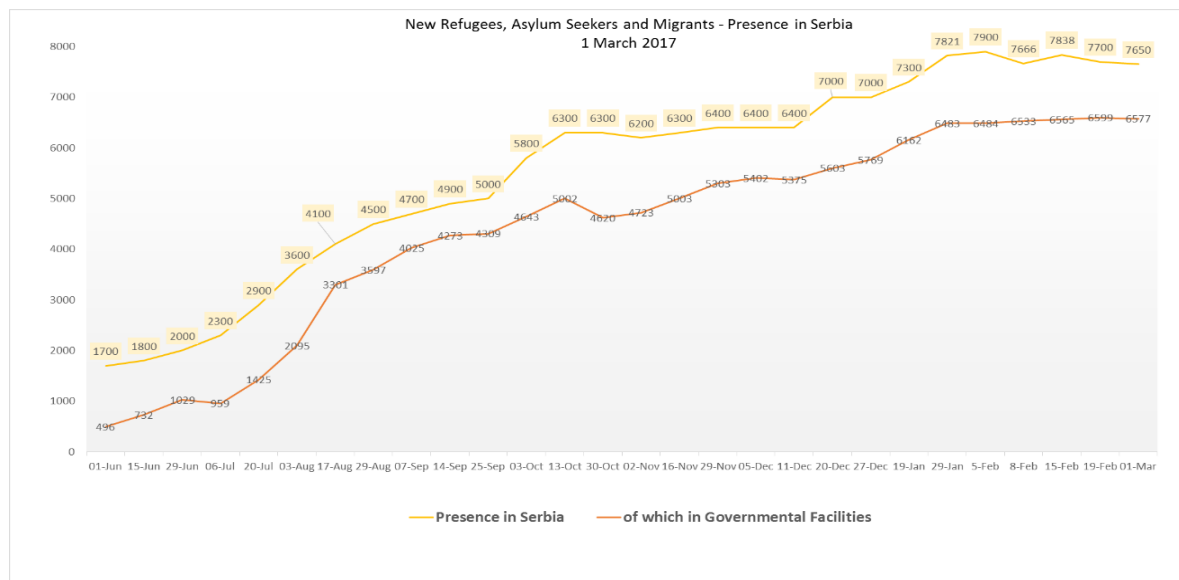


HIGHLIGHTS AND STATISTICS

- The overall number of refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants counted in Serbia stood around 7,650. 6,577 (86%) of them were sheltered in 17 government facilities. The rest were sleeping rough in Belgrade city centre or the North.
- On 27 February, MFA, MOLESVA, and the UN invited to a 15th Partners Briefing on the Refugee and Migration Response, attended by over 80 members of the diplomatic and donor community, civil society, international organizations and others. UNHCR analyzed recent developments and UN support to Serbia addressing the current and foreseen situation. UNICEF focused on particular challenges and opportunities in education and the protection of unaccompanied and separated refugee/migrant children in Serbia.
- On the same day, UNHCR's Bureau for Europe released "Desperate Journeys", a Report on Refugees and Migrants entering and crossing Europe via the Mediterranean and Western Balkans routes ([link](#)).
- In February, 502 intentions to seek asylum in Serbia were registered: 43% by men, 14% by women and 43% for children. Applications were filed by citizens of Afghanistan (40%), Iraq (21%), Syria (16%), Pakistan (8%), or other countries (15%). No substantive first-instance decisions were issued.
- On 28 February, on a first visit to the Reception Centre (RC) of Preševo, the Asylum Office of the Border Guards interviewed 20 asylum-seekers.



EAST

Over 600 asylum seekers were accommodated in four Reception Centres (RCs): 257 in Pirot, 200 in Divljana, 93 in Dimitrovgrad and 57 in Bosilegrad. Most are from Afghanistan, followed by Iraq and Syria and around 45% are children.

Authorities provided food and medical services and UNHCR NFIs, while NGOs were available for support in aid delivery, interpretation and counselling. The family from Iraq injured in the grave car accident which happened on 29 December is recovering well in Pirot RC, following their release from the state hospital in Niš.

SOUTH

980 refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants were accommodated in the Reception Centres of Preševo (759) and Bujanovac (221). Most are from Afghanistan and Iraq, followed by Syria and Pakistan, and over a half of them (55%) are children. UNHCR and partners assisted with food and non-food items, medical services, counselling, interpretation, referrals and recreational activities.



Boys playing table tennis in RC Preševo (Serbia),
@UNHCR, 28 February 2017

BELGRADE

Around 2,800 refugees and migrants were counted in Belgrade: Krnjača Asylum Centre accommodated 1,043 asylum-seekers, including many families, while 918 male refugees and migrants - including 324 unaccompanied or separated boys - were sheltered in Obrenovac. Authorities counted 840 refugees/migrants in the city centre.

UNHCR and partners provided life-saving aid, counselling, support to registration with the police, as well as referrals to child protection and medical services.

Groups of men and boys continued to use three free daily transfers from the city while some also report at the Obrenovac Transit Centre (TC) spontaneously to be accommodated there. UNHCR and partners transported 28 newly registered asylum seekers from Belgrade city centre to other asylum centres.

WEST

TCs in the West sheltered 1,923 refugees and migrants: 991 in Adaševci, 625 in Šid and 307 in Principovac. Civil society organizations assisted authorities with food, non-food and medical aid, counselling, referrals, child support and recreational activities.

Due to increased needs and funding restraints, medication for chronic diseases and ophthalmological services for refugees/migrants/asylum-seekers in the TCs in the West are no longer assured. UNHCR partner HCIT regularly steps in to fill such gaps. At a health coordination meeting in Šid on 1 March Health Centre Šid insisted that humanitarian organizations providing medical aid in the TCs should hold a stock of medication for chronic illnesses.

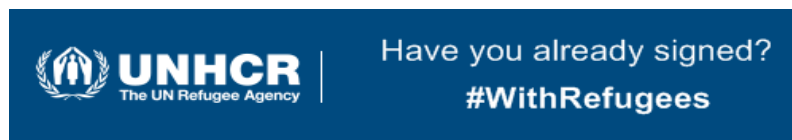
66 asylum-seekers informed UNHCR and partners to have been denied access to asylum procedures in Croatia, but instead been collectively expelled back into Serbia, many alleging serious maltreatment by Croatian officials.

NORTH

Hungarian authorities admitted 31 asylum seekers into procedures at their "transit zones" near Kelebija and Horgoš border crossings. During the same period, over 100 asylum-seekers informed UNHCR and partners to have been denied access to asylum procedures in Hungary, but instead been collectively expelled back into Serbia.

Subotica TC sheltered 133 asylum-seekers and Sombor TC 105, while only 12 asylum seekers (including 1 woman and 2 minors) camped at Horgoš and Kelebija border sites, awaiting admission into Hungarian "transit zones".

Around 200 unregistered migrant men from North Africa, Pakistan and Afghanistan were counted sleeping rough around Subotica, waiting to irregularly enter Hungary.



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