

## KEY FIGURES

**921,713**

Refugees and migrants arriving by sea to Europe in 2015.

**3,580**

Refugees and migrants estimated to have died / gone missing at sea in 2015.

**768,916**

Sea arrivals in Greece as of 10 December.

**3,720**

Average daily sea arrivals in Greece from 4 - 10 December 2015.

**149,500**

Sea arrivals in Italy as of 10 December.

**309,097**

UNHCR high and medium thermal blankets distributed since the start of the crisis.

**29,823**

UNHCR sleeping mats distributed since the start of the crisis.

**USD 83.2M:** Total 2015 requirements for the Special Mediterranean Initiative, including winterization activities in Europe.

**USD 72.9M:** Funding received (88 per cent).

## PRIORITIES

- Boost reception capacity and provide emergency assistance in receiving countries through support for States, civil society and local communities.
- Strengthen protection systems and prevent *refoulement* including through presence and capacity building.
- Increase strategic messaging and advocacy to and about people of concern.

# EUROPE'S REFUGEE EMERGENCY RESPONSE UPDATE #14

4 – 10 December 2015

## HIGHLIGHTS

- On 10 December, the European Commission adopted eight infringement decisions towards Member States for failing to fully transpose and implement the provisions of the Common European Asylum System. The commission urges Greece, Croatia and Italy to correctly implement the Eurodac Regulation and requests Greece and Malta to communicate the measures taken to transpose the Asylum Procedures Directive and the Reception Conditions Directive. This is the first step of a process whereby concerned countries have two months to reply. In the absence of satisfactory replies or notifications, the European Commission can decide to continue with the infringement proceedings.
- On 9 December following a tripartite meeting, the President of Egypt, the President of Cyprus and the Prime Minister of Greece signed the Athens Declaration stating their readiness to respond to the humanitarian aspects of the refugee crisis, in cooperation with all affected countries.
- At the Justice and Home Affairs Council of 4 December in Brussels, Ministers of Interior discussed the hotspots, the relocation mechanism and the Schengen agreement. The Luxembourg Presidency underlined the continued difficulties in the implementation of hotspots but welcomed Greece's calls for FRONTEX Rapid Border Intervention Teams (RABIT), the deployment of FRONTEX at the border between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and the activation of the Civil Protection Scheme.



Two little refugee sisters are spending time at Tabanovce refugee aid point established by UNHCR, ©UNHCR/L. Brashnarska, Tabanovce (former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), November 2015.

## OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

So far this year, there were 791,570 arrivals in **Greece**, including 26,042 arrivals from 4 to 10 December. There were 3,253 arrivals on 9 December in comparison with an average of 3,800 daily arrivals from 1 to 8 December.

On 9 December, a shipwreck occurred off the coast of Farmakonisi. The Hellenic Coast Guard rescued 26 persons. Twelve bodies were found and 10-13 persons are still missing. According to the official press release from the Hellenic Coast Guard, the boat was carrying 47-50 refugees.

The following morning in the same area, a boat reportedly carrying at least 37 passengers sank in the waters between Greece and Turkey. The Hellenic Coast Guard launched a Search and Rescue mission and saved four and transferred them to Farmakonisi. Two other passengers were rescued by the Turkish Coast Guard and brought back to the Turkish shore. Four bodies were recovered by the Hellenic Coast Guard and 27 people were still missing as ongoing search and rescue operations continued.

Restrictions along the Balkans route continue to be enforced based on nationality. The Greek Police conducted an operation in Eidomeni on 9 December, from the early morning to the late afternoon, to evacuate persons of nationalities not allowed to cross the border between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. During the removal operation, the Police stopped buses with new arrivals at Polykastro (5 km from the border area) in order to prevent congestion. Afterwards, they were allowed to proceed; Syrians, Afghans and Iraqis disembarked and crossed the border. By the end of the operation, 45 buses departed for Athens from Eidomeni, carrying 2,250 persons directed to the reception facility of Palio Faliro (Tae Kwon Do stadium). UNHCR supplied two additional rub halls upon request by the Greek authorities in Athens to help accommodate these large numbers.

