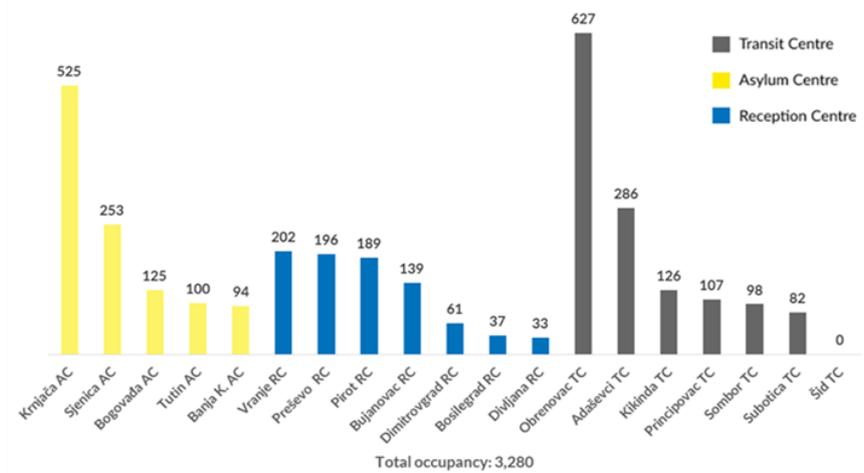


# UNHCR SERBIA UPDATE

- In March, UNHCR and partners under its project had provided over **12,800** community-based protection services, including over 10,000 interpretation and legal counselling/info services, over 450 referrals to medical, social welfare, legal registration and other forms of assistance, provided psychosocial and psychological support in over 220 instances, non-formal educational activities and other protection interventions at over 23 sites throughout Serbia.
- **3,722** new refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants were counted in Serbia on 15 April. **3,280** (i.e. 88%) were accommodated in 18 governmental centres (below chart refers), while over **450** were observed sleeping rough: around 180 in Belgrade City, and some 250 close to the borders to Croatia or Hungary, using the milder weather to prepare leaving Serbia irregularly, mainly to Croatia or Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- UNHCR and partners assisted **132 new arrivals** (compared to 186 the preceding two weeks). 51% arrived via FYRo Macedonia, 34% crossed in through Bulgaria and 19% arrived by air. 33% were Pakistani nationals, 25% were from Afghanistan, 16% from Iraq, 14% from Iran, only 5% from Syria and 8% were of other nationalities. 59% were men, 9% women and 32% children, including 19 unaccompanied and separated children.
- Hungary admitted 13 asylum-seekers into procedures in its so-called “transit-zones” (compared to 14 during the preceding two weeks).
- UNHCR and partners received **increased** reports of **collective expulsions**, including of 167 asylum-seekers from Croatia (compared to 109 the preceding two weeks), 156 from Hungary (compared to 46 the preceding two weeks) and 12 from Romania (compared to 5 the preceding two weeks), while 13 persons reported to have been pushed-back from Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Responding to an appeal by the Red Cross of Serbia UNHCR assisted 63 local families affected by floods in Prokuplje in Southern Serbia with clothes, shoes and blankets. Upon request of the Serbian Commissariat for Refugees and Migration (SCRM), UNHCR delivered over 11,200 non-food items, including clothes, to refugees, migrants and asylum-seekers in all governmental centres.
- On 03 April UNHCR issued a Press Release welcoming the new Law on Asylum and Temporary Protection, available in [Serbian version](#) and in [English](#).
- On 11 April, UNHCR’s legal partner the Belgrade Centre for Human Rights presented their annual report “The Right to Asylum in Serbia 2017”. The full report is available [here](#).





Refugee women from Pirot Reception Centre displaying their handiwork at Easter Bazaar in Pirot

- Over 90% of school-aged refugee children continued attending local primary schools. Upon request of the SCRM, UNHCR agreed to continue funding the transport of refugee children in Bogovacđja, Principovac, Adasevci and Belgrade until the end of this school year.
- On 02 April, the Minister of Public Administration and Local Government and UNHCR appraised achievements in the reduction and prevention of **statelessness** in Serbia and agreed to strengthen cooperation in solving remaining problems in the immediate birth registration of children whose parents lack personal documents. UNHCR also issued the [first quarterly #IBelong Campaign Update for 2018.](#), highlighting progress towards the global eradication of statelessness by 2024.
- In March 2018, **710** foreigners registered **intentions to seek asylum in Serbia**. 72% were registered by adult men, 9% by adult women and 19% for children. Most applications were filed by citizens of Pakistan (36%), Afghanistan (22%), Iran (16%), Iraq (9%), or Syria (9%). With no application granted during March, the number of positive decisions by the Asylum office thus far in 2018 remains at five.
- UNHCR Geneva published a new **Desperate Journeys** report, detailing how despite a drop in the number of refugees and migrants reaching Europe last year, the dangers many face along the way have in some cases increased. The report also provides additional recommendations related to the need to increase solidarity among States within Europe and with countries of first asylum and transit, to enhance the quality of reception, especially for unaccompanied and separated children and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, and to better protect children. The full report is available [here](#).
- The March Update of our [Joint Assessment of Government Centres](#) refers for more information on reception standards in Serbia.
- Residents of many centres joined Easter celebrations of local communities. Refugee women exhibiting handicrafts they had produced in Pirot and Divljana RCs at Easter bazaars in Pirot, while refugee children joined Serbian and foreign children at the International Easter Festival in Bosilegrad.



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**#WithRefugees**

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Notes: The total of contributions received includes the programme support component. All financial information contained in this funding update is indicative and does not constitute official UNHCR financial reporting. Unrestricted and regional funds mentioned above include all sub-regional and regional contributions worldwide.