

# Serbia

September 2017

## KEY INDICATORS

589

Registered intentions to seek asylum in Serbia

34%

of registered refugees and migrants were minors

2

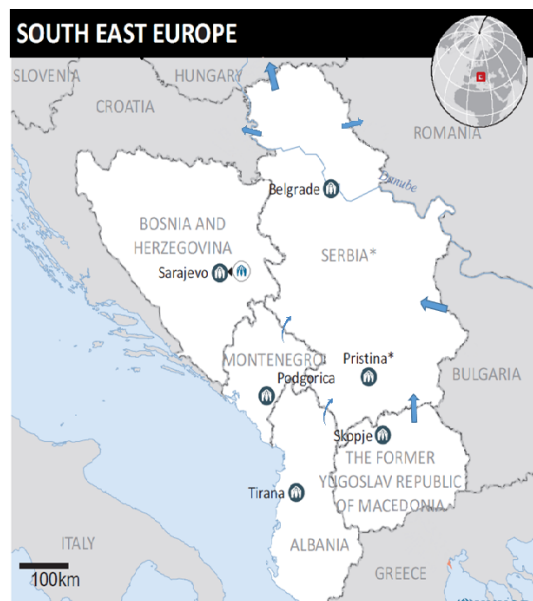
Applications for asylum

0

Persons granted refugee status

1

Persons granted subsidiary protection



- After a lull during the summer, the number of **new arrivals grew again**: 672 new arrivals (as compared to 351 in August) were encountered and assisted. 49% were men, 17% women and 34% children (incl. 28 newly arrived unaccompanied or separated children). 58% originated from Iraq, 9% arrived from Afghanistan, 8% from Syria, 12% from Pakistan and 13% from other countries. 69% arrived to Serbia from Bulgaria.
- Excellent progress was made in school enrolment: by the end of September, the number of refugee, asylum-seeking and migrant children attending **public primary schools** reached 450 (including 100 who were schooled inside the Transit Centres of Sombor, Subotica and/or Kikinda).
- Also, the number of departures and thus testimonies of collective expulsions increased from 930 in August to 1,024 in September, of which 432 from Hungary, 254 from Croatia and 338 from Romania, with many alleging to have been denied due access to asylum procedures and some to have been maltreated.
- A growing number of crimes allegedly committed by unregistered migrant men from North Africa, led to concerns in Šid and Belgrade.
- At night of 09-10 September a young man from Algeria lost his life while another sustained severe burns when touching overhead cables at Sid rain station.
- On 26 September, in a village near Kikinda (North), the police found the body of a young foreign man. It appears that he had planned to irregularly cross into Romania but died of a heart attack.

# Update on Achievements

## Operational Context

**4,250** new refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants were counted in Serbia on 30 September. 3,900 were housed in 18 governmental centres, including over 300 still in temporary emergency shelters (i.e. rub halls or tents) in Transit Centres near the borders to Croatia and/or Hungary.

According to available information, 41% are children, 14% adult women and 45% adult men. At least 80% came from so-called refugee producing countries (63% Afghanistan, 13% Iraq and 4% Syria), 11% from Pakistan and 9% 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 enrolment were ongoing throughout the first half of September.

**589** persons registered **intentions to seek asylum** in Serbia (as compared to 282 in August). 51% were filed by adult men, 15% by adult women and 34% were registered for children. Most asylum applicants were from Iraq (46%), Afghanistan (14%), Pakistan (13%), or Syria (10%). The Asylum Office granted one person subsidiary protection, increasing the number of positive first-instance decision during this year to three.