The official government gazette announced the creation of a hotspot in Linopoti on Kos. However, preparatory work by the Army to construct it has not started due to protests from the local community. A demonstration against the establishment of the hotspot in the urban centre of Linopoti took place on 9 December with around 250 participants.

Some 23,131 people entered the **former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**. The policy of denying access to the territory, as well as deporting persons who are not Syrian, Afghani or Iraqi continued. From 4 to 9 December, 363 people were returned to Greece. UNHCR's partner the Macedonian Young Lawyers Association (MYLA) informed all of them of the possibility to apply for asylum, but no one opted to do so.

Between 4-10 December, there were 23,202 arrivals in **Serbia**, with a daily average of 3,315. During the reporting period, the number of intentions to seek asylum in Serbia in 2015 broke the half-million mark. Winterization of emergency shelters and waiting areas is progressing; UNHCR and partners provided protection and assistance to asylum-seekers 24/7 at all sites.

In **Hungary**, the Police apprehended 80 refugees and migrants after irregular entry, mainly arriving from Serbia. The total number of arrivals during 2015 has reached 391,216 (69 in the reporting period). The number of asylum applications registered is 176,892. So far the Hungarian authorities have registered 50 new asylum claims. According to Government data, as of 10 December 747 individuals are detained in asylum detention centers and in various prison facilities.

From 4 to 10 December, 21,385 people entered **Croatia**. Only persons from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq arrived from Serbia to the Winter Reception and Transit Centre (WRTC) in Slavonski Brod. The WRTC fast track procedures resumed and new arrivals were transported directly to Garcin train station after registering and receiving assistance.

There were 22,352 new arrivals to **Slovenia**, mainly from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, including a significant number of families with small children. The total number of arrivals in Slovenia since 17 October 2015 has reached more than 300,000. According to the Slovenian Ministry of Interior (Moi), the construction of a razor-wire fence on the border with Croatia went on and 110 kilometers of barriers have been erected so far.

There were 25,084 new arrivals to **Austria**. The construction of the 4 km-long fence at the border crossing point in

Spielfeld/Sentilj (Austrian/Slovenian border) started. It is expected that the fence will be completed before 25 December. According to Austrian authorities, the fence will not affect border crossings but only channel arrivals through the official border point.

Following almost 10 days without any sea arrivals, some 5,300 refugees and migrants arrived in **Italy** during the reporting period following their rescue at sea, compared to over 3,200 in the entire month of November. Among the new arrivals, there are over 650 persons of nationalities eligible for the relocation scheme.

In **Germany**, the Federal (Border) Police registered 4,983 new arrivals on 9 December (4,339 of them in Bavaria). The Federal Cabinet has approved the introduction of a central identification document for asylum seekers. Starting in summer 2016, the so-called "Ankunftsausweis" (arrival ID) will be the only registration document containing all information of the ID holder which can be accessed by all authorities involved in the registration and asylum process. A draft law is expected to go through the parliament and the Federal Council in January 2016.

UNHCR, in cooperation with governments and partners, continued to distribute assistance along the route. As of 10 December, around 309,100 blankets, almost 14,990 hygiene kits, around 29,820 sleeping mats or rubber mats, and around 86,370 raincoats and other essential relief items were distributed.

