

Weekly Report



Key Figures

Mediterranean
352,093

arrivals by sea in 2016*

4,733

dead/missing in 2016*

Trends of Sea Arrivals

Between 28 November and 04 December 2016, 144 refugees and migrants crossed the sea to Greece, a significant decrease from the 481 who crossed the previous week. Notably, there were no sea arrivals to the Aegean islands during five days out of the week. However, reports of sporadic land arrivals have been observed. On 30 November, Greek authorities apprehended about 70 refugees and migrants, including children, in a snowy forest near the Northern city of Thessaloniki. Members of the group, who said they were Syrians, reported to have crossed the Greek-Turkish border and to have been transported to the area hidden in a truck. A total of 1,991 sea arrivals landed during November, a decrease from the 2,970 who arrived in October this year. Thus far, 171,785 persons have arrived to Greece by sea in comparison to 747,981 who crossed during the same period in 2015. As of 04 December, the main countries of origin of those who arrived in Greece remain the Syrian Arab Republic (47%), Afghanistan (24%) and Iraq (15%); children comprised 37% of arrivals with men making up 42% and women 21%.

During the same period, 2,151 persons (including approximately 251 unaccompanied and separated children) arrived to Italy by sea, compared to 2,562 who arrived during the previous week. Between 01 January and 04 December 2016, 173,121 persons arrived by sea, compared to 144,205 persons who disembarked at the end of November 2015 and 153,842 at the end of December 2015. This represents a recent increase compared to sea arrivals in 2015 (20%). UNHCR is monitoring potential factors impacting on such increase, including relatively favourable weather conditions, reduced prices by smugglers and an increasingly reported tendency of smugglers to overload dinghies.

Key Developments

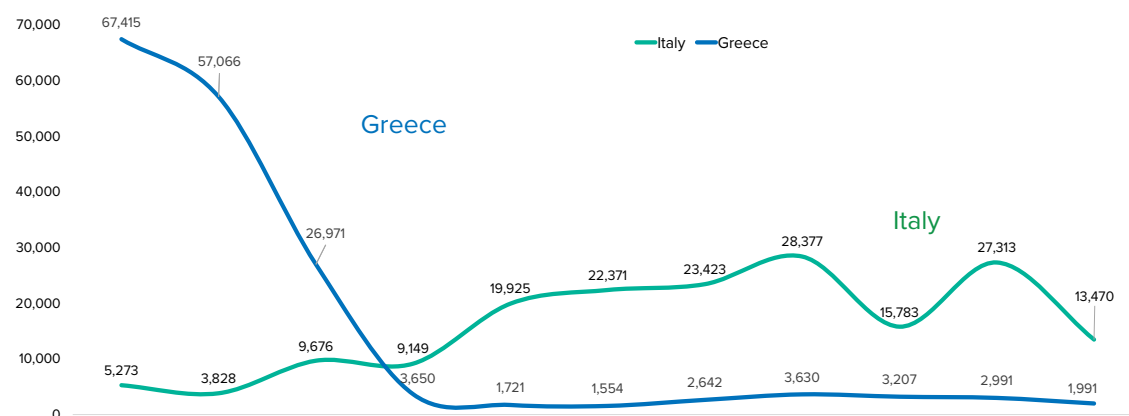
Situation in Greece

During the reporting period, UNHCR continued its winterization intervention in support of the Greek authorities. UNHCR is focusing its winterization efforts on four areas: 1) replacement of tents with prefab family housing units; 2) evacuation of sites not suitable for winter; 3) winterized tents; and 4) upgrade of electricity/infrastructure. As of the end of November UNHCR installed more than 500 housing units providing roofed shelter to 2,500 persons. By the end of the year UNHCR will reach more than 1,000 housing units, protecting some 5,000 persons in some of the neediest sites in the country. In order to avoid future risks of fire, UNHCR developed fire hazard and safety warning messages in multiple languages in print and video with the International Rescue Committee and Internews for distribution to all sites.

In 2016 the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) and UNHCR have been working with humanitarian partners within the Cash Working Group to prepare a lessons learned report and recommendations for the cash strategy workshop to be led by ECHO and the Greek government on 5 December. Cash assistance, as part of the humanitarian aid provided by different agencies, among them UNHCR, will be implemented in the urban areas of Athens and Thessaloniki by early 2017. In sites food distribution will likely to continue and people will receive cash for other needs, until safe cooking facilities can be provided and catering can be discontinued.

