

Weekly Report



Key Figures

Mediterranean

300,333

arrivals by sea in 2016*

3,358

dead/missing in 2016*

Trends of Sea Arrivals

Between 12 and 18 September, 731 refugees and migrants crossed the sea from Turkey to Greece – a slight increase from the 682 who arrived the previous week. So far in September, 2,071 people have arrived by sea to Greece, with an average of daily arrivals of 119, compared to 111 in August this year. This is much lower than the daily average arrival of 4,904 in September 2015. As of 18 September, 165,750 refugees and migrants have arrived by sea to Greece this year, and the main nationalities include 48% from the Syrian Arab Republic, 25% from Afghanistan and 15% from Iraq; children comprise 38% of arrivals since 01 January 2016 while men make up 41% and women 21%.

In addition, 5,933 refugees and migrants arrived by sea to Italy between 12 and 18 September – an increase from the 3,152 who arrived the previous week. Between 1 January 2016 and 18 September 2016, 130,411 persons arrived to Italy by sea, compared to 132,071 persons disembarked at the end of September 2015. Overall, sea arrivals in 2016 remain in line with those in 2014 and 2015, where peak months have been July, August, and September each year. The average arrivals during those three months were 24,971 in 2014, 20,572 in 2015 and presently 22,406 in 2016. Among the top nationalities represented, 19% are from Nigeria, 13% are from Eritrea, and 7% are each from Sudan, Gambia, Cote d'Ivoire, Sudan and Guinea. So far in September, 15,343 people have arrived in Italy with an average number of daily arrivals of 852 compared to 686 in August.

Key Developments

Situation in Greece

With an average of 119 daily sea arrivals thus far in September coupled with slow transfers to the mainland, Reception and Identification Centres (RICs) on the Aegean

islands continue to face serious challenges with capacity and shelter allocation for new arrivals. According to Greek authorities, the maximum capacity on the islands remains 7,450 while the total presence on the islands was 13,536 as of 18 September. Tensions among asylum-seekers on the islands are on the rise, due to overcrowding, lengthiness and lack of the asylum registration and processing, particularly for some nationalities such as Afghans and Iraqis, among others. On the evening of Monday 20 September, a fire broke out at the Moria reception centre on the Greek island of Lesbos following clashes between residents. A large number of refugees and migrants were forced to leave the government-run site. Some 4,400 people were accommodated in the facility at the time. UNHCR issued a [press release](#) describing the incident and initial response, more details will follow in the next weekly report.

UNHCR continues to advocate and offer support to the Government to assist the transfer of individuals, including those with specific needs, from the islands to the mainland in order to decongest the islands. As agreed by the Alternate Minister of Migration Policy, Mr. Ioannis Mouzalas, the first transfers of persons with specific needs whom have been declared admissible to seek asylum in Greece and possess asylum-seeker cards will take place as of next week from Chios Island. UNHCR will provide ferry tickets from the island to Piraeus Port and bus transportation to the sites identified by the Greek government for hosting asylum-seekers on the mainland. UNHCR is also assisting the authorities in establishing a prioritization system of asylum-seekers to be transferred from Lesbos and Samos, among those referred through regular procedures. Transfers will take place gradually in small numbers. Persons with specific needs currently hosted in appropriate schemes on the