## Protection, Humanitarian Assistance and Technical Support

### Greece

#### Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR stepped up activities and coordination with volunteers in the south of Lesvos, due to increased trend of arrivals along the airport road, Mytilini port, and near Moria. A roving UNHCR team received people on shore and in the water with volunteers, provided transportation, and conducted interviews. In addition, UNHCR will pilot a 24-hour bus transportation coverage along the airport road to the port and a hotline system to alert buses of new arrivals will be established and shared with volunteer groups. In Leros, UNHCR provided hotel accommodation to 24 of the 26 survivors of the shipwreck that occurred in the early morning of 9 December. The other two were children who were taken to Samos hospital and later transferred to Athens to receive medical care. UNHCR is following up to ensure that they are reunited with their parents who are still on Leros.
- UNHCR continued to support bus transfers for people of different nationalities (Iraq, Iran, Somalia, Burkina Faso, Eritrea, Western Sahara, Ivory Coast) from Eidomeni to Athens, including potential cases for relocation. Families and children were prioritized. In Eidomeni, cases at risk of family separation were prevented. Referrals were made to the local Police to re-issue police certificates. Some individuals with refugee profile were referred to the UNHCR's partner the Greek Council for Refugees (GCR) in Thessaloniki. UNHCR also continued to provide information on rights and obligations, including asylum and relocation procedures. The leaflet of the Greek Asylum Service was also distributed.
- During the Police operation on 9 December, UNHCR maintained close liaison with the central authorities and monitored the situation on the ground to ensure the protection of the most vulnerable people. Five unaccompanied children under the care of the local NGO partner Arsis were prioritized for evacuation.
- In Athens, upon request from the Alternate Ministry of Migration Policy, UNHCR provided 800 blankets and mats to Palio Faliro (Tea Kwon Do stadium) and 200 to Elliniko reception sites, as well as two rub halls and ten tents to increase the reception capacity in view of arrivals from Eidomeni. UNHCR continued to deliver individual and group information sessions on asylum procedures and relocation at the reception centres of Palio Faliro, Elliniko and Elaionas in Athens, in collaboration with the Greek Asylum Service and IOM.

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- On Leros, unaccompanied children pending the transfer to UNHCR-PRAKSIS' established transit facility in Kos are kept under police custody resulting into a de facto detention condition which may imply staying in common spaces with others, until the Prosecutor release notes are issued. UNHCR continues advocacy efforts to avoid this situation and accelerate transfer to the facility in Kos. To this extent, Save the Children (UNHCR partner) is starting the operation on child protection activities in Leros on 10 December, which will also offer another opportunity to Greek authorities to avoid such situation.

- With the increased arrival of many Kurdish speaking persons as well as Pakistanis, Eritreans, Somalis, Moroccans and others, there is a need for interpreters on Samos. UNHCR is addressing the issue in collaboration with its partner METAction and through deployment of UNHCR Kurdish speaking staff.
- Reception capacity in Chios is stretched due to a large number of arrivals and limited departures. Ships coming to Chios are already full of passengers and limited tickets are sold. UNHCR is liaising with the local authorities to find alternative options to accommodate the overflow.

## The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

### Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR intervened to assist refugees who were being refused access to the territory. UNHCR teams provided relevant assistance according to the individual circumstances of the persons in need, and advocated admission into the territory when necessary. Most of interventions were for families of mixed nationalities, as well as for persons originating from Syria, Iraq or Afghanistan, who for various reasons were not able to present documents proving their country of origin. The Border Police accepted UNHCR credibility assessments and admitted persons to the territory.
- UNHCR coordinated with the Border Police to ensure that UNHCR and MYLA's (its legal partner) standard practice of advising persons facing imminent threat of deportation about their rights was maintained and regularly implemented. Counseling included: informing them about the right to seek asylum in the country and all of the related implications. UNHCR closely monitored the registration and admission process.
- UNHCR and partners systematically identified persons with specific needs in the transit centres and referred them to the protection mechanisms. Individuals with specific medical needs received assistance on the spot from the Red Cross or in the local hospital. Admission of extremely vulnerable individuals from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to Serbia was facilitated through information sharing and referral between UNHCR partners in the two countries – the Macedonian Red Cross and the DRC.
- The UNHCR Communicating with Communities team helped operationalize the messaging system for refugees in Vojvodina to explain to them: the services they will receive in the site; the registration procedure; and the onward transportation provided by the government from Gevgelija. Messages started airing in Arabic, Farsi and English on the loudspeakers located in various points in the transit centre.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Poor weather and road conditions slowed down the transit of refugees from the northern border of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to Serbia, creating a greater need for overnight amenities in the transit centre in Tabanovce. The capacity in Tabanovce is still insufficient and the centre is not fully winterized, as the power supply is unable to support the heaters and necessary equipment to keep the rub halls and the Refugee Housing Units (RHUs) warm. Inadequate reception facilities in Tabanovce are currently one of the greatest protection risks; however, the authorities are working on upgrading the electricity grid and UNHCR has installed flooring in the rub halls.
- Registration at the entry point in Gevgelija continues at very high rate (close to 100 per cent), but delivery of registration documents to refugees is a problem, as refugees complain to UNHCR about not receiving them from the Police. UNHCR observed that when large numbers of people are in the site, the Police rely on group leaders to distribute registration documents. UNHCR raised the issue with the Border Police Commander and it was mutually agreed that UNHCR would bring these cases to the attention of the authorities on a need basis.
- In addition to the individuals being deported from Vojvodina transit centre to Greece, the Police screened documents at the border check-point, and directly from there did not admit some of those who were not from the three nationalities (Syrian, Iraqi and Afghans), or those for which it was established that they had forged Greek registration documents.
- Unregulated vendors were still present in Tabanovce to sell goods such as cigarettes and UNHCR blankets. The number of merchants operating without authorization is increasing. At the last Crisis Management Centre coordination meeting it was stated that the authorities would try to move them to the periphery of the site.

