

## UNHCR Representation to Serbia



Children from Krnjača Asylum Centre participated in a Children's Colony and a Handicraft Workshop hosted by the Canadian Embassy in Belgrade, ©UNHCR, 28 September 2022

UNHCR reestablished its presence in newly reopened Bujanovac RTC. UNHCR's partner Indigo quickly deployed a psychologist and an interpreter to support the residents of Bujanovac RTC, after 48 persons, including 13 unaccompanied minors identified by UNHCR, were transferred from Preševo to Bujanovac RTC on 30 September. Bujanovac RTC provides for **255 places, which will be used to accommodate families and unaccompanied and separated children (UASC).**

### CONTACTS

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### Highlights



In Jan-Sep 2022, authorities reported **84,512** new arrivals to governmental centres (which is a **97%** increase compared to the same period in 2021). UNHCR profiling of new arrivals in the south indicates that Syrian refugees make up **50%** of the arrivals, followed by persons from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Morocco, etc. **19,345** persons arrived in governmental centres in September alone (comp. to **17,997** in August and **13,425** in July).

### Key Figures (as of 30 September 2022)



**8,151**  
Refugees, Asylum-Seekers and Migrants counted in Serbia at end-September, of which **6,183**

Accommodated in governmental centres **almost 2,000**

Staying outside of governmental centres **71**

Refugees from Ukraine accommodated in Vranje Asylum Centre (AC)



**272**  
Applications for asylum in 2022 **20**

Positive decisions in 2022, of which **3** in September

**225**  
Positive decisions since 2008

**950** Persons fleeing Ukraine received Temporary Protection (TP) in Serbia since 24 February, of which **51** in September

## Inclusion of refugees

All four refugee students/**DAFI** (Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative) scholars, who are enrolled in tertiary education in Serbia, successfully progressed into the second year of their university studies in Serbia. Furthermore, the DAFI cohort in Serbia has been expanded for a fifth scholar – **a refugee from Iraq who succeeded in enrolling in Higher School of Medicine in Zemun, Belgrade.**

Following a submission by the UNHCR legal partner Belgrade Centre for Human Rights (BCHR), a refugee from Ukraine under temporary protection received a positive recognition from the Agency for qualification – ENIC/NARIC Centre - of a foreign high school diploma.

Two refugee couples were married in Belgrade in September, after partner BCHR obtained/translated the necessary paperwork.

Refugee children from Krnjača AC participated with their Serbian peers in the **“Music without Borders” concert in Belgrade**, organized by the Embassy of Slovakia and the **Children’s Colony/Handicraft Bazaar hosted by the Embassy of Canada**.

During the **EuroPride Week**, two events featured refugee rights: the Impact Hub in Belgrade hosted the UNHCR and its partners in a joint event which explored “Best refugee integration practices – finding a safe home and workplace”. On the same day, UNHCR and its CSO partners BCHR and Crisis Response and Policy Centre (CRPC) gave a workshop in the Human Rights House in Belgrade on **“LGBTI+ persons in mixed migrations and granting refugee protection based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI)”**.

The traditional **Delicacy Monday**, a multicultural event and a part of UNHCR’s mission of bringing refugees and their host communities together in the way they know best – through food and dance, took place in the Cultural Centre of Belgrade. This time, Delicacy Monday was dedicated to Ukrainian & Serbian cuisines, and was organized in cooperation between UNHCR, CRPC, young refugees and the Hospitality and Tourism School in Belgrade. Around 120 persons, including 15 Ukrainian refugees who assisted in the food preparation, attended the event.

As a result of cooperation of UNHCR with UNDP and the Association of Young Volunteers of Serbia, two refugee peer educators and young Roma activists participated in a theatre play “Youth in Action is No Myth” staged in Ćukarica Cultural Centre in Belgrade.

A young refugee from Afghanistan and a female Roma activist, both peer educators trained and supported by UNHCR, joined in the full membership of the **Youth Advisory Group** for the UN Cooperation Framework in Serbia, tasked with advising the UN Country Team in Serbia

on key issues of interest to the young people and with supporting the mainstreaming of youth perspectives and enforcement of their rights.

A **UNHCR team composed of refugee boys participated in the humanitarian soccer tournament** organized by the Embassy of Slovakia and the Delegation of the European Union to Serbia named **“Diplomats for children”**, which took place in Ada Ciganlija in Belgrade, and within the European Week of Sport. The proceeds benefitted the Tiršova Children’s University Hospital in Belgrade. The Team made it to the quarterfinals!

More than 50 asylum-seekers and refugees took part in the different social cohesion initiatives in September, which received positive coverage in the Serbian media.