Average Arrivals to Greece and Italy per Month January to 18 September 2016



* data.unhcr.org/mediterranean as of 18 September 2016

Key Figures

Greece

731

Total Weekly
Arrivals to
Greek Islands

12 September - 18 September

104

Daily Average
Arrivals to
Greek Islands

12 September - 18 September

Italy

5,933

Total Weekly
Arrivals to Italy

12 September - 18 September

848

Daily Average
Arrivals to Italy

12 September - 18 September

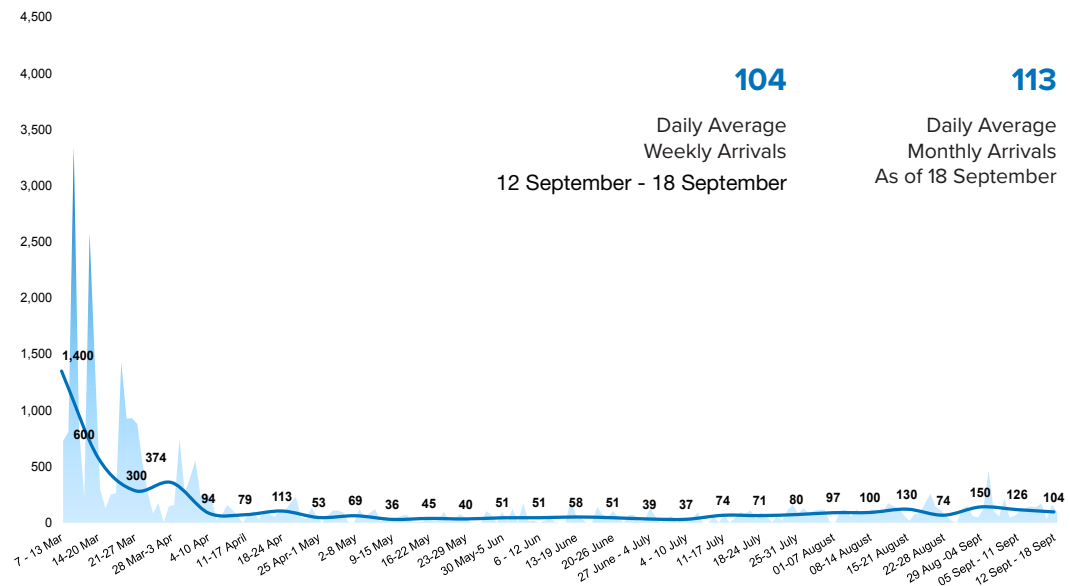
islands (i.e. apartments, hotels) provided by UNHCR or partners would not be moved, unless appropriate spaces for them are identified in the mainland. UNHCR is also exploring the establishment of further accommodation facilities on Chios through the identification of more hotels and apartments to host asylum-seekers with specific needs, in order to allow for the closure of Dipethe site, as agreed with the government and local authorities.

In view of the authorities' efforts to integrate refugee children in the public school system and in support of

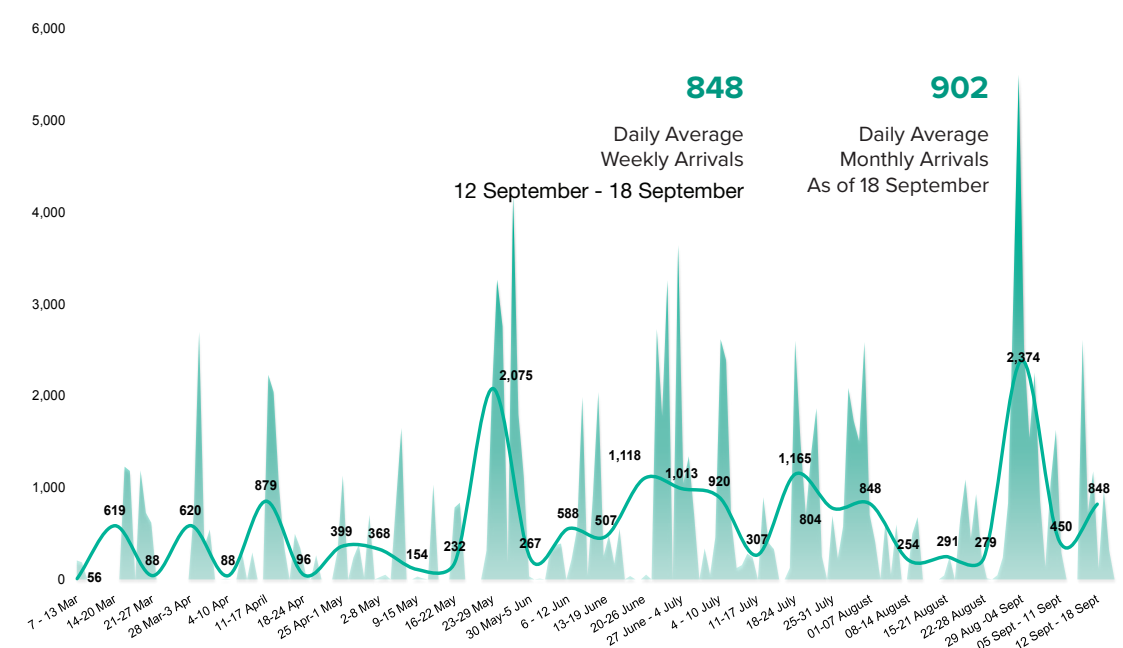
community engagement and peaceful coexistence between refugees and the local population, the Municipality of Samos and UNHCR provided and distributed backpacks filled with supplies to 100 Greek children whose families are entitled to social welfare. In a small ceremony children and parents received the bags which included notebooks, markers, raincoats, hats, gloves and a 25 euro voucher for clothing and footwear.