## Serbia

### Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR teams provided protection and assistance to refugees at all sites 24/7. During the reporting period, they assisted nine family reunion cases. Over 570 persons with specific needs and over 2,200 asylum seekers received medical assistance by medical NGOs and partners.
- Registration in Dimitrovgrad (near the Bulgarian border), which was slowed down due to high number of arrivals in the previous days, has stabilized and is conducted without delays, thanks to the second UNHCR-funded Afis machine that was delivered on 4 December.
- On 4 December, UNHCR Presevo coordinated a meeting with UNHCR Tabanovce, IOM, DRC, MSF and Mercy Corps at the border to discuss modalities of how/when/who will arrange transport of persons with specific needs and ensure their 24 hours border transportation.
- 93 per cent of the existing accommodation in Serbia has been winterized, while the work is ongoing on additional capacities. In Presevo reception centre, DRC is finalizing the work on the flooring and diesel heating in the three rub halls, expected to be completed shortly. IOM is finalizing the move of Miratovac Refugee Aid Point (RAP) closer to the railway, which will have 23 heated containers for asylum seekers and aid organizations.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The challenge of refugees and migrants having to walk 2 km on the dirt road from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia border to the Miratovac RAP remains. While the authorities continue considering alternative routes, UNHCR and its partners (DRC, MSF, IOM and Mercy Corps) have been making coordinated efforts to assist persons with reduced mobility.
- Refugees and migrants continue to approach the Government of Serbia, UNHCR and NGOs claiming they have no funds to continue their travel. Those screened out as not being Syrians, Iraqis or Afghans - hence not allowed to continue the onward travel to Croatia - are more exposed to exploitation by smugglers or traffickers. UNHCR is providing counselling on the asylum procedures in Serbia and referring cases to IOM for Assisted Voluntary Return.
- In Dimitrovgrad, the waiting area lacks an adequate space for women and children. UNHCR is following up to ensure beds and heating is installed in the current space they use to wait for the registration; Save the Children and UNICEF are considering arranging a child friendly space.

