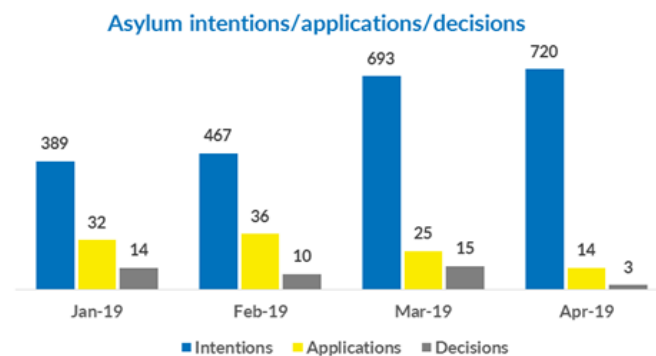


SERBIA UPDATE

- The Asylum Office of the Ministry of Interior ruled on three **applications for asylum** during April, granting **refugee status** to one and rejecting two. So far in the first four months of 2019, the Asylum Office recognised needs for international protection of **22** asylum seekers in Serbia, granting 12 refugee and 10 subsidiary status.
- In April, over **240** asylum seekers throughout the country benefitted from **legal counselling** by UNHCR partners and five from psychological assessments for asylum procedures, while twelve signed power of attorney to lawyers under the UNHCR project. **168** asylum seekers and refugees benefitted from substantive **protection interventions** by UNHCR and partners that included legal aid (56%), psychosocial support (33%), mediation (7%), or advocacy (0.6%).
- **367** Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) benefitted from guardianship under the UNHCR project and MOU with MOLEVSA. 338 UASC were accommodated in Asylum Centres, 29 in specialized centres for children and two in NGO-run facilities.



- UNHCR congratulated a group of young Roma women and men - participants of the 2018 UNHCR-UNDP project “Local initiatives for improved social inclusion of young Roma” - to winning the first prize and thus funding of the global Youth Initiative Fund for their proposal “Local Voices for Global Changes” that will enhance **Roma and IDP youth inclusion**. Also during April, the 2019 continuation of this joint project trained a new group of 15 young Roma volunteers for employment by local institutions.
- UNHCR Serbia, together with the OSCE, verified 235 decisions of the **Regional Housing Programme (RHP)** in nine municipalities: Social Housing in Supportive Environment for 12 refugee families, building material grants for 107 refugee families, as well as rent/buy-off apartments for 116 refugee families. It also verified RHP Final Lists for village houses for 21 refugee families in four municipalities and for building material grants to 55 refugee families in three municipalities. On 3 April, UNHCR Serbia chaired the national RHP Coordination Meeting with Serbian Commissariat for Refugees and Migration (SCRM) and OSCE, while on 10 April, Serbia hosted the 26th Regional Coordination Forum in Belgrade, discussing the status of the RHP implementation in the four participating countries, funding, beneficiary selection and sustainability.
- The Multifunctional Team of authorities, civil society and UNHCR endorsed and started using a new Communicating with Communities questionnaire with refugees and migrants in Belgrade City and border areas of West Serbia in **Participatory Assessments** that will continue in many more sites throughout the country during the next few weeks.
- Continuing implementation of its action plan for the **Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)**, UNHCR raised awareness on PSEA in focus group discussions with refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in Banja Koviljača, Subotica, Adasevci and Sid.
- UNHCR Serbia supported the participation of a high-level delegation from Serbia to presented good models at an International Conference on Addressing **Statelessness** in Europe in Madrid, Spain.
- UNHCR is grateful to France for having accepted a refugee family of five, who departed for **resettlement**.
- Global media sites of UNHCR published a [story](#) about the **integration** of a Syrian refugee in Belgrade.

- The SCRM, UNHCR and partners organized many activities around the country were residents, particularly refugee children, of centres **joined the local population** to celebrate Easter. The SCRM also compiled lists of residents of the governmental asylum, reception or transit centres who wish to observe the forthcoming Holy Month of Ramadan to adjust their meals accordingly. Promoting the [2 Billion campaign- Step with Refugees](#), UNHCR and partners supported the participation of 25 refugee youth in the 32nd Belgrade Marathon.



Refugee youth at the Belgrade marathon, ©UNHCR, 12 April 2019

- In April, UNHCR and partners identified **1,826 newly arriving refugees and migrants**, compared to 1,760 during March. Most were from Pakistan (48%, up from 31%) or Afghanistan (31%, down from 36%), followed by Bangladesh (8%), and Iraq (5%), and several other countries of origin (16%). Most – 80% – were adult men, only 2% adult women, while 18% were children, including **183 UASC**. 90% of the observed/assisted new arrivals entered Serbia from North Macedonia (up from 79%), 4 % from Bulgaria (down from 9%) and same from Montenegro and 1% from Albania (down from 7%).
- At the end of April, **3,592** new refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants were counted in Serbia – compared to 4,202 a month ago. 3,060 were accommodated in 16 Asylum (AC) or Reception/Transit (RTC) Centres. The number of refugees/migrants observed outside centres remained above 500: 250 in Belgrade City and 280 camping close to borders with Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina or Hungary.
- UNHCR and partners received **increased reports of collective expulsions: 818** compared to 717 in March: 431 from Croatia (up from 374 last month), 187 from Hungary (from 155), 173 from BiH (from 126) and 27 from Romania (from 62). 83% of reports alleged denial of access to asylum procedures and 52% mistreatment by authorities of these neighbouring countries.
- UNHCR Serbia compiled and issued the [April Statistical Snapshot](#) and April joint [Site Profile Assessment](#).

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Sweden 90.4 million | Norway 44.5 million | Netherlands 37.5 million| United Kingdom 31.7 million| Germany 26.7 million| Private Donors Spain 26.3 million |Denmark 24.4 million Switzerland 15.1 million| Private Donors Republic of Korea 10.4 million

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¹ Contributed without restrictions on its use, unearmarked funding allows UNHCR critical flexibility in how best to reach refugees and other populations of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk. Where a donor has contributed \$10 million or more, the total amount of the contribution is shown.

² Due to their earmarking at the region or sub-region, or to a related situation or theme, the other softly earmarked contributions listed are those which can potentially be used for Bosnia and Herzegovina Regional Office. Where a donor has contributed \$2 million or more, the total amount of the contributions is shown.