

# EUROPE'S REFUGEE EMERGENCY RESPONSE UPDATE #11

13 – 19 November 2015

## KEY FIGURES

**850,571**

Refugees and migrants arriving by sea to Europe in 2015 (as of 19 November)

**3,485**

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

**703,374**

Sea arrivals in Greece as of 19 November.

**4,700**

Average daily sea arrivals in Greece from 13 - 19 November.

**143,500**

Sea arrivals in Italy as of 19 November.

**129**

Persons relocated from Italy since the start of the EU relocation scheme.

**242,000**

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

**26,100**

UNHCR sleeping mats distributed since the start of the crisis.

## 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.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- On 17 November, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. António Guterres, visited Serbia and met with the Minister of Interior in Belgrade (Serbia) and went to the reception centre (RC) in Preševo together with the Prime Minister, the Government Coordinator, and the Serbian Commissariat for Refugees and Migrations (SCRM). The High Commissioner and the Prime Minister addressed the media, urging that refugees should not be victimised by the recent terrorist attacks in Paris.
- The Ministers of Interior of Slovenia, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Greece met on 17 November in Ljubljana. The main outcome was to highlight the importance of cooperation, coordination and exchange of information with other European partners.
- Governments have introduced new restrictions along the refugee and migrant route, and people are now being profiled based on their alleged nationality, with only Syrians, Afghans and Iraqis authorized to go through. These measures are creating tensions at border crossings and a domino effect, leaving in limbo some refugees and migrants stranded at different border points. UNHCR is providing assistance with partners at these points, including blankets, winter clothing and other key items covering basic needs.



*A refugee girl waits in a tent in the registration centre for refugees and migrants at the train station in Preševo (Serbia) © UNHCR, November 2015.*

## OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

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So far this year, almost 703,374 sea arrivals were recorded in **Greece** as of 19 of November. Top nationalities of arrivals in November were Syria (54 per cent), Afghanistan (25 per cent) and Iraq (8 per cent). Two shipwrecks occurred on Greek territorial waters on 13 and 17 November, resulting in the death of 10 people. During the reporting period, there were some 32, 579 sea arrivals to Greece. Some 37,269 and 37,831 refugees and migrants entered the **former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia** and **Serbia** respectively. While some 46,275 refugees and migrants arrived in **Croatia**, there were around 46,684 arrivals in **Slovenia**.

As of 18 November, governments in the Balkans have authorized only Syrians, Afghans and Iraqis to move onward.

In **Greece**, following the above-mentioned border restrictions imposed by several countries, the flow of people slowed down and 2,000 refugees and migrants were waiting to cross into the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia at the Eidomeni/Gevgelija border crossing point by the morning of 19 November. As per the contingency plan, UNHCR and MSF activated a second site (site B with capacity for 500 people) in Eidomeni. UNHCR is monitoring the situation closely and has enhanced its presence. In close dialogue with the Ministry of Migration, UNHCR is actively advocating a third site in Thessaloniki and developing plans to respond to a possible increase in the numbers at the northern border.

In the **former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**, while the flow of Syrians, Afghans and Iraqis continues smoothly, 86 people mainly from Iran, Morocco, Libya and others were waiting outside the reception centre in Gevgelija on 19 November as the Government was not allowing their entrance to the site, leading to some protests. Tensions were also reported at the border with Serbia, where the Serbian police returned those from nationalities others than Syrian, Iraqi and Afghan. Following interventions by UNHCR and the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy with the Ministry of Interior and people some 300 persons were allowed to spend the night in the centre in Tabanovce on 19 November. In this regard, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy has taken over the coordination of reception, including humanitarian assistance and site planning. The President of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia announced during the Security Council meeting on 14 November that the Army and Steering Committee, as a last resort and if deemed necessary, could build a fence on the Greek and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia border using wire with openings at certain points in case of a slow down of the refugee flow in other countries.

During the High Commissioner visit to **Serbia** on 17 November, the High Commissioner and Prime Minister addressed the media, urging that refugees should not be victimized due to the attacks in Paris. The Subotica Refugee Aid Point opened on 17 November and is expected to be used as a temporary shelter for some 150 persons. Following the above-mentioned border restrictions, some 300 migrants, mostly from Morocco, and Pakistan, were screened out by the Serbian and Croatian police and not allowed to board trains for Slavonski Brod. They were accommodated in the Refugee Aid Point opposite the train station in Šid, where UNHCR and partners provided counseling. UNHCR was able to facilitate registration of some 40 Iranian nationals who had been granted UNHCR mandate refugee status in Iraq, who were subsequently admitted onto the train in Šid by the Croatian and Serbian police.

