



GREECE

FACTSHEET

1 – 31 August 2016

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

11,803

Persons that benefited from the Accommodation for Relocation project since November 2015

10,571

Accommodation places with services for relocation candidates/other asylum seekers established since January in line with UNHCR policy on alternatives to camps. Cash/voucher assistance granted to 3,000 relocation candidates.

343

Accommodation places for unaccompanied children established by UNHCR in Greece until August 2016

2,054

Asylum seekers transported by UNHCR to the Regional Asylum Offices for full registration of their asylum claim

67,907

Core Relief Items distributed during August such as mosquito nets, hygiene kits, etc. (50,597 on the mainland and 17,310 on the islands)

224

Water and Sanitation facilities (prefab shower and toilets) provided to partners and cleaned on monthly basis.

176

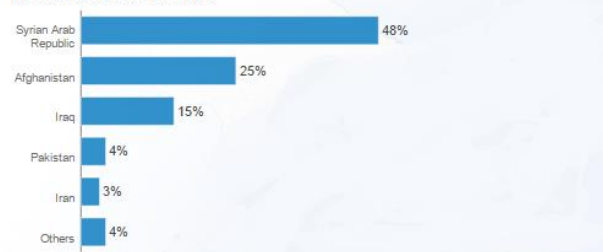
Shelter upgrading solutions (family tents, Refugee Housing Units, metal/ folding beds) provided in mainland in August

42

Inter-agency coordination sectoral working groups established and chaired/co-chaired by UNHCR at country and field levels

Top-10 nationalities of Mediterranean sea arrivals to Greece

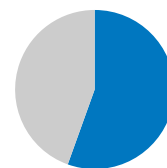
Top-10 nationalities represent 100% of the sea arrivals to Greece based on arrivals since 1 Jan 2016



Funding USD 300 million requested

USD 166.7 million received

Gap
45%



Funded
55%

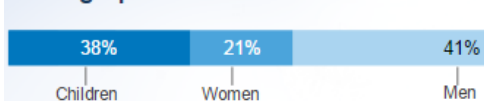
Dead and missing

272 dead- 152 missing (2015)

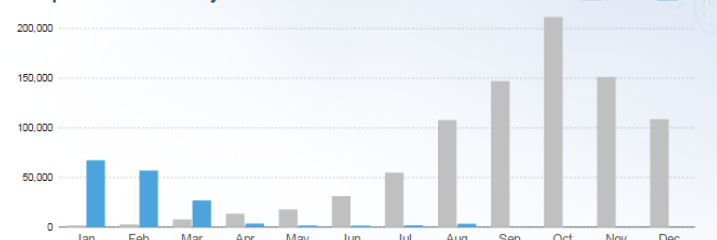
152 dead- 46 missing (31 July 2016)

(Source: Hellenic Coast Guard, Greek territorial waters)

Demographics based on arrivals since 1 Jan 2016



Comparison of monthly Mediterranean sea arrivals to Greece



UNHCR Presence

Staff: **309** national (236) and international (73) staff working in UNHCR

13 international staff on mission until September (Emergency Deployment)

205 national staff deployed in support of Greek authorities.

Technical Unit

	National	International
Shelter/site management	4	5
Health Officer	1	2
WASH	3	3
CCCM	6 (planned)	2 (3 more hired)

Offices:

- Representation office Athens
- Offices on the mainland (Thessaloniki, Polykastro, Larissa, Ioannina, Attica)
- Offices on the islands (Lesvos, Chios, Samos, Leros, Kos, Rhodes)

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

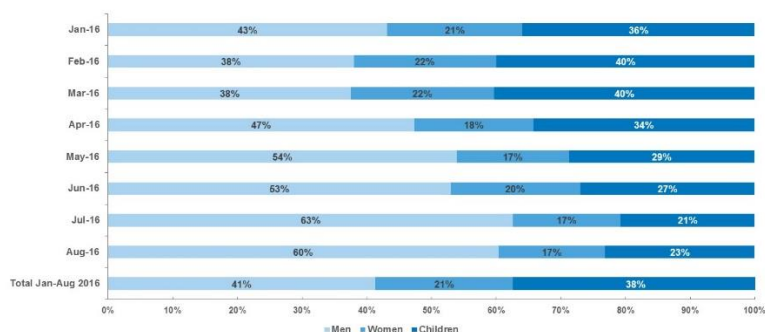
On the mainland, the design of the government's plan to progressively close some accommodation facilities and reduce the number of refugees in others is ongoing, also thanks to the gradually expanding accommodation of asylum seekers in rented apartments and hotels through UNHCR's Accommodation for Relocation project. At the same time, new sites are being established in the mainland. As Alternate Minister of Interior for Migration Policy Ioannis Mouzalas announced on 23 August, new camps with more dignified conditions for refugees and migrants throughout the country should be completed by end December, also to decongest the overcrowded existing sites on the islands by progressively transferring asylum seekers to the mainland. A new site in Serres (former agricultural school) opened on 5 August in Northern Greece, to host 420 Yazidis transferred from Nea Kavala site. Authorities continue to report an increase in smugglers activities at the borders.