## Hungary

### Achievements and Impact

- On 4 December, UNHCR organized an information-sharing and coordination meeting with more than 17 partner refugee organizations in Hungary. The Hungarian asylum authority, the Office of Immigration and Nationality (OIN), was also represented. UNHCR shared with the participants the latest updates on refugee movement in Central Europe and the current asylum related issues in Hungary, with a focus on the situation of People of Concern (PoCs) in detention. UNHCR and IOM also presented the joint-strategic planning for the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RRMRP) for 2016 and received feedback on the main priorities from other relevant organizations. Several organizations expressed their interest and intention to engage further with refugees in detention and open reception centres in Hungary.
- UNHCR has increased its capacity to undertake regular monitoring missions to open reception centres in Vamosszabadi, Nagyfa and Bicske and detention facilities in 13 different locations (asylum detention, immigration prisons, Alien Police).
- On 7 December, UNHCR visited the newly established asylum detention facility in Kishkunhalas, which currently hosts 160 asylum-seekers; most of them originate from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iraq. The vast majority of this group was transferred from Debrecen asylum-detention facility, which has been closed. UNHCR identified six individuals who presented themselves as unaccompanied children and referred them to the attention of the OIN for age assessment and transfer to open reception facility.
- On 8 December, UNHCR conducted a detention monitoring visit to the Alien Police facility at Kishkunhalas which hosts 82 persons; most of them originate from Pakistan, Iran and a few from Syria. Many of them had been transferred to Hungary under the Dublin III Regulation. UNHCR is currently working with the Hungary Helsinki Committee to provide legal assistance and ensure access to the asylum process.
- On 9 December, UNHCR visited Vac Prison, which hosts 20 persons, all of them from Afghanistan. UNHCR and its implementing partner, Menedek, identified unaccompanied children in detention and referred them to the attention of OIN to expedite their transfer to an open reception facility.

## Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- UNHCR remains concerned about the lack of protection-sensitive regulations for the operation of the border transit zones, which in practice are either inaccessible or serve primarily as an expulsion channel to Serbia. The fact that any person who crosses the borders through Serbia and applies for asylum is automatically rejected on grounds of inadmissibility (since Serbia is considered a safe asylum country, under the new legislation in force from 15 September 2015) makes asylum inaccessible to all people crossing through Serbia, who represent the vast majority of asylum-seekers in Hungary.
- UNHCR is concerned that asylum seekers transferred to Hungary under the Dublin Regulation are at risk of being sent to Serbia. UNHCR came across cases in detention, where persons who were transferred received a decision to be returned to Serbia. The Director of the OIN Refugee Affairs stated that the designation of Serbia as a “safe third country” applies to persons returning under the Dublin Regulation if they had entered Hungary prior to 1 August 2015.
- The number of PoCs in detention is 805 of which 443 asylum-seekers are held in OIN asylum detention facilities and 362 “foreigners” are held in Alien Police detention for illegal crossing, pending deportation/expulsion to Serbia (most of them originate from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan).
- UNHCR remains concerned about ineffective access to health care provided at asylum detention facilities. UNHCR has identified critical medical cases, which could not be assisted by health services at detention clinics. UNHCR is currently working with the African-Hungarian Organization to refer critical cases for additional medical assistance when detention clinics have limited services.

## Croatia

### Achievements and Impact

- In the reporting period, shipments of 6,510 sleeping mats and 400 bunk beds were received in the WRTC. The bunk beds will be placed in UNHCR winterized tents.
- The second UNHCR rub hall is being installed between the registration area and the one already in use. UNHCR is in the process of winterizing one rub hall.
- On 7 December 2015, a capacity building session on access to the system of asylum and Dublin regulation and identification of victims of trafficking in human beings (with a focus on unaccompanied and separated children) was organized and facilitated by UNHCR. The purpose of the session was to enhance the expertise of special guardians and social welfare officers of the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth in Slavonski Brod to ensure timely and quality response. Thirty participants attended.
- UNHCR implementing partner, the Croatian Red Cross, provided psychosocial support to over 1,500 refugees and migrants, and 44 family tracing services in the WRTC. The Croatian Red Cross and UNHCR are present at entry points prior to registration and during distribution of assistance in the WRTC to do initial assessment of needs and vulnerabilities.

## Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Instances of family separation among referred cases for medical interventions were observed in the WRTC. The Croatian Red Cross called for compliance with the established referral system. UNHCR requested sharing the relevant Standing Operating Procedure with all NGOs and international organisations to avoid such incidents.

## Slovenia

### Achievements and Impact

- On 7 December, UNHCR met with the Civil Protection, Red Cross, and Police Representatives in Lendava reception centre to further discuss the site planning of the registration site at Lendava. The Police stated that they will start constructing their workspace on 10 December. It was also agreed to conduct training in selected themes for the Red Cross volunteers, Civil Protection staff, public workers and Slovenska Filantropija on 14 December.
- ADRA and the Red Cross delivered dry food packages, water and warm clothing to all new arrivals at the train station and in Dobova centre.
- Since there is a need for more police forces at the border, the Slovenian government is earmarking additional funds for accommodation centres of refugees and for additional special police forces to help at the borders. It is now looking at premises in the centre of Slovenia to rent for accommodating of refugees as well as for foreign police coming to Slovenia to provide support.

