

Serbia

July-September 2018

KEY INDICATORS

2,505

Registered intentions to seek asylum in Serbia

28%

of registered refugees and migrants were minors

102

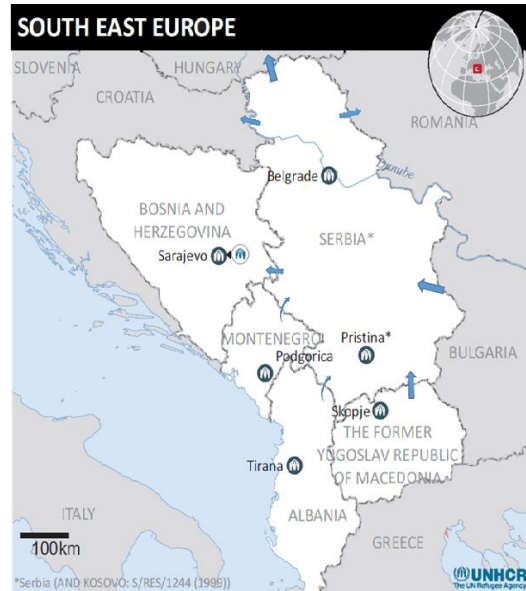
Applications for asylum

2

Persons granted refugee status

5

Persons granted subsidiary protection



- UNHCR and partners observed/assisted **6,591** newly arriving refugees/migrants/asylum-seekers. Sixty-five percent irregularly arrived from fYRo Macedonia, 18% from Bulgaria, 13% by air and 4% from other directions. 32% claimed to be nationals of Pakistan, 30% of Afghanistan, 14% of Iran, 5% of Iraq, 4% of Bangladesh, 2% of Syria and 13% of other countries. Seventy-four percent were men, 5% women and 21% children. This again constitutes a high increase of **new arrivals**, as during the second quarter of 2018, UNHCR and partners observed only 3,165 new arrivals, of which 77% had arrived from fYRo Macedonia, 10% from Bulgaria, 9% by air, etc. During the second quarter, 24% of all new arrivals were women and children (incl. families), and 44% claimed to originate in Pakistan, 21% in Afghanistan, 12% in Iraq, 10% in Iran and 3% in Syria, etc.
- This trimester was characterized by almost fivefold increase in UASC arrivals compared to the previous three months, with as many as **1,032 observed UASC arrivals**, raising even stronger concerns about appropriate accommodation and guardianship arrangements.
- On 2 July, Humanitarian Center for Integration and Tolerance (HCIT) and Crisis Response and Policy Centre (CRPC) presented their joint publication **"Between Closed Borders"** in Media Centre in Belgrade.
- Since the start of the new academic year on 3 September, local and central authorities successfully enrolled refugee/migrant children into a **second year of public schooling**. Consolidated efforts 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) and UNICEF, a total of 420 children are enrolled in 2018/2019 formal preschool, primary and secondary education, of whom 211 are newly enrolled (40 new ones in preschool and 171 in primary and secondary school), in over 60 national (pre-)schools throughout the country. Authorities increasingly provided school transportation, if needed, and Serbian language lessons in partnership with UNICEF, while UNHCR and partners added additional language and catch-up classes.
- On 1 August, the bodies of two young foreign men were found dead in a village near Ruma, northwest of Belgrade. According to the Ministry of Interior, they bore gunshot wounds, but no further details were available. According to other, unofficial sources, the victims were young Afghan men, one registered as resident of Obrenovac Centre, and the perpetrator(s) also Afghan national(s), involved in smuggling.

Update on Achievements

Operational Context

Growing new arrivals gave a new boost to overall presence of refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants in Serbia, bringing the number of newly counted on 30 Sept to 3,900, of which 3,400 (87%) were housed in 15 governmental centres (increase from 2,700 accommodated and 3,000 counted as present in the country overall at end-June 2018), including around 200 single men in rub halls in Adaševci and Principovac Reception/Transit Centres (RTC). Despite cooler weather and the authorities' repeated transfers to official accommodation centres, close to 500, mainly male refugees/migrants, were observed outside the centres: 200 in Belgrade City, another 200 camping close to borders with Croatia or Hungary and up to 90 in Loznica, close to the border with Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In accordance with their plan to consolidate and rationalize the accommodation capacities, the authorities transferred remaining residents of Dimitrovgrad, Preševo and Divljana RTCs to other centres, and placed these three accommodation facilities in standby mode, with the possibility to reactivate them at short notice should the situation require. Profiling and screening facility in Preševo remained operational in order to deal with new arrivals. Serbia remained with 15 operational accommodation facilities, with the total long-term capacity of 4,820 spaces.

Close to 40% of residents in governmental centres were from so-called refugee-producing countries: Afghanistan (32%), Iraq (7%) or Syria (1%). Twenty-eight percent were children, 12% adult women and 60% adult men. As many as 365 UASC were accommodated in governmental facilities, comprising 11% of the total number of refugees/migrants/asylum-seekers in governmental shelters.

The number of testimonies of collective expulsions into Serbia again increased – 2,194 persons were reportedly expelled from Croatia, 208 from Hungary, 841 from Bosnia and Herzegovina and 236 from Romania, with 60% of all cases alleging to have been denied due access to asylum procedures and 47% to have been maltreated or physically abused, or to have suffered theft/extortion.

In July-September, 2,505 foreign nationals registered intentions to seek asylum in Serbia. 66% were men, 7% women and 27% children. Most intentions were registered by citizens of Afghanistan (29%), Pakistan (22%), Iran (22%), Iraq (6%), Bangladesh (5%), India (4%), Syria (4%), as well as other nationalities (8%). The Asylum Office granted two applicants refugee status and awarded another five with subsidiary protection.

Hungary again decreased admissions to 5 asylum-seekers per week on average. In July-September, 87 asylum-seekers were admitted into procedures in the so-called "transit-zones" of Hungary (compared to 129 in April-June). IOM assisted the repatriation of 75 migrants through assisted voluntary return (AVR).



Farhad (12) teaches one-year-old Hafez his first football steps in the UNICEF-supported Child Friendly Space, ©UNICEF Serbia/2018/Vas

Achievements



PROTECTION

Achievements and Impact

- More than 20 UNHCR staff and 100 partner staff continued conducting protection monitoring activities covering 23 sites throughout Serbia. They informed refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants of their rights and of services available, including the risks associated with trafficking and smuggling. Through its official launch in March, UNHCR and partners began utilising the new Border Protection Monitoring Information Management System (BPM-IMS) tool for systemic profiling of new arrivals and basic information related to border and non-border related protection incidents. Over 10,000 arrivals and 6,900 push-backs have been recorded through the system since its roll-out.
- UNHCR continued to strengthen its individual case management system, the proGres v4 database. To date, a total of 3,902 interventions are recorded in proGres v4. Specifically, the top five intervention types are psychosocial support (30%), legal aid (25%), mediation (20%), skills training (9%) and advocacy/direct interventions (4%). As of end September, 3,828 active cases are currently registered in proGres v4.
- In July, UNHCR conducted a flash profiling exercise in Obrenovac RTC in cooperation with CRPC and SCRM, in order to capture the recent increase of new arrivals in the Centre, including the identification of their intended final destination, routes of travel and legal status in previous transit countries. UNHCR continued to monitor the situation in the centre through regular visits in response to the need for situation analysis and data gathering on individual cases, irregular population movements, as well as protection incidents.
- In August, UNHCR organised a refresher/training course on SoPs in Dealing with Threats, in light of recent security issues/incidents for partners operational in Miksalište, along with prior security assessment of the premises on the same day.
- During the reporting period, UNHCR organised focus group discussions to raise awareness on the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) with residents of Principovac, Obrenovac, Pirot, Sombor and Subotica RTCs, as well as Bogovađa and Banja Koviljača ACs.
- SGBV cases were routinely identified and reported by UNHCR and partner staff through protection monitoring. During the reporting period, UNHCR identified five new cases and followed up on 16 SGBV cases countrywide. The identified new cases were victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse, and single women in need of shelter. All new cases were provided with legal assistance, appropriate accommodation, registration for ISAC, and medical and psychological assistance. The follow-up of previously identified cases was conducted to monitor the situation of the respective survivors and provide any assistance as required.
- UNHCR continued implementing its pilot project on guardianship in Belgrade by supporting the guardianship body to implement effective guardianship services in line with international standards. Approximately 50% of children staying in government-run facilities are appointed with an IDEAS guardian who is in daily contact with them. Guardians are trained, officially appointed and supervised