On the Aegean Islands, a slight increase in new arrivals was noted towards the end of August. A total of 3,437 people arrived in August compared to 1,920 arrivals in July. However, since April, only 12,282 refugees and migrants have crossed the sea to Greece, in comparison to 225,505 in the same period in 2015. In August, arrivals were recorded also in Karpathos (Southern Dodecanese) and Mykonos (Cyclades) islands, which have very rarely received arrivals in the past years.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, visited Greece from 23 to 25 August, accompanied by Mr. Vincent Cochetel, the Director of the Europe Bureau/Regional Refugee Coordinator for the Refugee Crisis in Europe and Ms. Melissa Fleming, the UNHCR Spokesperson and Head of Communications. The purpose of the mission was to assess the needs of persons of concern to UNHCR, as well as the current humanitarian response and how UNHCR could further contribute to these efforts in support of the Greek authorities. The High Commissioner met with the Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras and President of the Hellenic Republic, Mr. Prokopis Pavlopoulos, as well as with the inter-ministerial Coordination Centre for the Management of the Refugee Crisis including Alternate Minister of Migration Policy, Mr. Ioannis Mouzalas, and other high level government representatives. In Athens, the High Commissioner visited a centre for unaccompanied children run by UNHCR's partner Praksis, a relocation candidate family living in an apartment provided by UNHCR through the Municipality of Athens, and met with local and international humanitarian agencies. He also visited Lagkadikia and Vasilika/Redestos sites in Northern Greece. During a press conference at the closure of his visit on 25 August, the High Commissioner praised "the people of Greece for staying on course during a refugee crisis that has impacted this country more than any other country in the EU." Additionally, he raised concerns on issues of security and protection in some of the sites, the situation of unaccompanied children, the urgent need for the acceleration of the EU relocation programme, and need for timely preparation for the upcoming winter and the need for robust integration plans.



A Syrian family talks to UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, outside the tent they share at the Lagkadikia site in Northern Greece. The family left Syria at the end of 2015 and arrived in Greece in February 2016. After spending two months waiting in Central Macedonia for the border to reopen, the family is waiting to be relocated in another EU country. © UNHCR/A. Zavallis, 25 August 2016



Breakdown of Men, Women and Children arrived by month (January – August 2016).

Source: Hellenic Police based on partial data [The sum of shares may differ from 100% because of rounding effects]

Nationalities	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16	Jul-16	Aug-16
Syrian Arab Republic	30,309	29,412	14,399	1,268	525	459	510	1,112
Afghanistan	18,846	13,943	6,133	580	270	215	201	324
Pakistan	2,243	1,539	1,880	637	231	233	345	737
Iraq	11,964	9,134	2,515	381	162	183	104	327
Iran	2,193	1,593	674	73	64	51	73	123
Other	1,860	1,445	1,370	711	469	413	687	824
Total	67,415	57,066	26,971	3,650	1,721	1,554	1,920	3,447

Arrivals by nationality per month during 2016. Source: Hellenic Police/Hellenic Coast Guard

INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION

- The coordination of the response is the primary responsibility of the Alternate Minister of Interior in charge of Migration Policy. Several line Ministries participate or chair one of the **42 sectoral working groups** which are supported by UNHCR to ensure efficient coordination, both at national and field level. **Over 40 national and international NGOs are participating in 12 national level working groups, including 8 governmental counterparts.** National Level Sector and Technical Working Groups are established in Protection, including Child Protection and Prevention and Response to Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), Communications with Communities, Food Security, Health and Nutrition, Shelter and NFIs, including Transports and Logistics, Cash, Site Management Support,

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) – www.unhcr.org



WASH and Education. UNHCR, in partnership with the government and co-chaired by sector specific NGOs, provides national sector leadership. In the context of the refugee emergency, sector coordination structure, guided by the inter-sectors, are responsible for activating and delivering immediate response and emergency assistance delivery, as well as harmonizing assistance packages, creating strategies to improve the response, guiding staff in the field offices implementing programmes, ensuring links with other sectors and coordinating to ensure full coverage and avoid gaps in the response. To facilitate program planning, UNHCR continued to update a number of important analytical information products available at the [data portal](#).

- The [ActivityInfo platform](#), created by the Information Management Unit in Athens, was officially launched on 13 August. Humanitarian agencies started reporting their activities into the new system from 26 August. So far, over 60 actors, including sector coordinators and working group members have been trained on the ActivityInfo platform. The first 4W raw data and the first batch of the 4W gap analysis for Attica and Central Macedonia sites have been shared.

MAINLAND RESPONSE

Protection

- **Provision of information.** UNHCR continued to conduct group and individual information sessions on asylum in Greece, family reunification and relocation and on the procedures following the pre-registration exercise, with the [Greek Asylum Service](#) and EASO.
- **Support to people with specific needs.** UNHCR continued to assist people with specific needs, in close collaboration with the authorities and partners. UNHCR Field Office Attica successfully started operating a **telephone hotline** on weekends to respond to urgent protection needs. Site managers use this service from 9:00 to 17:00. A roster list of UNHCR Protection and Field staff is on call to answer phone calls and provide possible assistance.

