



Situation Room – Horizon Series

**** BALKAN MIGRATION HORIZON: SERBIA ****

Period under review: from January 2021 to 3 May 2021.

[This report is based on publicly available sources to describe a changing situation. Information subject to change.]

Situation analysis recap:

- Serbia is a transit country on the so-called “Balkan route” for many migrants and refugees.
- In March, there were 3,931 newly registered people (compared to 2,273 in February). Most new arrivals transit through North Macedonia. Others came through Albania, Bulgaria and Montenegro. The main countries of origin of arrivals to Serbia remain Afghanistan (39.5% of all people), Syria (20%), and Pakistan (7%).
- Of the 3,931 new people, 1,072 were interviewed in asylum process. The total number of unaccompanied children among interviews was 46. At the end of March, Serbia hosted 5,463 foreign people of whom 4,496 were housed in government centres.
- Total number of occupancies of asylum and reception/transit centres is: in asylum centres - Krnjaca 344 people, Bogovadja 47, Tutin 185, Banja K. 45, Sjenica 16; in reception/transit centres - Sombor 595 persons, Obrenovac 435, Adaševci 659, Preševo 285, Kikinda 623, Principovac 352, Subotica 194, Šid 160, Vranje 114, Divljana 121, Bosilegrad 44, Bujanovac 179 and Pirot 62.
- Serbia is including refugees and asylum-seekers in its national vaccination rollout with support from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Refugee Agency.
- A peer-taught programme (taught by a migrant) in Serbia is helping vulnerable unaccompanied children to protect themselves from violence and exploitation as they seek safety. There are many unaccompanied children in the country who are targeted by human traffickers.
- March saw 2,121 pushbacks (5,956 in February) from neighbouring countries to Serbia. 929 people (44%) experienced pushbacks from Hungary, 111 (5%) from Croatia, 991 (47%) from Romania, and 90 (4%) from Bosnia and Hercegovina.
- Serbia faces criticism because of the slow asylum process, illegal pushbacks to other countries, poor action against human trafficking, and inhumane treatment of migrants due to a high level of xenophobia. Furthermore, the country rejected applications from nearly three in four asylum seekers last year. According to the latest data, 2 persons experienced pushbacks from Serbia to North Macedonia in March while 31 people reported pushbacks in February.

Sources/Further Reading:

Bathke, B. (24. March 2021). *Serbia rejected more asylum seekers in 2020: Report*. InfoMigrants. Available at <https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/31062/serbia-rejected-more-asylum-seekers-in-2020-report>

Serbia vaccinates refugees against COVID-19. (30. March 2021). Reliefweb. Available at <https://reliefweb.int/report/serbia/serbia-vaccinates-refugees-against-covid-19>

Teen refugee teaches other young asylum-seekers about risks of abuse. (23. April 2021). Reliefweb. Available at <https://reliefweb.int/report/serbia/teen-refugee-teaches-other-young-asylum-seekers-about-risks-abuse>

UNHCR Serbia Snapshot - March 2021. (20. April 2021). Reliefweb. Available at <https://reliefweb.int/report/serbia/unhcr-serbia-snapshot-march-2021>

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