

Weekly Report



Key Figures

Mediterranean

298,099

arrivals by sea in 2016*

3,210

dead/missing in 2016*

Trends of Sea Arrivals

Between 05 and 11 September, 879 refugees and migrants crossed the sea from Turkey to the Greek islands – a very slight decrease from the 1,052 who arrived the previous week. As of 11 September, 13,080 people remain on the islands, while there are an estimated 46,756 throughout the Greek mainland. Most arrivals in September so far have been to Chios, Lesbos and Samos. Until 11 September, 165,019 refugees and migrants have arrived by sea in Greece with 48% from the Syrian Arab Republic, 25% from Afghanistan and 15% from Iraq.

In addition, 3,152 refugees and migrants arrived by sea in Italy between 05 and 11 September – a significant decrease from the 16,673 that arrived the previous week – with no arrivals for three days during the week. Most had departed from Libya, but smaller numbers were also recorded as having departed from Turkey. As of 11 September, 124,475 refugees and migrants have arrived by sea in Italy compared to 116,149 at the end of August 2015. Between 01 January and 05 September 2016, 16,611 unaccompanied or separated children arrived in Italy by sea, compared to 12,360 in the whole of 2015 (and 13,026 in the whole of 2014). Some of the primary nationalities represented among all arrivals to Italy include Nigeria (19%), Eritrea (13%), Sudan (7%) and Gambia (7%). So far in September, 9,407 people have arrived in Italy compared to 15,922 that arrived in September 2015. Overall, sea arrivals in Italy remain generally consistent with those registered in 2014 and 2015.

Key Developments

Situation in Greece

On 01 September, the Greek Asylum Service started the registration of asylum-seekers who were previously pre-registered through the Asylum Service's pre-registration exercise supported by UNHCR and EASO. UN-

HCR's support to this process includes country-wide transportation from sites to the Asylum Service offices and back. As of 11 September, UNHCR provided transported for over 1,300 asylum-seekers from various sites across mainland Greece including in Attica and northern Greece to the Regional Asylum Offices in Athens, Alexandroupoli and Thessaloniki. Different forms of transport have been used (UNHCR vehicles, provision of bus/train tickets and taxis), depending on the distance, accessibility to public transportation, and the specific needs of the asylum-seekers.

Last week, heavy rains over two days caused flooding in 12 sites in northern Greece, affecting approximately 2,000 refugees. Following a rapid response assessment by the UNHCR Technical Team, UNHCR provided almost 8,000 non-food items, including 5,700 medium thermal blankets, 1,400 raincoats, 400 plastic sheets, 30 family tents, 145 plastic tarpaulins, 60 mats and 70 wooden pallets. All interventions were facilitated on the ground by UNHCR, IRC and DRC with assistance from volunteers from the refugee communities.

UNHCR Greece's Education Team met with the Advisor to the General Secretary to the Ministry of Education, offering UNHCR's support with the organization of reception classes for refugee children from urban settings, including refugee children hosted under UNHCR's accommodation for relocation scheme. UNHCR will be able to support with education material if not provided by other partners. Transportation for refugee children hosted under UNHCR's accommodation scheme will also be provided.

The Chair UNHCR's Executive Committee (ExCom), Ambassador Carsten Staur, Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations Office in Geneva, visited Greece from 05 to 07 September 2016. The visit's purpose was for him to acquaint himself with UNHCR's