Child protection and “Blue Dots” Child and Family Support Hubs. In support of the Greek authorities’ efforts to expand the reception capacity for unaccompanied children in the country, UNHCR through partners is providing **343 places for unaccompanied children in 14 reception centres**. Out of these, **168 places are located in the mainland** (116 in Attica and 50 in Northern Greece). UNHCR is working to open seven new centres to provide 245 additional places. In addition, UNHCR continued to provide dedicated care for unaccompanied children in open sites in Diavata, Lagkadikia and Alexandria, through the establishment of safe spaces. **Minimum standards for safe spaces** in open sites have been developed by UNHCR and partners within the Child Protection Working Group and in close coordination with government authorities. As one of the main challenges is the heavy work flow on unaccompanied children referrals to the national institutions, UNHCR is **supporting the Greek governmental agency EKKA** by increasing its staff to better cope with the current situation. UNHCR is also supporting the United Kingdom’s relocation programme for UAC, by conducting Best Interest Determination training for partners. Moreover, UNHCR and Child Protection Working Group partners have developed the procedures and tools for an **inter-agency case management system** for Child Protection, and trainings have already been implemented in various field locations. The preservation and quality assurance of the **Blue Dots** fully operational in Attica (Elliniko I and III, Schisto) and Northern Greece (Cherso, Nea Kavala) remain one of the focus areas. Project expansion to include more sites and urban areas is ongoing as well as the coordination with all actors. UNHCR also supports and coordinates with UNICEF in the roll out of **mobile Blue Dot Hubs** in the remote sites of Epirus and Central Macedonia.

- **Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) prevention and response.** UNHCR is collaborating with the **General Secretary on Gender Equality (GSGE)** under the Ministry of Interior for issues related to SGBV and prevention of violence against women. GSGE agreed to provide quality services to refugee women through their 40 national counseling centers across Greece offering psychosocial and legal counseling to women victims of violence, and in case of need safe accommodation at one of their 21 shelters. UNHCR is supporting the centers by providing transportation and interpretation. In order to promote its **zero tolerance policy against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA)**, UNHCR held meetings in Athens with heads of humanitarian agencies, social workers and protection actors, including volunteers, who are managing shelters funded by UNHCR or provide services to persons of concern to UNHCR. SOPs are being designed in consultation with asylum seekers, and will be shared with partners.
- **Support to relocation scheme and accommodation capacity.** In support of the Greek authorities’ efforts to expand reception capacity for asylum seekers, UNHCR’s Accommodation for Relocation project funded by the [European Union](#) reached 10,571 places as of 31 August, representing more than 52% of the 20,000 target of UNHCR and its partners by the end of 2016. During the reporting period, 1,936 new accommodation spaces were established. Over 11,803 persons benefitted from the project so far, which includes the cumulative number of current and past places occupied, persons relocated to EU Member States and irregular departures and/or abandons. Cash and voucher assistance is currently being provided to at least 3,000 individuals eligible for relocation under the UNHCR accommodation for relocation project, in order to help asylum seekers meet their basic needs (food, transport, hygiene items, etc.). UNHCR will progressively expand the use of cash and vouchers instead of distributing in-kind assistance.
- **Support access to asylum and pre-registration exercise.** Official results from the pre-registration exercise were announced by the [Greek Asylum Service](#) on 23 August. A total of 27,592 people were pre-registered, with 57% of them being men and 43% women. About 54% are from Syria, 27% from Afghanistan, 13% from Iraq. In total, there are 1,225 unaccompanied children in the camps, corresponding to 4% of the 27,592 pre-registered. According to data presented by the Greek authorities, an additional 5,800 people had already registered earlier through Skype and 500 in other facilities, while 7,751 people are ready to be relocated to other EU countries. Over 2,000 refugees

and migrants have registered at the voluntary repatriation program supported by IOM. According to initial estimations, 80% of the pre-registered people is eligible for relocation or family reunification under Dublin regulation, and could eventually be leaving Greece in the months and years to come.

Education

- A law on intercultural education was passed in the Hellenic Parliament on 31 August including special provisions on the issuance of Ministerial Decisions for the establishment of **afternoon pre-integration classes for refugee children**. The Ministry of Education (MoE) envisages primary and secondary school children to be transported to nearby schools for afternoon classes, including Greek language, foreign languages (English, German), math, sports and art. For unaccompanied children, special quick learning/accelerated learning including vocational skills training are expected to be implemented. The Director of the Department for the MoE, Attica Region called all 14 primary and secondary school directors in the region for a meeting on 25 August; UNHCR actively participated with a presentation on refugees' education and the Organisation's positions highlighting the importance of mainstreaming and gradual integration of refugee children into the national education system. UNHCR shared with MoE data on its Accommodation for Relocation project aiming at ensuring the inclusion in the education activities of refugee children hosted in apartments and hotels.
- UNHCR has initiated and supported national and regional level coordination between education actors including the MoE. A **national Education Sector Working Group** meets every second week of the month from August and the MoE participates actively in the group. Regional Education Sector Working Groups are established in Attica and Thessaloniki with the support from Save the Children.
- UNHCR continued to support partners to implement **informal education activities** (e.g. recreational activities, life skills, language learning) in the sites, in special child friendly spaces or in the framework of the "Blue Dot" services concept. UNHCR plans to further support the MoE to start preparation classes (e.g. through data collection, support to the process of enrolment of children, transportation of children to schools, support to classroom renovations); to organize the gradual integration of refugee children in the state education system; to sensitize refugee families/parents; to raise awareness within the local communities. A total of 17 young refugees from Schisto, Skaramangas and Elaionas were identified by UNHCR to participate in the **Summer School "Beyond the Refugee Crisis - Studying in Europe"** from 18 to 28 August, organised by the MoE at the campus of the International Olympic Academy in Olympia, Peloponnese. UNHCR purchased stationary supplies for the students and participated in the closing ceremony where the students expressed gratitude but also concern that their documents are not officially recognized so they are not able to continue their studies in Greece.