*Red Cross manicure course,
Adaševci RTC, @UNHCR,
September 2018*

by the guardianship body, have experts' support in their work and are fairly compensated (which was not the case before). Due to funding issues, the number of guardians which was previously decreased in July, but increased in August as additional funds from the budget were identified. Guardians are enabling individualised approach to their care and protection, developing a relationship of trust, ensuring UASCs are visible to the social welfare system and protecting their best interest.

- UNHCR continued its cross-border missions with neighbouring UNHCR operations to establish and improve operational cooperation and information-sharing, as well as to facilitate working-level contacts with authorities. To this end, UNHCR conducted two missions to discuss best practices and current developments (one to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and one to Romania).
- The Age, Gender, Diversity Mainstreaming (AGDM) Participatory Assessment (PA) for 2019 Planning took place from 18-25 September, during which 175 persons participated in discussions with UNHCR, SCRM and partners (Belgrade Center for Human Rights, CRPC, DRC, HCIT, IDEAS,



Creative workshop in Bosilegrad RTC, @IAN, July 2018

Indigo, International Aid Network, IOM, Psychological Innovation Network and Sigma Plus), in nine locations: Tutin, Sombor, Pirot, Bogovađa, Krnjača, Bujanovac, Vranje, the Centre for Minors in Niš and, with recognised refugees, at the Belgrade Center for Human Rights (BCHR) offices in Belgrade. The asylum-seekers and refugees were from Iran, Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Pakistan, Syria, Burundi and Cuba. Major protection risks noted were difficulties in living a dignified life stemming from the lack of ability to work (especially with the cessation of cash-cards), developing skills and capacity, as well as a broad lack of information

about asylum. During the reporting period, the AGDM data collection form was also rolled out for this exercise.

- UNHCR signed a project partnership agreement (PPA) with NGO MAP, for inclusive musical education of Roma and asylum seeking children who are attending Branko Pešić Primary School in Zemun.
- UNHCR/DRC Protection Teams continued their protection activities in Banja Koviljača, Bogovađa, Krnjača, Obrenovac, Sombor, Principovac, Adaševci, Kikinda and Subotica. Information was provided to 800 beneficiaries, legal assistance to 114 beneficiaries, referrals – medical for 96 beneficiaries, referrals to CSW to one beneficiary, other referrals to 208 beneficiaries, interpretation to 161 beneficiaries, and referral to registration to 76 beneficiaries. A total of 59 female beneficiaries participated in workshops on women empowerment.
- Through the UNHCR/DRC project, up to 574 beneficiaries used barber/hair dressing services in Principovac, Adaševci, Kikinda, Sombor and Krnjača centres. Up to 63 beneficiaries participated in sewing occupational activities in Kikinda, Sombor and Krnjača centres.
- Praxis continued providing information to refugees/migrants/asylum-seekers in Belgrade on the current situation, available legal pathways and available services (accommodation, transportation to asylum/reception centres, legal assistance, medical care, food, NFIs, etc.). In the reporting period, Praxis provided support to a total of 4,868 newly arrived refugees/migrants/asylum-seekers (3,476 adults and 1,392 children in Belgrade. Of the total number of children, 1,035 were potential UASC (1,028 boys and 7 girls). In the case of 242 UASC, Praxis referred them to social workers and CYI for best interest assessment (BIA). A total of 54 potential UASC were referred directly to the Police Station in Savska St. as part of the group they were traveling with.

- Praxis also identified vulnerable cases (families with children, pregnant and lactating women, UASC, ill, elderly, persons who have exhausted all resources at risk of turning to smugglers, etc.) and referred them to other organizations for targeted assistance. A total of 2,326 persons, 1,690 newly arrived and 636 identified earlier, were referred to different organizations/institutions for targeted assistance. Praxis also provided protection by presence and escorted refugees to the Police Station for registration - 395 in total. When there was no organized transportation provided, Praxis also provided transportation assistance to a total of 276 refugees/migrants/asylum-seekers by covering the costs of train/bus tickets to asylum/reception centres. Praxis performed protection monitoring and recorded cases of violation of refugee rights along the route.
- With support from SDC, Norwegian Embassy/Group484 and IRC, Divac Foundation ran two social cafés in Krnjača AC and Obrenovac RTC in Belgrade. Refugees were able to join different workshops (arts and crafts, sewing, IT, English, music, ecological and geographical), indoor occupational activities (board games, movies, etc.) and outdoor sport activities, and to enjoy coffee and tea.
- In Adaševci RTC, Operation Mobilization (OM) was providing five permanent Serbian volunteers and other short-term volunteers from all over the world. OM also continued to provide a tent for 120 people at a time to relax, play, talk, enjoy coffee/tea, etc., open every day from 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Every Saturday, OM organised a cinema in Adaševci TC.
- International Aid Network (IAN) conducted four creative workshops for PoCs accommodated in Bosilegrad RTC, providing them with a possibility to spend their leisure time in a creative, structured way, to socialize through creative work and to be introduced to music and musical instruments of different cultures. Due to the greatly positive response, the workshops included not only women but all interested individuals, men and children. Two creative workshops organised in July were attended by 16 women, men and children (per workshop). Workshops which took place in September were attended by 21 PoCs in total. Workshops were characterised by rather warm and cheerful atmosphere, where participants were making friendship bracelets and decorations out of paper and wool, designed and constructed the Wall of Music, made musical instruments out of wood and wool, played music on original and hand-made instruments and sang songs in different languages (English, Serbian and Arabic).
- Supported by Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe Austria, Philanthropy provided equipment for three outdoor gyms - one in Krnjača AC and two in Šid (Principovac RTC and Šid city centre), and continued with realization of sports activities – playing table tennis in Miksalište and sports time in the gyms in Principovac and Krnjača.
- Refugee Aid Serbia (RAS) observed 3,319 new arrivals in Belgrade. Of these new arrivals, 2,247 were referred to different specialised organisations (899 legal referrals, 322 medical, 452 for mental health and psycho-social support and 556 for food).
- RAS continued to host weekly football sessions on Tuesdays for residents of Krnjača AC at a nearby location, with an average number of 15 participants every week. In addition to this, upon the visit of Volunteers' Centre of Vojvodina on Saturday 7 July, a small football match was arranged between members of a local team and residents of Krnjača AC. The Krnjača team took the spoils by one goal in a very close match.
- UNICEF-supported child-friendly spaces (CFS) were operational in Krnjača AC, Bujanovac and Vranje RTC in partnership with Danish Refugee Council (DRC), as well as in Kikinda, Adaševci and Principovac RTC in partnership with SOS Children's Villages (SOS CV). CFSs in Preševo, Dimitrovgrad and Divljana have been deactivated with the closure of these RTCs. Activities continued to include identification and referral of child protection concerns, as well as organisation of structured non-formal educational workshops (language, numeracy and ICT) and recreational and sports

activities. Since the beginning of the year, 984 new children have been reached with quality child protection support and protection standards.