On the mainland, due to the rise in security incidents in several sites in Attica, security measures have been

Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Greece 07 March to 18 September 2016



Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Italy 07 March to 18 September 2016



taken by the site managers from the Greek authorities to ensure the safety and protection of asylum-seekers and humanitarian staff alike. UNHCR directly supported the site management in Eleonas by providing a container used to control access at the main entrance of Eleonas I. A registration process was successfully started this week in Eleonas I and II, with individuals requested to provide their registration number upon entry and exit from the site. The measure has so far proved to be successful as visitors are complying, and prospective plans are being discussed to ensure 24 hour presence of staff at the gate in the foreseeable future. Issues related to the lack of security in some of the sites remain of grave concern requiring further urgent action by security and law enforcement authorities, as this continues to impact those living in the sites as well as humanitarian aid workers.

UNHCR, through its partners, continued to expand the accommodation capacity in support of the relocation programme and other vulnerable asylum-seekers funded by the European Union by establishing 111 new places, reaching a total of 11,558 (58 % of the 20,000 target). Over 13,195 persons have benefitted from the project since November 2015. Additionally, UNHCR facilitated the transport of some asylum-seekers from Lagadikia in northern Greece to Athens in order to receive their relocation decisions from the French and Romanian Embassies.

Situation in Serbia and at the Serbia-Hungary Border

An estimated 4,900 refugees and migrants remain in Serbia according to information provided by authorities and UNHCR partners. Of those, around 86% were accommodated in governmental facilities, including 1,690 throughout the five Asylum Centres and 2,524 in Refu-

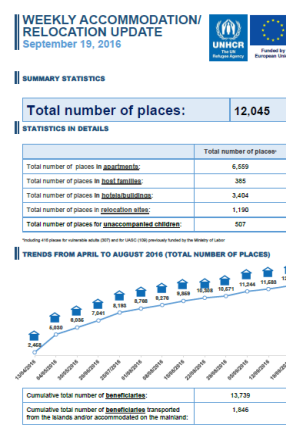
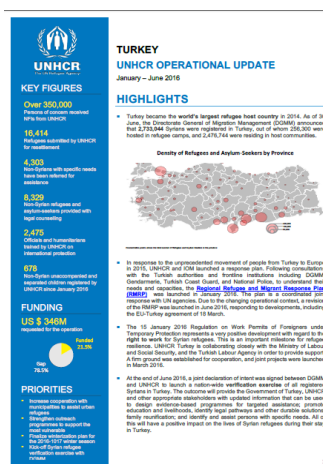
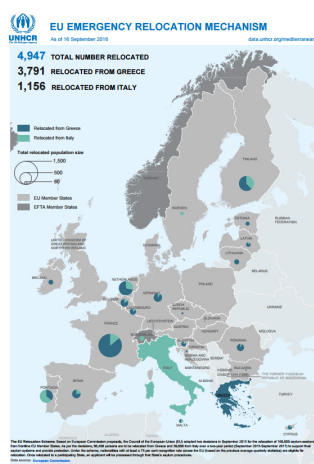
gee Aid Points (RAPs) or Reception Centres (RCs). The remaining 14% or 686, were staying in Belgrade city centre or at the two sites near the Hungarian border. The authorities, UNHCR and partners maintained presence and provided support such as protection assistance and monitoring, legal counselling on asylum, and support for coordination amongst authorities and humanitarian agencies in all sites throughout the country.

