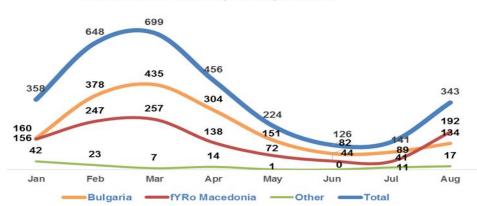
# UNHCR SERBIA UPDATE 28 Aug-03 Sep 2017



# **HIGHLIGHTS AND STATISTICS**

- 4,230 new refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants were counted in Serbia on 03 September. 3,915 were
  housed in 18 governmental centres (for more details, please see the <u>Joint Assessment of Government
  Centres</u>), including over 300 still in temporary emergency shelters (i.e. rub halls or tents) in Transit Centres
  near the borders to Croatia or Hungary.
- According to available information, 43 % are children, 14% adult women and 43% adult men. 82% came from so called refugee producing countries (66% Afghanistan, 11% Iraq and 5% Syria), 9% from Pakistan and 10% from other countries.
- On 1 September, refugees and migrants in all locations celebrated Eid. With the new school year commencing on the same day, some refugee/migrant children started attending public primary and secondary schools around the country, while for others preparations for enrollment are still ongoing.
- UNHCR Serbia and partners continued comprehensive distribution of Non Food Relief Items (NFI) mainly funded by ECHO and Zara – to cover needs in all 18 government centres. During this week, over 1,300 blankets, 1,900 hygiene kits, 1,400 bedsheets and some 5,000 pieces of clothing, underwear and footwear items and other NFI were delivered to all five Asylum Centres as well as the Transit Centre of Principovac.
- UNHCR Serbia and partners continued encountering more new arrivals (108 this week as compared to 74 last week). Most were men from Iraq, Afghanistan or Pakistan, including 14 boys. For the first time in over a year more reported to be arriving from fYR Macedonia than from Bulgaria. The below chart shows encountered new arrivals since the start of the year.
- UNHCR Serbia and partners also collected testimonies of 93 collective pushbacks from Hungary, and 89 from Croatia, with many alleging to have been denied due access to asylum procedures there.
- On 31 August 2017, UNHCR Geneva issued the following <u>Statement</u>: Nearly two years after the lifeless body of three-year-old Syrian toddler Alan Kurdi was found on a Turkish beach, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, urges the international community to take robust action to prevent more tragedies. Although the number of arrivals in Europe has drastically decreased since Alan's death, people continue to attempt the journey and many have lost their lives in the process. Since 2 September 2015, at least 8,500 refugees and migrants have died or gone missing trying to cross the Mediterranean alone. Many others have died in the desert. Many of the children trying to reach Europe travel on their own, making the journey even more terrifying and perilous. This was the case for 92 percent of the 13,700 children who arrived to Italy by sea in the first seven months of 2017. The urgent need for solutions for these children and others on the move remains if people see no hope and live in fear, then they will continue to gamble their lives making desperate journeys. UNHCR is encouraged by the commitments made at the Paris meeting on migration and asylum on Monday that address some of these issues, but much more needs to be done to protect and save lives. Political leaders need to work together to develop safer alternatives, to better inform those considering making the journey of the dangers they face, and most importantly to tackle the root causes of these movements, by resolving conflicts and creating real opportunities in countries of origin.





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#### SOUTH

**432** refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants were accommodated in the three Reception Centres of Presevo (224), Vranje (125) and Bujanovac (83), including 16 UASC.

Most residents of Presevo RC are from Afghanistan (52%) and Iraq (33%), and 45% are children. In Bujanovac, most are from Iraq (34%), Syria (27%) and Afghanistan (28%) while 61% are children. Vranje RC accommodates families and UASCs. All its residents are from Afghanistan, and some 52% are children.



New classroom for informal education activities, Obrenovac TC (Serbia) @UNHCR, 28 August 2017

### EAST

### BELGRADE

It is estimated that up to 100 refugees/migrants stayed in Belgrade city centre.

Krnjaca Asylum Centre (AC) accommodated 657 asylumseekers (including 84 UASC), mainly families from Afghanistan, Iraq or Syria.

691 male refugees/migrants (including 72 unaccompanied or separated boys) were sheltered in Obrenovac. Most are from Afghanistan, followed by Pakistan and very few from Iraq or other countries.

**339** refugees and migrants were accommodated in four Reception Centres: 149 in Pirot, 123 in Divljana, 35 in Dimitrovgrad and 32 in Bosilegrad. Most are from Iraq and Afghanistan, followed by Syria, while around half are children.

### **WEST**

Transit Centres (TCs) in the West sheltered 910 refugees and migrants: 620 in Adasevci and 290 in Principovac. They are mainly from Afghanistan, followed by Iraq, Pakistan, and Syria. More than half are children, including app. 130 UASC.

### NORTH

This week, 58 asylum seekers, mainly families from Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria were admitted into Hungary. On 03 September, 15 asylum seekers camped at Horgos and Kelebija border sites awaiting admission into Hungary. Subotica TC sheltered 128 asylum-seekers, Sombor TC also 128, and Kikinda TC 186, mostly families from Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria, as well as 24 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