- UNICEF was working with its implementing partners to identify, make initial assessments and refer UASC and other highly vulnerable children - 1,787 children (incl. UASC) have been identified and referred through screening by outreach teams and child protection support centres since the beginning of 2018.
- With MADAD Phase 3 funding coming into effect in October 2018, UNICEF is co-leading a transition working group with the SCRM and IOM, which will oversee a yearlong transition of CFS and mother and baby corners (MBC) away from the stewardship of DRC and SOS CV to the SCRM.
- UNICEF, in collaboration with its partners, developed guidelines for ensuring safe and ethical referral mechanisms for GBV survivors.
- A UNICEF-engaged external consultant trained UNICEF in Serbia's staff and 70 partners on the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and provided structured feedback to the partners' 11 safeguarding policies.
- Within the Adolescent Girls Safety and Resilience Mentorship learning initiative in Serbia and Bulgaria, seven UNICEF partners were supported to design interventions to empower refugee and migrant adolescent girls, and a Pocket Guide for girls on safety and resilience was developed and disseminated.
- On behalf of GBV Guidelines Support Team, UNICEF hosted a Regional Workshop for the representatives of civil society, state institutions and Ministries from Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria and Serbia to discuss GBV risks mitigations measures within their emergency preparedness and contingency planning.
- BCHR legal teams counselled 656 persons in need of international protection, including 15 unaccompanied minors. Similarly to the previous reporting period, the majority of refugee/migrant/asylum-seekers population advised by the BCHR were from Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- BCHR had regular presence in all five asylum centres (AC) and conducted monitoring visits to all reception/transit centres. Furthermore, BCHR provided free legal aid to persons detained in the Shelter for Foreigners in Belgrade and at Nikola Tesla Airport. BCHR provided free legal aid at the airport 14 times and intervened 100 times upon request from foreigners at the airport potentially in need of international protection.
- During the reporting period, Asylum Office granted refugee status to one BCHR's client from Iran.
- BCHR provided legal representation at 40 procedural actions, of which 33 were submissions of asylum applications and seven were hearings.
- Aiming to provide support for integration into the society, BCHR assisted asylum-seekers and persons granted asylum in: obtaining personal documents and personal identification number, obtaining work permits, preparation for access to labour market, organisation of requalification courses, recognition of diplomas, opening of bank accounts, obtaining support from SCRM and UNHCR, access to education and access to child care. In the reporting period, seven clients obtained personal identification numbers, 10 were issued with a work permit, and one client with the refugee status got approval for financial assistance for accommodation from SCRM.
- HCIT provided 632 persons likely in need of international assistance with legal advice and counseling. They were counseled about the asylum procedure and their rights and obligations in



Refugee children engaged in a creative workshop activities in the UNICEF-supported Child Friendly Space, © UNICEF Serbia/2018/Vas

Serbia. In 2,037 instances, PoCs received practical service/information, were advised, referred and assisted through various activities.

- HCIT documented 295 expulsion incidents, relating to 3,101 PoCs, and assisted returned PoCs in the North, West and East, documented their testimonies, provided them with practical and legal information and referral to appropriate institutions/organizations. In addition, HCIT continuously monitored removals from the Hungarian “Transit Zones” of asylum-seekers who had applied for asylum in Hungary and were rejected.
- HCIT team assisted 25 PoCs with registration in the police station in Šid and referred 55 PoCs to registration in Belgrade.
- HCIT conducted 275 protection interviews and encountered (identified for the first time) 126 UASC, while observing that the number of newly arrived UASC in Serbia has been significantly increasing since July.
- On 80 occasions, HCIT provided translation services to local institutions: Police Station Šid, General Hospitals in Sremska Mitrovica and Subotica and PHC Šid, concerning 96 foreign nationals.
- Since the beginning of July, HCIT field protection teams started with regular field visits to Loznica, monitoring the mixed migration movement towards the border with Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- HCIT documented in total 1,016 new arrivals in Serbia during the reporting period, majority of which were interviewed in Loznica and Šid.
- With support from UNICEF, Novi Sad Humanitarian Center (NSHC) provided services to 506 children under 2 and 434 mothers at the Mother and Baby Corner (MBC) in Miksalište, Belgrade. The MBC worked 7/7 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Children and mothers benefited from access to a safe space, health, and nutrition counselling and support activities, information and referrals.
- With support from Terre des Hommes, NSHC provided services to 329 children and adolescents, as well as 227 members of their families, at the MBC in Miksalište, Belgrade. The project team worked every workday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Refugee children and mothers received services in a safe space, recreational support activities, information and referrals. Psychological first aid was provided to 46 children and 65 adults.
- Caritas teams for psychosocial support continued assisting refugees in Preševo (until its temporary closure), Bujanovac, Vranje, Bogovađa, Principovac and Krnjača centres, on a daily basis, Monday to Friday. These teams provided animation activities for children, occupational activities for adults and psychosocial counselling.
- In Bogovađa, Obrenovac, Principovac, Bujanovac and Krnjača, Caritas continued organizing animation and sports activities for children and adults.
- In Obrenovac, Caritas was running a gym for the refugees, where they could exercise, guided by sports animators.
- In Preševo, Bujanovac and Vranje, Caritas organized a sewing corner, where refugees could fix clothes, sew and spend time with other refugees and Caritas staff members. Caritas also provided the sewing material.
- In Principovac and Krnjača, Caritas organized occupational activities for women (sewing classes, knitting, jewellery making and decoupage).
- In Bogovađa AC, Caritas was running a Social Cafe, where refugees could spend time, drink coffee/tea and engage in occupational activities.
- Psychosocial Innovation Network (PIN) worked with 167 persons (111 males, 56 females; 59 minors and 108 adults). Majority of people were from Afghanistan (80), and Iran (71), followed by Iraq (5), Somalia (4), Pakistan (2), as well as Syria, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Zimbabwe and Tunisia (1 per country).

- PIN was providing community-based psychosocial support (PSS) and conducted psychoeducational (life-skills and parenting workshops), creative and occupational workshops in different locations in Belgrade – at PIN premises (piano, guitar, drawing, embroidery workshops, etc.), “Pedro Arrupe” Integration House, Refugee Aid Serbia (RAS) premises, Centre for Accommodation of Foreign UASC in Vodovodska St. and in Branko Pešić School in Zemun. Additionally, PSS services were provided to beneficiaries accommodated in Banja Koviljača and Bogovađa ACs.
- Save the Children (SC), together with partner organizations in Serbia, reached a total of 4,949 new beneficiaries. Among them, 1,439 were children, of which 1,113 were registered as unaccompanied children. Since the beginning of the refugee response until September 2018, SC in Serbia directly supported a total of 94,296 beneficiaries, including 37,072 children.
- Together with Atina NGO, SC launched a project aiming to reduce the risk of trafficking for sexual purposes and other forms of exploitation of children and young refugees and migrants in Serbia. Through the project, they are supporting victims of trafficking through mobile teams, case management, providing a Safe House for accommodation and by supporting social inclusion. In parallel, they built the capacities of field workers and CSO staffers for early identification and referral, prevention and awareness-building of the population at risk.
- SC continued running the CFSS and Youth Corners, working with Group 484 in Bogovađa AC and with the Centre for Youth Integration in Miksalište Belgrade, and Obrenovac, Vranje and Preševo RTCs. After Preševo RTC was put on hold, the programme was continued in Bujanovac RTC. The teams provided psychosocial support through tailor-made, innovative activities, information, referrals to services of NGOs and/or state-run institutions, and direct assistance. SC also continued fully covering the running costs of Refugee Aid Miksalište.
- In Belgrade, SC outreach teams operated in partnership with Praxis, carried out protection monitoring activities, provided information, identified vulnerable cases, provided referrals to competent authorities and targeted assistance, ensured follow-up on identified vulnerable cases (where



AGDM exercise, Vranje RTC, @UNHCR, September 2018

possible), and supported transportation to designated asylum and reception centres.