**232** asylum-seekers were **admitted** under the regular procedure **into Hungary** in September.



Children lining up to go to local school, Preševo RC (Serbia), @UNHCR, 20 September 2017



SOS CV IT Corner in Adaševci TC (Serbia), @UNHCR, 5 September 2017

## Achievements



### PROTECTION

#### Achievements and Impact

- More than 20 UNHCR staff and 100 partner staff continued conducting protection monitoring activities covering 23 sites throughout Serbia. They informed refugees/migrants of their rights and of services available, including of the risks associated with trafficking and smuggling. Through protection monitoring, data is gathered on individual cases, irregular population movements, push-backs and collective expulsions, as well as protection incidents.
- UNHCR continues to strengthen its individual case management system. To date, 46 accounts for UNHCR staff and 58 accounts for partner staff have been created.
- UNHCR conducted screening to assess international protection needs with the aim to identify potential solutions. In September, UNHCR identified 23 cases with protection needs and vulnerabilities.
- SGBV cases are routinely identified and reported by UNHCR and partner staff through protection monitoring. In September, UNHCR followed up on 12 SGBV cases in the south and 3 cases in Belgrade.
- In order to assess immediate risks and potential durable solutions, UNHCR has been supporting the national authorities with carrying out systematic best interest assessments (BIA) in Preševo and Obrenovac, covering 18 children in September.
- UNHCR Serbia continues cross-border exchanges with neighbouring UNHCR operations to establish and improve operational cooperation and information-sharing. In

September, a joint mission with UNHCR staff and partners in Serbia and Romania met in Romania to discuss issues of mutual concern.

- In Niš, Bujanovac, Preševo, Vranje, Pirot and Bela Palanka, the Group for Children and Youth “Indigo” continued working with unaccompanied and separated children (UASCs) and other vulnerable children (children with disabilities, children from single-parent households, etc.), providing psychological first aid (PFA), identifying and referring them to other actors, organising educational and recreational activities and following their involvement in everyday life in the accommodation centres. Indigo provided 231 services to children in Vranje (96 information, 2 PFA and 133 recreation), 215 services were provided to children in Bujanovac (38 information, 2 PFAs, 168 recreation, 7 NFIs) and 679 services were provided to children in Preševo (258 information, 2 referrals to Centre for Social Welfare (CSW), 20 referrals to other actors, 71 PFAs, 297 recreation, 27 NFIs and 4 other). Together with UNHCR and CSW Preševo, Indigo conducted 3 BIA interviews.
- Indigo continued providing interpretation services (for Arabic, Farsi and Urdu) in Preševo Reception Centre (RC) (1,160 interpretation services to adults and 865 to children).
- Indigo continued implementing informal educational activities in Divljana and Pirot RCs. Activities for younger groups were focused on the knowledge of the world around us, Serbian and English languages. With the older group, Indigo worked on Serbian and English languages, as well as on their geography, biology and communication skills. In Divljana, 10 children attended the activities within the younger group and 15 children attended activities in the older group. In Pirot, 22 children attended the activities in the younger group, and 15 children attended the activities in the older group. In Pirot, Indigo provided a total of 148 services, while in Divljana Indigo provided a total of 200 services related to informal educational activities.
- As for the general situation in accommodation centres, the most significant event in September was the enrolment of refugee/migrant children in primary schools. Children were excited and their families were happy with the sense of regularity starting to come back into their lives. Indigo staff worked constantly on providing the necessary help to the children and their parents (including with preparing the children for school and interpreting during medical check-ups necessary for school enrolment).
- Humanitarian Center for Integration and Dialogue (HCIT), operating in the northern and western aid points and accommodation centres, provided 269 persons likely in need of international protection with legal advice concerning their legal options in Serbia. Another 421 persons received practical service/information, were advised, referred and assisted. A total of 353 persons were assisted with NFIs.
- In September, HCIT documented 47 expulsion incidents (17 concerning expulsion from Hungary, 2 from Romania and 28 from Croatia), relating to 441 PoCs, most of whom reported having tried to cross the borders irregularly more than once. In its newly opened office in Šid, HCIT assisted 35 clients - refugees and migrants.
- HCIT encountered (identified for the first time) a total of 59 UASCs, in the North and in the West and referred them to CSW when possible. Fifteen cases were referred to IOM for assisted voluntary return (AVR), and 20 PoCs were referred to Serbian Commissariat for Refugees and Migration (SCRM) for accommodation in Adaševci, Kikinda and Subotica. HCIT monitored four medical cases in General Hospitals in the north and west, provided interpretation, etc. and referred ten cases to medical NGOs. HCIT assisted

persons of concern with registration in the Police station in Šid. About 114 PoCs (22 in the North, 43 in the West and 49 in the East) were identified by HCIT.