On 30 November, UNHCR completed the evacuation of Petra Olympou. In coordination with the Ministry of Migration Policy (MoMP), the Police, the Army, ADRA and

Average Arrivals to Greece and Italy per Month January to 04 December 2016



* data.unhcr.org/mediterranean as of 08 December 2016

Key Figures

Greece

144

Total Weekly
Arrivals to
Greek Islands

28 November - 04 December

21

Daily Average
Arrivals to
Greek Islands

28 November - 04 December

Italy

2,151

Total Weekly
Arrivals to Italy

28 November - 04 December

307

Daily Average
Arrivals to Italy

28 November - 04 December

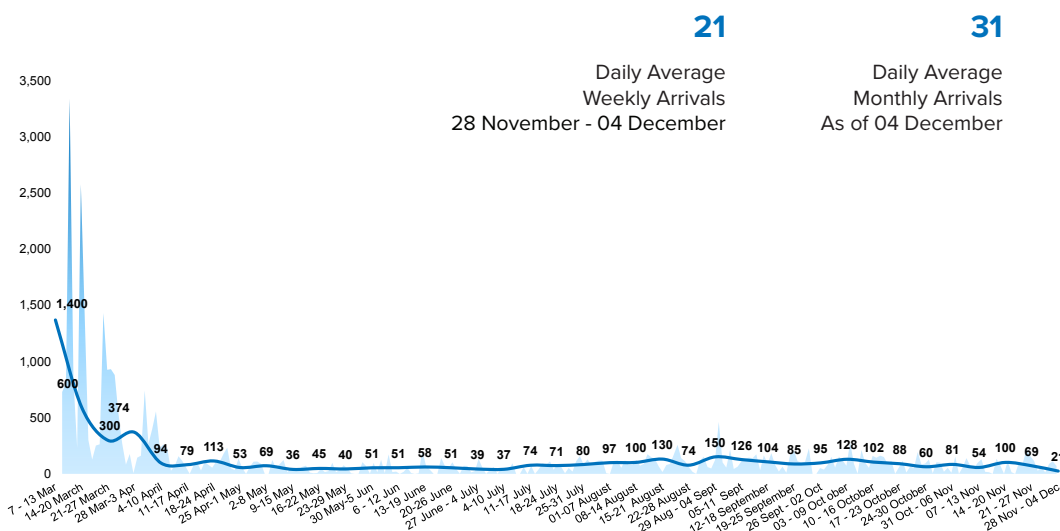
UNHCR, 1,127 Yezidis were provided accommodation in hotels and apartments through UNHCR's accommodation scheme in Chalkidona, Volvi, Katerini and Athens. In addition, 200 asylum-seekers have already been moved from Malakasa to alternative accommodation sites. UNHCR is currently assisting with the transportation of vulnerable families from Cherso.

The accommodation capacity in support to the Greek Government through the relocation scheme funded by the European Union established a total of 102 places during the reporting period, reaching 19,634 places

