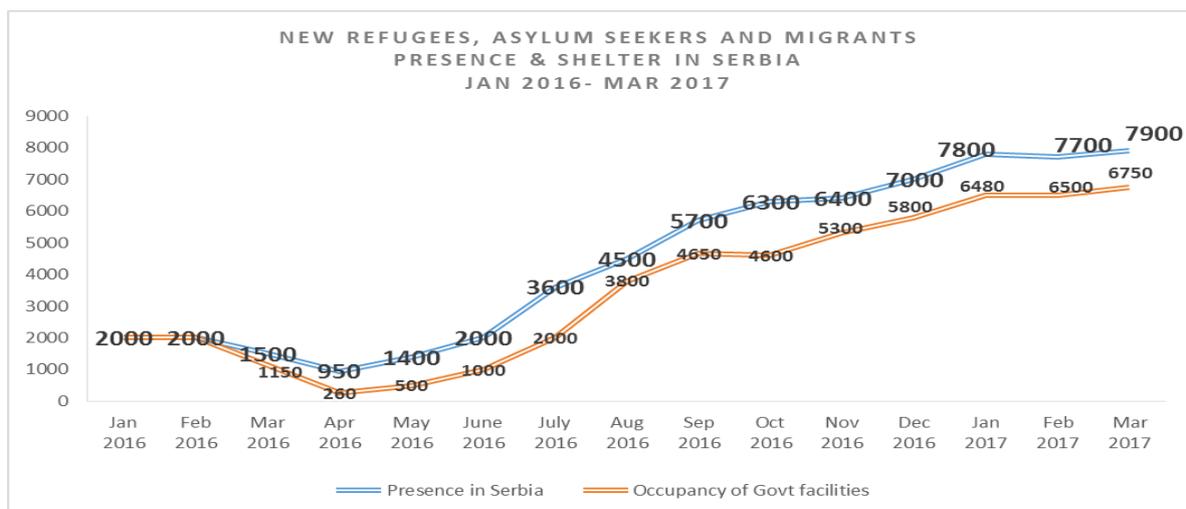


HIGHLIGHTS AND STATISTICS

- On 26 March, **7,892** refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants were counted in Serbia. 85% (6,738) were sheltered in 17 government facilities, while the rest stayed rough in Belgrade city centre or close to the borders with Croatia or Hungary.
- Unaccompanied and separated refugee children (UASC) continued arriving daily, mainly from Bulgaria. Some 30 new, mostly Afghan, boys were referred by UNHCR and partners to the Centre for Social Work in Belgrade alone. By now, over **900** UASCs are in Serbia, with 758 accommodated in government centres, including 350 in Obrenovac, 118 in Presevo, 32 in Bujanovac, and 258 in all other governmental shelters, as well as close to 200 in Belgrade city centre.
- On 24 March, UNHCR and partners surveyed refugees/migrants in Belgrade city centre. Amongst 1,395 counted - all male - 368 agreed to be interviewed. Most were from Afghanistan (85%), followed by Pakistan. Some 11% confirmed to be sheltered in Obrenovac centre but come to the city regularly. 125 were UASCs, mostly Afghan. Over 50% of those profiled reached Serbia in the past four months. 64% stated they are waiting for smugglers to try to reach France or Italy.
- Refugees and migrants in all sites are expressing increased exasperation with the enactment of the new Hungarian Law, reportedly taking effect on 28 March, fearing prolonged detention before being rejected and pushed-back to Serbia. While psycho-social and other health partners report increasing mental health issues at all sites, a first peaceful demonstration against the new law took place on 22 March in front of Adasevci Transit Centre. UNHCR continues offering authorities increased support to maintain mental health and security, especially in the Transit Centres in the West of the country that have the lowest CBO presence and appear most vulnerable to tensions.
- Accordingly only five cases of collective expulsions from Hungary were encountered this week, the lowest number reported since last summer. Consistent with increased attempts to irregularly enter Croatia instead, the number of reported collective expulsions from Croatia rose to 60 from last week's 57.
- In support to the government's efforts to improve and expand emergency shelter UNHCR donated another 250 bunk beds to the Serbian Commissioner for Refugees and Migration (SCRM) and delivered them to the Transit Centres of Obrenovac, Subotica, Sombor and Sid.
- On 20 March, the Belgrade Centre for Human Rights presented its annual report "*Right to Asylum in the Republic of Serbia 2016*", which documents and analyses small improvements but also systemic problems in accessing fair and efficient asylum procedures and refugee protection in Serbia. The full report is available [here](#).
- Between 01 and 26 March, the Border Guard's Asylum Office registered 570 intents to seek asylum in Serbia.



EAST

630 refugees and migrants were accommodated in four Reception Centres: 252 in Pirot, 242 in Divljana, 89 in Dimitrovgrad and 47 in Bosilegrad. Most are from Iraq, followed by Afghanistan and Syria and around half are children.



Celebration of Persian New Year, Presevo Reception Centre (Serbia), ©UNHCR, 21 March 2017

SOUTH

1,029 refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants were accommodated in the Reception Centres of Presevo (823) and Bujanovac (206).

53% of the residents of Presevo RC are from Afghanistan, 26% from Iraq, 10% from Pakistan and 7% from Syria. 47% are children.

In Bujanovac, which continues to accommodate only families with children and UASCs, 32% are from Iraq, 30% Afghanistan, 23% from Syria and 14% from Iran. 60% are children.

Refugees, supported by CBOs, organized colourful celebrations of Novruz: the Persian New Year.

BELGRADE

Over **3,000** refugees and migrants were counted in Belgrade. It is estimated that with fairer weather again over 1,000, mostly Afghan and Pakistani, men and boys sleep rough in the city centre.

Krnjaca Asylum Centre accommodated 1,009 asylum-seekers, mainly families from Afghanistan, Iraq or Syria. 1,058 male refugees and migrants (including 350 unaccompanied or separated boys) were sheltered in Obrenovac. Most are from Afghanistan, followed by Pakistan and very few from Iraq, Syria, and other countries. While works continue on improving conditions in Obrenovac, residents criticised an occasional lack of hot water. The Institute for Biocides and Medical Ecology disinfected the centre, treating more than 50 residents suffering from body lice.

WEST

Transit Centres (TCs) in the West sheltered **1,954** refugees and migrants: 1,003 in Adasevci, 621 in Sid and 330 in Principovac. The population is mainly from Afghanistan, followed by Pakistan, Iraq, Syria and Iran.

A health coordination meeting on 22 March discussed the persistent body lice epidemic in Sid TC, whose residents also complained about a lack of warm water and showers. Authorities arrested several migrant men from North Africa, suspected in involvement of crime, amongst some 100 unregistered migrant and refugee men who squat in abandoned buildings near Sid train station, preparing to irregularly cross into Croatia.

NORTH

55 asylum seekers, mainly families from Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria were admitted into Hungary. In total, **18** asylum seekers camped at Horgos (3) and Kelebija (15) border sites. Subotica Transit Centre (TC) sheltered **135** asylum-seekers and Sombor TC **111**, mostly families from Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria.



The 2017 UNHCR Serbia Operation is grateful for funding by:



and private donors in Spain