- IOM mobile teams were present in all reception/transit centres – Subotica, Sombor, Kikinda, Principovac, Adaševci, Belgrade area (Miksalište), Obrenovac, Divljana, Dimitrovgrad, Bosilegrad, Piroć, Preševo, Vranje and Bujanovac, and touring all five asylum centers, providing information and counselling on assisted voluntary return (AVR) and making referrals to competent state institutions. All necessary technical and logistic support was provided to migrants who expressed their willingness to return to the country of origin (CoO) - contacts with relevant embassies of the CoO, transfer of migrants to the embassies, assistance provided for the issuance of travel documents, travel arrangements, assistance for the movement, including the transit airport assistance and assistance upon arrival to CoO. From July to September 2018, 75 migrants returned to their countries of origin, to Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Tunisia, India, Nepal, Guinea and Bangladesh.
- IOM implemented a set of activities targeting service providers/frontline workers in reception/transit centres, including a series of stress management workshops to support self-care of service providers, to be followed by peer counselling sessions by the end of the year.
- IOM continued to provide support in enhancing capacities of SCRMs for monitoring, planning and information management, in addressing the migration management challenges in Serbia. So far,

implemented activities encompass strengthening of SCRM's human capacities and provision of IT equipment. The development of a database containing data on services and supplies is ongoing.

- SCRM's third coordination meeting, in the scope of the European Union Support to SCRM, took place in the Migration Training Centre in Plandište on 27-29 September. The meeting was organized for SCRM's field staff and partner organizations' representatives. Reporting on the conditions in reception/transit and asylum centres, presentation of SCRM's and partners' plans till the end of 2019 and plans for the upcoming winter period were in the focus of the meeting. In addition, a Guidebook on Media Relations was developed, as well as a plan and content for info sessions with refugees/migrants, which are about to start off in reception/transit and asylum centres. A large-scale visibility event aimed at promoting EU assistance to migration management took place in Pirot in July 2018. Information provision on activities under the EU Support to Migration Management in Serbia project has been continuous, via different channels – the webpage, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.
- Within the project *Support to Strengthening Migration and Asylum Management in Serbia - Phase 2*, a wide and inclusive national consultation process was kicked off in August, aimed at increasing the understanding and knowledge of the newly adopted asylum-related legislation. The National Conference, organised in September, gathered 75 international experts and government officials, who discussed the challenges in implementation of the newly adopted Asylum Law. The ToT program for trainers of Migration Training Center, aimed at strengthening capacities of frontline workers was conducted in September, while the preparation of trainings for reception/transit centres are underway. The group of trainees are SCRM employees and members of IOM mobile teams.
- CRPC provided the following services: information dissemination (Pashto, Arabic, Farsi, Urdu, English, etc.), interpretation, cultural mediation and orientation, psychosocial aid, identification and referrals of EVIs, advocacy and referral to legal, medical and other assistance, escort and transport to different facilities, etc. Services were provided both independently and in cooperation with other actors, and with support from UNHCR and UNICEF. CRPC team provided approximately 5,000 different services to beneficiaries in Belgrade and other locations per month (48% from Afghanistan, 19% from Iran and Pakistan each, etc.; 56% were men, 11% women and 32% children). A total of 275 possible UASC were identified and referred to appropriate institutions.
- With the help of UNHCR, CRPC conducted a total of 53 visits to centres in Serbia (Bogovađa, Banja Koviljača, Tutin, Sjenica, Adaševci, Principovac, Subotica, Sombor and Kikinda). CRPC provided interpretation and cultural mediation services, logistic support, escort and advocacy services.
- Supported by UNHCR and UNICEF, and in cooperation with UNHCR/DRC, on site-medical teams, accommodation centre's staff, Belgrade City Centre for Social Work and other actors – CRPC provided transport to secondary medical, children's and other facilities in more than 140 instances.
- On 24 Sep, a meeting of civil society actors was held at CRPC office in Belgrade to discuss the current refugee/migrant situation in the city centre.
- ADRA's Youth Centre in Belgrade was frequently visited by 116 different UASC (36 per day on average). A recreational facility was opened in the Centre and used during workdays for both structured and unstructured activities. A football coach was also available during the week. Twenty-four UASC participated in 14 dance and theatre classes. Two workshops on gender roles, rights,



BCHR providing legal assistance to asylum-seekers, Bujanovac RTC, @UNHCR, September 2018

obligations and social responsibilities, were held with 14 UASC, as well as four "Boys on the move" workshops with 20 UASC.

- ADRA established a Mother and Baby Corner. UNICEF supported the enhancement of capacity for running a safe space for children. ADRA's CFS was frequently visited by 35 different children, up to 5 years old. On average, 15 different children used daily the services available. Preschool programme was available for all children who visited this CFS.
- A total of 109 girls and women frequently visited ADRA's Youth Centre, and used its services. Between 15 and 20 different women used the services provided in ADRA's Women's Centre daily. A recreational facility and recreation sessions were made available to women each day. Forty-nine women attended sports activities (fitness and Zumba dance), and 56 attended creative workshops. Sixty-nine females, aged 10 and above, attended GBV prevention and empowerment activities (sensitisation workshops, info sessions, informal education, etc.). Six women and girls completed certified vocational trainings.
- Indigo continued providing interpretation services (Arabic, Farsi, Pashto and Urdu) in Preševo, Bujanovac, Vranje and at the Youth Upbringing Institution in Niš (1,093 interpretation services to children and 2,991 to adults).



Chess Workshop, Pirot RTC, @Sigma Plus, September 2018

- Indigo provided 1,592 services related to non-formal educational activities, 2,587 services related to workshops and recreational activities, 330 referrals to different actors (doctors, legal, CSW, SCRM, UNHCR and others), 2,456 information provision instances and 71 other services (11,236 services in total).

- Indigo worked with UASC and other vulnerable children, providing PFA and psychological assistance, identifying and referring them to other actors, organising non-formal educational and recreational activities, as well as creative and psychological workshops, and

followed their involvement in everyday life in the centres. Across all locations, Indigo provided 43 PFA and psychological support services to children with specific problems (e.g. nightmares, nocturia, behaviour problems, problems at school, aggression and/or mental disabilities).