Average Arrivals to Greece and Italy per Month January to 11 September 2016



* data.unhcr.org/mediterranean as of 15 September 2016

Key Figures

Greece

879

Total Weekly Arrivals to Greek Islands

05 September - 11 September

126

Daily Average Arrivals to Greek Islands

05 September - 11 September

Italy

3,152

Total Weekly Arrivals to Italy

05 September - 11 September

450

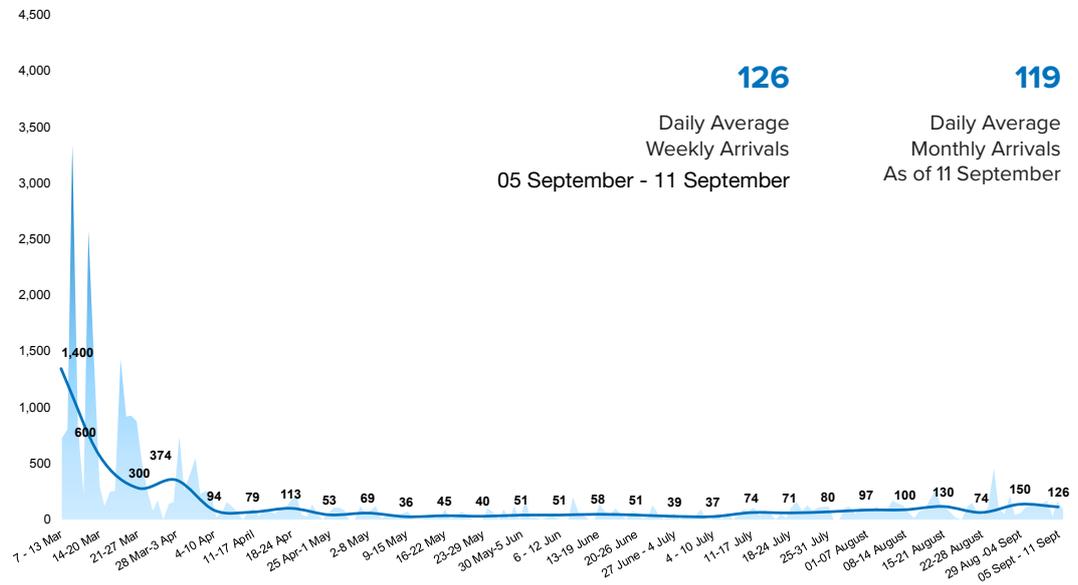
Daily Average Arrivals to Italy

05 September - 11 September

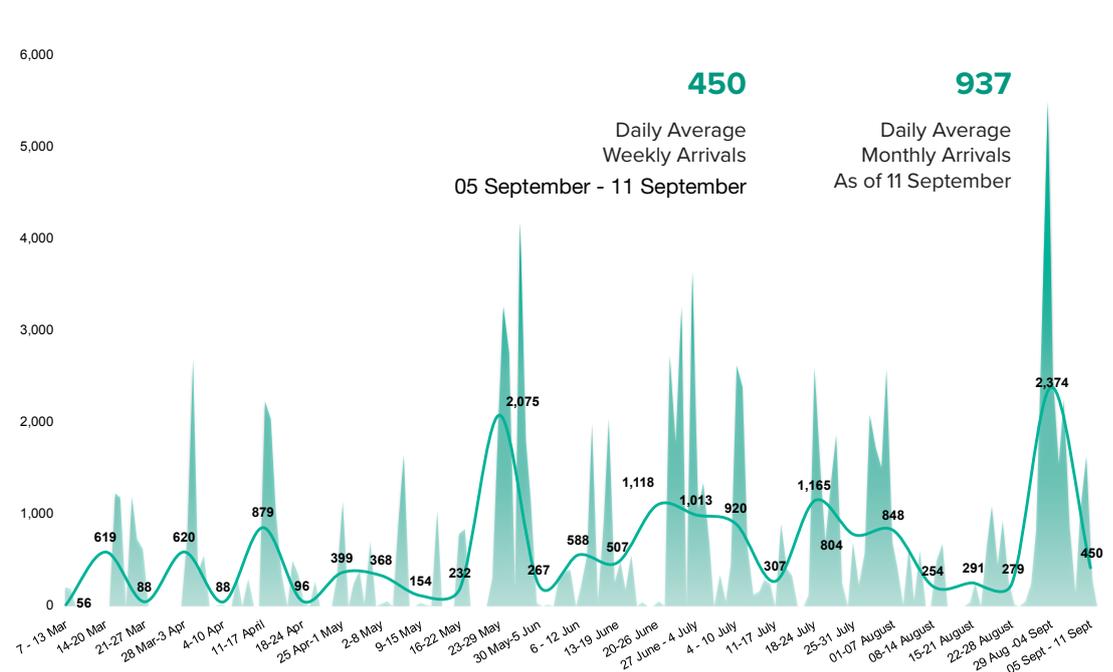
activities in the country and pay tribute, on behalf of the Executive Committee Member States, to the Greek Government and its people for their generosity in receiving refugees and migrants. The ExCom Chair travelled to Chios Island, Athens and northern Greece, and met with refugees, Greek authorities, EU agencies, humanitarian actors, diplomatic missions, and donors. He also participated in an honours ceremony organized by UNHCR on 06 September for the Greek winners of the Nansen Refugee Award: the Hellenic Rescue Team, and Efi Latsoudi from the community-run Pikpa accommodation centre in Lesbos.