- Protection information posters and flyers on access to protection and asylum procedures in Arabic, English, Farsi, French and Urdu have been placed in most reception centres for PoCs.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- UNHCR is concerned that the Slovenian Red Cross and Caritas, both providing basic services to refugees and migrants, have not yet received reimbursed by the government their expenses since the beginning of the migration flows and are currently operating with private donations.

## Italy

### Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR assisted the disembarkation of 5,300 persons arriving in three different landings following their rescue at sea. 100 per cent of arrivals benefitted from information sessions on procedures, including on asylum.
- UNHCR undertook 16 monitoring visits (including the strengthening of capacity and identification of needs/gaps) to reception facilities to strengthen the capacity of authorities to identify protection needs and gaps.
- Under the overall coordination of the MoI and in close cooperation with the European Asylum Support Office (EASO), UNHCR carried out information activities in the hotspot site of Lampedusa, regional relocation hubs, as well as in reception facilities and informal transit sites in Milan, Rome and Bari, to identify asylum-seekers to participate in the EU relocation scheme.
- On 4 December, the UNHCR/MoI working group for the reform of the Refugee Status Determination (RSD) procedures met for the first time to define priorities and a plan of activities.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The recent surge in sea arrivals has resulted in further deterioration of reception conditions in the Lampedusa hotspot, where some 700 persons are hosted in a centre with a maximum capacity of 400-500 persons.
- Some PoCs, including a family of Palestinians from Iraq, women from Somalia and an Eritrean who refused to be fingerprinted, have been held at the hotspot in Lampedusa since 5 November.

## Working in partnership

In line with the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM), UNHCR supports the Government's coordination efforts at central and local level in Greece, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia. In Hungary, UNHCR chairs a coordination forum including UN agencies, IGOs, NGO partners and non-state institutions. This includes the support to crisis management teams, the facilitation of general and sectoral coordination meetings. Besides cooperation with Governments, UNHCR also operates closely with the European Commission and relevant EU Agencies, including FRONTEX and EASO. Other partners include:

[A21](#) | [Action Aid](#) | [ADRA Adventist Development and Relief Agency](#) | [Agape](#) | [AI Amnesty International](#) | [Amity | Apostoli/IOCC ASB](#) | [BCHR Belgrade Centre for Human Rights](#) | [Caritas](#) | [Church of Holistic Gospel](#) | [Cordelia Foundation](#) | [CRS Catholic Relief Services](#) | [Croatian Law Centre](#) | [Croatian Red Cross](#) | [Centre for Peace Studies \(Croatia\)](#) | [Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Macedonia](#) | [DRC Danish Refugee Council](#) | [Dorcas](#) | [Evangelic church of Greece](#) | [Ecumenical Refugee Council Euro Human](#) | [Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Red Cross](#) | [GIZ Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit](#) | [Grain of Goodness](#) | [Greek Refugee Council](#) | [Hellenic League for Human Rights](#) | [Hellenic Red Cross](#) | [Hellenic Theatre Drama & Education Network](#) | [Help the Refugees in Macedonia](#) | [HERA Health education and Research Organization](#) | [HHC Hungarian Helsinki Committee](#) | [Hilal](#) | [HCIT Humanitarian Centre for Integration and Tolerance](#) | [Human Appeal](#) | [ICMC International Catholic Migration Commission](#) | [IHA International Health Action](#) | [Indigo](#) | [INTEROSOS](#) | [IOM International Organization for Migration](#) | [IRC International Rescue Committee](#) | [Israaid](#) | [Italian Red Cross](#) | [JRS Jesuit Refugee Service](#) | [Kaliri](#) | [KSPM-ERP Church of Greece](#) | [La Strada \(Open Gate\)](#) | [Legis](#) | [Magna](#) | [Mdm Médecins du Monde](#) | [Medin](#) | [Menedek Association](#) | [Mercy Corps](#) | [Merhamet](#) | [METAction](#) | [MGMD Mirovna Grupa Mladih Dunav](#) | [Microfins](#) | [MSF Medecins Sans Frontieres](#) | [MYLA Macedonian Young Lawyers Association](#) | [NRC Norwegian Refugee Council](#) | [Nun](#) | [Operation Mercy](#) | [Oxfam](#) | [Peace Institute \(Slovenia\)](#) | [PiN People in Need](#) | [PiC Pravno-informacijski Center Nevladnih Organizacij](#) | [Praksis](#) | [Praxis](#) | [ProAsyl](#) | [Remar](#) | [Salvation Army](#) | [Samaritan's Purse](#) | [Save the Children](#) | [Shelter Box](#) | [Sigma Plus](#) | [Slovene Philanthropy](#) | [SOS Children's Village](#) | [Terre des homes](#) | [UNDP United Nations Development Programme](#) | [UNFPA United Nations Population Fund](#) | [UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund](#) | [Union of Baptist Churches in Croatia](#) | [UNOPS United](#)