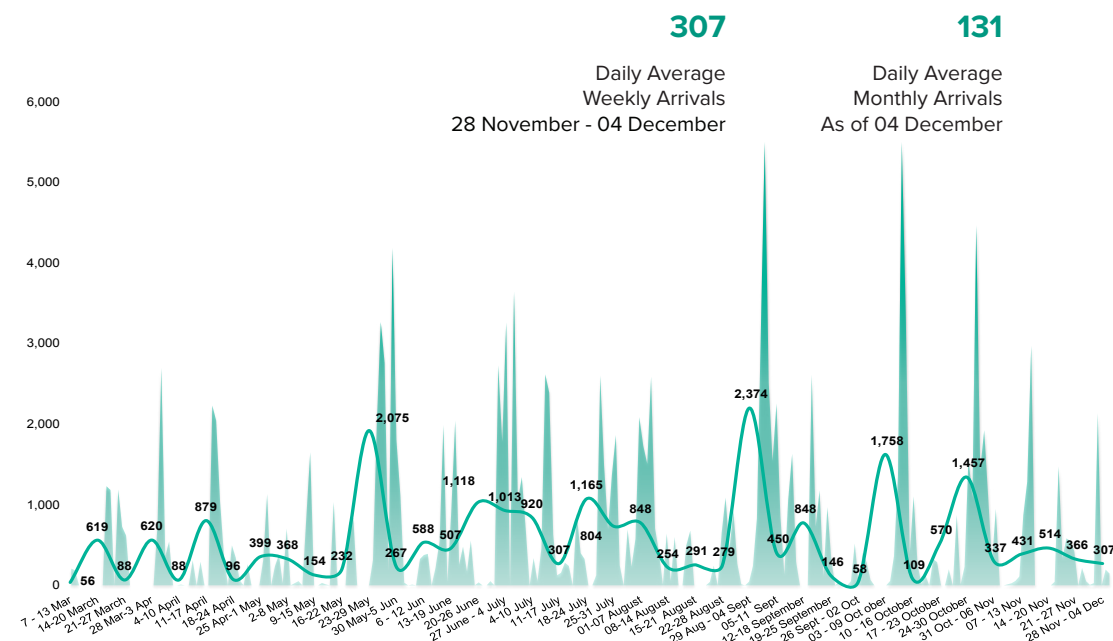
(98% of the targeted 20,000) by the end of the reporting period. The project has benefited a total of 19,610 asylum-seekers so far. On 29 November the Municipality of Livadia (Central Greece) received the first 15 accommodation candidates (2 different families) in its district.

Following the tragic incident at Moria Reception and Identification Centre (RIC) on the island of Lesbos which resulted in the death of an elderly Iraqi woman and a young boy, the Registration and Asylum Office (RAO) has expedited the registration and issuance of documents for her widower following UNHCR's intervention. The

Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Greece 07 March to 04 December 2016



Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Italy 07 March to 04 December 2016



mother and a sibling of the deceased boy remain hospitalized in Athens, where UNHCR in cooperation with the Asylum Service will ensure the issuance of proper documentation to the family and that they are referred to the Greek Refugee Council for follow up upon release from hospital.

In Samos, the Vathy RIC remains overcrowded with 1,700 persons accommodated in a facility with a capacity of 606 beds, while 1,300 persons are accommodated in over 365 pop-up tents (lightweight, collapsible tent with a pre-assembled frame) and 29 large 10-persons tents. Due to the heavy rains the living conditions deteriorated, with the majority of tents without flooring being flooded, destroyed or abandoned. On 30 November UNHCR met with the representatives of the Police, Army, Europol, Nassos Sofos (Policy Officer of the European Commission) on Samos to discuss accommodation options and other interventions. On Chios, the Municipality of Souda is insisting on the immediate evacuation of the site and the decongestion of the island by both refugees and migrants. The Municipality is considering a transfer to Vial RIC of 200 refugees and migrants who are living outside Souda. UNHCR is working with different hotel owners concerning accommodation of persons with specific needs during the winter season. On 28 November a joint statement issued by 23 Greek NGOs on the recent incidents in Chios and Lesbos insisted that living conditions to which people are exposed to in a government-run facility ought to adhere to specific safety standards.

Update on Returns from Greece to Turkey

Two return operations were reported from Greece to Turkey within the scope of the EU-Turkey Statement of 18 March 2016 during the reporting period. On 28 November, eight Syrians and two Iraqi nationals were returned from Lesbos to Adana. In addition, 17 non-Syrian males