Health

- UNHCR continued to support the Greek Ministry of Health at field and central levels. In Trikala, **Central Greece**, UNHCR supported the Trikala Hospital to create individual medical files for efficient follow up on refugee medical cases in the Atlantic Supermarket site. The exercise was conducted from 18 to 20 August, thanks to translation/interpretation services provided by UNHCR. In **Northern Greece**, UNHCR supports transportation of non-emergency cases to and from hospitals in Cherso, Nea Kavala, Diavata and Vasilika/Redestos sites. This initiative is funded by UNHCR, implemented by the NGO Marine Two and will be rolled out to all existing sites in September.

Food Security and Nutrition

- The report of the nation-wide **food and cash needs assessment** requested by the Office of the Alternate Minister of Migration Policy and conducted by UNHCR and other agencies alongside [Assessment Capacities Project \(ACAPS\)](#) support, which was recently cleared by the Secretary General's office under the Alternate Minister of Migration Policy, will be published and disseminated as well as presented to the relevant authorities (within the Office of the Alternate Minister of Migration Policy, Ministry of Defence and site managers) in September. The report recommends, in the short run, the **improvement of food menus** and the gradual transition from in-kind food distribution towards cash based assistance through the provision of multi-purpose cash grants and development of community kitchens in most sites which lack these critical facilities. For the longer run, increased **advocacy on the right to work** for asylum seekers in between pre-registration and full registration as well as the inclusion of asylum seekers meeting the targeting criteria of the Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity's social safety net programme will be required.

Water and Sanitation

- UNHCR continued its WASH interventions in the mainland, thanks to the generous contribution of [European Commission \(EC\) - Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection \(ECHO\)](#). A total of 167 chemical toilets (including 7 for people with disabilities) and 50 showers were continued to be rented and cleaned on daily basis in Alexandria and Nea Kavala sites (Northern Greece). Directly and through its partner IMC, UNHCR also provided dislodging of eight septic tanks on a daily basis (2-3 times per day) and minor fixes to the water waste network, as well as installed three WASH prototypes containers (toilet and shower, toilet, shower for disabled) in Vasilika/Redestos site, while four prefabricated WASH units were installed in Malakasa site (Attica).

Shelter and Core Relief Items

- **Shelter.** In August, UNHCR continued to support the **30,000 accommodation places** to be established by the Greek authorities, through **shelter upgrading interventions**. Over 176 shelter solutions have been provided during the month at the different sites, including 105 UNHCR family tents set-up in Elliniko III (Attica), Alexandria, Nea Kavala, Cherso (Northern Greece) and Kipselochori (Central Greece), and 20 Refugee Housing Units in Schisto (Attica), Vasilika/Redestos (Northern Greece), Konitsa, Faneromeni, Doliana, Filipiada and Katsika (Western Greece). Improvement of living conditions in the sites to mitigate the heat continued in Attica region through UNHCR's partner Samaritan's Purse, with the installation of 154 wooden shading structures in Schisto site, as well as in the common shared spaces (laundry/food distribution area) which was much appreciated by the asylum seekers. The tent replacement exercise was finalized and UNHCR filled



Air condition units installed by UNHCR in Elliniko I site © UNHCR/ P. Borghi, August 2016



Wooden shade structure erected by UNHCR for shared areas in Schisto site © UNHCR/ D. Diaourtas, August 2016

the gap of 20 beds and mattresses as well as 100 blankets. The materials were mostly delivered to unaccompanied minors. In Elaionas site, UNHCR installed 28 air conditioning units to improve living conditions for extremely vulnerable asylum seekers, selected based on assessment of their medical conditions and specific needs and in consultation with the site management. In addition, eight air conditioning units have been installed in Elliniko I, while eight family tents have been delivered and installed in Elliniko III (Baseball Stadium), in order to replace destroyed tents.

- **Core Relief Items.** In August, a total of **50,597 Core Relief Items** were distributed **throughout the mainland**, including 30,092 supplementary food and bottled water packages, 10,123 hygiene items, 7,080 mosquito nets, and 1,180 sleeping mats, mattresses and rubber mats, among others.

Cash Assistance

- In addition to the **cash and voucher assistance** being provided by UNHCR to over 3,000 people under its Accommodation for Relocation project, cash is also being provided to non-relocation candidates by UNHCR's partners and agencies to just under 3,000 people. UNHCR is gearing up to provide cash assistance at sites to 15,000 people starting from October 2016 until initially March 2017 (depending on funding availability) across the country. In preparation for this upscale in cash interventions, progress is ongoing in (1) tendering for national and international financial service providers in order to develop a single platform for cash delivery to all agencies and (2) developing a database which will track cash assistance provided by both UNHCR and other agencies (this platform will also serve as a key inter-agency monitoring tool). Cash assistance is being harmonized and coordinated in an air-tight manner by the **Cash Working Group**, which is co-led by UNHCR, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and the Office of the Minister of Migration Policy (with participation of Ministry of Defence and the Asylum Service) to ensure coverage and avoid gaps. Communications are being crafted as a national campaign in order to reassure asylum seekers that anyone who is pre-registered will receive cash in order to avoid movements from one site to another since the main challenge is that cash is gradually being provided to different sites in different times. In addition, advocacy is made to national NGOs and government to continue and **increase their cash-based support to Greek vulnerable host communities** to reduce potential conflict.