- Indigo also continued with regular psychological, non-formal educational, creative and recreational workshops with children accommodated in Preševo, Bujanovac and Vranje, Divljana and Pirot.
- Indigo provided 86 services relating to 23 UASC in the Youth Upbringing Institution in Niš, monitored their condition and assisted the Institution staff in understanding/assessing their needs, interpreting, organisation of daily educational/recreational activities, and in the provision of NFIs. Indigo also provided psychological support to UASCs.
- As most of the children expressed a wish to have activities outside the accommodation centres during the summer, Indigo arranged for the children to go, twice a week and free of charge, to the public swimming pool in Bujanovac. Indigo also organised four visits to the American Corner in Bujanovac, where children participated in different workshops together with the local children. In Vranje, Indigo organised three outdoor activities: two outings near Vranje and one visit to a local museum. Indigo also organised an outing for the children and parents from Divljana RTC to Pirot town, where they visited the museum and the castle and played by the river. The transport for outings was provided by UNHCR.
- As part of the Programme for the Parents, Indigo organized workshops in Vranje RTC, aimed at improving parenting skills in the given circumstances (eight workshops, involving 20 parents). The workshops received positive reviews.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Gap in cash-assistance distributions continued to exist in the reporting period, along with related frustrations and lackings in more basic necessities.
- According to partners, the number of persons of concern present daily in Belgrade parks ranged from 50 to 400. Women and children were able to overnight in Miksalište while waiting for registration.



EDUCATION

Achievements and Impact

- With the support of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, and in cooperation with UNICEF and CRPC, UNHCR organized a workshop for over 120 principals, teachers, educators and psychologists of 30 primary and 10 secondary schools on the information about countries of origin of refugee students and a workshop for 20 educators in the three institutions where refugee UASC are accommodated (two in Belgrade and one in Niš).
- RAS and North Star continued to offer informal educational classes on a daily basis in their purpose-facility in Belgrade city centre. Offering English and Serbian on a daily basis, as well as German, French, Spanish, Maths and IT classes on an ad hoc basis, 'The Workshop' catered to an average of over 15 students per day during the reporting period.
- With the assistance of a dedicated volunteer, RAS and North Star's 'The Workshop' arranged in July photography workshops for students, using disposable cameras. These photographs were exhibited at a RAS event to raise awareness about the refugee situation on 26 September at Dorćol Platz. Beneficiaries were invited to attend and 18 residents of Krnjača AC showed up to enjoy the exhibition, along with food and drinks.
- On 25 July, PIN, RAS and North Star facilitated a visit to the Nikola Tesla Museum for nine beneficiaries, and on 9 Aug to the National Museum of Serbia for 25 beneficiaries.
- In cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development (MoESTD) and SCRМ, UNICEF held meetings with 180 refugee and migrant parents in 13 asylum/reception/transit centres to inform and motivate them to enrol their children in the preparatory preschool programmes and in primary and secondary education.
- UNICEF engaged 14 Serbian language teachers for children in 10 refugee/migrant centres. By the end of September, some 200 children attended the classes regularly and about 100 children attended them occasionally.
- Four UNICEF-engaged field experts continued to provide technical support to non-formal and informal education facilitators.
- Within the UNHCR/DRC project, 15 beneficiaries successfully finished vocational trainings for hairdressers and janitors. These vocational trainings were conducted by People's University from Niš in Bogovađa AC (vocational training for hairdressers), Banja Koviljača AC (vocational training for janitors) and Adaševci RTC (vocational training for janitors). Beneficiaries received certificates of completion in Serbian and English languages.



"Sremski front" schoolyard makeover volunteering action, Berkasovo (Šid), @ UNDP, September 2018

- UNHCR started funding and implementing Serbian classes for adults in Pirot and Bosilegrad RTCs, which will be expanded to other centres if there is interest.
- Group 484 continued with providing psychosocial and educational support to refugee/migrant children and youth accommodated in Bogovađa AC. Activities were based on creative, educational and recreational workshops and workshops of psychological empowerment. These activities took place five times per week (Monday – Friday), in the specially equipped CFS in Bogovađa AC. With the aim of integrating refugee/migrant children into their social/cultural environment, Group 484 organised joint activities with the local schoolchildren from Bogovađa. Activities took place both in the Elementary School in Bogovađa, and in Bogovađa AC. During August, Group 484 organized preparational activities for schoolchildren and continued with supporting school attendance and achievements of refugee/migrant children. All the a/m activities were performed in partnership with Save the Children.
- Caritas continued organizing after-school activities (supplementary lessons and assistance with homework) for children attending regular schools in Krnjača, Preševo, Vranje, Bujanovac and Bogovađa.
- Caritas organized English lessons for children and adults in Preševo and Bujanovac RTCs.
- Caritas was running a carpentry workshop in Obrenovac RTC, under the supervision of a Caritas



Children boarding the school bus,
Adaševci RTC, @UNHCR,
September 2018

animator - forestry engineer. The workshop is a training centre for interested migrants, giving them a chance to gain new skills and knowledge in construction joinery, to work with board materials and to learn about artistic carpentry. The workshop also services small repairs in the Centre.

- Caritas was organizing lessons in the English and Serbian languages for refugees/migrants/asylum-seekers in Krnjača and Principovac. In Krnjača AC, these lessons were aimed at unaccompanied minors.
- In Bogovađa AC, Caritas was organizing lessons in English and German languages.
- Caritas provided school bags and school supplies for refugee children from the 1st to the 8th grade, accommodated in Krnjača AC.
- PIN continued conducting Serbian language classes at PIN's premises in Belgrade for Farsi-speaking beneficiaries; 11 classes were conducted in total.
- Starting from July, PIN organised a Summer School of English Language and IT lessons at PIN's premises, in order to provide the beneficiaries with meaningful, useful activities during the summer break. The classes were organised on the basis of expressed needs. PIN's volunteers conducted 65 English Language lessons (beneficiaries were divided into three groups depending on their level of knowledge - beginners, intermediate and advanced group) and 13 IT lessons. The participants reported to have found these classes to be very useful in terms of their further education, quite beneficial for their overall well-being and self-confidence, and a great preparation for the upcoming school year, since the majority of PIN's beneficiaries continued attending the formal educational system. Moreover, beneficiaries continued attending English Language classes and IT lessons, in addition to their regular classes at school, after the beginning of the new school year on 3 September.
- In August, PIN started with a new community-based activity - IT workshop - conducted by a peer educator and mentored by PIN's psychologists. One male beneficiary with a background in graphic design began teaching other beneficiaries basic computer skills through IT workshops. Seeing their

peer in an active role enables them to improve their self-confidence and empowers them to move from a passive role of a refugee to an active citizen one. During the whole process, the facilitator was supported to take an active role that leads towards his empowerment, capacity- and confidence-building.