- On 26 September, the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Social and Veteran Affairs (MoLESVA) of the Republic of Serbia, in close cooperation with UNFPA, chaired the first SGBV Sub-Working Group (SWG) meeting. The need to work with young boys and men was emphasized, in addition to the need to tackle violence against women and girls.
- Through UNFPA-SDC project, twelve empowerment workshops were conducted in five locations - Krnjača Asylum Centre (AC), Reintegration Center of NGO Atina and Bogovađa AC, with participation of 139 women and girls.
- Atina's mobile teams supported by UNFPA provided assistance to 39 women, girls and boys. Mobile teams had 6 urgent interventions in the field – 5 cases of gender-based violence (GBV) were identified – 3 women and 2 girls who survived physical, psychological and/or sexual violence.
- Caritas teams for psychosocial support provided assistance to refugees in Preševo, Bujanovac, Bogovađa and Krnjača, Monday to Friday, including activities for children, occupational activities for adults and psychosocial counselling. In Principovac, Obrenovac and Krnjača, Caritas organized animation and sports activities for children and adults.
- Psychosocial Innovation Network (PIN) worked with 139 persons (86 males, 53 females; 77 minors and 62 adults). Majority of beneficiaries were from Afghanistan (97), followed by Syria (8), Iran (8), Cuba (8), Libya (7), China (3), Iraq (2), Russia (2), Algeria, Bangladesh, Nigeria and Tunisia (1 each). PIN was providing psychosocial support (PSS) and conducting psycho-educational and occupational workshops in different locations in Belgrade – PIN premises, Centre for Minors “Vasa Stajić”, as well as in PIN's premises in Sjenica and Tutin.
- PSS services were also provided once per week by PIN to beneficiaries accommodated in Banja Koviljača and Bogovađa ACs. PIN was regularly visiting beneficiaries at Slankamen rehabilitation centre and Adaševci Transit Centre (TC). PIN organized transport and accompanied beneficiaries to psychiatric examinations on 7 occasions. In addition, PIN continued organizing art workshops for both male and female groups, and organized visits to different cultural manifestations in Belgrade. PIN finished analyzing and interpreting data on refugees' mental health, collected in the period January-August 2017, and is currently working on the Report, which is to be disseminated by the end of 2017.
- Initiative for Development and Cooperation (IDC)/Arbeiter Samariter Bund (ASB) volunteer teams dedicated a total of 83 individual volunteer days to assisting the refugees/migrants. Wind instruments orchestra from Subotica gave a mini concert for a group of 60 refugees/migrants accommodated in Dimitrovgrad RC, supported by IDC/ASB volunteer teams.
- Through outreach activities supported by CRS, Atina's mobile team provided assistance and support to 145 women and girls in the field, while 62 women and girls were assisted through GBV case management, safety and individual planning through counselling and full participation of the beneficiaries, referral, follow-up, PSS, and protection monitoring. 149 women attended Atina's empowerment workshops in five locations – Krnjaca, Bogovadja, Maternal home, Bujanovac and Preševo.
- About 250 children and youth were included in outdoor activities led by NEXUS and CARE in Preševo RC (outdoor sports, playing with toys, board games, etc.).