In support to the **Transitional Accommodation Project** of the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), **UNHCR equipped the homes of two young unaccompanied refugees, who will now be able to continue their living in Serbia independently** and pursue their education.

## Solutions for Internal Displacement

**With technical support from UNHCR, Bujanovac municipality kickstarted the EU/UNOPS-funded project that should bring about the closure of the last collective centre in Serbia – Salvatore – which houses mainly Roma IDPs.**

## Statelessness/Roma IDPs/Child, Early & Forced Marriages (CEFM)

UNHCR partners A11 Initiative and Praxis visited 12 Roma informal settlements throughout the country and counselled 77 persons on access to personal documents/birth registration and social protection/housing. Seven persons had thus their nationality confirmed/acquired in September and four cases of child marriages were detected and reported to social protection authorities. These field visits also served the purpose of monitoring of the implementation of the recently introduced Social Cards and problems in accessing social protection.

## Working with Partners

UNHCR Serbia set up **a new e-mail account [srbbesaradnja@unhcr.org](mailto:srbbesaradnja@unhcr.org)**, for communication with the private sector.

In September, UNHCR established cooperation with **Women on the Way (WotW)** - a social enterprise established by an Iranian refugee in Serbia, which now employs other refugee women and "**DO GOOD Association**", which focuses on the Ukrainian community in Serbia. Cooperation with **National Employment Service branch in Vranje, Adecco** and the **Insicon Software Company**, is currently focusing on employment of refugees from Ukraine.

UNHCR **donated a stage to the Technical school in Obrenovac**. The School is also attended by refugees, and has taken part in many social inclusion projects with local and refugee children. The stage will serve as a place to bring communities together and organise events.

## Child Protection

In Jan-Sept 2022, UNHCR and partners identified 730 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), 74% from Afghanistan, 18% from Syria, and others from Pakistan, Morocco, Egypt and Burundi. 33% of all identified UASC were found to be illiterate, and the youngest one was seven years old. They were all placed under guardianship and received medical and other care. UNHCR and partners monitored the condition of particularly vulnerable individual UASC and continued to advocate for/support separate lodging/accommodation for the UASC.

Thirty refugee children were provided with educational support by UNHCR partners Indigo and CRPC and 230 non-formal educational activities were organised in Bosilegrad, Preševo, Vranje, Niš, Bogovađa and Belgrade. Nine children received cash for education vouchers and four were supplied with school textbooks and materials.

## Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

UNHCR partner for mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) International Aid Network (IAN) provided 28 refugees and asylum-seekers with individual psychotherapy and psychiatric interventions/individual and group psychological and psychosocial support in Krnjača, Vranje and Bogovađa Asylum Centres, and in Vodovodska UASC Institution.

IAN also provided medication for the most vulnerable refugees.

## Asylum

Seventy-one persons were represented by UNHCR project lawyers in September, in asylum procedures, and 169 were in receipt of legal and other assistance in the process of integration. Partners BCHR and CRPC organized info sessions on right to asylum in asylum centres Krnjača and Bogovađa.

**One refugee from Syria, represented by UNHCR project lawyers received subsidiary protection in Serbia in September.**

Partner IDEAS provided legal aid to 9 UASC and 9 GBV victims and their families (19 persons in total).

476 refugees/asylum-seekers benefitted from cultural mediation/orientation provided by CRPC in September, of which 78 originating from Ukraine.

## Ukraine Response

Following the mapping of needs of Ukrainian refugees accommodated privately, UNHCR partners CRPC and Humanitarian Center for Integration and Tolerance (HCIT) developed an information flyer, for 15 municipalities, which contains general information and main contacts in those municipalities. The flyer is available in Ukrainian, Serbian and Russian languages.

Partner Sigma Plus continued to provide sewing and manicure, carpentry and photography workshops, as well as Serbian language classes in Vranje AC.

**The Mayor of the City of Vranje** and the Department for Economic Development agreed to help UNHCR locate **job opportunities for refugees from Ukraine** accommodated in AC Vranje. UNHCR provided the profiles of refugees and the list of jobs they are interested in.

Six refugee children from Vranje AC, together with 5 peers from the local community, took part in an educational quiz about touristic, cultural and historical sites in Vranje. UNHCR/INDIGO and the Youth Office in Vranje organized the event.

Fourteen refugee children started formal education in primary schools in Vranje in the academic year 2022-2023, one child is attending preschool and five refugee children are enrolled in secondary schools in Vranje.

The [dedicated HELP page](#) on UNHCR Serbia website has had 5,324 visits and 11,035 views since 24 February.

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