Site Management Support

- UNHCR continued to provide a comprehensive package of systematic support and capacity building to the Greek authorities. UNHCR Site Management Support (SMS) expert conducted **trainings in Larissa**, Central Greece, for 15 UNHCR and DRC staff, and **in Ioannina** for 13 representatives of ICMC, UNHCR and Spanish volunteers from Olvidados and A.I.R.E. Participants received a package of tools (Site Management Support Monitoring Tool, Community Participation Tool, Protection Mainstreaming in Action Tool and Coordination) and material developed by Communication with Communities (CwC) units.



Staff from NGOs and UNHCR attend a training on Site Management Support conducted by UNHCR in Ioannina © UNHCR/J. Julca, August 2016

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- UNHCR substantially strengthened its support to **community-based interventions**, aimed at encouraging refugees and migrants' participation in the day-to-day activities at each site, for empowering them and reducing the level of frustration in the population. In **Northern Greece**, UNHCR is supporting the publishing of a weekly **newspaper developed by refugee volunteers** regarding camp life and news of interest to the refugees (Lagkadiakia site); provided **school materials** for Greek language and Maths classes conducted by volunteers from the local community, to be offered to minors and adults (Vagiochori site). In **Central Greece**, UNHCR successfully



UNHCR and asylum seekers working together to assemble tables and chairs provided by UNHCR for the community based school in Elefsina site © UNHCR/I. Tsampardoukas, August 2016

promoted the establishment of **committees** in sites representing different groups of refugees (women, men, and youth) and distributed **25 bicycles and helmets** in Kipselochori site to facilitate transport to nearby villages and town. Distribution of tents, mattresses, stationery, school bags, and other needs for informal education projects was also carried out. In **Western Greece**, various community-based initiatives included a **teashop** in Katsika site, a **barbershop** in Filippiada site and two **football teams** in Faneromeni site. UNHCR staff also organized a visit to the archeological museum of Ioannina and other enriching out-of-site trips, for more than 230 people from Katsika (Syrians and Afghans). In **Attica**, UNHCR focused on recreational and educational initiatives. English lessons started at Elliniko II where a 16 year old Afghan boy is teaching teenagers and adult men. UNHCR is purchasing material to improve the quality of the classes and 50 Afghan men already expressed an interest to enrol. The **community-based school** in Elefsina site is ready to be up and running. Furniture and school supplies were purchased and delivered by UNHCR.

Logistics

- UNHCR started provision of transportation for asylum seekers called by the Greek Asylum Service at the appointment to fully lodge their asylum claim following their pre-registration, from the sites or apartment-based accommodation to the Regional Asylum Offices in Athens, Thessaloniki and Alexandroupoli. A **total of 2,009 asylum seekers have been transported** in the month of August in **Northern Greece** and **45 in Attica**. The transport efforts will continue and will be one of the operational focus in the near future considering that close to 28,000 individuals have been pre-registered and have now progressively to lodge their full asylum application. Transportation will also continue to be provided to relocation candidates.

ISLANDS RESPONSE

Protection

- First line reception upon arrival.** UNHCR, together with partners and other organizations, continued to provide immediate response upon arrival to refugees and migrants in all islands. On **Chios**, in collaboration with Frontex, UNHCR improved the speed of first response and delivery of assistance at the shores, through the establishment of a protocol and clear communication processes among all actors involved. UNHCR's NGO partners WAHA, Drop in the Ocean and Salvamento Marítimo Humanitario (SMH) are mobilised for each landing to provide medical assistance, deliver food and essential non-food items.
- Provision of information.** UNHCR continued to provide information on asylum in Greece in support of the **Information Campaign** for refugees and migrants arrived since 20 March, initiated in July by the European Commission in cooperation with the Greek authorities (Asylum Service, Reception and Identification Service, Hellenic Police, Ministry of Migration Policy) and EASO.
- Support to people with specific needs (unaccompanied children and prevention of SGBV).** UNHCR continued to identify and assist new arrivals with specific needs. From mid-April to August 2016, UNHCR provided **175 accommodation places for unaccompanied children (UAC) on the Aegean Islands** (Lesvos, Samos and Kos). Recreational activities have been organized on **Kos** by UNHCR, Save the Children and RIS. On **Lesvos**, UNHCR and its partner Iliaktida provided 52 accommodation places and are working on the creation of an additional 60 places expected to be available by the end of September. In preparation for the **SGBV awareness campaign** scheduled for September, the SGBV Sub-Working Group convened focus-group discussions with women and men from Kara Tepe and Moria, to better understand the cultural context of their respective countries of origin. In order to promote its **zero tolerance policy against sexual exploitation and abuse** (PSEA), UNHCR held consultations in Lesvos with humanitarian agencies, social workers and protection actors, including volunteers and is developing SOPs to be shared with partners. On **Chios**, the apartment scheme through UNHCR's partner Arsis has also been initiated for extremely vulnerable individuals. Two apartments are operational and 10 more are currently being identified. For **SGBV prevention and response**, UNHCR met with the Counselling Centre for Women Victims of Violence in Chios, in order to define the details of the referral system of SGBV survivors to the centre. UNHCR provides transportation to and from the centre and to and from the hospital for medical examinations, as well as interpretation services. Referral pathways for SGBV cases are being prepared for all the sites on the island. On **Samos**, UNHCR started to fund the already existing shelter for unaccompanied children operated by its partner METAdrasi, which is currently hosting 15 children. On **Leros**, 48 asylum seekers benefitted from individual emergency assistance.