On the Aegean islands, UNHCR continued to support the authorities in providing protection and assistance to new arrivals, and expanding reception capacity at the Reception and Identification Centres (RIC) and other sites, which remain overcrowded. On Kos, for example, UNHCR is further coordinating with the Army to proceed with plumbing services for the installation of two WASH blocks and four water taps at the new annex of the RIC. Moreover, a Refugee Housing Unit was transferred from Kalymnos Island to be used for medical examinations by UNHCR's health partner WAHA.

Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Greece
07 March to 11 September 2016



Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Italy
07 March to 11 September 2016



Situation in Serbia and at the Serbia-Hungary Border

The estimated number of refugees and migrants present in Serbia throughout last week was 4,800 - a slight increase from the 4,700 the previous week. Of those present in the country, 89% are accommodated in governmental facilities, including 1,687 throughout the five Asylum Centres and 2,579 in Refugee Aid Points or Reception Centres, while the remaining 11% were staying in Belgrade city centre or at sites at the Hungarian border. A slight increase in the number of refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants in Belgrade was noted, totalling over 1,300. Of those, some 300 camped in the city centre at night, while Krnjaca Asylum Centre sheltered over 1,030 on 11 September. UNHCR and partners continued providing protection assistance and monitoring, legal counselling on asylum, and support for coordination between authorities and humanitarian agencies. With continued referrals to government facilities, the number of asylum-seekers camping on Serbian soil close to the Hungarian 'transit zones' continued to decrease to below 200, less than a quarter of the number present during the peak time in July 2016 when there were around 1,000 in makeshift camps. Among those awaiting entry into Hungary, on average 46% were children, 35% men and 18% women. The majority were Afghans (53%) and Syrians (28%), followed by Iraqis (10%).

During the week, 208 people entered Hungary through the two 'transit zones', in accordance with the daily entry of 15 persons per 'transit zone' per day. The Hungarian Police reported 71 apprehensions for irregular entry, while 397 people were prevented from crossing the border irregularly and another 293 people were intercepted inside Hungary within 8km of the border and escorted back to the other side of the border control fence. UN-

HCR, the border police, the military, the Office of Immigration and Nationality (OIN), the Constitution Protection Office (CPO), and the Government's Office (providing legal information) maintain a daily presence inside the 'transit zones'. UNHCR provides asylum-seekers with information and counselling on their rights and obligations in relation to the border and Dublin procedures as well as the implications of the safe third country concept.

Situation in Italy and latest tragedies at sea

The Italian Coast Guard confirmed that multiple search and rescue operations were carried out in the Central Mediterranean on 05 September, rescuing over 2,600 persons on board 19 dinghies and four small boats, each carrying approximately 100 persons. During the above operations, 16 corpses were recovered. As of 11 September, 3,196 people have been reported dead or missing in the Mediterranean Sea in comparison to a total of 3,771 in 2015.

At Ventimiglia on the Italy-France border, numbers of individuals accommodated at the official reception facility run by the Red Cross are on the rise and are likely to increase further in light of the recent peak in sea arrivals to Italy. Over 600 persons were reportedly at the facility during the week.

Update on Relocation

On 08 September, 38 Eritrean nationals were relocated to Switzerland, bringing the total number of persons relocated from Italy since the adoption of the relocation scheme to 1,064 (2.7% of the 39,600 target). As of 11 September, 2,986 asylum-seekers have been relocated from Greece representing only 4.5% of the September 2017 target. During the week, 610 new places were pledged for asylum-seekers in Greece by Portugal

Key Documents from the Portal

COMMUNITY-BASED INTERVENTIONS

GREECE COMMUNITY-BASED INTERVENTIONS FACTSHEET
July - August 2016

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

UNHCR continues to work with the Greek Government to ensure that the needs of refugees and migrants are met through community-based projects, meaning the requests and needs identified by communities. The persistence of refugees in the area, resulting in the increased number of arrivals at the border and with unclear perspectives on their future, is hampering the relationship between the refugees and the community.