- As a part of PIN's integration activities, in September, three female beneficiaries were enrolled in an English Language learning course which they will attend together with the local population. The beneficiaries expressed a desire to be provided with a formal opportunity to improve their English skills, having previously attended PIN's Summer School. Therefore, PIN established a cooperation with the Lighthouse School in Belgrade, in view of facilitating the beneficiaries' further development of English Language skills, as well as their integration into the host community.
- In September, PIN team was included in the school enrolment process in Banja Koviljača AC, and continued working with both parents and children on adaptation to the school environment, considering that a certain number of children were enrolled into kindergarten and secondary school for the first time in Serbia, some into primary school as well.
- In order to support the inclusion of refugee and migrant children into the official education system, SC supported an additional professional engaged to assist the MoESTD, in coordination with schools and other relevant education actors, in the assessment of school needs and capacities.
- During the summer break, SC teams working in accommodation centres ran non-formal educational activities, strongly connected with the psychosocial support programme and aiming to promote learning, provide access to education to the new arrivals and help children enrolled into schools in Serbia maintain their study habits. In September, the teams in Bogovađa and Vranje continued working with school children, their parents, local communities and schools, to support children's learning and inclusion into formal education.
- Aiming to help parents in strengthening their parenting skills, SC developed a programme of psychosocial support for parents, together with the Centre for Interactive Pedagogy, promoting family unity and helping them provide support to their children, including on their educational journey. This programme has been piloted in several refugee/migrant accommodation centres in Serbia.
- IOM continued assisting with the transportation of refugee/migrant children to schools in Pirot, Bujanovac and Vranje, along with escort assistance in Principovac and Adaševci. Assistance included escorting/transportation of children to and from school and facilitation of communication among parents, teachers and social workers/psychologists employed in their respective schools. Total number of children who were transported/escorted to their respective schools in September was 78 (RTC Pirot 7, RTC Vranje: 28, RTC Bujanovac 11, RTC Principovac: 12, RTC Adaševci 20).
- IRC/ADRA Summer School was organized in July and August, Monday to Friday, with the aim of preventing summer holiday learning loss. Eighty-four refugee/migrant and Roma children (57 boys and 27 girls) attended the School together. Attendance rate of refugee/migrant children was almost 80%, of Roma children up to 50%, and of UASC up to 25%. Compared to initial/placement tests, final tests showed that most of the children either maintained or increased their learning achievements. During the Summer School, 40 children visited the ZOO, the Museum of Illusions and the Dino Park. The children also attended a science workshop organised by the Institute of Molecular Genetics and Genetic Engineering.
- With the start of new school year on 3 September, ADRA provided services of cultural mediators and an educational psychologist to 63 children (incl. 54 UASC and incl. 10 girls), enrolled in three primary schools, and to four preschool children (incl. two girls). The children were assisted in learning and adopting new knowledge and escorted to and from their schools.
- UASC attended Serbian and English language lessons, mathematics, chemistry, geography and IT classes in ADRA's Centre. Thirteen UASC completed vocational trainings in tailoring and make-up.

- Indigo continued with the non-formal educational workshops in Divljana and Pirot RTCs (Serbian and English lessons mainly). Indigo worked on preparing the new children for the beginning of school year – Indigo educators taught languages, biology, geography and maths. Through creative, recreational activities and social games, the children had the opportunity to learn about different contents useful for everyday life and communication. Indigo also prepared portfolios of the children from Pirot RTC and handed them to their school, in order to enable for their easier school adaptation.
- After the number of children in Pirot RTC increased, Indigo doubled the number of non-formal educational activities to four per week, introducing two lessons in Serbian for the children per week. Indigo educators worked on motivating the children and the parents for school, and on “bridging the language gap”. Quite a few children did not feel comfortable in school, as they did not understand the local language and had difficulties in communicating both with the teachers and with their peers. Indigo worked on raising their motivation and explained what benefits they would have if they attended school.
- Indigo provided school materials to 25 children enrolled in two primary schools in Vranje and two children enrolled in a local preschool.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Additional efforts are needed to support the enrolment of children into secondary education, since only 14% of children aged 15-18 were attending schools at the beginning of 2018/2019 school year in September.
- There is a need for informal educational activities for young refugees, migrants and asylum-seekers, who cannot be enrolled into the formal education system due to their age, and an increased need for different vocational/occupational courses and activities for adults.



Achievements and Impact

- Through regular visits to asylum/reception/transit centres in Bosilegrad, Kikinda, Bogovađa and Krnjača, as well as in its premises in Belgrade, IAN provided psychological services to 119 (58 male, 51 female) PoCs in July-Sept. Among them, 69 were new clients (receiving support from IAN for the first time). A total 203 interventions took place during the reporting period, including individual psychotherapy, psychiatric interventions and psychosocial support sessions/activities. Majority of assisted PoCs were from Afghanistan (50%) and Iran (29%). In collaboration with SCRM, centres for social welfare and legal guardians, IAN provided psychiatric assistance and psychotherapy to 15 UASCs.
- Within the project MADAD II “EU support to Serbia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in Managing Migration Refugee Crisis/Balkan Route Project”, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) medical teams provided medical assistance in Šid, Belgrade, Subotica, Sombor, Kikinda, Bujanovac, Preševo, Vranje, Tutin and Sjenica in 11,301 instances. Since the centre in Preševo was placed in a stand by mode, CRS withdrew its medical team from this centre. CRS cultural mediators/interpreters provided translation assistance (Arabic and Farsi) to refugees/migrants/asylum-seekers and partner organizations (Philanthropy, Save the Children, Atina, UNHCR, DRC, UNICEF, IOM, MDM and IDC) and authorities (Clinical Centres of Belgrade, Novi Sad and Niš, General Hospitals (GH) in Sremska Mitrovica, Užice, Novi Pazar, Prijepolje, Vranje and Zlatibor, Health Centres (HC) and Public Health Institutes (PHI) in Vranje, Bujanovac, Šid,

Preševo, Tutin, Kikinda, Sombor and Subotica, Belgrade Police, Šid Court, Šid Police inspectors, Police inspectors and BIA Preševo and Centre for Social Welfare Bujanovac) in 2,137 instances. The project is funded through the MADAD RTF, implemented by IOM, with CRS as implementing partner for the health component within the Project.

- UNHCR/DRC medical teams, consisting of a medical doctor and a nurse engaged through eight Primary Health Centres (PHC), provided health-care services, including 8,593 curative medical examinations and 3,999 screenings for body lice and other communicable diseases among new arrivals, in all accommodation locations, daily body lice control at every entry/exit from RTC Preševo, and entry medical checks upon arrival to asylum centres. PHC Preševo medical team and the PHC Bela Palanka medical team were discontinued as of 15 September because there were no refugees/migrants accommodated there following the placement of Preševo and Divljana RTCs in stand-by mode. Following a joint discussion on the medical needs in the area with SCRM and Ministry of Health (MoH), UNHCR/DRC extended the working hours of the medical team in Pirot RTC from part-time to full-time as of 17 September. In addition, one medical team (doctor & nurse) was engaged through PHC Šid, for the period 18 June - 18 August, to cover the gap in the provision of health care to refugees/migrants accommodated in Adaševci RTC. The contract with PHC Šid has been extended as of 20 August under MADAD/IOM funding. While IOM/DRC medical teams provided health-care services, as agreed with UNHCR, medications were provided through the locally contracted pharmacy, funded by UNHCR.
- UNHCR/DRC medical teams continued to follow up especially vulnerable ceases among refugees/migrants/asylum-seekers in need of specialized health-care services, referring them to relevant health institutions, and conducted advocacy with the MoH. The needed medications, as well as medical devices were provided to the most vulnerable among refugees and asylum seekers in all the a/m centres.
- UNHCR/DRC organised health awareness workshops in Krnjača and Adaševci, and 210 beneficiaries attended.
- WHO continued to support the Institute of Public Health (IPH) of Serbia, MoH, relevant health institutions and partner NGOs, in coordination of healthcare provision. MoH organized two refugee and migrant health coordination meetings in the reporting period.
- As part of the European Union Support to Migration Management in Serbia, WHO procured equipment for disinfection, insect and rodent control for the Institute for Biocides and Environmental Medicine in Belgrade and eight Regional IPHs in Vranje, Pirot, Novi Pazar, Užice, Šabac, Sremska Mitrovica, Kikinda and Sombor. The total value of the equipment was USD 161,000 and it will be used for disinfection, mosquito and rodent control in accommodation centres and other areas. The handover ceremony took place on 6 July.
- WHO developed a set of health awareness activities, which will be implemented between September 2018 and February 2019 in all reception/transit and asylum centres in Serbia. Curriculum for workshops was prepared with experts from the national and regional IPHs, who will also be conducting the workshops. Printed material in Farsi, Arabic, English and Serbian languages have been designed, and will be distributed in health clinics for refugees, migrants and asylum-seekers. Training of Trainers for workshop facilitators took place on 13 - 14 September 2018.
- With a group of national experts, WHO developed the Draft Technical Guidance on Mental Health for Refugees and Migrants. The Draft received approval by the IPH and SCRM. Following the final review by the WHO HQ in Geneva, the document will be presented to wider audience.



