HIGHLIGHTS AND STATISTICS

- Of the total of 7,400 refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants counted in Serbia, over 6,340 or 86% were sheltered in 17 government facilities (below chart refers). The rest mainly stayed rough in Belgrade city centre.

- Since the facility in Obrenovac was put in function last week following the first voluntary relocation of refugees and migrants from the Belgrade city centre, authorities, UNHCR and partners continued working non-stop to quickly enact further expansion of shelter capacities there and to ensure that all necessary protection and other services, particularly to support the unaccompanied and separated children (UASCs), will be provided at the new Obrenovac facility.

- Over the last three days, the authorities transported some 200 more refugees and migrants from the Belgrade city centre willing to go to Obrenovac. At the same time, authorities, UNHCR and partners continued identifying remaining needs in Belgrade city centre, particularly those of UASCs and persons with specific needs, and provide counselling on available options for registration and accommodation. A joint assessment by the SCRM, UNHCR and its partners of those staying rough in the city centre is taking place today.

- Notwithstanding the ongoing efforts for voluntary relocation of refugees and migrants from the Belgrade city centre, with over 400 moved so far, a high number of them remains sleeping rough there despite the harsh weather conditions. Those include individuals who claim to have been expelled from the neighbouring Hungary and Croatia. UNHCR and partners continue receiving reports of such cases and during the last three days over 45 refugees/migrants reported to have been denied access to asylum procedures in Hungary and collectively expelled back into Serbia after having entered Hungary irregularly.

- On 23 January, UNHCR and IOM, together with the State Secretary State Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs and NGO representatives, presented the Serbia Chapter of the 2017 Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP) at a press event in Belgrade (Press Release). The plan is a new strategy to help respond to the situation of refugees and migrants in Serbia in 2017, as well as an appeal to potential donors to urgently contribute funding to the Serbia chapter of 2017 RMRP for Europe. The UN and NGO organizations that participated in the RMRP propose humanitarian and developmental aid to Serbia at a total value of over 39 million USD. So far, donors have generously contributed close to 2.7 million USD to fund 2017 RMRP activities of UNHCR in Serbia. In order to help authorities in addressing the most urgent protection and assistance needs of vulnerable refugees/asylum seekers in Serbia during this year, UNHCR seeks another close to 4.3 million USD of funding.

- Since 23 January, the Hungarian authorities reduced their daily admissions to territory and asylum procedures at the Hungarian “transit zones” near Kelebija and Horgos border crossings from 20 to 10 asylum-seekers per week day. During the reporting period, 30 asylum seekers were admitted into the two Hungarian “transit zones”.

- Since the beginning of this year, the police registered 485 new intentions to seek asylum in Serbia.
EAST

On 25 January, over 500 asylum seekers were accommodated in four government centres: 91 asylum seekers in the Reception Centre in Dimitrovgrad, 57 in Bosilegrad, 220 in Pirot and 140 in Divjana. Most are from Iraq, followed by Afghanistan and Syria and around half of them are children. Authorities provided food and medical services, while NGOs were available for support in non-food items, interpretation and counselling.

SOUTH

A total of 1,092 refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants were accommodated in two Reception Centres (RC): Presevo (898) and Bujanovac (194).

UNHCR and partners assisted with food and non-food items, medical services, counselling, interpretation, referrals and recreational activities. Upon request of authorities, UNHCR and partners continued to support the Centre for Social Work in conducting Best Interest Assessments for unaccompanied and separated children.

BELGRADE

With the continued voluntary relocation from the city centre to the facility in Obrenovac, it now accommodates 403 refugee and migrant men (including at least 200 boys). As part of ongoing efforts in identifying the needs of those remaining in Belgrade city centre, a joint assessment by authorities, UNHCR and partners was organized on Thursday, 26 January. Initial findings suggest that over 1,100 remain sleeping rough there.

Krnjaca AC sheltered 1,139 asylum-seekers.

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

WEST

On 25 January, Transit Centres (TCs) in the West sheltered 2,047 refugees and migrants: 1,041 in Adasevci, 636 in Sid and 370 in Principovac.

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

The eight round of treatment for body lice was conducted in Sid TC.

NORTH

Subotica TC sheltered 134, Sombor TC some 110, while 8 male asylum seekers camped at Horgos and 12 at Kelebia 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.