It is noted that the absence of recreational activities exacerbates anxiety and is a contributing factor to tension among camp residents. Additionally, both parents and children are eager for children to receive educational activities. Community-based interventions are not aiming at substitution but at complementing formal education. Engagement with women, supporting confidence building and a degree of understanding of the needs they face in the area, requires dedicated activities which they can access and where they can participate.

It is expected that these small scale projects will contribute to the overall peaceful conditions in the area, reduce stress between different communities and also address the impact of the current situation on people and children.

UNHCR will continue to consult the communities in the different sites to justify ensure that the interventions proposed to the needs identified and proposed by refugees. The partnership approach will also see the positive effect of improving the communication and exchanges with refugees. Below some examples of the activities UNHCR organized during the month of July and August throughout the island of Greece, targeting around 5,000 beneficiaries, through over 50 small scale projects in 15 different sites.

THESSALONIKI SUB OFFICE (NORTHERN GREECE)

- Vegetables
- School material and supplies. The project targets 20 children in the area between 1 to 20 years old.
- Arts classes

Multi-purpose Community Centre and leisure activities.

The project targets around 400-450 adults in the area. The project includes: English lessons and 40% of all ages for recreational activities. The project includes: English lessons and 40% of all ages for recreational activities. The project includes: English lessons and 40% of all ages for recreational activities.

Starting classes for women. The project targets refugee women in groups of 20 women. This learning machine will be provided and transported to the site on 20 August. A trial cooperation agreement was established with an association working in the camp (SARAKI) and willing to support with the management of the materials and the working hours.

COMMUNITY-BASED INTERVENTIONS

Italy Sea Arrivals Dashboard
January - August 2016

93,774 (as of 11 Sept 2016)
93,540 (as of 11 Sept 2015)

Monthly sea arrivals
from January 2016 to July 2016

Between 1 January and 31 July 2016, 93,774 persons arrived by sea. This represents a 5.7% increase when compared to sea arrivals registered between 1 January and 31 July 2015. Arrivals by sea remain far ahead equal with those of last year, which indicates that no major trend has occurred in the Central Mediterranean Sea region.

Like in previous years, sea arrivals increased during the summer, when better weather conditions make it easier to cross at sea.

Sea arrivals: top 5 nationalities by month

Month	Nigeria	Egypt	Iran	China	Other
Jan	266	749	549	44	2,000
Feb	350	1,120	888	1,038	2,400
Mar	475	1,239	1,031	1,074	2,400
Apr	579	1,239	888	1,038	2,400
May	675	1,239	888	1,038	2,400
Jun	775	1,239	888	1,038	2,400
Jul	1,275	1,239	888	1,038	2,400

Sea arrivals originate mainly from sub-Saharan Africa. Between January and July 2016, Nigerian nationals represented the largest group (49.6%), followed by Egyptians (11.5%), and Chinese (8.2%). Nationals from Sudan, Iran, and Bangladesh (8.2%), followed by Iraqis (8.2%) and Syrians (8.2%).

COMMUNITY-BASED INTERVENTIONS

Italy UASC Dashboard
January - July 2016

13,705 (as of 11 Sept 2016)
13,705 (as of 11 Sept 2015)

UASC and accompanied children: sea arrivals trends

Between 1 January and 31 July 2016, 13,705 children arrived in Italy by sea (60% of them (8,226) are Unaccompanied and Separated Children (USC). USC has reached for more 10% of all sea arrivals in the above period, an increase of around 110% compared to the same period of 2015, when 7% of them arrived by sea were USC.

The top nationalities of USC arriving by sea are Somalia (1,500), followed by Nigeria (1,370) and Egypt (1,370). Other nationalities include Sudan (1,370), Iran (1,370), Bangladesh (1,370), Iraq (1,370), and Syria (1,370).