- NSHC team, supported by CARE, organized recreational activities in “Miksalište” (Belgrade) daily. Around 100 beneficiaries, mostly teenage boys and men, were involved in these activities.
- Sixteen young refugees were included in 3-day participative learning action (PLA) research in Preševo, conducted by CARE’s partner CENTER 8, and supported by NEXUS and CARE. CARE has been drawing on the experience of its ten-year long program Young Men Initiative, providing a platform to discuss and challenge gender norms and roles in the society, understand how GBV is generated and discuss healthy lifestyles, sexual and reproductive health, etc. Results will be incorporated in a Training of Trainers for local partners of CARE.
- Praxis continued providing information to refugees/migrants/asylum-seekers in Belgrade about the current situation, available legal pathways and available services (accommodation, transportation to accommodation centres, legal assistance, medical care, food, NFIs, etc.). Praxis provided support to a total of 956 newly arrived refugees/migrants/asylum-seekers (633 adults and 323 children) in Belgrade and Obrenovac. Of the total number of children, 96 were potential UASCs. Praxis also identified vulnerable cases and referred them to other organizations for targeted assistance (a total of 807 persons, of which 451 new arrivals and 356 beneficiaries identified earlier). Praxis also provided protection by presence and escorted refugees to the Police Station for registration – of all the referrals, a total of 250 refugees/migrants/asylum seekers were referred to the Police Station in Savska Street for registration. Praxis also provided transportation assistance to a total of 107 refugees/migrants/asylum seekers by covering the costs of train/bus tickets to asylum or reception centres, mainly bus tickets for Kikinda, Banja Koviljaca, Tutin, Dimitrovgrad, Divljane and Lajkovci, train tickets for Sid, Subotica and Preševo, and taxi to the police station in Belgrade. Praxis was also doing protection monitoring and recording the cases of violation of refugees’ rights along the route. In September, Praxis met and provided information to 96 newly arrived UASC. In the cases of 71 UASC (38 newly arrived and 33 identified earlier), Praxis referred UASCs to social workers.
- With support from CRS, Philanthropy distributed approximately USD 86,300 worth of multipurpose cash grants for families and vulnerable individuals – 2,524 beneficiaries in total - in the following centres: Preševo, Bujanovac, Vranje, Dimitrovgrad, Bosilegrad, Pirot, Divljana, Tutin, Sjenica, Krnjača, Adaševci, Principovac, Bogovađa, Banja Koviljaca and Kikinda. Philanthropy also organised distributions for Atina's beneficiaries (women and children, victims of trafficking and/or GBV) and UASC in “Vasa Stajić” institute and the JRS Integration House in Belgrade. With support from Christian Aid, Philanthropy continued sewing courses, computer workshops and animated movie courses in Preševo and Bujanovac.
- SOS CV Child Protections teams in Adaševci, Principovac and Preševo supported 56 families and children under risk with 1,137 direct services, through case management procedures and preventive workshops, including the services of translation, practical information, psychosocial support and referrals to other institutions/organizations.
- The Operation Mobilization (OM) tent in Adaševci TC was used as a community hub where children, women and men feel safe and protected, with support from OM volunteers.
- Crisis Response and Policy Centre (CRPC) provided the following services: information dissemination (in Pashto, Arabic, Farsi, Urdu, Kurdish, English etc.), interpretation,

cultural mediation and orientation, psychosocial aid, identification and referrals of extremely vulnerable individuals (EVIs), advocacy and referral to legal, medical and other aid, escort and transport to different facilities, etc. Services were provided both independently and in cooperation with other actors, and with the support of UNHCR and UNICEF. CRPC team provided different services for 5,235 beneficiaries in Belgrade and other locations (of which 40% from Afghanistan, 38% from Iraq, 6% from Pakistan, 5% from Syria, etc.; 48% were men, 18% women and 33% children. A total of 49 possible UASC cases were identified and referred to CSW.

