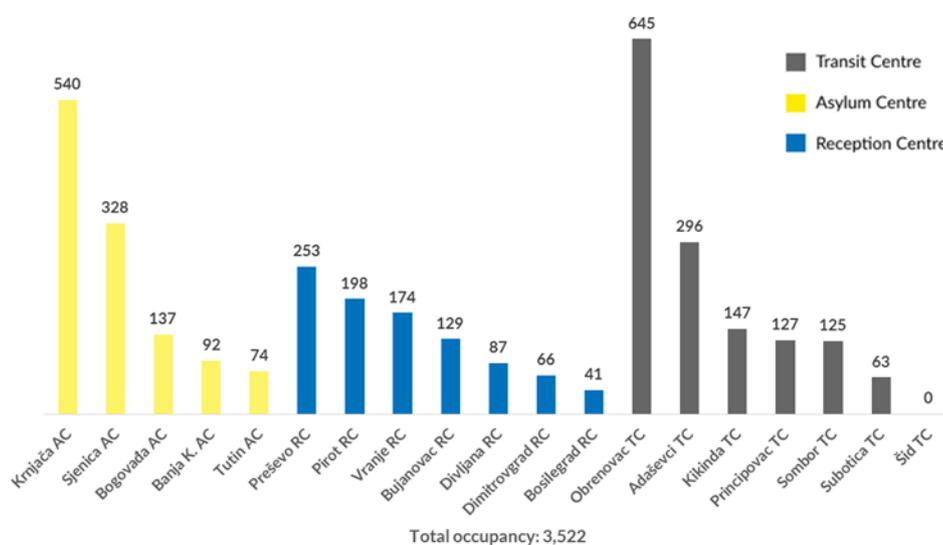


# UNHCR SERBIA UPDATE

- **3,858 new refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants** were counted in Serbia on 18 March. **91%** (or 3,522) were accommodated in 18 governmental centres (below chart refers). For more information on reception standards you may wish to refer to the February Update of our [Joint Assessment of Government Centres](#).
- As weather conditions improved, over 300 migrants and refugees, mostly men, were observed sleeping rough. These included some 180 in Belgrade city and smaller groups near the borders with Croatia and Hungary. Tragically, two foreign men were fatally injured when walking on the highway Belgrade-Sid during the night of 8 March. On 11 March three young men and boys were stabbed in a fight among migrant men near the border with Croatia.
- UNHCR and partners assisted **138 new arrivals** (compared to 144 during the preceding two weeks). Most were from Iran (30%), Pakistan (28%) or Afghanistan (22%). Most arrived from FYR Macedonia (62%) or by air (23%), with fewer from Bulgaria (14%).
- UNHCR and partners received reports on the **collective expulsions of 111** asylum-seekers from Croatia (compared to 76 the preceding two weeks), 4 from Hungary (compared to 5 the preceding two weeks) and 28 from Romania (compared to 41 the preceding two weeks). Additionally, reports were received on 50 asylum-seekers having been returned from Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Hungary continued reduced admission into its so-called “transit-zones”. According to UNHCR Szeged, **21** asylum-seekers were admitted (compared to 27 during the preceding two weeks).
- Supported by UNHCR, the Belgrade Centre for Human Rights, and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), three asylum-seekers started **vocational training** at the Academia Educativa, to be followed by on-the-job training and potential employment by a restaurant in Belgrade.





Refugee women and children attending an event at Cultural Centre Bosilegrad

- Various events were organized on the occasion of the **International Women's Day** across the country by authorities, UN and other organizations.
- On 07 March, supported by UNHCR and partners, refugee women from the Reception Centres in Divljana, Pirot and Bosilegrad exhibited handicrafts that they had produced at a local bazaar in Pirot and then again, this time joined by refugee women from Principovac Transit Centre, at a bazaar in Belgrade on 17 March. On 10 March, refugee women from the Bosilegrad RC presented their handicrafts at an exhibition at the town Cultural Centre, where a performance for children was also organized. In Presevo, refugee women from the RC attended an event organized by ten local hairdressers offering their services for free.
- On 05 March, 235 refugee families received the keys to new apartments in Ovca of Belgrade. They had been constructed within the third subproject of the **Regional Housing Program (RHP)**, with UNHCR and the OSCE monitoring beneficiary selection.
- On 09 March, a 5<sup>th</sup> generation of 25 students in their final year at the Faculty of Law in Novi Sad enrolled with the UNHCR legal clinic there.
- On 12-13 March, UNHCR trained 30 young Roma for their subsequent engagement as national UN Volunteers in different local institutions in 30 municipalities that host high numbers of **Internally Displaced Persons** from Roma communities. On 16 March, the Coordinating Body for Monitoring the Implementation of the Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma and Roma Women and UNHCR launched a series of trainings for representatives of these 30 municipalities.
- 01-18 March, 428 foreigners registered their intention to seek asylum in Serbia.