In **Croatia**, on 18 November, the police separated close to 100 persons considered not being from countries “affected by war” and they remained under police custody in the Winter Reception Transit Centre (WRTC). UNHCR and partners provided information about their right to seek asylum. After registration, they boarded the bus departing for Slovenia. UNHCR maintained 24-hour presence and monitors the reception, registration, accommodation, and transport processes at the WRTC in Slavonski Brod. The centre remained busy with an increase in arrivals during the day throughout the week. In addition to trains, bus convoys have been transporting refugees and migrants from Serbia to the WRTC and onwards.

Another 11km of fence were built at the South East border of **Slovenia** as of 17 November. As of 15 November, in consequence of the above-mentioned border restrictions the police is sending nationals of Morocco, Algeria, Bangladesh, Somalia and Sri Lanka who do not seek asylum in Slovenia to the Centre for Foreigners and aim to return to Croatia. The list of nationalities being returned to Croatia is expected to increase in the coming days. Two new entry points in Bistrica and Dobovec started receiving arrivals from Croatia.

In the reporting period, 68 refugees and migrants arrived to **Hungary**, with daily average arrivals of 15-20 persons, who are apprehended by police after irregular entry mainly from Serbia and Croatia. No asylum applications have been lodged in the transit zones since 1 October. On 14 November, the Prime Minister met with the National Security Task Force, which has declared a level "B" terror threat and increased national security measures, including stricter control procedures at the airports and at train and bus stations. National institutions involved with counter terrorism related tasks, such as the Office of Immigration and Nationality, have been put on high alert. The military protection arrangements at the southern border have also been upgraded. The Minister of Interior, Mr. Sándor Pintér, ordered the partial closure of the border with Croatia for 30 days at the train stations of Murakeresztúr, Magyarbóly and Gyékényes as of 17 November claiming public safety reasons.

There were 48,199 refugees and migrants entering **Austria** in the reporting period. The Federal Government presented its plans for enhanced border management at the Slovenian/Austrian border, including the building of a 2.2-meter high fence at the official border crossing point in Spielfeld/Sentilj. The Minister of Interior stressed that the fence will not have the purpose of preventing refugees to enter Austria as the border crossing point in Spielfeld/Sentilj remains open. The building of the fence will last two months, however the border area is already being better controlled by the police.

In a joint press conference the German Chancellor, Ms. Angela Merkel, and the Austrian Federal Chancellor, Mr. Werner Faymann, stated that the hotspots in Italy and Greece should be set up as quickly as possible, not only for registration purposes, but also to ensure a fair distribution of asylum-seekers among the European Union (EU) Member States. They stressed that decisions taken at the EU level need to be implemented in a more efficient way, that the external borders of the EU have to be better managed, and that refugees in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan need more support.

Some 1,027 refugees and migrants arrived by sea in **Italy**, continuing to indicate a decrease in arrivals. Besides a regular seasonal decrease, a 40 per cent drop of sea arrivals has been observed since September, compared to the same period last year. The main nationalities in 2015 include Eritreans (27 per cent), Nigerians (14 per cent), Somalis (8 per cent), Sudanese (6 per cent) and Syrians (5 per cent). Some 19 Eritrean and Syrian asylum-seekers were relocated to Sweden and Germany, under the EU relocation scheme.

The Foreign Affairs Council took place on 16 November and covered *inter alia* the Paris attacks, the situation in Syria and recent diplomatic efforts, migration and the follow up to the Valetta and Western Balkans Conference. After the meeting, High Representative and Vice President, Ms. Federica Mogherini, insisted that there should be no confusion between migration and refugees and terrorist threats to Europe underlining that refugees are fleeing the same threats Europe is facing and it is Europe's duty to protect. The results of the Council are available [online](#).

## Protection, Humanitarian Assistance and Technical Support

### Greece

#### Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR convened meetings in Athens with the Hellenic Coast Guard and the Hellenic Red Cross on 11 and 13 November respectively and proposed the creation of a working group among main interlocutors (Ministries of Marine, Public Order and Health, UNHCR and IFRC/HRC) to develop commonly agreed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on shipwreck response at central level.
- On Lesbos, UNHCR and partner organizations conducted a Participatory Assessment (PA) in Kara Tepe on 18 November and at Moria on 19 November. Focus group discussions took place with the refugee populations to assess their protection needs and concerns.
- In coordination with IOM and Government Authorities, UNHCR is commencing the inter-agency RMRP process on Lesbos.
- Based on a Vodafone/UNHCR project, installations for provision of connectivity and charging stations to refugees continue. Skala (Lesvos) has been fully set up and WiFi and charging stations are now available. UNHCR provided 5,749 medium thermal blankets, 113 raincoats, 391 sleeping mats, and 431 kg High Energy Biscuits (HEB).