- CRPC provided interpretation services, Internet access and technical equipment to CSW during best interest assessments of UASCs accommodated in Obrenovac TC. CRPC also assisted in escort, cultural mediation and support to PoCs accommodated in this TC. CRPC conducted a total of 64 assisted and independent visits to accommodation centres in Serbia – to Krnjača, Bogovađa, Banja Koviljača, Tutin, Sjenica, Obrenovac, Principovac, Adaševci, Subotica, Sombor and Kikinda. CRPC provided interpretation and cultural mediation assistance to beneficiaries in state-run centres (Bogovađa, Krnjača, etc), to SCRM, medical staff and representatives of other local institutions/organisations. CRPC provided assistance in logistics, transport and escort for 63 ISAC beneficiaries to Bogovađa and Banja Koviljača AC. These activities were supported by UNHCR.
- Supported by UNHCR and UNICEF, and in cooperation with UNHCR/DRC, on site-medical teams, accommodation centres' staff, City Centre for Social Work and other actors - interpretation/CM, escort, advocacy and transportation to secondary medical, children and other facilities – were provided by CRPC team in 109 cases/rides.
- With the help of UNICEF and CRPC, 34 UASCs from Krnjača AC and 3 children from “Vasa Stajić” institution were involved in various sports activities. Two Arts and Crafts workshops for UASCs from “Vasa Stajić” were organized in September 2017.
- IOM mobile teams were present in all reception/transit centres – Subotica, Sombor, Kikinda, Principovac, Adaševci, Belgrade area, Obrenovac, Divljana, Dimitrovgrad, Bosilegrad, Pirot, Preševo, Vranje and Bujanovac, and touring all five asylum centers, providing information and counselling on assisted voluntary return (AVR), as well as raising awareness on risks of human trafficking and migrant smuggling. All necessary technical and logistic support was provided to migrants who expressed their willingness to return to the country of origin - contacts with relevant embassies of the countries of origin, transfer of migrants to the embassies, assistance provided for the issuance of travel documents, travel arrangements, assistance for the movement, including the transit airport assistance and assistance upon arrival to the country of origin.
- The Assisted Voluntary Return framework has been coordinated among IOM and the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration, with the detailed outreach plan for information and individual counselling in accommodation centres. In September 2017, eighteen migrants returned to their countries of origin (Iraq, Algeria, Pakistan, Cuba and Ghana) through AVR. A total of 180 migrants returned to their countries of origin since January 2017.
- Within the third component for Social Cohesion, and under the joint UN project “Open communities – successful communities”, IOM started with focus groups in all reception/asylum centers in Serbia. Activities are intended to contribute to the overall social life of migrants residing in accommodation centers, as well as to provision of psychosocial support by psychologists and social workers.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is a significant gap in transportation to asylum centres from Belgrade. More support is needed in this regard.
- Partners noted decreased but continued abuse of substances, including among UASCs, in Preševo RC and other centres.
- Partners noted an increase in the number of cases requiring additional psychosocial support and psychiatric assistance. More support is needed to conduct regular screening of the mental health of refugees and to ensure psychological and psychosocial support, which would positively influence refugees' well-being and contribute to mitigation of intrapersonal and interpersonal issues.
- Partners noted the increased presence of PoCs in Belgrade, with more than 50 single men reportedly sleeping rough in the city centre every night. This raises security concerns as an increase of theft, robberies and similar incidents in the city were reported by PoCs.
- Further efforts are needed in the identification of potential victims of human trafficking, as well as of people at risk of trafficking and abuse in the context of smuggling.



### EDUCATION

#### Achievements and Impact

- PIN continued conducting Serbian language classes at PIN's premises for two groups of Arabic-speaking beneficiaries (twice per week) as well as for Farsi and Spanish-speaking beneficiaries. English language classes for Spanish-speaking beneficiaries continued regularly once a week.
- PIN conducted various educational (IT literacy, English café) and psycho-educational workshops at PIN's premises in Belgrade, Sjenica and Tutin, in view of expanding knowledge and developing different practical, intrapersonal and interpersonal skills of children and young beneficiaries. In addition, PIN advocated for the enrolment of its three beneficiaries into formal education and is currently providing them with additional support during the adaptation process, as well as with support for certain curriculum subjects.
- Life-skills educational workshops supported by CRS and conducted by NGO Atina are comprehensive classes, created in accordance with the interests of the youth, as a combination of natural and social science classes. These classes are providing the beneficiaries with the basic knowledge of math, chemistry, biology and geography, a chance to learn about major historical events and personages, and also about natural phenomena. Education is adjusted to gender, age, culture, and survived experiences of the beneficiaries, and therefore same activities are carried out in several different sessions. In September, 15 life-skill educational group workshops for 63 girls and 9 boys were conducted in two locations –Preševo and Bujanovac RCs. In Atina's Reintegration Center, 16 individual classes were conducted for 4 girls and 2 boys.
- All the proteges of the „Pedro Arrupe“ shelter in Belgrade, ran by the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) were provided with lessons in Serbian and English languages, different creative workshops as well as, most importantly, psychological support. As of 4 September, all the beneficiaries of the Shelter were enrolled in the formal educational



system (two primary and one secondary school in Belgrade). JRS provided them with all the necessary school supplies, as well as learning support.