Medical checkup of new arrivals, Bujanovac RTC, @UNHCR, August 2018

- WHO supported three municipalities in Serbia to develop local health-related contingency plans for increased influx of refugees and migrants. With expert assistance, representatives of local self-governments and health institutions in Vranje, Pirot and Šid drafted these documents during the summer and their publication is expected by the end of the year.
- IOM continued with the provision of primary health care for refugees and migrants through CRS as implementing partner in Principovac, Sombor, Kikinda, Subotica, Belgrade, Vranje, Bujanovac, Tutin and Sjenica. As of August, IOM commenced with support to an additional medical team in Adaševci, with DRC as the implementing partner. All activities are carried out under the project: “EU Support to Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in Managing Migration/Refugee Crisis / Balkan Route”, funded through EURTF Madad. Under the same project supported by the EU, IOM and DRC have deployed psychologists, in order to ensure that proper psychological counselling and activities are provided to refugees, migrants and asylum-seekers in Vranje, Bujanovac, Pirot, Belgrade area, Obrenovac, Krnjača, Principovac, Adaševci, Sombor and Kikinda.
- CRPC assisted in referrals and logistics for Krnjača AC medical cases, providing further escort, advocacy, interpretation and other services.
- Indigo continued working with 53 young adults and parents (114 services in total) from Vranje, Bujanovac and Preševo RTCs who needed psychological assistance. They faced psychological problems, such as stress, panic and anxiety attacks, anger, depression and other mental health problems, due to uncertain future and/or traumatic experiences they had experienced. Indigo worked with the parents on their family issues or specific issues concerning their children.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- NSTR



FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Achievements and Impact

- Philanthropy provided cooked meals for dinner in Bujanovac, Vranje and Preševo. Food distribution was organized in partnership with Caritas.
- Supported by Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe Austria, Philanthropy continued to provide noodles for the newcomers to Info Park point in Belgrade.
- RAS distributed a total of 356 food items to 295 beneficiaries in Belgrade.
- UNICEF continued to support MBCs in Belgrade city centre, Bujanovac, Vranje, Krnjača, Kikinda, Principovac and Adaševci. The MBCs in Divljana and Preševo have been closed, following temporary closure of these centres. UNICEF continued to support the Food Consortium and its implementing partners in operationalising nutritional recommendations on “Nutrition in transit, reception and asylum centres for migrant children (refugees and asylum seekers) aged from 7-17 years, pregnant and lactating women and people with diabetes (including children)” which were developed in cooperation with IPH Serbia. Since the beginning of the year, 242 new infants (under 2) accessed UNICEF- supported mother and baby care services,



“Banica” Festival, Bela Palanka,
@UNHCR, August 2018

including health and nutrition services. 265 mothers benefited from UNICEF-supported infant and young child feeding counselling at mother and baby corners since the beginning of 2018.

- Supported by UNICEF, NSHC delivered 1,290 packages of complementary (jarred) food to children aged 6-23 months and 696 packages of UHT milk to children and pregnant women (346 children received jarred food; 402 children and 16 pregnant women received UTH milk). A total of 452 children received non-food items (hygienic items and clothes).
- Supported by Terre des Hommes, NSHC delivered snacks (biscuits, water and milk) to the most vulnerable: 158 children and 94 adults at the MBC.
- In Preševo, Bujanovac, Vranje, Pirot and Dimitrovgrad, as a member of the Food Consortium, Caritas provided 79,354 meals. In Preševo, Bujanovac and Vranje, as a member of the Food Consortium, Caritas was providing breakfast and lunch, while Philanthropy was covering the distribution of dinner. Caritas was providing meals regularly in Preševo, until the temporary closure of the Centre on 17 August 17.
- In Dimitrovgrad, as a member of the Food Consortium, Caritas was providing breakfast, lunch and dinner from 1 July to 9 August, when this centre was also temporarily closed, while in Pirot RTC Caritas was providing all three meals starting from 1 August.
- In Adaševci and Principovac, as a member of the Food Consortium, CARE continued to provide cooked meals. The total number of meals provided (includes breakfasts, lunches and dinners) was 150,927. In the same period, in these locations, CARE provided 4,732 (250 ml) cartons of milk.
- From 1 August, as a member of the Food Consortium, CARE began to provide cooked meals in accommodation centres in Kikinda, Subotica and Sombor. The total number of meals provided was 57,876. In the same period, in these locations, CARE provided 5,312 (250 ml) cartons of milk, 59,855 (0.5 l) bottles of water and 1,269 jars of baby food.
- UNHCR's partners HCIT and Sigma Plus distributed 6,840 small bottles of water in the North, West and East of the country.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- NSTR



WATER AND SANITATION

Achievements and Impact

- OM ran a laundry service in Adaševci TC five days a week.
- Caritas was providing regular laundry service to refugees, migrants and asylum-seekers accommodated in Krnjača, Preševo, Vranje, Adaševci, Kikinda and Obrenovac.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- NSTR



SHELTER AND NFIS

Achievements and Impact

- IOM continued with the improvement of standards in targeted reception/transit/asylum centres. Through implementation of the project “EU Support to Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in Managing Migration/Refugees Crisis / Balkan Route”, funded through EURTF Madad, IOM successfully finalized the reconstruction works in Bosilegrad RTC in August, while reconstruction works in Sjenica AC are underway, with expected delivery date by the end of November/early December 2018. Both centres are reconstructed in line with EASO standards and will include services for mid/long term stay of refugees, migrants and asylum seekers in Serbia. Bosilegrad RTC will be able to accommodate up to 66 people, with accompanying services such as sanitary corridor, kitchen equipment with a warm line for food distribution, a dining room, an infirmary and premises for SCRM staff. Sjenica AC will be able to accommodate up to 148 people, and will include a children’s playground, kitchen equipment for food preparation, a dining room, leisure premises/room for education, a sanitary corridor and the infirmary. As planned under project extension, IOM and SCRM initiated an assessment of targeted locations proposed by SCRM, concerned with improvements to infrastructure (water, sewage, electricity). After the consolidated findings are ready, preparatory activities and the works will be initiated.

- Reconstruction of the attic for accommodation of unaccompanied refugee children, with UNHCR funding, was completed in Home for Children Zmaj in Belgrade. Basic furniture and home appliances



Distribution of non-food items, Bosilegrad RTC,
@UNHCR, August 2018

were also purchased for the attic space. The installation of the fire detection system in the Institute for Youth Education in Niš and the Home for Children Vasa Stajić in Belgrade were also finalized by UNHCR in September.

- UNHCR purchased and delivered walkie-talkies for SCRM staff in all centers.

- Procurement of small items and spare parts for accommodations centres in Serbia was done in September by the UNHCR and distribution will be finalized by end-October. The needs for small items and spare parts were identified in coordination with SCRM.

For more information on reception standards, you may

wish to refer to the September Update of the [Joint Assessment of Government Centres](#).

