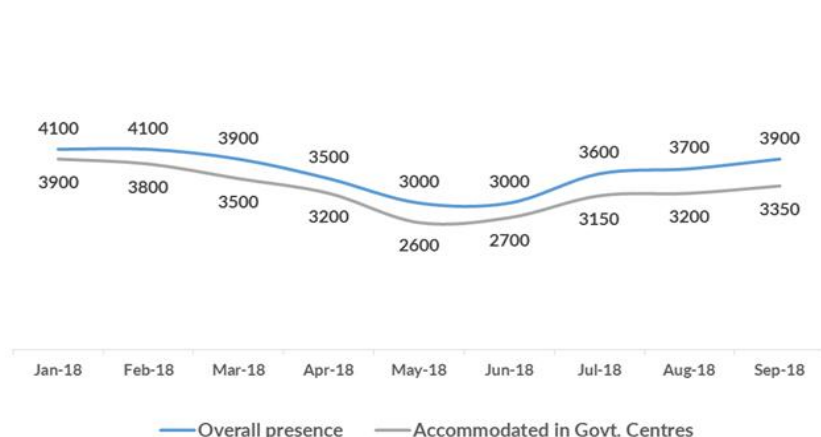


# SERBIA UPDATE

- **Since the start of the new academic year on 03 September, local and central authorities successfully enrolled refugee/migrant children into a second year of public schooling.** Consolidated efforts to secure comprehensive enrolment of all refugee/migrant children also resulted in greatly increased enrolment in public pre-schools and institutions of secondary education. According to the Serbian Commissariat for Refugees and Migration (SCRM), so far, 348 (96%) of children between 7-14 were enrolled in elementary schools, 40 (or 79%) of six year olds in state preschool institutions, 107 in kindergartens and 71 (14%) above 14 years of age in secondary schools. A total of 33 elementary schools and 13 secondary schools enrolled refugee, migrant and asylum seeking children country-wide. Authorities increasingly provided school transportation, if needed and in partnership with UNICEF additional Serbian language lessons, while UNHCR and partners added additional language and catch-up classes.
- UNHCR and partners assisted **961 newly arriving** refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants, compared to 1,066 during the preceding fortnight. 55% entered Serbia irregularly from FYR Macedonia (down from 73% two weeks ago) and 30% from Bulgaria (up from 16%), while 13% arrived regularly by air (up from 8%). 66% were adult men, 4% adult women and 30% children (incl. **237 Unaccompanied and Separated Children- UASC**). Most new arrivals originated from Afghanistan (37%) or Pakistan (37%), followed by Iran (16%), Iraq (4%), and others.
- As a result of continuing high new arrivals, also the presence of new refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants in Serbia continued **increasing** with **3,877** counted on 16 September, up from 3,682 two weeks ago. **3,343** (i.e. 87%) were accommodated in governmental Reception/Transit (RTC) and asylum centres, over 200 single men in rub halls in Adasevci and Principovac RTCs. Over **500** mainly male refugees/migrants were observed outside the centres: 200 in Belgrade City, another 180 camping close to borders with Croatia or Hungary and up to 150 in Loznica, close to the border with Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- UNHCR and partners gathered **increasing** reports of collective expulsions: 565 from Croatia (up from 277 two weeks ago), followed by 247 from BiH (up from 147), 28 from Hungary (down from 49) and 22 from Romania (up from 20). More than 58% of these reports alleged denial of access to asylum procedures by authorities of these neighbouring countries.
- On 12 September, UNHCR organised a meeting of Multifunctional Teams comprising SCRM, Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social affairs, and NGO partners to discuss and prepare for the upcoming Participatory Assessment (PA) exercise with persons of concern to UNHCR, in line with the age, gender and diversity principles. The PA will focus on the **local integration** of refugees, persons granted subsidiary protection and asylum-seekers in Serbia.





*Refugee children from Reception/Transit Centre in Sombor on the way to school by bus provided by municipal authorities, Sombor (Serbia), ©UNHCR, 13 September 2018*

- On 6 September, foundations for the construction of 20-apartments for refugees in the municipality of Ub under the **Regional Housing Programme** were laid in the presence of the authorities, donors and representatives of OSCE and UNHCR.
- Continuing implementation of its comprehensive Action Plan for **Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse** (PSEA), UNHCR organized focus group discussions on PSEA with residents of Tutin AC on 4 September, Sjenica AC on 5 September, and Kikinda RTC on 11 September.
- Hungarian authorities admitted only **9** asylum seekers from Serbia into their so-called “transit zones” (compared to 13 during the preceding two weeks).
- On 13 September, UNHCR participated in the Inter-Agency **Gender Based Violence** (GBV) Guidelines Europe Regional Workshop in Belgrade. The objectives of the workshop, geared towards key stakeholders in the European asylum and migration response, included identifying gaps/challenges in how the current system identifies and mitigates GBV risks and strengthening coordination and partnerships among stakeholders.
- UNHCR Serbia compiled its statistical August Snapshot, available: [here](#).
- Between 3 and 7 September, UNHCR supported an interagency Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) Mission to Belgrade. The Mission provided technical support to the Government in accelerating the process of nationalization of SDGs, mainstreaming of Agenda 2030 into the national policies and pairing it with the EU accession process in a mutually enhancing manner.



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