- In cooperation with Caritas, SOS CV conducted cooking workshops in Šid city. At the workshops, women from Principovac TC exchanged recipes and made joint meals with the women from the local community.
- On 26 September, SOS CV brought along children from Principovac TC to attend the European Day of Languages event at Kalemegdan in Belgrade, organized by the French Institute in Belgrade.
- SOS CV provided escort to children attending formal education in all the schools in Adaševci and Principovac and supported one school shift in Preševo.
- SOS CV continued providing sewing and carpentry workshops in Preševo RC and Principovac TC.
- SOS CV continued providing English classes in Adaševci and Principovac TCs and Preševo RC and informal education classes in Obrenovac TC (English and Serbian classes, geography, biology, math, civic workshops, creative workshops and sculpture, etc.
- SOS CV continued outdoor sports activities in Adaševci, Principovac, Obrenovac and Kikinda TCs and Divljana RC.
- Within the child friendly space (CFS) in Adaševci TC, SOS CV Serbia delivered 317 services to children and youth including recreational, creative and educational activities and, within the mother and baby corner (MBC), SOS CV Serbia delivered 788 services to mothers and babies. Within the youth corner in Adaševci TC, SOS CV delivered 221 services and had 2,072 participants, youth and adolescents. SOS CV ICT spot provided Wi-Fi connection and a charging station, and had 3,031 participants in IT workshops and ICT activities.
- Within the CFS in Principovac TC, SOS CV provided 380 various activities, which included recreational, creative and educational activities and, within the MBC, SOS CV delivered 729 services to mothers and babies.
- Within the Family Room in Principovac TC, SOS CV Serbia delivered 18 services to participating children, youth and adults. SOS CV ICT spot Principovac provided Wi-Fi connection and a charging station. ICT Corner Principovac had 1,933 visits by adults and children, including IT workshops.
- SOS CV ICT spot Krnjača provided Wi-Fi connection and a charging station, and had 2,961 visits by adults and children, including IT workshops.
- Within the Family Room in Preševo RC, SOS CV Serbia delivered 282 services to participating children, youth and adult mothers.
- SOS CV continued provision of Internet in Kikinda and Obrenovac TCs.
- Through the Super Bus project, SOS CV mobile team organized outdoor educational, recreational and creative activities for children and youth in Bosilegrad, Dimitrovgrad, Pirot, Vranje and at primary schools in the local communities.
- CRPC continued providing escort to Krnjača's schoolchildren in the new schoolyear 2017/2018.
- IOM commenced assisting with the transportation of refugee/migrant children to schools. This assistance included escorting/transportation of children residing in targeted reception locations to and from school and facilitation of communication between parents, teachers and social workers/psychologists employed in their respective

schools. IOM teams were conducting this activity in 5 locations: Dimitrovgrad, Pirot, Divljana, Bujanovac and Vranje.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The issue of enrollment of older minors into secondary schools remained largely unresolved in September. In addition, in certain locations (e.g. Belgrade, Sjenica and Bogovađa) school bags, stationery and schoolbooks were not available in sufficient amounts.



## HEALTH

### Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR/DRC have obtained the support of both Ministry of Health (MoH) and SCRM for piloting of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) in Obrenovac TC and Pirot RC. MHPSS project implementation will start as of October.
- In September, through UNFPA/DRC joint project in total 55 gynecological examination have been performed, out of which 24 were pregnancy examination. 4 serological testing were done;
- IDC/ASB medical teams were present in 3 accommodation centers: in Principovac TC seven days a week, covering first shift from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., in Subotica TC five days per week (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 3 p.m. until 11 p.m. and on weekends from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) and in Dimitrovgrad RC, covering first shift from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. five days a week. IDC/ASB medical teams provided medical treatment to 1,351 patients in total.
- SOS CV Serbia continued supporting a psychiatrist in Health Centre Šid to support refugees identified to be in need of assistance by SOS CV in Principovac and Adaševci TCs.
- SOS CV provided support during medical systematic examinations of children from Principovac and Adaševci TCs who were to be enrolled in formal education.
- CRPC assisted in referral and logistics activities concerning Krnjača AC's medical cases, providing further escort, advocacy, interpretation and/or other services, including mediation in use of public transport and in navigating the city of Belgrade.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- NSTR



## FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

### Achievements and Impact

- In Preševo and Bujanovac, Caritas provided 9,180 portions of cooked lunch, 9,180 breakfasts, 1,510 cups of yoghurt, 11,400 cups of tea and 22,310 fruit portions. Food distribution was organized in partnership with Philanthropy, who covered the distribution of dinner. 9,180 dinners were distributed.

