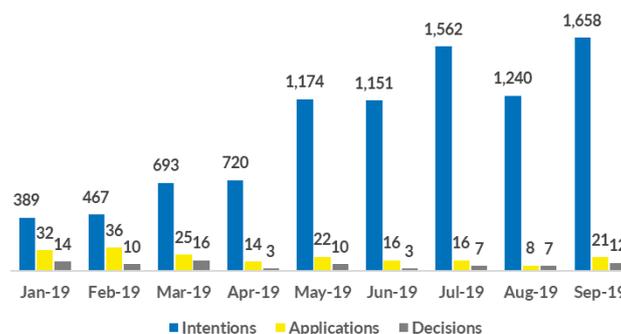


SERBIA UPDATE

- UNHCR and partners counselled over **2,500** asylum-seekers at over thirty sites throughout the country. **326** unaccompanied or separated children (UASC) benefitted from guardianship under the UNHCR project. Eighteen asylum-seekers, including two UASC, signed powers of attorney for UNHCR project lawyers to represent them in asylum procedures.
- **1,658** foreigners registered their intention to seek asylum with the Ministry of Interior (MOI), while **21** lodged substantive **asylum claims** with the Asylum Office (AO). The AO decided on **11** claims, granting refugee status to one and subsidiary protection to another asylum seeker, while rejecting nine. UNHCR and partners continued to assist the AO with interpretation, cultural mediation and psychological assessments. For the first time since it was constituted in 2012, the second instance Asylum Commission overruled an AO rejection on merits and granted subsidiary protection to one asylum seeker. In the first nine months of 2019, AO granted international protection to **31** asylum seekers (compared to 25 during the whole of 2018) and the Asylum Commission to one asylum seeker.

Asylum intentions/applications/decisions



- One UNHCR partner, the Belgrade Centre for Human Rights (BCHR), alone counselled 98 refugees and asylum seekers on **local integration**, obtained ID cards for twelve and work permits for three, while UNHCR assisted the integration of 48 with cash-based interventions. To design individual integration plans, the joint Local Integration Team of the Serbian Commissioner for Refugees and Migration (SCRM) and UNHCR continued conducting home visits to all persons granted refugee or subsidiary protection status.
- Supported by UNHCR partners, seven LGBTI asylum seekers and refugees enjoyed joining the **Belgrade Pride** Parade on 15 September.
- UNHCR discussed support to Serbia's implementation of the **Global Compact for Refugees (GCR)** with many stakeholders, including on 10 September with the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Ivica Dačić. On 13 September, UNHCR hosted a meeting of four line-ministries, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the SCRM to discuss the preparation of good models and pledges from Serbia for presentation at the **Global Refugee Forum** that will meet on 17-18 December in Geneva.
- Continuing its support to the implementation of the **Regional Housing Programme (RHP)**, on 18 September UNHCR joined refugees, the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Serbian Commissioner for Refugees and Migration, local authorities as well as representatives of donors and the OSCE in handing the keys to 50 new apartments in Golubinci and Paraćin. On 24 September, UNHCR attended the granting of contracts for purchasing of village houses to 22 refugee families in Bečej.
- UNHCR is grateful to the Republic of France for accepting one vulnerable refugee, who departed on **resettlement** to France, and to the Federal Republic of Germany for admitting one vision-impaired refugee for family reunification to Germany.
- 197 asylum-seeking and migrant children started the **new school year** in local pre-, primary and secondary schools. Noting that these were less than 50% of eligible children, the SCRM requested support to enhancing school enrolment.

- A high number of 1,085 asylum seekers alleged **collective expulsions** from neighbouring countries (351 from Hungary, 275 from Croatia, 252 from Bosnia and Herzegovina and 207 from Romania). 74% of them alleged to have been **denied access to asylum** and 30% maltreatment by authorities of these neighbouring countries.



*Ten refugee trainees completed a GIZ course for pizza chefs to be employed by Pizza Laganica, supported by the USA
 ©UNHCR, 20 September 2019*

- On 2 September, the UNHCR Representative (in his function as UN Resident Coordinator a.i.) and the Human Rights Advisor of the UN Country Team addressed a [press conference](#) convened by the BCHR on the decision of the UN Committee Against Torture regarding the **refoulement** of an asylum seeker from Serbia.
- UNHCR and partners surveyed **3,686** newly arriving asylum seekers and migrants, the highest number of new irregular arrivals in a single month since February 2016. 37% were nationals of Afghanistan, 27% Pakistan, 9% Iraq, 7% Bangladesh and 6% Syria. 80% were adult men, 4% adult women and 16% children, incl. 402 UASC. 81% entered Serbia from North Macedonia, 9% from Albania and 6% from Bulgaria.
- The number of asylum seekers and migrants in Serbia increased by 14% to **3,404** at the end of September. **2,480** of them were accommodated in 16 Asylum or Reception/Transit Centres. 75% were adult men, 8% adult women and 17% children; 45% are citizens of Afghanistan, 14% of Bangladesh, 11% of Pakistan, 10% of Iran, 6% of Iraq and 3% of Syria. Over 920 were observed sleeping rough, around 450 in Belgrade City and 470 near the borders with Croatia, Hungary or Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- UNHCR Serbia compiled and issued monthly updates of its [Statistical Snapshot](#) and [Joint Site Assessments](#). With almost 42,000 views, the latter remained a most popular and trusted information product.

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¹ Contributed without restrictions on its use, unearmarked funding allows UNHCR critical flexibility in how best to reach refugees and other populations of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk. Where a donor has contribution \$10 million or more, the total amount of the contribution is shown.

² Due to their earmarking at the region or sub-region, or to a related situation or theme, the other softly earmarked contributions listed are those which can potentially be used for Serbia. Where a donor has contributed \$2 million or more, the total amount of the contributions is shown.