Health

- UNHCR continued to provide new arrivals with **primary health care** through its partner WAHA. More than **300 medical consultations** were provided in August. On **Lesvos**, an average of 17 cases per day approach the Hospital in Mytilene for consultations with physicians. Following the increase of the population in Moria RIC, the Health Working Group on Lesvos prepared information sessions on health and hygiene promotion, while UNHCR is **renovating the health clinic in Moria village** to serve both the refugee and local population. On **Chios**, UNHCR through WAHA, is providing **dedicated nursing care to Chios Hospital**, which has been instrumental in the provision of

medical care to refugees and migrants arriving on the island. UNHCR also supported the introduction of a health booklet for refugees and migrants and the acceptance of certificates of medical actors and doctors by the Asylum Service. On **Samos**, UNHCR handed over 1,000 medical passports to health service providers, facilitating the tracking of support delivered to medical cases. On **Leros**, UNHCR-led Health Working Group regularly met to identify and address health gaps. 100 medical booklets were provided by UNHCR to medical actors. Over 400 refugees were transferred for medical reasons from Lepida RIC and PIKPA Open Facility to Leros Hospital by UNHCR rented minivan.

Water and Sanitation

- UNHCR, through its partner Samaritan's Purse, implemented a series of WASH interventions in August, leading to significant improvements in living conditions. On **Lesvos**, UNHCR assisted the authorities in urgent water and sanitation works, including the improvement of the drainage system and the desludging of the septic tanks. In an effort to reduce pressure to the water treatment network of the Moria host community, UNHCR is installing a booster system in order to increase the discharge and water pressure of the water supplied to nearby villages. On **Chios**, new metal panelling was installed to ensure privacy at the entrance to the WASH facilities. Electrical work and repair was also undertaken in WASH containers. Finally, solid doors were installed in the shower cubicles of the women's toilets, replacing the curtains and allowing for more privacy and security. On **Samos**, UNHCR carried out a thorough cleaning of the perimeter of the Vathy RIC, significantly improving the hygiene and fire safety conditions. Maintenance and improvement works were carried out to 78 showers, 114 toilets and 117 sinks throughout the RIC on a daily basis. Communal sinks, benches, trash bins, food-waste-only bins, metal fencing protecting pipe networking and other technical repairs were also conducted. On **Leros**, UNHCR held an emergency WASH training on 26 August for 14 participants from Reception and Identification Service (RIS), the Hellenic Coast Guard, the contractor in charge of maintenance of the RIC, and UNHCR's partners Praksis and Samaritan's Purse. In addition, laundry stations/facilities were installed in Lepida RIC, and maintenance works of the Lepida treatment plant were conducted, putting end to a very serious issue of wastewater disposal directly into the sea without proper treatment.

Shelter and Core Relief Items

- Shelter.** Activities continued for expanding the reception capacity of the Greek authorities at the sites on the Aegean Islands, which are generally overcrowded, and advocating for alternatives to detention. On **Lesvos**, in an effort to reduce overcrowding in Moria, UNHCR continues to transfer persons of concern to ensure that the capacity of Kara Tepe is utilised to the maximum. In addition, UNHCR is **expanding the capacity of Kara Tepe** with the aim to accommodate an additional 350 people. The works include preparatory projects of infrastructure, as well as the installation of double timber houses and solar street lights. On **Chios**, additional space has been created by UNHCR and its partner Samaritan's Purse's in Dipethe and Souda sites, through the installation of dividers in the rub halls. New electrical fittings were installed in the rub halls and Refugee Housing Units (RHUs) in Souda, including the installation of a new, higher voltage power line to feed the site. UNHCR is fully engaged, **with European Union funding**, to build a **new site at HADA**, and plans are moving ahead. UNHCR technical team visited the site on several occasions in August to assess water and electricity connections. Necessary building services have been contracted for the installation of the water system. In the meantime, a team from the Aegean University is conducting soil sampling and other environmental testing given the nearby closed waste disposal site. These should be completed by mid-September after which construction work can commence. The site will hold up a minimum of 580 persons. On **Samos**, UNHCR, in collaboration with the Boat Refugee Foundation, finalized a **shelter mapping** of the persons residing in the RIC, feeding into an interactive mapping tool in use by partners working in the RIC. On **Kos**, UNHCR advocated with the RIS to transfer refugees with no geographical restriction (who have completed the 25 days for identification required by the Greek law) to Kalymnos Island, in order to reduce congestion at the Pyli RIC. Transfers were conducted on 31 August. **Repairs in the shelter area** of Pyli RIC were implemented to increase hosting capacity.
- Core Relief Items.** In August, UNHCR distributed a total of **17,310 Core Relief Items on the islands** of Lesvos, Chios, Samos, Leros, Kos and Rhodes, including 10,448 hygiene items and 4,323 supplementary food and bottled water packages. Distributions were conducted directly and through the partner Samaritan's Purse.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- On **Lesvos**, on the occasion of the opening of the Olympic Games in Rio and as part of the Refugee Games organized in refugee sites around the world, approximately 80 refugee children had the chance to compete in classic athletics on 5 August in Kara Tepe site, in an event organized by UNHCR with the support of the Municipality of Lesvos and the Federation of Athletics Associations in Mytilene. The Mayor of Lesvos opened the Refugee Games making specific reference to the spirit of Olympic Games originating in Greece, while 2000 Olympic winner of Rhythmic Gymnastics in Sydney, Klelia Pantazi, competed along with the children running with hurdles and jumps.