The number of asylum-seekers camping in the open near the Hungarian 'transit zones' dropped below 200, a fraction of the number present during the peak in July 2016 (over 1,000 at times). Additionally, some 300 were sheltered by the Serbian Commissariat for Refugees and Migration (SCRM) in the Refugee Aid Point (RAP) in Subotica. Among the asylum-seekers awaiting entry into Hungary at the two border sites, two thirds were women and children from Afghanistan, Iraq or Syria, while the residents of the Subotica RAP were mainly single men from Pakistan or Afghanistan.

The daily admission rate into Hungary remains limited to 15 people per day per transit zone. During the reporting period, 202 asylum-seekers have been admitted (100 into Röszke and 102 into Tompa). The waiting period for families and unaccompanied and separated children ranged between 60-70 days in Röszke, 40-60 days in Tompa, 50-75 days for single men at both sites. UNHCR provides asylum-seekers with information and counselling on their rights and obligations in relation to the border, Dublin procedures and the implications of the safe third country notion.

During the week, Hungarian police reported 15 apprehensions for irregular entry, while 381 people were pre-

Key Documents from the Portal



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vented from irregularly crossing the border and another 197 people were intercepted inside Hungary and escorted back to the other side of the border fence.

[Update on Relocation](#)

From Italy, 80 persons were relocated to Finland on 14 September while on 15 September 12 persons were transferred to Portugal. All relocated persons are Eritrean nationals, with the exception of one person originating from Central African Republic. The overall number of persons transferred from Italy rose to 1,156 (2.9% of the 39,600 target). As of 18 September Italy has received 2,809 relocation pledges from EU Member States and Switzerland.

A total of 120 asylum-seekers were relocated from Greece during the week, to Spain (20), Portugal (24), Estonia (13) and Belgium (63). For Greece, a total of 800 new pledges were announced from Germany (500), Belgium (200), Ireland (70), Latvia (30) and Norway (20). The current total number of pledges is slowly increasing receiving 9,496; however this is still only 14% of the 66,400 persons expected to be relocated from Greece to other EU Member States by September 2017. Through the referral system managed by UNHCR in Athens, 264 new relocation candidates received accommodation during the reporting period.

[EU and related Developments](#)

On 14 September, the Council finally approved the text of the [European Border and Coast Guard](#) (EBCG), which is now to be considered as formally adopted. The EBCG

will start most of its activities once the regulation enters into force on 6 October 2016.

On 14 September, President of the European Commission Juncker delivered his [State of the Union address](#), whereby he listed the challenges that the EU has been facing and outlined the European Commission's priorities. On asylum specifically, he stated that more solidarity was needed, but that "solidarity must come from the heart. It cannot be forced".

On 15 September, with a [non-binding resolution](#) approved during the plenary session of the European Parliament, MEPs rejected the EC's [proposal](#) to use the 54,000 non-allocated places of the relocation decisions for legal pathways for Syrians from Turkey to the EU under the framework of the EU-Turkey Statement. They also [urged](#) EU countries to pledge additional relocation places, and to ensure that Afghans, Iraqis and Eritreans are always included in the relocation scheme (only Eritreans are eligible).

On 16 September, 27 EU Member States (all Member States except the UK) met in Bratislava, Slovakia, for an [informal](#) meeting. They discussed the future of the EU following the outcome of the UK referendum, and set out the priorities for the months to come in the [Bratislava Declaration and Roadmap](#). On migration, the focus appears to be on reducing the number of irregular and controlling external borders effectively. Concrete measures will include the further implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement and further work on the so-called "migration compacts" for cooperation and dialogue with non-EU countries.



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Timeline Overview

Highlights

