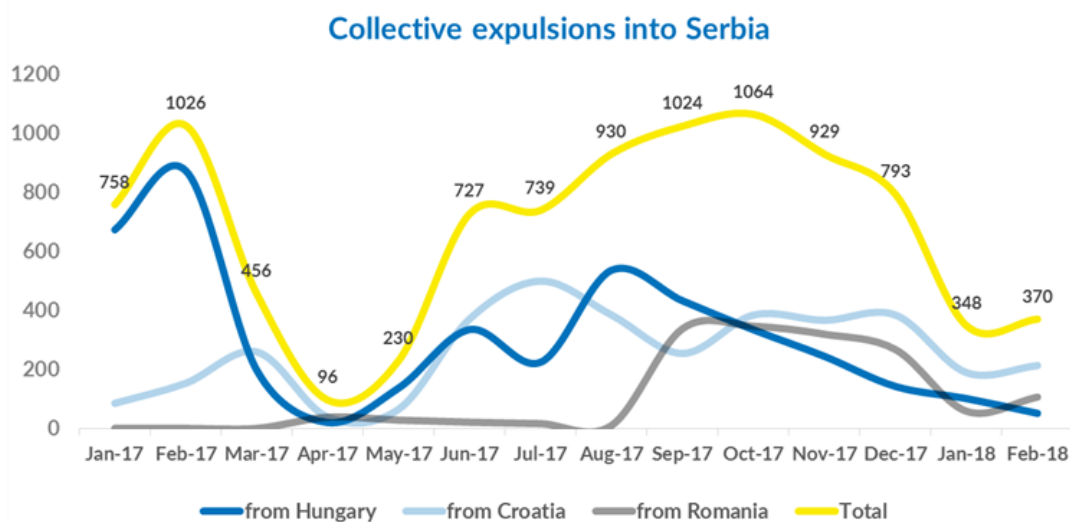


# UNHCR SERBIA UPDATE

- The overall number of **new refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants** remained stable with **4,006** counted in Serbia on 04 March. 94% (or 3,750) were accommodated in 18 governmental centres.
- Despite the **harsh winter weather** only some 20 migrant/refugee men sleeping rough near the borders with Croatia and Hungary agreed to be transferred to Tutin Asylum Centre, while most others, close to 150, opted to remain sleeping rough in border areas. UNHCR and partners liaised with authorities and monitored the situation closely - on stand-by with transport or NFI aid to prevent hypothermia.
- In February, UNHCR and the partners under its project provided **over 10,700 community-based protection services**, including over 2,700 interpretation and 5,800 legal counseling/info services, over 450 referrals to medical, social welfare, legal registration and other forms of assistance, provided psychosocial and psychological support in over 200 instances, non-formal educational activities and other protection interventions in over 23 sites throughout Serbia. Our new [Serbia Snapshot-February 2018](#) illustrates more trends.
- UNHCR and partners assisted 144 **new arrivals** (compared to 126 the preceding two weeks). 60% arrived via FYR Macedonia, 26% by air and 14% via Bulgaria. Most were from Iran (29%), followed by Pakistan (28%), Afghanistan (18%), and Syria or Iraq (10% each). 66% were adult men, 12% adult women and 22% children, including 21 unaccompanied or separated boys.
- UNHCR supported several improvements in government centres, including the installation of internet services and purchase of two washing machines for the Reception Centre (RC) in Dimitrovgrad, completed construction of the children's playground in Pirot RC and kitchen reconstruction in RC Vranje. Additionally, the new building in Tutin, reconstructed by IOM-CRS Divac, was unofficially opened with residents moved from the old AC facility to the new one on 21 February. For more information on reception standards you may wish to refer to the February Update of our [Joint Assessment of Government Centres](#).





Language classes for refugee women, Adasevci (Serbia), ©UNHCR, 19 February 2018

- UNHCR met the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Social and Veteran Affairs to assist in improving the **protection of unaccompanied or separated refugee children** and also with Ministry of Interior, Serbian Commissioner for Refugees and Migration (SCRM), Center for Protection of Human Trafficking Victims and the City Center for Social Work to improve their security in Krnjaca Asylum Centre.
- Upon request of the SCRM, UNHCR agreed to temporarily fund **school transport** for children in Bogovadja, Principovac, Adasevci and Belgrade until end of April, to bridge the gap pending more sustainable funding.
- Likely due to the cold spell, UNHCR and partners received fewer reports **collective expulsions**: 76 asylum-seekers from Croatia (compared to 110 the preceding two weeks), 5 from Hungary (compared to 32 the preceding two weeks) and 41 from Romania (compared to 50 the preceding two weeks).
- In February 2018, **594** foreigners registered intention to **seek asylum in Serbia**. 70% were adult men, 7% adult women and 23% children. Most applications were filed by citizens of Afghanistan (25%) or Pakistan (25%), followed by Iran (16%), Iraq (13%), or Syria (6%). One asylum-seeker was granted **refugee status**, and one subsidiary protection, bringing the total number of positive decisions by the Asylum Office thus far in 2018 to five.
- On 26 February, UNHCR, OSCE and SCRM met in Belgrade for a first Regional Housing Program Country Coordination meeting of the year, discussed the monitoring of beneficiary selection and agreed on joint interventions as well as issues that require further attention and follow-up.