A participatory assessment was undertaken in Moria between 1 and 5 August during which 23 focus group discussions took place. As a primary outcome of this participatory assessment, three community-based interventions (wall painting for



Young refugees in Lesvos take part in sporting events inspired by the Refugee Olympic Team, at the Kara Tepe refugee centre, to mark the opening of the Olympic Games in Rio. © UNHCR/A. Zavallis, 5 August 2016

children and youth, hairdressing for African community, football initiative at the football court of Moria village) were identified and are in process of being implemented.

On **Chios**, in collaboration with volunteer groups and the NGO Drop in the Ocean, UNHCR began screening children's movies in Souda site, which was much welcomed by refugee families and children. Swimming lessons were introduced for refugee children and adults near Karfas village which was a warmly welcomed initiative by the refugees. UNHCR provided all equipment including bathing suits, goggles, towels and floating ropes for safety; lessons have been running for two weeks. Volunteers from CERST and SMH carry out the lessons under the guidance of a Syrian swimming instructor, identified by UNHCR. On **Kos**, in coordination with a local High School, UNHCR organized for refugees and migrants from the RIC a sightseeing tour to Asklepieion ancient temple of Kos, led by local students.

Logistics

- UNHCR continued to provide transport services from the sites to hospitals/town in order to meet essential needs (non-emergency medical cases, referral to alternative accommodations, interviews with concerned authorities), on **Chios, Samos and Kos**.

GAPS, CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS

- A worrisome increase of **security incidents** and concerns was noted throughout the mainland, and particularly at the sites in Northern Greece. Illegal behaviour among refugees was on the rise and clashes or intimidation incidents between groups occurred in more sites. Increase of departures through smugglers, cases of domestic violence, events of misconduct by volunteers and deterioration of the protection environment particularly for the most vulnerable have regrettably been noted. UNHCR is actively advocating for increased support from the Police to ensure security of the sites. Constant movements in and out the sites, in order to find better accommodation conditions or attempt to cross the border, represent a challenge to site management while assessing availability of space for vulnerable newcomers.
- Despite the steady flow of appointments and interviews with the Greek Asylum Service for the full lodging of their asylum claims, asylum seekers in all sites in Greece express their **frustration over the slowness of the asylum process**. UNHCR continue supporting the Asylum Service in providing accurate information on asylum. Additionally, questions are constantly addressed by asylum seekers in relation to the procedure to follow in case of phone number's loss or change, in order not to miss the appointment with the Asylum Service.
- With an average daily arrival of 111 to the Aegean Islands in August, **RICs on all islands have surpassed official capacity** and allocation of space for new arrivals is a growing challenge. Each island is addressing the challenge to the best of their abilities with support from UNHCR. The maximum capacity on the islands remains 7,450 while the total presence on the islands was 11,690 as of 31 August. The need to **strengthen referrals from the islands to the mainland**, particularly for the allocation of accommodation and access to specialised, multi-sector services and assistance has been recognised by humanitarian actors and government authorities alike. As part of broader inter-agency coordination efforts, the Inter-Sector Working Group is working with the Office of the Minister of Migration Policy to advocate for the identification of government focal points to support referrals across sites.

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- UNHCR provides protection and assistance activities directly and through **19 implementing partners** (international and national NGOs) including: Samaritan's Purse (SP), Save the Children, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Women and Health Alliance International (WAHA), International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC), Ecumenical Refugee Program (ERP), Greek Council for Refugees (GCR), Greek Forum of Refugees (GFR), METAdrasi, Praksis, Tenet (Hellenic Theater/Drama & Education Network), Solidarity Now, Arsis, Iliaktida, Nostos, Médecins du Monde (Mdm) and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).
- UNHCR has also **ongoing partnerships with the national and local authorities**, including the Greek Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction, the Municipality of Athens and the Municipality of Thessaloniki.

