

SERBIA UPDATE, 10-16 April 2017

HIGHLIGHTS AND STATISTICS

- Fearing prolonged detention in Hungary before being expelled back to Serbia, more refugees and migrants tried to re-enter the EU through Croatia, now also Romania, while spontaneous returns to Greece through fYRo Macedonia continued. Three cases of collective expulsions from Hungary were reported during this week, as well as 109 from Croatia.
- On 10 April, UNHCR in Geneva issued a press release calling for temporary suspension of transfers of asylumseekers to Hungary from other European countries under the Dublin Regulation (an EU instrument determining which European state is responsible for examining an asylum seeker's application), qualifying the situation for asylum-seekers in Hungary, already a concern for UNHCR, as becoming worse since the introduction of mandatory detention for asylum-seekers. The Press Release is available <u>here.</u>
- On 16 April, **almost 7,600** refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants were counted in Serbia. 85% (6,412) were sheltered in 18 government facilities, while the rest were counted sleeping rough in Belgrade city centre or close to the borders with Croatia and Hungary.
- Security incidents in and around Transit Centres that host high numbers of unregistered migrant men remained a concern. In response to one of such incidents, the citizens and local authorities in Sid petitioned the Government to close the Transit Centre in Sid.
- On 11 April, the police rounded up around 180 unregistered men (mainly Afghan and Pakistani, around half of which were minors) sleeping rough in/around Sid and transported 160 to Presevo Reception Centre (RC), while 20 were taken to Magistrates court. In Presevo RC, the newcomers were received by camp management, UNHCR and partners, who provided medical check-up, NFIs, registration etc.
- On 12 April, Crisis Response and Policy Centre (CRPC) conducted another profiling exercise in Belgrade city centre where refugees/migrants squat. From the total of 1,322 counted, 340 (all male) were surveyed. Vast majority were Afghans (78%), some Pakistani (21%) and very few others. Among them were 164 children (48%), aged 8-17, of which 96 were identified as UASCs, originating mostly from Afghanistan and Pakistan. Around 75% have been in Serbia for up to six months, the rest longer. Compared to the previous profiling exercise implemented in March 2017, there is an increase in the number of respondents willing to be accommodated in one of the state-run accommodation centres.
- Among some 107 new arrivals that were met and assisted by UNHCR and partners during the week, six were
 unaccompanied and separated refugee children (UASC), boys from Afghanistan and Pakistan. All were referred
 by UNHCR and partners to Centres for Social Work. Currently, over 900 UASCs are in Serbia, with at least 750
 accommodated in government centres (334 in Obrenovac, 150 in Presevo, 18 in Bujanovac, and 248 in other
 governmental shelters), as well as close to 200 in Belgrade city centre.
- 121 intentions to seek asylum in Serbia were registered in the reporting period.



Asylum statistics are provided by the Ministry of Interior. Other information is based on findings of UNHCR staff and partners. If you use this content, please refer to UNHCR as source. **CONTACTS:** *General:* Ivana Zujovic-Simic +381 63 452 950; External Relations: Indira Beganovic, +381 63 431 886; *Media:* Mirjana Milenkovski +381 63 275 154



SERBIA UPDATE, 10-16 April 2017

EAST

554 refugees and migrants were accommodated in four Reception Centres: 222 in Pirot, 221 in Divljana, 64 in Dimitrovgrad and 47 in Bosilegrad. Most are from Iraq, followed by Afghanistan and Syria and around half are children.

SOUTH

994 refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants were accommodated in the Reception Centres of Presevo (823) and Bujanovac (171). 60% of the residents of Presevo RC are from Afghanistan, 23% from Iraq, 9% from Pakistan and 4% from Syria. 50% are children. In Bujanovac, which continues to accommodate only families with children and UASCs, 33% are from Iraq, 30% from Afghanistan, 27% from Syria and 10% from Iran. 57% are children.

BELGRADE

Over 3,000 refugees and migrants were counted in Belgrade. It is estimated that with fairer weather again over 1,000, mostly Afghan and Pakistani, men and boys sleep rough in the city centre. Several UASCs reported being attacked and robbed near the barracks in the city centre by migrant/refugee men, and there were reports of security incidents at night inside Obrenovac TC.

Krnjaca Asylum Centre accommodated 1,010 asylum-seekers, mainly families from Afghanistan, Iraq or Syria. 1,044 male refugees and migrants (including 334 unaccompanied/separated boys) were sheltered in Obrenovac. Most were from Afghanistan, followed by Pakistan and very few from Iraq, Syria, and other countries.

WEST



HCIT staff member discussing the possibility of assisted voluntary return with a young Algerian man, Sid (Serbia) ©UNHCR, 15 April 2017

NORTH

Forty-four asylum seekers, mainly families from Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria were admitted into Hungary. In total, seven registered asylum- seekers were camping at Horgos (6) and Kelebija (1) border sites. Subotica Transit Centre (TC) sheltered 166 asylum-seekers and Sombor TC 167, mostly families from Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria. Newly opened Transit Centre in Kikinda accommodated 143 asylum-seekers.





Asylum statistics are provided by the Ministry of Interior. Other information is based on findings of UNHCR staff and partners. If you use this content, please refer to UNHCR as source. CONTACTS: General: Ivana Zujovic-Simic +381 63 452 950; External Relations: Indira Beganovic, +381 63 431 886: Media: Miriana Milenkovski +381 63 275 154

Transit Centres (TCs) in the West sheltered 1,680 refugees and migrants: 894 in Adasevci, 521 in Sid and 265 in Principovac. The population is mainly from Afghanistan, followed by Pakistan, Iraq, Syria and Iran.