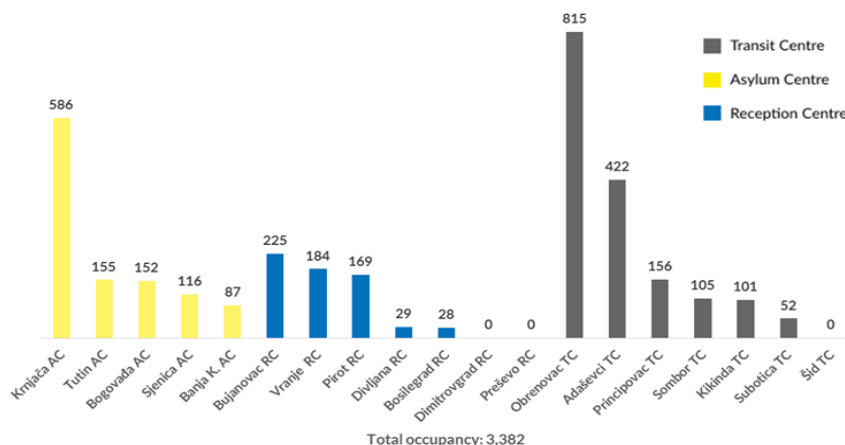


SERBIA UPDATE

- **3,875** new refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants were counted in Serbia on 19 August (compared to 3,610 two weeks ago), of which **3,382** (i.e. 87%) were accommodated in governmental centres (below chart refers). Close to **500** were observed outside the centres: 150 in Belgrade City, another 240 camping close to borders with Croatia or Hungary and up to 100 in Loznica, close to the border with Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- The authorities transferred 18 residents from Dimitrovgrad Reception Centre (RC) and 37 from Presevo RC to Pirot, Vranje, Bujanovac centres respectively, in accordance with their plan to consolidate and rationalize the accommodation capacities. The accommodation facilities in Presevo and Dimitrovgrad are being put in standby mode with the possibility to reactivate them at short notice should the situation require. Profiling and screening facility in Presevo will remain operational in order to deal with new arrivals.
- The authorities also transferred over 150 refugees and migrants who were sleeping in an abandoned building in the centre of Belgrade, to Bujanovac, Pirot and Obrenovac centres.
- UNHCR and partners assisted **976 newly arriving** refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants, compared to 728 two weeks ago. Of those, 63% irregularly entered Serbia from fYR Macedonia (down from 65% two weeks ago) and 25% from Bulgaria (up from 15%), while 8% came by air (down from 15%). 61% were adult men, 4% adult women and 35% children (12% boys and 2 % girls). Most new arrivals were from Afghanistan (24%), Pakistan (17%), followed by Bangladesh (12%) and Iran (11%).
- Hungarian authorities admitted only **14** asylum seekers from Serbia into their so-called “transit zones” (compared to only 18 during the preceding two weeks).
- UNHCR and partners gathered reports of **289** collective expulsions: 230 from Croatia (up from 124 two weeks ago), followed by 33 from BiH (down from 88), 20 from Romania (down from 28) and 6 from Hungary (down from 26). More than 65% of reports alleged denial of access to asylum procedures by authorities of these neighboring countries.
- As part of its comprehensive **Action Plan for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse** (PSEA) UNHCR organized focus group discussions on PSEA with residents of Bogovađa Asylum Centre on 7 August and of Pirot RC on 14 August.





RHP event in Novi Sad, 07 August 2018

- Two major Regional Housing Program (RHP) events took place: on 07 August, ceremonial laying of the foundations for 276 apartments for ex-YU refugees under the RHP Subproject 5 in Veternik near Novi Sad, and on 14 August, ceremonial handover of keys for 15 apartments under the RHP sub-project 4, in Arilje. Both events were opened by the first Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and President of the Government Commission for Coordination of Permanent Integration of Refugees, Mr. Ivica Dačić, while UNHCR was one of the keynote speakers.
- On 10-12 August, supported by UNHCR, partners and authorities, residents of Divljana RC took part in the traditional food festival "Banica" in Bela Palanka, where they were able to make traditional Serbian pie as well as their own national food, and were amongst 300 exhibitors/competitors in the festival. See more on this event [here](#).
- On 15 August, UNHCR issued a [Press Release](#), welcoming the decision by the Government of Malta to permit the disembarkation of 141 asylum-seekers and migrants rescued on the Central Mediterranean by an NGO boat, the Aquarius, and commending those European countries who have come forward to offer relocation places for rescued passengers post-disembarkation.



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