UNHCR SERBIA UPDATE 24-30 July 2017



HIGHLIGHTS AND STATISTICS

- For the first time in eleven months, the number of new refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants counted in Serbia dropped below 5,000: to **4,997** on 30 July (below chart refers). The number of new arrivals encountered by UNHCR and partners during this week, however, rose to 63 (as compared to 28 the preceding and nine the week before), mainly men from Afghanistan or Pakistan, including nine unaccompanied or separated children (UASC).
- 4,665, i.e. 93% of new refugees, asylum-seekers or migrants were accommodated in 18 governmental centres. The management of the Transit Centres (TC) of Adasevci and Principovac were able to reduce by around 100 the number of residents housed in temporary emergency shelters. As a result, 450 men and boys remain accommodated in rub halls or tents in these two TCs or those of Sombor or Kikinda.
- Based on available information, some 80% of residents in governmental centres are from so-called refugeeproducing countries: Afghanistan 59%, Iraq 12% and Syria 4 %. 58% were children and women while 42% are adult men.
- More reports of violent incidents affecting refugees/migrants were received, including that of a group being freed from incarceration by smugglers near Belgrade, of one man being robbed by an armed smuggler as well as about a conflict near the border with Croatia again involving the use of a handgun, possibly by the same smuggler.
- UNHCR and partners received reports of 85 collective expulsions from Croatia, with many alleging to have been denied access to asylum procedures, while 50 were recorded regarding Hungary, with some alleging excessive use of force by authorities.
- UNHCR is grateful to the Swiss Government for having accepted for family reunification a Syrian refugee woman and her child, who departed this week from Serbia to join their husband/father in Switzerland.
- 01-30 July, 291 refugees registered intention to seek asylum in Serbia.



PRESENCE AND SHELTER IN SERBIA

SOUTH

668 refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants were accommodated in the three Reception Centres of Presevo (441), Vranje (139) and Bujanovac (88), including 69 UASC.

Most residents of Presevo RC are from Afghanistan (42%), Iraq (35%) and Pakistan (9%) and 48% are children. In Bujanovac, most are from Iraq (34%), Syria (27%) and Afghanistan (28%) while 57% are children. Vranje RC accommodates families and UASCs. All its residents are from Afghanistan, and some 55% are children.

BELGRADE

It is estimated that some 150 refugees/migrants stayed in Belgrade city centre.

Krnjaca Asylum Centre (AC) accommodated 715 asylum-seekers (including 163 UASC), mainly families from Afghanistan, Iraq or Syria. The capacity of Krnjaca AC was expanded by 100 more places, following the completion of refurbishment of barracks by Divac Foundation/CRS.

855 male refugees/migrants (including 250 unaccompanied or separated boys) were sheltered in Obrenovac. Most are from Afghanistan, followed by Pakistan and very few from Iraq or other countries. The Centre for Social Work, supported by UNHCR and partners, continued with systematic best interest assessments for all the UASC in Obrenovac.

EAST

412 refugees and migrants were accommodated in four Reception Centres: 164 in Pirot, 159 in Divljana, 50 in Dimitrovgrad and 39 in Bosilegrad. Most are from Iraq and Afghanistan, followed by Syria, while around half are children.



WEST

Transit Centres (TCs) in the West sheltered 1,006 refugees and migrants: 717 in Adasevci and 289 in Principovac.

They are mainly from Afghanistan, followed by Iraq, Pakistan, and Syria. More than half are children, including app. 130 UASC.

A number of incidents among the migrant/refugee groups, mostly those staying outside the transit centres, were reported, some resulting in minor injuries, requiring follow up by the police and the medical actors.

New playground for children in TC Adasevci, (Serbia), UNHCR, 28 July 2017

NORTH

This week, 55 asylum seekers, mainly families from Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria were admitted into Hungary. On 30 July, two asylum seekers camped at Horgos and Kelebija border sites awaiting admission into Hungary. Subotica TC sheltered 100 asylum-seekers, Sombor TC 135, and Kikinda TC 204, mostly families from Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria, as well as some 25 UASC.



Asylum statistics are provided by the Ministry of Interior. Other information is based on findings of UNHCR staff and partners. If you use this content, please refer to UNHCR as source. **CONTACTS:** General: Ivana Zujovic-Simic +381 63 452 950; External Relations: Indira Beganovic, +381 63 431 886; *Media*: Miriana Milenkovski +381 63 275 154