UNHCR Greece Partners 2016

Sector of Intervention	National NGOs	International NGOs	United Nations	Authorities
Protection	GRC, Praksis, METAdrasi, ERP, Arsis, Solidarity Now	ICMC, Mercy Corps, DRC	UNOPS	Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction
Child Protection	METAdrasi, Praksis	Save the Children, DRC		
Communicating with Communities	GCR/GFR			
NFI/Shelter		Samaritan's Purse, DRC		
WASH		Samaritan's Purse, DRC, IRC		
Site Management		DRC		
Support				
Health		WAHA		
Education		Save the Children, DRC		
Public awareness	Tenet		UNOPS	
Relocation (accommodation)	Praksis, Nostos, Arsis, Solidarity Now, Iliaktida, Mdm			Municipality of Athens, Municipality of Thessaloniki

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

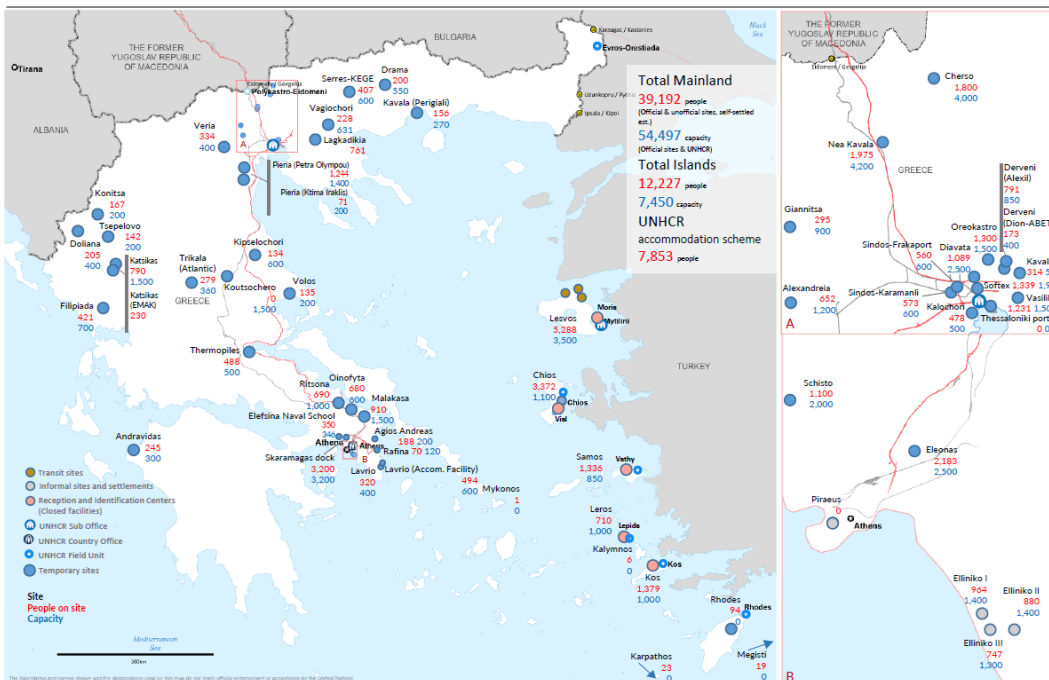
In the framework of the revised inter-agency [regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan \(RMRP\) for Europe](#), released on 10 June, the Plan amounts to USD 669.9 million with UNHCR appealing for USD 380.3 million in additional support for European affected countries in the eastern Mediterranean and western Balkans countries for 2016. This appeal supersedes the original 2016 requirements for participating organizations. By participating in this plan organizations commit to engaging in regional and national coordination mechanisms across Europe. Under this regional plan, UNHCR is appealing for 300 million USD for Greece, and as of 31 August the total recorded contributions for Greece amount to 166.7 million USD.

Special thanks to major donors to the refugee emergency in Europe – the European Union, the United States of America, and the United Kingdom – as well as to all government donors and private donors for their generous contributions. The financial support provided by donors who have contributed with non-earmarked and broadly earmarked funds, as well as for those who have contributed directly to the situation and the Greece operation allows to provide direct assistance in protection and help find solutions for refugees and asylum-seekers. In this changing operational context, UNHCR is appealing to donors to provide contributions that can be allocated as flexibly as possible.

Major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2016: [United States of America \(181 M\)](#) | [Sweden \(78 M\)](#) | [Netherlands \(46 M\)](#) | [Norway \(40 M\)](#) | [Australia \(31 M\)](#) | [Private Donors Spain \(25 M\)](#) | [Denmark \(24 M\)](#) | [Canada \(16 M\)](#) | [Switzerland \(15 M\)](#) | [France \(14 M\)](#) | [Germany \(13 M\)](#) | [Italy \(10 M\)](#).

Europe Refugee Emergency

Daily map indicating capacity and occupancy (Governmental figures)
As of 01 September 2016 08:00 a.m. EET



Presence and capacity are based on **Governmental** figures from the Coordination Centre for the Management of the Refugee Crisis, as of 01/09/2016 08:00 a.m. Eastern European Time. Online map with additional information: <http://www.unhcr.gr/sites>

Contacts:

Carlotta Wolf, Associate External Relations Officer, UNHCR Greece, wolf@unhcr.org, Tel: +30 69 55 580911

Won-Na Cha, Associate External Relations Officer, Relocation, UNHCR Greece, chaw@unhcr.org, Tel: +30 69 56 762546

Hawraa Harkous, Information Management Officer, UNHCR Greece, harkous@unhcr.org, Tel: +30 69 51 676545

Links: [Arrival figures website](#) - [Refugee stories](#) - [Facebook](#) – [Twitter](#)

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) – www.unhcr.org