UASC and accompanied children: sea arrivals by Italy region

The top nationalities of USC arriving by sea are Somalia (1,500), followed by Nigeria (1,370) and Egypt (1,370). Other nationalities include Sudan (1,370), Iran (1,370), Bangladesh (1,370), Iraq (1,370), and Syria (1,370).

Proportion of UASC by nationality on total sea arrivals

Some 65% of all Egyptians who arrived by sea in the January-July 2016 period are USC, the highest proportion of all nationalities. USC from Somalia represent the second highest proportion.

Distribution by gender: UASC and accompanied children

The sea arrivals are split between male and female. Arrivals are predominantly male and female.

(400 new places contributing to a total of 1,130 places already pledged country target of 1,778), Romania (120 new places amounting to 892 places pledged so far of the country target of 2,572), Lithuania (80 new places, making a total of 460 – above the country target of 420) and Lichtenstein (10, with no country target). The total number of pledges so far remains low at 11,866 (18%) of the 66,400 who are expected to relocate from Greece to other EU Member States by September 2017. Till the end of September, a total of 4,117 asylum-seekers are expected to relocate to another EU Member State. UNHCR, through its partners, continued to expand the accommodation capacity in support of the relocation programme funded by the European Union by establishing 716 new accommodation places last week, reaching a total of 11,447 (57% of the 20,000 target). Over 12,845 persons have benefitted from the project since November 2015.

[Update on Readmissions from Greece to Turkey](#)

On 07 September, five Syrians (four men and one woman) were re-admitted from Mytilene, Lesvos to Adana, Turkey aboard a flight chartered by Frontex, under the EU-Turkey Statement. According to a [press release](#) issued by the Greek authorities, the individuals had previously expressed their desire to return to Turkey, while none of them had applied for asylum in Greece.

Additionally, on 08 September, 13 people were returned to Turkey in accordance with the EU-Turkey Statement, aboard a chartered flight from Lesvos to Dikili. The group included six Pakistanis, a Moroccan, an Iraqi, a Palestinian, an Egyptian, a Lebanese, an Algerian and a Yemeni. According to a [press release](#) issued by the Greek Alternate Minister of Interior for Citizen Protection, five of them were declared rejected asylum-seekers following their appeal, while the other five had withdrawn their asylum applications and the remaining three were not willing to seek asylum. The total number of readmissions to Turkey from Greece is 502 as of 11 September.

[EU and related Developments](#)

On 08 September, the European Commission announced they will [disburse](#) an additional EUR 348 million under the Facility for Refugees in Turkey as part of the commitments under the EU-Turkey Statement. The amount will be used as part of the so-called “Emergency Social Safety Net” (ESSN), which consists of direct cash transfers to cover the everyday needs of the refugee families with specific needs in Turkey. The EUR 348 million increases the total amount contracted for humanitarian and non-humanitarian actions under the Facility for Refugees in Turkey to EUR 652 million. Out of this amount, EUR 181 million have been disbursed to date.

On 09 September, the EU-Turkey High-Level Dialogue offered an opportunity for the EU and Turkey to discuss their cooperation and issues of mutual interest. In addition to emphasizing the significance of EU-Turkey cooperation, Commissioner Hahn and High Representative/Vice-President (HR/VP) Mogherini [reiterated](#) their strong support to Turkey after the attempted coup, and the importance of the rule of law. HR/VP Mogherini further [stated](#) that common work would “go on in all fields in a very constructive way”, including on visa liberalization and on the EU’s support to Turkey in its efforts to welcome a large number of Syrian refugees, “in particular focusing on the education of children”.

On 10 September, the European Commission announced they will [disburse](#) EUR 115 million to fund the activities of humanitarian organizations operating in Greece, as part of the Emergency Support Instrument. The amount will be channelled into four areas of work which the European Commission (DG ECHO) and Greek Alternate Minister for Migration Mouzalas identified as priorities: i) improving conditions in camps ahead of winter, ii) delivering direct assistance to refugees through cash/voucher schemes, iii) enabling refugee children to access education, and iv) help for unaccompanied and separated children.

Timeline Overview

● Highlights

