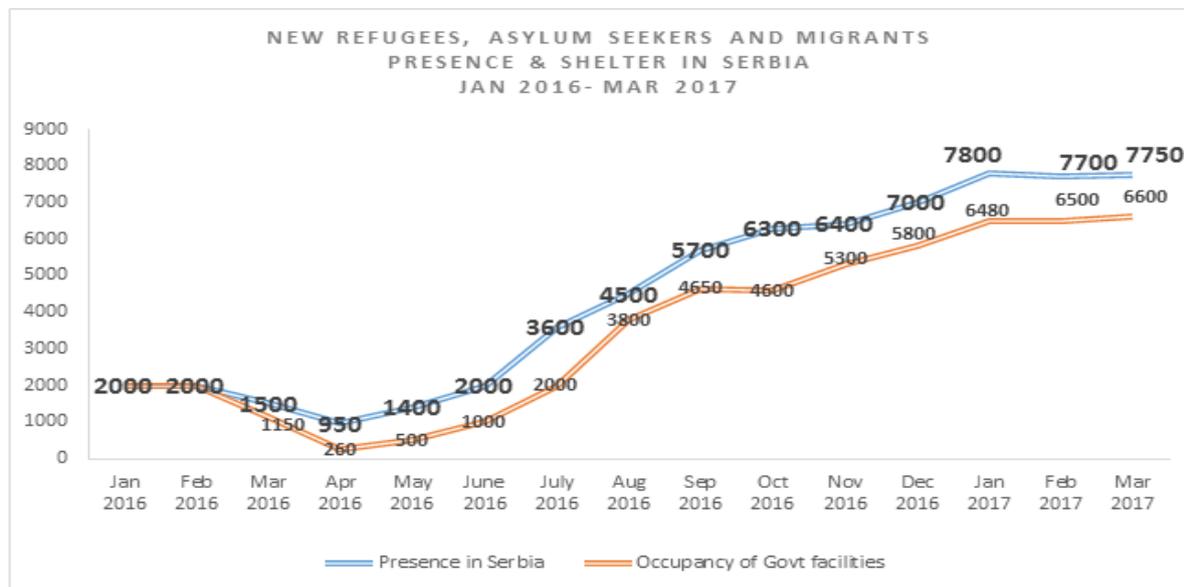


HIGHLIGHTS AND STATISTICS

- Close to 7,800 refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants were counted in Serbia. 85% (or 6,613) of them were sheltered in 17 heated government facilities. The rest stayed rough in Belgrade city centre or the North.
- In the evening of 08 March, it was reported that one refugee/migrant man may have drowned in the Danube while trying to irregularly cross back into the EU. While circumstances and further details of the accident are pending police investigation, this would represent yet another tragic result of the risks refugees and migrants take in trying to reach Western Europe irregularly, in the absence of sufficient legal pathways.
- Hungarian authorities admitted 32 asylum seekers into procedures at the Hungarian “transit zones” near Kelebija and Horgos border crossings. During the same period, some 38 asylum-seekers reported to UNHCR and partners to have been denied access to asylum procedures in Hungary but instead collectively expelled back into Serbia, with some alleging severe maltreatment by Hungarian authorities, such as beatings, pouring cold water over them, wilful destruction of their phones, etc.
- On 06 March, spokesperson of the UNHCR in Geneva expressed concern about a new law which was adopted that very day by the Hungarian Parliament and which foresees the mandatory detention of all asylum seekers, including many children, for the entire length of the asylum procedure. In practice, it means that every asylum-seeker, including children, will be detained in shipping containers surrounded by high razor wire fence at the border for extended periods of time. The full UNHCR statement can be found [here](#). The EC Commissioner for Human Rights also expressed his concern over the new Hungarian law, as well as on recent recommendation of the European Commission on more and longer detention of migrants in this [statement](#).
- Between 01 and 08 March, 170 intents to seek asylum in Serbia were registered.



EAST

Over 600 asylum seekers were accommodated in four Reception Centres: 251 in Pirot, 218 in Divljana, 93 in Dimitrovgrad and 53 in Bosilegrad. Most are from Iraq, followed by Afghanistan and Syria and around half of them are children.

Authorities provided food and medical services and UNHCR NFIs, while NGOs supported in aid delivery, interpretation and counselling.



*Celebrating International Women's Day,
Presevo (Serbia)@UNHCR, 08 March 2017*

SOUTH

978 refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants were accommodated in the Reception Centres of Presevo (758) and Bujanovac (220). In Presevo RC, some 57% of the population is from Afghanistan, 28% from Iraq, 6% from Pakistan and 5% from Syria. About half are children. In Bujanovac, 31% are from Afghanistan, 30% Iraq and 25% from Syria, and 62% are children.

UNHCR and partners assisted with food and non-food aid, medical services, counselling, interpretation, referrals, educational and recreational activities.

Upon request of authorities, UNHCR and partners also continued supporting the Centre for Social Work in conducting Best Interest Assessments for unaccompanied and separated children and appointing legal guardians.

BELGRADE

Over 2,900 refugees and migrants were counted in Belgrade. According to authorities, some 940 men and boys still sleep rough in the city centre, where UNHCR and partners continued providing life-saving aid, counselling, support to registration with the police, as well as referrals to child protection and medical services as well as transport to governmental shelters.

967 refugees and migrants (including 289 unaccompanied or separated boys) were sheltered in Obrenovac. UNHCR and partners continued supporting the rapid refurbishment of capacities in Obrenovac, as well as regular medical and protection services. UNHCR also delivered 240 pairs of sneakers, 198 tracksuits, 450 pieces of underwear, 400 T-shirts and 308 hygiene parcels to residents of Obrenovac. A separate building in the centre was dedicated to accommodating only unaccompanied and separated boys.

Krnjaca Asylum Centre accommodated 1,050 asylum-seekers.

WEST

Transit Centres (TCs) in the West sheltered 1,928 refugees and migrants: 970 in Adasevci, 645 in Sid and 313 in Principovac. Some small groups of unregistered men were also observed staying in abandoned buildings near Sid.

Civil society organizations assisted authorities with food, non-food and medical aid, counselling, referrals, child support and recreational activities.

NORTH

Subotica TC sheltered 132 asylum-seekers and Sombor TC 109, while ten asylum seekers camped at Horgos and three at Kelebija border sites, awaiting admission into Hungarian "transit zones". UNHCR and partners provided humanitarian aid, including food, non-food aid, hygiene packages, support to maintenance of the sanitary conditions, medical assistance, referrals, as well as legal and other counselling.

Some 200 unregistered migrant men from North Africa, Pakistan and Afghanistan continue being observed sleeping rough around Subotica, trying to irregularly enter Hungary, some repeatedly.



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