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

UNHCR's [Winterization Plan for the Refugee Crisis in Europe](#), released on 5 November, appeals for **USD 96.15 million** in additional support for Greece and affected countries in the Balkans for the winter months (November 2015 – February 2016). This is in addition to UNHCR's revised appeal for the [Special Mediterranean Initiative](#) (SMI) of **USD 128 million** for June 2015 – December 2016, which outlines the Office's response to the refugee crisis in Europe, and also incorporates targeted programmes in countries of asylum or transit in Africa and the North Africa sub-region.

In response to the fast-evolving situation, UNHCR is continuing to update its requirements for the response to the crisis in Europe. Currently, UNHCR's total 2015 requirements in Europe for the response to the refugee crisis, including winterization activities, stands at USD 83.2 million.

As of 8 December, **USD 72.9 million** has been received for the SMI, including winterization activities.

Contributions have been received from: Andorra; Canada; Denmark; European Union; Germany; Italy; Japan; the Netherlands; Norway; Portugal; Slovenia; Spain; Switzerland; United Kingdom; United States of America; WFP; AB Trav and Galopp; Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; Federation Internationale de Football; Goodman Sachs Gives; Gota Media Group; H&M Hennes & Mauritz AB; Ikea Foundation; Industria de Diseño Textil; Lindex AB; Nordea Bank AB; Pernod Ricard Co; Shroepfer and Hoffmann Foundation; Stadium Sweden AB; Stockholm Globe Arenas; Svenska Cellulosa Aktiebolaget; Tele2 AB; TRYGG Foundation; UPS Corporate; and other private donors.

UNHCR is very grateful for the financial support provided by donors who have contributed with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds, as well as for those who have contributed directly to the situation. 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 2015:

[United States of America](#) | [Sweden](#) | [United Kingdom](#) | [Netherlands](#) | [Norway](#) | [Private donors in Spain](#) | [Denmark](#) | [Australia](#) | [Japan](#) | [Canada](#) | [Switzerland](#) | [Private donors in Italy](#) | [France](#) | [Private donors in the Republic of Korea](#) | [Private donors in Japan](#) | [Finland](#)

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**Links:**

UNHCR, [Refugees and migrants in Europe need protection and respect for their human rights](#)

UNHCR, [UNHCR says most of Syrians arriving in Greece are students](#)

UNHCR, [UNHCR questionnaire finds most Syrians arriving in Europe coming directly from Syria](#)

UNHCR, [Thousands still at Greek-FYR Macedonia border](#)

UNHCR, <http://data.unhcr.org/mediterranean/regional.php> (webportal accessible via Google Chrome or Firefox only)



# Europe Refugee Emergency

## UNHCR Presence and Key Border Crossings

as of 10 December 2015



Sources: UNHCR Author: UNHCR - HQ Geneva Feedback: mapping@unhcr.org Filename: eus\_smi\_presence\_used\_crossing