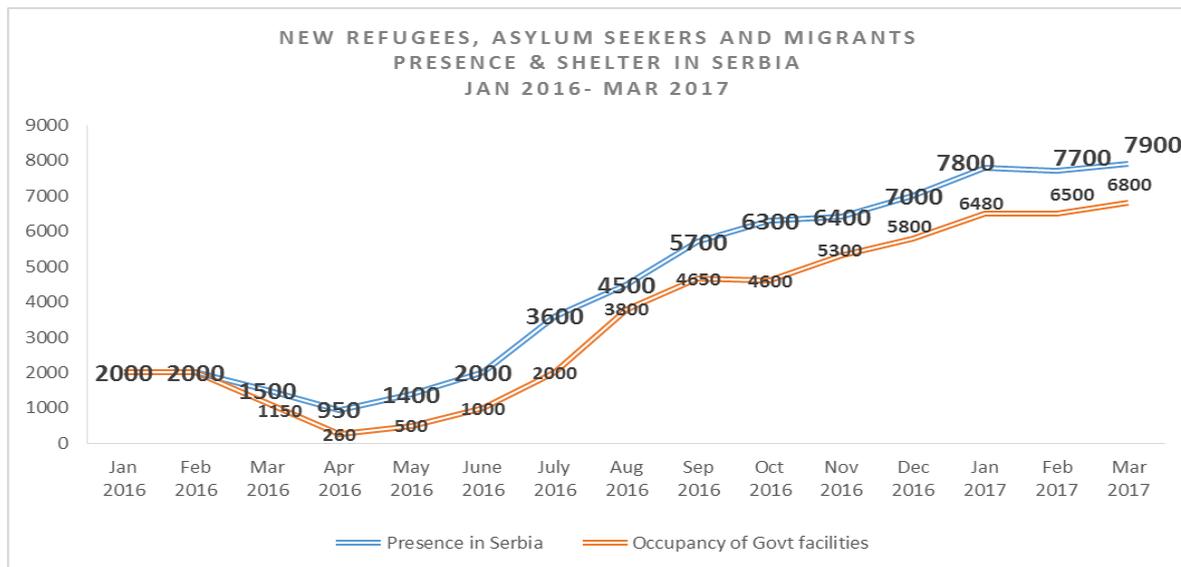


HIGHLIGHTS AND STATISTICS

- Over **7,860** refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants were counted in Serbia. 87% (6,768) of them were sheltered in 17 heated government facilities (below chart refers). The rest stayed rough in Belgrade city centre or the North.
- Unfortunately, the accident on 02 February in Sid, when four men were critically injured after accidentally triggering an explosion on a train transporting fuel, had a tragic ending, as the life of one victim, despite immediate hospitalization and intensive care, could not be saved. The three other men applied for assisted voluntary return home to Algeria.
- UNHCR and partners encountered and referred over 30 Afghan boys, who newly arrived from Bulgaria, to Centres for Social Work. Currently up to 900 Unaccompanied and Separated refugee Children (UASC) are in Serbia, with 718 accommodated in government centres, including 120 in Presevo, 33 in Bujanovac, 337 in Obrenovac and 228 in all other governmental centres.
- UNHCR donated 80 blankets, 110 bedlinen sets, 60 hygiene kits, 1,000 diapers, 240 disinfectant gels, 48 baby powder packs, 60 baby bottles, 10 baby sleeping bags and 120 socks to the Institute for Mother and Child in Belgrade as well as 100 Refugee Housing Units and 2,030 bedlinen sets to the Reception Centre in Presevo.
- Hungarian authorities admitted 43 asylum seekers, mostly families from Afghanistan and Iraq, one family from Syria and three UASCs, into procedures at the Hungarian “transit zones” near Kelebija and Horgos border crossings. Fewer reports of collective expulsions from Hungary were received this week, with some asylum seekers alleging mistreatment by Hungarian authorities. At the same time, the number of encountered collective expulsions from Croatia rose from 32 last week to 57 this week.
- Between 01 and 19 March, the Border Guard’s Asylum Office registered 380 intents to seek asylum in Serbia.



EAST

Over 630 asylum seekers were accommodated in four Reception Centres: 251 in Pirot, 243 in Divljana, 87 in Dimitrovgrad and 53 in Bosilegrad. Most are from Iraq, followed by Afghanistan and Syria and around half of them are children. Authorities provided food and medical services and UNHCR NFIs, while NGOs supported aid delivery, interpretation and counselling.

SOUTH

1,047 refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants were accommodated in the Reception Centres of Presevo (843) and Bujanovac (204). In Presevo RC, some 52% of the population is from Afghanistan, 26% from Iraq, 12% from Pakistan and 8% from Syria. Some 46% are children. In Bujanovac, 31% are from Afghanistan, 30% Iraq and 25% from Syria, and 62% are children.

UNHCR and partners assisted with food and non-food aid, medical services, counselling, interpretation, referrals, educational and recreational activities. Upon request of authorities, UNHCR and partners also continued supporting the Centre for Social Work in conducting Best Interest Assessments for unaccompanied and separated children and appointing legal guardians.

BELGRADE

Close to 3,000 refugees and migrants were counted in Belgrade. According to authorities, some 940 men and boys still sleep rough in the city centre, where UNHCR and partners continued providing life-saving aid, counselling, support to registration with the police, as well as referrals to child protection and medical services as well as transport to governmental shelters.

Krnjaca Asylum Centre accommodated 1,009 asylum-seekers. 1,037 refugees and migrants (including 337 unaccompanied or separated boys) were sheltered in Obrenovac. UNHCR and partners continued supporting the rapid refurbishment of capacities in Obrenovac, as well as regular medical and protection services.



*Counselling on asylum and registration, Sid (Serbia)@UNHCR,
17 March 2017*

WEST

Transit Centres (TCs) in the West sheltered 1,953 refugees and migrants: 997 in Adasevci, 631 in Sid and 325 in Principovac. Some small groups of unregistered men continued being observed staying in abandoned buildings near Sid.

Civil society organizations assisted authorities with food, non-food and medical aid, counselling, referrals, child support and recreational activities.

On 16 March, the 11th round of body lice treatment was conducted in Sid TC. Health organizations continue discussing the most efficient ways to eradicate the lingering epidemic.

NORTH

Only 5 asylum seekers camped at Horgos and 3 at Kelebija border sites, awaiting admission into Hungarian “transit zones”. Subotica Transit Centre (TC) sheltered 151 asylum-seekers and Sombor TC 100, while UNHCR and partners provided humanitarian aid, including food, non-food aid, hygiene packages, support to maintenance of the sanitary conditions, medical assistance, referrals, as well as legal and other counselling.



The 2017 UNHCR Serbia Operation is grateful for funding by:



and private donors in Spain