- In Krnjača AC, Caritas provided 18,400 fresh pastries, 1,560 litres of milk for children, 8,400 portions of warm soup and 6,750 cups of tea.
- ASB was providing cooked meals for refugees/migrants in Dimitrovgrad RC.
- CARE continued with provision of cooked meals in Adaševci and Principovac. 66,440 meals (breakfast, lunch, and dinner) were distributed. Distribution was supported by CARE's partner organization - NSHC (Novi Sad Humanitarian Centre).
- In partnership with NSHC, and through START Network, CARE also provided supplementary food (fruit, milk, cookies, jarred baby food and biscuits enriched with vitamins), for vulnerable groups of refugees/migrants as additional nutrition. NSHC delivered: 11,870 milk cartons (250ml carton), 11,240 packets of cookies (50gr packs), 2,677kg of fruit and 810 baby jars in centers in Adaševci, Krnjača, Principovac and Belgrade centre (Miksalište) were distributed by NSHC.
- In partnership with NEXUS from Vranje, CARE also provided supplementary food for vulnerable persons in Pirot, Bosilegrad and Divljana RCs. Nexus delivered: 1,285kg of fruit, 962 packs of cookies (250 gr packs), 3,972 cartons of milk (250 ml pack) and 100 baby jars.
- In partnership with IMPULS from Tutin, CARE provided supplementary food for vulnerable groups in Sjenica and Tutin ACs. Impuls delivered: 390 baby jars, 3,990 cartons of milk (250 ml cartons), 3,995 packs of cookies, 1,843 kg of fruit and 4,536 bottles of water (0.5 l).
- Philanthropy provided 8,580 hot meals for dinner in Bujanovac and Preševo for approx. 350 refugees/migrants in these two centers.
- Philanthropy continued with joint cooking events in Bujanovac once per week. This activity was supported by Christian Aid.
- Within the Family Room in Preševo RC, SOS CV Serbia distributed 760 food items, juice, biscuits and sweets, while 5,562 food items (milk and baby jars) were distributed in Principovac, Adaševci, Kikinda and Divljana.
- SOS CV provided 120 meals a day (breakfast and lunch) in Bosilegrad RC on a daily basis.
- In its tent in Adaševci TC, OM was serving tea and coffee to refugees/migrants every day from 9:30am to 9pm.
- UNHCR's partner HCIT distributed 1,068 litres of water in the North.

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- OM in Adaševci was in need of plastic cups, tea and sugar.