- UNHCR and its partners, in cooperation with authorities, have begun numbering available accommodations at Lesbos, and are developing prioritization criteria to allocate accommodation and distribute clothes and blankets to the new arrivals most in need.
- UNHCR increased its presence on the northern shore of Lesbos and installed three Refugee Housing Units (RHUs) to improve protection and referral mechanisms. On Samos, the installation of the 20 RHUs began on 14 November and over half has already been completed.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- At the Moria reception centre in Lesbos, due to limited accommodation capacity, many people are setting up tents or erecting make-shift arrangements on private land. This area is attracting more people as there are canteens and WASH facilities established by volunteer groups and private individuals. UNHCR is engaging with those involved to mitigate tension and prepare for adverse weather expected next week.
- In Samos fingerprinting remains slow at the port for Syrians and more so at the screening centre for other nationalities due to lack of supplies and human resources. Some people have complained that they waited up to 15 days at the screening centre.
- UNHCR has received reports of substandard conditions on Farmakonissi: lack of shelter, medical assistance, and irregular provision of food and water as well as transfer delays for single men. UNHCR is continuing to advocate with the authorities for the delivery of humanitarian assistance on Farmakonissi and provides Core Relief Items (CRIs) to the HCG for distribution to the new arrivals.

## The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

### Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR produced its first information film with messages from refugees and migrants about the services provided by UNHCR and partners, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) registration process, and modes of transport from the transit site Gevgelija to Tabanovce. The film is available on social media (<https://www.facebook.com/UNHCRSkopje1/>).
- A UNHCR loudspeaker system is being installed in the Vinojug site, which will air pre-recorded messages for refugees about UNHCR services. The messages have been agreed upon by all partners involved and will be translated into five languages.
- The installation of the lighting in the Tabanovce site and on the paths towards the border crossing points to enhance security for refugees has been initiated.
- La Strada hosted 2,080 children and 943 women in UNICEF Child Friendly Spaces at the Vinojug centre. Over 60 persons with specific needs were assisted by UNHCR partner La Strada.
- In Tabanovce, the fence was moved to accommodate a new extension of the site; underground pipes for sewage were covered, the ground was paved with gravel and two rub halls were financed by UNHCR and delivered by the Red Cross. EVN electrical company started upgrading the grid to make enough electricity available for heating and UNICEF provided two generators to La Strada. Construction was also ongoing in the Vinojug site to erect three additional rub halls.
- SOS Children's village in Tabanovce started providing a heated space for families and children.
- The Red Cross assisted 4,113 individuals with medication and provided 519 medical interventions. Some 45 persons were referred to the Ministry of Health (MoH).
- UNHCR distributed 830 Kgs of HEB and distributed 8283 liters of water with partners, namely the Red Cross.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Registration remains a challenge, with the SOPs proposed by UNHCR still not being discussed by the MoI. UNHCR will organize a high-level meeting to discuss how to address identified challenges, as well as support the MoI with additional equipment and data entry clerks.
- Overcrowding of trains remains a problem and charging of tickets to children below the age of 10 in contradiction to the policy that they should ride for free was also observed. UNHCR has raised concerns with the Minister of Defense, which is expected to follow up with the Minister of Transportation on the issue and explore solutions.



