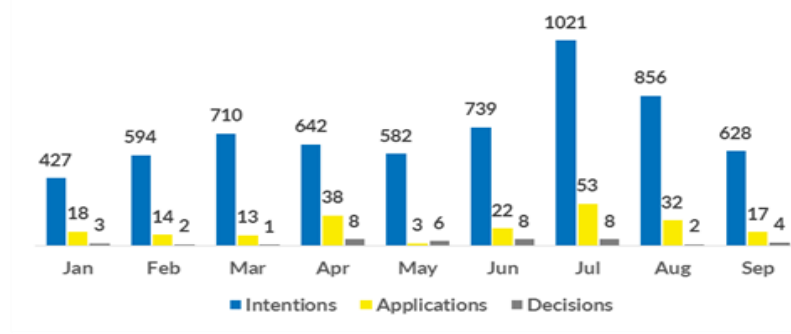


SERBIA UPDATE

- The number of **new refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants** in Serbia on 14 October was **3,825**, compared to 3,905 counted two weeks ago. Of those, 3,338 (i.e. 87%) were accommodated in 15 governmental Reception/Transit (RTC) or Asylum Centres. Also, 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 80 in Loznica, close to the border with Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- UNHCR and partners in Serbia observed or assisted **751 newly arriving** refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants (compared to 1,130 during the preceding fortnight). Of them, 34% were nationals of Afghanistan, 33% of Iran, 19% of Pakistan, 6% of Iraq, etc. Majority, 71%, were men, 8% women and 21% were children, including 107 Unaccompanied and Separated Children- UASC. Some 37% arrived from FYRo Macedonia, 30% by air, 29% from Bulgaria and 4% from other destinations.
- In September, **628** foreigners registered **intentions to seek asylum in Serbia**. Among them, 67% were adult men, 9% adult women and 24% children, while citizens of Iran represented 35%, Afghanistan 22%, Pakistan 11%, followed by India (8%), Iraq (7%), Syria (5%), etc. No application received positive decision in September and four applications were rejected, leaving the number of positive decisions by the Asylum Office so far in 2018 at 23 in total. Below chart refers for trends.

Asylum intentions/applications/decisions 2018



- UNHCR and partners received an increased number of reports of collective expulsions: 809 from Croatia (up from 506 two weeks ago), followed by 207 from BiH (up from 188), 27 from Hungary (up from 18) and 19 from Romania (down from 74). More than 64% of these reports alleged denial of access to asylum procedures by authorities of these neighbouring countries.
- On 4 October, UNHCR partners Belgrade Center for Human Rights and International Aid Network presented the Report Documenting Collective Expulsions and Physical Abuse of Refugees and Migrants, documenting border practices at the borders with Croatia. The presentation was attended by civil society, human rights and medical experts. UNHCR has undertaken to translate the study into English.
- Hungarian authorities admitted **nine** asylum seekers from Serbia into territory and procedures in their so-called "transit zones" at Horgos and Kelebija border crossings (compared to 19 during the preceding two weeks).
- In response to increase in the number of UASC, and upon request from the Ministry of Labor, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs, UNHCR expanded its guardianship project with IDEAS to include additional guardians, support to case management and social welfare centers in key municipalities.
- On 01 October, the Serbian Commissariat for Refugees and Migration (SCRM) presented in Belgrade a publication "**Situation and Needs of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)**" based on a study funded by UNHCR. UNHCR Representative and SCRM Deputy Commissioner delivered opening statements. UNHCR Representative, thanking the SCRM for the study which shows the dire needs which too many IDPs still face, expressed UNHCR support that the national development plan of Serbia addresses IDP needs and ensures that IDPs will not be left behind in Serbia's progress in European Integration and the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development. The study can be found [here](#).



Refugee children from RTC Adasevci boarding the bus to school

- From 5 to 7 October, 30 young Roma volunteers participated in the last training in Belgrade under the joint project “Institutional and Strategic Framework of Roma Inclusion in Serbia” implemented by UNHCR, UNDP, and UNV. The participants shared very positive experiences volunteering for six months in local government and self-government institutions throughout the country, and plans for the future engagement.
- Between 8 and 12 October, a visiting music professor from Spain delivered a music workshop, based on El Sistema methodology, to pupils from different backgrounds (Roma IDP, refugee children from asylum centre Krnjaca, etc.) in the school “Branko Pesic” in Belgrade. The workshop was part of the educational-social inclusion project implemented by Music Art Project with support from UNHCR.
- UNHCR Serbia compiled the following updates: **September Statistical [Snapshot](#), [Interagency Operational Update July-September 2018](#) and the joint [Site Profiles September Update](#).**



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¹. Contributed without restrictions on its use, unearmarked funding allows UNHCR critical flexibility in how best to reach refugees and other populations of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk. Where a donor has contributed \$10 million or more, the total amount of the contribution is shown.

² Due to their earmarking at the region or sub-region, or to a related situation or theme, the other softly earmarked contributions listed are those which can potentially be used for Bosnia and Herzegovina Regional Office. Where a donor has contributed \$2 million or more, the total amount of the contributions is shown.