#### WATER AND SANITATION

#### Achievements and Impact

- NSTR

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- NSTR

**SHELTER AND NFIS****Achievements and Impact**

- During September, UNHCR and partners continued with the Profiling of Accommodation Centres exercise, following the strengthening of reception conditions in Serbia. An update of results as of September is available on: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/55034>.
- UNHCR and partners resumed comprehensive distribution of Non-Food Relief Items in all 18 government centres. UNHCR and partners SCRIM, CRPC, HCIT and Amity/Sigma plus distributed 615 blankets, 699 sets of bed linen, 1,722 plastic bags, 4 backpacks, 1,960 hygiene kits, 51 sleeping mats, 29 rubber mats, 46 items of winter clothing, 2,963 pairs of socks, 522 adult T-shirts, 678 children's T-shirts, 1,904 pairs of footwear, 17 baby kits, 22 raincoats, 305 tracksuits, 3 baseball caps, 3 winter hats, 1 winter jacket, 2,984 pairs of underwear, 1,845 items of children's clothing, 2,083 items of women's clothing and 1,019 items of men's clothing and 10 rechargeable torches.
- With the support of CRS, NGO Atina ran 3 shelters for persons from among the refugee/migrant population who had been identified as survivors of GBV, human trafficking, and/or are particularly vulnerable. Four such persons were given shelter in September.
- At the "Integration House for vulnerable groups of refugees "Pedro Arrupe"" in Belgrade, JRS continued to provide accommodation for 13 UASCs (11 Afghan, 1 Iranian and 1 Pakistani), who had been identified by Belgrade CSW as persons under threat with higher levels of vulnerability.
- CARE constructed an outdoor children's playground at Vranje RC. The playground is 100m<sup>2</sup> large. CARE's partner NEXUS was implementing outdoor activities with children accommodated in Vranje RC.
- CARE reconstructed premises in Preševo RC designated for carpentry workshops for refugees/migrants, and is currently in the process of acquiring tools for informal educational workshops (intended mostly for acquiring manual work skills). These workshops will be conducted in cooperation with an accredited institution for adult education, which will also be awarding official certificates upon completion of courses.
- Within the CFS and MBC in Adaševci TC, SOS CV Serbia distributed 8,758 hygiene items and diapers. In the CFS and MBC in Principovac TC, SOS CV Serbia distributed 4,818 hygiene items and diapers, in Preševo RC 12,278 items and in Kikinda TC 4,324 mainly hygiene items.
- OM was providing a tent for 120 people at a time to relax, play table tennis, talk, etc. in the scope of Adaševci TC. The tent was open for visitors every day from 8:30am to 9pm.
- IOM was working on improving conditions in Tutin AC and Kikinda TC, through the implementation of the project "EU support to Serbia and FYRoM in managing migration/refugees crisis / Balkan route" under MADAD RTF. Works in AC Tutin included construction of an additional annex B to the existing building in line with EASO standards for long-term stay of migrants. Planned capacity of the building is 70 beds, along with the infirmary, entry/restrooms for persons with disabilities. IOM also implemented landscaping works which included building of the fence, children playground, street lights

and video surveillance, all of which will contribute to the comprehensiveness of services in this centre. Works are expected to be finalized by end-November.

- In Kikinda TC, IOM installed the fence, street lights, video surveillance and a children's playground, while the works related to the refurbishment of the dining room are underway.

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Overcrowding and temporary accommodation: the number of men and boys accommodated in temporary shelters (rub halls and tents) in the Transit Centers Adaševci, Principovac, Sombor and Kikinda decreased during September to approximately 350. Additionally, a number of tents were dismantled and boys and men were moved to solid buildings. UNHCR and partners continued advocating for the closure of these different temporary shelters. A detailed overview of reception conditions and gaps per site is available at: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/55034> .



#### COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

##### Achievements and Impact

- Supported by Christian Aid, Philanthropy completed refurbishment of the gym in the primary school in village Sot (near Principovac TC). Since 18 September, children from Principovac started with formal education at this school, and the gym is used jointly by the local and the refugee children.
- Citizens meet refugees/migrants in Miksalište in Belgrade, where CRPC acted as a mediator between the domicile population and the refugees/migrants.

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- NSTR



#### DURABLE SOLUTIONS

##### Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR provided income-generation assistance to two refugees from Cuba. They submitted joint proposal, with the aim to strengthen their income opportunities by purchasing various music instruments and equipment for their band "Sin Kuba". With their own instruments and equipment, there will be more chances for them to play in pubs, clubs, various events, salsa classes etc.

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- NSTR

## Working in partnership

- The internal coordination mechanism of the UN system in Serbia is the **UN Refugee and Migrant Theme Group (RMTG)**, which meets under the joint chairmanship of UNHCR & IOM. The RMTG coordinates the 4 sectorial working groups (WGs): a) Refugee Protection WG (Co-chaired by the Ministry of Labour, Employment Veteran and Social Policy (hereinafter: MoL) & UNHCR), b) the WG on Shelter/NFI/WASH (Co-chaired by Serbian Commissariat for Refugees and Migration (SCRM), MoL & UNHCR), c) WG on Health/Food/Nutrition (Co-chaired by the Ministry of Health & WHO) and d) WG on Local Community Support (Co-chaired by the Ministry of Local Self-Government & UNDP). The RMTG met on 15 September in Belgrade.