## Serbia

### Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR maintains its 24h presence in the Preševo reception centre (close to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia border), as well as in four sites in Šid (at the Croatian border).
- More long and short term emergency shelter sites were identified with the Government. Increase of winterized waiting and shelter areas in Preševo and Šid continue at full speed, urged by the forecast that the weather turns wet and cold in the next days. Expansion of the RC continues, 35 RHUs have been erected, and 90 per cent of backfilling is completed (as of 18 November).
- Winterization of rub halls and other shelter activities is ongoing at three sites around Šid: Adasevci, Principovac and the RAP near the train station. The SCRIM, in cooperation with UNHCR and MSF has almost finished the renovation and equipment of the RAPs in Šid, which will have 250 beds and 198 single beds with mattresses and two blankets each have already been placed in the three buildings.
- A growing number of families with children and infants (mainly from Syria, but also from Iraq and Afghanistan) as well as elderly and disabled continued to be identified and fast tracked for assistance and referrals. UNHCR and partners facilitated the reunion of at least 45 families in Preševo and Šid.
- UNHCR assisted some 1,231 persons with specific needs and referred 277 cases to health services.
- UNHCR distributed 2,352 high thermal blankets, 7,868 liters of water as well as 4,080 Kg of HEB.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- A need for efficient identification of unaccompanied and separated children within the refugee and migrant flow remains, as well as the effective response in regard to their protection needs. UNHCR and UNICEF are working closely with the relevant national institutions to strengthen the child protection system in the current emergency context and also adapt it to the situation of “persons on the move”.
- UNHCR and partners continue assisting in reuniting numerous separated family members, including children who often get separated due to the rush and disorientation during disembarkation.
- UNHCR is closely monitoring the protection needs of the nationals of countries not considered affected by war, who the authorities started screening out since 18 November, for any necessary follow up, including access to asylum procedures for all nationalities.

## Hungary

### Achievements and Impact

- On 13 November UNHCR visited the open reception facility in Nagyfa. Reception conditions have improved at the centre in terms of availability of medical assistance and transportation.
- UNHCR is in dialogue with relevant authorities to facilitate access to reception centres for its implementing partners and other NGOs in order to respond to people with specific needs, including through psychosocial counseling and legal aid.
- UNHCR has increased its capacity to undertake detention monitoring visits to ensure that persons of concern have access to legal representation and to provide information about the asylum process. The Hungarian Helsinki Committee (HHC) is providing legal representation for individual asylum-seekers in detention. UNHCR also monitors developments relating to individual cases undergoing court procedures.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The transit zones along the Serbian and Croatian border are operational, but asylum-seekers generally avoid them and 15-20 persons daily instead cross the border irregularly mainly from Serbia.
- As of 19 November, the number of persons of concern to UNHCR in detention is 1,003 of which 414 asylum-seekers are held in Office of Immigration and Nationality (OIN) asylum detention facilities. Another group of 589 foreigners in alien police detention are pending deportation orders, most of them are considered to be of concern to UNHCR, although they have not applied for asylum in Hungary.
- UNHCR is very concerned about the asylum detention conditions, which remain precarious. The prolonged detention period, which in many occasions exceeds three months, has created a feeling of frustration among asylum-seekers, especially vulnerable persons with critical medical needs. UNHCR in close coordination with its

partners, the Hungarian Helsinki Committee, is working with the Government to expedite the transfer of asylum-seekers to open reception centres.

## Croatia

### Achievements and Impact

- The Law Clinic of the Zagreb Faculty of Law (UNHCR Operating Partner) started to provide assistance in the WRTC and will be present in the site on a bi-weekly basis. Law students from Zagreb are assisting UNHCR and other partners in providing legal counseling asylum and integration in Croatia.
- The Croatian Red Cross, in cooperation with UNHCR interpreters, placed information in four languages (Arabic, Farsi, Urdu and Pashtu) in all train used for the transport of refugees and migrants.
- The Assistant Minister of the Interior approached UNHCR and proposed to introduce a new system of cooperation for people with specific needs referred to UNHCR from colleagues in Serbia. UNHCR will provide expertise and assist them with the police and the Croatian Red Cross. SOPs will be devised in cooperation with the MoI.
- UNHCR continues to support the MoI by covering the costs for translators for Arabic and Farsi who assist in the registration process and medical interventions.
- UNHCR assisted and referred 136 cases of persons with specific needs to service providers on site such as medical services, social services, or Red Cross. A number of such cases were of persons with disabilities who required wheelchair.
- Croatian Red Cross provided water, food parcels, and warm clothing in Slavonski Brod.
- Caritas distributed hot tea for refugees and migrants in Slavonski Brod.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Besides UNHCR interventions, MoH mobile teams are still not providing medical assistance to refugees and migrants inside the sectors in WRTC. UNHCR reiterated that there has been a lack of medical professionals. The MoI informed that for now, the number of medical teams in WRTC would not be increased as it surpasses the national average of health coverage per capita. A complicated referral system of medical cases from the sectors to the outpatient hospital inside WRTC has been devised and UNHCR has raised concerns about its efficiency.
- There is an insufficient number of interpreters, especially when assisting with complex medical cases, including patients referred to hospitals. More interpreters are also needed during registration. UNHCR is covering the cost of six interpreters.
- The Government communicated to UNHCR that there is a constant lack of wheelchairs for those arriving to the Slavonski Brod WRTC.

