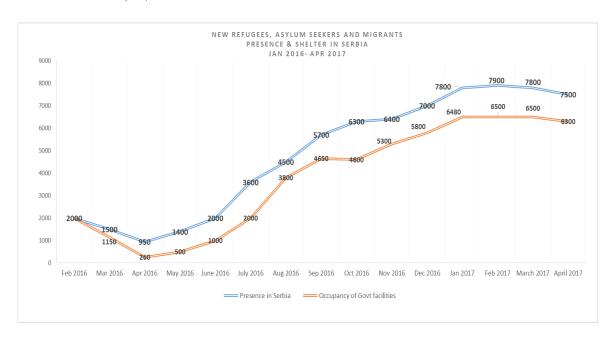


SERBIA UPDATE, 03-09 April 2017

HIGHLIGHTS AND STATISTICS

- Fearing prolonged detention in Hungary before being pushed-back into Serbia, more refugees and migrants
 tried to re-enter the EU through Croatia and now also Romania, while spontaneous returns to Greece through
 FYR Macedonia also increased. Ten cases of collective expulsions from Hungary were reported this week,
 compared to nine last week as well as 35 from Croatia, compared to 56 last week, including one chain
 expulsion from Slovenia, through Croatia.
- On 05 April, authorities transferred a first group of refugees and migrants to a new Transit Centre near Kikinda
 at the border with Romania. The <u>online assessment</u> of the now 18 shelter sites in Serbia against applicable
 UN, EU and national reception standards, which was posted on the UNHCR website in conjunction with the
 Shelter Coordination meeting hosted by authorities on 07 April, received over 2,000 hits.
- On 09 April, 7,524 refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants were counted in Serbia. 85% (6,362) were sheltered
 in 18 government facilities, while the rest were counted sleeping rough in Belgrade city centre or close to the
 borders with Croatia or Hungary.
- Security incidents in and around Transit Centres that host high numbers of unregistered migrant men remain
 of concern. In response to one, citizens and local authorities petitioned the Government to close the Transit
 Centre in Sid.
- Among some 140 new arrivals that were met and assisted by UNHCR and partners during the week, 49 were unaccompanied and separated refugee children (UASCS), mostly boys from Afghanistan. All were referred by UNHCR and partners to Centres for Social Work. Currently, over 900 UASCs are in Serbia, with 771 accommodated in government centres (375 in Obrenovac, 118 in Presevo, 21 in Bujanovac, and 257 in other governmental shelters), as well as close to 200 in Belgrade city centre. On 02 April, 12 national and international nongovernmental organizations released a report, "Out of Sight: Exploited and Alone," aiming to raise awareness about the crisis for some of the world's most vulnerable children, specifically focusing on UASC in Bulgaria, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Serbia and Croatia (please click here for the full report).



EAST

592 refugees and migrants were accommodated in four Reception Centres: 252 in Pirot, 233 in Divljana, 60 in Dimitrovgrad and 47 in Bosilegrad. Most are from Iraq, followed by Afghanistan and Syria and around half are children.



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ECHO and UNHCR Serbia representatives, talking to refugees in the reception centre in Presevo, Presevo (Serbia), ©UNHCR, 4 April 2017

SOUTH

913 refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants were accommodated in the Reception Centres of Presevo (726) and Bujanovac (187). 57% of the residents of Presevo RC are from Afghanistan, 25% from Iraq, 8% from Pakistan and 6% from Syria. 48% 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.

Representatives of the European Commission Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) and UNHCR jointly visited RCs Presevo and Bujanovac as well as the site of a planned new RC in Vranje, i.a. to inspect to use of generous ECHO funding to improve shelter (phase III Tobacco Factory rehabilitation) and a new kitchen and dining hall in RC Presevo.

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. Several UASCs reported being attacked and robbed near the barracks in the city centre by migrant/refugee men, while there are also reports of security incidents at night inside Obrenovac TC.

Krnjaca Asylum Centre accommodated 1,008 asylum-seekers, mainly families from Afghanistan, Iraq or Syria. 1,046 male refugees and migrants (including 375 unaccompanied or separated boys) were sheltered in Obrenovac. Most are from Afghanistan, followed by Pakistan and very few from Iraq, Syria, and other countries. UNHCR delivered 503 pants, 500 shirts, 500 T shirts, 520 pcs underwear, 489 sneakers and over 600 pairs of socks.

WEST

Transit Centres (TCs) in the West sheltered **1,876** refugees and migrants: 1,005 in Adasevci, 551 in Sid and 320 in Principovac. The population is mainly from Afghanistan, followed by Pakistan, Iraq, Syria and Iran.Up to 100 unregistered migrant and refugee men were observed squatting in abandoned buildings near Sid train station, preparing to irregularly cross into Croatia.

On 08 April, a foreigner carrying an axe reportedly broke into a house in Sid, stole some things and ran away. At that time, only two children were in the house. As the police tries to identify the perpetrator, Sid citizens prepared a petition that Sid TC be relocated or removed. According to media reports, on 10 April, the Municipal session considered positively the initiative of the Security Council of the Municipality to relocate the Sid TC.

NORTH

54 asylum seekers, mainly families from Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria were admitted into Hungary. In total, 5 asylum seekers camped at Horgos (4) and Kelebija (1) border sites. Subotica Transit Centre (TC) sheltered 120 asylum-seekers and Sombor TC 125, mostly families from Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria. 16 asylum seekers mostly families from Afghanistan and a few persons from Iran were transferred into the newly opened Transit Centre in Kikinda.



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