- UNHCR, in coordination with SCRM, directly and with partners CRPC, HCIT and Sigma plus distributed 60 blankets, 120 sets of bed linen, 2,978 hygiene kits, 4,112 pairs of socks, 3,560 T-shirts, 2,869 pairs of sneakers, 1,094 pairs of rubber slippers, 3,428 tracksuits and 4,554 pairs of underwear.
- RAS distributed 356 items to a total of 295 beneficiaries in Belgrade (including T-shirts, underwear, jackets, long-sleeve T-shirts, sweatshirts, sweaters and multi sockets).
- In cooperation with SCRM and through partners, UNICEF distributed basic supplies, including clothes, baby hygiene items and dignity kits for women and girls, reaching 1,329 children throughout the country since the beginning of the year.
- CRPC continued with NFI distribution for newly arrived PoCs in Belgrade.

- In ADRA's Centre in Borča, Belgrade, 116 UASC were provided with hygienic items and clothes. Schoolchildren were provided with notebooks and school supplies (pens, crayons, erasers, sharpeners, etc.) for the Summer School. Refugee mothers assisted in sewing rucksacks for the new school year. Two pairs of glasses were purchased by ADRA for two children.
- ADRA provided tailoring fabrics for 61 women to make clothes for themselves and their families.
- ADRA provided 78 females with dignity hygienic packs and/or clothes.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Due to stable numbers of accommodated persons in the previous several months and rationalization of maintenance costs, during August SCRM decided to put on stand-by Divljana, Dimitrovgrad and Preševo RTCs. At the moment, the number of active centres stands at 15 (five asylum and 10 reception/transit centres). Divljana, Dimitrovgrad, Preševo and Šid RTCs remain inactive, with the possibility of becoming operational fairly quickly, according to SCRM. Consequently, with the closure of a/m RTCs in the southeast of the country, rub halls were activated for accommodation in Adaševci RTC (three out of five available) and Principovac RTC (one rub hall). As usual, rub halls accommodate single males presumably in transit; however, the length of stay of some men is longer than tolerable emergency shelter accommodation period (3-5 days according to UNHCR standards).
- Due to protection concerns and potential security risks, SCRM agreed that the refugee housing units (RHU) located in Preševo RTC should be dismantled. The exact date for dismantling is yet to be agreed, pending confirmation of availability from SCRM, UNHCR, and the local Youth Centre, who will be participating in the removal of the RHUs.
- Adaševci and Kikinda RTCs continued to face challenges with inadequate sewage systems.



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

Achievements and Impact

- In September, the UNDP construction of the EU Support to Migration Management-funded Emergency Room (ER) in Preševo was completed and the ER was furnished. This institution, which



Berkasovo school after renovation, @UNDP, August 2018

was on the frontline of health service provision, assisting refugees and migrants in need of emergency health services on a 24/7 basis, is now able to operate in accordance with modern medical requirements. The value of the investment amounts to EUR 191,000.

- Within the scope of the same programme, UNDP completed the reconstruction of "Sremski front" Primary School in Berkasovo village, Šid Municipality. At the peak of the refugee crisis in September 2015, several hundred thousands of refugees and migrants passed through Berkasovo village, trying to reach countries of their final destination. The premises of the Berkasovo branch of "Sremski front" School are located in the former 1950's local community building, which was severely dilapidated due to lack of maintenance. Since September 2017, "Sremski front" School enrolled refugee/migrant children, and five of these children are currently attending. Within the *EU Support to Municipalities Hosting Migrants* programme, the entire school was renovated and refurbished. Overall value of this EU investment, which enabled for education conducive environment, amounts to EUR 70,000.

- EU support was extended towards "Vera Blagojević" Primary School in Banja Koviljača - home of the first ever Asylum Centre in the Republic of Serbia. The school yard was renovated and the school gym partially refurbished. With an investment of € 37,000, the EU enabled for creation of adequate, supportive environment for education and upbringing of young generations. This school, attended by 478 pupils, is currently hosting eight refugee/migrant children. Since September 2017, the school has enrolled a total of forty refugee/migrant children.
- With support from Open Society Foundation, Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation organized solidarity festivals in Šid, Subotica and Preševo, where refugees/migrants and local residents jointly participated in cultural and sports activities. During the reporting period, several volunteer activities were implemented in Šid, gathering refugees/migrants and local population – walls in Sava Šumanovic Secondary School were painted, three children's playgrounds were reconstructed (in Jamena, Berkasovo and Sot) and the walkway in Šid was reconstructed. Five culinary workshops took place, featuring participation of refugee women and local women. In Subotica, two children's playgrounds were reconstructed. An open kitchen was installed in Subotica, and inclusive workshops were continued in partnership with CSO ZaJedno. In Preševo, a toy library was opened up in a local preschool, and school yards were renovated in the local primary and secondary school.
- Supported by Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe Austria, Philanthropy provided new equipment for an outdoor gym in Šid city centre.
- UNHCR, partners and authorities organized a number of occupational and recreational activities, including those with host communities. One such event took place on 12 July in Pirot, when 91 residents of Pirot, Divljana and Dimitrovgrad Reception Centres joined local players in a football tournament "Only jerseys are different".
- On 10-12 August, supported by UNHCR, partners and authorities, residents of Divljana RC took part in the traditional food festival "Banica" in Bela Palanka, where they were able to make traditional Serbian pie as well as their own national food, and were amongst 300 exhibitors/competitors in the festival. See more on this event [here](#).
- IOM continued with implementation of various activities within the social cohesion component of the joint UN project "Open Communities – Successful Communities". More than 50 interactive days with refugees/migrants from all reception/transit centers in the country have been organized since the start of the project, engaging more than 3,000 beneficiaries, including from among local population. A number of different workshops, events and educational field trips, on different topics, have been organized with the aim of fostering intercultural exchange, mutual understanding, tolerance and cohesion. These activities are followed by local public information campaigns, which promote the values of community cohesion, thus contributing to the creation of an appropriate public discourse on migration. In addition, the exhibition "Memories left behind", with accompanying brochure, was staged in five municipalities hosting refugees/migrants.
- During the summer months, within EU support to Migration Management, UNDP organised numerous social cohesion events, which were mainly focused on preparation of educational facilities for the school year to come. Local volunteers from Šid, Bujanovac, Bela Palanka and Loznica joined forces with residents of local refugee/migrant/asylum-seekers accommodation centres in upgrading and refurbishing local school yards, thus contributing to the better educational prospects of all the children concerned.



Inside of new ER Block in Preševo, @UNDP, August 2018

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- NSTR



DURABLE SOLUTIONS

Achievements and Impact

- On 2 and on 3 July, UNHCR promoted enhancing coordination of assistance to the local integration of refugees with the SCRM, the Ministry of Labour, Social and Veteran Affairs, the National Employment Service and BCHR. Two obstacles, namely tax exemption for work permits and the necessity of primary school certificates for access to vocational trainings, were highlighted.
 - UNHCR and BCHR held several meetings with the business sector, in order to raise awareness of the new group on the labour market. Additionally, the BCHR integration team assisted three clients in securing new employment.



Banja Koviljača School Upgrade Action, @ UNDP, August 2018

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- NSTR

Working in partnership

- The internal coordination mechanism of the UN system in Serbia, the **UN Refugee and Migrant Theme Group (RMTG)**, meet under the co-chairmanship of UNHCR & IOM on 27 July and 28 Sept in Belgrade. The RMTG coordinates four sectorial working groups (WGs): a) Refugee Protection WG (Co-chaired by MoLEVSA & UNHCR), b) the WG on Shelter/NFI/WASH (Co-chaired by SCRM, MoLEVSA & UNHCR), c) WG on Health/Food/Nutrition (Co-chaired by Ministry of Health & WHO) and d) WG on Local Community Support (Co-chaired by the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Governance & UNDP).