## Slovenia

### Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR continues its efforts regarding the provision of protection information at the border crossing points. UNHCR has printed information leaflets prepared by partners at some of the locations.
- The Civil Protection is considering increasing the capacity of accommodation centres. A building at Kranj has been identified as a possible accommodation facility. Discussions with UNHCR are ongoing about the winterisation of the facility.
- The Red Cross and Caritas provided water, dry food packages, baby food, hygienic items and warm clothing in Dobova.
- Four small tents for breastfeeding were set up inside the heated tents in Sentilj by the Civil Protection and Disaster Preparedness Services upon UNHCR's request. Signs in Farsi and Arabic were placed on the tents for mothers' information saying that the tents can be used for breastfeeding. UNHCR set up a basic child friendly space in the UNHCR tent in Petisovci.
- UNHCR identified 160 separated families and supported the reunion of 21 families in cooperation with the Red Cross.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Additional mobile toilets are required at the train station in Dobova.

- Although the crowd control measures at the Sentilj/Spielfeld border crossing have improved, the centres in Sentilj are still overcrowded at times due to the slow pace of border crossings to Austria.
- Identification of persons with specific needs has improved, however challenges remain in the referral and access to services.

## Italy

### Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR assisted the disembarkation of 1,027 persons arriving in four different landings following their rescue at sea. 100 per cent of arrivals benefitted from information sessions on procedures, including on asylum.
- UNHCR undertook 19 monitoring visits 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 EASO, UNHCR carries out information activities in hotspot sites and the regional relocation hubs, as well as in reception facilities and informal transit sites nationwide, in order to identify asylum-seekers to participate in the EU relocation scheme.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In some cases, provision of information by UNHCR on the possibility to apply for international protection upon arrival is permitted only after screening procedures by the police. As a result, UNHCR is not able to fully inform all sea arrivals who may have the intention to apply for asylum.
- Screening procedures of persons who wish to apply for asylum vary at the different points of arrival and fall short of a systematic individual assessment. SOPs need to be developed for the hotspots, particularly regarding information provision to asylum seekers who may participate in the EU relocation scheme.

## 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](#) | [ARSIS](#) | [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](#) | [Information Legal Center \(Croatia\)](#) | [INTEROS](#) | [IOM International Organization for Migration](#) | [IRC International Rescue Committee](#) | [Islamic Relief](#) | [Israaid](#) | [Italian Red Cross](#) | [JRS Jesuit Refugee Service](#) | [Kaliri](#) | [La Strada \(Open Gate\)](#) | [Law Clinic of the Zagreb Faculty of Law \(Croatia\)](#) | [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](#) | [Spanish Red Cross](#) | [Terre des homes](#) | [Télécoms Sans Frontières \(TSF\)](#) | [UNDP United Nations Development Programme](#) | [UNFPA United Nations Population Fund](#) | [UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund](#) | [Union of Baptist Churches in Croatia](#) | [Vizija](#) | [Vlaznia Kumanovo](#), [Volunteer Centre Osijek](#) | [WAHA Women and Health Alliance International](#) | [WHO World Health Organization](#)

## 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 58.76 million.

As of 23 November, **USD 32.4 million** has been received for the SMI, representing **39 per cent** of the total 2015 requirements (USD 83.2 million), including winterization activities.

Contributions have been received from: Andorra; Canada; Denmark; European Union; Germany; Italy; Japan; the Netherlands; Norway; Portugal; Slovenia; Spain; Switzerland; 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; Industria de Diseño Textil; Lindex AB; Nordea Bank AB; Pernod Ricard Co; Shroepfer and Hoffmann Foundation; Stadium Sweden AB; Stockholm Globe Arenas; 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:

[The 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](#) | [Finland](#) | [Private donors in Japan](#)

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**Links:**

UNHCR, [After Paris Attacks, Refugees should not be turned into scapegoats](#), 17 November.

UNHCR, [UNHCR chief says it is "absolute nonsense" to blame refugees for terror](#), 17 November.

UNHCR, [Asylum-seekers await application results at historic Berlin airport](#), 17 November.

UNHCR, [UNHCR ramping up support on Greece's Lesvos, focus on sea rescue and improved reception](#), 13 November.

UNHCR, [Refugees/Migrants Emergency Response - Mediterranean](#) (webportal accessible via Google Chrome or Firefox only).



# Europe Refugee Emergency

## UNHCR Presence and Key Border Crossings

as of 19 November 2015