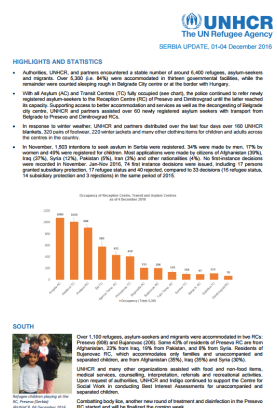
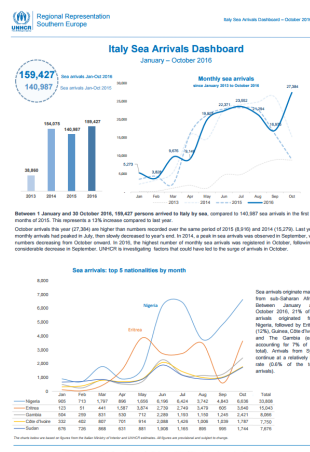
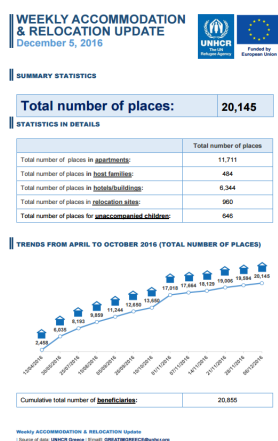
(2 from Pakistan, 3 from Iraq, 7 from Algeria, 1 from Afghanistan, 1 from Mali, 1 from Ghana, 1 from Morocco and 1 from Nigeria) were returned on 29 November. Their return took place by a boat chartered by the European Border Guard and Coastguard Agency - Frontex, sailing from Mytilene to Dikili in Turkey.

The total number of readmissions to Turkey from Greece under the EU-Turkey Statement is 748 as of 28 November.

Situation in Serbia

Available data from authorities, UNHCR, and partners indicates that an estimated 6,400 people remain in Serbia, of which over 60% are women and children. Main nationalities represented include 52% from Afghanistan, 17% from Iraq and 16% from Syria. Of those, around 84% were accommodated in 13 governmental facilities while the remainder were counted sleeping rough in Belgrade City centre or at the border with Hungary. With all Asylum (AC) and Transit Centres (TC) fully occupied, authorities have requested newly registered asylum-seekers be accommodated in Presevo or Dimitrovgrad Reception Centres (RC). To support authorities, UNHCR and partners continued promoting access to registration and provided transportation to newly registered asylum-seekers where access to better accommodation and services was available. In response to winter weather, UNHCR and partners distributed over 190 UNHCR blankets, 330 pairs of footwear, 230 winter jackets and many other clothing items for children and adults across the centres in the country. The authorities, UNHCR and partners maintain presence in all sites throughout the country and provide support such as protection assistance, legal counselling on asylum in Serbia, non-food items and support for coordination amongst authorities and humanitarian agencies.

Key Documents from the Portal



Situation at the Serbia-Hungary Border

In the areas outside the transit zones 112 people (60 in Horgos/Röszke and 52 in Kelebija/Tompa) are currently awaiting admission to Hungary staying in makeshift tents relying on assistance provided by UNHCR, NGOs, government authorities and local aid groups from both Serbia and Hungary. The number of those waiting entry has decreased by half compared to the 200 individuals who were there at the beginning of November.

During the reporting period, 98 people entered Hungary through the two transit zones with an estimated 10 individuals per transit zone admitted entry on weekdays. In addition, the Hungarian Police reported 28 apprehensions for irregular entry, while 237 people were prevented from crossing the green border and another 303 people were intercepted inside Hungary and escorted back to the other side of the border control fence.

Update on Relocation

During the week, 148 people were relocated to France (51), Finland (37), and Norway (60), bringing the total number of asylum-seekers relocated from Italy since the adoption of the relocation scheme to 1,950. This corresponds to 5% of the 39,600 target for Italy (latest [EC data, 02 December](#)).

A total of 335 asylum-seekers were relocated from Greece during the week, to Germany (218), Lithuania (12), Luxembourg (35), Malta (35), Netherlands (42), and Romania (18). Thus far, a total of 6,149 (9.2%) asylum-seekers have been relocated from Greece against the targeted 66,400, since the beginning of the relocation program in November 2015. The overall number of pledges to Greece still remains low at 12,496 (19 % of the targeted 66,400). There were 20 new pledges from Estonia during the reporting period. In support of the relocation programme, UNHCR in Athens assisted 546 relocation candidates by providing them with accommodation and 461 received transportation services during the reporting period.

EU Related Developments

At the 28 November Foreign Affairs Council, among [other issues](#), EU Ministers for Foreign Affairs focused on migration and development, with [an exchange of views](#) on the state of play and on-going initiatives. These [included](#) the Partnership Framework approach, of which Ministers discussed the progressive broadening, and follow-up measures to the November 2015 Valletta Summit in view of the 8-9 February Valletta Senior Officials Meeting.



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Timeline Overview

Highlights

